



# Glebe Society Bulletin

1/2003 February/March

## Change is in the air

The proclamation signed by the Governor last week means that Glebe and Forest Lodge will come under the administration of the Council of the City of Sydney from 8 May. (From here, any references to Glebe include Forest Lodge.) All that remains to be done is for the Leichhardt and City councils to negotiate the terms of transfer of staff and assets. It seems highly unlikely that a Liberal Party victory in the State election next month would make any difference.

We know that some of our Society's members are against the idea, some are annoyed at the apparent arrogance displayed in the process, some don't care and others are strongly in favour of the move. The Management Committee has tried to balance the arguments and dispassionately look to the future from the point of view of those who live, work and play in Glebe. As a result, we have accepted what now appears to be inevitable and are focusing on how we help get the best for Glebe from the change.

### What are the priorities?

The Management Committee perceives that we have some important priorities to pursue. We propose to embrace a process of cautious

engagement that focuses on the following main concerns:

1. Preservation and enhancement of our access to decision-making and our democratic representation in the City.
2. Getting the City to focus on our key concerns and develop strategies for short-term and long-term solutions to the perceived "neglect" of Glebe and improving its amenity.
3. Drawing attention to the current macro planning issues likely to affect Glebe, particularly those likely to generate more traffic, and working with the City's officers to solve them in our favour.
4. Obtaining the City's agreement to preserve and adopt the Glebe Conservation Plan.
5. Developing and adopting realistic strategies and actions to arrest the decline of Glebe Point Road and assure its long-term prosperity and diversity.

Our following article, *The Rewards and Risks of Joining the City* (page 6) provides a more detailed background on why the Committee has decided to capitalise on the change rather than fight it.

- Andrew Craig

## Quiz the candidates

The State Election, on Saturday 22 March, is your chance to express your opinion.

The Glebe Society is providing an opportunity for this opinion to be soundly based. You can see and hear the endorsed candidates for the major parties at a public meeting at **7.30 - 10 pm, Friday 14 March** in the **Record Reign Hall** on the corner of St Johns Road and Derwent Street

We will invite the endorsed candidates for the main parties - Labor, Liberal, Greens and Democrats - to attend. They will be given five minutes each to introduce themselves and will then respond to a list of questions which The Glebe Society will give them in advance.

What would **you** like to ask? Here are some suggestions:

1. What will you do to ensure there is no increase in through traffic in Glebe as a result of the construction of the cross-city tunnel?

Continued on page 2

## Quiz the candidates

2. What specific measures will you take to increase support for families at risk in the Glebe area?
3. When Glebe joins the City of Sydney, will you ensure Glebe becomes a separate ward represented by at least two councillors elected by Glebe voters only?
4. What assurances can you give regarding the protection of human-scale 19thC townscapes, such as Glebe, from inappropriate development?
5. Glebe is listed as a Conservation Area on the Register of the National Estate and is also classified as an Urban Conservation Area by the National Trust. Will you support placing Glebe on the State Heritage Register?
6. The Land and Environment Court is seen as a rubber stamp for developers and a method of overriding the concerns of local residents and councils who have to live with unacceptable developments imposed on their environment. Do you have any plans to have the role of the Land & Environment Court reviewed with the goal of establishing a more equitable process?
7. Given Sydney's problems with air pollution and traffic congestion, what strategies have you/your party developed to reduce car ownership and/or usage in the metropolitan area?
8. Currently a feasibility study is being conducted into the possibility of a Light Rail link from Central Station to Circular Quay. Do you favour such an extension and what level of priority would you give it in overall traffic management planning?
9. A number of other possible extensions to Light Rail have been floated, one of which is a direct connection between Leichhardt and Parramatta along Parramatta Road. This would form part of a planned

# Recognition of special service to The Glebe Society

The Glebe Society currently has 12 Life Members, one alas deceased, who, in recognition of particular efforts on behalf of the Society, receive the Bulletin and enjoy the privileges of membership without payment of a subscription.

The 12 Life Members are John Buckingham, Jim Coomb, Edwina Doe, John Hoddinott (dec'd), Jeanette Knox, Neil Macindoe, Albert Mispel, Albert Renshaw, Alan Robertson, Bernard Smith, Max Solling, and Andrew Wood.

An ad-hoc subcommittee has met recently to discuss and clarify the rules regarding Life Membership.

---

rejuvenation of Parramatta Road. Do you believe this is desirable/feasible?

10. Current developments which will affect traffic in this area are the Cross-City Tunnel and potential changes to Parramatta Road (including, as mentioned, a possible Light Rail Line). A likely side-effect of both of these could be the diversion of traffic from the major arterial roads through this suburb. How would you propose to prevent this? What mechanisms are in place, or could be put in place, to ensure integrated planning of these developments so that there is no (or minimal) disadvantage to local residents?

11. Vandalism is a serious issue in many parts of Glebe. What will you do to assist local government and the community reduce this problem.

12. What will you do to return Wentworth Park to the people of Glebe and surrounding suburbs?

Please give your comments on these questions or suggestions for other questions to the Society's Secretary Liz Simpson-Booker on 9518 6186 or email [secretary@glebesociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@glebesociety.org.au).

And please do come to the meeting.

**See you on Friday 14 March!**

This sub-committee made the following recommendations:

### *Life Membership:*

People may be eligible for **honorary life membership** of the Society if they render sustained service to the Society over a significant period and either:

- Are pivotal in achieving a major goal of the Society, or
- Provide substantial, conspicuous and strategic leadership to the Society.

### *Society Commendation:*

A new award, the Society Commendation, was recommended. This will take the form of a handsome, laminated certificate and be presented at an Annual General Meeting. People may be eligible for Commendation by the Society if they have provided meritorious service as defined from time to time by the Management Committee.

People who are not a current member of the Society may be recommended for either honour.

The Committee accepted these recommendations, which do not involve changes to the Society's Rules, at the February meeting.

