

Glebe Society Bulletin

4/2001 May/June

Going Nowhere - yet

The outcome of the Sproats Inquiry into the structure of inner-city councils seems to be that we are going nowhere. Glebe is not being transferred to the City of Sydney under the Commissioner's primary recommendation because the Government will not force incumbent councils to accept change. And even in his 'fall back' recommendation the Commissioner is equivocal about Glebe's future - although he canvasses the possibility of Glebe and Forest Lodge being ceded to the City Council, he does not formally recommend this change.

Professor Sproats has made many worthwhile observations and recommendations about local government reform, particularly the need for councils to adopt a more strategic approach, and on the role of the suburb in local government. But without an impetus for change from the State Government or the councils themselves, local government in the inner city is likely to continue to drift. At present the only bright spot on the horizon is the announced intention of several inner-city councils to form a mayoral task force to discuss reform (see *SMH* 14 May).

What follows is not a precis of the Commissioner's report; if you want to read it for yourself it is available at <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/binqrep.pdf>. I have focussed on some sections of the report that seem to me to be interesting and relevant to the concerns of The Glebe Society. My comments represent my personal views and have not been considered by the Management Committee.

THE BIG PICTURE

It was inevitable that the Society would look at local government reform through the other end of the telescope to the Commissioner. We focussed on what is best for Glebe, while

he was required to consider the big picture. Thus his most important concerns relate to councils' failure to think beyond day-to-day operations: "Councils' abilities

to think and act strategically need to be enhanced. The ability to take a wider view perspective requires encouragement," he writes.

Commissioner Sproats believes his recommendation that the number of inner-city councils should be reduced to four will address issues such as the capacity of councils to undertake strategic and policy planning, their ability to deal with regional issues, and will encourage a more effective whole-of-government approach to the future evolution of the inner Sydney area. The outcome would be "an ongoing vibrant and viable system of local government in inner Sydney capable of responding to change." His scheme would also "preserve local governance and the notion of civil society" and "the identity and vitality of the suburbs".

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

The Commissioner comments that while councils are financially viable in the short term, "Long term viability however appears to be something of a mystery." "There appeared to be an almost total absence of projected savings in expenditure to be made within existing structures," he writes.

Like everyone else (including The Glebe Society), Professor Sproats pins his hopes for future financial viability on economies of scale. Boundary changes "should create potential to achieve efficiencies, savings, and facilitate the opportunity for councils to address the community concerns and requirements of the future." However he warns that a recent inquiry concluded that while operating costs per capita reduce with increasing size of councils, "the evidence was suggestive rather than conclusive."

He also warns that the extent of savings would depend on "philosophical approaches" to alternative methods of service delivery, such as contracting out. He is careful not to enter this debate, recommending only that "Experimentation and innovation should be encouraged."

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The Commissioner comments that the most significant challenge to the financial viability of councils relates to the cost of infrastructure, and he points out that Leichhardt faces a bill of \$46 million to bring its assets up to a satisfactory standard. Professor Sproats challenges councils' "penchant to be debt free", and comments that a refusal to borrow now to upgrade infrastructure will place future generations in a worse situation.

BOUNDARIES

Whatever the fate of the Sproats Report, it appears that the possibility of Glebe rejoining the City of Sydney is still on the agenda in the Sydney Town Hall and Macquarie Street. There are some obvious pluses if Glebe throws its lot in with the rich suitor from George Street. The difficult financial situation facing most inner city councils is outlined above, and we know there is little chance of achieving many of the things on our wish list under the present system.

However we're not the only pretty girl the City is courting, and some of the others may be better endowed. While Glebe's population is about 13,500, there are nearly 20,000 in Surry Hills and more than 21,000 in Woolloomooloo. The Rocks, which is already in the City, has 16,000 people. These areas will also have their wish lists.

And we must remember that the City already has a mistress who will not be easily shrugged off. Most of the City's income comes from rates paid by property owners in the CBD. While they may not have many votes, they will not stand idly by if their rates are used to finance vote-buying schemes in the suburbs surrounding the CBD.

THE ROLE OF THE SUBURB

From the perspective of The Glebe Society, the Commissioner's comments on the place of the suburb in local government are probably the most interesting.

In his Executive Summary, he writes: "One of the striking things demonstrated to this Inquiry was the strong identification people had with the suburbs. Whether it had to do with community identity, property values, participation in local affairs, voluntary associations, it was clear that in the vast majority of cases this was at the level of the suburb not at the local government area. It is apparent many people identify with their local council only to the extent that it is the responsible local government authority in which their suburb is located."

Later he writes:

If society will increasingly value local democracy, as the international experience indicates, opportunities for meaningful participation in the suburbs must be enhanced and strengthened... It is essential to provide structures that promote new, innovative approaches to local governance at that level. Suburbs can become the laboratories of concrete, innovative action and experimentation.

I have stopped short of recommending legislative prescription of local structures... Nevertheless, councils will need to give greater attention to generating mechanisms to sustain meaningful local governance in the suburbs...

