



Glebe Conservation Area Study

Residents of Glebe and Forest Lodge were invited to attend a Community meeting, on Wednesday 26 October at the Glebe Town Hall, to introduce the Glebe Conservation Area Study which is being undertaken for Council by the consultancy Architectural Projects.

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, welcomed Councillors Robyn Kemmis and Verity Firth, and about 45 other residents who attended the meeting.

Here is the text of her welcoming speech.

Glebe's Heritage Importance

In the 1960s, Glebe's residents were among the first in NSW to resist unchecked developments in our city.

During the 1970s, the Glebe Society prepared a masterplan that led to Glebe being listed as a conservation area.

Thanks to these efforts the community stopped the wrecking ball and slowed the damaging expansion of freeways and high rise buildings over heritage and residential amenity.

In Glebe, the community fought to preserve whole sections of the neighbourhood and its streetscapes, unlike other parts of the city, where preservation was often piecemeal or an afterthought.

This integrated approach has preserved much of the unique form and character of Glebe - creating a community with a sense of belonging, identity and connection with its past.

Glebe has also preserved many of its

grand buildings, like *Lyndhurst* and *Toxteth House*, as well as the Victorian and Edwardian terraces that give Glebe and Forest Lodge their distinctive character.

The City is committed to continuing to preserve Glebe's heritage and promote its rich history.

We're here tonight to explore ways to continue to preserve Glebe's living heritage and to get your input into the Glebe Conservation Area Study.

Purpose of the Glebe Conservation Area Study

The Study seeks to expand our understanding of heritage values in the Glebe and Forest Lodge. It will investigate the area's historical, archeological and geographical context.

In May this year, Council commissioned Architectural Projects, a heritage consultancy firm, to undertake the Study, which is due for completion at the end of the year.

Continued on next page ...



The kite team (left to right) - Roelof Smilde, Jenny Underwood, Jan Wilson, Sue Ingram, Geoffrey Broughton, Peter Travis and Robyn Kemmis. See story on page 10.
Photo: John Wade

... Continued from previous page

Architectural Projects will research and map the many potential items of significance in the area.

I welcome and would like to introduce Jennifer Hill, the director of Architectural Projects and her associate, Elizabeth Gibson, to give some background to the study and to answer questions.

Jennifer is an award winning architectural practitioner and heritage consultant. She's also served on the Royal Australian Institute of Architects heritage Committee and co-authored the RAlA Heritage Policy.

Her firm, Architectural Projects, has extensive experience in mapping conservation sites within our local government area, including Chippendale and other areas within the former South Sydney Council.

Importance of the Glebe Conservation Area Study

The Glebe Conservation Area Study is important on a number of fronts. It will help Council understand what local items have heritage significance and why. It will help us to identify which parts of the built environment add to or detract from the area's conservation and heritage values.

This information feeds directly into:

- ◆ The City Plan and Local Environmental Plan review process;
- ◆ The Listing of Heritage Items;
- ◆ Statements of Significance for conservation areas; and
- ◆ Any proposals to change conservation area boundaries.

The Study will also inform our review of the City's Heritage Development Control Plan.

It will also enable Council to develop consistent standards in making decisions to restore and revitalize, or redevelop heritage sites.

It's an important process, and you, the community, are central to getting the best out of the process.

Council looks forward to hearing your views on Glebe's heritage and the future directions you want your neighbourhood and our city to take.

- Clover Moore MLA
Lord Mayor, City of Sydney

Glebe Conservation Area study

a presentation by Jennifer Hill and Elizabeth Gibson of the consultancy Architectural Projects

1. INTRODUCTION

The Glebe Conservation Area study will provide a detailed analysis of the Glebe Conservation Area, and a review of the Glebe Point Road Study, a report prepared for Leichhardt Council in 1991 by Berchevaise and Associates. We will be reviewing the boundaries of the Conservation Area, identifying threats and issues within the area and developing policy to protect the identified heritage character.

While there are some 60 odd Heritage streetscapes identified within the City of Sydney, only one - Ferry Lane - occurs in the suburb of Glebe. We will consider significant streetscapes within Glebe for potential listing as a Heritage Streetscape on the LEP.

The study will also look in detail at Heritage Items in Glebe Point Road, the Doctors' Houses at 216-224 Glebe Point Road are among those to be reviewed. For each Heritage Item, Conservation Area and Streetscape, a detailed Heritage Inventory Sheet will be prepared.

2. METHODOLOGY

Historical Context

The relationship between an area and its historical context underlies the heritage assessment process. Much has been researched and written on Glebe since the 1970s. Our overview involved compiling key texts and manuscripts including Max Solling's many works, Bernard and Kate Smith's *Architectural Character of Glebe*, the Leichhardt Historical Journal essays, Craig Burton's thesis *Housing the Glebe*, Freda MacDonnell's *Portraits and Places*, and Leichhardt Council's Heritage Study. Less history was available for individual items, and specific research has been carried out for these including the Glebe local studies section, State Library, and Sydney City archives collections, as well as Sands Directories and rate book searches where required. Our team includes a consultant historian - Leonie Mason, and Max Solling has agreed to review our draft histories.

Fieldwork has included

- an overview of the area, which was carried out early in the program,

- a detailed building by building assessment of the whole Conservation Area and
- the identification of Public Domain Items

Consultation

The knowledge and values of the community are important components of the Heritage Assessment process. We have organised this public meeting to explain the project and we are hoping to get some input from you tonight, particularly in the identification of threats and issues in the Conservation Area, to guide the development of policy. We have met with Council Staff to discuss issues and how existing policies accommodate those issues. The Glebe Society and Glebe Research Unit have been approached, and we have met with Max Solling.

Assess Significance

The NSW Heritage Office has prepared a set of Heritage Criteria which provide for a consistent assessment of heritage significance across the state. The criteria encompass the four values of the Burra Charter - historical, aesthetic, scientific and social, and are based on the criteria used by the Australia Heritage Commission. We apply these criteria in our assessments.

