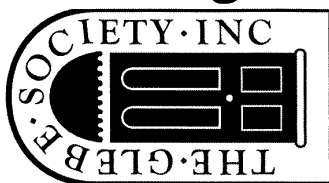


Glebe Society Bulletin

10/2001 November/December



Glebe

Glebe moving to the CBD?

Time for some SWOT-ing

The Government roared when it announced the inquiry into inner city local government. Its final response to the report by Commissioner Kevin Sproats is more like the squeak of a mouse.

The major problem of ensuring sufficient resources for councils has not been addressed, and the boundary changes that the Government has announced may leave councils like Leichhardt in a worse financial position. And the City of Sydney will expand without any assurance that small and unique communities such as Glebe will continue to have their voice heard. The Government's decision will have many consequences for Glebe – some apparent now, and others that will only emerge as we work through the details of implementation, or as the plans of our new civic masters crystallise. While the proposed boundary changes are yet to be referred to the Local Government Boundaries Commission, the Government is not bound by its recommendations.

Further, it is unlikely that the Government will be dissuaded from its decision by street marches or a council-sponsored referenda, so our best course of action is to work towards achieving a positive outcome for Glebe. We need to recognise the strengths and weakness of our position and, most important we need to identify the opportunities and threats that face us – in the jargon of the management consultant, we need to do a SWOT analysis.

STRENGTHS

Talk of Glebe being overwhelmed by the 'big end of town' is probably exaggerated. Many new voters will join the rolls of the City – the *Sydney Morning Herald* predicted an increase of 66 per cent – and new councillors will ignore the wishes of their new constituents at their peril. At least in the early period after the boundary changes, George Street will do its best to win the hearts and minds of its new constituents. Already the Lord Mayor is talking about lavishing 'tender love and care' on his new territories, and of improving services such as garbage collection and obliterating graffiti. However, Glebe is not the only addition to the City, and Woollahooloo and Surry Hills have bigger populations than Glebe. Our aim must be to put Glebe's case for an appropriate share of any largesse clearly and forcefully.

“If we are smart, work hard, and play our cards astutely, Glebe can benefit from incorporation into the City Council. But we must be very careful that the changes are not allowed to undermine the essential character of Glebe, and that we retain a significant degree of local democracy.”

Over the years the Glebe community, through a number of organisations including the Society, the Chamber of Commerce and the precinct committees, has shown that it is capable of strongly representing the interest of the neighbourhood, and this quality should also stand us in good stead on this occasion.

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WEAKNESSES

In the best Nelsonian tradition, I see none. But I would be grateful if readers who differ would contact the President or a member of the Management Committee.

OPPORTUNITIES

When the first rumours spread that the Lord Mayor was seeking to incorporate Glebe into the City of Sydney, the Society began compiling a 'wish list'. This exercise made it quite apparent that there are many things that our members would like to see done that have not (or cannot) be achieved under the present system due to lack of money, will or expertise. More recently one of our members pointed to the inability of Leichhardt Council to provide a reasonable level of service to ratepayers (*Bulletin 9/01*, page 6).

Compared to Leichhardt, the City Council is fairly prosperous because its rate base includes the CBD. Commissioner Sproats saw rate income drawn from a mix of commercial/industrial and residential properties as a means of ensuring adequate financial underpinning for councils – putting it bluntly, it is desirable that each council has a milch cow. The boundary change means that Glebe moves from a council with relatively low rate income, because it is primarily drawn from residential property, to a council with a very healthy milch cow.

Of course it would be unrealistic to think that the rates paid by the large corporations in the CBD will be diverted to the indigent suburbs on the periphery. But with strong and competent representation it should be possible to achieve both a modest increase in spending on both basic services and new facilities in Glebe.

Another opportunity that may emerge is to do something about the no man's land that lies on the eastern boundary of Glebe – Wentworth Park. The Lord Mayor made it clear

when he met with the Glebe Society last January that he was keen to improve the park and since then the State Government has put in place a planning initiative, (the Blackwattle Bay Reference Group), that could further this cause. If Glebe is to see itself as part of the City, it cannot afford to be separated from it by a physical and psychological barrier. The proposal receiving currency is to demolish the dog track and stands at Wentworth Park, restore the park to its former Victorian-landscaped

glory, and realign Pyrmont Bridge Road to the viaduct to enhance the 'flow' of the park to the harbour. Such a proposal has great merit, but is not without risk to other parts of Glebe. With Harold Park under the same council, would it be seen as convenient to simply transfer the dog meetings from Wentworth Park to Harold Park?

As the Lord Mayor also pointed out to the Society, the City Council can afford to employ top people in its planning and other technical departments. This has not always been the case with Leichhardt. The City Council's campaign against the Land and Environment Court has shown that it is concerned about inappropriate development, and it is to be hoped that it may prove a more skilled, well-heeled and tougher opponent when it comes to opposing development applications in Glebe that are out of character with the neighbourhood's heritage status or are not in the community's interest.