Whatever the mechanisms, opportunities should be explored for local engagement in:

- developing shared visions for the suburbs
- experimenting with innovative ways of governance

and service delivery, including:

- setting priorities for resource allocation
- determining standards for matters of service delivery, maintenance of infrastructure (eg street pavements), etc
- administering a suburban level budget allocated by councils for agreed local services, facilities and projects
- encouraging voluntary action
- identifying issues of local significance to be advocated to other spheres of government.

The Sproats Report includes the following two recommendations:

That the prominence of the suburb be recognised both for its expression of community identity and its potential as a unit for local democracy and place management. Any changes to local government in this region must strengthen the integrity of the suburbs.

That council strategic and management plans identify specific provision for service delivery and governance in the suburbs within its jurisdiction.

WHAT WE WANTED AND WHAT WE GOT

The key points of The Society's submission were:

- our local council must be adequately resourced to meet the future needs of the community, and in particular it must be capable of preserving and protecting the Glebe Conservation Area, and
- small, distinct areas such as Glebe must not lose their voice in council affairs due to the pursuit of additional resources through economies of scale.

Commissioner Sproats has concluded that economies of scale are the only hope for providing inner city councils with adequate resources in the future, and at the same time he has made a strong statement on the importance of suburban communities. Unfortunately neither of us have figured out how the inherent conflict between these two objectives can be resolved.

THE WAY AHEAD

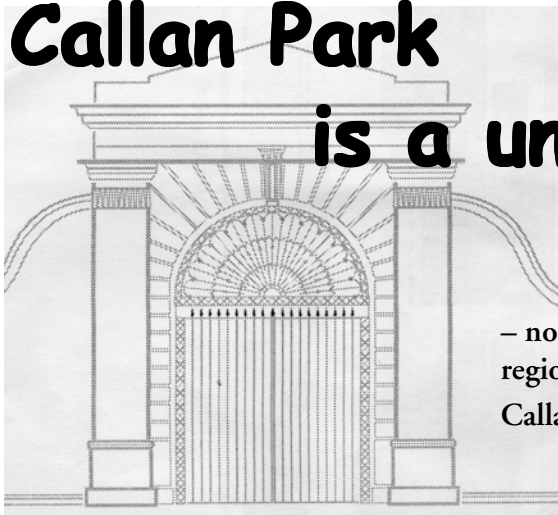
A solution which the Commissioner alluded to is the 'virtual council' proposed by Professor Percy Allen who advocates an independent Balmain. In his submission, Professor Allan describes the virtual council as combining "the political advantages of representing a small community with the economic advantages of outsourcing services to a large shared-services centre (owned and controlled by several councils) and other providers in the public, non-government and private spheres."

Professor Sproats points out that he has picked up many points raised by Professor Allan in his recommendations on *Local Democracy in the Suburbs*. But as yet they are no more than recommendations that could be easily overlooked or ignored in a debate dominated by boundaries. The concept of the virtual council deserves more thought, and in particular we should consider how it could be given a formal basis.

Professor Sproats has done us a service in identifying many of the problems that need to be tackled, but inevitably his main recommendation was rejected by the councils affected, and for the time being the State Government is not interested in pursuing local government reform. However let us hope that he has sown some seeds that may eventually take root.

Bruce Davis

Callan Park is a unique heritage site



– not just for the people who live in Rozelle – it is for our region, and for the people of Sydney.

Callan Park could be the Centennial Park of the Inner West.

In late April I had my curiosity aroused after reading an article in *The Weekender* entitled 'THEN and NOW' which had a wonderful black and white photo of a grand old home 'Broughton Hall' and invited readers to an outdoor photographic exhibition (an initiative of Roslyn Burge) in the gardens of Broughton Hall (corner of Church Street and Wharf Road Leichhardt). In the 1920's Broughton Hall became Australia's first voluntary psychiatric hospital. Its gardens were developed as part of patient therapy and are located in the grounds of Rozelle Hospital, Leichhardt.

I accepted the invitation and was amazed to discover yet another unknown treasure in a park which I have visited on many occasions. It also fired up my enthusiasm to support the initiatives of a large number of people who are asking the question not so much of 'THEN and NOW' for Callan Park but more importantly 'What about saving it for the FUTURE?'

Broughton Hall is a fine example of a Georgian house – with garden beds, long vistas, and wide lawns linked by paths. The land was part of Perry's 60 acre subdivision in 1841. John Brenan built Broughton Hall in 1842; there were several other owners until the Keep family purchased it and used it as their home for nearly half a century (1864-1912). For three decades (1915-1948) it was used as a psychiatric clinic. Initially in 1915 the Langdon brothers lent the home to the government as a place for shellshocked soldiers. The house was gutted by fire in 1986 and is now boarded up; however the design of the garden is visible today and numerous plantings still survive. You can follow the path and enjoy the rainforest which is still very much intact.