Manage Significance

The identification of threats and issues in the Conservation Area, will allow for the development of policies to protect the heritage significance. These policies will then be included in Councils controls for the area.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

See the separate article on page 4.

4 FIELDWORK

The first component of our investigation into the physical fabric of Glebe was an overview of streets and lanes and a preliminary assessment. Streets rated A (which includes most streets within the Conservation Area) are within the key period of development and have a high level of integrity. Intact streets that have development of another important layer (eg Church housing from the 1930s) may achieve an A rating.

B streets may also represent the key period, or another important historical layer but possess a lower degree of integrity.

Streets ranked C do not well represent the key period, are dominated by development from other periods, and have a low integrity, for example, streets dominated by post-war flats.

Each property within the Conservation Area has been assessed for its contribution to the area. The contribution of each property to the area is currently being mapped. Properties identified as contributory are from the key period and have a reasonable degree of integrity.

Neutral properties are those which do not belong to the key period, but belong to another important historical layer and are sympathetic. Good contemporary infill will fall into this category. Development from the key period which has been altered (and is unlikely to be reversed) is neutral.

Detracting development are properties that do not represent the key period and are uncharacteristic in terms of their scale, material and detail.

During the course of our fieldwork, the broad stylistic character and height of buildings (in terms of storeys) have been noted to assist in understanding the character of various precincts. Dates, building names and groupings of buildings have also been noted and while this was outside of our brief, this information should prove useful to Council Officers in the assessment of applications within the Area.

Public Domain Items are also being mapped as part of this study. Public Domain Items include war memorials (as in Foley Park), drinking fountains, horse troughs, bus shelters, retaining walls and rock outcrops and so on. Please feel free to note any public domain features that you may be aware of on your questionnaire.

An external inspection of the Heritage Items included in the Study, noting the setting, style, features, condition and integrity is being undertaken. Updated descriptions are being prepared for the Heritage Inventory Sheets.

Our preliminary investigations into the history and fabric of the Conservation Area have indicated a potential division of the area into 6-7 precincts. These precincts vary from the Leichhardt character areas in the DCP, and are more closely based upon the 1828 subdivision patterns which controlled the development history of Glebe.

The boundaries of the Conservation Area will also be considered and the potential inclusion of the Council housing at Coneill Place will be reviewed.

Preliminary investigations have indicated that Glebe Point Road may be a suitable candidate for a Heritage Streetscape listing.

The review of Heritage Items in Glebe Point Road will reconsider the groupings of buildings, which sometimes include entire blocks, and their relative significance - taking into account their individual histories and physical attributes. Heritage Items on Glebe Point Road will be compared with



A - Highly intact streetscape of key period.



B - Moderately intact streetscape of key period.



C - Low integrity and low significance. Photos courtesy Architectural Projects

others in the local government area and in Glebe, and further afield to determine what level of heritage listing is appropriate. The group at 288-312 Glebe Point Road, is listed as a Heritage Item in the Leichhardt LEP. The history, fabric and integrity of this group must be considered to determine whether the grouping is appropriate. The significance of these items must be compared to other similar items both within the Toxteth Estate and elsewhere in the City to establish whether they meet the threshold of significance.

Continued on next page ...

Historical Background to Glebe Conservation Area Study

From the presentation by Jennifer Hill and Elizabeth Gibson, Architectural Projects

Governor Phillip was instructed to allocate land in the new township of Sydney to support a Church of England minister. This was to ensure the future of the church in the colony. In 1790, 400 acres was measured out for the "Glebe". A further 400 acres was reserved for the Crown and 200 acres for the schoolmaster. Reverend Richard Johnson, the colony's first Chaplain, was unimpressed with his Glebe. He considered the land unsuitable for cultivation, and abandoned The Glebe for a new grant in Canterbury. The church reserve was subdivided into 27 allotments in 1828. The lots varied considerably in size. Small allotments of 3-4 acres at Blackwattle swamp were quick to sell. The larger elevated sites of up to 42 acres at Glebe Point appealed to the middle classes looking for villa sites on the outskirts of the city. Lots 7 and 8 were reserved for the St Phillips glebe and lot 27 for the Archdeacon.

Blackwattle Swamp lots were quick to sell because of their proximity to the city and access to fresh water. These attributes attracted industry, and the slaughter houses and boiling down works that were built along the swamp ensured that housing built in the precinct was working class in character. The first bus service to Glebe ran from Circular Quay to Parramatta Road in 1846. This encouraged development around the junction of Parramatta Road and Glebe Point Road.

On the larger lots at Glebe Point, substantial elegant Regency houses began to appear from 1829. Edward Hallen's *Hereford House* was the first to be completed. *Toxteth Park*, designed by John Verge for George Allen, was also completed in 1829. The Toxteth Estate



St Phillips Estate, Glebe.

Photos courtesy Architectural Projects

included three of the original 1828 lots, comprising around 120 acres. Verge also designed *Lyndhurst* which was built in 1833-7 for John Macarthur's son in law, Dr James Bowman.

Lots 7 and 8 *St Phillips* were subdivided into 32 lots in 1842 and 28 year leases were offered. These short leases, together with the lack of minimum standards, encouraged cheap building in timber and overcrowded conditions.

The Archdeaconry land, Lot 27, renamed *Bishopthorpe*, was divided into 238 allotments and offered on 99 year leases by the Archbishop of Sydney from 1856. It was a more generous subdivision than *St Phillips* and building conditions applied, including that construction was to be of brick or stone; that buildings were to face the road; that no more than

two dwellings were permitted on each block; and blocks were to have a 40 foot frontage

When the 28 year leases at St Phillips from the 1840s expired, much of the housing stock was in a dilapidated condition. The Metropolitan Mutual Permanent Building and Investment Association embarked upon a redevelopment program. George Allen was a financial backer of much of this speculative building and David Elphinstone became the largest contractor in Glebe. The impact of the slaughter houses, tanneries and abattoirs at Blackwattle Swamp resulted in the continuing working class occupation of St Phillips.

