



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

No. 2 OF 1985

APRIL

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH

The February Committee meeting was delayed, as we were expecting an announcement from Laurie Brereton, Minister for Public Works, Ports & Roads, about the proposed Bicentennial Park. The announcement still has not been made and it appears that further lobbying and a publicity campaign may be necessary to ensure that the opportunity to give the public access to these Harbour Foreshores is not lost for ever.

Correspondence sent and received by the Society this month mainly involves the areas mentioned in previous Bulletins.

Other matters of particular interest are reported on in full elsewhere in this Bulletin.

## THE GLEBE ESTATE

A number of squatters have been evicted from Mt Vernon, Westmoreland and Derwent Streets. The fittings in some houses were damaged by the builder employed by the Housing Commission, to make them uninhabitable, and the Commission is taking action against this builder. The Committee was especially concerned by the television news coverage, and is writing to the ABC about the lack of informed comment in their reports.

The houses from which squatters were evicted were those for which plans had already been prepared by the Federal Department of Housing. Work has already begun on rehabilitation of these houses, and also the one in St Johns Road, near the corner of Glebe Point Road.



Kangarooster Brand.  
York Flour Milling Co.  
Ltd, Perth, 1930.  
*Kangarooster* - the  
suggested name for  
offspring of  
Australian-US marriages.

## TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee met in February and commented on all proposals so far put forward by Ove Arup Transportation in their traffic management study of Forest Lodge.

The sub-committee also made general comments about the rest of Glebe to be passed on to Ove Arup. These include the desirability of all residents receiving a questionnaire so that everyone has an opportunity to express their views and have them taken into account. The sub-committee also stressed the importance of public transport in any study of traffic movements.

The rebuilding of Booth Street has led to greatly increased traffic volumes in Wigram Road and streets further toward the Point, Glebe Point Road, Ferry Road, Forsyth Street and Taylor Street, causing additional stress and annoyance to residents. The sub-committee has written to Council suggesting measures that could be taken, after Booth Street is re-opened, to reverse this pattern.

## GLEBE HIGH UNDER THREAT

A notable feature of Australian life in the last ten years has been the revival of bad ideas. The Society thought it had killed any attempt to put additional buildings on the barely adequate Glebe High School site back in 1980. Certainly at that time the Dept. of TAFE agreed not to proceed with the idea of a marine school or college.

Briefly, the Glebe High School site was bought because, although below the normal size for a High School and consisting largely of reclaimed land, it was splendidly positioned. Unfortunately, TAFE soon began to cast envious eyes on what had previously been, like so much other waterfront land in Glebe, an unsightly decayed industrial lot, all that remained of the timber industry of which Glebe was once the focus.

The Dept. of Technical and Further Education needed a waterfront site so they could build slipways; presumably the popularity of pleasure craft has led to increasing demand for courses in this profitable leisure industry. Certainly, they needed a site that is close to the TAFE schools that would contribute to marine studies, and these are all based at Sydney Technical College, about one kilometre distant. Darling Harbour, which is even closer, is no longer a possible site, because of the bicentennial development. TAFE therefore put in a bid for part of the High School site, hoping thereby to avoid having to buy land, and to have the actual building financed by a Federal Government grant. They would acquire a new college, and use of the High School facilities, for almost nothing.

Although the cost was so low for TAFE it proved unacceptably high to everyone else. The High School occupies virtually all the original foreshore, and is a building of outstanding merit, acclaimed both locally and overseas. Studies of it will be appearing in major architectural journals as early as July this year. Apart from robbing the School of scarce recreational land, the TAFE scheme would require costly foundations and fatally distort the setting

and design of the school. TAFE is not known for its sensitive architecture, and their plan extended to three storeys.

Instead of consultation and investigation to see if another suitable site could be found, the bureaucrats at TAFE again laid claim to this area at the end of 1984, in clear violation of their own undertaking. Consequently, the landscaping of Glebe High has not been completed, and there is a threat to fence off the area claimed by TAFE preparatory to commencing building. All of this was done stealthily, without public announcement of any kind, and despite assurances to the contrary by the recently appointed Minister for Education.

The Committee heard about these moves quite accidentally toward the end of February. Naturally, the most important response was to make the Society's total opposition to the erection of a TAFE building on the High School site clear to the Ministry and TAFE. However, equally important was to suggest an alternative site close by, something TAFE had apparently not attempted.

