



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

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No 7 of 1997

August

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Society will be held on Sunday 31 August, at 4 Boyce Street, the home of Mavis and Bill McCarthy. The meeting begins at 11:00 am.

You will find a Nomination Form and Form of Appointment of Proxy enclosed with this Bulletin.

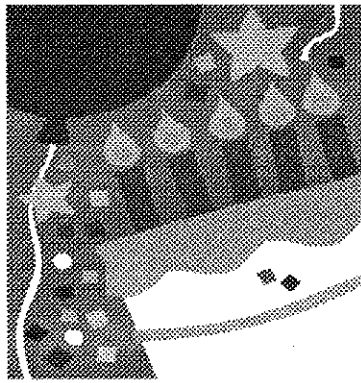
All members of the Society are encouraged to attend the AGM, which gives members an opportunity to hear a summary of the activities of the Glebe Society over the past twelve months, and also to mix with other members socially.

Some of the reports that will be presented at the AGM are included in this Bulletin

## Other Social Activities

The Glebe Society will celebrate its birthday on Saturday 20 September with a Spring Celebration at Benledi, commencing at 7pm for 7:30. A booking form for this event was included in the last Bulletin. Please ring Jeanette Knox for inquires, or to make your booking. (9660 7781)

The cost is \$20 per person, covering pre-dinner nibbles; fish and chips and home-made salads; home-made desserts; wine and juices; coffee.



Join other Glebe Society members for the Society's Birthday Party

## Book Launch

*Leichhardt: On The Margins Of The City*, by Max Solling and Peter Reynolds, will be launched on Thursday 28 August, 1997. The book is a social history of Leichhardt and the former Municipalities of Annandale, Balmain and Glebe.

You can meet the authors and hear them speak about the book and the history of Leichhardt at the various libraries.

- At Glebe Library on Monday 1st September at 6:30 pm
- At Balmain Library on Wednesday 3 September at 6:30 pm
- At Leichhardt Library on Thursday 4 September at 6:30 pm

Books will be on sale and the authors will be signing copies. For further inquiries please phone 9367 9266.

## Inside This Issue

<i>Diggers Memorial Restoration Report</i>	2
<i>Harold Park</i>	2
<i>Bays and Foreshores Report</i>	3
<i>FRROGS Report</i>	4
<i>Annual Planning Report</i>	5
<i>Light Rail Report</i>	6

## *Glebe Diggers' Memorial Restoration Report*

Work on the second (and final) stage of restoration of the Glebe Diggers' Memorial is about to commence. The NSW Heritage Assistance Program provided \$13,800 on a dollar for dollar basis towards completion of stage one. The remainder of the money was donated by local community organisations previously acknowledged and local people. Stage one involved restoration of the whole fabric of the memorial proper, sculpting, moulding and replacement of the busts of the Digger and Sailor (plus the pedestal of one of them). The total cost of the first stage was \$30,180, and the project was enhanced by Leichhardt Council arranging for the memorial to be floodlit at night.

Stage two of the restoration work involves:

- a Casting a new Angel in artificial marble;
- b Restoration of the interior of the memorial and marble name plates;
- c Cleaning and repointing the lamp stands;
- d Cleaning and repointing the memorial foundation stone and fountain.

An additional item, re-decoration of the orb on the summit, is also to be undertaken when there are sufficient funds.

In 1996 the Committee received news of a dollar for dollar grant of up to \$6,000 under the NSW Heritage Assistance Program towards stage two of the project, and \$6,000 has now been donated so we can avail ourselves of the total amount of the grant. Kris Krawczyk of Traditional Stonemasonry Co. has indicated that items (a) and (b) above will be completed by late August 1997, and the other work finished a little later.

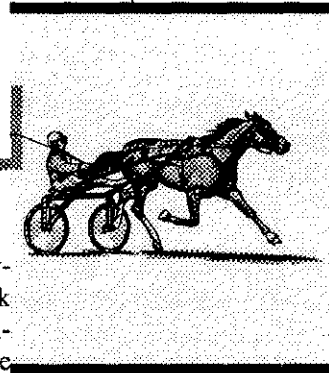
This restoration project could not have succeeded without the generous support of Leichhardt Council, The Glebe Society, The Glebe Chamber of Commerce, the 55/53 Battalion Association, the

Leichhardt-Lilyfield RSL Sub-Branch and other organisations together with countless people from Glebe and elsewhere. Thank you all very much.

