



The

GLEBE SOCIETY

Bulletin

6/99 July/August

A publication of THE GLEBE SOCIETY Inc Box 100 Post Office Glebe NSW 2037 Australia

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of The Glebe Society Incorporated will be held at 11 am on Sunday 29 August at 36 Toxteth Road.

For agenda and reports, see the blue AGM lift out in this Bulletin.

Enclosed is a form for nomination to the Management Committee of the Society. Forms must be returned by 22 August.

Membership of the Society runs from July to June each year; if your membership has not yet been renewed, a form is enclosed for this purpose.

FORESHORE WALK AND CYCLE WAY

A continuous walk and cycle way from
Bicentennial Park to the city.

(for more detail see Project Team Report, p5)

Initial Objectives

- To gain access to Glebe High School foreshore land and have it integrated as part of the walkway by December 2000.
- To obtain legal agreement for public access to The Anchorage land by July 2001. (The Anchorage is the large apartment block next to the Blackwattle Studios at 451 Glebe Point Road.)
- To ensure that the master plan for the Bridge Road section of the walk incorporates both cycle and foot access.

Five key strategies have been identified for action in the short term:

- To develop a walking guide for launch in Glebe Week 1999 to increase the number of people currently accessing the existing walkways, and to highlight the obstructions to accessing a continuous waterfront pathway;
- To research the current land tenure of affected properties, and be well informed on obligations and any future directions proposed by the key stakeholders (government and private landowners);
- To influence the master plan for the Pioneer site and Bridge Road access;
- To work with Glebe High School to meet any concerns to maintain student safety caused by public access, and to manage public access to the site over each 24 hour period, with a direct link to Bridge Road;
- To accelerate the process of acquiring legal access over private land which is currently blocking a continuous walkway (eg, The Anchorage at --- Glebe Point Road).

Next Step →→

There will be a further meeting to confirm the strategies and action plans. Anyone interested in joining the Project Team is very welcome. Contact Judy Vergison on 9692. 9200.

HIGHLIGHTS from the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING



14 July 1999

Cultural Planning:

The Committee welcomed the work being done to improve the cultural life of Glebe by Anne Martin, Leichhardt Council's Cultural Planner, who addressed the meeting. [A report on Cultural Planning will appear in next month's *Bulletin*.]

Secretary of the Glebe Society:

Nominations are being called for all positions on the Society's Management Committee (a form is enclosed). We particularly ask members to consider nominating for the position of Secretary. This is an interesting position, and a very good way of finding out what is happening in the community. The work could be undertaken by two members, one acting as Minutes Secretary and one as Correspondence Secretary. If you can help, please ring Christine on 9660.8324.

National Community Link Awards:

Awards are being offered in areas such as heritage, conservation and the environment; our sub-committees are looking at the possibility of applying. The maximum single award is \$15,000 [see Notice Board].

Life Membership:

Honorary life membership is offered to those members who have contributed significantly to the Society's work. We were very pleased at the last meeting to offer Andrew Wood honorary life membership for his contributions as President, as Treasurer, for his work on Light Rail, House Inspections, and the Glebe Music Festival. Andrew has recently resigned from the University of Sydney to take up a professorial position in the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Progressive Dinner:

The Dinner this year will celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Glebe Society. It is now fully booked; if you missed out, we advise making an early reservation next year!

Landscaping at 'City Quarter':

Roberta Johnson reported that FRROGs have been given a copy of the revised landscape plan prepared for the developers, Sterling Estates, which does include natives trees and shrubs to attract birds as requested; they have yet to consider the plan in detail. ['City Quarter' is the name given to the residential development to be built on the former Children's Hospital site.]

Litter in Glebe:

Our active Clean up Glebe Project Team is pleased to note that Leichhardt Council has held two workshops to look at the problems of graffiti in Glebe. [see full report p5].