The subdivision of the larger villa lots occurred in a very much more piecemeal fashion. Among the earliest of these

Conservation area study

... Continued from previous page

Aspects contributing to the heritage significance of Glebe include the varied character of historic subdivisions, divided by the historic and aesthetically important thoroughfare of Glebe Point Road. The predominant Victorian and Edwardian character of Glebe, supported by several other important historic layers - including the public housing of the Interwar Period and the 1970s. The history has created a diverse social mix which is reflected in the building stock

and inherent to the character of the suburb. The high level of integrity of the building stock, together with the landscape qualities of Glebe and an important evolving relationship to the water create an area of high significance which requires heritage protection.

The Residential FSR is currently 0.7:1. Much of the area is zoned residential with Public Purpose uses. Glebe Point Road has areas zoned commercial, particularly at the Broadway end, with the area around Broadway Shopping

Centre also zoned Commercial. Other areas of Commercial zoning are around the Ross Street/St John's Road junction, and on Bridge Road around Glebe Light Rail stop.

The building envelope controls are dependent upon the precinct but are generally 6.0m and 7.2m building wall height with some areas of 3.6m building wall height, for example on Minogue Crescent, and Purves Street, and 8.0m on Parramatta Road.

- Jennifer Hill and Elizabeth Gibson

subdivisions was Eglinton, AB Spark's Estate at Glebe Point. Spark fell victim to the economic down turn of 1840 and was forced to sell his Glebe Point holdings. Allotments on the Hereford Estate were also sold in 1841. Glebe became a municipality in 1859, and along with the development of the church estates, there was a gradual increase in the houses at Glebe Point spurred on by the improvements in transport and the establishment of the University at Grose Farm in 1855. *Bidura*, 1857, *Strathmore*, 1857, *Rothwell Lodge*, 1847 and *Margaretta Cottage*, 1845, were among the early houses at Glebe Point

James Bowman of *Lyndhurst* was also nearly bankrupted by the 1840 drought and depression, but was bailed out by brothers in law, James and William Macarthur. The Lyndhurst Estate was purchased by the Church of England for St James College in 1846. The college was purchased by the Catholic St Mary's College in 1852, and the Lyndhurst Estate was subdivided the following year. Further subdivisions occurred in 1878 and 1885. Lots were extremely small and terrace housing prevailed. The Forest Lodge Estate was subdivided in the period 1865-1871, encouraged by the extension of Pyrmont Bridge Road from Blackwattle Bay to Camperdown in 1859. Like Lyndhurst, the subdivision comprised high density terrace housing. In 1872 Bus services extended down Glebe Point Road.

When George Allen died in 1877, his son George Wigram Allen took over *Toxteth House*, carrying out major extensions between 1877 and 1881. In 1884, 88 building sites on the estate were offered for sale. Six more subdivisions occurred between 1886 and 1907. The introduction of electric trams in Glebe in 1899 spurred development of Glebe Point and the Toxteth estate. The subdivisions were generous and building was controlled by strict covenants which also precluded any commercial development. Fine rows of late Victorian Terraces and single storey Italianate and Edwardian dwellings in garden settings predominated. In 1901 *Toxteth House* was sold to the Good Samaritans Order for the establishment of St Scholastica's Convent.

The building stock from the Victorian and Federation period forms the key character of Glebe. This group encompasses a wide range of building types that reflect the history of Glebe. From the Regency villas of the 1830s, to the small

Georgian cottages of the mid 1800's, the rows of speculative terraces from the 1860s through to the 1880s in the Church Estates, at Lyndhurst and Forest Lodge; and the Italianate and Edwardian development at Toxteth Estate, this group describes the social diversity of Glebe which has existed since the first subdivision in 1828.

By 1914, Glebe was fully built out. The area was hit hard during the Depression, with an increase in social problems and crime rates, although the population remained steady. By the mid 1930s, Glebe was considered one of the worst areas of Sydney. Villas, long deserted by their original middle class occupants for the new suburbs and converted to boarding houses, were now under increased pressure. Forest Lodge was demolished in 1912 and Hereford House in the mid 1930s. The church and Glebe Council also embarked upon redevelopment proposals. Whole precincts of interwar public housing appeared in St Phillips in the 1920s to 1940s. Glebe Council was responsible for a precinct of detached dwellings on the Crescent.

By the 1940s, the inner city suburbs were widely considered as slums - ripe for clearance. The Cumberland County Council Plan of 1948 contained comprehensive transport proposals including the North Western Expressway and the Western Distributor, and the redevelopment of vast areas of Victorian housing. The County of Cumberland Planning scheme was gazetted in 1951.

John Byrne Court, a 12 storey low income housing block, was built by Sydney City Council in 1960 in a densely populated terrace precinct of St Phillips. The Max Factor building was built on the site of *Guildford Lodge*. Meanwhile, more villas succumbed to redevelopment; *Strathmore* (demolished 1950's), *Avon* (1966) and *Maryville* (demolished 1970) made way for post war flat development, dramatically altering the character of Glebe Point.

The Glebe Society was formed in 1969 in response to the increasing threat to the Victorian character of Glebe from



Inter-war public housing in Glebe

inappropriate development. In 1970, the Glebe Society submitted a plan to Leichhardt Council for controlled residential development at Glebe Point. The Society later put forward a case for the preservation of the Glebe Estate, and an alternative to Inner Urban Expressways. When *Lyndhurst* was threatened with demolition in 1972, the community took action, Green Bans were imposed and the house was saved. This was to be a turning point for Glebe - the National Trust classified the Glebe Urban Conservation Area in 1974.

In 1971, the Church decided to sell the Glebe Estate. Amid criticisms of being a slum landlord, the church offered its residential estates in Sydney to the Government so that they could continue as areas of low cost housing. In 1973, the Commonwealth Government entered into negotiations with the Church for the acquisition of the Glebe Estate.

In 1974 parliament assented to the Glebe Lands Appropriation Act, and in February 1975, contracts for three pilot rehabilitation projects were let. Leichhardt Council's Planning Scheme was gazetted in 1979 and the provisions of the County of Cumberland and City of Sydney Planning Schemes were suspended.

