



University could be interested in expanding to Harold Park

On 23 June, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported:

School's out - to take over half the city

It may one day be known as the university that ate Sydney. The University of Sydney has swallowed half of Darlington and is set to take Callan Park, and now a capital development masterplan for the next 12 years reveals it also has designs on North Eveleigh and Harold Park. The \$2 billion expansion is outlined in the university's 2020 Masterplan, designed to relieve

a campus already groaning after an almost 30 per cent increase in student numbers since 1990 - and growing.

This report may be somewhat premature.

A University spokesman has told the *Bulletin* that there have been no discussions regarding the purchase of Harold Park. However he added: "The University would be interested in Harold Park if it comes up, but there has been no consideration yet as to the most appropriate use of the site."

Glebe Point Road works entering 'heavy lifting' stage

The Glebe Point Road upgrade project is approaching the 'heavy lifting' stage. Over the next few months the road surface will be ripped up and replaced with a significant impact on traffic and bus services. It is not just a resheeting job like we've seen in several local streets!

Rob Mueck, Project Manager at the City Of Sydney, tells us that arrangements are being finalised for the necessary traffic restrictions during the road works. Details will be delivered soon in letter drops.

Rob reminds us that the upgrade consists of:

- 2500m² of complete demolition of the road, including tram tracks, service relocations and rebuilding at a lower level,
- 10,000m² of new road surface,
- over 7000m² of new high quality foot-path pavers,
- over 2km of new stone kerb,

- temporary removal, refurbishment and replacing of all street furniture as well as the introduction of 50 new trees,
- additional seating,
- new street lighting and banners on more than 80 new multi function poles,
- new traffic signals at three intersections,
- commissioning of artwork including the Glebe Public School fence and bus shelter,
- the decorative lighting of University Hall, St Johns Church, Foley Park War Memorial, the old Fire Station in Mitchell Street and Jubilee Square.

Major services work includes realignment and/or replacement of over 400 pits, 1km of stormwater pipes and more than 16km of underground electrical conduit and cabling. The project team has had to undertake modifications to every one of the 260 properties from Parramatta Road to beyond Forsyth Street to change their electrical connection from the overhead supply to the underground supply.

Let us all accept patiently the inconvenience of these temporary changes and look forward to enjoying the revitalised heart of Glebe.

And let this be a warning to all householders. Don't leave the home maintenance jobs until the house is about to fall down - it will cost you more financial pain and inconvenience in the end.



Glebe Point Road, Sunday, 22 June.
Photo: Edwina Doe

- Edwina Doe

Poor records put our heritage at risk

In previous articles I have told you about the Heritage Committee's aim of improving records of heritage in Glebe and Forest Lodge. As part of that project we invited John Poulton to speak to the Society about heritage significance, safeguards, threats and potential actions.

On a cold, wet and windy night, the Burley Griffin Incinerator Building was where interested members of the society gathered to hear John give a very informative speech, which he illustrated with views of heritage items and other related scenes. He explained that:

'Heritage Significance is based on the concept that a place (building, structure, memorial, relic, tree, landscape, area etc.) has value for past, present and future generations. These values are identified as being, historic, aesthetic, social, ... [of] technical or research value; ... representative or [a] rare example of its type.'

An item gains heritage status when it is assessed as having heritage significance and is included in a planning instrument. It follows from John's comments on significance that heritage items may include buildings, structures, trees, landscapes, natural features, bridges, roadways, walls, and of course a conservation area or heritage landscape.

We have 11 items on the State Heritage Register: *Bellevue*, Glebe Railway Viaduct, *Hereford House*, *Lyndhurst*, *Montieth*, Pymont and Glebe Railway Tunnels, *Reussdale*, *Rothwell Lodge* and Factory, *Sze Yup Temple* and Joss House, *Tranby* and *University Hall*. The Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan 2000 provides aims and objectives that apply to development provisions including Heritage Conservation, a schedule and map of 228 heritage items and a map of Glebe Conservation Area. These records and statements have been harmonised with the City of Sydney Heritage Development Control Plan 2000. It provides detailed guidelines for development in relation to heritage items, conservation areas and heritage street-

scapes, specific controls for heritage items, controls for conservation areas and street-scapes etc.

Further, the City is in the process of establishing a New City Plan that will incorporate provisions from the planning instruments that applied to the former City, South Sydney and Leichhardt Areas. Additional Studies have been carried out to assist in preparation of these plans including the Glebe Conservation Area Report and Glebe Urban Design Study. The Glebe Conservation Area Study Proposes seven Conservation Areas: Bishopthorpe, Glebe Point, Hereford and Forest Lodge, Hughes, St Philips, Lyndhurst, Toxteth and a proposed Glebe Point Road Heritage Streetscape.

There will always be threats to heritage. John noted that these include development pressures, inappropriate changes eroding character, neglect and lack of maintenance, and redundant sites.

Nonetheless under the legislation which existed that evening, and if records were accurate then heritage, though always at some risk, is protected. However, the legislation is being replaced and records are neither accurate nor up to date.