In 1976 Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic and Callan Park were amalgamated and are now known as Rozelle Hospital. Broughton Hall stands on its original acreage which is extremely rare in Sydney where subdivisions were rampant in the grounds of our grand old properties. The gardens are still available for all to enjoy ... at the moment! Today Rozelle Hospital grounds are the largest open space in Leichhardt, listed in the National Heritage Register and remain a site of significant community and medical history.

Roslyn Burge has kindly offered to conduct a tour of Callan Park and a special weekend viewing of the

photographic exhibition to Glebe Society members and friends. If you would like to attend please advise me by phone 9692. 9200 or email <saltwell@eisa.net.au> (leave your name and contact details) and a date will be arranged.

THE PROPOSED SELL-OFF OF CALLAN PARK

Fortunately the parkland around Rozelle Hospital has to date been retained for public use (not so much by good management but more through good luck) as the powers that be haven't known what else to do with it. There was one previous major development push which was halted by rigorous action by Leichhardt Council and its supporters. Now the push is on again for cashing in on public land – particularly waterfront public land. The economic rationalists now have a vision for Callan Park: *Let's sell it!*

The current plan is to sell 20% of the land which could allow for up to 1000 dwellings on a unique heritage site that has been publicly owned since the 19th century. Can you imagine a similar development being proposed for Centennial Park?

I don't have the answer as to the best use of the buildings that are on the site and appreciate that this needs to be resolved; however I do know that although the Health Department may be responsible for the care, control and management of the land, they do not *own* the parkland. Rozelle Hospital grounds are public land. This is about public property and not about balancing the books for a government department. When we sell public land it is lost forever.

Callan Park could be the Centennial Park of the inner west. I invite you to explore this treasure and implore you to take some action to preserve it for future generations. If you want to know more about the action to save Callan Park – see p10.

Judy Vergison

Acknowledgement: Details on Broughton Hall and gardens were taken from a booklet prepared by Roslyn Burge 'Private Gardens – Public Therapy: The Gardens of Broughton Hall, Rozelle Hospital, Leichhardt, NSW'. Copies can be obtained from Roslyn ph. 0413 733 218 (please call before 9pm).

The redesign of the facade of 84 Glebe Point Road for

The Glebe Youth Service



The designers believe that 84 will become an exciting landmark in Glebe, for locals and visitors alike, and welcome participation in the development process. During the week 21-28 May, a public display will be held at the Glebe Library. They invite the local community to visit and comment on the designs.

Over the past few weeks you may have noticed an increased gathering of young people at 51 Glebe Point Road (between Gleebooks and Russell's). Glebe Youth Service is currently operating all its programs from 51 while the main building at 84 Glebe Point Road is being renovated, thanks to the Department of Housing. Until the closure of 84, GYS provided daily support work from the office at 51, with after-school programs based at 84. At the end of the renovation which will upgrade all facilities, 51 will close and all programs and services will run from 84.

Linked in with the renovation is the redesign of the facade of 84, a Federation project funded through the Commonwealth Department of Communications, Information Technology and The Arts. Both projects should be completed by the end of September this year.

YOUTH ART WORKSHOPS

GYS engaged Stuart Slough and Graham Chalcraft of Placebo Culture as designers and managers of the project. Together with local youth trainee, Latoya Mocolutu, researcher, Donna Abela, and technology artist, Barnaby Norris, Placebo ran weekly art and design workshops throughout most of 2000 at GYS. Young people and GYS staff participated in painting and drawing, photography, video and computer art as well as excursions to museums, a local culture 'treasure hunt', and discussions around the history of the building, the local area and Federation.

Early workshops documented the existing facade and interior, large scale artworks of paper and plastic were used to alter the space inside, representing the start of the changes. Subsequent workshops explored many different themes of relevance to young people, with stories from the history research interwoven with modern perceptions. Parallels between contemporary youth issues and those from the 'olden days' were found in abundance. There was much interest in photos from the turn of the century and early 1900's of young people playing sport, at school, on the streets, dressed in their 'Sunday best' as well as fashions of each decade. We took

contemporary photos to match historical ones, illustrating continuities as well as change. Old sheets of board lying unused at 84 were used for displaying photographs and new images incorporating overhead projected photocopies.

Some initial changes to both buildings were made with displays and the painting of the 'what's on' sign in the 84 shopfront and the front doors of 51. As the renovation of 84 proceeds, we are continuing to document the changes.

DRAFT DESIGNS

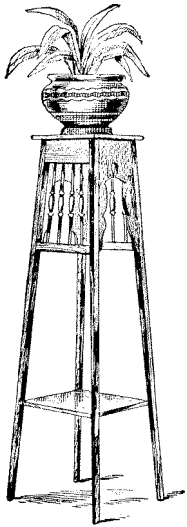
From the start of the project, we wanted to recognise the history of the building as a local movie house, particularly as video-making has featured amongst GYS activities for many years. Thus, the designs developed include zoetropes, the earliest form of animation, to be viewed through 'peepholes' boxed into the street level part facade. Zoetropes are moving images made up of several stills spun by a small motor to create a moving picture. This feature not only combines older technology with contemporary forms and acknowledges local history but allows for the future changing of images to reflect changing cultural interests of young people, GYS and the local community.

