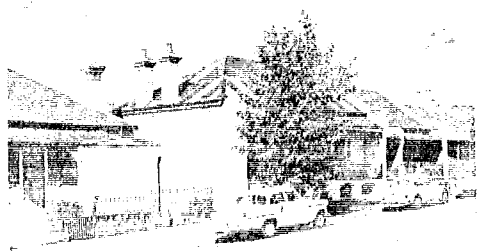


**BISHOPTHORPE AND ST. PHILLIP'S GLEBES**



The church lands of Bishopthorpe and St. Phillip's have been particularly in the news for the past month, so it would be surprising if most members of the Glebe Society had not already heard a fair amount about them. But the issues involved are vital to everyone concerned about Glebe - what happens to the church lands affects the appearance, character, community feeling and social cohesion of the whole of Glebe, and additionally, the hundreds of families who live in the glebes (including quite a few of our members) have their homes and community at stake.

Briefly, the Church of England diocesan synod last month authorised its Glebe Administration Board to sell part of its lands at Glebe to raise money to build an office block behind St. Andrew's Cathedral. A Glebe Society pamphlet (copies distributed with the last issue of the Bulletin), setting out a case for preservation of the present character of the area, was tabled at Synod. Despite this and the strenuous efforts of the local Church of England ministers to institute a policy of protecting the existing tenants and rehabilitating the houses, the G.A.B. was not given any over-riding instructions concerning its handling of its lands or their sale.

The G.A.B. has not said what parts it intends to sell, or how, or when, or to whom. It may be that what happens will be very good, but there are no indications so far that it is looking at anything other than the highest short-term bids. And the G.A.B.'s apparent complete lack of sympathy with Glebe - or indeed detailed knowledge of its people and its character - add fear of the worst to confusion and uncertainty in the minds of the residents.

Issues that arouse special concern include: the needs of the present tenants, many of whom have lived in Glebe all of their lives and many of whom could not afford other accommodation, either in Glebe or elsewhere; the desire of the present residents not to have their established community destroyed,

but to be able to maintain the existing fabric of their social relationships; the pressing need to preserve an area of great historic and architectural significance that is almost unique in Australia and which, as visiting UNESCO representative, Ian Grant, said, is "good conservation area potential"; the not-to-be-missed opportunity afforded by the present single ownership of the glebes to carry out some inspired town planning to preserve their identity and improve their amenity for the residents.

Local reaction has been overwhelming to support moves to maintain the existing residents, the community, the houses and the townscape - which of course are all inextricably bound together. It has long been shown that the type of social cohesion that there now cannot develop in high rise (or even medium rise) blocks of flats and home units quite apart from the fact that a large number of the present tenants (e.g., the old, the poor, those with children) would not find such developments suitable living places.

Leichhardt Council has passed resolutions seeking to influence the G.A.B. in the policy it intends to adopt. A public meeting of 150 local residents formed a committee to protect the existing tenants and fight for the rehabilitation of the glebes, rather than their redevelopment. A recommendation has gone to Council's Planning Committee to work out a detailed Development Plan to control any changes to the area and to try to achieve the desirable objectives mentioned above.

Glebe was named from and largely grew out of the church lands - if the people and character of Bishopthorpe and St. Phillip's are allowed to be destroyed there will be nothing left save an isolated and shrinking appendage.

Vernon Winley



## Federal Candidates Reply

Earlier this year, in Bulletin No.3 of 1972, we printed an editorial raising a number of questions which we thought were relevant election issues in an inner urban community. Copies were sent to the major parties seeking the comments of their candidates endorsed for Sydney electorate. In last issue (No.9 of 1972) we printed the replies from the A.L.P. (Mr. Jim Cope) and the Australia Party (Mr. Allan Sorrensen). Below are the replies we have received from the D.L.P. and the Liberal Party.

## Democratic Labor Party

We are in receipt of your letter of 12th July and would advise that the contents have been noted and if and when our candidate for Sydney is selected the letter will be passed on to him, for his comments. (Signed by C.K.Wallace, Asst. State Secretary)

## Liberal Party

I have been asked as a dyed-in-the-wool conservative Liberal Liberal what is the Liberal Party's attitude on local matters, more particularly Glebe, but perhaps also including many of the inner city areas such as Redfern and Newtown.