The real cost of building on a decayed industrial site that includes original foreshore is far less than attempting to build on reclaimed land. Clearly, though, this cost must be more equitably shared. TAFE certainly has large unexpended funds. The Committee will continue to encourage TAFE to use them to acquire appropriate land.

The other advantage of acquiring land adjacent to the High School is that facilities can still be shared (both ways), and thus the economies originally intended can be achieved without paring away the youngsters' space.

The Bulletin did not appear in March because we kept waiting for the announcement about the Bicentennial Park. We are still waiting.

## ESTHER CHANTON

Members will be saddened to know that Esther Chanton, a constant supporter of Glebe Society activities, passed away in February.

ESTHER CHANTON - 1894? - 1985  
Alan Robertson

I first met Esther Chanton in Marine Reserve in 1969, when she asked for help to remove an engine block dumped into Rozelle Bay. It interfered with her early morning swims. We often met in the park, which she cleaned regularly, and in later years I visited her at home.

Her walking feats were legendary. During various town planning crises she walked to Leichhardt Council Chambers and back, late at night.

She always walked to and from her agent's office in Annandale.

Little is known of Esther's past, as her interest was always in the political and social issues of the present. Her certificates from the London School of Music, her B.A. and M.A. from Sydney University and the photograph of an attractive young woman of Chinese extraction in mortar board and gown give some clues to her past. She was active in mind and body until her death.

## glebe

**GLEBE is just one of many interesting areas for the visitor to discover. It is located just 10 minutes from the City via Parramatta Road (Broadway) or via Darling Harbour/Ultimo.**

**HISTORICALLY** the area originated nearly 200 years ago when Governor Phillip mapped out 96ha of land to be devoted to the Church — in fact 'Glebe' means a gift to the Church.

During the mid-1880's Glebe's growth was impressive with its own council, post office and 13 hotels (there are still eight hotels today).

Around 1911 Glebe's social ranking had deteriorated. However, in the late 1960's residents of outer suburbia discovered the convenience of the area and a spontaneous rehabilitation took place.

The culmination was Glebe being declared a conservation area by the National Trust and National Heritage in 1976.

Nowadays Glebe is home to a wide cross-section of people, who contribute to the village atmosphere.

The focus point of the area is Glebe Point Road which runs from Parramatta Road (near the University of Sydney) through to Jubilee Park on the shore of Rozelle Bay.

Although the main thoroughfare is famous for its great variety of restaurants and cafes, it also features many unusual shops and historic buildings.

A leisurely stroll down Glebe

Point Road takes the visitor past a number of art and craft galleries and a collection of interesting shops trading in antiques, books, recycled records, fashion, second-hand goods, leather, furniture, antique watches and clocks.

On reaching Mitchell Street a slight detour left takes you to an old bakery. Further up at 136 Mitchell Street on weekends, traditional craft glass-blowing can be viewed. Also on the corner of Mitchell Street is Fascination House featuring displays on the restoration of Glebe.

Turning right at St Johns Road takes you down to Wentworth Park Greyhound Stadium. On the way you will pass the Court House, Police Station and Clay Workers Gallery.

Continuing along Glebe Point Road is Foley Park. Left of the park is an impressive old Presbyterian Church which has been transformed to a restaurant.

Back on the main stretch, just past Ferry Road, is an old residence called Bidura now a remand centre.

This section of Glebe Point Road, downward to the water, contains some fine examples of Italianate and Federation architecture.

THIS WEEK IN SYDNEY is widely read by visitors to Sydney as it is distributed in most hotels.

It now features a page on Glebe, from which this is taken.

A right turn into Leichhardt Street leads to Blackwattle Bay where a panoramic view of the city can be witnessed.

On the other side of Glebe Point Road, in Coward Street, is a clinic Joss House.

From here a short walk down the hill will lead you to Jubilee Park and Pope Paul VI Reserve.

The 1988 Bicentennial Program includes the reclamation of the adjacent Maritime Services Board land for a Bicentennial Park.

At this stage of the tour a number of routes can be taken to return to Parramatta Road. Walk back along Glebe Point Road to take in some of the attractions you missed coming down. Walk via Harold Park Trotting Ground, The Crescent and Ross Street; or wind your way through the charming streets of Forest Lodge.

On the other side of Parramatta Road is the University of Sydney which is open to the public and contains a number of museums, eating places and some magnificent architecture.