At 2am in the middle of that wet, cold and windy night the NSW Legislative Assembly passed a Planning Bill that will enact new Residential and Commercial Development codes for exempt and complying development (see www.planning.nsw.gov.au). The Bill as it stands is silent on several matters to do with heritage and conservation. According to the Minister, these will subsequently be completed by regulation. The Glebe Society has been commenting on these develop-



Jan Macindoe, John Poulton and the audience.
Photo: Bruce Davis

ments for almost a year now, chiefly in Planning articles by Neil Macindoe, and made submissions in the preceding process. Therefore, the Bill came as no surprise to us and as Bob Armstrong said that evening, 'The Glebe Society is not renowned for sitting on its hands'. Nonetheless the Society is faced with what is appropriate action when the certainties of existing schemes are in the process of replacement.

The one certainty is that records of heritage in Glebe and Forest Lodge are currently neither accurate nor up to date. Despite heroic efforts by volunteers, from the Glebe Society and elsewhere, and Councils, there have not been sufficient resources to survey, nor record in a standardised way, our heritage. No doubt, many of you were surprised to discover that we have only 11 items on the State Heritage Registry. You may be equally surprised to see the backlog of items. So a sensible project, right now, is to record our heritage, assist the City in updating our listing and pressure the State to include in its codes that heritage item listings must be processed and available to all.

Don't sit on your hands. If there are items you think are heritage that are not currently included, then watch this space in future *Bulletins* to learn what we, as members of this community, can do to preserve our heritage for future generations.

- Dianne Gray
Convenor, Heritage Sub-committee

Planning Matters

Department of Planning Community Workshop

On Monday 16 June I attended a Workshop at the Australian Technology Park, Redfern, on the proposed Planning Codes. About thirty people had registered, but only half turned up. Several of those were students, and there appeared to be quite a few officials from the NSW Planning Department as well. If that session is a fair indication, the Government has consulted about 150 people in these workshops out of a total of more than seven million.

We were given a very soft sell by Chris Johnson, the snowy-haired, avuncular ex-Government Architect who is now the front man for the Department of Planning. However, he referred virtually all questions to Chris Summers, a much less soft building surveyor from Port Macquarie.

Codes

Without getting too technical, the Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, is determined to replace as much merit-based assessment as possible with code-based assessment.

Merit-based assessment involves Councils notifying and advertising proposals, receiving objections, and writing reports taking all relevant factors into account, as at present.

Code-based assessment does not involve any of these. Instead, there is a list of supposedly objective standards which are ticked if the proposal meets them. If it meets them all, it is approved automatically. If it does not, even in just one aspect, it goes to merit assessment.

The first problem that arises with the Government's approach is it is proposing two parallel systems instead of one. The slightest variation from the code and the application slips into another system. If a council already uses a code for assessing some applications (a lot of them use codes for minor applications especially) the applicant will be able to choose between the Government and the Council code. That makes three systems.

It is impossible to do away with merit-based assessment altogether, precisely because so many proposals cannot be made to fit any code. It will not surprise you to learn the local government areas that currently have high

proportions of code-based approvals (known as Complying Development) are all rural shires. Cobar heads the list. Lots of space and few neighbours make it relatively easy.

So far the Department, after many months, has produced codes for single storey houses on lots of 600m² (12m x 50m), which are the easiest. It is likely the task will become progressively tougher as the remaining fifteen or so codes deal with larger buildings on smaller lots. John Mant, the planning lawyer retained by the Local Government Association to defend its corner, believes lawyers should erect a statue of Sartor in gratitude for the volume of appeals coming their way. He ought to know!

At present, areas with special characteristics of any kind are exempt. Examples are Scenic Protection Areas and Urban Conservation Areas such as Glebe. However, the Department proposes to include them eventually, if and when all the other codes are operating successfully. Hence we have a breathing space. We should not waste it.

- Neil Macindoe

Inadequate street lighting

So far only one comment has been received by the Secretary concerning the issue of inadequate street lighting. If you consider that there is anywhere in Glebe where the footpath is poorly lit, and hence is a barrier to you walking home, or anywhere else, after dark, please contact the Secretary of the Glebe Society, PO Box 100, Glebe or secretary@glebesociety.org.au.

- Margaret Sheppard

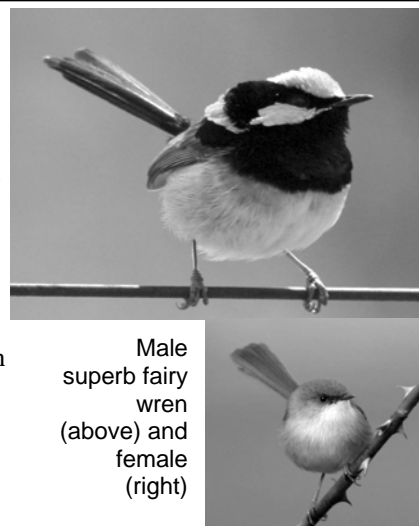
Convener, Infrastructure Defect Reporting

Support our Blue Wrens

National Tree Planting Day

Sunday, 27 July

You are invited to come along and plant a shrub at the **Paddy Gray Reserve**, Hereford Street, on the border with Wigram Lane between 11am and 1pm. This is a cooperative event with the City of Sydney. Plants will be available for planting on the spot and to take home for your own Wren-friendly garden. Leaflets are also available with further information and tips. For further information see the website, www.glebesociety.org.au, or phone 8552 4172.



Male superb fairy wren (above) and female (right)

Have you renewed your membership?

The Glebe Society's membership year begins on 1 July and fees should be paid within a month of this date.

A renewal form was enclosed with the previous *Bulletin*. You may also renew online. Browse to our homepage—www.glebesociety.org.au—and follow the link.