When the restoration work is completed it is intended to hold a ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

**Max Solling**

### *Harold Park*



The matter of the return of greyhound racing to Harold Park and the possible, repeat possible, loss of the proposed Glebe Hockey Club ground is still unresolved.

I have been assured by our local State Member, Ms Sandra Nori MP, that she has been extremely busy behind the scenes to make some sense out of the matter. Three Ministers are involved and Sandra has told me that the interests of Glebe are her primary concern.

The gaming industry has a great deal of power behind it. Our small suburb (13,650) population) contains both Harold Park and Wentworth Park. I doubt that any suburb in Australia has such a concentration of pace/raceways.

I believe that the issue should be left to the politicians, because The Glebe Society has negligible influence in this matter, unfortunate as that may be.

I wish the managements of the two Clubs concerned were more forthcoming, but there seems to be much secrecy about possible developments. As they say in Italian, "Chi Sa?" (Who knows) I'll leave it at that.

**John Hoddinott**

## *Bays and Foreshores Report*

As the work of this sub-committee seemed to have lapsed during the previous year there was some catching up to do. Fortunately Marianne von Knobelsdorff was available to bring me up to date and make some valuable suggestions as to who to contact.



On receiving a copy of the policy, which was devised before the new Glebe Island Bridge was built and before the Sydney University Women's rowing Club had taken over the lease of the boathouse from the Glebe Rowing Club, it was obvious that the first thing that had to be done was to revise the old policy.

This was done at a series of meetings involving our President and Secretary together with Andrew Wood, Marianne, John Buckingham (on whose computer the original policy had been saved) and myself. Some suggestions from other members of the Management Committee were accepted, the whole edited to a more convenient size and copies distributed to members with the Bulletin.

No sooner had this been done when the problem arose of the first practical application of this policy. The Glebe Chamber of Commerce proposed that the ferry service that used to operate from the end of Glebe Point Road would be revived and instituted a survey seeking the responses of residents to questions relevant to the operation of such a service.

On the whole the response to this survey was very positive, as would be expected from residents of a suburb which is inadequately served by public transport, but the support of The Glebe Society for a ferry service must be qualified by two considerations:

- a The amenity of both Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays must be preserved for

recreational use, including rowing and canoeing by the Sydney University women and a possible revival of the old Glebe Rowing Club.

- b Any parking problems arising from a possible increase of motor traffic in Glebe should be adequately dealt with. This will need to be done as part of a broader policy on traffic in Glebe, with greater emphasis on stricter supervision of parking regulations.

The introduction of light rail should take some of the pressure off the buses and encourage people to use public transport rather than continue to pollute the atmosphere by driving their cars. However, with the population of the inner suburbs expected to increase we will eventually need to revive the ferry service.

Matilda Cruises have expressed an interest in running a ferry service between Glebe and the CBD and when the time comes for them to request the approval of various interested authorities The Glebe Society will be able to make a submission stating our point of view.

It has also been my privilege to represent the Glebe Society on the Sydney Harbour Bays and Foreshores Committee, a report on which appeared in the last Bulletin.

**Ian Edwards**

## FRROGS REPORT

The FRROGs group had continued to work towards the preparation and eventual undertaking of a revegetation strategy for the Orphan School Creek Gully (OSCG).

Late in 1996, we achieved our fundraising target of \$3,000 to pay for the preparation of a revegetation strategy by Ms Danie Ondinea and the National Trust. Sources included the Australian Bird Environment Foundation (\$1,500), Community Funding from Leichhardt Municipal Council (\$1,000), Glebe Chamber of Commerce (\$300), raffle tickets at the Glebe Street Fair (\$350).

We expect that, once boundary lines are clearly defined and some of our input into the rezoning of the Children's Hospital site has had an impact, that we may be able to proceed with the presentation of our revegetation strategy.