THREATS

Following the transfer of Glebe to the City we may have to fight to keep some things we have painstakingly acquired under Leichhardt Council's administration. Different councils do things differently and we will need to educate the new team about our needs and preferences. Glebe Library has been mentioned, as has Bicentennial Park. The Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library can be counted on to put a strong case against any diminution in the quality of library services. As for our parks, it is hard to see how things could not improve.

The main threat at this stage stems from the fact that we don't know how the City Council will be elected following its expansion. At present it does not have wards, and the Lord Mayor did not indicate that he would favour a larger council or a ward

system when he met us in January. The two central points of our submission to the Sproats Inquiry (see our website: www.glebesociety.org.au/NewsAndEvents/SubmissiontoSproats.htm) were that something needed to be done to improve the financial viability of inner city councils, and secondly, any solution to this problem should not increase the distance between councils and the people they are elected to serve.

continued p3 ...

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[see our website: www.glebesociety.org.au/NewsAndEvents/SubmissiontoSproats.htm]

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To us, and to many other people, Glebe is a special place with a built environment of State-wide heritage significance that must be protected, and a heterogeneous community that needs specific care and support. The service centres that the Lord Mayor proposes to set up in areas such as Glebe might be successful in bringing good quality day-to-day council services to our community, but we need more than that.

In our submission we asked Commissioner Sproats to consider small councils similar in size to the old Glebe and Balmain Councils (Professor Percy Allen's proposal for 'virtual councils' has demonstrated that this is a realistic option). If the Commissioner recommended larger councils in order to achieve economies of scale, we asked that much decision making on local matters should be delegated to the local level. Our aim was to ensure that local aspirations, particularly with regard to town planning, had some chance of being met.

None of us can say how the City Council will work at the political level following its expansion. Ward representation would go some way to ensuring Glebe's voice is heard, but much of the time council's focus is likely to be on major issues, and political battles. Unless we can devise a system that guarantees some degree of local autonomy to neighbourhoods like Glebe, we will have to work very hard indeed to ensure that Glebe's needs and ambitions are noted.

If we are smart, work hard, and play our cards astutely, Glebe can benefit from incorporation into the City Council. But we must be very careful that the changes are not allowed to undermine the essential character of Glebe, and that we retain a significant degree of local democracy.

Bruce Davis

FROM THE WEBMASTER ...

Members and visitors to our website should be aware that there are currently two active forum discussions, one concerning the intention of the City of Sydney Council to approach the Local Government Boundaries Commission to re-incorporate Glebe within the CBD, and the other relating to Andrew Kay's proposal to limit through-traffic on Pyrmont Bridge Road [see p6].

Your responses on both subjects are actively encouraged to www.glebesociety.org.au but in the interest of a lively debate, we must ask that contributions be limited to 250 words!

Cynthia Jones

A briefing ... or "window dressing"?

Some called it "window dressing" to a *fait accompli*. Perhaps 200 residents gathered in Glebe Public School Assembly Hall (at the 2.30pm session) to hear the news, ask questions and put some very strongly felt views.

Sandra Nori, by letter to all residents, had set up the briefing, chaired the meeting and defended the State Government's actions. But it was Frank Sartor who fielded most questions and took the opportunity to again outline the advantages of joining with the City of Sydney Council – a liturgy of goodies ... or so it seemed. Perhaps 25% to 30% of the audience were all for the move, with a good proportion of the remainder totally against.

Now for some detail.

- The State Government has rejected the Sproats' Report recommending large scale amalgamations and/or boundary changes. We must remember their aim was to achieve efficiencies in the delivery of services. No logic was evident for what is now proposed, even though it was pointed out that by reducing the size of Leichhardt Council (and South Sydney, etc.) the stated aim of achieving efficiencies of scale by enlarging, results in the reverse outcome for these Councils.

- The process from now on is that the Boundaries Commission will access the Government's proposal, and as a bi-partisan umpire, make a decision. It seems that they will use those submissions previously put to the Sproats' Inquiry as background, although there was some suggestion that further submissions would be accepted. Perhaps The Glebe Society should pursue this avenue – but with the umpire's decision due in late February, and with Christmas upon us, there is little time.

- Until the next round of local government elections, due in September 2003, the question was asked: "How are we to be represented?" This is up to the Boundaries Commission recommendations we are told, and "If need be, I [Frank Sartor] will make it my business to confer with the aggrieved of Glebe to smooth out any problems."

- What of the long awaited, just gazetted Leichhardt Town Plan? The Lord Mayor said it will be imported without changes, with perhaps the only that its controls would be strengthened. It is to be hoped that other policies, for Harold Park, for the foreshores, etc. would receive similar treatment.