There will be other things to see when you look through the peepholes too. We envisage three or four peepholes on either side of the entrance. As well as zoetropes there will be changing displays of youth art, video footage, information updates – endless possibilities.

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Workshop at Glebe Youth Service



"It's a job - someone's got to do it"

Nana O'Grady was the local mid-wife come medical help, just as willing to see you into the world as out of it. She lived in Cowper Street,

Glebe, with her only child, Margaret, who ran her dressmaking business from the front room of their small cottage.

Nana was a formidable sight in black water-marked taffeta, black stockings and black patent leather lace up shoes who *rustled* when she walked – small children were all told that the sound was "angel wings beating". It was also known that her meagre savings were converted to gold sovereigns and promptly sewed into the hem of her dress. Such a character was a force to be reckoned with at the best of times.

Everyone knew of Nana's fixed views on most subjects, most of all her homeland, Ireland, which she had left during the famine as a 12 year old child to sail from Cork to Sydney, going into service at Ultimo for the Coffill family (of Wood Coffill Undertakers fame), never to see her parents and other siblings again.

It was no surprise to anyone that St. Patrick's Day (when as a concession to her fixed costume she would wear a large shamrock on her ample bosom, complete with green ribbons) was to Nana every bit as important as Christmas or Easter. Every child from far and wide knew that to offer her a greeting on that day was to receive a hand full of lollies, an Irish jig would bring at least a penny, and two verses of *Hail Glorious St. Patrick* could be worth tuppence, depending on the gusto with which it was sung.

St. Patrick's Day was a school holiday, and by local counting at least 20 children (most of whom she had brought into the world and usually named after the saint on whose feast day they were born, regardless of how obscure the saint) had visited Nana by lunch time. The last boy to visit one year was another local hero, George, 'the marble king', known to have two pillowcases full of marbles won from every child in Glebe and Ultimo. No-one was prepared for George's party piece, least of all Nana O'Grady.

Standing in the middle of the shop floor he recited in sombre tones:

*Ireland was Ireland
when England was a pup.
Ireland will be Ireland
when England's all buggered up.*

Nana's delight knew no bounds, so much so that she pressed a silver shilling piece into George's hand. George the marble king, by this time surrounded by a mob of boys and girls, was heard to say:

It's a job, someone's got to do it.

Allan Hunt

Redesign of facade for Glebe Youth Service

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Other features of the draft façade designs include a 'tag' composition and two spinning sculptural features. The composite consists of 'tags' enlarged and rearranged into an almost abstract composition in a strip across the middle of the façade just above the windows. Mixed in with these fragments of tags (you won't be able to recognise yours) is details of images of local and national history and signatures of early 20th century dignitaries involved with Federation. The two spinning sculptural features are positioned in the wall at the top half of the façade. They are brightly coloured circular forms that will rotate (not too fast!) in a wind along the top – giving life to the concept of motion (picture) and contributing to Glebe's legacy of lively and funky shop fronts.

Last but not least, on the top half of the façade, is proposed a steel cut out of the local postcode '2037' signature – a favourite way for young people at GYS to sign off their art works.

Dorothy Bottrell (Co-ordinator GYS, 9552.2873)
Stuart Slough, Placebo Culture.



Images of people unknown living in the Glebe/Leichhardt area in the 1910s and 20's were sourced by the designers' researcher and acted as inspiration for artworks.

Such images may be used in the peepholes or in temporary window displays in the new building.

The Changing Face of Glebe

HAROLD PARK PACEWAY

The previous development application has been withdrawn and replaced immediately by a very similar one. Members will recall that the main features of the proposal were to convert the Tramsheds into a leisure centre and to build a hotel (called 'members' rooms' in the application, as hotels are prohibited under the zoning).

In the revised proposal, there is no hockey field marked. The amount of accommodation is slightly reduced, as is the parking. There has been some reconfiguration of the leisure centre. However, the basic objections still apply:

1. Harold Park is a racetrack. The facilities being contemplated do not have anything to do with racing. The question of the status of the site is being investigated by Society member Ted McKeown, who will no doubt give us his report in due course. If the money being used for this proposal (\$25 million) is from the Racecourse Development Fund, most people would question its use for this purpose.
2. Harold Park is zoned Open Space. Hotels are a prohibited development under this zoning.
3. The hotel is five stories high, has 149 bedrooms and is only 3.5m lower than the grandstand. It is 10m from the Tramsheds and would dwarf them completely.
4. The Leisure Centre involves a number of changes to the Tramsheds that even the Heritage Consultants think would "inevitably result in loss of character" and give a "sense of enclosure". It includes such wildly popular sports as beach volleyball and squash, and has a large café raised 1.5m above the floor with a "similar visual impact to the present stack of containers", where exhausted players can regain some of the weight they have hopefully just lost. No doubt it would operate on the same basis as other similar centres. When the previous DA was being discussed, membership fees were estimated at \$600 per annum. Just the thing for Glebe youth!