Leichhardt Town Plan was gazetted in 2000. It included the Glebe Conservation Area and listed 228 heritage items in Glebe and Forest Lodge. There are 69 heritage items listed on Glebe Point Road. These heritage items derive from the 1991 Glebe Point Road Study. Many of these items include large groupings of buildings.

- Jennifer Hill and Elizabeth Gibson



The World Beyond Glebe

I have returned refreshed from six weeks overseas. I was particularly impressed by the rigorous controls over development in the areas of outstanding natural beauty we visited (The Cotswolds, Lake District and Yorkshire Moors) as well as the World Heritage Items of Kyoto and Nara in Japan and Paris. Members visiting the UK should note the reciprocal benefits offered by the National Trust work greatly in favour of Australia. Not only are there a great number of National Trust sites in the UK to which membership gives free entry, but they are very varied, including about a quarter of the Lake District. Many sites have tearooms or restaurants attached.

Glebe Conservation Area Study

I was among the small but keen group that attended the Community Meeting in Glebe Town Hall to hear Council's Consultants, Jennifer Hill and Elizabeth Gibson of Architectural Projects, explain the Study.

The main features are the mapping of the whole of Glebe to identify things that contribute to the heritage of Glebe, are neutral, or that detract. In this they are following closely the model of the Glebe Point Road Main Street Study of 1991, in which the Society was closely involved. Indeed, the consultants acknowledged the many contributions of the Society, both past and current, to the conservation of the suburb.

The Study will also identify heritage streetscapes, reassess the borders of the existing Conservation Area, identify the particular characteristics of precincts within the Conservation Area, and review the list of Heritage Items. The result should be a much more detailed and comprehensive set of controls than in LEP 2000, which is notoriously deficient. Forms for comment are available from Council, and input from the public is encouraged.

The Planning Subcommittee intends to respond using the headings on the form

distributed at the meeting. The consultants have already completed much of the mapping, but this should not deter members from suggesting improvements up until the time when the process is complete, estimated to be Christmas. The Society will push for periodic reports on the progress of the Study.

Current DAs

It would be good to be able to report that while I was away all the current issues were resolved and nothing controversial cropped up, but alas, neither of these things happened.

2a Hereford Street, ex-health centre, is proposed for 18 dwellings, and this appears to be acceptable. The proposal for two extra dwellings at 4 Mary Street may prove more controversial. The Society has objected to the rendering of the brick fence at 256 Glebe Point Road, the Backpackers.

- Neil Macindoe

Glebe Conservation Area Study - your chance to participate

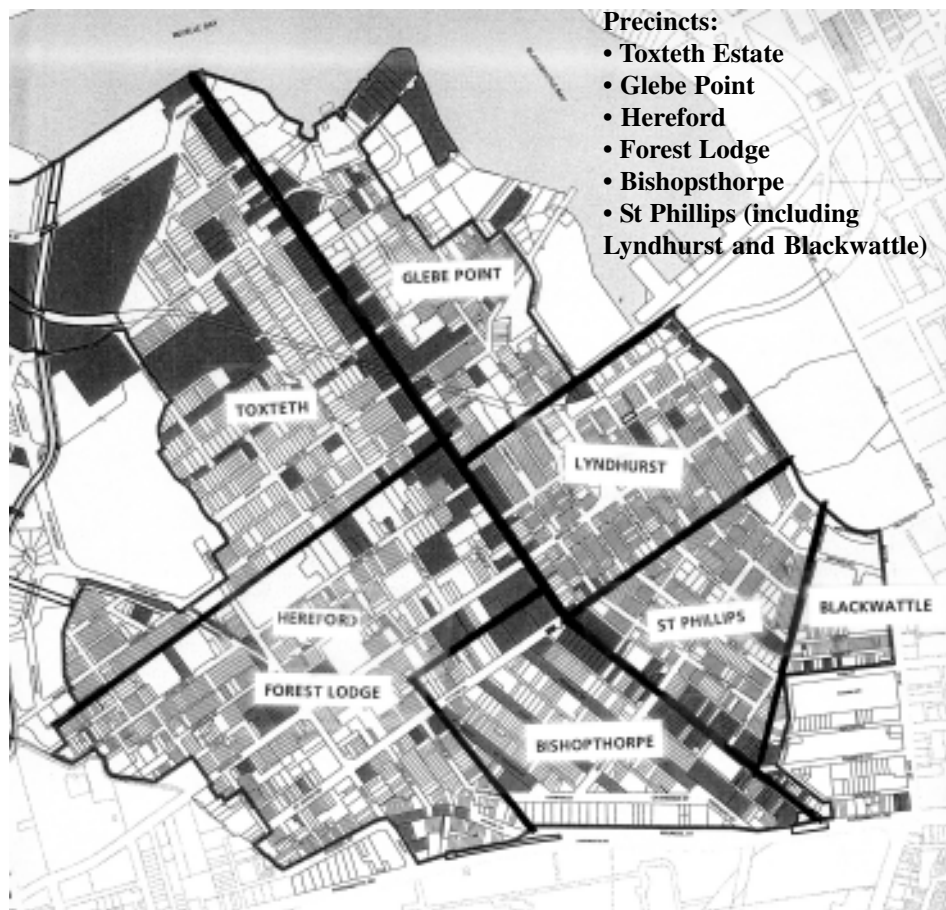
At the meeting on 26 October, we received a form asking for comments.

Copies of this form are available from the Glebe Town Hall. The deadline for comments is **18 November**.

To start you thinking, comments were sought under these topic and precinct headings:

Topics:

- Glebe Point Road retail precincts
- Residential development in intact streets
- Rear development
- Development in rear lanes
- On-site car parking
- Street parks
- Views
- Public housing - inter-war and post-war (Glebe Estate)
- Inter-war apartments and warehouses
- Post-war units and warehouses
- New development
- Foreshore development



Our new convenor for Wentworth Park, Anne Fraser, has been looking into its history

The changing fortunes of Wentworth Park

A New Era?