We have continued our public meetings, with guest speakers invited at regular intervals. Some of these have been Robyn Sim (Sydney Water), Bruce Lay (Strategic Planner in Leichhardt Council), Arthur White (Frog and Tadpole Study Group), Dr Glen Shea (reptile expert from the University of Sydney), Peter Jensen (Greening Australia), Lila Contzui (Strategic Planner, South Sydney City Council), Mark Robinson (bird watcher and habitat management expert). Our next speaker will be Ms Judie Christie, updating us on the results of 6 months' planned bird watching in the Gully, and with a bird call quiz (August 11, 7.30 pm, Glebe Town Hall).

A hardworking core of FRROGs has devoted many hours to monthly working bees to keep the Gully relatively clear of rubbish, to revegetate an embankment in Foss Street (with practical support from Leichhardt Municipal Council) and to keep weeds down in some areas of the Gully. Occasionally, workshops (bird

watching and lizard identification) have been held in lieu of working bees.

During April, May and June, we spent considerable time with invaluable support from other FRROGs preparing a submission on South Sydney City Council's draft rezoning plan for the Camperdown Children's Hospital site. We also sent a letter to the Department of Health requesting that they give over the Gully embankment owned by the Department as a legacy to the people of this area. We await their response with interest!

We have established a healthy working relationship with Leichhardt Council who, for the most part, share our vision for a revegetation strategy aimed at encouraging and increasing native birds and facilitating their movement in the urban area. Our bird and lizard surveys have reminded us to take heed of the less visible inhabitants of the Gully, and reinforce our belief that work carried out on the Gully must be organised so as to minimise adverse impact on current habitat. Principles of bio-diversity and bush revegetation weeding techniques will guide us in carrying out the revegetation strategy.

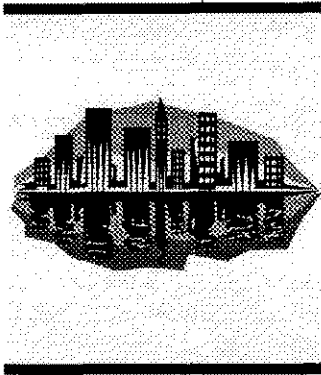
Earlier this year, Totally Wild filmed a segment on the work of FRROGs, involving Forest Lodge primary students. This has not gone to air to our knowledge.

On a different note, Martin Wesley Smith, a well-known Sydney composer, has kindly agreed to write a composition for the OSCG and, if funding can be found, this will be performed as part of Glebe Week (14 September) in the Gully (weather permitting) or in St John's Hall (in case of rain). More details on this exciting development closer to the time.



## *Annual Planning Report*

It is difficult to describe the year, perhaps two steps forward, one step back. In no particular order of importance, I'll start with the 461/463/465 Glebe Point Road sites. I have heard nothing in the last three months about progress. The meetings held between interested groups plus



the owner and Council did manage to define the future of the area as either "as is" or rezone all three for residential, these being the two official options of the owner. I believe the latter is more likely, but the matter lies essentially between the owner and Council, although the public will be able to comment during the (possible) rezoning and planning process. The advantages from a residential development would probably be the on-land waterfront walkway, although the Glebe Society opposes an associated marina, plus on-site parking. The disadvantages would be the loss of a cafe with a wonderful view, which seems to be the primary complaint, plus work space loss for the tenants. But I remind members that the current usage of the site does not fit the site's zoning, that is for 456. I hope that something will have been resolved by this time next year.

Another major site is John Fletcher's, Forsyth St, Taylor St and Ferry Rd. Again I have no news since the last Bulletin. This site is probably less controversial than the one above, and the owners have promised a waterfront walkway. The local residents are worried about the proposed building heights and traffic generation, both serious issues. However, the development will be controlled by Leichhardt Council's Town Plan rules. There is also the suggestion that there may be a loss of views for some residents. Unfortunately this "consideration" is not built into the Town Plan (as far as I know) and is not an issue if it ever arrives at the Land and Environment Court As Lennie Lower said

several decades ago "Such is life", and until the rules and regulations are changed, that's the way it is.

A major site, the old Woolworth's site bounded by Hereford Street, Ross Street and Wigram Lane has been completed. The Glebe Society made submissions regarding the overall density and after mediation meetings the developers agreed to a small reduction in the number of units/town houses. There has been a significant contribution to public open space.

