

# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

7/1981

## HISTORY

### WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

#### Blackwattle Bay Park

A plan for Blackwattle Bay Park was agreed on by the sub-committee headed by Bob Armstrong, and the plan was submitted to Council on August 4th. Parkes have agreed to do all the work and finance it.

#### Glebe Estate

The Secretary has written to the State Minister for Housing, Mr Sheahan expressing our concern for the Glebe Estate, and asking to be kept informed of Government plans.

#### TAFE at the High School Site

The Committee decided to write to the Minister for Education, Mr Landa, once again, recommending use of MSB land further along the waterfront as suitable site for a TAFE building, rather than the already overcrowded High School site.



### LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

at Glebe High School Library

All talks will begin at 7.45pm and be illustrated.

Tuesday, 13th October: C. Burton "People, Builders and Architects: Architectural styles in Glebe 1830-1914"  
Craig Burton is a lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the University of N.S.W.

Tuesday, 20th October: J. Fletcher, "Bookmen and Poets in Glebe".  
John Fletcher is a Senior Lecturer in Germanic Studies at the University of Sydney.

Tuesday, 27th October: M. Solling, "Working Class Culture in Glebe 1860-1914". Max Solling is a local historian.

ALL WELCOME.

### THE "GLEBE PROJECT" BOOK

The Society has ordered copies of this worthwhile book which should be on your bookshelf. With luck it will be available at the next coffee morning, and at the drinks evening at the Glebe Rowing Club. The price is \$7.60 so bring along a cheque (preferably) or the correct money. It is excellent value for the price.

### THE REHABILITATION SCHEME FOR THE DMR-AFFECTED AREAS OF GLEBE

The Society has just received the final report prepared by Perumal Neill Barbara & Partners, commissioned by the DMR. It is with the President, Maureen Colman, and members interested in its findings should contact Maureen. It will also be available at coffee mornings. Your comments are welcome.

TWELFTH A.G.M.

Apology from Guest Speaker

Mr Harry Seidler, who was to be the Guest Speaker at the AGM, was unable to attend because of an unavoidable business meeting overseas. He apologised for his absence and for the short notice and said that he would be pleased to address the Society at a later date. We will attempt to arrange such a meeting.

The President's and Treasurer's reports were published in last month's Bulletin. On behalf of the members, the President thanked John Hoddinott for all his work for the society, as Secretary and before that as Treasurer, and presented him with a copy of Art and Architecture in Australia: Essays Presented to Bernard Smith.

The Town Planning Report

Alan Robertson's town planning report was, naturally, of special interest, and a full account of that report will be printed in the next edition of the Bulletin.

Parks and Open Space Report: John Buckingham

The great success of this year has been the satisfactory conclusion of the ten-year struggle to achieve Blackwattle Bay Park. The plans for the park have been approved by Council and the work, financed by Parkes Development, will commence soon.

John saw the success of this campaign as an example of democracy in action: local residents had kept a vigilant watch on the actions of Parkes Development, keeping the Glebe Society and the Council informed, and a committee of residents had reviewed the various stages of the plans for the park, and participated in all meetings between Council and the Developers. John also praised the present Council, especially Ald. Nick O'Neill, whose firm commitment to the park had made negotiations with the developer so much easier.

The meeting was shown the impressive plans, drawn up for Leichhardt Council by landscape architect Bruce McKensie, for a Bicentennial Park which would include the present Federal Park as well as land along the waterfront at present leased by the M.S.B. The project has been submitted to the State and Federal Bicentennial authorities, but no-one yet knows when a decision will be made about funding of projects. The great advantage of this project is that it would be relatively cheap, as the land involved is already government owned. At the very least, it will put the strongest pressure yet on the MSE to release its land for community purposes.

History Report: Max Solling

Max entertained the meeting with an account of a St Barnabas' school excursion in 1865, when approximately 600 people assembled in Broadway and proceeded to a ferry trip; and of Glebe Musical Society and Glebe Athletic and Pastime Club, which offered members boxing, tin-whistle blowing and skipping.