At long last it seems everything is working in favour of possibly restoring this fine old park to its former role as vital open space for the community that surrounds it. There are two reasons for this optimism:

1. The park is now within the City of Sydney Council boundaries instead of Leichhardt and South Sydney. The northern and southern sections are directly managed by the City of Sydney.

2. The Wentworth Sporting Complex Trust that manages the central section, as of this year includes representatives from the community and government as well as greyhound representatives. At their first meeting in May they voted to develop a management plan for the Complex area of the park.

A new community group, The Blackwattle Coalition, made up of representatives from the Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont communities, is being established to concentrate on Wentworth Park. 2005 and 2006 should herald a time of much debate. Here is a very brief outline of the saga of Wentworth Park to date to give you some background. As community open space it has an intriguing history, created with hope and nearly crushed with frustration.

The Original Vision

The park was officially opened in 1885. It had been infilled, converting a badly polluted swamp into "Wentworth Park".

"... the land hereafter described, which has been set apart and **dedicated in perpetuity as a park or place of public recreation** at the Glebe, Sydney ..."
(Governor in Council 1885)

Initially it was just that, a sporting centre for cricket, rugby union and then league, lacrosse and baseball. Adjacent to this it boasted fine gardens reflecting classic 19th century landscaping.

A Loss of Direction

The major flaw in Wentworth Park's history has been inadequate funding to maintain it. From about 1902 onwards the park began to deteriorate badly.

Because of this the Trust increasingly allowed in sectional interests. In 1939 the Greyhound racing officially leased the central section of the park and it became synonymous with "The Wentworth Dogs". The Dogs were very popular until the early 1980s when interest waned. During this time the Wentworth Trust became dominated by people representing the racing industry.

The Grandstand

"... now we have a long term lease on Wentworth Park, we don't want to build just an ordinary stand. We want something along the lines of Hollywood Park and other great tracks in the U.S ..." - National Coursing Association member in the late 1970s

Despite opposition, Leichhardt Council approved the grandstand and it was opened in 1987. It had blown its building budget by about \$10million and it continued to blow its maintenance budget each year. It put the Trust into severe financial straits. The Racecourse Development Fund bailed them out but with conditions. The northern and southern sections were to be managed by the City of Sydney. The lease was converted into a licencing agreement held by the Trust, not by the Greyhounds, and the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association. Owners and Trainers were forced to relocate from Harold Park to

share the cost. The licencing agreement runs for 20 years with a further 20 year option in 2007.

The top floors of the grandstand were converted into offices and meeting rooms and they were rented out to the Department of Sport and Recreation. This earns the current Trust \$400,000 pa.

Shattered Hopes

In 1989 Nick Greiner and Frank Sartor expressed interest in developing the park and removing the Greyhounds. Community groups were formed and landscape plans drawn up. Then in 1991 the hope died.

Bob Rowland Smith, Minister for Racing, said in January 1991:

"I can assure you we will do everything in our power to ensure Wentworth Park remains the way it is at present. It seems quite absurd that an area such as this, which has been discarded for so long, should suddenly become a notable feature so far as the council is concerned. Bearing in mind the Wentworth Park Complex has a magnificent grandstand, to suddenly say you cannot park your car outside, well to me that's ridiculous."

He was most dismissive of all the draft plans for development of the park referring to them as 'ridiculous'.

For the next 15 years the Glebe Society battled on but to little effect. No one was listening. A few new seats appeared, there was some reurfing, but improvements were piecemeal and without vision. The vexed question of cars parking on the grass was not resolved.

2005 – The Issues

As of May the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust is keen to work with community groups to develop their section of the site so it better connects to the rest of the park. They are also keen to diversify the types of sports using the complex. The Glebe Society has submitted a proposal for the management plan and Bruce Davis has attended their first community meeting.



The heritage-listed tower that will be restored as part of the improvements planned for Wentworth Park.
Photo: Bruce Davis

Continued on next page ...

... Continued from previous page

The Department of Recreation supposedly vacates the grandstand in 2007. The Trust will then look for new sporting organisations to rent the space. This should bring to a head the issue – does this use of the space fulfill the promise that ‘the land ... has been set apart and **dedicated in perpetuity as a park or place of public recreation**, or is it just a glorified office block?

Other questions are:

- What is happening with the northern and southern sections of the park that are under the management of City of Sydney?
- What does the surrounding community want of Wentworth Park?
- Who is going to take financial responsibility for the park and to what extent is it expected to be self funding?
- Where can cars be parked other than on the grass areas where they rapidly destroy the surface?
- Can the park be linked with the other waterfront areas of Blackwattle Bay?
- Which buildings are heritage and which should be removed? When can the architectural integrity of the arches be restored?
- What is the condition of the heritage listed trees?
- How can we make the park more easily accessible for users?

In the long term the Greyhound organisations have a legal right to remain in Wentworth Park until 2027 but after that they do not. It is time we started to plan and prepare for the Park minus the dogs, and possibly the grandstand, with an overall plan.

Wentworth Park is a ‘connecting park’. It straddles three suburbs: Pymont, Ultimo and Glebe. It also connects the foreshore with its hinterland, inner city and an increasingly dense residential precinct. It is adjacent to the Fish Markets, the CBD and a working harbour. Its very location, at the juxtaposition of so many dynamics, makes it a vital open space area that requires our best efforts to develop it into a space that enriches the lives and activities of all those people and organisations that surround it.

- Anne Fraser

A connection with the Australian Flag

Until recently I was unaware of any local connections associated with our national flag, but Leichhardt Rotary Club has drawn our attention to the fact that one of the winners in the competition to design an Australian flag in 1900-1901 was from the inner west of Sydney.

The competition, initiated by the *Review of Reviews for Australasia* and subsequently backed officially by government, attracted over 30,000 entries. While many were quite unsuitable there was a convergence in designs which included as elements the Union “Jack”, the Southern Cross, and a six pointed star. In *vexillological* terms these represented Britain (but now seen more as a symbol of parliamentary democracy), the southern continent and the new union of the six individual states. The prize (£200) was eventually shared by five people.