... continued p8

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE *BULLETIN* FOR THIS YEAR. THE FIRST 2002 ISSUE WILL BE POSTED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. KEEP TUNED TO OUR WEB SITE:

www.glebesociety.org.au

Foreign Correspondence



First I must thank Bobbie Burke for editing this edition of the Bulletin. She never expected she would be back in the saddle so soon, but I could not resist the offer to carry my partner's bags when she was asked to go to Washington for five weeks.

We are staying in Foggy Bottom (yes, it is a real suburb). The State Department is just down the road and we shop at the Watergate Complex a couple of minutes' walk away. The superficial similarities with Glebe are remarkable. At the end of our street is a sign proclaiming that we live in an historic district, and we are surrounded by Federal period terraces which I guess date to the late 19th century like so many Glebe terraces. Unlike Glebe's Victorian terraces, their appearance is elegantly simple – we would probably call them Georgian, although the guidebook claims that the Federal style is lighter and more refined than Georgian.

Unfortunately the historic area is only small and not all the houses have been cared for with the respect they deserve. One is currently having a thin sandstone cladding removed to reveal the original brickwork. The suburb adjoining Foggy Bottom, Georgetown, has many more well-maintained buildings dating from the same period.

We are also cheek by jowl with a university – in this case The George Washington U whose buildings (some old and pleasant and some new and hideous) appear in most streets rather like Oxford or Cambridge. The Foggy Bottom equivalent of the light rail is the very clean and efficient Washington Metro that serves much of the District of Columbia. If the Glebe stop had a little more patronage we might be able to entice some of the local buskers to spend some time with us.

The Potomac River foreshore at Foggy Bottom and Georgetown is being redeveloped from 19th century industrial to modern commercial, residential and recreational uses. This is part of a plan that originated in 1901 and a later more ambitious plan to open up many kilometres of the Potomac riverfront to public access. Progress around Sydney Harbour has been a little faster, and the Washington Harbour development that we can see from our window rivals the Star City Casino for poor taste.

The Potomac waterfront park plan seeks to enhance the relationship of the suburb and its waterfront through the preservation of views to the river. It also features shade trees to screen an unsightly expressway, and a "strolling garden with open lawns, informal plantings, curvilinear paths, and seating for park visitors". Could we perhaps be talking about Blackwattle Bay?

However you quickly realise that Foggy Bottom's similarities with home are only superficial when your coffee comes in a paper cup holding a nondescript thin black liquid. How I long for a *café latté* at the Glebe Street Deli!

Bruce Davis

Briarbank

- an example of Glebe's post-Regency style architecture

"Architecture came to Glebe in the form of large Regency villas, the out-of-town homes of prospering professional families, and the Regency style lingered on for many years after the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne in 1837. Fifty years later buildings were still being erected in Glebe that may be best described as post-Regency ..."

This beautifully restored house at 233 Bridge Road, and now within the grounds of Forest Lodge Public School, was built for the wealthy ironmonger, Lewis Moore, who had purchased a portion of the original Forest Lodge estate in 1862; he lived there until 1884. Bernard and Kate Smith describe *Briarbank* as "Post-Regency in its cubic simplicity, french windows, and stone-flagged verandah, it wears, with its Greek Revival details, a more self-conscious and precise air than *Rothwell Lodge*" [at 24 Ferry Road].

In the mid-1880's, *Briarbank* became a flourishing private school for girls. By the early 1900's, it was in decline and in 1916, the Department of Public Instruction bought the house from the trustees and used it as a cookery annexe to the Glebe Central Girl's School. It was later used as a Children's Health Care Centre conducted by the Department of Health; today it belongs to the Forest Lodge Public School.

The school's Principal, Mrs Elva Salter, acknowledges the heritage value of the building and aims to keep it in its original condition. The rooms – not suitable as classrooms because of the open staircase – are currently used by the school's band, by music tutors and by many community groups (one room currently harbours the Society's archives). The school plans to refurbish the first floor in 2002 to create a space suitable for school conferences and special programmes. This will have to be financed entirely by fund raising activities, as there is no Government money available for the refurbishment.

Several interesting stories have been gleaned about *Briarbank*. One says that it was occupied about 1910 by a Mrs. Freeman, of the Infants Staff, who died there in her sleep giving rise to the belief that it was a 'haunted house'.

Another story tells that at a later time, the house was known as 'Bleak House'. Mrs. Fricker, an Englishwoman, was a cleaner at the school and lived there rent-free (quite unofficially) for many years until she became blind. She was reputed to have kept 'her affliction' secret from almost everyone as she continued to work.

[The above information was put together from various sources, including *The Architectural Character of Glebe, Sydney*, Bernard and Kate Smith, and a booklet produced to mark the centenary of Forest Lodge Public School, *Forest Lodge Public School 1883 - Centenary - 1983*.]

