



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

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Annual General Meeting - Further Reports

The Annual General Meeting of The Glebe Society Inc. was held on Sunday 28 August. Several of the reports presented at the AGM were printed in last month's Bulletin, and this Bulletin contains the remaining reports, particularly the Vice-president's report - which takes the place of a President's report for this year.

Following the AGM, there was a celebration for the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Society. Darling Mills proved an excellent venue for the occasion, and a birthday cake was cut. The foundation President of the Society, Bernard Smith, was present, and his speech is also included in this Bulletin.

Editor

The Year in Review: Senior Vice-President's Report

The Glebe Society's 25th year may not have been as exciting as its first year, but I can tell you it has seen a lot of hard work - not least because we have been without a President during the whole year. So this is the first Vice-President's report in 25 years.

This will also be partly a planning report. As many of you know, Linda Nash has not been well, and has felt obliged to step down as planning convenor. I am delighted to say she is now on the mend, but the planning sub-committee is not a job to be taken on in convalescence! We all wish Linda well, and are very grateful for her efforts and expertise.

The following very brief summary may give you some idea of the range of matters dealt with by the management committee, and the Society generally, during the year.

Backpackers

As forecast by Ted McKeown in his last President's report, backpackers and youth hostels

have continued to be a source of community friction, particularly to their neighbours. Whilst there is no doubt that they bring commerce and colour to Glebe, there is also no doubt that people who are transients are far less considerate of their neighbours than permanent residents - and this applies even in well run, alcohol-free hostels such as those operated by the YHA. The Society's view is that, as with so many other activities in Glebe, once they reach a critical mass, enough is enough.

Glebe Markets

The same could be said about Glebe Markets. Finally, a compromise seems to have been reached, with an acceptable level of commercial return to the promoters and Glebe Public School, and an acceptable level of disruption to local residents. One of the most unpleasant features of this campaign (and this is a theme which seems to be repeated again and again) is the argument that because Glebe is already badly affected (by noise, pollution or whatever) it doesn't matter if it is worse affected.

Wards

We campaigned actively for a restoration of the Ward system so undemocratically abolished by the previous Council, and were delighted when the municipality voted overwhelmingly for their return. In the meantime, we now have two Glebe resident Councillors, Neil Macindoe and Christine O'Brien. Neil has regularly attended management committee meetings to keep us abreast of what Leichhardt Council is doing and planning in Glebe, and has contributed regularly to the Bulletin, and we are very grateful for his contributions. We hope that Christine will take up our invitation to do likewise.

Cleanliness

This is not exactly a novel topic in Glebe - the archives indicate that it has been a hardy perennial for at least 25 years. Somehow or other we can and we must clean up Glebe. Perhaps we should all start by cleaning up outside our own houses - very German!

Trees

Speaking of hardy perennials, what about the poplars in Glebe Point Road? If ever there was a topic designed to bring out extremes of opinion, this is it. The Society's view is that the poplars, which are now reaching the end of their lives, should be replaced by poplars, **IF** this can be done without turning the footpaths into traps for the unwary and causing immense property damage. But what a big "if". At this stage, the jury is very much still out. A public meeting on 20 August reached no definite conclusion, and it seems that whatever is done will not please everyone. At least, no-one can complain that Leichhardt Council has not tried to take community views into account.

The bundling of power lines in Glebe Point Road should have a positive effect on the streetscape, and on street trees in particular.

Problem sites

The Society has been kept busy during the year writing submissions, soliciting community action, appearing before Council and appearing in the Land and Environment Court in relation to a number of planning problems, mostly arising out of development applications and building applications.

29 Cook St

We were unsuccessful in obtaining any major modification to this unsympathetic waterfront development. However, we were successful in ensuring that the foreshore access land was vested in Council. This is an important part of our aim to open up the waterfront for pedestrian and bicycle access from the Fish Markets to Annandale.

Harbour Lighterage Site

Local residents are very concerned that the proposed development on this rezoned site will cause traffic problems and interfere with existing amenity (particularly views). Waterfront pedestrian access may also be a problem.

