



Glebe Society Bulletin

2/2003 March/April

Society initiates discussions with City

The Glebe Society will meet with Sydney City Council to discuss the future of Glebe after its transfer from Leichhardt Council on 8 May.

Currently the two councils are negotiating the transfer of staff and assets, and the City Council is planning how to deliver services to Glebe and Forest Lodge. The Management Committee considers it is important that we make an input to this process to ensure the decisions meet residents' needs.

We expect to meet with Cr Lucy Turnbull (who is tipped to succeed Cr Frank Sartor as Lord Mayor when he steps down in the near future) and council officials who will be responsible for managing the incorporation of Glebe into the City.

Initial indications are that the Council will meet socially with representatives of several Glebe organisations in the next few weeks, but that it will delay any substantive discussions with The Glebe Society until after 8 May.

It appears that the Council will move immediately on some issues (e.g. street cleaning and graffiti), but hopefully will not take decisions on major issues until there has been an opportunity for community consultation.

The meeting proposed by the Glebe Society has four aims:

- to make the City aware of the role and achievements of The Glebe Society;
- to outline the Society's vision for Glebe;
- to discuss issues on which decisions will be made in the near future; and
- to suggest priority projects that the City Council should undertake.

Recent announcements make it clear that the City Council is wasting no time in making its plans to integrate the areas it will acquire: already a multi-million dollar community centre has been announced for Kings Cross.

When he addressed the Glebe Society during the take-over campaign, Cr Sartor promised that a similar centre would be established in Glebe to provide a point of contact for residents – e.g. you should be able to sort out your DA at the Glebe council office rather than going to the Town Hall in George Street.

These local centres could be very important as the City Council delegates many decisions to officials. One important aim of the proposed meeting is to confirm that a centre is planned for Glebe, and to discuss where it should be located and how it will operate.

Another matter for discussion will be the likely extension of the City Council's precinct committee system

Society will suggest priority projects

to Glebe. Former residents of Ultimo and Pyrmont say the system works well there – the Lord

Mayor, other councillors and a bevy of officials meet regularly with local residents to talk about their needs and complaints.

The issue of direct representation of Glebe on the City Council has not yet been resolved. Although Cr Sartor appeared to favour a one-ward system with a small number of councillors working much like the board of directors of a company, the Member for Port Jackson, Sandra Nori, pointed out recently that a decision on whether wards should be introduced to the expanded City Council is one for the Government, not the Council as is the case with all

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Society initiates discussions with City

other local councils. Sandra told the Society's *Quiz the Candidates* meeting that this comes about because the City of Sydney has its own act of parliament. This advice is different to our understanding after our meeting with the Minister for Local Government's staff last year.

At the meeting we will also make the representatives of the City aware of our concern that services such as the Glebe Library and help for the aged and disadvantaged be maintained and improved if possible, and that the City should acknowledge Glebe's heritage status and recruit planning staff from Leichhardt Council who have an appreciation of Glebe's unique character and current planning provisions. A request to review the parking regime established by Leichhardt Council is also a likely subject of discussion.

President Andrew Craig has already drawn to the attention of City officials the apparent discrepancy between collections and expenditure of developers' open space contributions in Glebe (see p 8 and p 11 of the last *Bulletin*), and we will remind the City of Cr Sartor's promise of improved service delivery under the City's administration.

Of course there is a huge range of projects that we could propose to the City Council. While we plan to hand over a copy of the comprehensive "wish list" we compiled in early 2002, suitably high profile projects could include:

- a new Glebe Point Road project building on the work of the previous committee and the work currently being done for the Society by John Gray;
- completion of the foreshore walk in front of *The Anchorage* (landscaping is well advanced in front of *Pavilions on the Bay* at Glebe Point and has been complete for some time in front of the Harbour Lighterage development, but

From my dungeon

SCC must be our servant, not our master

It is important that the Sydney City Council (SCC) consult with the Glebe community, in particular The Glebe Society, as soon as possible.

The Council has no elected representatives with knowledge of Glebe and Forest Lodge—of our history, sensitivities and our desires. The day-to-day affairs of the Council are handled by its employees to a greater extent than we are used to with Leichhardt Council. No matter how competent or well-meaning, the City's staff will have difficulty meeting our needs (with a few obvious exceptions like litter and graffiti) if they have no guidance from residents.

The fact that the current SCC bureaucracy works fairly autonomously implementing policies agreed by the elected councillors is not necessarily a bad thing, and has the potential for quicker decisions and more effective and efficient administration.

However, in the absence of policy guidance relating to Glebe the council staff will put in place the systems they consider most appropriate, usually ones that they have installed elsewhere. These systems may or may not be appropriate to Glebe—particularly as the City does not at present administer an area with Glebe's eclectic mix of

Leichhardt Council has made little progress with its section); and

- a commitment to upgrade Foley Park as a focal point for Glebe.

The Transition Sub-committee of the Management Committee that is responsible for our representations to the City Council comprises President Andrew Craig, Vice-president Hilary Wise, John Buckingham, Bruce Davis, Jeanette Knox and Neil Macindoe.

people and built environment.

The early months between 8 May and the September local government elections will be critical as systems put in place then will be hard to change later.

It is important that the new Lord Mayor immediately enters into meaningful consultations with Glebe groups (particularly The Glebe Society since we seem to be the only group that has publicly articulated a vision for Glebe) with the aim of developing and placing on public record the Council's intentions with regard to Glebe.