Glebe Photographic Competition

The November Management Committee meeting considered a proposal from member Helen Randerson that the Society host a photographic competition aiming to capture a diverse record of the various aspects of contemporary life in Glebe 100 years on from Federation.

A committee was set up to finalise a proposal for the competition and its recommendations will be considered at the December meeting of the Management Committee.

It is expected that photos could be submitted which are taken at any time between early 2000 to July 2002. The competition would be launched in February/March 2002 and the judging would take place in July/August 2002. Note: Dates are yet to be confirmed.

The photos, after being displayed in the local community, would be retained for historical purposes by Council, students, interested people and The Glebe Society. This would be part of our contribution to mark the Centenary of Federation.

Entries would be open to a wide range of people from local school children to amateur and professional photographers who live/work inside and outside Glebe. There would be a small number of prizes; these would be relatively modest as the aim is to recognize the voluntary contributions of individuals and build an extensive photographic portfolio of Glebe today without a great cost to the community.

There are suggested themes within each category to encourage a breadth of aspects of life in Glebe that we would like covered. Suggested categories include:

- Built Environment
- Portraits of People
- Vistas
- Industry, Transport and Work
- Leisure, Food and Shopping
- Education, Learning and Community

The judging criteria will be weighted and could include:

- Capturing the essence and character of Glebe
- Historical significance
- Artistic and aesthetic quality
- Technical expertise

Entries will be of images taken within the area bounded by the waterfront at Glebe Island Bridge, Blackwattle Bay to Rozelle Bay; Parramatta Road from Wattle Street to Bridge Road; The Crescent and Booth Street Annandale.

The Photo Committee is interested in hearing from any person or organisation who would like to assist by sponsoring an aspect of the competition. Sponsorship areas include:

- Donation of prizes
- Hire of display panels
- Provision of a venue for the exhibition
- Scanning all the prints for the public record
- Catering for the exhibition launch
- Framed copies of winning entries

We would also welcome involvement on the Committee or your suggestions on how the competition should be conducted.

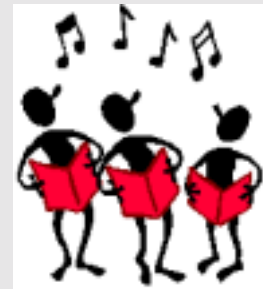
Please contact Judy Vergison 9692. 9200 or email: saltwell@eisa.net.au if :

- you would like to join the Glebe Photo Committee;
- you have any suggestions on organising the competition;
- you or your organisation would like to sponsor an aspect of the exhibition.

Judy Vergison
Convenor, Photo Committee

The Surplis Singers

The Surplis Singers will be giving their annual concert of sacred and secular Christmas Music in the Record Reign Hall on Thursday 20 December commencing at 7.30pm. Members and friends are invited. This is a short concert in two parts with refreshments in the Community Garden adjoining the Hall (weather permitting).



In past years this has been an enjoyable occasion; there is no charge for this concert which is given to thank St. John's Bishopthorpe for allowing the *Singers* to practice in the Hall. You may like to bring something towards the refreshments (wine, juice, cheese and biscuits, and related nibbles).

'Surplis' is an old English spelling of 'surplice' the white garment the clergy (and some choir members) wear. The beginning of the end for them was when the Minister at St Luke's Anglican Church Enmore – where they used to sing – would not allow them to wear surplises. The name *Surplis Singers* is a pun on 'surplice' and 'surplus' because they were eventually sacked.

The Rev Hugh Scott and later Rev Martin Hunnybunn allow the *Surplis Singers* to practice in Record Reign Hall in return for singing an occasional service. They have developed a lovely professional tone. The *Singers* also play various instruments at various levels of competence and may include some 'orchestration' in the program. They do not regularly perform anywhere, but will sing when invited at a small number of Anglican parishes.

Lyn Milton

Traffic Matters

'THE BRIDGE ROAD OPTION'

Andrew Kay's scheme, reported on several times in recent Bulletins, has had another airing. On Saturday 17 November, Leichhardt Council organised a public meeting at Glebe Town Hall (chaired by Mayor Máire Sheehan) to discuss Bridge Road traffic management and the cross city tunnel. Unfortunately, the meeting was advertised only in the area adjacent to Bridge Road and in those streets experiencing parallel problems, whereas the issues are relevant to the whole of Glebe. It is a proposed solution to the through-traffic problem in Glebe that has much to recommend it. But it does affect all people in Glebe, either positively or negatively, and all residents in Glebe need to be made aware of it.