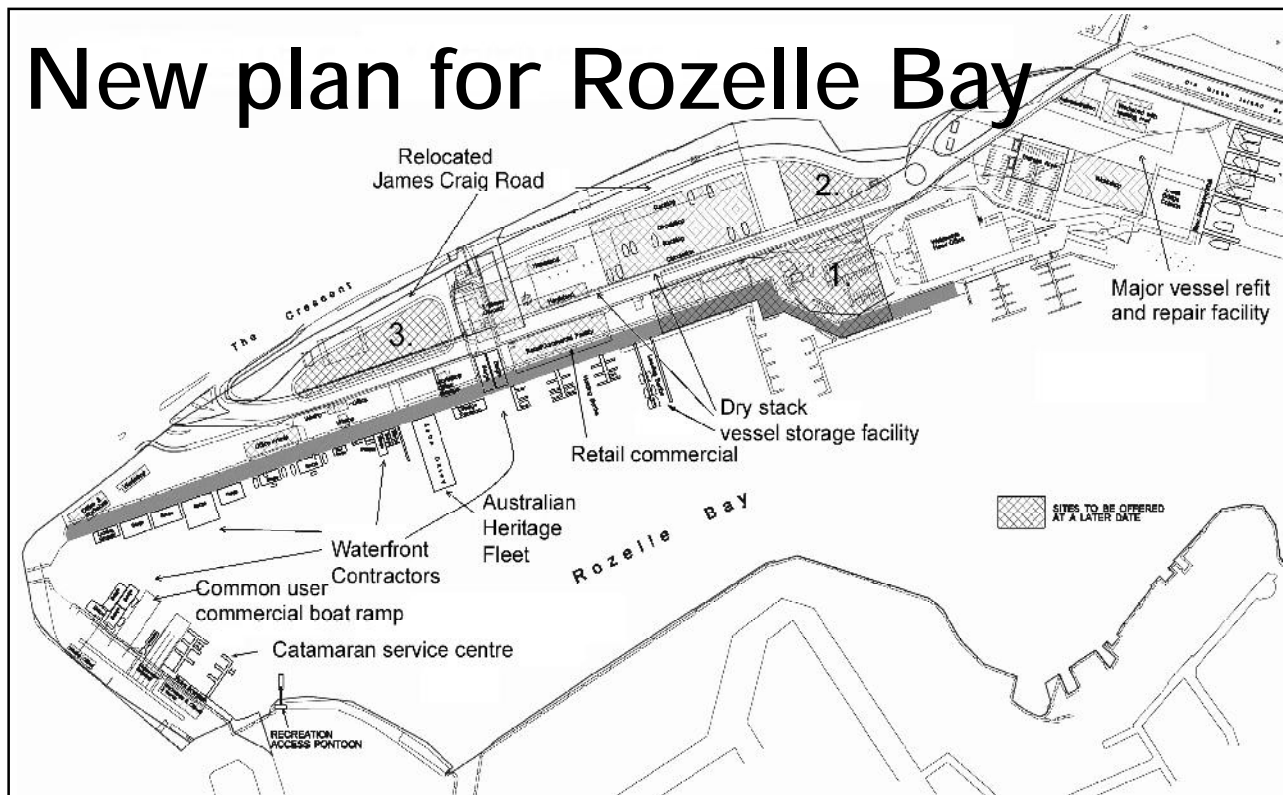
The ad-hoc subcommittee (and anyone else with an interest in the matter) will reconvene to review possible recipients of both awards, to be presented at the 2003 Annual General Meeting. If you would like to propose someone, please ring John Buckingham on 9660 7780.

## Welcome to new members

We welcome the following people, who have recently joined the Society:

Dr Phillip Baird  
Ray and Kerrie Horne  
Barbara Waterman

# New plan for Rozelle Bay



Three large “Sites to be offered at a later date” are key features on the Rozelle Bay Maritime Precinct plan. The FAQ page on the [waterways.nsw.gov.au](http://waterways.nsw.gov.au) website carries clever “spin-doctor’s” answers with sufficient scope to allow justification of almost anything in the future. It is an interesting exercise to group the key Q&As in a different order to their placement on the website.

## Q. Will there be a marina?

The Authority has always maintained that Rozelle Bay will not be utilised for a recreational marina and this is reflected in the requirements of the Master Plan. The permanent berthing of recreational vessels in wet berths is not proposed for Rozelle Bay. Berthing of vessels will be restricted to the provision of working berths for vessels utilising each of the maritime facilities.

**TGSI.** There is already a marina in the bay - the “super yacht” marina - which the then Waterways head, Mat Taylor, promised at public meetings was only for the Olympics and would be gone by March 2001. Later on the Waterways site we read:

## Q. What will it mean for the super yacht marina?

The Waterways Authority has decided to retain control of the visiting vessel

marina facilities for the time being. As Rozelle Bay develops, the Waterways Authority may reconsider its position and seek further expressions of interest for these facilities along with the adjoining land sites.

**TGSI.** We believe this answer can be interpreted to mean that, in a little while, if public resistance dies away, Waterways has plans to capitalise on this financially disastrous development which has never achieved anything close to predicted potential. There is no doubt the handful of visits to Sydney by super yachts, such as Greg Norman’s craft, could be accommodated by existing facilities at other yacht clubs, marinas or the old commercial finger wharves.

## Q. How many boats in the dry stack storage?

The dry boat storage will be built in two stages. Stage One will see about 270 boats accommodated; Stage Two has a potential capacity of approximately 900-950 boats.

**TGSI.** This facility is a “dry marina” for 1200 boats. This of course explains the careful use of the term “wet berths” in the core promise to the first question, “Will there be a marina?”

## Q. Will it be too busy and dangerous for rowing/paddling?

Rowing/paddling activity will continue to be concentrated on the southern side of Rozelle Bay. Existing wash and speed restrictions will be maintained.

**TGSI.** Does anyone seriously believe that water traffic from a 1200 boat “dry marina” plus all the other vessel movements generated by proposed activities will have no effect on rowing and paddling traffic in the bay?

## Q. What will happen to the Heritage Fleet?

The Heritage fleet will in the short term continue to occupy part of the Rozelle site. Meanwhile, the Waterways Authority is working with the Heritage Fleet to identify a more permanent base for the Heritage fleet elsewhere in the harbour.

**TGSI.** So the Australian Heritage Fleet’s vessel repair and refurbishment facilities are to be moved to make way for vessel repair and refurbishment facilities. That’s logic at its best? While the Heritage Fleet might have little money to pay rent, the hours worked by its volunteers add tens of millions of dollars annually to the social capital of the community. Internationally the Australian Heritage Fleet is recog-

Continued page 4

Continued from page 3

## Rozelle Bay plan

nised as one of the world's greatest maritime restoration organisations. What it needs is a site that is easily accessed by its workforce and supply vehicles, far enough from housing to allow shipbuilding work to proceed when the volunteers are available. Rozelle Bay is ideal - the *James Craig* gave its name to the roadway - alternatives suggested by Waterways are not ideal.