Elections

The results of elections for office-bearers and committee members were:

President:	Maureen Colman
Senior Vice President:	Bob Armstrong
Junior Vice President:	Doris Sharpe
Secretary:	John Buckingham
Treasurer:	Gideon Rutherford
Committee:	Bill Nelson Neville Holmes Betty Wright Diana Sharpe
New members' rep:	Michael Hough



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters on any topic of interest to Glebe Society members should be sent to:

The Editor,  
Glebe Society Bulletin,  
56 Wigram Rd,  
GLEBE 2037

Dear Editor,

I read with interest John Buckingham's comments on "Venetia". Could I make a suggestion as to its future use.

The recent inclusion of Rodd Island into the Sydney Harbour National Park has opened possibilities for more land, west of the Harbour Bridge being included. "Venetia" may well become suitable, when restored, as an administrative headquarters for this body. It is difficult to see how either Leichhardt Council or the people of Glebe are ever going to find the money necessary to restore it properly; perhaps the National Parks people can.

Andrew FitzSimons

## LIGHT RAIL SEMINAR

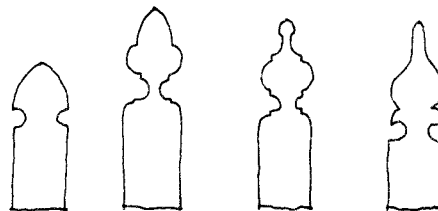
On Sunday, August 16th, 1981, several months of preparatory work by the Light Rail Group (sponsored by the Glebe Society) culminated in a one-day seminar on the potential value of light rail transport systems for Sydney. Held in the attractive Northern Foyer of the Opera House, it brought together 100 participants from government departments, universities, engineering and transport consultant firms, resident action groups, urban transport associations and interested members of the general public. In a series of well prepared papers an intensive examination was made of the desirability of electrical traction, of light rail vehicles and systems and their long use overseas, of Melbourne experience and Adelaide plans, of the Glebe Society proposals and methods of integration with existing systems, and of the political mechanisms by which transport decisions come to be made.

The morning and afternoon sessions were chaired respectively by Milton Morris, NSW Minister for Transport 1965-1975, and Tony Reeves, Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee of the Sydney City Council. The speakers were David Gosden, head of the Energy Technology and Electric Transport Branch, Energy Authority of NSW; John Dunn, Concept Design Engineer, Railway Rolling Stock, Commonwealth Engineering (NSW); Derek Scrafton, Director of Transport, South Australia; Douglas Lees, former Assistant Chief Engineer, Planning, Melbourne Metropolitan Transport Board; Ross Blunden, Foundation Professor of Traffic Engineering, University of NSW; and Peter Spearritt, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Macquarie University. John Gerofi presented the Glebe Society proposals, and Kemp Fowler gave a report upon such forward planning by the NSW Department of Environment and Planning as could be culled from their publications, as their officers had been forbidden to address the Seminar. Two twenty minute films were shown, by courtesy of Siemens and Duewag, and of Commonwealth Engineering; videotape copies of these are available for future use.

The sessions were summed up with provocative verve by each chairman; both emphasised that obdurate and ill-informed advisors must be bypassed by direct pressure on Ministers, and recommended that all present should join as many Liberal and Labor Party branches as they could!

The Seminar closed at 5P.M. and the exhausted organisers recuperated in the Green Room. A formal report of the activities of the Light Rail Group will shortly be presented to the Glebe Society Committee, with recommendations for further development. A wider and larger group of active participants will be needed in this struggle for better public transport; all persons interested are warmly invited to contact the Group's Secretary, Diana Sharpe, 7 Burton Street, Glebe 2037 (Phone 660-4392).

Kemp Fowler



## THE GLEBE ESTATE

In response to our letters of protest against the proposed sale of the Glebe Estate by the Federal government, we have been sent a press release from the Minister for Administrative Services, the Hon. Kevin Newman, and the Minister for Housing and Construction, the Hon. Tom McVeigh.

From this statement it is clear that the Commonwealth Government is determined to divest itself, in the short term, of "The Glebe Housing Estate". The Glebe Society must now work on this principle, and ensure that it falls into responsible hands, and that the heritage aspect and tenant tenure be the main priorities.

The following are extracts from the Ministers' press statement:

The Ministers reaffirmed to the Delegation that the Commonwealth's decision to divest itself of the Glebe Housing Estate was firm and would not be altered. It is the Commonwealth's intention to pursue the transfer of the Estate to the New South Wales Government.