Andrew outlined his well-thought-through scheme which creates a full closure of Pymont Bridge Road at Wentworth Park and a partial closure of Wentworth Park Road at Bay Street (if you are unfamiliar with the scheme, dig out the earlier Bulletins or go to our web site). Supporting the proposal was Christine Laurence from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

Three motions were carried unanimously at the end of the meeting which had the effect of calling upon Leichhardt Council to:

- support efforts to reduce through traffic in Glebe;
- lobby the government and RTA to conduct a feasibility study into options for reducing through traffic in Glebe including the 'Bridge Road Option';
- maintain their involvement in the issue even if council boundaries change and Glebe is transferred to Sydney.

Councillors present expressed no reluctance to these proposals.

We now have an issue that has universal support – the reduction of through-traffic in Glebe and along Pymont Bridge Road in particular. Andrew's 'Bridge Road Option' has much merit and serves as an excellent starting point to discussions on achieving this end, but it is time for those who will be disadvantaged by the scheme to be brought into the discussions.

John Buckingham

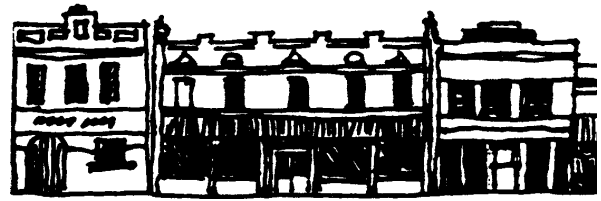


GLEBE THROUGH TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP

Immediately after the public meeting organised by Leichhardt Council, a second meeting was held by the "Glebe Through-Traffic Working Group (GTTWG)". Twenty-three residents attended, many had missed the council meeting because they had not received an invitation. GTTWG organised a street stall at the Glebe Fair, with information about the traffic situation in Glebe and collected signatures for the petition to stop through-traffic on Bridge Road.

Horst Schwarz

Planning Matters



DISTILLERY HILL

The most prominent part of Pymont when viewed from Glebe is the large green knoll directly behind the pylon of the new Glebe Island Bridge. Distillery Hill is part of the CSR site that includes Jackson's Landing, and under the Pymont Lend Lease Masterplan is destined to become a park. It adjoins the former Pymont incinerator site: this Griffin incinerator, just across the water from Glebe's smaller incinerator, was demolished to make way for a 20-storey block of Meriton units, despite many protests, including those from the Society.

Under the original Masterplan there was to be a three-storey block of units near the crown of the Hill. Recently the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning advertised an amendment that included an option to delete this building and thereby increase the amount of parkland.

The Society has written in support of this option. Distillery Hill is a prominent green element of the Harbour foreshore, and should retain as much as possible of its existing character, including its mature trees. The Society has also stressed that the Hill should not be overshadowed, and should be linked to the proposed foreshore parkland.

The proposed return of Glebe to the City Council jurisdiction means the Society can exert greater pressure for the completion of the series of linked waterfront parks between Glebe and the City. The greater resources of the City Council make it more likely these links will be completed. Leichhardt Council has not provided any money for this long term goal of the Society to be realised (*Bulletin 9/2001, p3*). It also makes the restoration of Wentworth Park and its linkage to the foreshore more attainable.

SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL STANDARDS

The November Management Committee meeting agreed to object to a proposal for a terrace at 205 Bridge Rd that divided it into two strata-titled dwellings and increased its floor space to almost double the Leichhardt Council standard. While the Society acknowledges a number of Glebe dwellings already exceed Council's standard, and also acknowledges there are Glebe houses that are large enough to justify multiple occupancy and subdivision, this particular development appears to be too extreme.

Neil Macindoe

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

At this moment several initiatives are conspiring to give us the opportunity to get the Glebe we all expect and deserve. If the authorities get it right, Glebe lifestyle will be enormously enhanced. If they get it wrong, it will be disastrous.

THE INITIATIVES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.

Waterways has called for Expressions of Interest for the leasing and development of the Rozelle and Blackwattle Bay Maritime Precincts. The sites involved are the one on Pyrmont Bridge Road between the Fish Markets and Pioneer Cement; the one on The Crescent (Annandale) between White Creek and the bottom of Johnston Street; and the northern wharves on Rozelle Bay.

If all goes as it should, small maritime businesses will develop these sites and provide access to pedestrians, thus ensuring the completion of our waterside walkway from the northern shore of Rozelle Bay, around Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays to the Fish Markets. Views of the harbour should be unimpeded. If all goes as it shouldn't, developers will exploit the provisions of the Master Plan for the sites and cover 50% of the sites with buildings eight metres high, impeding views and displacing our harbour walk.

[As a variation to the above, for the Crescent site, I have a personal wish that those in authority go back to the early plans for the Bi-centennial Park and consider restoring what the plan proposed for the site and what was there originally – a mangrove swamp. This has the obvious benefits of stimulating fish breeding and encouraging the return of birdlife. It has the further benefit for all people using the Crescent – a brilliant view of our (industrial) harbour that includes Pyrmont Bridge, Anzac Bridge and the Harbour Bridge. This brilliant view is blocked by the present, recent temporary development of the site].