## An upgrade for Foley Park?

The Glebe Society is actively encouraging Council to upgrade Foley Rest Park.

As an urban park of some significance, central to Glebe and strategically located at the crossroads of our two major thoroughfares, we feel it has a far more important role to play than the present level of care and maintenance would suggest.

It could be more clearly connected to Glebe Point Road and welcoming to the residents, shoppers and tourists who frequent this area on foot.

Already used on occasions for some community events, an upgraded and maintained Foley Park could serve as Glebe's town square or meeting place. It could also provide a safe and pleasant children's playground and early childhood centre, and, once again, an interesting and inviting retreat, "a little oasis among the traffic thundering through the busy intersection".

We would like to see the Park become a source of civic pride for Glebe residents, and a working party of Society members is discussing with Council ways to achieve this.

### Postscript

Notwithstanding the fact that Leichhardt Council is to lose the Glebe area, Vince Cusamano (Manager Parks and Streetscapes) agreed to carry out the preparation of the garden beds. Planting and maintenance will commence soon.

- Bobbie Burke

# Poetry competition – revisions, decisions

In the last *Bulletin* of 2002, we advised members of a Poetry Competition that had been created to make Glebe residents more aware that Sir Edmund Barton, Australia's First Prime Minister, was born in Hereford Street in January 1849. News of the competition was duly published.

By the new year it was evident that a wider cross-section of the community should be invited to contribute to increase recognition of Sir Edmund's early connection with our suburb. Sponsors emerged [details follow] and the Poetry Competition grew to include invitations to residents of Hereford Street, to the five local schools and, of course, to all Glebe residents, who will find these details at the Glebe Library. *We particularly encourage children to submit their poetry* and we have created for them special prize categories.

Poems should embrace the broad theme of Sir Edmund returning to Glebe today and how he would view the changes that have taken place here.

Poems of any style are acceptable and entry is *free*. The competition

will be judged by independent experts. Closing date for entries is **10 March**. Prize winners will be announced on **30 March** and published in the following *Bulletin*.

### Adults

1st prize: Use of a holiday cottage for a weekend at Pearl Beach

2nd prize: Six bottles of premium wine

### Children

1st prize: Gift Voucher at Gleebooks to value of \$50

2nd prize: Gift Voucher at Gleebooks to value of \$25

Please submit your entries by mail to The Glebe Society, PO Box 100, Glebe 2037 or by email to: [cmjjones@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cmjjones@bigpond.net.au) and please be sure to include your name, address and contact numbers. The age of children entering their poems would be most helpful to the judging panel.

- Cynthia Jones

Good luck to  
all entrants!

## Why Glebe?

# A young couple's view

*This is the second of a series reporting some of the thoughts and memories of Glebe residents. This story is from a young couple who recently bought a house in Glebe after renting in the same area for the previous seven years. They have two young children.*

My partner and I had been living in Crows Nest and Birchgrove and saw an advertisement for a house in Glebe. What appealed to us most was the diverse character of Glebe compared to the apparently more conservative 'mono' North Shore. The clincher was the wonderful view

of the City from our bedroom.

Some of the major appeals were Glebe's convenient location for work, shops, parks and friends. Other attractions include:

- Saturday markets;
- the Valhalla;
- close to pizza and Leichhardt;
- light rail;
- university and hospitals;
- backpackers (bringing diversity);
- laundromats;
- students and intellectuals, and

Continued on page 10



# Society saves a rare tree

The Society appears to have saved a native tree, a Queensland lacebark, which grows in Walsh Avenue between Hereford Street and Wigram Lane. Lacebarks are Australian rainforest trees related to Kurrajongs and Illawarra Flame trees. There are a number of the latter planted as street trees in Glebe, and their small, goblet shaped bright red flowers cover the tree entirely after it loses its leaves in spring. The Illawarra Flame may not bloom every year, but if it does it is always at the same time as the purple South American Jacaranda, which also is covered with medium sized trumpet shaped flowers and loses its leaves before blooming. Consequently, when these two species are planted near each other they make a spectacular display. Lacebarks have a similar habit to Illawarra Flames: they have a single very straight greenish trunk, large, lobed bright green leaves and a pyramidal form, which makes them suitable as street trees. Lacebarks also lose their leaves in spring and are covered in blooms, which are medium sized, dark pink and trumpet shaped. However they are less spectacular than the Flame flowers because the petals have a brown felt-like covering. Consequently the blooms are often more conspicuous when they have fallen on the ground, generally around Christmas. I am aware of only two Lacebarks in Glebe, both planted when we were part of the City of Sydney before 1968. The one in Walsh Avenue was threatened with destruction by Leichhardt Council because it had lifted the footpath very slightly, and despite collecting more than \$3 million from parking meters Council claimed it was too expensive to repair. The Glebe Society protested vigorously, and it appears, successfully.

**FLETCHERS:** A site inspection and a flurry of meetings took place before Christmas about this large and

controversial development. At this stage it is not clear if any of them have produced an improvement.

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:** The Glebe Society was concerned from the beginning to achieve the best result from what is, by Glebe standards, a gross overdevelopment. The residents of Annandale, less alert to potential problems, are suffering the worst from the proposed arrangement and character of buildings on the site. The impact on Booth Street, in terms of both building bulk and traffic generation, is notably worse than the impact on Forest Lodge. Naturally, The Society will do what it can to lessen the impact on Annandale. Members will recall the unwise and ill-informed letter that appeared to give the support of the Mayor to a 15 storey building on the site. This ignorance and folly has now been compounded by a resolution of Leichhardt Council on 17 December last, initiated by the Mayor and seconded by the Deputy, Jamie Parker, to sell off open space along Orphan School Creek without public notification or consultation. On Saturday 15 February, I attended a meeting of seventy outraged Forest Lodge residents who resolved to oppose this decision. Jamie Parker appears to have made history as the first Green politician to support selling off open space!