DECISION DAY ON BADGERY'S CREEK IS FAST APPROACHING

It is strongly recommended that the Society's members write or fax members of Parliament regarding a decision on Badgerys Creek Airport. Relevant information can be found in the Aircraft report in the blue AGM lift out section included with this Bulletin. Suggested parliamentarians are:

Hon J Howard MP, Prime Minister	fax: 02 6273. 4100
Hon J Anderson MP, Minister for Transport	02 6273. 4126
Senator the Hon R Hill, Minister for the Environment	02 6277. 3387
Hon M Vaile MP, Minister for Trade	02 6273. 4120
Hon D Williams MP, Attorney-General	02 6273. 4102
Hon J Fahey MP, Minister for Finance	02 6273. 4110
Hon A Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs	02 6273. 4112
Hon P Costello MP, Treasurer	02 6273. 3420
Hon D Kemp MP, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister and Vice-President of the Executive Council	02 6273. 4117
Hon K Beazley MP, Leader of the Opposition	02 6277. 8495

The complete list of Federal Members of Parliament is available on the Internet at: <<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mplist.htm>> The postal address for all Federal parliamentarians is: Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. You could phone the NSW office of MPs and Senators (check the phone book for phone numbers) and suggest to friends that they take action on this issue. Please ring 9660. 3917 (ah) if I can assist with any information.

Alison McKeown

**"It's an amazing, vital and unique amenity
that the people of Glebe are losing."**

THE BLACKWATTLE STUDIOS

As many residents of Glebe will no doubt be aware, the suburb is soon to lose The Blackwattle Studios at the end of Glebe Point Road, which is to be redeveloped as apartments. (See *Bulletin* 1/99, p1 for a discussion of the proposed development.) But what people may not realise is the unique community of creative talent that will disappear.

The Studios have provided relatively cheap accommodation for a host of artists, craftspeople and small businesses for a couple of decades. Originally a timber yard, for many years the two waterfront corrugated iron and fibro buildings were virtually deserted. People rented bays for storage and squatters took over the rest.

Some time later, artists began to trickle in and set up studios. Slowly the place began to be tidied up and although not all tenants appreciated the change, others say that it became a more vital and productive workspace. Most first-time visitors are struck by a bohemian nature which gives The Studios its charm.

At present there are approximately 19 artists, sculptors and craftspeople (including a weaver, a tapestry artist and jeweller) working from studios within the complex. Other tenants include two galleries (one, Point Light, is devoted to photography), three photographers, eight designers (graphic, textile and lighting), 13 architects (including two landscape architects), 12 furniture makers and/or restorers, five framers (of art and mirrors), four writers and editors, three conservators (of art, works on paper and ceramics/glass

respectively), four computer software designers, two communications/desktop publishing businesses, three production companies (of video, music and film respectively), seven small import/export manufacturing businesses, one boat builder and one parquetry floor designer-maker.

There are also two workshops offering classes in art and mosaic-making and, of course, a very good cafe which recently scored a mention in the 'Good Living' supplement of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The occupations of a further 15 tenants were unknown at the time that the Society made its inventory with the help of Studio Manager John Fink.

As long-time tenant Tony Chadwick, an art restorer and artist in his own right, said, "It's an amazing, vital and unique amenity that the people of Glebe are losing."

Anne Martin, Leichhardt Council's Cultural Planner, speaking to the Heritage Committee prior to The Society's July Management Committee meeting, expressed dismay about the loss of the Studios. Although several sites within the suburb have been identified as possible replacements, realistically she doesn't think that Council will be able to offer the displaced tenants any other similar accommodation for two or three years.

Hopefully, if and when such a facility gets off the ground, we will be able to lure back those artists and artisans which Glebe is about to lose.

Jenna Reed Burns

TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF THE GLEBE ESTATE

Mr Joe Mannix has been working on The Glebe Estate 1789-1999 Historical Project for the last nine months. With the help of a small sub-Committee he has organised the following:

**Ecumenical and Thanksgiving Service
at St. John's Bishopthorpe Anglican Church
Glebe Point Road
Sunday 29 August 1999
commencing at 11 am**

The Glebe Estate Community Church, the Uniting Church, St. James Catholic Church and, of course, St. John's Bishopthorpe are represented on the Committee, and will be attending the Service. A choir and a guard of honour is being arranged, and it is hoped that the guests will include Tom Uren, the Father of the Glebe Estate, Tanya Plibersek, Federal Member for Sydney, and the Mayor of Leichhardt Kris Cruden. At the conclusion of the service a barbecue (gold coin donation) will be held in the grounds of the church, and all public and private residents of Glebe are warmly invited.

For further information about this historic event, contact Joe Mannix: phone: 9518. 7531.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This week, I have been attending an industry conference in Melbourne. Some 500 or more people were there. The conference dinner on Tuesday night, took place in the huge ballroom of the Regent Theatre, which has the decor of a mediaeval banquet hall. I found myself sitting next to a senior executive who works for one of the banks. He told me he has six children aged between 13 years and 18 months. At home he has a pianola, which they gather round from time to time, to sing. He said he can't sing himself, but they have a great time. It struck me that those children will grow up with those times as a special memory.