THE FISH MARKETS

A Master Plan is being developed for the Fish Markets. All stake-holders (I believe the jargon is) have been invited to contribute to the process. When local residents and action groups were given their opportunity for input, we were impressed that those working up the master plan had anticipated much of what would concern us: walkways; open areas at the water; unimpeded pedestrian links with the adjacent wharves (and heritage coal loader); unimpeded pedestrian links with Wentworth Park; improved access to the light rail; the building set back with open/light appearance from the water; entry/exit; parking; traffic flow....

HARBOURSIDE WALKWAY

Bits and pieces of harbourfront land have been passed from developers and government instrumentalities to Council over the last twenty-five years. These range from significant areas allowing the development of our beautiful waterfront parks, to tiny handkerchief plots (below Mary/Oxley Streets) which nevertheless form a

vital link in the walk. Council purchases are the final ingredient. Everything is now in place for the walk to be completed as soon as the apartments at the end of Glebe Point Road are finished.

[As I write this with a real sense of appreciation to those governments, councils and developers who have made this possible, I am struck by the obvious gap. This (Carr) government has not contributed anything as far as I am aware. Handing to Council that site at the end of Rozelle Bay on the Crescent to re-create the mangrove swamp would be a lovely gesture from government].

ROADS

Two initiatives on roads have the potential to take traffic away from Glebe:

- a) **Parramatta Road** – Councils through which Parramatta Road runs (IMROC) several years ago undertook to improve Parramatta Road visually and to improve traffic flow. The adventurous yet practical draft scheme was presented in 1998 and recent publicity suggests that the proposal is receiving serious attention. Clearly, a free-flowing Parramatta Road will result in less traffic taking various routes through Glebe to avoid long delays on Parramatta Road.
- b) **Pyrmont Bridge Road** – With Leichhardt Council supporting attempts to reduce through traffic in Glebe, and lobbying the NSW Government and RTA in order to achieve this result, proposals to alter Bridge Road are receiving attention. One of these proposals, the 'Bridge Road Option', has been outlined and critiqued in earlier Bulletins and receives coverage in the report in this *Bulletin* about Council's meeting on through-traffic [see p6].

Another proposal that has received mention over the years and has been raised again at recent meetings, has less to do with reducing traffic on Bridge Road and more to do with linking Wentworth Park to the water and improving the alignment of Bridge Road with Wattle Street and the Fig Street cutting. This proposal shifts Bridge Road to a position parallel with the viaduct in Wentworth Park.

OUR POSITION

While we are not in a position to cause anything we desire to happen ... we can do our best to ensure that the things we don't want, don't happen. To this end our relevant convenors Neil Macindoe, Judy Vergison, Steve Stewart and Collin Hills have been pro-active in ensuring the Society's position is put at the appropriate forums, and have formed an *ad hoc* committee to ensure all initiatives outlined above are treated as an integrated whole.

John Buckingham

The Centipede Art Exhibition

a showing of art works produced by children at
Glebe School Child Care Centre,
at Glebe Public School.

Recently I had the great pleasure of attending the opening of the 'Centipede' Art Exhibition, a showing of art works produced by children at Glebe School Child Care Centre, at Glebe Public School.

The exhibition was held at the Walkabout Gallery in Leichhardt and was opened by Dr. Andrew Refshauge, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and attended by Aboriginal leaders, local people and supporters of the Centre. Two original songs, one of which was dedicated to the children's artwork, were performed by a wonderful acoustic group, 'Mirror Child'.

Glebe School Child Care Centre provides programmes that promote life/social skills, self esteem and creates new opportunities for lifetime change. Funding from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs formed the Centre's Indigenous Young Artists and Friends group. This has created the opportunity for indigenous children to belong, participate and express their cultural identity in a positive way, while enabling non-indigenous children to appreciate and celebrate the uniqueness of Aboriginal culture.

Three huge murals painted by the children over the last year dominated the exhibition. All the artworks are testament to the talent and hopes of the children, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds. One mural painted for the Olympic Art Project won first prize in its section. Another painted in conjunction with Aboriginal Health Promotions featured healthy living ideals, such as good nutrition and anti-smoking messages. The third large mural, painted especially for the Glebe Police Station, was officially handed over to two police officers representing Glebe Police Station.

The art works reflect the children's culture and spirit as well as the community in which they live. Kathy Farrowell, (Aboriginal Education Assistant at the Glebe Public School) who assisted Maria Bamford and Kerry Maguire with the projects, was commended at the exhibition opening as the talented driving force behind the murals.