Unfortunately I do not agree that the issues suggested by the Glebe Society are the important ones; in fact I criticise local groups and local Councils for unduly supporting purely parochial matters, often quite unrelated to important national issues. I do this in spite of having a tremendous regard for local groups and local Councils. Considerable experience as a Mayor and Alderman of a local Council forces me to try and see both sides of many local controversies such as expressways and planning controls.

I have always regarded the major issue of the election as the control of inflation and the steadying of unemployment. Strangely the Glebe Society Bulletin omits any mention of this subject; as a long term menace it must be controlled - I think the Liberal Party has done this. The cost of existing housing has stabilised and the rate of unemployment has peaked and is on the decline.

In fact the Liberal Party has done a very good job. Compare our unemployment rate of 1.5% with England and the U.S.A. where it is over 6%, and with the normal pre-war rate of 10%. The low unemployment rate over the last 25 years I suppose would be regarded as an accident by Labour and Australia Party managers. Liberals say it is just good management.

More particularly, the Liberal Party's attitudes towards the actual subjects raised by your editorial would be:

### 1. The Role of Local Government.

Forget all statements that Local Government is a poor relation and needs substantial Commonwealth Aid. This would be true in the case of some of the rapidly growing areas such as Wollongong, but not for Leichhardt. Commonwealth assistance to Councils can only be given by extra taxation. Some of the Local

Councils' problems have come about because aldermen don't like to rate people too much because they will lose votes. Secondly, many councils are using their borrowing powers improperly, or not at all. (Leichhardt for instance). Councils, too, have power to carry out restricted rating on the improved capital value of properties. They would get more income if they did this.

### 2. Two-tier Systems.

Forget these. Read what Professor Atkins has said about the subject. What has been needed is a Central Body to co-ordinate Transport, and this a Liberal Government has provided. Two-tier Local Government would work only if the State and Commonwealth governments would delegate to the area council many of the functions now inefficiently administered, for instance, labour exchanges.

### 3. Education.

All pre-school education should be handed over to Local Government to be paid for out of the rates. Many councils in Sydney are doing this very successfully.

I don't accept your contention that the Liberal Government Education policy is to help the rich to get richer. It is State Aid to Independent Schools based on uniform assistance. It is important not to have a monopoly of Education by one large State authority. Independent schools are able to experiment with other methods of education.

There is a vital necessity for country university students to be adequately housed close to the universities; financial aid should be made available.

### 4. Aborigines and Migrants.

The Liberal Party agrees that every help should be given to help the integration of aborigines into the community. The teaching of English to migrants should be the responsibility of Local Governments. At the moment councils do nothing.

### 5. Urban Planning, Transport Systems and Decentralisation.

I have deliberately grouped these three subjects into one. They cannot be separated.

The best example of a new town is Canberra 150,000 people in 60 years. Will ten new towns solve the problem of Sydney and Melbourne in the next thirty years when the forecast is that both will rise to 5,000,000 each? The Liberal Party does not denigrate the establishment of new cities, but also supports the extension of built up growth corridors as delineated in the revised Sydney town planning schemes. Sydney should be extended to Campbelltown, Gosford, Penrith, St.Marys. This is a more practicable scheme than new cities.

State town planning should be able to do all this without Federal Aid. For instance there is practically no tax on congestion at the moment. Why not? If there were such a tax it could be used to finance the extension of growth corridors.

Decentralisation essentially means persuading industry to leave Sydney and go to the country. This is an extremely difficult task. Perhaps Income Tax concessions would be a practical way of doing this. As you know, the Liberal Party has instigated an Inquiry into the Income Tax and next year will drive hard to make certain that its recommendations are implemented.

Regarding the vexed question of expressways, bus and railway systems, the main casualty in all the arguments for and against has been truth. It is not true to say that expressways are outmoded, or that it will pay to extend railways and bus systems. The State Liberal Government has set up the Neilson enquiry to ascertain what Government policy should be. Preliminary reports indicate that there could be little change in Government policy regarding expressways.

#### 6. Pollution, Foreshores, History.

There is little different in the Liberal Party policy from the policies of other parties.

We and the Australia Party are almost buddies on these matters.

R. J. BRICKHILL  
President, Glebe Branch.

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## Christmas Cards

This year there are three types available:

- Steam Tram in Glebe Point Road (circa 1871)
- Presbyterian Manse, Glebe Point Road (circa 1871)
- Terraces in Wigram Road

They can be obtained now, at 15 cents each or 10 for \$1.25, from:

Jeannette Knox, 26 Victoria Road (660 7781)  
Albert Renshaw, 36 Ferry Road (660 5025)  
(The latter will deliver orders to your door if requested.)