If consultation is effective, this policy statement will go a long way towards filling the void created by our lack of elected representatives. Of course our wishes will have to be balanced against budgetary and other practical considerations, but at least we will have established a mutually agreed framework for SCC operations in Glebe and Forest Lodge until the September elections.

It is important that during the consultative process that Glebe's representatives do not allow ourselves to be "duchessed" by SCC. Several of us who have accepted the Council's hospitality, notably during the Olympic Games, know how pleasant it can be and how good Cr Turnbull and her colleagues are at winning friends and influencing people.

And however well the consultations go, we must never lose sight of the fact that the SCC exists for our benefit; the council, and in particular its employees who will play such a significant role in local government in this area in future, must understand that they are our servants not our masters.

- Bruce Davis

Congratulations Sandra, and we'll keep an eye on you!

Before the election, the successful candidate for Port Jackson, Sandra Nori, answered The Glebe Society's questions at our *Quiz the Candidates* meeting on Friday, 14 March. Ms Nori and Greens candidate Jamie Parker were the only candidates who were able to accept the Society's invitation to take part in the evening held at Record Reign Hall.

Despite the fact that the meeting was open to all people with an interest in the future of Glebe, and was publicised as widely as our resources permitted, only about 25 people attended. Candidates were asked to address a wide-ranging set of questions prepared by Management Committee covering the Society's current priorities then the meeting was opened to questions from the floor.

This report (prepared by **Edwina Doe** with assistance from **Liz Simpson-Booker**) concentrates on the answers given by Ms Nori as she was the successful candidate and is a member of the party in government. We will watch her performance with great interest. We have also included some responses from Mr Parker which were worthy of note.

Traffic:

- The next four years are a time for consolidation. There must be an improvement to mass transport, including the extension of the Light Rail.
- There must be community consultation to get the detail right – for instance should there be new wharfs and ferries for pupils from Annandale and Balmain to travel to Glebe High School? More wharfs and ferries will liberate the roads to make buses more efficient.
- There will be 60 new buses on the road to support our community.



Ms Nori in full flight, despite being afflicted by a nasty wog. Greens candidate Jamie Parker (centre) and President Andrew Craig look on.

- Heavy duty vehicle audits, similar to the one planned for Bridge Road, are needed.

Crime:

- There are 97 additional police in our area. The police have a role in crime prevention.
- The Families First program intervenes very early with young mothers and dysfunctional families at risk. Daily visitors will teach parenting skills and provide mentoring. Babies' brains are wired by 12 to 36 months and schools can't repair any damage. Results will not be seen for 10 to 20 years.
- We as a community must recognise who are our neighbours. Families First needs volunteers and mentors from the north end of Glebe to help the south end. We should bring the community together and recruit volunteers.
- The Chamber of Commerce runs a Young Achievement program in Glebe.

Parks and open spaces:

- The can-do attitude of the SCC should lead to vast improvement.
- The Fish Market development and the Heritage Fleet proposal (if it goes ahead) will add an enormous amenity to Glebe. We must make sure there is community input.
- The next four years are an exciting time for upgrades. Sandra's biggest target is Wentworth Park. (In answer to a question from Bruce Davis, she said: "We must convince State Government and the City of Sydney to find a new location for the dogs. The centre of gravity for the dogs has moved further west." Sandra hinted at possible solutions, but said she was not able to reveal details.)

The built environment:

- Glebe Point Road needs revitalisation. Parking meters were the last straw. At a minimum, the time should be

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Leichhardt Council takes the initiative on community safety

In late 2002 the Leichhardt Council reconvened the Community Safety Committee to address local perceptions on safety and petty crime. The first meeting of the re-convened committee was held on 28 November 2002.

The second meeting was held on 6 February 2003 at the Leichhardt Town Hall, chaired by Cr Chris Windsor and convened by Simon Emsley, Leichhardt Council's Community Safety Officer. This meeting was well attended by representatives of diverse organisations including:

- the Attorney General's Department,
- the police,
- the Glebe Youth Service,
- the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre,
- the Department of Housing,
- the Department of Community Services,
- the Glebe Public School,
- the Leichhardt Chamber of Commerce,
- The Glebe Society,
- the Church of Scientology,
- the Blackwattle Bay Parents and Citizens,
- the Red Cross,
- the Balmain Youth Organisation,
- the Broadway Centre,
- other youth representatives,
- residents of Balmain, Leichhardt, Glebe, Annandale and
- other community representatives.

One of the main purposes of forming the subcommittee was to take up the challenge offered by the State government, through the Attorney General's Department, to initiate programs designed to reduce the likelihood of young people at risk in the Leichhardt Municipality becoming

involved in crime. The State Government was offering quite generous subsidies (up to \$50,000 per annum for three years) to encourage actions to be taken at local level.

The Attorney General's Department made a presentation outlining the process of applying for a grant and this included the need to develop a Crime Prevention Plan. The presentation outlined the role of the Department and some principles of crime prevention and some example strategies that could be adopted by the Council.

Simon Emsley set out a timetable for the work of the committee.