Bellevue

Council appears to have painted itself into a corner here. Notwithstanding the fact that the original DA for a restaurant had expired, Council signed a lease with the developer subject to a DA, the Council being the consent authority! The problem is that local residents are not nearly as well disposed to a restaurant as they may have been 3-4 years ago, largely because of developments which have taken place in the meantime, such as the rezoning and proposed development of the Harbour Lighterage site.

461-465 Glebe Point Road

This building continues to be occupied by a

number of small tenancies, most of which have no development approval, most of which do not comply with the existing zoning, and all of which are at considerable risk if there is a fire.

On the other hand, the Society would be very wary of any redevelopment which exacerbated traffic problems at Glebe Point, or interrupted the proposed foreshore access.

Tranby

Following mediation, it seems likely that some of the proposed new buildings will be redesigned and/or repositioned to meet residents' objections. Hopefully, this will overcome most of the problems inherent in the earlier design.

University Hall

With the re-erection of the original verandahs, this important redevelopment is nearing completion. Let's see what it looks like when the scaffolding comes down.

Problems Overhead

The fight against the proposed heliport continues. The fight against the third runway was long and hard, but ultimately unsuccessful. The focus has now switched to noise management.

The Diggers Memorial

The Restoration Committee, headed by Bill Nelson, has done a sterling job in repairing and weatherproofing the memorial, and replacing the missing busts of the soldier and the sailor. Bill Nelson has now stepped down from the committee as he and Sally have moved to Wentworth Falls. Max Solling has now taken over as convenor of the subcommittee.

Much work remains to be done in restoring the statue of the angel, replacing the cross on the orb and repairing the roll of honour, as well as tidying up the surrounds of the memorial (and stopping people sleeping in it!) A fresh appeal can be expected next year.

Homoeopathic Hospital

This is an issue which has really polarised the community. The Glebe Chamber of Commerce and a number of local residents are strenuously opposed to the proposed Womens' Transitional Centre (or Glebe Gaol, as they prefer to call it), whilst a number of other residents are passionately in favour of the project.

The Society's position is that, notwithstanding the obvious merit of a centre of this kind, Glebe has done its bit in hosting similar facilities. Whilst they can be described as "community facilities", they really only minister to narrow sectional interests. But even if a facility of this kind were to be set up in Glebe, it should not be set up in *that* building.

We are fully behind Leichhardt Council's appeal for funds to establish a local community centre (including a relocated library and community health facilities) on this site. After all it was *our* hospital taken away without any "by your leave" by an Area Health Service which seems to have lost all touch with the community it exists to serve.

Glebe Chamber of Commerce

Recently, more formal links have been established between the management committee of the Society and the committee of the Chamber. This is a very big step in the right direction. Whilst the two bodies will not always see eye to eye, they generally have a common aim of making Glebe a better place to live and work, and any improvement in communication is to be encouraged.

Transport Issues

The Society has again been active in relation to a number of transport issues, dealt with in more detail in the sub-committee reports. High on the list are light rail, a constant increase of cars and through traffic, pollution caused by car emissions, and the effect on Glebe of the new Glebe Island Bridge.

Harold Park

Gideon Rutherford has recently resigned after many years of the Harold Park sub-committee, and we thank him for his good work. We obviously need someone to keep an eye on the proposed extension of the track. This is not necessarily such a bad development proposal, provided that the Glebe Hockey Club secures the synthetic turf playing field it so desperately needs, traffic congestion is improved, and the appropriate landscaping is introduced. But we must be vigilant that the "back doors" to Arcadia Road and Maxwell Road (which exist, but are not acknowledged to exist) are not opened by stealth.

Archives

Lyn Milton is hard at work on the archives, and we hope soon to be able to store them in the Glebe Councillor's room at Glebe Town. Once that happy day occurs, we will be calling for all historical material and memorabilia of the last 25 years hidden in members' attics and cellars!

Outlook

The Glebe Society has a 25 year record of helping to make Glebe an enjoyable place to live. Our social contacts are important, but we must remain a vigilant residents' action group, if Glebe is to continue to retain its unique character.

We must also listen and talk to all the residents of Glebe and exchange ideas so that the Society can support them in their concerns.