- Bruce Davis, Treasurer

Shirley Fitzgerald, the City of Sydney's historian, and Max Solling, our resident keeper of all knowledge, both gave talks on the history of the Wentworth Park area as a part of the activities on the amazing Wentworth Park Games Day.

A condensed version of Shirley's talk is printed below, and we hope to publish extracts from Max's longer talk in future Bulletins. In the meantime we will place a link to Max's full text on the Society's website (www.glebesociety.org.au).

From Pig Mary and offal to desirable park

Before European settlement, the topography of the Wentworth Park area was of sandstone slopes down to deep indentations where streams drained the hinterland into Blackwattle Swamp. The mudflats, where the creek and the tidal waters of the harbour met with swamp oaks and mangroves and blackwattles along the creek, would have been a rich source for the local Gadigal people.

A caution about mangroves - once European settlement arrived, the references tended to be to 'stinking mangrove swamps' and so on, but a mangrove swamp in its undisturbed state provides a cleansing process, teeming with fish and crabs and birdlife. It is our destruction of the waterways that results in the less acceptable face of this kind of habitat. So initially the area was not unattractive.

The story of the area surrounding the swamp, now Wentworth Park, was a story that sprang from the presence of fertile soils and abundant water. In the vicinity were gardens where the convicts grew vegetables. Across the Parramatta Road (now Broadway), William Chippendale grew potatoes in the rich alluvial soils and later Thomas Shepherd grew lovely flowers and cultivated the colony's first vines.

But eventually the attraction was *just* the water, and not the soil. Benign uses of the well-watered soils turned to industrial and polluting uses of the

water, and the life of the creek turned into a story about sewers and pollution, about drains and flooding.

By the 1820s several little abattoirs, soap makers and boiling-downs were making use of the hidden reaches of the Blackwattle Swamp. Some were built out on stilts, over the creek, for easy disposal of rubbish. By 1840 there were eight slaughter yards in the area. Brick makers built small kilns. Thomas Tipple Smith built a jetty into the Swamp to take delivery of timber and shells for lime.

Phillip Colman Williams, who lived in the area as a child in the 1850s, recalled that it had been possible to row a boat at high tide under Parramatta Street and into Cooper's Distillery. The area around the Blackwattle Swamp was known locally as *Eau de Cologne Valley*. Mary O'Shea, known as Pig Mary, could be seen picking her way through the mudflats searching for offal and off-cuts to feed her pigs which, when the time came, would be slaughtered nearby. And he recalled Billy Fosset, the rat catcher, who allegedly could extract a rodent live from the retaining wall that eventually got built on Parramatta Road.

While most of neighbouring Ultimo remained un-subdivided except for a run of buildings along Parramatta Street, beyond this estate, at the head of the Blackwattle Swamp, dense and unsanitary housing sat jumbled up amongst the workshops. Here cottages were 'run up' rather than 'built', owned by landlords anxious to provide for the working poor, but not to provide much. Official reports from the 1850s and onwards detailed cramped quarters, with people living cheek by jowl with domestic animals, with no water or sewerage, but any amount of flooding and any amount of raw sewage. Refuse and offal from the slaughter yards *might* get taken out on the tide, but then again, they often

remained to rot on the mudflats, as Pig Mary's story tells us.

The City's first attempt at sewers in the 1850s and 60s resulted in a number of sewers discharging into the waters of the Harbour in several confined places, including the Wattle Street outfall, which took some of the local debris away, but not far away ...



Colonial Sugar refinery, Parramatta Street (now Parramatta Road) (1850s). Fitzgerald, *Chippendale, Beneath the Factory Wall*, Halstead Press, 2008, p. 43.

and the swamp got worse. Elsewhere in the vicinity, people desperately tried to drain their sodden cellars by building illegal sewers.

In 1864 a causeway and bridge were built across the Swamp. Floodgates were installed to hold back the waters to build up enough momentum to flush the area, but this was not always effective, as industrial users in adjoining Chippendale dammed back the water for their own use.

Chippendale, behind Parramatta Street, was the real culprit of all this mess. Here there developed serious, large scale industry. Cooper's Distillery, built in 1826, held back the waters of the Blackwattle Creek in a large dam for industrial use. In the 1850s the Colonial Sugar Refinery used the dam, but with no need for the water to be clean, it became the subject of much local objection. It was bad for Chippendale, bad for Glebe and bad for the bay.

The Commissioners of the 1876 *Sydney City and Suburbs Sewerage and*



Raw sewage ran through the open drains in Athlone Place, Ultimo (1906). City of Sydney Archives.

Health Board recorded that the only compensation for living in the area at the head of Blackwattle Bay was that close proximity to the sugar refinery in Chippendale gave its inhabitants a ready supply of free used sugar baskets which were used to patch up leaking roofs and outhouses. When I counted the houses that the Health Board Commissioners considered to be unsatisfactory - the ones with comments like: 'just tenatable', 'wretched hovels' 'should be pulled down' - it came to around one-tenth of the housing in inner Sydney. We tend to think that Sydney could not have been as bad as England. This was a 'new' place after all. The details were different. There it was always cold and raining. Here it was always raining and hot. Hot sounds more cheerful, but it also meant typhoid and waterborne diseases. People with a northern hemisphere mentality often failed to understand the real issues this very different climate and landscape presented.