The committee's attention was also drawn to the excellent work being done by Les Jenkins who was running the After Dark Project. This pilot project was based at the basketball hall immediately adjacent to the Broadway Centre. Its purpose was to create a focus on Friday and Saturday nights for the local young people of Glebe. It had been regularly attracting between 36 and 85 people per night with activities from music to a barbecue.

Anecdotal evidence in the immediate neighbourhood suggested that the young people enjoyed it, used it and seemed happy to go home quietly afterwards. It also appears to have attracted others from outside the Leichhardt municipal area.

The committee convened again on 6 March 2003. The police made a presentation on how they collected crime statistics in the Leichhardt area, the form the statistics were presented in, and what some of those statistics were. They also indicated how crime statistics were used in the planning and implementation of police action. For those unfamiliar with crime statistics and their use, this was a very interesting presentation and helped create some better insight into the crime hot-spots and their causes in the Leichhardt Council

area. Needless to say some parts of Glebe featured prominently in the frequency of some petty crimes.

The police presentation, we are sure, helped some members of the committee (especially those attending from Glebe) better understand the likely causes and prevalence of some petty crimes.

A major uncertainty arising at the meeting was the earlier announcement that Glebe and Forest Lodge would be joining the Sydney City Council. It was agreed that a subcommittee would be formed of those representing Glebe and separate meetings held to plan strategies for ensuring that the work done by the committee (and its subcommittee) would continue under the new Council arrangements.

The main committee meeting planned for April 2003 will be the last full committee meeting attended by the Glebe representatives.

The Glebe area subcommittee met in one of the "dungeons" in the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre on 20 March 2003 convened by Simon Hemsley and attended by representatives of several groups including the Glebe Youth Service, Blackwattle Bay Parents and Citizens, the Church of Scientology and the Glebe Society. There was considerable discussion on how best to approach the new Council on safety and crime issues. Three main strategies for reducing crime in Glebe were agreed and a long list of potential actions that could be taken associated with each strategy was developed. The intention was that this would allow specific actions to be prioritised and also allow members to understand how specific actions could fit into a holistic approach to our challenges. We await the minutes of this meeting with interest!

The Leichhardt Council is to be congratulated on the initiative it has

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Fewer flats approved for Fletchers site

Fletchers site, Forsyth Street and Ferry Road: On 20 February Council gave in principle approval, with all previous conditions, with final approval delegated to the Director of Environmental Management. Regarding the Griffin Incinerator, further consultation must take place with the Walter Burley Griffin Society and NSW Heritage Office. Heritage works are not required to be carried out prior to construction. The amended plans as approved include reduction in units from 137 to 135, an increase in on-site parking, some reductions in height and adjustments to building footprints. The reasons why final approval could not be given include the need to consult further with some government departments, but it is unlikely the changes will be major. As the

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Community safety

taken in accepting the opportunity offered by the Attorney General's Department. Simon, the police representatives and the other committee members are doing a great job in tackling this complex and difficult task. The Glebe Society strongly supports the direction of both the Safety Committee and its Glebe subcommittee. We exhort all involved to keep up the good work and convince our politicians that the only good solutions are those that address the fundamental issues and provide hope that we can minimise crime in Glebe *in the long term*, while we are acting on short term imperatives that fit the long-term plan. Reactive, bandaid measures are of little value to any of us in the medium and long term.

The *Bulletin* will keep you posted on progress in the reduction of petty crime under the new administration of the City.

- Andrew Craig

site is largely vacant at present, a lot of nearby residents will be affected, especially during the building period, which will extend over a minimum of two years. At least the final result will include some major benefits to the community, including waterfront open space.

Haven Inn, 196 Glebe Point Road: Members will recall that actions by the banks have led to applications to convert Glebe's motels to strata-titled units (*Bulletin* August 2002). The application to convert the Haven Inn to strata title dwellings was deferred by Council's Development Unit on 5 March. Originally it was to be refused, principally on the grounds that the motel rooms would not make adequate dwellings (some are as small as 20m²). This, with other issues, formed part of the Society's submission. An appeal will be heard soon in the Land and Environment Court. The application for conversion of the University Motel, Arundel Street, was refused by the Court late last year. The application by the Rooftop Motel for conversion to 20 dwellings over three storeys and a shop at ground level, with a lift to be installed, was approved on 12 March, despite a number of objections. Although Glebe does not necessarily need all its motel accommodation, some is clearly desirable, perhaps in combination with some other commercial use.

12-14 Queen Street: In the February *Bulletin* the Editor noted this proposed conversion of a warehouse to 43 units was refused by Council on 20 February. This indeed was the case, so residents were stunned to receive letters from Council's solicitors stating Council was proposing conditions of consent for a court hearing on 4 March. To make matters worse, an urgency motion reaffirming Council's refusal of the application was put to the Ordinary

Meeting of 25 February and defeated (in camera). After considerable lobbying, Council held an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday, 3 March, at which the following motion was passed without dissent: "That Leichhardt Council defend the refusal of 12-14 Queen Street and instruct its lawyers accordingly and seek to vacate the current Court dates and make all possible attempts to engage an expert witness. If this is refused by the Court, Council seek to withdraw the consent orders and assist the residents to defend the appeal, including engaging an expert witness at Council's cost". The General Manager is to implement this resolution in consultation with the Mayor and ward councillors. The matter subsequently came before Commissioner Browning on 4 March, and the residents gave their evidence despite the fact that Council had not prepared a case. At the date of writing, 16 March, a decision had not been handed down.