**ST SCHOLASTICA'S, 2 AVENUE ROAD:** As well as a new fence the school is proposing to expand its facilities. I cannot discover any adverse impact on surrounding residents apart from the increase in bulk. There is no doubt the removal of the portable classroom in Avenue Road, not currently proposed, would greatly improve the appearance of the school.

**MAX FACTOR:** The building has been leased commercially, but only

short term. The Society would argue that a low-key commercial use is the best solution, as the building is structurally sound and is unlikely to be knocked down.

**12-14 QUEEN ST:** I was unable to attend the works inspection for this site on 1 Feb as I was returning from a quite wonderful tour of Vietnam. I understand the resident opposition was universal and similar to that voiced by The Society. Council will make a final determination on Thursday, 20 February. (Council rejected the application. - Ed)

- Neil Macindoe

---

## Kirsova Park

Local Residents and Council Officers have had one meeting regarding the improvement of this Heritage Area. Progress is slow, but residents have drawn up a detailed plan and compiled a list of works to be undertaken by both locals and Council Officers.

Council was delighted to receive this blueprint but as yet no specific funds have been allocated and so work has not yet commenced. However, a follow up meeting in the near future should result in more positive beginnings and I am hopeful repair work and planting will happen soon. Persistence rather than horticultural know-how seems to be the skill most needed to move things forward! In the meantime residents continue to pick up what litter they can.

Although Kirsova Park is a very small area, a large amount of car and pedestrian traffic goes past it everyday accessing the Library and St Helen's Community Care Centre. Visually it is in a position to make an important impact and it deserves its chance to shine!

I look forward to reporting its re-awakening ...

- Fay Mander-Jones

# The rewards and risks of joining the City

by Andrew Craig

## What does moving to the City mean?

The Management Committee has, for some two years, been agonising over the pros and cons of this move. Early in the process we asked both Maire Sheehan and Frank Sartor to address us separately on their motivations and intentions. It was a fascinating process and gave us insights into the differences in culture between the “socialist” approach of Leichhardt and the “global city” view of Sydney.

Underlying the State Government’s motivations, we suspect, has always been the political advantage to Labor of delivering a strong ALP voter base to the city. However, Frank was also able to communicate a vision for his city and a linked group of “benefits” for Glebe and the City, should we join. In our view, Maire’s position was largely based on the politics of fear, personalities and her perceptions of disadvantages to other parts of the Leichhardt Municipality.

This is not to say that there are no advantages to Glebe staying with Leichhardt. The Management Committee has long respected the democratic approach to management taken at Leichhardt Council and its sympathy with heritage issues. Our own members have been deeply involved in helping to establish, encourage and use this democracy for the betterment of Glebe and other localities in the Municipality. The potential loss of this democratic access is the issue of greatest concern to the Management Committee, when we join the City.

However, some of our members have suggested that we should not take this logic too far. In their view, although we have formal access rights in Leichhardt, in the last few years the

strength of Independents in Leichhardt with support bases outside Glebe has encouraged an informal process in which Glebe Councillors and residents are sometimes “left out of the loop”. For this reason and others associated with the apparent slowly increasing neglect of Glebe over the last five years, many of our members feel that we are the poor relation of Leichhardt. It was only weeks ago that a Glebe Councillor told one of our members that Leichhardt Council was not spending on capital works in Glebe and that maintenance would be kept to a minimum. Although Maire has denied this, anecdotal evidence suggests otherwise. We sometimes wonder what a detailed audit of capital and recurrent expenditure in Glebe by the Leichhardt Council over the last five years would reveal.

## What are the benefits of joining the City?

When the change was first mooted, the early debate at Council and State Government level was remarkable in its lack of reasoned argument. The Management Committee, for its own enlightenment, felt obliged to try to understand the arguments and remove what, at the time, it saw largely as rhetoric and political blustering. The results of the Management Committee’s analysis of the arguments presented by Frank, Maire, Sandra Nori, Harry Woods’ office and many other interested people led the Committee to summarise several pros and cons, outlined here.

Our views of the likely advantages of joining the city are, in approximate order of importance:

**1. Greater likelihood of implementation of strategies directed towards long term solutions to**

**some of our problems, based on a much clearer vision for the community and the needed staying power.**

Most of us are tired of short term, band-aid solutions meted out as reactions to short term political imperatives, including those emanating from State Government. We suppose that Sydney City has its fair share of politics but it has proved itself capable of implementing longer term plans directed to specific issues or problems. Its preparation for and successful management of the city for the Olympics is one example. Its ability to reduce graffiti to a minimal problem is another.

**2. Greater professionalism in the delivery of services and strategic investment in Glebe.**

Most of our members have had detailed dealings with Leichhardt Council over matters from community interest issues through to planning. Many lament the depressing lack of clear direction, commitment, objectivity and energetic follow-through apparent in dealing with Council officers. We perceive that this does not come from the officers themselves but more in the way they are led, managed and instructed. Discussions with organisations in the City similar to the Glebe Society and observation of the way the City runs its community consultation processes suggest that generally there is high satisfaction with the professionalism and conduct of Council officers amongst residents in the City.

**3. The potential for much greater resources to be applied to problems we have been trying to solve for years.**

Most of our members perceive that Glebe is becoming increasingly neglected. The evidence of this includes petty crime, poorly maintained buildings and infrastructure, street litter, rampant graffiti, empty



shops, increased noise and traffic and general declining amenity. The Management Committee believes that most of these issues are too big for both the Glebe Society and Leichhardt Council. We need intervention by forces that have the commitment, knowledge, power, money and organisational ability to find and implement long term solutions to both easy and difficult problems. We don't say that Sydney has all of this, but we do say that it has proven itself to have the ability to solve difficult problems. Leichhardt Council should be recognised for its efforts such as the Community Safety Committee. However, the likelihood of Sydney realistically being able to help us with our problems appears much higher.

## What are the risks inherent in joining the City?

Although the Management Committee perceives these advantages, it is under no illusions that all will be smooth sailing in the turbulent waters of the politics of a larger city. We see the main risks to be:

### 1. Dilution of our access to decision-making and reduced ability to express ourselves democratically when influencing key decisions which affect us.