The Society will draft a more detailed objection along similar lines to the previous one. In case members are unfamiliar with the Tramsheds, a stroll along Maxwell Road gives a good view of the sawtooth roof, and there is a path leading down from the light rail station that leads to the front of the sheds.

Rozelle Tramsheds are a Heritage Item, one of the most important surviving remnants of the system that once served most of Sydney. They opened on 17 April 1904, and the 25 'roads' housed trams operating on the western, south-western and Ryde lines; they closed with the last Glebe tram on 22 November 1958. Unfortunately it is difficult to adapt the Tramsheds to service light rail because of the difference in levels. The light rail runs on the heavy rail track! There have been many alternative suggestions for adaptive reuse, mainly from local sporting organisations.

REOPENING OF FRANCIS STREET

At 5.30 pm on 15 May I substituted for Transport Convenor Steve Stewart at the presentation of the final report from the RTA on the effects of the reopening of Francis Street, which runs between Glebe Point Road and Broadway Shopping Centre. The meeting was held at the office of local MLA, Sandra Nori, 291 Broadway. Members should note that a number of other changes occurred at the same time as the reopening in July, 2000, the most significant being the creation of three lanes in Bay Street after the left turn out of Francis Street. This made it difficult to establish whether later measurements resulted from the reopening of Francis Street alone, or whether they could be attributed to other changes, or to all changes combined.

This said, it was obvious the benefits in traffic flow from the reopening were miniscule. Essentially, reopening made no difference, except for the adverse impacts on Glebe Point Road. The worst of these impacts was trucks illegally turning into Glebe Point Road from Francis Street, which led to damage on four separate occasions to the heritage-listed former inn, Badde Manors Caffé, and seriously compromised pedestrian and customer safety.

The owner of Badde Manors, Robert Sebes, Roger Mackell of Gleebooks and myself argued strongly that the best way of ensuring safety on Glebe Point Road was to reinstitute the left turn ban, returning Francis Street to one way east. This was rejected by RTA representative, Phil Margison, who will recommend Francis Street become permanently two-way. It is clear Broadway Shopping Centre has a much stronger influence than the residents on both the RTA and Sandra Nori. The only other person present to speak in favour of reopening was an employee of Sandra Nori, Linda Voltz, who claims she can drive more quickly to her home in Marrickville if Francis Street is two way because she can access Glebe Point Road more directly.

Cr Chris Windsor suggested a compromise, a square steel arch at the intersection with Grose Street which would, he suggested, "rip the top off a truck attempting to access Glebe Point Road from Francis Street". Tempting as this sounds, the other attendees felt return to a one way east was a simpler and cheaper solution, and a steel arch would add considerably to the ambient ugliness, as well as being costly to erect and replace.

The meeting closed with the residents seeking a meeting with Sandra Nori.

Neil Macindoe, Planning Convenor

Crates or Bins?

In the last issue of the *Bulletin*, I suggested that one of the reasons why Glebe's streets are often littered with paper and bottles may be the design of the containers used for the recycling collection (*Bulletin 3/2001*, p1). Most residents in Glebe use the open black crates provided by Council. The main problem with these crates is that they don't have lids, so that the contents are often blown up the street. They are also heavy to lift, especially for older residents.

To initiate a discussion on alternative recycling containers, I collected information from eleven councils, many of them members of the Inner Sydney Waste Board (see table below). Most councils use similar crates as Leichhardt Council. Three councils, however, recently abandoned the open crates and introduced large 240l wheelie bins. These bins take all the recyclables (glass, paper, plastic, cans) and are collected once a fortnight by a truck equipped with a crane to empty them without spillage. Paper and bottles are not separated at collection but later at the recycling yard. One council (Ashfield) uses similar 240l bins, but with a vertical dividing wall for the separate collection of paper and other recyclables.

While I am convinced that the current system is ineffective and a major contributor to the litter problem in Glebe, I do not believe that 240l bins would work in Glebe. They seem to be too large for our narrow streets

and lanes, and many people would find it impossible to store a 240l bin on the porch or in the back yard. A better solution may be a smaller wheelie bin, say 120l, in which paper and bottles are collected together once a week. Leichhardt Council already offers 120l bins as an alternative to the open crates, but still insists on separate bins for paper and other recyclables (blue and yellow bins respectively) which again leads to a storage problem. If this could be reduced to one bin for all recyclables, it would not require more space than the current system with the open crates, while reducing the spilling of recyclables on the streets.