This disturbing series of reversals raises again the question of whether most Leichhardt Councillors are committed to Open Council, or whether they only pursue notification and consultation when it is politically expedient. Certainly in the matters of parking meters, the Glebe Point Road Project and the Orphan School Creek open space, as well as in this most recent issue, Council either did not seek residents' views or ignored them.

- Neil Macindoe

Welcome to new members

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

Robyn Kemmis
Kim Roots

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Candidates speak

extended so people can buy their milk and bread at the local shops.

- Glebe Point Road must reinvent itself. What is the niche? Glebe should do a plan to show this.
- Council must do what they are meant to do - fix potholes in Glebe and Forest Lodge and keep the streets clean.
- Graffiti will lessen when we are with the Sydney City Council.
- You can't stop anyone putting in a DA, but we must look at every one on its merits and put pressure on the local authority.
- We must look at the immigration policy and break the overdevelopment cycle, to preserve Sydney's sustainability. Sydney can't continue to grow by an extra one million every 20 years. This is a Federal, as well as a local, responsibility.

Joining Sydney City Council:

- More residents, including Kings Cross, Millers Point and Glebe, means residents have greater influence. As the tentacles of the CBD spread why can't we have the benefits of being close to the CBD? Council will be responsive to the needs of residents.
- Every three months, the Mayor and members meet in each local precinct with reports from the planning department, police etc.

Tunnel stack filter:

- In answer to a question from Alison McKeown, Sandra said that the State Government will install a filter when the technology becomes available that will do the job properly. The RTA says that current technology is flawed so they

Thursday in the park



With the aim of showing just how good Foley Rest Park could look, on Thursday evening 6 March some six Society members weeded and raked two large garden beds, then planted and watered the 90 agapanthus and 50 Chinese star jasmine provided by Leichhardt Council. We left about 8 pm well pleased with the immediate improvement.

Next morning we discovered that some 12 plants had been uprooted and thrown about – these were replanted by one of our group and, thankfully no further vandalism has taken place. We will maintain and water the beds ourselves, at least weekly (depending on rainfall). The newly planted gardens are looking good, and have attracted approving comment from users of the Park.

We asked LMC for replacement plantings for the War Memorial garden, but were told that while Council appreciated our efforts it was unable to supply any more plant material “due to the transfer of ownership to the City of Sydney.” The Society stepped in with money to buy two replacement sasanqua camellias which will be planted in front of the Diggers' Memorial shortly.

We are now intending to garner written support from other community groups/members to give weight to a formal request to the City Council to upgrade and maintain the Park.

- Bobbie Burke
for the Foley Park
Working Group

don't recommend the expenditure yet.

Jamie Parker

Jamie Parker, the runner up in Port Jackson, made a number of suggestions worth noting:

Traffic:

- The cross-city tunnel will significantly increase traffic to Glebe, especially Bridge Road. We need a whole new traffic management plan.

Crime:

- It is the responsibility of Government to look at the causes of crime and recidivism. All agencies, including community services, are under pressure and in need of funding and support.

The Built Environment:

- The Land and Environment Court is a developers' court and needs reform.

The Glebe Diggers' Memorial

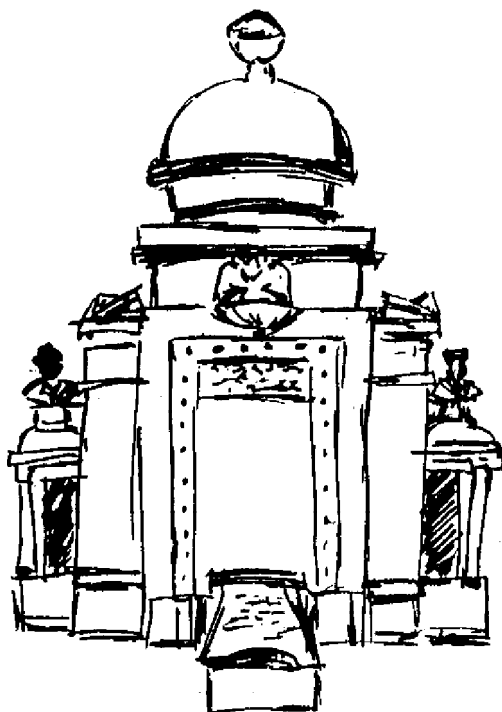
The Diggers' Memorial in Foley Park is dedicated to Glebe citizens who lost their lives in The Great War (1914-1918).

It should be noted that the 174 names inscribed on the memorial are not arranged in strict alphabetical order. However, for ease of reference, they are reproduced below in alphabetical order.

We are pleased to report that repairs have recently been completed to the Memorial and the soldier is once more in possession of his full quota of slouch hat brim. The stonemason also removed a small fig which had buried itself in the upper stonework.

“THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

Anderson J A	Erickson W	Hogue O	Lloyd J A	Reilly T
Anthony F J	Faerber A H	Hollingworth J R	Locke C	Rickens C F
Armstrong J	Faerber A W	Hook H	Logan H	Richardson F
Asquith J	Fender A E B	Horan R J	Loveridge A E	Robinson C
Barber W	Field N	Hosking J M	Mackay W D	Robinson R H
Barnard C F	Fitzgerald E L	Hutchinson H B	Mackie A L	Sampson A G
Barnes G J E	Flanigan P	Ikin L	Maltby F	Saunders F
Beer A J			Maltby G	Saunders W
Bishop E T W			Marshall W H	Seater W A
Blake F G			Medley W T	Sharp R
Bowen G L			Miller W B R	Sharp W
Bradshaw T E			Morgan R	Shea J
Brooker C W F			Morrison J	Simons S
Brown F J T			Muir J M	Simmons P
Brown H			Mulcahy M T	Sinclair W
Brown J			Mulhall J C	Smith A J
Brown V G R			Murphy E	Spence O
Burns R H			Murphy T	Spriggs E W
Butcher C			Murray H	Spowart A
Butt A E			McDonald W T	Sullivan E
Carter I A			McGlynn D E	Taplin C
Chapman N E			McGlynn J M P	Thomas A E
Chase W E			McInerney S G	Thompson J T
Clarke Ed.			McKay F W	Thomson G R
Clarke Ev.			McKinnery M J M	Townsend E J
Cocksedge T H			McLeod S J	Tunbridge E H
Cohen C S			McMahon O P	Tupper C
Collins A C			McPhee W	Vaughan C T
Colman F			Miller R D	Ward C A
Commons H			Moore H H	Warr H E A
Cotter A	Freeman E	Jackson A H	Neaves E O	Warner L
Cotter J	Freeman I	Johns W J	Neaves H C	Waters W J H
Coulter E	Gell W	Johnson H J	Nelson A P C	Weeks R R
Curtis F H	Gibbs P L	Johnstone K	Nugent W	Wellings, E F
Curtis W R	Gould T J	Jones H	Nurcombe A	Wilson J W
Dawson H C	Green F P	Jones J J	O'Brien J	Williams A A
Dawson L J	Gully F	Jones W	O'Connell D F	Williams J W
Davies R	Hamester F H	Judd H E	Oswin A E	Williamson S
Diews C H J	Harris S W	Kelly C O	Paton W H	Wood H E
Dobbie H	Harvey L A	Keogh J	Piggott H J	Zeisser P
Dollar A	Hedges L J	King H S	Piggott W E	
Drummond C	Hellyer O A	Lawson S	Power T	
Dummett J H	Herd J L	Laycock E C	Prendergast W J	
Dunn H A	Hill C S	Leffler H	Quinnell J	
Egan J M	Hodgkinson W	Linn J	Rayfield E	



*Transcription by
Bobbie Burke
and Liz Simpson-
Booker*

“a little oasis among the traffic thundering along the busy intersection”

The Dr. H.J. Foley Rest Park, on the corner of Bridge and Glebe Point Roads is the remnant garden of *Hereford House*, one of the first Regency houses in Glebe. It was built in 1829 by Mr George Williams on land he purchased at auction for £509 from the Anglican Church in 1828.

The house was designed by Edward Hallen, the architect of the Sydney Grammar School and the Argyle Cut in the Rocks; it was described in 1832 as having:

“a noble entrance hall, with drawing, dining and breakfast rooms, four sleeping rooms, one sleeping closet, a stone-flagged cellar, family and servants’ kitchens, coach and gig house, pantry, three-stalled stable, well of excellent water, poultry and wood yard.” (*The Sydney Gazette*, 20 July 1832.)

By October 1833, *Hereford House* and its grounds were owned by Ambrose Foss who built a second house, *Forest Lodge*, on the property in 1836 (it was demolished c1912). This house, positioned on the present site of 212-230 Bridge Road, was designed by John Verge, a leading NSW architect and builder of the 1830s, who also supervised the building of the servants’ quarters at *Hereford House*.

Much of this information comes from the current issue (23) of the *Leichhardt Historical Journal* (available at the Glebe Library) which carries an article by Michael Foster and Max Solling looking in detail at the early houses of Glebe. From 31 acres in 1828, *Hereford House* and its grounds had contracted to 1.5 acres by 1875 when it was sold to Judge William Wilkinson, the last owner of the property, who died there in 1908.

“The Crown acquired the property from the Wilkinson estate for £4675

in December 1910 for public education purposes. In 1911 *Hereford House* was established as a teachers’ college ... [It] was described as being the St. John’s Recreation Rooms from 1931-33. Glebe Council rate books indicate that [it] was demolished between 1934 and 1937 when it was shown on parish maps as a municipal rest park.”¹

Horace John Foley, a Glebe medical practitioner, was born in 1901 and died in July 1989. He was a member of the Glebe Municipal Council² from 1934-39, and was Mayor during the years 1937 and 1938. Solling and Reynolds (*Leichhardt: on the margins of the city*.) assert that his “community involvement at a time of hardship,

Part one of a two part article by Bobbie Burke

which included, among other things, giving free medical treatment to the poor, earned him local support and a territorial base for a career in local politics”. Dr Foley was later alderman on both the City (1945-50 and 1953-56) and Leichhardt (1968-71) Councils. Freda McDonnell says that it was he who succeeded “in saving the grounds and its ancient trees for a park ... which is a little oasis among the traffic thundering along the busy intersection”.³

Glebe Council minute books reveal that the land at the corner of Glebe Point and Bridge Roads was originally known as ‘Rest Park’, and was leased by the Council from the Resumed Properties Department of the NSW Government. In the Glebe Council’s estimates for 1934, items

for Rest Park included:

- Lighting of tennis courts £120,
- Attendants wages £511/15/4 (by 1939, this item had increased to £1167/8/-), and
- Expenses £150.