On the following day, we heard a talk from Peter Ritchie, Chairman and formerly Chief Executive Officer of McDonalds in Australia. He spoke movingly about an occasion when his daughter was in the school play, aged about 11. He couldn't go because he had an important meeting. He did arrange for someone to go along and take a video. His daughter actually had the lead role. When he saw the video, he realised how great she was, but more than that, he realised that no meeting matters more than being there for your children, especially on occasions such as that.

Peter Ritchie's theme was the need to prepare our young people for leadership, whether in the private or government sector, and that it starts with parents, particularly fathers, needing to do a better job than he (and, for that matter, I) did. He went on to give his view that the key to leadership is communication and skills in personal relationships, and the enormous value of training in these areas. I could not agree more.

The Glebe Society is a community organization. We provide leadership for the community on the matters we are interested in, such as access to the foreshore, rubbish, transport and the environment, which are important to the quality of life of the community.

I believe it is salutary to remember that at the heart of the kind of leadership we provide is communication. That is, listening to the community as much as initiating and promoting our own ideas; constantly communicating with those authorities and organisations whose decisions affect us all; increasingly using the Internet; publishing through the *Bulletin*.

I think we haven't done a bad job, as communicators, over the years. I believe it is worth thinking about how we could do even better.



Russell Stewart

FROM COUNCILLOR MACINDOE

The Witches' Houses

These three remaining houses, together with the Abbey, dominate the Annandale skyline when viewed from much of Glebe, and also from the new Anzac Bridge and its approaches. Together with the Hunter Baillie Church, they and their spires are the most prominent elements of Johnston St. One of the houses lacks its spire, and the spire on 260, "Kenilworth", which was the home of Sir Henry Parkes, the Father of Federation, in his declining years, has been damaged by lightning.

The Glebe Society played a major role in the preservation of the witches' houses. A letter written by the co-founder of The Society, Professor Bernard Smith, was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 21 April 1970, and attracted wide attention. It stated, inter alia, that:

"In his pioneering survey of Victorian architecture in Sydney, Morton Herman chose these houses as one of seven representative examples of Sydney domestic architecture in the 1870s. Since then, one of these houses has been demolished. If we lose the remainder we shall lose ... irreplaceable examples of the nation's architecture. They must be preserved.

... Of course there is a need for the planned development of apartment dwellings in the Leichhardt municipality, but not at the expense of its unique buildings."

The campaign to save the houses, the major works of John Young, who laid out much of Annandale in accordance with the plan of the Glebe architect, Ferdinand Reuss in the 1870s, also led to the founding of the Annandale Association, now, alas, defunct.

A previous development application apparently led to some interior restoration of "Kenilworth", and now a new development application proposes a number of townhouses at the rear, presumably in order to fund restoration of the exterior and spire. "Kenilworth" enjoys a section 130 Order, preventing demolition, from the NSW Heritage Council.

Experience with sites in Glebe leads me to the view that developments should not be allowed to proceed until satisfactory restoration is complete. I know this sounds severe, and no doubt applicants may protest they are in good faith, but the risks are too great. Once their new development is complete, it is not uncommon for applicants to decide they are unable to carry out conservation works.

The plans and model can be viewed at Council; submissions will be considered until 31 August.

Neil Macindoe

OUR PROJECT TEAMS REPORT:

CLEAN UP GLEBE

Since the Society's Clean Up Glebe Project Team established its initial course of action, as outlined in the *Bulletin* 4/99, some progress has been made. In fact, the report in that *Bulletin* prompted the local newspaper, *The Glebe and Inner Western Weekly*, to run a page-three story on 23 June about the litter problem in Glebe.

The Team's letter to Council seeking information regarding their policies on street cleaning, garbage regulations, etc., was answered in detail by Jeff Swilks, Council's Manager of Works and Waste Services. Mr Swilks informed us that although penalties are in place for littering and dumping, no infringement notices have been issued since the new garbage service commenced in August last year. However 1300 warning notices have been issued to residents who have been caught or reported dumping rubbish. Should a resident reoffend, then an infringement notice will be issued.

Two Waste Inspectors employed by Council are also continuing to collect and examine bags of dumped rubbish. They are focussing their attentions on Glebe, which has an incidence of dumped rubbish four times higher than that of any other suburb in the Leichhardt municipality. All bags have been checked for evidence, but unfortunately none have contained sufficient information to allow a legal prosecution to proceed.