Two adjacent sites in Hereford Street should be mentioned. The old "farmhouse" at no 75 has had a DA which I believe Council has refused and requested a new plan. A Society member mentioned to me that the old house, set well away from the street front, has been entered, and does not seem to be secured. I hope that it will not become another demolition by neglect.

Next door is the Army Medical Drill

## *FRROGS REPORT*

*(Continued from page 4)*

We welcome participation, interest and support in our endeavours to protect and increase urban native wildlife. Monthly meetings : 7.30 pm Glebe Town Hall, back entrance, 2nd Monday of every month. Contact Roberta (9552 3248) or Anne (9660 4393) to confirm meeting details or for further information.

We are pleased to be a part of the Glebe Society and look forward to continuing this association.

**Roberta Johnston**

## Annual Planning Report, continued

(Continued from page 5)

Hall, which the Commonwealth Government has decided to sell. This decision was announced in the last Federal Budget. Recently the likely plans for the site were on display at the Hall with representatives from the architects and a member of Council's Planning department. Some, but not all, local residents were opposed to the two possible ideas. In the case of these two sites, Leichhardt Council has no ownership rights, simply rezoning regulation. The usual call for public open space for, say, the Army site is unrealistic. Council would have to find the funds. I have no idea what the cost of buying the site might be, but it would mean a significant increase in rates.

The call for open space, in my view, simply often means "no more people in Glebe" and as I have said before the Glebe Society does not have the right to pull up the drawbridge and declare it an immigrant-free zone. Glebe is not a nation state. We who live here are fortunate but we have no right to refuse that possibility to others, within the rules of Leichhardt Council's planning regulations. Unless these latter are changed markedly the number of potential new Glebe residents is limited. I think that we must be realistic in issues such as planning, making objections when something seems grossly wrong or which runs counter to the well-being of Glebe. I hope members agree and accept the reality of this viewpoint.

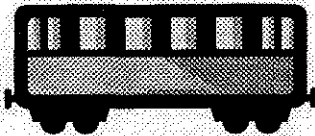
A final thought. I read in *The Sydney Morning Herald* an article which suggested the possibility of a needle-exchange facility in Glebe. The journalist mentioned that post-NIMBY, the new syndrome was called BANANA - Build Almost Nothing Anewhere Near Anthing. I hope Glebe isn't full of

## Light Rail Report

### The Trams are Back

About 80 members and friends were at Wentworth Park on Friday, 8 August, to welcome back the trams. The Society's "preview" trip on the Sydney Light Rail system was a social and fund raising success, making a profit of \$605, part of which will be put towards the restoration of the Diggers' Memorial.

Cameras and tripods very much in evidence, and the tram stopped at Casino and Central to pose for photos. As it glided around the bend towards the old Pymont Bridge, the darkened cabin was suddenly filled with a collective "ooh!" as the city lights came into view, and the route through Chinatown prompted suggestions of Sunday excursions for dim sum.



The modern cars have little in common with their predecessors which were last seen in Glebe in 1958. They are sleek, quiet and comfortable, and their smooth motion is a welcome contrast to the 431's lurching progress along Broadway. Their low steps make them easy to board.

Judy and Phil Vergison gave the evening an historical flavour by producing a four-page historical summary of the tram and heavy rail lines in the area, and by arranging for Col Gilbertson to don his old-time conductor's uniform and act as "clippie" for the evening. Col, who is a member of the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus, also made his hat available for the lucky ticket draw.

A limited light rail service began from Wentworth Park to Central on the following Monday (11 August) at a cost of \$2.80 single (\$4.40 return) - not very competitive given the remoteness of Wentworth Park for most Glebe residents, and the cost compared with a Travel Ten

Travel Ten bus fare from GPR/Bridge Road to the Queen Victoria Building of about 85 cents.

The official launch of the service is scheduled for Sunday, 31 August, and will be marked with celebrations at all stops and free rides.

The Society wishes to thank TNT, and in particular Ben Pollock of the company's marketing department (and a Glebe resident), for making the evening possible.