What the Commissioners did say was that they were astonished at what they saw, and in the opinion of one witness to the enquiry, who had worked on making a survey of underground dwellings in St Giles and St George in the Fields in London, Sydney's slums were not as crowded as London's, but in other ways they were worse. He told the commission that in his judgement there were at least 400 houses in Sydney, that if they were in London, the Board of Works would have condemned. Many were in this area behind the Blackwattle Swamp.

Let's, for some light relief, turn from the impact of the waterways on this part of town to a brief look at the impact of watering holes. Being wet in this part of town, in the imbibing sense of the word, is clear from the number of pubs on Bemi's 1840s map.

The Stonemasons Arms, built in 1833, long since de-licensed, still stands as a reminder of the nine public houses that lined the way out of town at this date. And of course there was the Kent Brewery across the road in Chippendale. When it all got too foetid down there in the Blackwattle Swamp there were plenty of places to go for a cleansing ale.

The infamous Robert Hancock¹, licensee of a disreputable pub called the *Lady of the Lake* on Bay Street, was a

fence and a con man who acquired a string of poor, badly run pubs. It is tempting to think that the 'lake' was a tongue-in-cheek reference to the swampy ground on which his pub often stood.

By the 1860s a clutch of functions like churches and a ragged school in Bay



This 1842 map shows the brewery and distillery located on Parramatta Street and the dam blocking the flow of water to the Blackwattle Swamp. City of Sydney Archives.

Street gave a little more complexity, if not respectability, to the area. When government abattoirs were opened on Glebe Island in 1870, there were hopes that the streets of Ultimo would no longer run with blood, but this also cut the area out of the meat trade, and for some of the residents, carrying on slaughtering illegally was preferable to unemployment.

The government agreed in 1879 that one solution to the problems of this part of town was to drain the swamp. By 1880, 32 acres had been drained and in 1882, Wentworth Park was opened with much fanfare.

But this did not stop flooding. If anything it exacerbated it. A combination of rain and a high tide in the bay would result in flooding of the basements of houses behind the park. In the year the park opened Adrian Mountain, the City Surveyor, condemned this area as unfit for human habitation, but people kept on living there anyway.

Then a spectacular flood in 1904-5 inundated not only basements but living rooms up to 3 feet deep. In 1905 the Council was given powers to

resume properties, and one of the first to be scheduled was what came to be called the Athlone Place Resumption, between William Henry Street, Bay Street and George Street West (Broadway). In a single slum clearance 400 buildings were removed. The houses were demolished, the swamp re-sewered, new roads put through, and the land leased for industrial uses.

The landlords got compensation, including the Member of Parliament who owned land in Athlone Place. The residents got more stress and housing headaches. Wentworth Park, touted as the new Botanical Gardens, was no longer to be an amenity for many of the residents who had endured the evils of the swamp, and the poor drainage of the area, and now the stresses of eviction.

It took until the end of the 20th Century for anyone to seriously reconsider this locality for residential use again. With its proximity to the city, and with a newly revitalised Wentworth Park at its front door, this area is for the first time ever being viewed as desirable.

- Shirley Fitzgerald
Historian, City of Sydney

1. Hancock's Tower, a forty foot high landmark, embellished with battlements, dummy guns, and a life size statue of Hancock, stood a bit further along George Street, on the corner of Quay Street, from 1840 to 1894.

Just what he used the tower for was a topic of salacious gossip around town. Geoffrey Scott, writing in Sydney's Highways of History in 1958, when Hancock was already a legend, asked:

'Did Hancock have a lunatic wife locked up in his sinister looking tower? Probably not, but there were plenty of children to declare that they had seen her white face peering from an upper window...'

Of Hancock himself, Scott claimed he was 'dirty, slovenly and disreputable... He kept at least four mistresses, and liked to drive out in public with a woman on either arm. In old age he retired to the *Lady of the Lake*, and when he died they laid him out on the tap-room table and everyone in attendance held what Scott recorded as the 'wildest and wettest wake in Sydney's history'.

Tackling community problems

Glebe police

The reprinting in *Bulletin 4/2008* of correspondence from the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the subject of policing in Glebe prompts me to revisit the issues arising from my experiences with members of the NSW Police Force, and, in particular, with police personnel stationed in Glebe.

The rule of law is an essential element in any civilised society and we all have an obligation to help those whose special responsibility it is to uphold the law. It seems that Glebe has a particular problem with juvenile delinquents, many of whom come here from other suburbs, and one can only sympathise with the police who have to deal with this problem. This does not, however, justify the behaviour of some members of the police force who seem to be indifferent to problems such as those outlined in Alison Diaper's letter, or who apparently think that they have the authority to harass innocent citizens.

My experience of the police has been varied. In 1967, as a result of being involved in a traffic accident, I was arrested and taken to Glebe police station where I was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and kept locked up for the night. While I had no legitimate grounds for complaint about this I have serious complaints about the way I was treated while in the cells and about police behaviour at my subsequent court appearance.

Years later, in similar circumstances, I was spoken to by a policeman who would have been entitled to arrest me but refrained from doing so. This, together with the very helpful attitude of a policewoman at Glebe, to whom I complained about receiving nuisance phone calls, helped to change my negative perceptions of the police.