In answer to the delegation's questions, the Ministers gave an assurance that, in the meantime, the Commonwealth intends to continue to manage and administer the Estate as in the past. The Ministers went on to say that repairs, maintenance and rehabilitation to the houses in the Estate will continue...

The Ministers explained that it was their intention that the transfer of the Glebe Estate to the NSW Government be considered a part of the on-going land exchange arrangement between the Commonwealth and The NSW Governments...

The Ministers confirmed that the land exchange arrangements did not require particular parcels of land to be identified in exchange for the Glebe Estate.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following new members:

Mrs A. Wong	Maree O'Brien
Mrs A. Ternovey	Peter Waterman
Mr Arthur Kranlis	Mrs Sally Bunyan
Dr Michael Hough	Cleo Sabadine
Kerry Goldens	Mrs L. Keenan
Mrs M. Pile	The Leichhardt Council

### Management Committee

President	Maureen Colman	660-2302
Senior Vice Pres.	Bob Armstrong	660-4189
Junior Vice Pres.	Doris Sharpe	660-6636
Secretary	John Buckingham	660-7780
Treasurer	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Committee	Bill Nelson	660-0038
	Neville Holmes	692-0247
	Betty Wright	660-1875
	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
New members' rep.	Michael Hough	660-7232
Bulletin editor	Jan Macindoe	660-0208
Bulletin distribution	Doris Sharpe	660-6636



### KATANDRA BUSHLAND SANCTUARY

Anyone interested in spending a day in virgin bush surroundings should consider going to the Katandra Bushland Sanctuary, Mona Vale, on Sunday 21st September. This is the anniversary of the dedication of the area as a fauna and flora reserve in 1968. A guest speaker will give an address after lunch.

In the early spring there should be an abundance of wildflowers and the occasion provides an opportunity to meet friends and conservationists in beautiful surroundings. Bring lunch and enjoy a day in the bush just a few miles from the city.

Further particulars may be obtained from Theo Ahlston on 660 1083.

Theo Ahlston

## **HELP WANTED**

Doris Sharpe, who has so generously and reliably organised Bulletin distribution for the last year, is retiring from that task, now that she has the extra work of a Committee member. However she will explain the work and give assistance to a new volunteer. Essentially, the work takes one or two evenings a month for getting bundles of Bulletins to the individual distributors, plus keeping membership records up to date.

Anyone interested in helping with this very necessary and worthwhile work could ring Doris Sharpe on 279271, 9am - 5pm.

We also need someone to distribute the Bulletin to a small area: Ross and Charles Streets. If you can help, could you please ring Doris, as above.

## For your diary

### Wednesday, 9th September, 11am

Strangely enough, the Monday Group is meeting on a Wednesday this month! The outing is to the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Great Hall, Sydney University. The Group is meeting at the "Max Factor" bus stop at 11am. For enquiries, ring Vi Hicks, 660-3694.

### Sunday, 13th September, 11-1

Coffee morning at the home of Bill and Sally Nelson, 21 Alexandra Rd. Drop in and meet other members. New members especially welcome. An optional donation of 50¢ to cover costs is appreciated.

### Friday, 18th September, 8pm.

A Bush Dance at Balmain Town Hall, organised by the Punch Park People to raise money for a series of lectures in November on alternative energy. Band is Stringbow and Bellows. Tickets \$3 available at the door or advance purchase from Barbara, 827-2757

### Monday, 21st September, 6-7.30pm

Drinks at the Rowing Club. Come along and have a drink and a chat with the Committee.

### Sunday, 4th October, 2.30pm

At 17 Alexandra Rd, Hilary and Tony Larkum's place: another wine bottling! At only \$1 per bottle (approximately) for Saltram's wine, red or white, this is great value, as well as a pleasant occasion. Bring clean bottles, with labels removed, and they will be sterilised just before bottling. Corks and labels will be supplied. Essential to send your order beforehand, giving number of bottles required (red and/or white) your name, address and telephone number to: The Glebe Society, Box 100, Glebe 2037.

### Sunday, 11th October, 11-1

Coffee morning at the home of Maureen Colman, 47 Darghan St. An opportunity for members to meet the new president.

### Saturday, 24th October

A Community Festival at Quarry Street, Ultimo, organised by a number of inner-city community groups. There will be special attention to children's activities during the day, and in the evening a bush dance at the Sid Fegan Centre.

### Sunday, 1st November

House and Garden Inspection.