



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

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June

Social Activities

A he next lunch, decided on by Jeanette and me at short notice, will be at Cafe Dante, 31 Glebe Point Road, about 12:30pm. Pizza, paste and mains are on offer and it is BYO. The date is Sunday 29 June, and please ring me by Thursday 26th if you wish to come.

In July we hope to organise a Yuletide dinner, an antipodean version of Christmas. Details in the next Bulletin. The Glebe Chamber of Commerce is organising a Glebe Week in September, for nine days. Again, details soon.

John Hoddinott



Bernard Smith

Bernard Smith and his late wife Kate were foundation members of the Glebe Society. Members may be interested to know that a new book about Bernard Smith will be published on 26 June by Cambridge University Press. The author is Peter Beilharz and the book's title is *Imagining the Antipodes: Culture, Theory and the Visual in the Work of Bernard Smith*. The main Sydney launch will be held at Gleebooks on Sunday 6 July at 4pm.

Bernard Smith's papers were deposited with Glebe library some time ago, and some recent donations to the new library will contribute to the cost of restoring them.

The Great Glebe Picnic

The Glebe Chamber of Commerce has organised the first Great Glebe Picnic to take place in Jubilee Park between 11am and 4pm on Sunday 29 June. Food from various Glebe eateries will be available.

Inside This Issue

How the Glebe Society Works	page 2
Light Rail	3
Going, Going . . .	4
Report from Council	4
Planning Report	5
Artworks for Glebe Pt Rd	6
Athol Jurd	7

How the Glebe Society Works

It is stating the obvious to say that the Glebe Society is involved in many issues. Anyone who lives in Glebe must notice the changes that continually affect our area, whether they are new housing complexes that bring more and more people (and traffic) to Glebe or that most positive of new amenities, our new library.

We welcome those people who move into the new housing areas and hope they enjoy the lifestyle that only Glebe can offer but the ever increasing traffic in Glebe that these new residents must generate continues to be of concern. It is interesting to note that one of the first issues that was noted by the Glebe Society way back at its inception twenty plus years ago was that of traffic in the area. Nothing changes!

Traffic management in a suburb like this where there is such diversity of both residential and commercial activities is always a problem. This is very well illustrated by the discussions currently being undertaken about the new complex at the Grace Bros. site. There is a clear difference of interests between people living in the area who are concerned about increased traffic in their local streets and those of the business people on Broadway whose concern is access to their businesses. Both groups have legitimate concerns and both Leichhardt and the City Councils are undertaking traffic studies to try and overcome the problems. It is pleasing to note that Francis Street may well be closed to provide a pleasant walking access to the new centre and keep some of the traffic off Glebe Point Road. However, this may not be possible if the extra traffic generated on the Bay Street intersections is too great. This is typical of the dilemmas that continually arise in this quite small area and while the discussions are interesting they are also an illustration of how complex these problems are and how difficult it is to reach the proper solution. The alternative plans of traffic management will go on public exhibition to give people a chance to look at the effects and make comment.

We continue to try and represent the interests of the residents of Glebe at all

times in these meetings because we believe that those interests should always be paramount but there is often a difference between our interests as residents and the various commercial interests in the area. It is not usually the businesses on Glebe Point Road that cause problems. Mostly, they give a lot back to the area and are involved in local matters. It is usually outside developers who have no personal interest in the suburb who cause problems. We can only be vigilant and keep up our involvement in the local groups that come together at various times to grapple with these issues.

Another site under discussion at the moment is the Walter Burley Griffin incinerator site on Forsythe Street. It is proposed that this will be restored in some measure and eventually opened to the public for recreational purposes. It adjoins the waterfront on Blackwattle Bay and should be a wonderful amenity for the suburb. Currently, a heritage study is being undertaken and is near completion. An open day will be held to demonstrate the proposed uses for the site.

A new item of interest which has just come up is that the Council may sell off the three Council Chambers in order to raise revenue for the municipality. This plan will no doubt be the subject of much controversy especially as it has been mooted that the funds will be used to build a new administration building. Given that there are many places in the municipality that suffer from a lack of maintenance and various other works like the Glebe Point Road Project proceed very slowly due to lack of funds, it is hard to see that rate payers will support such plans. The Glebe Society has not had time to discuss this yet.