If you prefer to join in an organised tour of the area contact Maureen Fry phone 660 7157.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST.

### COOK-BOOK

A very sweet publication called the Wentworth Park Kindergarten Cook-book, with recipes by parents and illustrations by the children, has just been launched. The book, which is part of a fund-raising exercise, includes recipes like saute of scallops, pasta with a bacon and cream sauce, cheese and basil loaf, ice-cream, pancakes, pecan pie, gingerbread men and carob party balls. The book costs \$5 from the Kindergarten Union of N.S.W. or from Neil Macindoe. (SMH, November '84).

### "HOUSE SEARCH"

Have you ever been interested in finding out about your house, when it was built, who may have lived in it and what was life like in the days when it was built?

The Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences published in 1984 a booklet entitled "House Search", which explains just about everything you need to know when endeavouring to find out the "when, where and how" of your house.

The booklet takes you through the meaning of a Certificate of Title, explains what the Register General does and how you go about finding your Certificate; how the State Archives may be able to help; and suggests where else you should look and what else you should read.

This excellent and invaluable booklet sells for the very modest sum of \$1 and is currently only available from the Hyde Park Barracks.

(The Balmain Association News Sheet, March '85).

### THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF GLEBE AND ANNANDALE

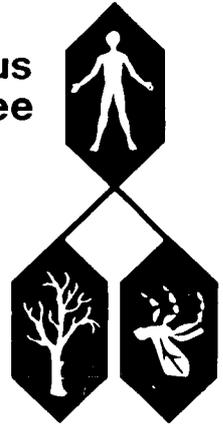
Neil Macindoe has copies of the excellent series of booklets produced by Bill Collins and Faye Smith at Glebe Public School. The titles are : Women, Men's Work, Building the Suburbs, Sport, Growing Up, and Serving the Suburbs, The booklets are \$2 each.

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Neil also has copies of the Leichhardt Historical Journal and Ian Evans' books, 'Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses' (\$17.00) and 'The Australian Home' (\$24.00).

## **Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Committee**

Total Environment Centre  
18 Argyle Street Sydney 2000  
Phone 27 4714 (10.30-6 weekdays)



A pamphlet, "AN ALTERNATIVE GUIDE TO PEST CONTROL IN THE HOME" which contains valuable information of the sort often requested from the Total Environment Centre and environmental groups is available from the above address. It costs 60¢ (plus stamped, self-addressed envelope if it is to be posted).



Boomerang.  
W. A. Amor, Melbourne.  
Fly-paper; 1922.

### ARE YOU AIMING AT AUTHENTICITY?

Pascol have introduced a range of paints in "Heritage Colours" for old Australian buildings (1820-1930). The Hardware store at 153 Glebe Point Road has leaflets, or ring Pascol for further information.

Yates Seeds have produced a Colonial Garden Collection - a mixed packet of seeds appropriate to gardens of the 1830's. The seeds come in a large packet, with a mixture of several varieties for random sowing, in the manner of an old-fashioned garden. They cost \$2.50 and are available at Grace Bros and other seed stockists.

### LYNDHURST ESTATE

The Housing Commission will begin building flats for rehousing tenants in early April. Work in Darling Street will also commence soon.

As for Lyndhurst itself, restoration of the first floor is proceeding slowly and is not likely to be finished before the end of the year.

### GLEBE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Don't forget about the many activities provided by the Neighbourhood Centre in the Glebe Town Hall. They include Yoga, pottery, silk screen, self-defence for women, looking after your back, creative writing, etc. etc. For further information ring 660-8134; 9.30 - 13.0 Monday to Friday.

### VISIT TO CARLTON BREWERY

Our belated thanks to Alan Hunt for his great effort in showing us around the Brewery Museum on 23rd February. It was a very interesting afternoon, with slides and a talk by Alan, followed by a stroll through the Museum and afternoon tea. We hope Alan will repeat this during the winter.

### THE WINE BOTTLING

Many thanks to Hilary and Tony Larkum for the very successful wine bottling on 16th March. It was good to see such an enthusiastic crowd helping with the sterilising, filling and labelling of the bottles (and everyone enjoyed the tasting that goes with such a party).

### GLEBE HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

Ian Porteous was again very generous in showing us over the Glebe High School, which is receiving international notice. It is remarkable how well the school is standing up to the wear of students. It still looks as fresh as when it was built and the site is looking far more green and lush now that the trees and playing fields are developing.