More recent events, however, have reawakened my distrust. Earlier this year I was spoken to by a policeman as I was leaving the Broadway Shopping Centre, for no other reason than that I was wearing a garment with the hood over my head (see *Bulletin 1/2008*). I later complained to the Inspector in charge at the Glebe police

station, but without satisfaction. I still think that the behaviour of the policeman in question was an act of harassment.

However, in this time of increased police powers following the Cronulla confrontation and the APEC summit I believe we should all be prepared not only to help the police in their fight against crime but we should also stand up for our right to go about our legitimate business without fear of harassment.

The New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties has its headquarters at 149 St Johns Road, Glebe. If you have any problem about relations with the police I suggest that you should ring the Council on 9660 7582 when you will be either able to speak to the executive secretary or leave a message on the answering machine. Don't be disappointed if you have to wait for a response as the Council receives many complaints.

- Ian Edwards

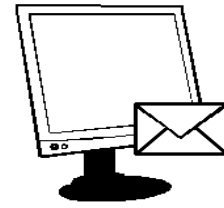
Positive outcomes for Glebe Estate tenants

Dear Editor

This letter is in response to the letters that appeared in *The Glebe Society Bulletin 4/2008* (May/June) by Alison Diaper on the vandalism and violence in Glebe and Jan Wilson on efforts to bring about positive change.

Along with other Housing tenants, Jamie Rullis and Gillian Ellis, I set up tenant and community meetings on the Department of Housing's Franklyn Street Estate in Glebe under the name *Tenants 4 Tenants*.

This was necessary due to the problems of endemic youth vandalism, theft and violence on the estate. We have had four months of meetings with up to 70 people attending, bringing together for the first time tenants, the Department of Housing, City of Sydney Council, Glebe Youth Services, senior police and community groups. As a result of these meetings the Department of Housing has provided a grille closing off the estate at Franklyn Street. This was urgently needed, as this was a place where



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youth gathered, and often threatened, due to their ability to see police coming and then flee through the estate, which is not accessible to police vehicles. The presence of the grille in the past month has resulted in an immediate and radical change in the situation. Youth no longer gather breaking into cars in the parking area, harassing tenants, and at times even robbing people walking along Franklyn Street. For the people who live here this is an enormous relief.

At our last meeting, on June 10, tenants were also relieved to hear that Housing intended to keep the grille in place, while the police supported this as a crime prevention measure. Other good news was hearing about the activities Glebe Youth Services will provide for kids in the area while North Sullivan of the Photo Studio on Franklyn Street is about to commence the project *Against the Wall*, a series of photographic murals of local youth along the basketball court on Franklyn Street. We hope that this gives kids in the area a greater sense of pride as well as becoming a great piece of social art. For tenants being able to walk safely along a street, and to live in an estate which is only a minute's walk from Glebe Point Road, the feeling of making a positive difference is empowering. So we want to thank Dominic Grenot, Housing Liaison Officer, City of Sydney Council, who offered support in setting up these meetings, Ally de Pree-Raghavan at Glebe Community Development who has provided us with posters and BBQs, the Department of Housing including Meghan Hibbert, Jim Green and Vanessa Forde, members of Council including Robyn Kemmis, police officers including Superintendent Cox and members of the community who gave us their support.

Thankyou from *Tenants 4 Tenants*.

Rosemary Wiss

The writer is a resident of the estate. She holds a PhD and works in the Anthropology department at Macquarie University.

Celebrating 40 years in 2009

2009 will be a big year for Glebe.

It is the 150th anniversary (sequicentenary) of local government in Glebe. It was in August 1859 that Glebe was incorporated as one of the first self-governing suburbs in Sydney. We are already in discussions with Council about how 'the Sesqui' might be celebrated.

It is 35 years since Glebe was designated as an Urban Conservation Area by the National Trust.

It's the 160th anniversary of the birth in Glebe of Sir Edmund Barton, Australia's First Prime Minister. We are also in close contact with Council on an appropriate way to celebrate this.

And last but not least, the Glebe Society will be celebrating its first meetings 40 years ago. After a

preliminary meeting in February 1969, the inaugural meeting of the Glebe Society was held on 27 March 1969 in Glebe Town Hall. Dr Bernard Smith was elected as the inaugural President.

A Glebe Society sub-committee, headed by Mavis McCarthy, is busy making plans for 2009. Look out for details in future Bulletins.

Meanwhile, we will feature a series of articles by people who have played a part in the success of the Glebe Society, or who have observed it from within other organisations. The first article is by Andrew Wood, who was President from 1989 to 1991 and is a Life Member of the Society.

Achievements of the Glebe Society - 1989 to 1991

The first challenge of the Management Committee in 1989 was to ask the members to adopt a new constitution so that the Society could become incorporated, essential if the office bearers were no longer to be liable for any financial losses incurred by the Society. The existing constitution had a requirement for an excessively large quorum so it was important that we had plenty of members at the Special General Meeting. Bev and Michael Horsburgh came to the rescue and opened their house for the Meeting. The new constitution, prepared with Ted McKeown's expert knowledge and advice, was adopted and then celebrated with a glass of champagne.

What were the major development applications in Glebe that were opposed by the Society over these years? Two of them were especially difficult and time-consuming for the Management Committee.