The Glebe Rest Park features frequently in Council minutes (1934-1939) with reports, for example, that plants were purchased to beautify the Park, and six concrete seats; installation of the Wireless Set donated by Grace Bros. which was much appreciated by visiting residents; on the poor condition of the Tennis Courts which were “a losing proposition”; the erection of a set of swings and a sprinkler system; as well as requests (granted) to hold political meetings there. There is even note of a letter from a Mrs Fraser from Merrylands who wrote “offering her congratulations on the well kept condition and beauty of Rest Park, Glebe”.

Sunday observances were clearly important for some – there was a motion put to Council and lost that the Wireless Set only be played on Sunday evenings after Church hours (8:15pm), and Mayor Foley asked that a sign be erected in the Park “prohibiting the playing of cards therein on Sunday”.

(*Part two will appear in next month’s Bulletin*)

1 “A Semi-Rural Retreat, Glebe 1828-1861, Part 1”, pp5-36, in *Leichhardt Historical Journal* 23, 2003, p19.

2 The Glebe Municipal Council was founded in 1859, and abolished in 1948, when responsibility was given to the City of Sydney Council. Glebe was transferred from the City to Leichhardt Council in 1968.

3 *The Glebe: Portraits and Places*, p105-6; unfortunately no sources are given for this.

From the archives

“The more things change, the more they stay the same”

This month's "From the Archives" takes a different look at Glebe's past, this time through the looking glass of the Leichhardt Council Minute Book.

Looking for some information on Dr. Foley and Foley Park in Glebe (page 8), I went through the Minute Books of the Glebe Municipal Council for the years 1934-39. The minutes record that Council placed a reserve of £150 on a piece of land in Gottenham Street, and two garbage collections a week were estimated to cost Council forty one pounds, three shillings and nine pence; of course it's 70 years ago, and yet...

Look at the reports from Council staff, questions from aldermen and general complaints from residents (taken at random from these Minute Books):

- The Park Ranger reports large numbers of hooligans in the Park - he requests that the police be asked to regularly patrol the area; he also reports the 'bad condition' of the children's playground.

- The Town Clerk reports claims against Council for "supposed negligence in not keeping roads, footpaths, gullies, etc. proof against accident".
- The Mayor wants to know why Glebe Road is not cleaned on Sunday mornings.
- An alderman complains about grass and weeds growing in gutters, and noxious weeds in the area, and wants to know why these matters are not attended to - the gardener replies that the men he has working under him are labourers, not gardeners.
- No mention of shopping trolleys—but complaints that milk cans are "left lying around the streets of The Glebe".
- Objections were made to the use of Wentworth Park for dog racing.

It's clear that "the more (some) things change, the more they stay the same".

- **Bobbie Burke**

Plaque notes Glebe Estate purchase

We are indebted to the current edition of *The Village Voice* for the following report: "Tom Uren unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 1974 purchase of land which was to become the Glebe Estate.

"Mr Uren was a Minister in the Whitlam Government that negotiated the purchase of the estate from the Church of England for just over \$20 million.

"The purchase stopped plans for the construction of a freeway through the middle of Glebe in the early 1970s."

The plaque is at the junction of Catherine and Lodge Streets, Glebe.

Ed the Editor

Bruce announced very confidently last month that I am the new editor. He forgot to mention that I have retired recently and what's the point of being out of the paid workforce if you don't take frequent holidays?

I also suspect that it will take me a while to learn Pagemaker. When I was Bulletin Editor before (in 1983/4 and 1987/9) we got high on the glue at the paste-up sessions.

Seriously though, I thoroughly enjoy being a recycled editor - especially while Bruce does all the hard work. Thank you Bruce.

- **Edwina Doe (absent on leave)**

Water, waves and wonderings

Wordsworth ? ... no, but it is the theme of the National Trust's Heritage Week, 5-13 April, and the impetus for your Heritage Subcommittee to investigate the status of private lands given over for public foreshore access. We are concentrating on the shoreline running from the bottom of Glebe Point Road eastwards and southwards to Pyrmont Bridge Road. The access provided in the Pavilions on the Bay development will be available in about six weeks' time. The adjacent area below the old *Anchorage* flats is already available, but is a waste land. Further south is perhaps in the same category. Then we come to the recently complete development where the public can squeeze between the new marina and a high garden wall and on to public foreshores that have been gained through concerted efforts by The Glebe Society over the years. The Fletcher's site development allows for public foreshore access, but of course won't be available for a while. Then we can walk through Glebe Secondary College's grounds. Eventually we will have a route from Bicentennial Park to the Fish Market.

Watch for a notice in the next *Bulletin* for a planned walk of this route, ending with a BBQ at historic *Bellevue*. Old Society campaigners will tell the history of how foreshore access and parklands were gained at each site and we will also hear of various potential uses that could breathe life into *Bellevue*.

- **David Mander Jones**

St John's Minister leaving

Rev Martin Hunnybun, rector of St John's Church, will leave the parish after three years' service. He is going to the Huon Valley in Tasmania.

He will be sadly missed by parishioners, especially those in the St Johns Retirement Village.