Leichhardt Council's open system of management has given us high access to a wide variety of Council meetings. Our local Councillors represented our direct interests and, theoretically, our local voices could be heard in most Leichhardt Council decision fora. As part of the city, it appears that we will not have this immediate access to and local representation on Council and at its meetings. Our interests will be attended to mostly by way of the City's community consultation process, the more broadly elected councillors and opportunities for direct consultation and lobbying. The Management Committee perceives this as the highest risk issue in moving to Sydney. We propose to engage the City to persuade it to change from the system of representation of communities to a system of

direct election of local Councillors, derived from specific geographic areas of the new city. By this means we propose to minimise the risk of inappropriate representation when we move from Cr Sartor's benign dictatorship to a leadership less interested in the residents of the "new" city. We also perceive that the large influx of new suburbs to the City will create competition for both attention and funds and we are concerned that our voice will only be one amongst many representative community groups.

Nevertheless, we continue to remain a little surprised and comforted by the positive view that resident groups in Pyrmont and Ultimo have of the City. Right now, the Sydney consultation process seems to work well, on the whole. As part of our engagement process we also feel that there may be an important learning and "wait and see" process before we jump in too quickly to insist on detailed implementation of our representational rights. (Harry Woods' office has suggested to us that there is no intention to change the system of representation in the City and that the Minister sees no reason to do so.)



### 2. Diverse interests in the City may lead to pragmatic planning decisions which adversely effect Glebe.

Sydney City contains a highly diverse group of organisations, residents and interest groups. This feature is part of what makes it a city we love. However, the interests of big businesses and authorities based in or controlling important aspects of the city do not always align with our interests. At times, they clearly compete. We must be on guard against potentially powerful business and other forces creating pressure to allow development and infrastructure to proceed which reduces the amenity of our suburbs. We are particularly uncomfortable with planning for the Cross City Tunnel

and the "Broadway Boulevard" and their potential to increase the density of traffic in Glebe's residential streets. On the other hand, we are optimistic about Sydney's intentions for Wentworth Park and its interest in the revival of Glebe Point Road.

## What are the furchies?

Throughout the heated rhetoric in the earlier public exchanges about our potential move to the city, several emotive catch-cries were used to try to create an atmosphere of fear around the debate. To try to help identify the difference between fact and fear, the Committee has made inquiries and formed the following preliminary views. (All these are nevertheless issues of concern and will require discussion with the City before the Committee is more comfortable with them.)

The furchies include:

#### 1. "Glebe will become the new Pyrmont with high rise development and reduced diversity of character and population."

Discussions with city officers indicate that there is no evidence of plans or intentions of this nature and that the opposite is likely to be the case. Pyrmont and Ultimo were developed by the City West Development Corporation, a quasi local government organisation constituted by the State Government to change the essentially industrial character of the western fringe of the city to residential. Sydney City inherited these areas from City West. Cr Sartor and his officers suggest that they want to preserve Glebe's character and enhance its ability to retain its diverse population. They nevertheless propose improving its amenity and quality of experience for both residents and visitors. They are also interested in the tourist potential of Glebe and its environs.

#### 2. "We will lose our beautiful heritage buildings to over-development and the juggernaut of big business interests"

It is true that Sydney City's reputation for preservation of its heritage buildings was poor prior to the major

Continued on page 12

# From my dungeon

## Glebe's rights

Over the next couple of months negotiations will take place between Leichhardt Council and the Sydney City Council that will have considerable implications for Glebe. The Governor's proclamation that gives effect to the transfer of Glebe and Forest Lodge requires that the two councils negotiate the transfer of assets and staff. If they can't agree the Minister for Local Government will settle the dispute.

Land owned by Leichhardt in Glebe and Forest Lodge will be transferred to the City, so Leichhardt can't sell the block of land referred to in Roberta Johnston's article on page 11. However, the councils may well dispute the number of street sweepers to be transferred - cynics might suggest "none" as they've never seen one in Glebe.

A more serious issue relates to money collected from developers by Leichhardt Council as the result of developments in Glebe. Neil Macindoe recently obtained figures from Council officers that show open space contributions collected from Glebe over the past seven years total \$3.5 million, while expenditure from this fund in Glebe in the same period amounts to only \$1.1 million; \$700,000 of this was spent on the Glebe Library. While some of the money was spent in Annandale and is of benefit to Glebe residents (eg the playground in Bicentennial Park) this leaves a large amount in kitty. Will this surplus be transferred to the City and spent on Glebe's run down parks? Only if we agitate loudly, I suspect.

Our transfer to the City becomes effective on 8 May, and no one I've spoken to seems to think that the outcome of the State election will make any difference. Even if the Libs win, it seems unlikely that they would try to reverse the process now it has begun.

Leichhardt will continue to deal with DAs, but DAs worth more than \$1 million that are not finalised before 8 May will be determined by the City.

Smaller DAs not finalised by 8 May can be dealt with by either Council, if the City agrees. One spin being put on the transfer by a source close to the Leichhardt Mayor is that big developers will hold off submitting their DAs because they'll get a better deal from the City. Propaganda maybe, but you never know.

If you want to know more about the transfer process, check out the Governor's proclamation on our website at [www.glebesociety.org.au/NewsAndEvents/News.htm](http://www.glebesociety.org.au/NewsAndEvents/News.htm).

## Traps for the unwary

The Davis family lives not far from the proposed Australand development of the Fletcher's site, and will lose some of the views from our roof terrace as a result of a four-storey development, ironically named "The Hill". Of course we objected, but, as we found out during the DA process, we had lost our case before we started.

The reason is that the master plan for the site includes provision for an even larger building. Of course we had viewed the master plan when it was exhibited for comment, but like many other mere mortals, we did not understand the implications of the complex set of drawings that was exhibited.

My first realisation of the enormity of what had been approved came when I attended a site inspection late last year, well after finalisation of the master plan. The developer displayed a scale model of the site and surrounding streets that showed both the building envelope allowed by the master plan and the proposed building. This made it crystal clear that Australand is entitled to build Fort Knox at the bottom of our street of Victorian terraces!

So sad, too bad - we lost because we weren't smart enough. But I hope that in future council will insist that exhibited master plans for any major development include a model that can be understood by an ordinary resident who does not have a degree in architecture or town planning.

## Australia Day at Hereford Street

The Australia Day Holiday Monday was almost over. There were grey skies, rain threatened, people were winding down after the three day break. But halfway down Hereford Street things were happening! Card tables, beach chairs, paper plates, plastic glasses, green and yellow balloons ... our first street party, or at least, the first anyone could remember.