It is sometimes quite hard to come to grips with all the matters which come to our attention. The Glebe Society has many dedicated members who have responsibility for a wide range of concerns. As president I am extremely grateful for their work. We will continue as a group to keep our members informed of as many local issues as we can.

Mavis McCarthy

Light Rail

Over 4 000 copies of a joint letter from the President of the Society and the Chamber of Commerce were distributed to Glebe residents in March. The letter asked the people of Glebe to write to the Minister of Transport saying that they wished the light rail system extended to Glebe and the central business district, and also for a stop to be included at Glebe Point Road. The response from residents was highly encouraging as the Minister received over 250 letters supporting the proposed extensions.

Andrew Wood would like to thank all those members of the Society who helped with the letter-boxing.

The first stage of the light rail system from Central Railway to the Fish Markets is still on schedule for its official opening next month. In mid-May the cabinet of the NSW government gave approval, in principle, for the extensions to Lilyfield and Circular Quay. Final approval for the extensions, which should occur by November this year, is subject to the public display of the proposals, an environmental impact statement and the call for and consideration of public comments.

The issues that the Society will have to address over the next few months include:

- the need for a stop in the tunnel under Glebe at the level of Glebe Point Road. Discussions between the owner of the Haven Inn (corner of Wigram and Glebe Point Roads) and the Sydney Light Rail Company are continuing with the hope that the entrance to the stop would be from the Haven Inn.
- the final location of the Jubilee Park/Harold Park stop. At present the suggested location of the stop is at the junction of Maxwell Road and Victoria Street. The Sydney Light Rail Company and Harold Park Paceway, however, have proposed a "luxury residential/business development" on parkland at the site of the stop. Such a development would remove part of Glebe's precious parkland and is being fully

and vigorously opposed by the Society. The Society believes the correct location of the stop is at Johnson's Creek, without any associated development on parkland. Thus Trotting patrons would enter Harold Park via the northern road entrance near Johnson's Creek and there would be no need to reopen the Maxwell Road entrance (which may occur if the stop is located at its presently proposed site at the junction of Maxwell Road and Victoria Street).

It is hoped that members of the Society will be able to travel on the first stage of the light rail system later this month. Preliminary discussions have been held with TNT, the operators of the system, regarding the Society chartering some vehicles for a celebratory party. We will keep you informed!

Andrew Wood will be leaving Sydney to work in Philadelphia for 10 months. The Society is pleased to announce that Bruce Davis has been elected as the new convenor of the Light Rail Subcommittee. Please contact Bruce if you could help him over the next few months as he writes the Society's response to the environmental impact statement covering the extension of the light rail system to our suburb.

Andrew Wood

Going, Going . . .

The recent NSW State Government Budget included the sale of the other John Verge house in Glebe, Lyndhurst, the headquarters of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. It is proposed that the administrative functions undertaken at Lyndhurst be transferred to the Mint Museum in Macquarie Street.

The "loss" of Lyndhurst is of particular significance to the Glebe Society. When the freeway plan through Glebe in the late 1960s was put forward, with the demolition of at least 200 dwellings, Lyndhurst was in the path. It fell into a state of dreadful disrepair once the freeway plans were stopped. It became the home of squatters for years, the marble fireplaces were stolen, as was much of the woodwork, including even the architraves, some of this probably used for heating. I think I remember there being a serious fire on the premises. The staircase also was destroyed.

When the possibility arose for its restoration, the Society undertook some work to kick it along. It was designed as a family home, then became the first theological college in Australia in 1847, under the Anglican Church. Closed in 1849, it was sold, in an early ecumenical agreement, to the Catholic church as a seminary, called Lyndhurst College. This was closed in the late 1870s. At one stage in its later life it became a pickle factory and that is when the Society's help was offered. It seems that the pickling mixture, very acidic of course, was either poured under the floor or leaked there. We undertook to remove some of the acidic sand from under the floor, as well as much doubtful wood. The sand was damaging the sandstone foundations of the building.