An Anandale perspective

I enjoyed reading John Gray's letter in the last edition (1/2003) of the *Bulletin*. He sounds as if he extols the ethos of many of the residents of Annandale when he concluded with "Do it yourself. This is my suggestion to make a difference. What's yours?"

So many of the articles in this edition of the *Bulletin* wanted to blame others, such as Leichhardt Council, the Mayor, the Councillors, poorly managed Council staff etc and were now placing great hope in the City of Sydney coming to the rescue of Glebe.

I was also somewhat amused by Neil Macindoe's suggestion that the Society will come to the rescue of the Annandale residents "less alert to potential problems" in his article on the Children's Hospital. I thought that was a bit rich as the Annandale Precincts and residents waged a major campaign against the "tower" and the additional 6,200m² on the Booth Street site, protested at SSCC meetings in large numbers, arranged for the Council bus to transport residents to Erskinville for the meetings and have always been better represented at the reference group meetings.

With regard to buildings A, B and C along Booth Street our precincts broke the news that the residents had not been informed, neither had LMC, and that there were only two days to furnish objections to the DA. We were successful in gaining an extension for submissions until after our March precinct meeting, sent letters to all who attended our February meeting - over 60 residents including many from Forest Lodge (how many attend Glebe Precinct meetings?) - inviting them to a special meeting to prepare a response to the DA on Monday 3 March. Also, it was our efforts which saw the documentation on this DA made available for your residents in the Glebe Library.

Just a short comment on Roberta Johnston's, "Leichhardt votes to sell children's playground." I attended the meeting of the reference group, October 2002, at which there was no representative from the Glebe Society, and at which we were informed by Sterling Estates that a

parcel of land, now known as A3, owned by the Children's Hospital, was to be residential, the parcel of land to have two houses and that Sterling "may manage the development on behalf of the Children's Hospital."

In defence of LMC, the Children's Hospital was the first to arrange a sell off of some of the open space for residential which was quite contrary to the arrangement with SSCC in November 2001 when it was agreed that any residential development proposed for the Wood Street site would be transferred to the City



Letters to the Editor

Quarter site (i.e. extra 6200m² on the Booth St site). Read the documents Roberta! With this in mind the article's heading is somewhat inaccurate. Or is it another attempt to blame LMC? Or is it simply politics once again getting in the way of facts, which in the long term does nobody any good, particularly the residents who so desperately need open space.

What have we achieved in Annandale over the past few years through our efforts working with the Council, the community private enterprise and funding groups?

- Bicentennial Park Stage 2 with its marvellous children's playground, pavilion and soon to be installed small ramp for kayaks, canoes, small boats etc. Bicentennial Stage 1 was completed as a result of Bicentennial and LMC funding in the mid-1980's - Stage 2 is the result of hard work over a long period of time.
- Masterplan for the whole of Bicentennial Park, including Stage 1 (Glebe side) stage 2 (Annandale side) and stage 3 (the properties along The Crescent, Annandale).
- Successfully campaigned for Council to purchase properties along The Crescent and established a committee to

manage them to the end of 2004, after which they will be demolished and embellished as parkland. At the moment they are a source of income for Council. We still meet regularly with Council and assist in its efforts to secure the excess State Rail land (11-13 The Crescent) which is part of the plan for Stage 3 and the continued development of the Masterplan for the park.

- Established the Rozelle Bay Community Nursery which propagates native species for various community bush regeneration projects, the parks and verges in the area and on occasions the volunteers have ventured across the "Rubicon" into Glebe to assist there.
- Worked with Council with the design and construction of the Railway Avenue, Annandale Masterplan near the Rozelle Bay light rail station. A major community planting day is planned for April to further its embellishment.
- Preparing plans, with the support of Council and State Rail, to convert excess railway land on Brennan Street/Whites Creek, Annandale, into community gardens and an environmental resource centre.
- Then there is the Whites Creek wetlands in Annandale. This is the latest environmental positive for Annandale. If your members have not ventured along Whites Creek for some time they are in for a surprise. I refer to it as "the babbling brook" as the water quietly passes over the rocks on its passage through the various ponds before re-entering the creek, a little purer than when it entered. The plantings, all done by the community, provide spectacular colour to the ponds.
- February meeting of the Annandale Precinct saw the launch of the history booklet

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Leichhardt Mayor responds to President



I would like to publicly respond to inaccuracies in Andrew Craig's article, published in the last (February- March) issue of the Society Bulletin.

In making a comparison between the rewards and risks of joining the City of Sydney Mr Craig wrote that there had been an "apparent slowly increasing neglect of Glebe over the past five years... we are the poor relation of Leichhardt".

This remark is factually incorrect. As councillors from other wards point out from time to time there has been more money spent per capita in Glebe over the past five years than any other area of the municipality. Whether it is capital works on roads, the building of new facilities or the provision of special services to Glebe, it is true that the remainder of Leichhardt Municipality has subsidised Glebe to the tune of millions of dollars. So much for the "poor relation" argument.

Similarly Mr Craig's claim that a Glebe councillor told a Society member that we are not spending on capital works in the area is also

incorrect. What the councillor actually said was that under the terms of the boundary change proclamation we were not allowed to initiate major new projects.