Leslie John Hawkins was born in Peterborough in 1883, and his family moved to 58 Henry Street, Leichhardt in 1887. He was only eighteen when he submitted his design, with little expectation of success. However, he found himself the youngest of the winners, and the only one from New South Wales. The other winning designs came from New Zealand, Perth and Melbourne (two).

With his winnings, the princely sum of £40, young Leslie bought himself a racing bicycle and a pewter model of a kangaroo, with enough left over to open a savings account. He went on to become an optician, practising in Sydney and later Melbourne until the age of eighty. He was a generous man, sympathetic to the financial problems of his clients in the depression years. His daughter, Lois McColl describes him as:

“...a gentle, charming, kindly, and communicative nineteenth century gentleman, who just happened to live in the twentieth. He was very well known in Northcote during the years following World War 2, and counted John Cain senior among his special friends. He never personally made a lot of his part in designing our flag, but he also didn’t really think that we could improve on it much. Sometimes the suggestion was made to him, that we could do without



Mr L J Hawkins.
Photo from a facsimile of ‘Review of Reviews’ September 20, 1901

the Union Jack in the corner to remind us of our colonial origins, but he always said ‘No’ very firmly! He acknowledged some of the disgraceful episodes in our colonial history, but felt that our connection with England in the twentieth century so enhanced our development of the Australian consciousness of democracy and social justice, that we should keep the flag just as it is. By the mid 1960s Les was the last of the Australian flag designers left alive.”

The Rotary Club is working to have a flagstaff installed in Henry Street (on the Lilyfield side of the City-West Link), but seized the opportunity of a visit to Australia from England of Leslie Hawkins’ son to arrange a small ceremony on 26 October this year, attended also by Lois, his daughter, and several grandchildren as well as representatives from Council, RailCorp, which is being asked to support the memorial concept, and people with interests in the area and its history.

The project is a centenary one for the Rotary Club, and we wish them success in their aim to recognise this local connection with the broader history of Australia.

- Jeanette Knox

The Great Glebe Society Raffle

Once again, the Glebe Society Raffle has some great prizes, donated by business people in Glebe. They include:

1st Prize: Sony DVD-VCR player and Topfield digital set-top box, donated by the Broadway Centre and Harvey Norman, Broadway (value exceeds \$500).

2nd Prize: Gardens of China by Peter Valder signed by the author, donated by Gil Teague of Florilegium, 145 St Johns Road.

3rd Prize: \$60 voucher for a dinner for two, donated by Stefano of Osteria dei Poeti, 73 Glebe Point Road.

4th Prize: Dinner for two, with wine, donated by Guiseppe at Rosso Nero Restaurant, 407-409 Glebe Point Road.

5th Prize: \$50 voucher donated by Roger Mackell of Gleebooks.



Raffle 1st prize:
Topfield 4000T digital terrestrial television receiver and Sony SLV-D985P DVD player/Video cassette recorder.
The TV set is not included.
That belongs to Bruce Davis, who took the photo.

How to buy Raffle Tickets:

- * Tickets cost \$5 each, or a sheet of five tickets for \$20. For your convenience, a sheet of five tickets is included with this *Bulletin*.
- * Include the payment for Raffle Tickets when you pay for the Christmas Party. Send in the stubs (the left hand side of the page) with your Party Booking form.
- * Buy more tickets from our Stall at the Glebe Street Fair on Sunday 20 November.
- * Phone Cynthia Jones (9660 2451) or Jeanette Knox (9660 7781) for more tickets. If a message machine answers, please leave your name and phone number.
- * Buy even more tickets at the party on 9 December.

Results will be published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* Public Notices on Wednesday 14 December.

Join us for The Glebe Society's 2005 Christmas Drinks Friday 9 December 2005 from 6 to 8pm at The Studio Room St. Scholastica's College 4 Avenue Road Glebe

[Enter by the big gates on the corner of Avenue and Arcadia Roads, take the path that goes around the far side of the main building ... and follow the signs !]

Enjoy the view across to Annandale, and the sun setting behind the witches' houses, as you celebrate with delicious finger food, liquid refreshments, and Christmas cake.

The Great Glebe Society Raffle will be drawn at the close of the evening.

The cost is \$25 per head.

For more information, ring Cynthia Jones 9660 2451 or Jeanette Knox 9660 7781.

RSVP by Monday 28 November

Have a Happy New Year Party

Robyn Kemmis has again arranged for Council to give us two tickets to the City of Sydney New Year's Eve party.

These will be auctioned during our Christmas Drinks, so two lucky people will go home with these tickets after our party. Thank you Robyn.

Other exciting items will also be auctioned at the party. You will have to be present to find out what they are.

Another sign of Christmas

There will be a Living Colour floral display in Glebe Point Road, with a Christmas theme and traditional festive colours, from 14 to 28 November.

Kite Kaleidoscope in Glebe

This October marked the 4th successive *Art and About* staged by the City of Sydney Council. It featured a rich mix of cultural events and exhibitions, including the Hyde Park photography exhibition, the Open Gallery of banners throughout the CBD and a vast array of smaller exhibitions and opportunities for public involvement with art making. For the first time this year, Glebe was invited to take its place in the City's cultural landscape by developing its own program of events for *Art and About*. The agreement was for The City of Sydney to provide all the promotion and for us to make it happen.

This challenge came to us at the right moment. Jan Wilson, Andrew Craig and myself, as the Glebe Point Road Revitalisation Group, had been working intensely with the community and business for over two years in an effort to establish projects designed to bring new energy to Glebe. Developing an appropriate art project was high on our agenda.

Some history:

We instigated the 'Glebe in Action' workshop in November 2003 with Con Pappas. This brought together representatives of many community groups and Lucy Turnbull, the incumbent Lord Mayor, producing a vibrant working analysis of all aspects of Glebe's community structures, heritage and built environment, potential, and problems. Further analysis and communication now takes place on an ongoing basis with the subsequent formation of COGG (Coalition of Glebe Groups) and FLAG (Forest Lodge and Glebe).