I remember, as will some longer-term members, the ignominy of crawling into quite a small space under the floor, to fill plastic buckets with the offending sand. Although in the end it was only a notional effort, it reminded us of our involvement with the fine building.

In the end, when the State Government decided to fund the restoration, a new technique required was to develop a system to

leach the acid and salt from the sandstone. I believe this was found, designed by CSIRO, and became an Australian first. Vale Lyndhurst.

Some of this history has been taken from Bernard and Kate Smith's book, which we rely on hugely for information about our suburb.

The Glebe Society will of course keep an eye on Lyndhurst's future. I am sure it will endure, but we must ensure that it is kept in sympathetic hands.

On the matter of the possible sale of Glebe, Balmain and Annandale Town Halls, I understand that this is only an idea, perhaps "kite flying". Glebe's Town Hall is the oldest, 1880, compared to Leichhardt's 1888. Again be assured that this issue will be followed closely. While it is possible that the community may lose some of the functions of the facilities, I would think it very unlikely that the buildings themselves would be demolished. At least, we can hope.

John Hoddinott

Report from Council

The views expressed by Councillors are not necessarily those of The Glebe Society.

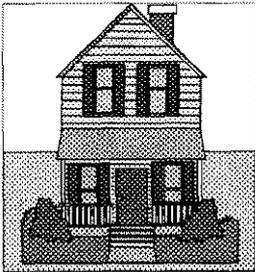
By the time you read this the dust from the by-election will have settled and the mayoral election will not be until September, so we all have time for a breather.

On Friday June 13 the planting of 17 trees began in Glebe Point Road, to replace eight being removed. In the first week of June the proposed new public bench for Glebe Point Road appeared outside the Post Office in St John's Road. It is more austere than the Coalbrookdale model originally proposed, and I would be grateful for feedback.

The Glebe Point Road Project is applying for a Heritage 2001 grant to reinstate a palisade fence for Glebe Public School.

A meeting will be held soon to discuss the form of the open space donated as part of the redevelopment of Grace Bros.

Cr Neil Macindoe



Planning Report

461/463/465 Glebe Point Road

At a recent Council Building & Development meeting Cr Macindoe proposed that before the matter finally goes to negotiation between Council and the owner, there be a series of meetings between the interested parties, i.e., the residents (Precinct 13), the tenants (Blackwattle Studios), The Glebe Society and the Glebe Chamber of Commerce. This motion was approved and it will give each group the chance to restate our basic positions on the site. I have no news about the timing. I imagine that the meetings will be chaired as usual by Cr Sheehan.

Harold Park

There is a proposal to move greyhound racing from Wentworth Park to Harold Park. There are two greyhound associations presently using Wentworth Park. If permitted, race meetings at Harold Park would be held on over 300 days a year, mainly at night, effectively on every day of the year except Sundays, Christmas Day and Good Friday.

Our concern (Precincts, Chamber of Commerce, Glebe Society, Glebe Hockey and Glebe Basketball) is that this may mean the loss of the promised hockey field. I may be mistaken, but I thought that the field was in exchange for the extension and elevation of the track to bring it to the international half-mile standard.

I have not heard reasons underlying the proposed move, except for two rumours, both rather contradictory. I will try to learn more for the next Bulletin. Wentworth Park used to be under Leichhardt Council control, but about 1987 its care was transferred to Sydney City Council, even though it lies within Leichhardt Council boundary.

The former Children's Hospital, Camperdown

I attended a meeting convened by Sandra Nori, MP, which Leichhardt Mayor, Cr Cruden and Cr Macindoe attended along with a South Sydney City Council councillor and two SSCC Planning Officers.

Questions from the floor were answered. One concerned the helipad and we were as-

sured that there would be no heliport in the new development.

My impression, and this depends on several processes, is that it will become largely residential, with a possibility of a small amount of commercial and/or retail. About 51% of the site has been recommended for development, 34% open space, not necessarily public open space, and 15% for ancillary services - roads, parking, clothes drying, etc.

The Draft Development Control Plan suggests an average floor-space ratio of two to one, and given that the proposed height is 4 storeys, 4 x 51% gives a floor-space ratio as above. This is more than Leichhardt Council's ration, maximum 0.8 to 1.