Firstly there was a proposed boat building and repair facility with attached marina at 29 Cook Street. The development would have severely affected rowing in Blackwattle Bay and would have permanently removed public access to the foreshore and prevented the extension of Blackwattle Bay Park. Leichhardt Municipal Council rejected the land-based part of the development. The developer appealed to the Land and Environ-



Andrew Wood in June 2008.

ment Court, which approved the proposal despite the Society's members appearing as witnesses to support the Council's case. So the Society commenced a prolonged campaign - on a Saturday morning in Glebe Point Road, the Senior Vice-President (Marianne von Knobelsdorff) and I collected 442 signatures on a petition objecting to the development. Together with Robyn Mackney, the Captain of the Glebe Rowing Club, we delivered the petition to Mr Bruce Baird, the State Minister whose responsibilities included the Maritime Services Board (the consent authority for the marina). Much of our conversation was conducted in German, as Marianne knew that Mr Baird had

worked with the Department of Trade in Bonn. Mr Baird kindly undertook to arrange a meeting for us with the head of the Maritime Services Board, Mr Max Moore-Wilton. He was affectionately known by his staff as 'Max the Axe' because he was in the process of retrenching many of those in his organisation. I recall on a memorable day receiving urgent phone calls from the Board after I had faxed to Mr Moore-Wilton a correction to the minutes of a meeting to consider the marina that he thought was being held *in camera*. The minutes had been given to the Society by Issy Wyner, a Leichhardt Council Alderman. As time went on the developer decided to auction the site, however, it was announced at the sale (attended by Marianne) that the marina had been approved. I faxed the details to Mr Moore-Wilton, who was apparently so incensed at the misinformation, that the Board suddenly discovered 'technical difficulties' with the marina and it was never approved. The Bay was saved for rowers and the foreshore park was extended!

The second development involved 1870s terrace houses on on Arundel and Catherine Streets near Seamer Street. The University of Sydney had purchased the site in order to demol-

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ish the terraces and construct a residential College for students. On two occasions, Leichhardt Council rejected the proposal - the houses were protected as they formed part of the Glebe Conservation Area. The University then successfully asked the State Government to act as the consent authority and the development was removed from the control of the Council. At this time the Society was writing to the Vice-Chancellor of the University to voice the residents' concerns, but our correspondence was not acknowledged. On telephoning the Vice-Chancellor's office to enquire why the Society had not received a reply, I was told they could only trace our incoming correspondence by its date of receipt! By now the Building Workers Industrial Union had placed a 'green ban' on the site so that the houses could not be demolished. Along with local residents, the Society held a further meeting with the Union to ask them to extend the ban. They agreed, despite a downturn in the building industry which had resulted in many of their members being unemployed. The matter was eventually considered by the Land and Environment Court, who approved the development subject to the provision of handicapped access. The costs of complying with the Court's request were so great that the College was relocated to the southern side of the University campus - the 1870s houses were rescued!

A member, Edna Gregory, suggested that we should have a Society Badge. So as part of our 21st birthday celebrations, a competition was held to come up with a suitable design. It was won by Christine Stewart. The judge was a well-known local artist, Elizabeth Cummings, and so the Society's logo of the *green door* was born. Christine also won the Glebe Point Road Project's Art Prize that was judged by Professor Bernard Smith, the first President of the Society.

New subcommittees were formed. Alison McKeown took on the unenviable, thorny task of leading the Society's campaign against the construction of the third runway at Kingsford Smith Airport. Fiona Campbell ably led the first Environment Subcommit-

tee, and Ian Jones, along with others, represented the Society on the Glebe Point Road Project (the plans of which are only now coming to fruition). The war memorial in Glebe Point Road had fallen into disrepair and had been vandalised. I contacted Bill Nelson, who had recently retired as the Medical Director for Esso (Australia), and he agreed to lead the Diggers Memorial Restoration Appeal. Together with Max Solling the necessary research was undertaken, funds raised and the Memorial was restored to its present grandeur. Also the Society appointed its first Honorary Archivist, Clive Smith, who provided a depository and focus for collecting and saving the documents that were held by past office bearers.

As always, the fabric of the Society was held together by some great social occasions. There were monthly 'happy hours' held on Sunday mornings at members' homes and 'dining out' evenings at local restaurants, as well as an *Open Day and House Inspection* in which homes and public buildings were opened for all to see. David McIntosh arranged the inaugural Glebe Music Festival in November 1990 at his home, *Margaretta Cottage*, in Leichhardt Street. The Mayor, Town Clerk (Tony Woodward) and other Leichhardt Council officials were entertained by the Management Committee at my house. At the time of Tony's retirement he commented to me that one of the most enjoyable parts of his job had been his contacts with the Glebe Society and the wonderful members he and his wife had met. On 22 July 1990, we celebrated our 21st birthday with a free concert attended by 200 people at St Johns Church, featuring David McIntosh at the organ, a vocal group from St Scholastica's School, the Glebe High School Rock Band, and the *a capella* group, *Cafe at the Gate of Salvation*. The concert was followed by drinks at Darling Mills restaurant (now the Durbar Indian restaurant) in Glebe Point Road at which Mr Peter Watts, the Director of the Historic Houses Trust, proposed the toast to the Society.

What were some of the things the Society learnt from these years? Of major significance in getting our voice heard, I believe, was that we com-

menced working with the *top* of an organisation, whether it was the Mayor, relevant Minister, or Head of a Union. Further, I think that the success of the Society over its first 21 years could, in a major part, also be related to an emphasis on the social and educational events that were held regularly for members and friends.