Glebe School Child Care Centre is run by extraordinary women and their staff. Their commitment, and talent for gathering support and funding, allows the Centre to run programmes that extend and develop the children. In allowing all registered children access (fees are \$1 per day) to structured activities and non-structured play in the safe environment of the school, the Centre is invaluable.

To continue its provision of excellent care means that each year the staff face a new round of fund-raising and support-gathering. Much of the work done by the co-ordinators, Maria and Kerry, is done outside of their paid time. If anyone would like to help, please call them on 9692. 0663.

Congratulations to all the staff – the Glebe School Child Care Centre is inspirational!

Roberta Johnston

A BRIEFING OR "WINDOW DRESSING" ...continued from p3

- Why not a plebiscite to see who in Glebe are for or against the change? Sandra Nori claimed it was impractical, would not give a true indication and, that as state and federal boundaries were decided by a Commission, so should it be at local government level.
- No answers were available for the nitty-gritty rearrangements of existing structures and employed staff. It will all be sorted out by the Boundaries Commission, we are told.
- It was reported (flyer distributed by Leichhardt Council) that the State Chamber of Commerce does not support any major changes to the CBD boundaries. They see potential for their rate revenue being diluted by being directed away from the city.

I think we should be sceptical towards promises of extra funds going to Glebe. We may get quicker DA approvals, but access to the City Council, its Councillors and staff will surely be more difficult and remote. One left the meeting dissatisfied with the process, upset that reason and logic did not get a hearing, and with the strong feeling that the changes were solely for political ends. There were rumours that State Electoral Boundaries are often adjusted to follow local government boundaries, and that this may be the hidden agenda.

David Mander Jones

CURRENT COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY COUNCIL

Frank Sartor, Mayor
Lucy Turnbull, Deputy Mayor
Fabian Marsden

Dixie Coulton
Robert Ho
Kathryn Greiner
Nick Farr-Jones

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON:
www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.aumyc_your_councillors.asp

Notice Board

GLEBE: Twentyfour Seven

Photographs by Robert Billington

Exhibited at the Museum of Sydney

Continuing the Museum of Sydney's interest in Sydney places and communities, this display of Robert Billington's seductive black and white photographs is the culmination of a three-year project documenting Glebe.

Billington's photographs capture our suburb at all hours of the day and night bringing this area, rich in history and atmosphere, to life. The photographs are of streets, churches, houses, squares, cafes, parks and those who inhabit the suburb day and night.

9.30 - 5pm daily, Free with museum entry

1 December - 24 March 2002

GYS



Glebe Youth Service is looking for help in the following areas:

Cooking - a meal for Drop In
Computers (Macs)

- technical support
and teaching at Drop In

Artist - Drop In workshops

If you happen to be throwing out any recyclables, the Service also needs:

Curtains with heavy backing

Couches, two or three seaters

Bookcases, freestanding - any size

Cupboard, suitable for kitchenette

If you can help, please phone 9552. 2873

Clean Up Australia Day

The idea of Clean up Australia is to inspire communities, individuals, families, governments and businesses to unite their resources and take responsibility for their natural environment. Like every year, the Society will register a site with Clean Up Australia.

I invite members to send suggestions for sites in Glebe that need cleaning. So far, ideas include the area between Bridge and St. Johns Road, Minogue Reserve and surrounding streets, and the Orphan School Creek.

Please mark the date in your diary and let me know (phone 9660. 7926, or email hsch@mac.com) if you can participate as a volunteer.

Horst Schwarz

Sunday 3 March 2002



JOIN THE VICTORIANA SOCIETY OF NSW FOR CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA



**The Hughenden,
14 Queen Street,
Woollahra**

Talks by Howard Tanner, leading heritage architect, on
Restoring Victorian Sydney,
and Hugh Trollope on

*A Victorian Social Portrait:
the Blacket-Trollope Connection.*

Cost: \$25.00 - all welcome, but bookings essential to 9955.

5812 after 6pm or weekends, or email john.kluver@asic.gov.au

Sunday 2 December 3pm

FRIENDS OF CALLAN PARK XMAS PARTY



held in conjunction with the Ballast Point

Committee at Balmain Town Hall, starting at 7pm. Glebe Society members and friends are welcome.

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 7PM

TRANBY ABORIGINAL COLLEGE

The staff at Tranby College are concerned that the good name of Tranby is being

exploited by unscrupulous people who have been approaching inner city residents (Glebe, Newtown, etc.) asking for donations to support an Aboriginal cause. Tranby has published the following advertisement in local papers:



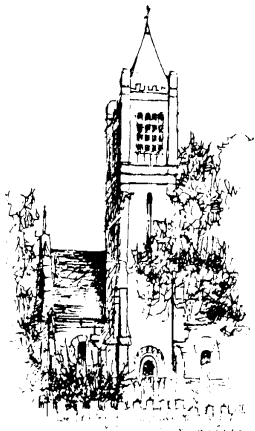
WARNING

Tranby Aboriginal College receives education funding through government agencies and private donations, made directly to the college.