The Team has also been in contact with Council's Manager of Parks and Streetscapes, Vince Cusumano, and the team members — Jenna Reed Burns, Cynthia Jones, Mavis McCarthy and Philip Reed — will soon meet with both Council officers to discuss possible solutions in more detail.

The Team wrote to both the Commonwealth and Westpac banks in May regarding the problem of discarded ATM slips outside both Glebe Point Road branches. A heartening reply was received from the Commonwealth Bank's Manager of Sales Support for the Newtown Area, Mr Stephen Scott, which detailed steps which his staff would take to limit the problem. This includes ordering larger bins for the correct disposal of the slips, and requesting that that Service Team clean up outside the bank over the weekend. To date no reply has been received from Westpac.

Jenna Reed Burns

FORESHORE WALK AND CYCLE WAY

The idea of a Foreshore Walk and Cycleway from Bicentennial Park to the city has been around for some time, and relevant state and local government bodies have shown interest. It was a major topic at the Society's Strategic Planning sessions held last year, and a Project Team was formed to find practical means of turning the idea into a reality. However, early in 1999 Glebe Society member Jeanette Knox took an initiative after attending a meeting called to discuss the advisability and consequences of promoting tourism in Glebe.

She felt that if more tourists were likely to come to Glebe, it would be a good thing if they were encouraged to walk and cycle around the area. Current debate in Council about the development of the 461-5 Glebe Point Road site and the future of 'Bellevue' in Blackwattle Bay Park will also affect the nature of public foreshore access. With this in mind Jeanette wrote to the Society's President, the Chamber of Commerce and Councillor Neil Macindoe suggesting a meeting to take the matter further. It was agreed that even without full access to the foreshores it would be desirable to start as soon as possible to promote a foreshore walk from Annandale as far as the Fish Markets. Two meetings of the Project Team have since been held.

Project objectives and key strategies [see p1] were determined at the first meeting, and action plans are currently being confirmed. On 10 July the Project Team and representatives from Leichhardt Council, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce, and a waterfront industry lessee met to discuss the various issues associated with the project. Bruce Lay from Council provided an excellent overview of the land tenure and some key project issues, including the Glebe Island Bridge, the extension of the Pioneer Concrete (NSW) lease, and any proposed waterfront developments. The group then walked the proposed route and considered places of interest, such as the Walter Burley Griffin incinerator and the coal unloader.

The land tenure is a complicated issue and Council will provide detailed maps which clearly outline the intricacies which impact on public access to private land, Council land and Crown land. We were told that Pioneer may seek an extension of their current lease for a few years to offset recent and significant capital improvements. It was also suggested that there are risks of damage to Glebe Island bridge which was not designed to be open for extended periods; it was reported that damage occurred when the Bridge was recently hit by a ship.

There was strong support to fast-track public access to a number of areas in the next 12 months. Walking the proposed route, which is scenic with long stretches of city skyline and water views, confirmed that there are sufficient points of interest on the route which are unique to Glebe.

Judy Vergison

Notice Board

Children's Bookweek from 21 - 28 August
WEAVE THE BOOK WEB is this year's theme.

During the month of August we will have a fabulous display to celebrate Bookweek 1999 - also some fun competitions for kids to enter.

Ring the library for more details 9367. 9262.

To Celebrate the Year of the Older Person

Wesley Mission's RJ Williams Lodge in Glebe, home to 82 residents, will this year hold its first art exhibition.

Home A way fr om Home

at the Glebe Library and
Café Palette, 39 Glebe Point Road

It is a fund raising event and local and professional artists will donate a percentage of their sales to support the important Year of the Older Person.

The official opening is at the Glebe Library on 4 August from 6 - 8 pm and the Exhibition will be on display from the 4 - 27 August.

Come celebrate and enjoy this important event.
The contact person for further information is:

Catherine Telford: phone 9660.0177

NATIONAL COMMUNITYLINK AWARDS

The Australian Conservation Foundation has advised us of this scheme which is open to not-for-profit community groups who are active in their local community, and who have undertaken a volunteer-based programme or project.

Further information about the Awards, or the overall National CommunityLink programme can be obtained from freecall 1800 807 121.

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in this Bulletin are not necessarily those of The Glebe Society Inc.