In concluding, I wish to acknowledge the enormous amount of work performed by the other Sub-committees and members whom I have not had the space to mention. I also thank our Archivist, Lyn Milton, who provided me with the Society's records of these years.

- Andrew Wood

Thirsty Country

Options for Australia

By Asa Wahlquist

A highly informative consumer's guide to the issues concerning fresh water in Australia today and in the future.

Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world and current global warming forecasts are for it to become drier still but what do we do about it? Schemes abound but will they work, can we afford them and are there hidden consequences?

Few people know more about this issue than Asa Wahlquist, Rural Writer for *The Australian*. In *Thirsty Country* she lays the facts clearly before the reader. With no agenda other than to inform, Wahlquist explains how the various schemes work, or don't, their ramifications and their financial and environmental costs. She looks at ventures, small and large, that have worked, and ones that haven't. She exposes some of the stresses and strains between private water authorities and governments that can impede sensible development and she empowers the reader with useful practical advice that they can apply in the home, garden and on the land to reduce demand.

From www.jacanabooks.com.au/ThirstyCountry

Asa Wahlquist is a Glebe Society member and has filled in as Environment Sub-committee convenor from time to time. Her book is published by Allen & Unwin

Glebe News



The 19th Annual Glebe Music Festival

8-30 November 2008

It's time to check your diary and book for this year's Music Festival. Here is news of some of the highlights.

In keeping with the tradition of bringing international artists to perform at the Glebe Music Festival, this year will feature performances by the Italian concert pianist Marco Rapetti from Florence, the Albion Quartet from Manchester UK and Simon Powis, the Australian guitarist, who is commencing his post-doctoral studies at Yale University and is fresh from concerts in Latin America and Europe.

The Albion Quartet will perform works by Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Ravel at Gleebooks on Saturday 8 November at 7.30pm.

Marco Rapetti will give a gala solo piano recital at *Margaretta Cottage* on Saturday 15 November at 8pm, followed by solo and piano trio works on Sunday afternoon, 16 November at 3pm, also at *Margaretta Cottage*.

Simon Powis, the first guitarist in three decades to pass the Yale doctoral exams, is no stranger to the Glebe Music Festival and we are fortunate that he is coming to Sydney to perform at the Old Court House on Friday 28 November at 7.30pm.

There will also be a 'popular' concert at the Old Court House on Friday 14 November at 7.30pm. The Great Hall concert is on Sunday 9 November at 3pm, preceded by a Carillon recital, and the Coro Innominata concert is at St Scholastica's on Sunday 30 November at 3pm.

Further details can be found at www.glebemusicfestival.com and a flier will appear in the *Bulletin* in due course.

Congratulations to Dorothy Hoddinott AO

Glebe Society member Dorothy Hoddinott was awarded an AO in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours 'for service to education and the teaching profession, particularly through the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teaching Associations and through professional development of teachers of English as a second language, and to the community through the support of immigrant and refugee students'.

Quoted in a *Sydney Morning Herald* article on 9 June, Dorothy said:

My involvement and engagement have grown throughout my career and I think it is a process like opening your eyes to the needs of children and the belief that they should all have the right to go as far as they possibly can in education.

The aim is to find a place for every child that enables them to participate fully in our democracy and not to be excluded because they are Aboriginal or because they are a refugee from Afghanistan or because they are simply a poor child or disabled.

Come to the Society's Annual General meeting on Sunday 31 August., when Dorothy will be the guest speaker.

New Members Night

On Friday 6 June the Management Committee welcomed several new members to Glebe Society.

As in recent years, Maureen Cahill invited us to hold the event in the Gig Gallery in Glebe Point Road. This year we met in a darkened room, eerily lit by *Light & Chaos*, an exhibition of plasma and light installations created by glass artist Tim Bassett. Bob Armstrong provided the highlight of the evening.

Tim was explaining how he created his delicate glass sculptures, which enclose moving plasma light displays,



Tim Bassett. Photo: Bruce Davis

when he accidentally bumped into one. The top part of the \$4,000 artwork fell off, but was expertly caught by Bob in a reaction time worthy of the slips in the Australian cricket team.

We thank Cheryl and Bryan Herden, who organised the evening and all their helpers.

Coming events at the Glebe Library

Glebe Art Show: Everyone is invited to the opening of the Glebe Art Show, on Friday 4 July at 6pm. If you would like to join us at 8pm for dinner upstairs in the Toxteth Hotel, please let me know by Friday 27 June (email mwhittaker@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or phone 9298 3061).

The Art Show will be open from Saturday 5 July until Sunday 13 July, 11am - 5pm.

Aboriginal Art: Meaning and Symbolism with Adam Hill - Thursday 10 July, 6.30pm. Local artist and storyteller Adam Hill will explore the meaning and symbolism of traditional

and contemporary Aboriginal art. Refreshments will be served. Free, but bookings essential - phone 9298 3060.

The City of Sydney Library is proud to present Heather Bentley's **'Takeaway for M'Lady?'** on Saturday 26 July, 1.30 - 2.45pm. Hear about meals and serving customs in a Renaissance household, including information on cookshops and tableware, early takeaways and the ultimate in sophisticated dining, 'the fork'. Free, but bookings essential - phone 9298 3060.

Margaret Whittaker, Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road

News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

Members and friends are invited to meet for dinner in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, to eat and talk with other people who live in Glebe. We visit a different restaurant each month, usually alternating between Asian and European cuisines. Put these dates in your diary now.