Conclusion

I am now coming to the end of the Senior Vice-President's report, which has been my first and will also be my last. I have decided to step down from this position after four and a half years. There are several reasons for my decision.

As I have not been prepared to accept the president's job, it now seems the responsible thing to do to free the position of the Senior Vice-President up for somebody else who might be able to fill the president's job in two years' time. As we now have a nomination for a president, I can resign with a good conscience, which did not present itself as an option available to me during the last year. Even though I loved the work, the last year without a president was particularly taxing for me. I cannot afford the time and effort required for this job in the future. I will continue to stay on the committee, however.

Now is the time to thank all the members of the management committee and the various sub-committees for the hard work put in by them during the last year.

I was delighted and relieved that I was not left alone with the demanding job of the Acting President. Everybody contributed to pull us through this difficult and busy year as a team effort. We all must have enjoyed it too, as it is certainly not money . . .

I would love to mention everyone by name, however, time forbids me to do so, as this report is already quite long. If you find your name on the back of any Bulletin during the year, you have been thanked warmly.

However, I must mention just a few by name, who have been pillars of strength: Jeanette Knox, who has worked tirelessly, as well as Ted and Alison McKeown and Andrew Wood, who, apart from their valued contributions, have also been true supportive friends who always made time for me if I needed help.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Sandra Nori, who has been supporting the community for many years. She fought side by side with us in the Land and Environment Court on 29 Cook Street to gain the foreshores for the public. She is also lending her strong support to the contentious issue of the Homoeopathic Hospital.

Now it only remains for me to invite you all to the Inspection of Historic Glebe on Sunday, 6 November and the Glebe Music Festival, commencing that day, and to wish us all a happy 25th birthday.

Marianne von Knobelsdorff
Senior Vice-President

Archivist's Report

This presentation resembles a plea for mercy more than a report. It would appear that so little has been

Appropriately I will give you an administrative history of my role. In 1983 someone was appointed to look after the publications and other papers of the society. Records available do not indicate who this person was and no progress appears to have been made until 1990 when Clive Smith was appointed Archivist.

The following year an Archives policy was devised and adopted by the Society's Management Committee. Briefly this document covers the ownership, copyright and custody of the Society's records. It was reproduced in *The Glebe Society Bulletin* of July, 1991. The following month Clive left the country hopefully not only because of the difficulty of extracting records from Management Committee Members and procuring appropriate storage.

I agreed to fill the role after Clive's departure. The Leichhardt Municipal Council has made available a room in the Glebe Town Hall to which we soon hope to have access so that real work can commence.

Unfortunately there has been no centralised storage place for records and it would appear that some essential records may be lost. They are at the least, proving difficult to locate. These include the management committee minutes. There are even some gaps in the main set of *The Glebe Society Bulletin*.

In order to familiarise myself with the workings of the Society, its committees and activities, I have read and subject indexed the extant set of Bulletins and am pleased to report that this work has already proved useful to other members of the Management Committee.

I have compiled a list of records I wish to locate. If you have been an office holder, convenor or active member of any of the Society's activities I would be interested to hear whether you are holding any records or know the fate of any.
Lyn Milton

Light Rail Sub-committee Report

An update on light rail matters was published in the Bulletin in the middle of the year. Since then, the contract to construct the light rail system from Central Railway to the Fish Markets has been awarded to the "Pyrmont Light Rail Consortium". The consortium is made up of the following companies:

- TNT - transportation group
- AIDC - financiers
- Asea Brown Boveri Ltd - a German light rail construction specialist

GHD - engineering consultants

Transmark - subsidiary of British Rail

The German designed vehicles will be built in Dandenong in Victoria and operations are scheduled to commence in July 1996.

The development application regarding the light rail system has now been considered by the Sydney City Council. I must thank John Hoddinott for preparing the Society's submission about the DA and for appearing on the Society's behalf before a public hearing conducted into the DA by the Council.

Members will have been pleased to read that the Minister for Transport has now agreed to investigate the feasibility of extending the light rail system through Glebe to Marion Street Leichhardt, and also into the Central Business District. Tenders are now being called for the conduct of a demand study to determine the likely number of additional passengers that would be carried if the present system is extended. The results of these studies are due to be released in December this year. The Consortium is strongly in favour of extending the light rail system to Glebe as they can see the obvious financial advantages that will arise from carrying the additional passengers.