Glebe Estate Community Church ANNUAL FAIR

Saturday 4 September 9 - 3 pm

at the hall and grounds of the
Church Centre: 37-47 St Johns Rd

Stalls include:

clothing
Aboriginal arts and crafts
white elephant
cakes and jams
books
kitchenware, etc.

Special Attractions:

Devonshire teas, sausage sizzles
and entertainment

**The Church extends a warm
invitation to all**

Donations of second hand
'goodies' of all sorts welcomed.

**Contact: Rev. John Connor 9569. 1365
or Thirza Mitchell 9660. 2860**

HOUSE HISTORY SEMINAR Wednesday 18 August from 11 - 1pm Benledi meeting room.

An introduction to the ways in which people can trace the history of their own house. Pick up hints on research methods and see examples of the range of resources which will assist your research. Cost is \$15 per person. Bookings are essential and must be made and paid for by 16 August.

**For further information
ring Margaret or Ellen on 9367. 9266**

GRANDPARENTS' STORYTIME AT GLEBE LIBRARY 24 August at 11 am

An invitation to grandparents and older friends to bring your favourite person to storytime.

AIRPORT COMPLAINTS LINE 9582. 1850 - 24 hours

Complaints about noise, safety and other aviation issues of concern can be logged on to this number.

For Your Diary ...

Friday	30 July	Blackwattle Bay Park Management Plan Closing date for submissions - see Bulletin 4/99 pp4, 6.
Saturday	31 July	Glebe Society 30th Anniversary 'Progressive' Dinner 7.00 pm starting at the McCarthys at 1 Avon Road
Wednesday	4 August	Home Away from Home - Art Exhibition runs to 27 August 6 - 8 pm Official Opening at Glebe Library - see Notice Board
Wednesday	11 August	Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Toxteth Hotel Meeting Room
Wednesday	11 August	Nominations for local council elections close - 5pm see Bulletin 5/99, p5
Wednesday	18 August	House History Seminar at Benledi Meeting Room 11 - 1 pm bookings essential, see Notice Board
Saturday	21 August	Children's Book Week begins - see Notice Board
Tuesday	24 August	Grandparents Storytime at Glebe Library 11 am - see Notice Board
Tuesday	24 August	... Bulletin copy deadline ...
Sunday	29 August	Glebe Society Annual General Meeting 11 am 36 Toxteth Road - see blue lift-out
Sunday	29 August	The Glebe Estate 25 Anniversary Celebrations 11 am at St. John's Bishopthorpe, see p3

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday	4 September	Glebe Estate Community Church Annual Fair 9 - 3 pm - see Notice Board
Wednesday	8 September	Hear the Latest on Light Rail - see AGM liftout p4

THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President

Russell Stewart phone: 9660. 8324
fax: 9660. 6582

Senior Vice-President

Jennifer Reed Burns 9692. 9369

Junior Vice-President

Cynthia Jones 9660. 2451

Immediate Past President

Mavis McCarthy 9660. 5119

Secretary

Christine Stewart 9660. 8324

Treasurer

Andrew Wood 9660. 2194

Committee Members

John Cody 9692. 9384

Ted McKeown 9660. 3917

Christine Newton 9660. 8349

Marianne von Knobelsdorff 9692. 0916

CONTACTS:

Archivist Lyn Milton 9660. 7930

Historian Max Solling 9660. 1160

Membership List John Sleeman 9692. 9507

Bulletin Editor Bobbie Burke 9692. 0343

**Assistant Editor and
New Members** Cynthia Jones 9660. 2451



All convenors are *ex-officio* members
of the Management Committee

SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

Aircraft Alison McKeown 9660. 3917

Bays and Foreshores Ian Edwards
(BH) 9660. 3240

Environment Christine Whittemore 9660. 7969

FRROGs Roberta Johnston 9552. 3248

Light Rail Bruce Davis 9660. 7873

Planning John Hoddinott phone: 9692. 0071
fax: 9518. 9218

Traffic Jeanette Knox 9660. 7781

Wentworth Park Judy Vergison 9692. 9200

All correspondence should be
addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
Box 100 PO Glebe 2037

in this issue:

- **Annual General Meeting lift-out**
- **Plans for a Foreshore Walk and Cycle Way, pp1, 5**
- **The Blackwattle Studios, p3**
- **A celebration of 25 years of The Glebe Estate, p3**

****If there is a renewal notice included with this Bulletin, your subscription is NOW DUE!**

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc

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Ordinary	\$30
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Student/Pensioner	\$15
Institution	\$30

Write to Box 100 PO Glebe 2037
or phone Jeanette Knox 9660. 7781

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please ring the Secretary, Christine Stewart on 9660. 8324, and arrange to come to a meeting.