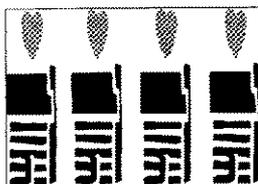
I will make a submission on behalf of The Glebe Society dealing mainly with the floor-space ration, building heights, on-site parking and traffic issues. I think that the documents on display on behalf of SSCC are well researched, and as the site is not under Leichhardt Council's control, we have reduced influence on its final outcome.

The number of dwellings could, repeat could, house about 2 000 people, which is a significant percentage increase in what is essentially Glebe, even though officially Camperdown. Glebe's population at the last census was about 13 600.

I am not really worried about the development at this stage, as it will be a lengthy process. I guess it will become mainly residential, but the site has still not been sold and the real issues will arise when the Development Application is submitted by the developer(s).

I am pleased that SSCC has given us the chance to have input to the rezoning/ development process. It is a huge site, about 5.5 hectares, roughly 80% the size of the former Grace Bros area.

John Hoddinott



Artworks for Glebe Point Road

There was an excellent turnout of approximately 80 people at a meeting at the Valhalla to discuss artworks for Glebe Point Road (18 May). The meeting was intended to have the first hour devoted to presentations of ideas and the second half to discussions in groups with the artists. However, after the coffee break only 15 minutes was left for discussion which was very rushed. The idea was for artists to get some idea of what Glebe means to people who live here.



Neil Macindoe, from Leichhardt Council introduced the topic, telling us that the city of Barcelona had discussed what could be done as a community project to enhance the city for the Barcelona Olympics. They decide to build 200 waterfront parks. His point was to show what can be done with community will and enthusiasm.

Ken Burgin, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce then showed slides of public works done by various artists - mostly in Melbourne, some in Perth. Many were very witty - e.g. a large sculpture of a purse (closed) called The Public Purse, another of the coping of a library almost sunk into the ground with only the words "libra" showing (perhaps to show the state of libraries), beautiful weathervanes of fish in greened copper, fantasy iron work in a seat, tiles making murals and seats, flower shops with bees, flowers, windmills etc. Lovey fountain in Perth with stepping stones of turtles - very delicate and gentle. Decorated drain (curl of iron) with ceramic leaves, decorated light posts and bollards like skyscrapers - almost anything can become a work of art.

Ann Martin, Cultural Officer from Leichhardt Council introduced those projects already underway in Glebe.

1) Matthew Taylor - Landscape Architect talked of plans for G.P.Rd taking into account heritage values, trees, paving, art-work in footpaths, art discs and street furniture.

2) Michaela Crawford is working with Jennifer Turpin as artists in Bicentennial Park. They are developing a series of Growth

Rings (mock) sandstone rings around each of 8 fig trees - smallest is dated 1997 -99 and largest goes up to late 2000s to show how big the trees will be then. As the trees grow they will destroy the rings with their roots. People can relate to how old they will be when the trees reach each age.

Artists being considered showed slides of work

1) Cheryl Robinson is an Aboriginal who works with Aboriginal communities. Did a project at Casula Powerhouse, now an arts centre, to make the concrete floor look like the Georges River. Glass well showing old floor underneath with kangaroo bones.

2) Marie Situucci showed a delightful mosaic garden (decorated wall around a garden) where she worked with children at MLC Burwood, design based on children's drawings.

3) Catherine Sherer showed slides of elegant jewellery and object design, as well as fascinating grass installation at Centennial Park.

4) David Atkinson, sculptor - man sitting on a large pedestal like a tree trunk, metal tulips and galvanised aluminium seat with mosaics and manhole covers.

5) Bronwyn Kemp said her work concerned the politics of feminism and also domestic women's work. Works in sculpture and pottery and paper pulp included a series of Roast Lamb dinners on plates of paper mache, another series of Occasional Tables in cast ceramics and objects such as brooms, decorated.

6) Ian Lisser-Sproule showed an elegant long wall sculpture of coloured squiggles of metal attached to a wall - like some of Paul Klee's drawings - as well as moquettes of wooden sculptures.

All these artists had been invited to show their work, but others could do so if they wished.