The Glebe High School staff have been recognised as being outstanding enough to carry out a Pilot Study for IBM to examine ways of employing personal computers in education and have received 15 IBM computers for this purpose.

### HAPPY HOURS

Gwen Geschmay, a new member of the Society, lives at 2 Cliff Terrace, Forest Lodge, perched above Harold Park. She has invited us to a Happy Hour on Sunday, 14th April, at 11 a.m.

Col and Jean McKenzie, of 16/2A Forsyth Street (Avon Towers) will be our hosts on Sunday, 26th May at 11 a.m.

We urge members to attend these pleasant functions, and look forward especially to meeting new members.

### MONDAY GROUP MEETINGS

15th April : A visit to Hyde Park Barracks Museum. Meet inside the gates at 11 a.m.

20th May - 2.30 p.m. Afternoon tea at the home of Sue Stainer, at 7/411 Glebe Point Road (above the Doctor's surgery).

For further details of the Monday Group ring Sally Nelson - 660 6138.

### GLEBE HOT GLASS STUDIO - 136 Mitchell Street.

Keith Rowe has invited us to visit the Glebe Hot Glass Studio on Saturday, 4th May. Get there at 11 a.m. and between then and 1 p.m. we will be able to see how several different pieces are made. (No refreshments - we'll be too busy learning about glass).



Carlton First Prize Ale.  
Carlton & West End Breweries Ltd.  
Melbourne; c. 1887.

## REORGANISED BULLETIN DISTRIBUTION

It's always possible that despite great care someone has been left off the reorganised lists that are now in the hands of the new distribution team. If you have been left out, tell Andrew Birtchnall on 660-5178. (But I don't know how you'll read this if you don't get your Bulletin - Ed.).

## HERITAGE WEEK

The Stanmore Society is opening some of the historic houses in their area for inspection on Sunday, 21st April. For further information ring Jenny Hicks on 569-8990.

On the same day, there will be a Balmain Vintage Yacht Race. All yachts are 1960 vintage or earlier. Period costume will be worn.

For further details, contact Mobile Shipwrights & Brokers, 2 Phoebe Street, Balmain.

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Full details elsewhere in Bulletin.

### 14 - 21 APRIL - HERITAGE WEEK

Watch your newspapers for latest details.

SUNDAY, 14th APRIL - 11 a.m.  
Happy Hour - 2 Cliff Terrace.

MONDAY, 15th APRIL - 11 a.m.  
Monday Group visit to Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

TUESDAY, 16th APRIL - 7.30 p.m.  
Committee Meeting - 56 Wigram St.

SATURDAY, 4th MAY - 11 a.m. - 1 pm  
Glass Factory - 136 Mitchell St.

MONDAY, 20th MAY - 2.30 p.m.  
Monday Group - 7/411 Glebe Point Road.

SUNDAY, 26th MAY - 11 a.m.  
Happy Hour - 16/2A Forsyth St.  
(Avon Towers)

SUNDAY, 3rd JUNE - 3 p.m.  
Exhibition and afternoon tea at St Scholastica's - Details later.

## PEOPLE TO CONTACT FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

Bi-centennial Park -  
John Buckingham - 660 7780

Blackwattle Bay Park -  
Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

Harold & Wentworth Parks -  
Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

Jubilee Park -  
Tony Larkum - 660 7030

History Group -  
Alan Hunt - 660 2407

Planning -  
Alan Robertson - 660 6149

Traffic -  
Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

The Committee is anxious to form groups to cover other interest areas. If you are willing to help form a sub-committee on any matter concerning The Glebe contact Neil Macindoe (660 0208).

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

President : Neil Macindoe  
660 0208 (H)

Senior Vice Pres. : Edwina Doe  
660 7066 (H)  
929 9848 (W)

Junior Vice Pres. : Eileen Lacey  
692 0173 (H)  
692 0633 (W)

Treasurer : Mike Curtis  
692 9416 (H)

Secretary : Chris Barry  
660 6115 (H)

Committee : Ted McKeown  
660 3917 (H)

: Alan Hunt  
660 2407 (H)

: Andrew  
Birtchnall  
660 5178 (H)

Bulletin Editor : Edwina Doe

Distributor : Andrew  
Birtchnall

New Members' Rep. : Betty Wright  
660 1875 (H)

Membership of the Glebe Society costs \$8 per year (individual membership). For information ring Betty Wright on 660 1875.