Over the next year the Society will have to address a number of issues, including

- the location of the light rail stops (including Glebe Point Road)
- ensuring no traffic or parking problems are created
- rezoning of land adjacent to the light rail system (may be a particular issue in Annandale and Lilyfield.)

In concluding my report, may I say that all the hard work done by the Society since 1974 is finally coming to fruition. I would specially like to thank John Gerofi who was responsible for the Society's monographs on a better public transport system for Glebe which suggested the use of the goods railway line for a light rail system.

Andrew Wood

Speech by Bernard Smith for the 25th Anniversary of the Glebe Society

Dear me it's all such a long time ago and my memory's a bit hazy. It was 1968. Under the Askin Government developers were busy. Houses were being torn down for flat development. A new Western Distributor, and enormous freeway that would have gauged away a third of Glebe had long been decided upon by the all-powerful Main Roads Board and the Leichhardt Council accepted that it was powerless to do any thing about it. When I enquired of the

Department of Town Planning its opinion about the quality of housing stock in Glebe, I was told by one planner that there was a street of cottages in Forest Lodge built in the 1940s that were worth preserving, the rest of Glebe was not much better than a slum - much better demolished.

The story goes that a year or so before, Denis Winston, the Professor of Town Planning of Sydney University during a Professorial Board meeting had the temerity to suggest that the University might consider buying up some Glebe terraces to accommodate graduate students. Perhaps Winston had read Jane Jacobs famous book *Death and Life of Great American Cities*. It was Jacobs and her highly committed little group who stood up to New York's all-powerful freeway giant Robert Moses and saved Greenwich village and its neighbourhood from destruction. But Denis was quickly shot down. The University Registrar, the powerful Miss Telford, is reported to have retorted tartly, 'But who would want to live in Glebe.' That ended the matter. The University was busy erecting monstrous fortress-like buildings surrounded by barbed wire.

They certainly didn't want me to live in Glebe. They refused to give a highly-esteemed professor in the Faculty of Medicine financial assistance when he expressed a whim to live in Glebe. They shunted him off to a more highly respected place - to whit, Hunter's Hill. Most professors who wanted housing loans finished up in Roseville. Property values, the University assured itself were sound there. But in the end they allowed the small amount of extra money I needed to purchase our house in Avenue Road because I was a bit odd, having never driven a car in my life and having no intention to. Well, Professors of Contemporary Art were bound to be a bit odd. The University had sweated for years over the Power Bequest wondering whatever they would do with such an eccentric will.

I suppose I should be telling you funny stories but I always seem to forget the best of them. Anyway we decided to take a stand about a house in Ferry Road. We organised a street march that got some publicity in the press. The Mayor of Leichhardt, the immortal Dr Foley of Foley Park, complained that roughnecks of the Glebe Society had trampled on the geraniums in his front garden. He could sue them.

Those of us who went to the Council meetings to watch proceedings all had to face up to a good deal of verbal abuse whenever we attended in force. We decided to contest the next Council elections and surprised everyone including ourselves when we broke the stranglehold that an extremely corrupt Labor Party had held in the Leichhardt Council for years. We managed to get

two Independents that supported the Glebe Society in from the Glebe Wards and in Balmain Nick Origlass and Bella Weiner, both of whom were conservation conscious were also elected. Nick became Mayor. Delighted to see you here Nick. It lasted a year or so then the old gang reorganised its forces and got back again. But things were never quite as bad again; though they could be volatile.

Years later I recall being invited with Kate to a dinner called by the Mayor. It was intended to be a kind of healing-the-wounds get together. The Lady Mayoress complained about all these newcomers in the Municipality stirring up unnecessary trouble. I stood up a little later and pointed out that I had been born in Balmain in 1916, at a time when Balmain boys didn't cry. Now I was sitting next to a paediatrician who had rooms in Glebe Pt Road. There were two vacant seats opposite. Then a nuggetty little chap came in late and sat opposite me and began abusing me in a way that had never happened to me in my life before. Said he was disgusted having to sit opposite someone like me. The abuse went on for some time. Then he started abusing the paediatrician. I gradually realised that we were being addressed by the Deputy Mayor of Leichhardt. In early life he was a professional boxer. So I just grinned and kept quiet ...