It started slowly, gathered pace, then settled down to a warmhearted well wine and dined crowd of about 50 grown ups with lots of young ones. Upmarket food mingled with sausages and tomato sauce, champagne side by side with sarsaparilla. New friends were found, old ones well met. Time passed all too quickly and the evening was pronounced a big success, everyone talked eagerly about repeat performances. Maybe it was the beginning of a new tradition, it certainly ended with an old one ... In the half light a game of cricket started! A lovely evening ended in laughter, looking forward to next year and another laid back celebration on another holiday Monday.

- Fay Mander-Jones

## Out of the frying pan . . .

I have stepped down as the editor of the *Bulletin* (out of the frying pan) to take on the Treasurer's duties (into the fire). Edwina Doe, a life member with a long record of service to the Society, is your new editor. We have also set up a small group, comprising Edwina, Cynthia Jones, Hilary Wise and myself to coordinate the *Bulletin* and the Society's website. As always, we would be delighted if other members of the Society would join us (phone Edwina [9660 7066] or Cynthia [9660 2451] if you are interested).

- Bruce Davis



# New home for Heritage Fleet?



The Heritage Fleet, for many years a feature of Rozelle Bay, will soon be looking for a new home (see Collin Hills' article p. 3) At present the chances are that it will move to Cockatoo Island, Woolwich or further afield.

However there is an alternative that would suit the Fleet, and benefit Glebe. The drawing at the top of this article is a concept prepared by Group GSA Architects showing how the Fleet could be accommodated at Blackwattle Bay. This work was undertaken because the Fleet was aware that it was likely to be evicted from Rozelle Bay by Waterways, and because it is looking for a new location which is more accessible to the public and has more space.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) is currently developing a plan for the Blackwattle Bay area and previous plans to lease the recently renovated wharves are on hold.

The Group GSA concept is innovative and exciting. At the western end it involves taking over the present Pioneer Concrete batch plant (the lease expires shortly) and recycling the concrete hopper as offices and/or classrooms. Education authorities have responded favourably to the idea that the Fleet could develop a

relationship with the Blackwattle Secondary College in teaching maritime trades.

The current Pioneer wharf would be the base for restoring historic vessels such as the John Oxley, and the main wharf would comprise a mixture of activities, including sub-leasing to commercial operators and historical displays, and could be used for weekend fairs. The plans also include refurbishing the old coal bunkers near the Fish Market for retail use, landmark gateways over Pymont Bridge Road at each end of the site, and extensive tree plantings beside the road.

Public access to the site is a major priority of the plan.

The Glebe Society supports the general concept developed by the Heritage Fleet, particularly as a probable alternative is that Blackwattle Bay becomes a base for harbour cruise vessels. SHFA plans to release a preliminary plan for the area soon.

The Society recently arranged for the Fleet and its architects to brief our local MP, Sandra Nori, on its ideas and she was very receptive. It's now up to the Fleet to push its case as hard as it can with anyone who will listen!

## Making Glebe Point Road vibrant again

The idea behind our approach to making Glebe Point Road (GPR) vibrant again is to lay down indisputable research based data, upon which sensible policy and commercial decisions can be taken. We all have our pet theories about why Glebe's high street is moribund. These are some that I have gleaned from talking to people in Glebe and reading reports about our village:

- It is part of the business cycle. As some parts of the city boom, others bust.
- The commercial density of Glebe is insufficient for developers to gain sufficient return on investment.
- Glebe Point Road is dirty, dangerous and inconvenient. It looks tawdry. There is petty crime and threatening behaviour. It is not civil.
- GPR needs to be thought of as several zones: street buzz, books and coffee, eat street, village shopping. It needs events such as growers' markets to attract custom.
- Council, commerce and community need to work together; the relationships have tired and we need a fresh start.
- Paying to park in your own village is outrageous. You don't stop on spec any more. It is sad. If Council were fair dinkum those with Leichhardt stickers could park free of charge.

I could keep on recording these ideas, so if one of your favourites has not been listed don't feel discouraged; I just haven't heard it recently or frequently. It is clear some of these things could be sorted out fairly rapidly, but others are mutually exclusive. It is clear that the spark has gone out and Council, community and commerce need to revivify the street. I have had discussions with the Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM) of Macquarie University and the Faculty of Built Environment (FBE) of the University of New South Wales. MGSM will assign a group of

- Bruce Davis

Continued on page 10



The Terrace at Darling Mills Restaurant was the venue for our elegant Christmas Party in December. The evening was balmy and the canapes and wine were enjoyed by members and friends alike. This party marked the end of an era because of the Adey family's decision to sell the restaurant and focus on Darling Mills Farm in the Castle Hill area. However, we can continue to enjoy their produce at the Farmers' Market held at Pymont on the first Saturday of each month.



Pictured left are President Andrew Craig and Sara Adey when the Adey family was presented with a special edition of *Glebe's Treasures* which the Society's Heritage group is currently compiling.

**Continued from page 9**

## Reviving Glebe Point Road

graduate students who will analyse the problem and prepare a strategic options report for a coalition of community, commerce and council. The Glebe Society will be the client to the students and I will coordinate the project. At the same time the FBE undergraduate students will work on the quality of the built environment, and use similar but integrated methods to prepare a similar options report.

My plan envisages these reports being presented to public meetings. The students will be working hard, and I will be asking you to cooperate with them as they gather and analyse data.

"And then what?" did you ask. There may be a number of whats. One of them is that there will be research based data and heightened interest. Glebe will have, once again, got on with it and sorted out its problems. I am personally encouraged to see that this will be done with a new council, since the High Court's decision on Friday to refuse any appeal on changing Council boundaries. It appears Glebe may have gained a Valentine on Friday, 14 February.

- John Gray

**Continued from page 4**

## Why a young couple chose Glebe?

- mixed cultures and ethnicity.

It's a bit grungy yet convenient and near friends. We liked the arty feel – especially the Blackwattle Bay Studios. We are able to walk everywhere with our new one who is now a year old. It's great not having to get into the car to go to the shops.

What is not so good at present?

- The streets are filthy, and they don't feel as safe as they used to.
- There's graffiti and vandalism, particularly of lights in the park.
- We miss the arty feel that Blackwattle Studios added.
- Glebe needs to be cleaned up – bring the people back.

