

# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, GLEBE 2037

9/1983

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - OCTOBER.

FLETCHER CONTAINER SITE The Society is continuing its correspondence with the Leichhardt Town Clerk on the unsuitable use of this site.

GLEBE HIGH SCHOOL has invited us to tour the School. Details will be announced later.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE We will hold a membership drive in the New Year. Meanwhile encourage your friends and neighbours to join and become more involved in our community.

CLEANLINESS OF GLEBE The Engineers' Dept. of Leichhardt Council claim that all streets in the area are cleaned every five working days.

NEW SEATS The Council is to be congratulated for providing new seats in Glebe Point Road, St. John's Road and other venues. The Committee wondered whether litter bins could be placed near the seats but expressed concern at the habits of some local business people who use street litter bins for their own garbage, which does not help the cleanliness of Glebe.

## GLEBE SOCIETY STALL

Come to the Glebe Community Centre Annual Fair at Foley Park (corner Bridge Road and Glebe Point Road) on Saturday, 12th November, and support our stall. Volunteers welcome to sell books and to talk about the work and varied activities of the Society.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party this year will be held on the 3rd December, at Papa Giovanni's, 284 Bridge Road, at the corner of Junction Street.

A wide selection of dishes will be available: Continental, vegetarian, a variety of fish meals, traditional Xmas and blackboard menus. All dishes interchangeable and an excellent meal of 2-3 courses can be enjoyed for approximately \$15.00.

The restaurant is both fully licensed and B.Y.O. However the Glebe Society is providing a bowl of punch and promises to keep it topped up!

Please bring a gift, anonymously wrapped in festive paper to maximum value of \$5.00. Santa will be on hand to distribute the presents.

A special request is made to our newer members to join us.

BOOKINGS: Before 15th November please. Edwina Doe, 660-7066; Eileen Lacey 692-0173; Peter Martin 660-8587, Alan Hunt 660-2407.

## FINAL REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP

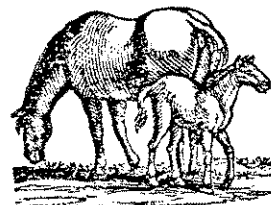
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The Secretary  
The Glebe Society  
P.O Box 100  
Glebe, NSW 2037



## THE HORSE IN GLEBE - MAX SOLLING



The horse trough near the corner of Glebe Point and St. John's Roads, and old stables in Glebe, are a reminder of the days when the horse was an integral part of the suburban transport network. In pre-gold rush Glebe the possession of a two horse chaise was a sign that the owner belonged to the ranks of the bourgeoisie. The first horse omnibus service in Glebe, established by Jonathon Howard in 1846, conveyed passengers from the lower end of George Street to the city boundary on the corner of Bay and Parramatta Streets.

The outward spread of Sydney's suburbs was defined by available means of transport and the high cost of horse and ferry travel restricted its regular use to a small proportion of the population. The horse bus fare of 6d into the city was beyond the means of the average working man who walked daily to his place of employment. Residential expansion in the late sixties created a demand for more regular horse bus and ferry services and intense competition for the growing number of patrons meant that by 1872 the cost of a horse bus trip into the city had been reduced to 3d. Omnibus service timetables were geared to the needs of middle class office workers and the bulk of labouring folk, working a 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. day in the 1870's, still found public transport generally inaccessible to them.

An owner-driver needed a team of horses to maintain a service throughout the day. The evidence of Thomas Hales, a Glebe horse bus proprietor, to a parliamentary inquiry in 1870, revealed how difficult it was for the small operator to compete against the major bus companies who eventually established near monopolies.

Suburban travel in a two decker four horse vehicle could be a risky affair. Drivers, not averse to an occasional drink, sometimes provided their paying customers with an unforgettable experience. In 1881, for instance, passengers in a horse bus out of control en route to Glebe found themselves having to swim for safety after being catapulted into Blackwattle Bay. Road races were staged by rival companies to attract custom through the speed of their service and late shopping on Saturday nights and associated sprees enlivened both passengers and crews.

Businessman Henry Hoyt helped improve the comfort of a horse bus ride. He floated the Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Company in 1872 which merged with Henry Vickers "Invincible Coach Works" in Francis Street, Glebe. The Glebe workshops of the Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Company employed 35 coachbuilders who produced smart coaches very similar in design to vehicles Hoyt had imported from America. The business prospered and by 1879 stables housing 150 horses were to be found in Francis Street.