Then he got up and left - he wasn't going to sit next to louts like us. This was just a little too much for the paediatrician. "I've never been spoken to in my life like that," he said to me. "I'm going to talk to that man. He got up and followed him to the door. Nothing happened for about ten minutes. Then he came back, as I recall, with a very nasty bruise on his cheek and looking badly shaken. The Deputy Mayor of Leichhardt had not forgotten all of his old skills. At least the paediatrician managed to get off better than Peter Baldwin did when he stood up to the Labor Mafia in Marrickville.

I do wish that my wife Kate was here to meet you all. She did so much more than I did for the Society in her own quiet but very effective way. And all the basic research work on the Glebe book was her work not mine. She developed friendships and loyalties to the Society that still persist.

Being a historian I kept a great deal of the early records of the Society, but gave them into the care of the Glebe Library in 1981. I do hope that they are still available. I looked up my diary for 1969 and found that the earliest relevant note I have is of a Glebe Association meeting 27 February 1969. That must have been one of the early discussions that led to the forming of the Society.

Sandra Jobson became the first secretary. Sandra lived with her husband Robert Darroch in Toxteth Road. There was always a huge cat on their front verandah with a narrow face rather like a horse. So Sandra and her husband, Rob, went off to London. Sandra, unhappy about leaving her cat behind thought the best thing to do was to write a biography of the real Ottoline Morell. She visited her Ottoline's daughter who said she would be delighted for an Australian to do it. She would never let any British or Americans write about her mother because they had been so cruel writing about her. So Sandra wrote the biography of Ottoline Morell and a very good biography it is too. Then some years later Rob Darroch wrote *D.H. Lawrence in Australia*, a remarkable book in which he proved beyond all reasonable doubt how Lawrence, quite by accident, ran into a couple of the leaders of a secret proto-fascist ex-army group shortly after he arrived in Sydney and around them wrote his novel *Kangaroo*. It is one of the best pieces of literary detection to come out of this country.

It seems to me that the secret of the Glebe Society's long and extremely active life was the decision from the beginning to create active sub-committees for planning, such as the light rail committee, the history committee, and so forth; and the combination of this with social events such as the annual trip in the ferry to Clark Island, the House inspections, the Monday Group, and of course the annual dinner. It made it possible for the Society to draw upon the wide area of interest and special knowledge within the Community.

Glebe is a better and I hope more neighbourly place to live in now than it was in 1968. When Kate and I arrived there was only one restaurant, a modest, if that is the word, Chinese on the corner of Glebe Rd and Mitchell Street. During the long Mayoral reign of Dr John Foley the Leichhardt Council opposed permitting restaurants in Glebe Point Road, on the grounds that restaurants broke up family life. Well it's a different Glebe these days and I hope that family life hasn't taken too great a battering.

One last point. The Glebe Community has always been a mixed one; a mixture of types, students, professionals, tradespeople, etc. The Society itself has always been, of course, a middle class society. Sometimes I recall tensions developed between those who lived in the Glebe Point area and less privileged members of the community who lived in Bishopsthorpe or closer to the city. But the Society always did its best to try and speak and work for the whole of Glebe, not just its most privileged members. The Society though it had nothing to do with establishing the first Women's Refuge in Australia - and one of the

first in the world - in Bishopsthorpe, did whatever it could to provide assistance in the way of blankets and clothing. I do hope that the Society, whatever else it does, continues to be a caring society. Caring isn't all that fashionable these days.

Bernard Smith

29 Cook St, Foreshore Land at Blackwattle Bay

On 23, 24 and 25 March 1994, the owners/developers of 29 Cook Street, Glebe, took Leichhardt Council to the Land and Environment Court for the 'deemed refusal' of a Development Application for a block of 24 units. The Glebe Society, Sandra Nori MP, Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group, and several local residents gave evidence during these proceedings.