We are very supportive of a main street development of Glebe Point Road and keen to get involved in the local community, particularly in developing Neighbourhood Watch groups and lending a hand cleaning up graffiti.

Last, but by no means least, we like the community and neighbours. We highly recommend their annual street party – street parties bring everyone -

groovy people - together. The community feeling is strong – we find Glebe friendlier and more diverse than some neighbouring suburbs.

- Spoken by **Rob** and written on his behalf by **Hilary Wise**

## Letter to the Editor



### Making a difference

Aren't Glebe streets filthy? There are piles of power poles posters; gross graffiti grunges; caches of canine caca. What have you done this week to improve Glebe. Taken down a poster? Cleaned graffiti? Stepped carefully?

I have got a thing about commercial posters. I'm the mad bloke walking the Dalmatian who cuts posters down as soon as they appear in Minogue Crescent. I am not always first. Someone else is a poster ripper. She, (I think I glimpsed her once), rips them so that the advertising cannot be read. I cut 'em down. Our street is clean. Check it. Do it yourself. This is my suggestion to make a difference. What's yours?

- John Gray

# LMC votes to sell children's playground

*The gazetting of the boundary change placing Glebe in the City of Sydney may prevent Leichhardt Council from selling the former children's playground in Wood Street, Forest Lodge. However just in case - read on.*

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Liberal Councillors of Leichhardt Council voted in a block at the last Planning and Development Meeting in December 2002 to sell off the former Children's playground in Wood Street, Forest Lodge.

At no time had FRROGs or the local community been notified by ANY council representative that the former children's playground was to be discussed at the November or December meetings. This lack of community consultation is a significant omission.

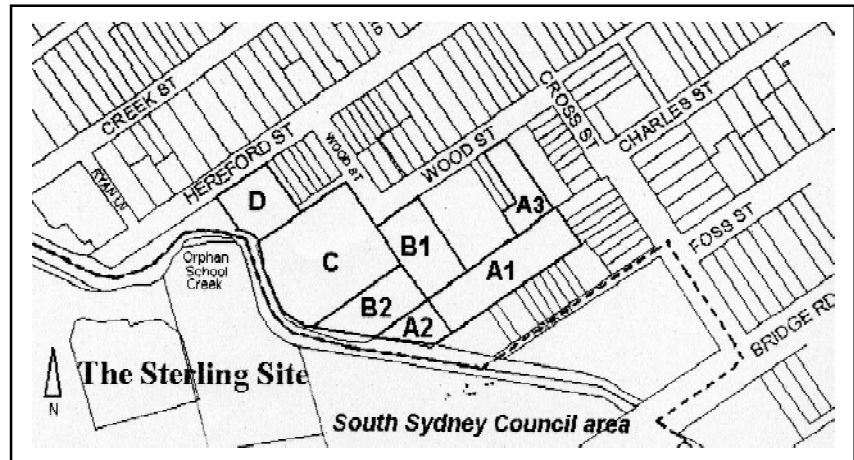
FRROGs group members attended the November and December meetings however and argued the case to retain the former children's playground as well as to maximise open space in our very congested local area while it is still possible to do so.

The resulting decision behind closed doors was a majority vote to sell the land (Sheehan - Independent and Parker - Green moved the motion). See Council website

([www.mycommunity.com.au/Leichhardt](http://www.mycommunity.com.au/Leichhardt)) for minutes of the December meeting. Since early January FRROGs has leafleted the local area regarding Council's decision and a growing groundswell of concern at Council's actions has forced Council to reconsider.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are now stating in response to community concern that the successful motion to sell off the land was to test the community response and that really they are going to provide three options before a final decision is made.

This is not what was stated in the minutes of Council's meeting. Council now proposes exhibiting a



draft plan showing its new options for the land in the near future.

The decision to sell the land and the way the matter has been handled reflects very little concern for the needs of this community. We should also question why the decision was made before the boundary changes in the Federal Court had been heard.

Council had stated that it is unable to remediate an adjacent open space (B2) without selling the former children's playground (B1). Selling the children's playground loses 704 m<sup>2</sup> open space in order to retain and remediate the adjacent site (623 m<sup>2</sup>). Council did not indicate financial difficulty when discussing at the December meeting the proposal to purchase several properties in Wetherill Street. Nor has it supplied the local community with proof of its financial status. Recent advice suggests that Glebe/Forest Lodge Section 94 contributions over the last 7 years raised \$3,450,899 while \$1,161,000 was spent in Glebe/Forest Lodge.

Where are our open space contribution monies and where is the money which has been put aside for the refurbishment of the Gully for the last 20 years? The local press has reported lately that Council's 2002 budget was in surplus. Sterling Estates Development plan to hand over 3697 m<sup>2</sup> of remediated open space land at Wood Street plus lending resources to Council in remediating B2 (and B1 if it is

included), all up 5024 m<sup>2</sup> with the advantage of allowing a well-planned children's playground. This is the last opportunity to secure open space for Forest Lodge. The Gully project is unique in its intent to provide specific resource habitat for native birds under pressure in the urban environment whilst also providing passive open space for our congested area. The extra parcels of land adjacent to the Gully will allow a buffer zone and extra people space, a tranquil and leafy sanctuary for the future. We are hopeful that Sydney City Council will take an interest in our local area. Let's hope that Leichhardt Council will do the same if they make this decision about our open space. Watch this space and see [www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au) for more information.

**If Council exhibits its revised draft plan sometime in the near future, that is the time to write strong letters objecting to the sell off of an existing community asset of open space. Please act to save our children's playground.**

**- Roberta Johnston**

## Tram facts

Commuters now comprise 70% of the 3-4 million people a year who use the light rail between Central and Lilyfield. The typical passenger is between 25 and 34, is single and 47% are women. Passengers mainly travel alone and walk to the tram stop.

## Notice Board

The **Friends of Benledi and the Glebe Library** March meeting will have a guest speaker, Jill Brown. Jill, a local resident, will be speaking about "CHILDHOOD POSTPONED - Remembering The Sydney Hospital for Sick Children, Glebe 1880 - 1906."

The Sydney Hospital for Sick Children was the first hospital in New South Wales dedicated to the care of children, opening on 1 January 1880 on the corner of Glebe Point Road and Wigram Road. Later it was renamed the *Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children* in 1904, moving to Camperdown in 1907 with a further relocation to Westmead taking place in 1995.