In 1882 there was introduced into the Glebe landscape a dramatic new mode of personal mobility, the steam tram, that

"demon of steam and iron with a great flaring eyeball at night time... a machine calculated to frighten horses by day and children by night".

In 1887 the twopenny journey by tram into the city was meeting stiff competition from omnibus proprietors in Glebe where, it was reported, there was "an excellent bus service starting at six minute intervals", operating at comparable rates. The greater frequency and the wider area covered by the four Glebe and Forest Lodge horse bus services were attracting traffic away from the steam tram by 1889. The Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Company had a monopoly of the Forest Lodge route and was closely integrated with the three other Glebe services. Each horse bus had its own destination sign; the Glebe Point bus, for example, carried a green destination sign and two green lamps, one on each side of the vehicle, at night.

The number of horses in Glebe jumped from 760 in 1881 to 931 ten years later. A working horse consumes 30 lbs of fodder (5 tons a year) so there was a need for large amounts of fodder. Horse manure, much of which was deposited on the streets, created a sizeable urban pollution problem and in 1901 Glebe Council engaged contractors to tow tons of manure by punt out to sea for dumping.

Trams on the Glebe run were converted to electric traction in 1900, a phenomenon which coincided with the introduction of the penny fare into the city. The increasing distance between fodder producing areas and the inner city, pushed up the cost of horse feed, making it even harder for the horse bus proprietor to survive against the subsidized penny tram. Small ferry companies (like Annandale, Balmain, and Glebe Point Steam Company), unable to compete, went into liquidation.

In the Edwardian era, the electric tram, carrying the burden of traffic on Sydney's streets, assumed the role of opening up suburban areas to the pent up city populace. The horse however remained the principal means of intra-urban goods transport, carrying cargoes to warehouses and retail shops. They pulled delivery vans, milk floats, fire engines and hearses. They conveyed materials to building sites. But ultimately the urban transport revolution and the increasing direct and social costs of the horse brought about its demise.

The horse occupied an important place in local folk lore. At the Children's Hospital on the corner of Glebe and Wigram Roads, surgeon Charles Clubbe, wearing a tailcoat and top hat, was a familiar figure galloping off on

horseback to answer calls. So too was Bob Stokes, the one armed green-grocer from County Cavan, delivering vegetables to Glebe Point residences in his covered waggon for almost half a century up until his death in 1931.

Members of the Glebe Volunteer Fire Brigade swore by one of their horses who rejoiced in the name of Jerusalem. Great War veteran Ted Holloway recalled some 45 years ago, "When I was a little fellow (too young to pronounce the horse's name, Jerusalem) I used to pester my brother to take me down to Mitchell Street to see the horse. It was a horse drawn engine and this horse was famous. When the bell rang for action he'd release himself from his stall and go and get into the shafts and almost harness himself up. He was so famous that when he died they had his head stuffed, mounted on cedar and an inscribed plaque placed under his head".



#### SING-A-LONG EVENING

The Sing-A-Long held on Friday 14th October at the home of Glebe Society Secretary, Alan Hunt, was a huge success. Our talented pianist, Vincent Colaguirri, worked hard to keep up with all the requests and had over 200 pieces of sheet music to choose from. A supper with home-made goodies was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

The success of this good "old fashioned entertainment" has prompted arrangements for a repeat, and in the New Year we will let you know when you will have a chance to demonstrate your singing prowess.

We might mention that Vincent Colaguirri is available for parties and his phone no. is 427-6576.

#### DINNER AT THE MIXING POT

It was very pleasing to see so many members attending this restaurant evening. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves with conversation flowing from table to table.

Compliments must go to their staff who coped admirably with the many varied orders. We can highly recommend this establishment if you are looking for service and good food.

#### THE MONDAY GROUP

Congratulations to our Monday Group who will celebrate their 10th Anniversary on the 21st November with an afternoon tea at the Regent Hotel at 2.30 p.m.

This is their last meeting until February, so don't miss it.

#### VISIT TO ST. SCHOLASTICA'S

This is the last opportunity for some time to view the original Allen home. At present it is being used as the Catholic College of Education, which is to move in the New Year to Strathfield. The house will then revert to its former role as a convent, so extensive tours will no longer be possible.

Please meet at the front gate at 2 Avenue Road, on Saturday 3rd December, at 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea will be provided.

#### CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOUR

Penny and John Priest have kindly offered their home at 69 Boyce Street for the final Happy Hour for this year. Come along at 6 p.m. on 14th December. As usual \$1.00 for wine and 50¢ for coffee.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Our popular president of last year, Doris Sharpe, is being married on the 19th November to Bernie Hulbert. Bernie has been to some of our functions, and although they will now be living in Manly, we look forward to keeping in touch with them. Our congratulations and best wishes to them both.



## GLEBE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

"RESTORING OLD HOUSES" Ian Evans,  
\$16.95 reduced to \$10.00

"THE GLEBE PROJECT", Department  
of Housing and Construction.  
\$7.60.

"LEICHHARDT, AN ERA IN PICTURES",  
Groom and Wickman, \$6.00

"BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT",  
J.P. Gerofi, \$4.50

"WOMEN", Alan Roberts, \$2.00

"MEN'S WORK", Alan Roberts, \$2.00

CORRESPONDENCE CARDS Special  
Glebe Society Cards suitable for  
many purposes. Suggested for  
sending Christmas greetings.  
Packets of 10 with envelopes, \$5.00.

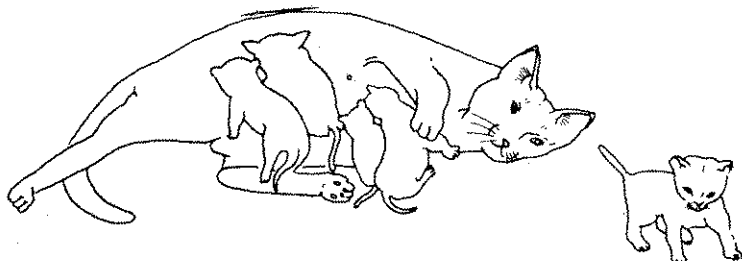
## ANIMAL CORNER

It's Spring....and the cats of Glebe  
are multiplying. Some misguided  
people dump stray kittens thinking  
they will 'manage'. **THEY WILL NOT.**  
Cats thrive on human companionship  
and become sick and a nuisance to  
themselves and us, when left to fend  
for themselves. If you have a cat,  
get it 'fixed'. If you have an  
unwanted litter of kittens, take  
them to the vet. or the R.S.P.C.A.

If you know of stray cats in your  
neighbourhood, contact the Cat  
Protection Society, 51-1101.

Domestic Animals Birth Control  
(commonly called DABS) 798-6767  
will assist in desexing. (We are  
sure they will assist pensioners.)

Should we mention that donations  
would be welcome?



## SPECIAL THANKS

The Glebe Society Bulletin is  
folded and placed in envelopes  
each month by the Social Activities  
Group of the Glebe Annexe. We  
greatly appreciate their help  
which has enabled us to keep our  
costs to a minimum.

## FOR YOUR DIARY:

(Full details elsewhere in this  
Bulletin).

TUESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, 7.30 P.M.  
Committee Meeting at Eileen Lacey's.

SATURDAY, 12th NOVEMBER.  
Glebe Community Centre Annual  
Fair - Foley Park.

SUNDAY, 13th NOVEMBER.  
Closing date for December bulletin.

MONDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 2.30 p.m.  
Monday Group Meeting - Regent Hotel.

SATURDAY, 3rd DECEMBER - 3.30 p.m.  
Visit to St. Scholastica's.

SATURDAY, 3rd DECEMBER - 7 p.m.  
Christmas party, Papa Giovanni's.

WEDNESDAY, 14th DECEMBER - 6 p.m.  
Happy Hour - 69 Boyce Street.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

<u>President</u>	: Peter Martin 660 8587 (H) 745 3377 (W)
<u>Senior Vice Pres:</u>	Neil Macindoe 660 0208 (H)
<u>Junior Vice Pres:</u>	Eileen Lacey 692 0173 (H)
<u>Treasurer</u>	: John Priest 660 3543 (H)
<u>Secretary</u>	: Alan Hunt 660 2407 (H)
<u>Committee</u>	: Ted McKeown 660 3917 (H) : Gladys Reid 692 0204 (H)
<u>Immediate Past President</u>	: Doris Sharpe : 279 271 (W)
<u>Bulletin Editor</u>	: Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H) 929 9848 (W)
<u>Distributor</u>	: Neil Macindoe 660 0208 (H)
<u>New Members Rep.:</u>	Betty Wright 660 1875 (H)

Membership of the Glebe Society  
costs only \$4 per year (individual  
membership). For information ring  
Betty Wright on 660 1875. Also  
ring Betty if you wish to buy any  
Glebe Society correspondence folders  
(Glebe terraces design). They are  
\$5 for 10 with envelopes.