DEADLINE

for copy for the
next issue of
The Glebe
Society Bulletin
is Tuesday
24 August

Please send to
Box 100 PO,
Glebe,
or 32 Lombard
Street Glebe

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of The Glebe Society Incorporated will be held at 11 am on Sunday 29 August, 1999 at 36 Toxteth Road.

The business to be dealt with at the meeting is as follows:

1. To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 30 August 1998.
2. To receive from the Management Committee a report upon the activities of the Society during the period from 30 August 1998.
3. To elect a new Management Committee.
4. To receive and consider the statement which is required to be submitted to members, pursuant to sub-section 26 (6) of the *Associations Incorporation Act*.
5. To resolve that two members of the Committee be authorised to sign the certificate in clause 10 of the said statement.

Special Business:

To consider the election of Andrew Wood as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

To fulfil the requirements of (2) above, we have published in this AGM issue reports from sub-Committee Convenors in the following areas: Aircraft, Archives, Bays and Foreshores, Environment, and Traffic (an up-to-date report on Light Rail was published in *Bulletin* 5/99). The President's Report will be given at the meeting.

Membership of The Glebe Society runs from July to June each year; for those members who have not yet renewed their membership, a form is enclosed with this Bulletin. Also enclosed is a form of nomination for election to the Management Committee.

All members are invited to the AGM, and all financial members are entitled to vote. At the conclusion of business, light refreshments will be served.

Christine Stewart
Hon. Secretary

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

ARCHIVES

During the year the Archivist has continued the work of arrangement and description of the records already in the custody of the archives. These include:

- general correspondence
- special correspondence files (that is files devoted to a particular topic)
- correspondence with Leichhardt Council
- correspondence with various state government department.

Other records have been sorted prior to the preparation of descriptive documentation. These include a series relating to Leichhardt Council's Local Plans, publications of the Society and some special projects including the Glebe Point Road Project and the Bi-centennial Park.

In order to see that current records of the Society are correctly kept by committee members, guidelines for the creation of maintenance and care of records were prepared and distributed.

The first draft of an application for access to the Society's records has been prepared and discussed, but not yet finalised. This is preparatory to the archives when listed being placed in a public institution such as the local library. There have been a number of requests for access to the records during the year. These have been mainly from town planning students or members of the Society preparing articles for the *Bulletin*.

The archivist is grateful to Councillor Macindoe for making his room at Glebe Town Hall available for archives storage.

Lyn Milton

Annual General Meeting 1

AIRCRAFT AND GLEBE

In the past year the Society wrote a number of letters regarding aviation to the newly-appointed Federal Minister for Transport, the Hon. J. Anderson, MP. In March letters were sent to 16 Federal MPs and Senators regarding Public Works Committee scrutiny of KSA.

The Society made a brief submission in June on the *Preliminary Draft Environment Strategy for Sydney Airport*. We were critical of statements including that KSA "... always considered environmental issues important and this has grown over the years". We then commented on issues, including airport ground-running noise, water pollution and site contamination. Glebe Library's copy of the Strategy was used to prepare the submission.

The Society noted *The Impact of No Second Sydney Airport: A Report to South Sydney Council and other City Councils*, published in June 1999 by the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research in association with the Institute of Sustainable Futures. Points made in this document are as follows:

- If the Federal Government decided not to proceed with a second Sydney airport there would be gridlock on the roads approaching KSA.
- Air pollution would worsen (do we want any more of this?) and the already high cap of 80 movements/hour at KSA would break somewhere between the years 2005 and 2010.
- Noise would escalate; safety problems would escalate; the curfew could not last.
- KSA cannot deliver efficiency and competitiveness. World's best airport practice is not attainable. Opportunities and income are being lost.
- KSA is already operating beyond its optimal capacity.
- High tech. business parks and warehouses are needed beside airports. KSA has one-eighth of the estimated 100 hectares needed. Meanwhile Tullamarine and Brisbane are aggressively pursuing these opportunities.
- The air freight industry is presently outstripping passenger growth. It carries 42% of NSW imports which will double in the next 25 years; air freight export is also rising.