We developed analytical documents and referred to existing documents such as The Glebe Society Strategic Plan, attempting to build on the acknowledged efforts of those before us, and incorporating input from those around us.

In September 2004 The Glebe Point Road Revitalisation Group worked with Play Consulting to analyse Glebe's potential based on its unique character as a place and a people. The concept of an 'arts based' project had been considered as a significant component for the revitalisation of Glebe. Play Consulting proposed a concept of the 'Incubator', a space for:

* providing contact and information about Glebe's activities for residents and visitors

* nurturing and developing artists and their innovative projects

* providing workshops for a wide range of activities, including business development programs, new media as an art form and other cultural activities.

This is a complex and ambitious proposal and it does take some absorbing. It would require focused commitment to bring it to fruition. The timing may soon be right!

The Kites

The Glebe Point Road Revitalisation team was approached by Jenny Underwood (Glebe Place Manager - City of Sydney) to develop a concept for Glebe's contribution to *Art and About*. I contacted Peter Travis, resident and international arts *tour de force*, with the idea of bringing his kites to the large and small spaces of Glebe. He had broad experience and great notoriety first as a ceramicist, then swimming costume designer for Speedo, designer, teacher and kite/aerial installation maker. He is a man of volcanic energy. For every idea we had, he had six more. We were soon planning:

- The Broadway Shopping Centre installation
- The St Johns Church installation
- The Glebe Kite Kaleidoscope official launch party in St Johns Church
- Folk kites in empty shop fronts
- Pictures in other shop fronts
- A kite-making workshop
- A community kite-flying day
- Stencils on footpaths

After organising and planning, the complete program of events and installations came to fruition within the nineteen days of *Art and About*, 4-23 October.

The People

It required a prodigious amount of work. Jan Wilson worked ceaselessly as an organisational dynamo, Roelof Smilde liaised with businesses and drove kites



Riding the escalator gave Broadway Centre shoppers a great view of the kites.
Photo: Bruce Davis

around in the car generously loaned by his daughter Anna, Rosie Aldinger painted the footpath stencils, Jenny Underwood provided enormous support and assistance of all kinds - even bringing her daughter and partner to assist with the Broadway installation starting at 10pm one night.

Geoff Broughton, rector of St Johns Church, embraced the concept wholeheartedly and encouraged members of his congregation to participate in the mind-boggling roster for the church display. Conrad Keiron climbed high and helped attach the banner to the bell tower. The verger, Bill Hemmens opened the church at various odd hours and spent much time on roster duty. The Glebe Fire Brigade threw ropes over high beams and climbed the ladder to assist with the kite installations in the church.

The church minders from the congregation and The Glebe Society contributed enormously. Thankyou everyone.

Community

At the Launch, the value of the Glebe Kite Kaleidoscope crystallised. All sections of the community were represented and mingled on the church lawn in traditional fashion. Geoff spoke about the rainbow colours of the kites providing an opportunity for us to celebrate the diversity of the community of Glebe. Peter spoke of the significance of kites as message bearers to the heavens and our Councillor Robyn Kemmis officially launched the Glebe contribution to *Art and About*.

- Susan Ingram
Glebe Kite Kaleidoscope curator



Glebe Matters



Le Petit Tarte?

How many people who visit *Le Petit Tarte*, at 219 Glebe Point Road, find the French not quite right? *Tarte* is feminine and takes *la* and *petite* to complement it. But here we have *le*, which is masculine, and *petit* which is masculine.

So is this a deliberate mistake?

Stand at the coffee bar and gaze at the photograph on the wall behind you. Now do you understand why the gender is equivocal?

See next month's *Bulletin* for my explanation.

- John Gray



Photo: Edwina Doe

Glebe Music Festival

This year's Glebe Music Festival opens with a laid-back concert at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, at 7-30pm on Friday 11 November by Sway and Dan McKay. Sway is one of Sydney's finest and most stylish a cappella quartets, with a repertoire containing jazz to pop and blues and everything in between. The four members of the group, Fiona Wilkinson, Tony Watson, Sara O'Connor and Adrian Mees, are all accomplished vocalists with decades of professional and semi-professional vocal experience between them. For further information see www.swaytime.com

Dan McKay is considered one of Australia's finest guitarists of the younger generation. His solo CD featuring works of Dusan Bogdanovic, Leo Brouwer, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Alexandre Tansman and Astor Piazzolla has just been released. A disc of works by Australian composers is in preparation, due for release in 2005. Dan will perform works by Ross Edwards, Richard Charlton, Leo Brouwer and Hector Ayla. More details at www.danmckay.net

Tickets \$20 (concessions \$10) including refreshments available at the door or at www.glebemusicfestival.com

- David McIntosh

Hidden Gardens of Glebe

Spring tour - visit gardens, courtyards and rooftops

The Glebe Society is planning a tour next spring of Glebe's hidden gardens, courtyards and rooftops. The provisional timing is the second weekend of September and we are looking for small gardens, perhaps accessed through back lanes or behind fences or up stairs; vegetable gardens or shared nature strip plantings; courtyards or country cottage gardens - gardens which are characteristic of Glebe's inner city village atmosphere.

Please let us know if you would like your garden - or that of a neighbour or friend - to be considered for inclusion in the tour. We are advising of this occasion now to give plenty of time for plantings for spring 2006!

Eight or 10 "hidden" gardens will be selected and the tour will include morning and afternoon teas at a central Glebe venue.

If you would like to suggest a garden to be included, or you would like to be involved in the organisation of this event, please contact **Dorothy Davis** dorothydavis@bigpond.com phone 9660 7873 or **Lydia Bushell** lbushell@mail.usyd.edu.au phone 9571 7131

!!! Special Notice !!!

The US Marine Forces Pacific Band will be performing free concerts in Glebe on Saturday 26 November commencing at 12.30pm outside the Glebe Library (corner Wigram Road and Glebe Point Road).

The Band will then parade to Foley Park (corner Bridge Road and Glebe Point Road) for another performance at around 1pm and then to Minogue Reserve (near the Glebe Markets) for a final performance at around 2pm.