**Proposed Light Rail Extension to Glebe** Community consultation as part of the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed extension of the light rail system to Circular Quay and Lilyfield has begun with meetings at Leichhardt Town Hall (5 August) and in the City (7 August). John Hoddinott also hosted a meeting with the EIS consultants on behalf of the Society.

Little new information emerged at these meetings. The situation with regard to a stop in Glebe Point Road is unchanged. Everyone stresses that the Society's views will be taken into account, but officials also point to the high cost of an underground stop. An alternative which was briefly canvassed at the Leichhardt meeting was access from GPR to the currently proposed stop at the Wentworth Park end of the Glebe tunnel - possibly by a moving footway.

Sandra Nori drew attention to the opposition from some Pitt Street retailers to the city loop and encouraged Inner West residents to make their voice heard. According to a Society member who attended, the City meeting also was generally favourable to the proposal. However the Pitt Street lobby has hired professional help to represent its case, and it seems likely that if the City loop does not go ahead the western extension may not be viable.

The possibility of a further western extension (currently scheduled for Stage 3) was raised by several people. The decision to

terminate the proposed State 2 at Catherine Street rather than Marion Street, near Leichhardt Shopping Town, is a convenient engineering solution as it defers the issues involved in sharing the permanent way with goods trains from the Rozelle goods yard. As with the GPR stop, cost and engineering have been given a higher priority than community needs.

Other matters discussed at the Leichhardt meeting included the location of other stops, parking, traffic and noise. The meeting was generally supportive of the proposal with only detail under debate.

The Society will take up a number of these issues in a submission to the EIS team.

**Bruce Davis**

## *Annual Aircraft & Glebe Report*

The Glebe Society submitted to the long term operating plans for KSA; received guidelines for the EIS on Hosworthy and Badgerys Creek; wrote letters to politicians and sent copies to other politicians; received a copy of Sydney Airports (Regulation of Movements) Bill 1996 and put a series of questions to the Federal Minister for Transport.

It seems that communities all round Sydney are now divided about the future of a second airport for Sydney. It is 7 years since Badgerys Creek should have been built. The Society has been active in the debate since 1989. It's a long time and the Society can have credit for all the work it has done for so little return thus far.

**Alison McKeown**

## For Your Diary

**Sunday 31 August, 11am** - The Glebe Society AGM,  
4 Boyce Street

**Saturday 20 September, 7.00 for 7.30 pm** - Glebe Society  
Birthday celebration at Benledi.

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1, 3, 4 September** - book  
launch at libraries for *Leichhardt: on the Margins of the City*

<b>THE GLEBE SOCIETY Inc Management Committee</b>	<b>Convenors of Sub-Committees</b>
<b>President</b> Mavis McCarthy 9660 5119	All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee
<b>Senior Vice President</b> Vacant	<b>Aircraft</b> Alison McKeown 9660 3917
<b>Junior Vice President</b> Cynthia Jones 9660 2451	<b>Bays &amp; Foreshores</b> Ian Edwards 9660 3240 (BH)
<b>Immediate Past President</b> David Browne 9660 0865	<b>Children &amp; Glebe</b> Penny Haskins 9566 4450
<b>Secretary</b> Jeanette Knox 9660 7781	<b>Diggers' Memorial</b> Max Solling 9660 1160
<b>Treasurer</b> John Sleeman 9692 9507	<b>Environment</b> Jan Wilson 9660 2698
<b>Committee</b> Marianne von Knobelsdorff 9692 0916 Christine Whittemore 9600 7969 Helen Griffiths 9660 5548 Christine Newton 9660 8349	<b>FRROGS</b> Roberta Johnston 9552 3248
<b>Contacts</b> Bulletin Editor: Jan Macindoe 9660 0208 Membership List: Penny Haskins 9566 4450 New Members: Helen Griffiths 9660 5548 Archivist Lyn Milton 9660 7930	<b>Light Rail</b> Bruce Davis 9660 7873  <b>Planning &amp; Harold Park</b> John Hoddinott 9692 0071 9518 9218 (fax)  <b>Traffic</b> Jeanette Knox 9660 7781  <b>Wentworth Park</b> 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 9660 7781