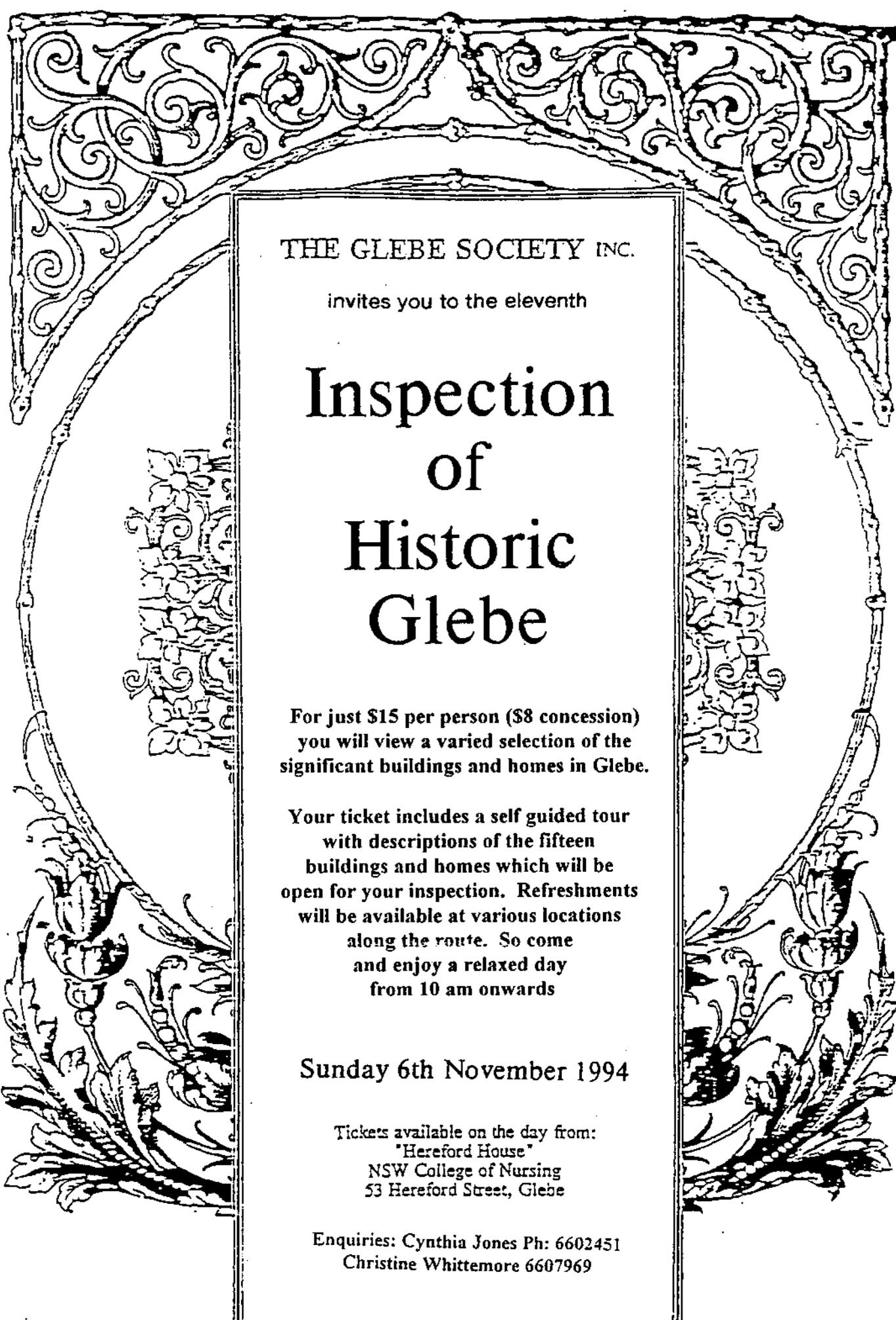
Even though there were some minor changes, the Court generally upheld the applicant's proposal, affecting in particular the existing townhouses at the rear of the proposed building.