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## UNESCO Opinion

Mr. Ian Grant, English conservationist and architect specialising in restoring old buildings, has just finished a visit to Sydney to look at our nineteenth-century buildings for a report to UNESCO.

Mr. Grant is particularly keen that we preserve the "Australianness" of our architecture and among other things:

"Your nineteenth-century buildings are just as important to Australia as the medieval cathedrals are to Europe. For God's sake, preserve them. Time is running out. Everyone is very disturbed about what is happening to the environment, except, it would seem, the Government. They do seem to be way behind. The law gives no statutory protection to preservation or conservation - it will have to be changed. So many people say that the preservation of old buildings is a waste of time, but it is in fact an investment in the future. Tourists don't visit a country to look at factories but at the early relics. That's something they are very aware of in Russia. Australia has so many wonderful things that are quite specially Australian. You won't see anywhere else in the world those little corrugated-iron roof farm houses of the last century or the terrace houses of Paddington. Preserve them!"

While here Mr. Grant was shown round part of Glebe, including the church lands. He was enthusiastic in its praise and remarked that Glebe was good "conservation area" potential. (See explanation of what is meant by "conservation area" in Miscellaneous Column.)

## GREEN THUMB

On 14th and 15th October was held the most successful Garden Competition we have had so far. Prize-winners were as follows:-

#### 1. Open Champion Garden - any size.

1st: Dr. V. Sheppard.  
2nd: Mr. D. White.  
Highly Commended: St. John's Church of England Retirement Village.

#### 2. Terrace House Garden

1st: Sister Faith  
2nd: Miss P. Dunn.

#### 3. Free-standing House Garden

1st: Mr. D. White  
2nd: Professor & Mrs. B. Smith.

#### 4. A Feature Garden

1st: Dr. A. Adey.  
2nd: Professor & Mrs. B. Smith.  
Highly Commended: St. Scholastica's and from St. John's Village:  
Mrs. G. Finlayson, Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Priest.

#### 5. Vegetable Garden and/or Fruit Trees

1st: Sister Faith  
2nd: Mrs. A. Robertson.

#### 6. Garden of an Institution

1st: St. John's Church of England Retirement Village.  
2nd: Glebe Public School.  
Highly Commended: Camden College.

#### 7. Good Neighbour Garden

1st: Mrs. C. Moller and Mrs. R. Lawing.  
2nd: Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Spicer.

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## Christmas Play

The newly formed HOLIDAY THEATRE (director, John Barnard) is to produce "The Ghost of Grey Gables" as pre-Christmas, holiday entertainment for children 4-5 years and over. In this new play by Sydney writer Mona Brand (author of "Flying Saucery") some young people pretend a lovely old convict-built house is haunted to save it from demolition - and they get some unexpected help from a friendly convict ghost who has his own reasons for preserving Grey Gables.

The National Trust so likes the play that they will be filling the theatre for one performance. The season will take place during the daytime at THE WESLEY AUDITORIUM, 1st floor, 210 Pitt Street, Sydney at the following times: Friday and Saturday, 15th, 16th December at 2.15 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday 18th, 19th December at 10.15 a.m. and then twice daily on Wednesday Thursday, and Friday, 20th, 21st and 22nd December at 10.15 a.m. and 2.15 p.m. Tickets will be 80¢ each for adults and children alike. Box plans will be announced later in the press but in the meantime enquiries may be made by ringing 31.3625 at any time; this number may also be rung by any young people or their mothers who would like to give some voluntary assistance as stage crew or with ushering at any of the performances of this non-commercial venture.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MISCELLANY

Wednesday, 8th November: MONTHLY MEETING at 8.00pm in Glebe Town Hall - a joint lecture, illustrated with slides, will be given by architects Phillip Cox and Clive Lucas on The Restoration of Victorian Houses. Admission, including coffee is 50¢.

Saturday, 11th November: Conservation Society of N.S.W. symposium on Liquid Waste - Disposal and Treatment - 10.30am to 4.30pm at British Ex-Services Club, Kent Street, Sydney. Booking forms are available from the editor (660 3529).

Sunday, 12th November: PLANNING FORUM meeting at Tony Strachan's, 35 Arcadia Road, at 8pm - everyone interested welcome.