Comments welcome. Please write to The Glebe Society, PO Box 100, Glebe 2037, or e-mail <hsch@mac.com>

Horst Schwarz
Clean up Glebe Project Team

RECYCLING COLLECTION IN ELEVEN INNER SYDNEY COUNCILS The table summarises information obtained from the Inner City Waste Board's web page < www.wasteboard.nsw.gov.au/councils/ > and from a telephone survey by H. Schwarz				
COUNCIL	CONTAINER	INTERVAL	GLASS AND PAPER COLLECTED SEPARATELY	ORGANISATION COLLECTING THE RECYCLABLES
Leichhardt South Sydney Randwick Waverley Canterbury	open 55l crates ¹⁾	7 days	yes	Collex
City of Sydney	open 55l crates	7 days	yes	Council
Canada Bay	open 55l crates	14 days	yes	Staples
Marrickville	240l wheelie bin ²⁾	14 days	no	Council
Strathfield Burwood	240l wheelie bin	14 days	no	JJ Richards
Ashfield	240l split wheelie bin	14 days	yes	Pacific Waste
1) Leichhardt Council alternatively offers 120l wheelie bins 2) as of 1 June, 2001				

from the Editor's Desk



VACANT CROWN LAND (corner of Franklyn and Glebe Streets)

The Society has written to our local members of the NSW Parliament seeking their support for proposals made to the relevant State Minister to have the vacant block of Crown land (corner of Franklyn and Glebe Sts) transferred to Leichhardt Council for passive recreation.

At present the appearance of neglect of this land contributes to the well publicised vandalism and adverse social behaviour in this precinct.

The proposal would also extend the pocket park adjacent to the land, and so create a far more useable open space.

We understand that the relevant Department responded to Leichhardt Council late last year stating that a land assessment was being prepared and that based on that assessment, decisions would be taken for the land's proposed use and/or possible sale.

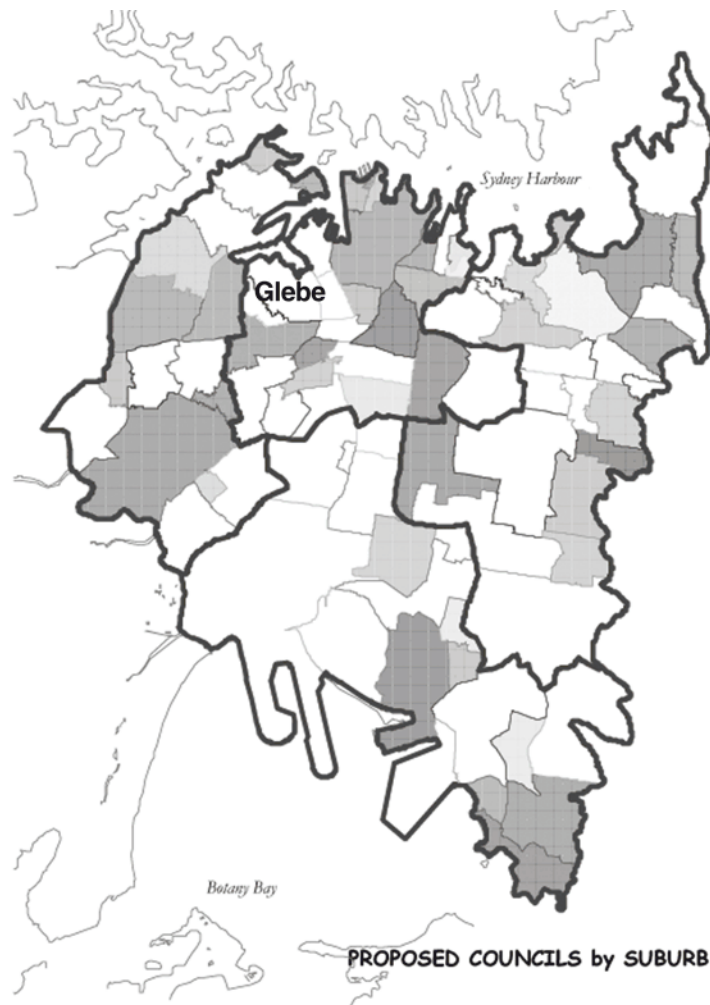
The option to transform the vacant block for passive recreation seems a golden opportunity which, along with the upgrade of the adjacent housing, would make a major difference – at no cost – to the wellbeing and social ambience of the large number of residents and families in the area, including the large number with Department of Housing tenancies.

The housing in this area represents some of the highest residential densities in Sydney but is in an area with negligible passive open space. Such a change would seem very timely with the Department of Housing's initiatives to modify the existing medium density housing in the area in order to provide tenancies for families with young children.

The conversion of the vacant block, which has been unoccupied for some time and is in derelict condition, would have an important impact on the amenity and ambience of this area of Glebe.

The Society's representatives will meet with Sandra Nori to discuss this matter early next month. A report will be in *Bulletin 5/2000*.

Map showing the preferred option of the Sproats' Commission of Inquiry: eight inner city council areas reduced to four, with Glebe incorporated into the enlarged City of Sydney Council.



NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR GLEBE PUBLIC SCHOOL

A community centre has been established in the grounds of Glebe Primary School. It has been created to provide different levels of support for parents of young children in the Glebe community, and provide advice on health and legal services, counselling, as well as parenting courses and play group activities.

Suzy Velkou is the Centre's facilitator.

GLEBE SOCIETY WEB PAGE

We expect that the Society's Web page will 'go live' on 1 July 2001. More information will be in the next *Bulletin*.



PARKING METERS

The Society has written to Council reporting that some of the recently installed parking meters in Glebe have already been defaced by stickers. We sought assurances that Council has:

- developed a strategy for maintaining the new parking meters in pristine condition
- allocated resources for the on-going maintenance of the meter structures
- developed suitable measures for assessing the effectiveness of the above strategy."

Given that Council has imposed these further new structures on Glebe, it is to be hoped it will acknowledge its responsibility for their proper maintenance.

The Society also deplored the "existing level of graffiti, posters and stickers defacing street furniture in Glebe".

According to the *Village Voice* [May 2001, p10] local business owner, George Papadatos of Everyday Foodmarket, doesn't accept that the meters have been installed for the benefit of the community; he is quoted as saying: *Council need the money badly, and they say it's good for me?*

BRIEF TRAFFIC REPORT

We have received an encouraging response from the Leichhardt Council regarding the conduct of its future Traffic Committee meetings. Council has assured us that there will be no trouble with access to these meetings.

By the time this goes to press there will have been a meeting with the RTA at Sandra Nori's office regarding the evaluation of the Francis Street two way trial [see p6]. We should be able to report further on this in the next *Bulletin*.

We still await a response from the RTA regarding our concerns about exhaust concentration and the additional traffic that will result from the proposed cross city tunnel. We are also waiting on Council's response concerning the implementation of the resident parking scheme.

There have been some concerns voiced about the use of bicycles in the area. We recently obtained a copy of Council's bike plan and are reviewing the progress with its implementation. This plan is also available for viewing at Council's offices.

Steve Stewart
Traffic Convenor

Dear Madam

I enjoyed reading Judy Vergison's account of progress in Blackwattle Bay but was dismayed to discover that the Pioneer lease has been extended for another two years.

If, as I believe, the Glebe Society is committed to a Foreshore Walk and Cycleway we should be doing everything possible to get rid of that blot on the landscape, the hideous Pioneer Concrete silo.

The manufacture of concrete is not a waterside industry. The extension of the lease looks very much like another capitulation of this so-called Labor Government to commercial interests.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Edwards



Notes from the Management Committee meeting held 9 May

MALT SHOVEL BREWERY



We would like to record our thanks to Judy Vergison who organised our recent successful event at the Malt Shovel Brewery in Glebe.

AGM

The Glebe Society Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 19 August 2001 at 2 pm. Further details will be advised in the next *Bulletin* but you may wish to make a diary note now.

Nomination forms for election of members to the Management Committee will be circulated with *Bulletin 5/2001*; you may wish to consider involving yourself in local community issues.

ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION - ROSS STREET

We reported last month that the Society had written to Energy Australia regarding these premises which are covered in graffiti and a harbour for dumped rubbish. We can now report that the dumped rubbish has been removed, but to date the graffiti remains.

Whilst on the subject of graffiti, the Society will be seeking further details of Leichhardt Council's new graffiti removal program. Media reports quote Council as acknowledging that "quick response within 48 hours is effective and essential".

VACANT CROWN LAND

The Society has written to the Minister for Agriculture, Land and Water Conservation making representations in regard to vacant Crown land on the corner of Franklyn and Glebe Streets and its possible dedication as a park [see p8].

Notice Board

Leichhardt Library: Youth Library Links Programme



1) **Balmain Library - 9367. 9211**

Melica Marchetta, author of **Looking for Alibrandi**, will talk about her book in the Meeting Room, rear Balmain Library, 370 Darling Street, Balmain on:

**Tuesday 5 June
from 6.15pm - 8.00pm (approx.)**

2) **Glebe Library - 9367. 9262**

Wendy Michaels, university lecturer in English and Drama, will speak on **Bruce Dawe and Consumerism**, in the Benledi Room at Glebe Library on:

**Wednesday 20 June
from 6.15pm - 8.00 pm (approx.)**

These talks are especially for HSC students, numbers are limited and bookings are ESSENTIAL

GLEBE YOUTH SERVICE

During the week 21-28 May, the designs for the new facade at 84 Glebe Point Road will be displayed at the Glebe Library.

The Glebe community is invited to visit and comment on the designs. See pp 4-5.

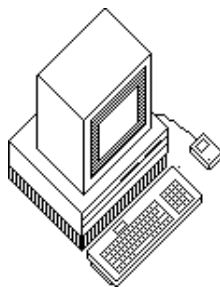
GENEALOGY WEB PAGE

Last month Leichhardt Library launched their Genealogy Web Page which has many useful addresses and links for those doing family history research on-line, for example the Society of Australian Genealogists, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and the State Library.