Let's make sure there is a big crowd to welcome the Marines.

Environmentally friendly hessian bags

Andrew Wood has sent us a photograph of Marianne von Knobelsdorff in Bonn, Germany, carrying a Glebe Society Hessian Bag.

Buy your bag at the Glebe Point Road Street Fair on Sunday 20 November and see how far it will take you.

Bags cost \$8.50 each if you buy one or two, and \$8 each if you buy three or more (so your friends can travel with you).

Ring Fay Mander Jones on 9552 4172 for more information.



News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

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

The last Thirsty Thursday for 2005 is on 1 December, at *La Tavolaccia* Garden Restaurant, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel).

There is no need to book, so just turn up. And BYO wine.

The first Thirsty Thursday for 2006 will also be at *La Tavolaccia* on 2 February.

Welcome to New Members

The following people were accepted as members at the October Management Committee meeting. We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

- ◆ Elizabeth Clarke
- ◆ Leslie & Rod Holtham
- ◆ Martine Maters

Manly Mates

Frank Hatherley's comedy about Bob Askin, directed by Glebe Society member and *Bulletin* contributor Lyn Collingwood, is at the New Theatre, 542 King Street, Newtown, from 10 November to 17 December. Bookings: 9519 8958.

See www.newtheatre.org.au.

Footbridge Theatre to Close

The Footbridge Theatre on Parramatta Road will close down this month, at the end of its last production.

The Footbridge under John Frost, a noted Australian producer, seems to have succumbed to the strong competition from other theatre groups in the city and to diminishing support. Another Valhalla?

A further factor is the University's extensive building program that necessitates decanting of lecture/staff accommodation from buildings that will be demolished or renovated. The Footbridge is to be converted into a lecture theatre.

There will be a sale of memorabilia from previous Frost productions on 11 November.

Early Literacy Program

Suzu Velkou is looking for people who would be prepared to read to primary age school children once a week for the Early Literacy Program. If you know of anyone who may be interested, such as actors or students, please ask them to contact Suzu. There is payment for this work. Contact:

Suzu Velkou, Facilitator, Glebe Schools Community Centre
glebesacc@optusnet.com.au

Phone: 9566 1285, Fax: 9552 1703

Dictionary of Sydney

- What is the Aboriginal name for Cockatoo Island?
- Who designed the Female Factory at Parramatta? And what was it anyway?
- How did the Sydney Harbour ferry *Greycliff* sink?
- Who spent the early morning hours for many years writing 'eternity' repeatedly on the city's pavements?

From art and architecture, to people and politics, to waterways and wildlife, the *Dictionary of Sydney* is becoming the place for telling the story of Sydney, from its prehistory to the present. If it happened in Sydney then it belongs on this site.

Cultural institutions and individual scholars are invited to contribute to the dictionary. It will incorporate new scholarship as well as be a focus for known information about the history of Sydney. There is also an opportunity for members of the public to submit suggestions for entries.

See dictionaryofsydney@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Heritage Study Questionnaire

The questionnaire that was handed out at the meeting is now available on Council's website at the following link:

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/Development/HeritageInformation/GlebeConservationAreaStudy.asp>

Please could all completed questionnaires be returned by Friday 18 November 2005.

If you have any questions please contact me by email - natherfold@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au - or on 9246 7764.

Nicola Atherfold (Strategic Planner, City Of Sydney)

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 Pooley



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

Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe
Society Archives

Phone 9660 3530



For your diary ...

Wednesday 9 November, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

11 November to 4 December - 16th Annual Glebe Music Festival.

Sunday 20 November - Glebe Point Road Street Fair.

Saturday 26 November - The US Marine Forces Pacific Band. Parade commences at 12.30pm outside the Glebe Library.

Sunday 27 November, 3pm. - Concert at Hunter Baillie Church, Annandale.

Thursday 1 December, 7pm - 'Thirsty Thursday' - Dinner at *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

Friday 9 December, 6-8pm - Glebe Society Christmas Drinks, the Studio Room, St Scholastica's College. See Booking Form.

Wednesday 14 December, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

Thursday 2 February 2006, 7pm - 'Thirsty Thursday' - Dinner at *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

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 webmaster@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 to the Glebe Society. Write to the address above or send an email to 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 December. The deadline for contributions is **Saturday 17 December**.

The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members:

Anne Fraser	9660 7560	John Gray	9518 7253
Jan Wilson	9660 2698		

Sub-committee Convenors:

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

Arts, Culture and Media	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Bays and Foreshores	Tony Larkum	9660 7030
Environment and Open Spaces	Andrew Wood	9660 1040
Environment (Acting)	Asa Wahlquist	9660 8261
Heritage	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl Herden	9660 7371
Parks & Open Spaces		
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Chris Hallam	9660 3670
Strategic Planning	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Wentworth Park	Anne Fraser	9660 7560

Adopt-a-Park Contacts:

Foley Park: Bobbie Burke (9692 0343) **Kirsova:** Fay & David Mander Jones
Paddy Gray Park: John Gray

Other Contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Liaison with CityRags	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Liaison with COGG	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Liaison with GPRd Revitalisation	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Publicity	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Social events	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Website	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451

In this issue

- Glebe Conservation Study - p1-4
- Historical Background to Study - p4
- Planning Matters - p6
- Wentworth Park - p7
- Glebe Society Christmas Drinks - p9 and Booking Form
- Great Glebe Society Raffle - p9 (tickets enclosed)
- Kite Kaleidoscope - report - p11
- Glebe Matters - p11

The GLEBE
PO Box 100



SOCIETY Inc
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.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Place Manager, Glebe, Forest Lodge & Camperdown:

Jenny Underwood, 9298 3191 (direct), or 0414 617 048.

email: junderwood@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Glebe Town Hall Office: 9298 3190, 8am-6pm

Mon -Fri

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 1300 651 301

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped Shopping trolleys: Bi-Lo - 9281 4511. Most other major stores - 1800 641 497. Pacific Services - 0500 847 000 or trolleys@pacificservices.com.au.

Aircraft noise: 1800 802 584