When the 'Waterfront Industrial' zoning was changed to 'Residential and Open Space' zoning, the Local Environment Plan No 90 stated that 'clear and unambiguous public access is available through the land to the foreshore.' It seemed to be clear that it was part and parcel of the rezoning procedures that the developer had to dedicate the foreshore strip to Leichhardt Council.

However, the developers fought very hard in the Court to keep the foreshore strip. The Judgement of the Land and Environment Court ruled "... Open space by its very nature and in a situation such as this, is characterised by a multiplicity of functions, from improvement and revegetation of the broader setting of the harbour, to the provision of informal sitting and viewing places, to walk and cycleways, to the reinstatement of areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat. Such a multiplicity of functions and demands is beyond the province of private open space and its consideration as a garden setting for the development ..." The Court concluded that the public open space should be handed over to Leichhardt Council.

This is a very important ruling, as it forms a precedent. 29 Cook Street will provide a vital link between the existing and future pedestrian and cycleway access along the foreshores. We are very happy about this part of the outcome, as The Glebe Society has been fighting for the opening up of the foreshores for the public for decades.

Marianne von Knobelsdorff



THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC.

invites you to the eleventh

Inspection of Historic Glebe

For just \$15 per person (\$8 concession)
you will view a varied selection of the
significant buildings and homes in Glebe.

Your ticket includes a self guided tour
with descriptions of the fifteen
buildings and homes which will be
open for your inspection. Refreshments
will be available at various locations
along the route. So come
and enjoy a relaxed day
from 10 am onwards

Sunday 6th November 1994

Tickets available on the day from:
"Hereford House"
NSW College of Nursing
53 Hereford Street, Glebe

Enquiries: Cynthia Jones Ph: 6602451
Christine Whittemore 6607969

Pymont Heliport

Your particular attention is drawn to the meeting for residents concerned about the Pymont Heliport. Details are below, for 5 October.

For Your Diary

Wednesday 21 September - 7:30 pm - monthly meeting of the Glebe Society Management Committee, held at Lyndhurst, Darghan Street, Glebe.

Sunday 18 September - Family Bike Day, King George V Park, Rozelle

Wednesday 5 October - 7:30 pm - Meeting of ICFCAG inc (Pymont Heliport group) at

Balmain Town Hall. Guest speaker will be EPA Director, Sydney region.

Sunday 6 November - Inspection of Historic Glebe

Sunday 6 November - 3:30 pm - organ recital, St John's Church, Glebe

5:30 pm - Cafe of the Gate of Salvation performing at Darling Mills Restaurant, 134 Glebe Point Road

Thursday 17 November - 6:30pm - "Innominata" acappella group performing at Gleebooks, 19 Glebe Point Rd

Sunday 27 November - 3:00pm - free public concert in St Scholastica's Chapel, cnr Avenue and Arcadia Roads, Glebe

THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee

President

David Browne 660 0865 (H)

Senior Vice President

Vacant

Junior Vice President

Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)

Immediate Past President

Ted McKeown 660 3917 (H)
391 3000 (W)

Secretary

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Committee

Otto Cserhalmi 552 3800 (W)
Peter Strickland 660 7624 (H)
Barbara Sutton 660 0782 (H)
Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692 0916 (H)
Christine Whittemore 660 7969 (H)

Contacts

Bulletin Editor
Jan Macindoe 660 0208
Membership List
Edwina Doe 660 7066
New Members
Barbara Sutton 660 0782
Publications
Patricia Jackson 660 8849

Archivist

Lyn Milton 660 7930

Convenors of Sub-committees

All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

Aircraft

Alison McKeown 660 3917

Bays & Foreshores

John Buckingham 660 7780

Children & Glebe

Louise Schweikert 660 7205

Diggers' Memorial

Max Solling 660 1160

Environment

Fiona Campbell 821 6287 (W)

Harold Park

Vacant

Light Rail

Andrew Wood 660 2194

Planning

John Hoddinott 692 0071

Traffic

Jeanette Knox 660 7781

Wentworth Park

Christine Stewart 660 8324

Membership of The Glebe Society

Costs: Ordinary \$25; additional household members \$5 each;
Student/Pensioner \$10; Institution \$30

Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037, or ring Jeanette Knox on 660 7781.