The meeting closed at 12 noon with I am sure all who attended feeling it had been a very worthwhile two hours and that we might expect some very exciting and interesting work to come from the project.

Christine Stewart

A Glebe boy! Athol Jurd 1915 to 1997

By Tim Jurd

On March 24 1997 my father, Athol Jurd died leaving behind many great friends in the Glebe Society and community.

Dad's association with Glebe started when his family bought the magnificent house, *Monterey*, at 21 Avenue Road in the 1920's. Athol started his apprenticeship as a Pharmacist at the chemist shop on the corner of Forsythe St and Glebe Point Rd in 1932 and his family purchased the business in 1935. Dad and his younger brother Les ran the pharmacy for 44 years until it was sold in 1979.

Athol married Patricia in 1940 and moved into Mayfair flats on Glebe Point Road almost opposite the chemist shop. With the birth of Michael they soon found this small, charming, art deco apartment quite unsuitable for raising a family and they moved into a wonderful house at the bottom of Toxteth Road. Here at 70 Toxteth Road Michael, David, Elizabeth, Margaret and I grew up to the sound of the Trotters and Dog racing in this rambling split level house teetering on the cliff overlooking Harold Park. The nameplate on this house was *Edgecliff* but unfortunately this was lost.

Our house was always buzzing with family and friends including our Uncle Les, Auntie Rosemary and our cousins who had moved into a house in Avenue Rd just down from Nanna and Pop.

The people of Glebe Point considered Dad's shop as much more than just a pharmacy. To many Athol was the first (and often only) source of emergency medical help and counselling. His friendly manner and his overly generous nature ensured he was on excellent terms with the locals but we were never going to be wealthy.

Dad was elected as an Alderman to the Glebe Council and was destined to be Mayor when the Council was dissolved and Glebe became part of the City of Sydney.

Dad loved to punt. He also enjoyed a drink. These two pastimes were very much part of Glebe life and our family accepted that Dad's second homes were "the Hollow" (Harold Park Hotel) and "the Rowers" (Glebe Rowing Club).

Although Dad's punting was often a source of concern for Mum, it served as an adventure for the kids. Dad would take us to Boyce Lane and other back lanes into mysterious corrugated iron sheds where "SP" bookmaking was organised by shady characters who wore hats *inside* and listened to crackly radios whilst shifty "cockatoos" loitered outside to warn of an impending raid from a sometimes sympathetic local constabulary.

We kids grew up and moved on. Dad and Mum sold Toxteth Rd and moved to a sunny home unit in Leichhardt St. They lived here at "Dellwood" until 1977 when after my maternal Grandparents died they moved into a home in Maroubra which was part of their estate. There they were joined by my sister Elizabeth and her family.

The bulk of Dad's life was spent in Glebe. His family, friends and business were intimately tied to this bustling, vibrant and ever changing suburb. His heart and soul remains on "Jurd's corner" with trams rattling by just outside. I can still see the old scales that stood on the same spot for 44 years in the shop. All my mates would pop in to weigh themselves on the "only free scales left in the world". There were always people in the shop; sitting, chatting listening rarely were they spending.

Dad played no favourites in life and accepted everyone on their face value. This attitude endeared him to so many of the true characters of the neighbourhood because in his own way he was a multiculturalist often savouring the differences in people. I believe he has passed this tolerance and ideology on to his family.

Dad had a great life. He died fulfilled and happy in the company of his family. He was rich in terms of the things that mattered to him - the people that shared his days.

Dad is and always will be a Glebe boy.

Tim Jurd

For Your Diary

Sunday, 29 June - 12:30pm, at Cafe Dante for Sunday Lunch - ring John Hoddinott for bookings

Sunday, 29 June - 11:00 - 4:00, Great Glebe Picnic, Jubilee Park

Sunday, 4 July - 4:00pm, at Gleebooks, launch of book about Bernard Smith

THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee	Convenors of Sub-Committees
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	Traffic Jeanette Knox 9660 7781 Wentworth Park Judy Vergison 9692 9200

Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

Costs:	Ordinary	\$30	additional household members \$5 each
	Student/Pensioner	\$15	
	Institution	\$30	

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