KSA - Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport
EIS - Badgerys Creek Supplementary
Environmental Impact Statement



- Substantial growth is forecast for Sydney's aviation, eg.

passengers	1997	21.3 million
	2021	49.0 million
aircraft movements	1997	276,300
	2021	480,000

[quoted in EIS for Badgerys Creek Airport, see below]

- The estimated cost of not proceeding with a second Sydney airport is \$9.2 - \$11.2 billion.

The *Badgerys Creek Supplementary (final) Environmental Impact Statement* was released. The Society had made a submission to the draft document, so we were sent a copy of the final document and the Auditor's report. The EIS brings us back to the crossroads.

There is opposition to Badgerys Creek Airport, and there are problems, but the alternative – not to proceed – is very serious. There would be terrible excesses at KSA (see above) and the government would have to continue making absurd arrangements for airport expansion. Would a fourth runway at KSA and use of Bankstown (!), Hoxton Park, Camden and Richmond airfields really address the economic and commercial needs of Sydney and NSW? What we can say about the Sydney environment and two commercial airports is that more public transport is needed to reduce air pollution. Vehicles produce 80% of Sydney's air pollution.

The Society has mentioned the lack of feasible information supporting the idea of a single, distant airport for Sydney. The EIS commented:

- 1) there are no international precedents for having an outlying airport primarily accessed by high speed train; and
- 2) most major airports around the world are located within 50kms of the central business district – they need to be close to the markets they serve.

The next task is to contact members of parliament about the airport decision [see this *Bulletin*, p2].

Articles were prepared for the Society's *Bulletin* during the year, and Management Committee meetings attended. Discussions with members helped sort out some facts.

Will there be relief in sight with the Federal Government's decision soon on Badgerys Creek airport? We need to work on it.

Alison McKeown

BAYS AND FORESHORES

Two issues dominated the activities of the Bays and Foreshores sub-Committee during the past year – the possibility of the resumption of a ferry service from Glebe Point to the CBD, and the right of access of pedestrians and cyclists to as much as possible of the foreshores of Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays.

Both Matilda Cruises and Sydney Ferries have expressed an interest in running a service. Problems to be resolved are (1) who is going to pay for the wharf and (2) how can such a service be reconciled with the interests of recreational users of the bays, particularly the Sydney University Women's Rowing Club and the Glebe Rowing Club.

Marianne von Knobelsdorff organised a very enjoyable trip from the Fish Markets to Darling Harbour and Circular Quay and return on one of Matilda's Rocket ferries last September. The ferry project has the support of Leichhardt Council, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce (whose secretary has given a considerable amount of time to researching potential community interest), and the qualified support of The Glebe Society. Ferries are such a pleasant and comparatively non-polluting form of public transport, I feel that it is only a matter of time before a ferry service is restored to Glebe.

The other item of ongoing interest is our campaign for pedestrian access to the foreshores. A continuous walkway around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour is State Government policy, but so is the development of the harbour as a working port, and there will obviously be conflicts of interest and a need to compromise where such conflict occurs. Our local MP and Minister for Tourism and Small Business is well aware of these conflicts and is doing her best to resolve them.

There have been many meetings of stakeholders, and two public meetings in an attempt to produce a Master Plan for Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays, and we have been promised that when a Plan has been drafted it will be displayed in the Glebe Library so that we can all see it and make our submissions on it. There will be some powerful commercial interests trying to influence the outcome, so we will need to make sure that our voice is heard.

Judy Vergison has been an inspiration in organising a campaign to protect our foreshores – recently convening a Saturday morning meeting (which included Council staff members) at the Blackwattle Studios Café which ended with John Giddens acting as host at the Coal Loader (or Unloader, if you want to be pedantic).

I have the feeling that The Glebe Society is coming to life again after a period of relative quiescence. There is much to be done to preserve the amenity of our beloved suburb. It is up to all of us to see that it gets done.

Ian Edwards

ENVIRONMENT

The year has been a busy one and the Management Committee has made some positive additions to the Environment sub-Committee, by recruiting members into Project Teams to promote important issues such as parks maintenance, graffiti, litter and heritage conservation.

We started the year with invitations to informal public discussions over cups of coffee in the cafés in Glebe Point Road and recorded the issues which Glebe Society members and other interested residents were concerned with. Judy Vergison co-ordinated Strategic Planning sessions for similar reasons. Not surprisingly, issues of concern to both residents and Society members included all of the above as well as noise, pollution, litter bins permanently left out on the street and weed eradication.

Following the forums, representations were made to Leichhardt Council, Parks Department and Waste Disposal Managers and the Superintendent at Glebe Police Station. We have had quite good feedback from Council, and are expecting some positive outcomes in terms of parks maintenance, preparation of management plans for public open space and litter and rubbish removal.