Under no circumstances does the College sponsor individuals to collect funds by approaching people in the street or canvassing neighbourhoods. Should you be approached by anyone in this manner, please contact your local police station.

Notice Board

Christmas Services at St. John's Bishopthorpe:



SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER
9.30 am Holy Communion
6.00 pm

**Service of Nine Lessons &
Carols, with the Taverner
Consort of Voices and
supper to follow.**

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER
11.00 pm
Midnight Communion Service

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER
9.30 am Holy Communion

FROM THE GLEBE LIBRARY

Spirituality through Art -

Turkish Traditional Painting
An exhibition by visual arts' students
26 November - 15 December

For kids:

Pre-schoolers Christmas storytime

Tuesday 18 Dec at 11 am - including a visit from
Santa's helpers.



Magic Dragon Readers Summer Club Meeting Mondays

7 and 21 January at 4.30 pm

- for school age kids
Kits will be available from the Library
on 1 December

Harry Potter Storytime

Thursday 17 January at 10 am
Bookings essential on 9367. 9262

FREE Drama Classes

for 6-16 year olds at Glebe Neighbourhood Centre,
160 St. John's Road. Contact Cherilyn Evans - 9402. 4015
Every Tuesday 4 - 5pm

FOREST LODGE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Home of The Glebe Society archives
Kindergarten to Year 6
Enrolling now for 2002



Principal: Mrs Elva Salter
Phone: 9660 3530



Carols on the Point

Carols on the Point is once again at
Jubilee Park, Glebe Point supported
by the Combined Churches of
Glebe, and emceed by Julie
McCrossin.

Performers include Mic Conway,
Another Roadside Attraction,
Bak 2 U, Brent Street Kids and
Garry Druery.

Prior to the carols there will be face
painting for the children, and at the
end of the evening - fireworks!

Sunday 16 Dec at 7.00 pm

An open invitation
from

The Salvation Army

to anyone in the
community to join them at 9 Ross
Street for:

Christmas service

10am on Christmas Day,
followed by

Christmas Lunch at noon.

For catering purposes,
please RSVP to 9660. 8056.

Tuesday 25 December,
from 10 am



THE INNER CITY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY CO-OP LTD

Corner St John's Rd and Darghhan St
Glebe NSW 2037

Open Wed- Sun, 10.30 am - 6 pm
www.clayworkers.com.au

THE CHRISTMAS SHOW!



from Wed 28 November -
till Monday 21 December

For Your Diary ...

Monday	26 November
Saturday	1 December
Sunday	2 December
Wednesday	5 December
Friday	7 December
Sunday	16 December
Thursday	20 December

Spirituality through Art Exhibition
at Glebe Library – running until 15 December, see Notice Board, p10

GLEBE: Twentyfour Seven photographic exhibition opens running till 24 March 2002, see Notice Board, p9

Victoriana Society Christmas High Tea, see Notice Board, p9

Friends of Callan Park Christmas Party, see Notice Board, p9

Glebe Society Christmas Party at Briarbank, see enclosed flyer.

BOOK NOW!

Carols on the Point – see Notice Board, p10

The Surplis Singers Concert
7.30 pm Record Reign Hall, St. Johns Road, see p5

For all Christmas services, see Notice Board, p10

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 3 March 2002

Clean Up Australia Day, see Notice Board p9

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	John Buckingham	9660. 7780
Vice-President	Andrew Craig	9566. 1746
Immediate Past President	Bruce Davis	9660. 7873
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518. 6186
Treasurer	Patrick McNiece	-

Committee Members:

Cynthia Jones	9660. 2451	Jeanette Knox	9660. 7781
David Mander Jones	9552. 4172	Hilary Wise	9660. 5845
		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 Whitemore	9660. 7969
Foreshore Walk and Cycle Way	Judy Vergison	9692. 9200

CONTACTS

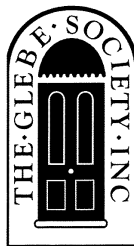
Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660. 7930
Historian	Max Solling	9660. 1160
Membership List Manager	vacant	=
New Members Contact	vacant	=
Bulletin Editor	Bobbie Burke	9692. 0343
Web Master	Cynthia Jones	9660. 2451

in this issue:

- Glebe moving to the CBD? pp 1-3
- Photographic competition, p5
- The Surplis Singers, p5
- Traffic and Planning Matters, p6
- The Opportunity of a Lifetime, p7
- The Centipede Art Exhibition, p8

**Don't forget the Society's 2001 Christmas party!
RSVP Sunday 2 December - flyer inside!**

The GLEBE
Box 100 PO



SOCIETY Inc
Glebe 2037

POSTAGE
PAID

Season's Greetings