Details of the evening are as follows:

Monday, 10 March 7.30 pm, Community Room, Benledi 186 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. Cost: \$6 (\$4 Friends/concession) includes a glass of champagne on arrival.

The Friends welcome Glebe Society members, family and friends to what should be an interesting evening.

### Sandstone paving blocks

A member has just had a path replaced and now has about 40 paving blocks, 90 years old, which were too good to send to the tip. They are around 10cm thick and 30x30cm to 40x60cm. Please phone **Edwina Doe** (9660 7066) if you would like some.

Continued from page 7

### Joining the City

by Andrew Craig

changes in social attitudes to heritage in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of our members in the earlier days of our Society were instrumental in helping to change some of these attitudes. In more recent years, the City claims to have embraced the value of heritage and sees it as a highly positive addition to the city's cultural attractions for both locals and tourists. More recent restoration projects ranging from the Queen Victoria Building to Customs House are some evidence of this. When quizzed by us on this topic, Lucy Turnbull, the Deputy Lord Mayor said, "No-one in their right mind would imagine that the City is anti-heritage today. The days of pull-'em down and throw 'em up have gone for ever, thank heavens".

Our way ahead is therefore unclear. The risks are high, especially in the long term. However, the Management Committee feels that the rewards could also be high. We will be working to minimise the risks and help create the fabulous vision we share for everyone who lives, works and plays in Glebe and Forest Lodge!

## Clean Up Australia Day 2003

Clean Up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 2 March. Society members have usually identified areas to clean, but as we have not had a Clean-up Glebe convenor in recent months, there is no planned activity this year. However there are plenty of areas that could do with a clean-up and members are encouraged to get together with their friends to do their bit for Glebe.

### Leichhardt flows into the sea

The White's Creek wetlands tour is an opportunity to learn about your local community's history and environment, to experience the beauty of this recently constructed wetland, and learn how you can take positive steps to improve the water quality of Sydney Harbour.

Tours are scheduled for 1 March, 5 April and 3 May. Morning tours are from 10-11:30 am, and afternoon tours start at 2 pm.

Contact David Winterton at Leichhardt Council on 9367 9229 for more information.

### Guided walking tour of Glebe

The National Trust will run a guided tour of Glebe on 12 April, starting at 1:30 pm. The tour includes a visit to the Sze Yup temple and a grand Victorian house (now a B&B). Cost: \$20. Bookings essential, phone 9660 7157

### Leichhardt Local History Group

The History Group AGM will be held on Monday, 3 March at 5:30 pm in the Supper Room at the Leichhardt Town Hall. Contact June Lunsman (9810 6885) or Sue Tronser (9519 3268) for information about nominations.



### Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe Society Archives

Principal: Mrs Elva Salter Phone 9660 3530

### Clayworkers Gallery

The Inner City Clayworkers Gallery Co-op Ltd



Corner St Johns Road and Darghan Street  
Glebe NSW 2037  
Ph/ Fax: 02 9692 9717  
[www.clayworkers.com.au](http://www.clayworkers.com.au)

Gallery open Wed - Sun 10.30 am - 6 pm

# For your diary ...

**Sunday, 2 March**, Clean-up Australia Day - see Noticeboard.

**Monday, 10 March** 7.30 pm, talk by Jill Brown arranged by the Friends of the Glebe Library - see Noticeboard.

**Monday, 10 March** - Deadline for submission of poems for the Barton Poetry competition (see page 4 for details).

**Wednesday, 12 March** 7:30 pm Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, upstairs meeting room, Toxteth Hotel. Members welcome, but please contact the Secretary if you wish to attend.

**Friday, 14 March** 7.30 - 10 pm, Quiz the Candidates, Record Reign Hall on the corner of St Johns Road and Derwent Street. See page 1 for further information.

**Sunday, 30 March** - Announcement of winners of the Barton Poetry Competition.

**Our regular feature, From the Archives, has been held over due to space limitations in this edition.**

## Glebe/Annandale Ward Councillors' phone numbers

Councillor Nicholas Dyer 9660 0158  
Councillor Alice Murphy 9660 5503  
Councillor Maire Sheehan (Mayor) 9367 9191  
Councillor Chris Windsor 9552 3656

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  
PO Box 100  
Glebe 2037

## DISCLAIMER

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

## The Glebe Society Inc

[www.glebesociety.org.au](http://www.glebesociety.org.au)

### Management Committee

President	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Vice-President	Hilary Wise	9660 5845
Immediate Past President	John Buckingham	9660 7780
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

### Committee Members:

Cynthia Jones 9660 2451	Jeanette Knox 9660 7781
David Mander Jones 9552 4172	Edwina Doe 9660 7066
Andrew Wood 9660 6104	

### Sub-Committee Convenors

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

Bays and Foreshores	Collin Hills	9660 8608
Environment including Noise Pollution	Andrew Wood	9660 6104
Planning	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Transport and Traffic	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
	Steve Stewart	9660 5845

### Project Teams

Clean Up Glebe	Andrew Wood	9660 6104
Conserving Glebe Heritage	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Reporting infrastructure defects	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Wentworth Park	Judy Vergison	9692 9200
Glebe Point Road	John Gray	9518 7253

### Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Historian	Max Solling	9660 1160
New members	Hilary Wise	9660 5845
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Webmaster	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451

## In this issue

- Change is in the air: Glebe to join City – pages 1, 6
- Your chance to quiz the candidates – page 1
- New plan for Rozelle Bay – page 3
- New home for Heritage Fleet? – page 9
- Council votes to sell children's playground - page 11

The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc  
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037



POSTAGE  
PAID

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC

Ordinary member	\$40
Additional household member	\$5
Concession (student or pensioner)	\$20
Business or institution	\$100

Write to PO Box 100, 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 phone the Secretary to attend a meeting.

### CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

**Report ALL street cleaning issues, dumped litter, recycling problems, and abandoned cars to:**

Leichhardt Council Customer Service  
Phone: 9367 9222 Fax: 9367 9008  
email: leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au  
Dumped supermarket trolleys 1800 641 497 (BiLo trolleys 9281 4511)  
Aircraft noise 1800 802 584

**Copy deadline for the next issue  
Tuesday, 18 March, 2003**