The Environment sub-Committee has also taken an active interest in the conservation of our foreshores and the proposed foreshore walk and cycleway, as well as the Glebe Point Road Streetscape plans and FRROGs involvement in the Orphan Creek Gully. We have attended meetings, reviewed plans and made recommendations for remedial work in consultation with Council, consultants and Glebe Society sub-Committee convenors.

My particular interest as a Heritage Landscape architect is in the restoration of our Victorian, Federation and inter-war period gardens. We have very few original garden layouts left in Glebe, but we do have some which have featured in books and magazines promoting heritage conservation. They should be listed, conserved and ideally planted with species typical of the era in which they were constructed to complement the style and character of the buildings and heritage sites of which they are a part. Remember, the whole of Glebe is listed in Leichhardt Council's Local Environment Plan as a *conservation area*, and I believe we should extend out restoration skills not only to our buildings but to our gardens as well.

Residents interested in any of these issues could ring me at home on 9660. 7969.

Christine Whittemore

TRAFFIC

As reported in the *Bulletin* during the year, the Society responded formally to the Glebe Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) survey, accompanying it with comments about particular points. As also reported, Council responded that it was unlikely to adopt any of the draft proposals to which people had responded negatively, and this indeed seemed to be the case when the Glebe Options paper was produced at the end of 1998. The further consultation with residents that Council foreshadowed is, I understand, likely to be arranged in the near future.

Also reported in the *Bulletin* was the response from Sydney Buses to a follow-up letter about our proposal for an Ultimo-Broadway-Glebe shopping bus. The Department of Transport still seems to be looking at the planned route for an Ultimo-Broadway only service.

At the end of June this year, Sandra Nori organised a series of Saturday meetings which gave residents in the Ultimo-Pyrmont-Glebe, Balmain-Rozelle-Glebe, and other areas of Leichhardt municipality, the opportunity to meet with representatives from Sydney Buses and discuss ways of improving services in their particular areas. There were about a dozen people at the two meetings I attended, and the discussions were useful and practical (especially if followed through!). The success of the new 370 bus was noted.

A major concern was the failure of buses to run on time. The CBD works on George Street have

exacerbated this problem. It was reported that running times for routes along Victoria Road improved dramatically whenever the police have a blitz on the use of transit lanes. Sydney Buses are liaising with police to encourage more frequent blitzes of this kind. The non-sheltering nature of the new bus shelters at Railway Square was commented on. Unfortunately these shelters are the responsibility of Sydney City Council rather than the State Transit Authority, but the comments will be passed on.

Letters were sent to Leichhardt Council regarding maintenance of the half road closure at Francis Street and Glebe Point Road, and also regarding local traffic problems likely to be exacerbated by the redevelopment of the old Children's Hospital site [now to be known as 'City Quarter'].

Letters to Council from two individual Society members about speed and safety problems in Wigram Road, and the junction of Wentworth Park Road and St. Johns Road, and repainting of the 'Keep Clear' sign on the road near Talfourd Street, were followed up with Sandra Nori to try and ensure their consideration by Council's statutory Traffic Committee. Finally a letter has been sent to the Federal Minister for Transport regarding transport of freight by rail, both nationwide, and also with regard to the reduction in the amount of freight traffic travelling through inner western suburbs.

Council's Planning Committee has met every second month during the year and I have attended most of the meetings. Most of the business, however, has been follow-up from the draft Town Plan, and there have been no major traffic items.

Jeanette Knox

You are warmly invited to come along to the AGM at Russell and Chris Stewart's house, have a drink and hear what The Glebe Society does, and is planning to do.

And we do encourage you to consider nominating someone to the Society's Management Committee - or think about standing yourself!



LIGHT RAIL

The latest report on Light Rail was published in *Bulletin* 5/99, p1.

Members are reminded that The Managing Director of Metro Light Rail, Kevin Worrall, and Trevor Townson from the Department of Transport, will brief the Society on the latest developments on 8 September at 8 pm in the Toxteth Hotel meeting room. They will discuss the construction of the link to Glebe, and the prospects of extensions further to the west and in the CBD.

This briefing will be part of the regular Management Committee meeting. However all members of the Society are welcome to attend. Please phone me on 9660.7873, or leave a message on 9518.9775, if you plan to come so we can arrange enough chairs.

Bruce Davis