It can be found at:

<http://www.siwvl.nsw.gov.au/leichhardt/genealogy.html>

The Library promises to keep it up-to-date.



IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ACTION TO SAVE CALLAN PARK ... (see p3)

- **Contact the Friends of Callan Park** by sending name, address, and email address to FoCP 17 North Ave Leichhardt NSW 2040. If you want to join, send a cheque for \$20. The friends have sample letters and contact details for the media and politicians.
- **Information on petitions** in support of the Callan Park Bill are available from Phillip Marsh 9560. 8486 or Hall Greenland 9564. 2876. The petitions will be presented when State Parliament resumes on 29 May.
- **Contact Leichhardt Council** for details on the Steering Committee that has been formed to develop a community vision for the site.

If you would like a tour of Callan Park and a special weekend viewing of the photographic exhibition contact Judy Vergison, ph 9692. 9200, email <saltwell@eisa.net.au>

AT ST HELEN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE OM:NI - Older Men, New Ideas.

A group which looks at older men's interests, including health, lifestyle, social well-being, and much more. Meeting fortnightly at 9.30 am. Contact Len Brandt 9818. 3764 for further details.

The Community Restaurant is open to all aged residents of Leichhardt Municipality. A quality main meal, dessert, tea and coffee are served every Monday and Thursday at 12 noon. Bingo follows Thursday's lunch. The cost is \$4.20.

Tai Chi classes are held on Mondays from 9.30 - 10.30. Cost \$5 per class.

Podiatry sessions are available on the third Friday of each month from 1.30 - 4.30pm (GST applies).

**184 Glebe Point Road, Glebe
phone 9692. 9329**

For Your Diary ...

Monday	21 May	Public display of designs for the facade of the Glebe Youth Service
until Monday	28 May	at Glebe Library, see article pp 4-5
Tuesday	5 June	Looking for Alibrandi
		discussion at Balmain Library, see Notice Board
Wednesday	13 June	Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting
		7.30 pm Toxteth Hotel meeting room – all welcome
Wednesday	20 June	Bruce Dawe and Consumerism
		discussion at Glebe Library, see Notice Board

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday	19 August	Annual General Meeting of The Glebe Society at 2pm
		further details to come
		Breakfast in Blackwattle Bay Park) date and details
		Annual Fund-Raising Dinner and Auction) to be announced

We are glad to publish letters or articles:

on any matters of interest to Glebe

on any topic raised in the *Bulletin*, or

on any issues relating to The Glebe Society.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**The Glebe Society Inc
Box 100 PO
Glebe 2037**

DISCLAIMER

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

The Glebe Society Inc

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Bruce Davis	9660. 7873
Vice-President	Jeanette Knox	9660. 7781
Immediate Past President	Russell Stewart	9660. 8324
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518. 6186
Treasurer	Patrick McNiece	9552. 6656

Committee Members:

Andrew Craig	9566. 1746	vacancy	-
Alan Hunt	9660. 2407	Cynthia Jones	9660. 2451
		Marianne von Knobelsdorff	9692. 0916

SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

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

BAYS AND FORESHORES	Collin Hills	9660. 8608
ENVIRONMENT	Jan Wilson	9660. 2698
– including Noise Pollution	Andrew Craig	9566. 1746
FRROGS	Roberta Johnston	9552. 3248
PLANNING	Neil Macindoe	9660. 0208
TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC	Steve Stewart	9660. 5845

PROJECT TEAMS

Centenary of Federation	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518. 6186
Clean Up Glebe	Horst Schwarz	9660. 7926
Conserving Glebe Heritage	Christine Whittemore	9660. 7969
Foreshore Walk and Cycle Way	Judy Vergison	9692. 9200

CONTACTS

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660. 7930
Historian	Max Solling	9660. 1160
Membership List Manager	Gail Pratt	9662. 6656
New Members Contact	Paddy and Gail	9552. 6656
Bulletin Editor	Bobbie Burke	9692. 0343
Assistant Editor	Cynthia Jones	9660. 2451

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- Report on the Sproats' Commission Inquiry, pp1-2
- Callan Park, a unique heritage site, p3
- New facade for Glebe Youth Service, pp4-5
- New DA for Harold Park Paceway, p6
- Francis Street: one-way? two-way? p6
- Crates or Bins?, p7

The GLEBE
Box 100 PO



SOCIETY Inc
Glebe 2037

POSTAGE
PAID

... as from 1 July 2000

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC.

Ordinary	\$40
Concession:	
Student/Pensioner	\$20
Institution	\$100

Write to Box 100 PO Glebe 2037 or phone the Secretary, Liz Simpson-Booker, on 9518.6186

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

CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Report:

- dumped trolleys 1800 641. 497
- dumped litter 9560. 6169
- dumped cars 9367. 9222
- aircraft noise 1800 802. 584

COPY DEADLINE

for the next issue:

Tuesday 19 June

Please send to

PO Box 100 Glebe
32 Lombard Street, or
<bobbieb@cia.com.au>