Thursday 3 July: we will go to *Durbar* Indian Restaurant, on the corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road.

Thursday 7 August: we will go back to *La Cucina* Italian Pizzeria Restaurant, where there is a new chef. It is at 30 Pymont Bridge Road, on the old Children's Hospital site.

Thursday 4 September: we have chosen a long-established restaurant, *The Mixing Pot*, 178 St Johns Road.

The numbers coming to these dinners are growing, so please ring me on 9660 7066 by the Tuesday before the dinner to let me know that you are coming. We don't want to take the restaurant management by surprise.

- Edwina Doe

Welcome to New Members

The following people were accepted as members of the Glebe Society at the June Management Committee meeting.

Keran Barrett
Maureen Cahill
Jan Falloon
Giovanni Frischman

We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

Hope Street Op Shop

Wondering what to do with things that are cluttering your life?

Take action and deliver them to the Hope Street Op Shop. Volunteers from the Glebe Housing Estate manage this small organisation. Items are sold back to members of the community for a very small fee. There is no third party involved.

Suitable items include clothing, sheets, towels, kitchenware and bric-a-brac. Electrical items (in working order) of a small nature will be accepted. However these cannot be sold, only given away.

Location: corner of Glebe and Norton Streets.

Opening hours: 10am - 2pm, Mondays to Fridays.

- Jan Wilson

FLAG (Forest Lodge and Glebe Groups)

Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please email editor@glebesociety.org.au

Inaugural 'LikeArt' Art Show

The Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Campus is calling on all lovers and creators of art to get involved in our inaugural art exhibition to raise much needed funds for the high school.

As always they are depending on our contacts in the community to do a number of things to support them:

*Come along and buy the art!

*Enter a piece of artwork (\$10 entry fee and the P&C will only charge a 15% commission on any sales)

*Pass the information on to your friends

The Art Show is on Friday 15 August (opening night) and all day Saturday 16 August. There will be four prizes for the best artwork: Critics Prize, People's Choice Prize, Indigenous Prize and Outstanding Young talent Prize.

For any inquiries either phone Lynn on 0421 827 698 or email suzyvelkou@gmail.com.

Our Local Member of Parliament

State Member for Balmain, Hon. Verity Firth MP.

Office address: 112a Glebe Point Road, Glebe 2037.

Senior Electorate Officer: Christina Harlamb, ph 9660 7586, fax 9660 6112, email christina.harlamb@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Thank you Bruce, for holding the *Bulletin* fort while I was away.

- Ed the Ed

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor: Clover Moore MP

Councillors:

Phillip Black
Hon Verity Firth MP
Chris Harris
Marcelle Hoff
Robyn Kemmis
Michael Lee
Shayne Mallard
John McInerney
Tony Pooley

For enquiries: Please contact the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.



Forest Lodge Public School

*Home of The Glebe
Society Archives*

Phone 9660 3530



For your diary ...

Thursday 3 July, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – *Durbar* Indian Restaurant, corner of Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road.

Friday 4 July, 6pm - Annual Glebe Art Show Opening, Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road.

5-13 July, 11am - 5pm - Annual Glebe Art Show, Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 9 July, 7.30pm – Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

Sunday 27 July, 11am -1pm, support our Blue Wrens - Paddy Gray Reserve, Hereford Street. See page 3.

Thursday 7 August, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – La Cucina Italian Pizzeria Restaurant, 30 Pyrmont Bridge Road (Old Children's Hospital site).

Wednesday 13 August, 7.30pm – Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting – The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

Sunday 31 August, 11am - Glebe Society's Annual General Meeting, *Benledi*, 186 Glebe Point Road. Guest speaker – Dorothy Hoddinott AO.

Wednesday 3 September, 7-9pm. - Meet the Mayoral Candidates at Glebe Public School.

Thursday 4 September, 7pm – Thirsty Thursday – The Mixing Pot, 178 St Johns Road.

6-14 September - History Week.

8 - 30 November - 19th Annual Glebe Music Festival. See page 9.

Sunday 16 November, Glebe Street Fair.

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 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 at the end of July

The deadline for contributions is **16 July**.

The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members: Dorothy Davis 9660 7873 Simon Fraser 9660 7560
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
Wentworth Park	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Blue Wrens	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Environment and Open Spaces	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Fortieth Birthday Celebrations	Mavis McCarthy	9660 5119
Glebe against Global Warming	Bill McCarthy	9660 5119
Heritage	Dianne Gray	9518 7253
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Chris Hallam	9660 3670

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
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Event Coordination	Dorothy Davis	9660 7873
History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Liaison with CoGG	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Publicity	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Website	Vicky Marquis	9552 2592

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



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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
Institution or corporate	\$110

Download a Membership Form from our website (www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutTGSI/Membership/Membership_application.pdf).

Or 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

Manager-Neighbourhood Services Centre: Glebe, Forest Lodge, Camperdown, Ultimo & Pyrmont: Nick Hespe.

Email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Glebe Town Hall Office: 9298 3190 8.30am-5.30pm Mon- Fri

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 9265 9333

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Glebe Point Road upgrade contact (24 hrs): Grant Donohue 0414 687 101, grant_donohue@gmwurban.com.au

Dumped Shopping trolleys: Trolley Tracker 1800 641 497

Waterway Garbage: NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592