Monday, 13th November: Civic Design Society Forum on "Metropolitan Government". Speakers include Professor Neil Runicle and Mr. Greg Mills.

Saturday, 18th November: FERRY TRIP - leaving from the Rowing Club shed, Ferry Road, at 10 am. Adults \$1.50, children 60¢. Will you treat a child from Bidura? Get your booking in early - full details from Jeanette Knox (660 7781) if you have lost the form enclosed with last Bulletin.

Sunday, 19th - Sunday, 26th November: LEICHHARDT CENTENARY ART EXHIBITION - enter your artwork in the following sections:

Painting - Traditional, any medium (prize \$250); Non-traditional, any medium (prize \$250); Water colour (prize \$75); Best entry by local artist (prize \$75).

Pottery - Earthenware, thrown (prize \$25); Earthenware, handbuilt (prize \$25); Stoneware, thrown (prize \$25); Stoneware, handbuilt (prize \$25); Non-functional, either earthenware or stoneware (prize \$25).

Further details from Betty Mason (660 3468), and entry forms from any of the town halls in the municipality. Come and see the entries at Annandale Council Chambers at any time during that week.

Monday, 20th November: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP MEETING At Sylvie Ingalls', 9 Alexandra Road, at 8 p.m. to complete plans for the Christmas Party. We want new ideas for activities for next year so come along with your thoughts about the kinds of function you'd like us to arrange.

Saturday, 2nd December: COFFEE MORNING, 23 Avenue Road, between 10.30 and 12.30. This will be an opportunity for a farewell chat with Kate and Bernard Smith before they go away on sabbatical leave.

Friday, 15th December: 8 p.m., the final function of the year will be the Christmas Party at Pat and Kemp Fowler's, 37 Arcadia Road; details on the enclosed leaflet.

The Greater London Council gives owners of older homes a Home Improvement Grant of £1,400 (over \$2,800). This works out far cheaper than demolishing the homes and relocating people in council flats.

United Kingdom law provides for the designation of "Conservation areas". Local government there has the duty to "determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest, being areas which contain a building or group of buildings or land of special architectural or historic interest and other buildings or land adjacent thereto, the character or appearance of the whole of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Over 2,000 such areas have now been designated - they are not museum pieces, but special powers exist to maintain their valuable townscape, and no building within a conservation area must, in sympathy with, and at the same scale as, the old. When is Australia going to catch up with this kind of thinking?

"The Times" in London weekly lists twelve trucks (and firms involved) which break the exhaust emissions laws. The firms involved are all contacted and asked to comment. The articles are headed "The Dirty Dozen".

Residents throughout Sydney are being told to sacrifice their homes or their enjoyment of their quiet streets to the benefit of the whole community (e.g. encroaching industry, expressways, high-rise Housing Commission development etc.). This, as a concept, is not altogether wrong. But why must it always be the more disadvantaged sections of the community that are called upon to make these sacrifices? Residents of Waterloo have been ordered to not carry out repairs or improvements on their homes, needed by the Housing Commission when money becomes available, at the risk of a \$1,000 fine. All the arguments that the Housing Commission uses to justify Waterloo equally apply to Vaucluse and far less residents would suffer!

Why is the Victoria Park Bowling Club car park (on public parkland) full each week-day, while no-one is playing bowls?

ENQUIRIES: P.O. Box 100, Glebe; phone 660 3529 or 660 6485

Ordinary membership	\$2
Family membership	\$3
Student or Pensioner membership	50¢

MEMBERS PLEASE WATCH THIS BOX - A RED CIRCLE MEANS YOUR SUB. IS DUE.

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS PARTY FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER 1972

The Christmas Party this year will be held in the garden of Pat and Kemp Fowler's home, 37 Arcadia Road, from 7 p.m. on Friday, 15th December. Wine and hot and cold savouries will be served.

Join us for the final social get together of the year for the Society.

We suggest you aren't too late arriving if you come by car (remember the Trots!), and maybe a healthy little walk might be the best thing if you don't live very far away.

Cost \$2.50 Pensioner members 50¢

Reservations please to

Gwen or Jeanette Knox

26 Victoria Road.

(Phone: 660-7781)

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 10th DECEMBER PLEASE

(Retain this portion for reference, and send in the slip below)

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GLEBE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY, 15th DECEMBER, 1972

Please make ..... reservations for me @ \$2.50/50¢ per head

I enclose \$ .....

Name .....

Address .....

Phone: .....