I was extremely disappointed that you have, without any substantiation, used your newsletter pages to criticise Leichhardt staff and make, again without any evidence, a negative comparison to Sydney City staff. Leichhardt's senior management team rejects totally your assertion that its officers are somehow "poorly led, managed and instructed", or that our dedicated staff have a "depressing lack of clear direction, commitment, objectivity and energetic follow through". Council staff-bashing is a cheap exercise which brings no credit to The Glebe Society.

Indeed, Mr Craig's comparative article relies on so much subjective commentary that it raises more questions than it attempted to answer. Nevertheless, we wish the Society well in building a relationship with the City of Sydney.

- Maire Sheehan
Mayor, Leichhardt Council

Tunnelling under City begins

Readers will have noticed that the work on the Cross City Tunnel has commenced. The Glebe Society is represented on the Community Liaison Group for the western end of the project. This group has now held some five meetings and we are being provided with comprehensive detail as to work methods and scheduling. We are receiving work method and environmental statements for the construction prior to commencement of each stage. Most of the construction issues relate to concerns about noise, vibration and traffic. These are not a great concern to Glebe residents but are clearly of greater significance to city dwellers who are living on top of the work. Daytime work is difficult because of traffic concerns.

The EPA is also attempting to limit night-time work to allow locals to sleep but this has to be balanced against the Darling Harbour traders' requirements to minimise disruption during their weekend trading peak. Disruption should lessen as the work gets further underground.

As far as Glebe is concerned the pedestrian and traffic accesses to and through the city are relatively unaffected although there are some minor adjustments for pedestrians in the vicinity of the daffodil (which should be dismantled and stored by the time you read this). Traffic is a little more vexing problem and there is an ongoing negotiation with the Traffic Control Centre who are also balancing the needs for traffic restrictions on the western distributor and at the many other sites around town. Traffic lane closures have been notified in the broader press. Also of concern is the movement of spoil trucks. These are being routed via the Anzac Bridge if heading for tips to the west or via Harris Street if



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- Initiated the establishment of the Glebe Community Representatives Group with the aim of bringing together the various community groups in Glebe with Council to discuss the perceived problems in the suburb and developing a coordinated approach to-improve the situation.

Yes, come over to Annandale John Gray, you sound like one of our type. "A get on with it and stop blaming others all the time".

In the meantime I look forward to crossing the Rubicon "to enjoy the vitality, the diversity of the people, the cafes, the Saturday markets, the library, the bookshops, the heritage

buildings, the fish markets, Victoria Park and its wonderful pool, the "Op Shops", the pubs, the waterfront parks, the pudding shop, the Valhalla and the backpackers/tourists from so many countries.

I hope the transfer to the City does not spoil it all.

- David Lawrence
Secretary, Annandale North Precinct

Perhaps a comparison of the list of Council funded projects in Mr Lawrence's letter with the paucity of recent projects in Glebe is indicator of Leichhardt Council's attitude to the two suburbs? Neil Macindoe and Roberta Johnston will be given the opportunity to respond in the next Bulletin. — Acting Editor

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News and Notes

Edmund Blacket in Glebe

150 years ago, in 1853, the architect Edmund Blacket brought his family to live in Glebe. Bidura at No. 357 Glebe Point Road, is believed to have been where the Blackets resided.

At the time, Edmund Blacket was Colonial Architect but relinquished the job a year later to work on the first University of Sydney buildings.

Morton Herman (in *The Architecture of Victorian Sydney*) notes that “command of line and proportion” was the hallmark of Blacket’s style; and that he placed buildings in such a way that they seemed “inevitable” on their sites.

Blacket’s prolific work includes many landmark churches and buildings, not only in Sydney, but further afield. In Glebe, he designed St Johns Bishopsthorpe (in conjunction with Horbury Hunt), possibly Nos. 104 and 106 Derwent Street (the land was certainly owned by Blacket) and 128 and 134 Glebe Point Road.

NSW Law Week Great Debate

The Blacket Court provides the perfect surroundings for the annual Great Debate staged by the NSW Law Society. Each year a team from the NSW Police Prosecutors and a team from the Bar Association and the Law Society argue a topical legal question.

Venue: Police and Justice Museum, corner of Albert and Phillip Streets, Circular Quay.

Date: Tuesday 13 May, 6-8 pm Free entry

Further information and phone bookings : Lorraine Clark at NSW Law Society 9926 0287, email lgc@lawsocnsw.asn.au.



Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe Society Archives

Principal: Mrs Elva Salter Phone 9660 3530

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Work begins on city tunnel

they are heading to the south. They are not travelling via Pyrmont Bridge Road. (There are four grades of spoil being produced and these have to head to four different kinds of tip.) Most spoil will be removed from the eastern end of the project and removed via the eastern distributor.

- Steve Stewart

Adieu, Marianne

Marianne von Knobelsdorff has been a stalwart of The Glebe Society for many years. Unfortunately she must return to her hometown in Germany for family reasons, at least for the immediate future. Marianne’s many friends are invited to wish her adieu at the Fireplace Room on the ground floor of the Toxteth Hotel, corner Glebe Point Road and Ferry Road, on **Wednesday, 16 April** between 6-7 pm. Buy your own drinks, stay on for dinner if you wish.

Tank Stream Tours - Sunday, 13 April

Tours of this rare surviving link to early Sydney will take visitors along a length of the stream that determined the location of our city. Tours depart every 45 minutes from 9 am, with the last tour at 4:30pm. **Cost:** \$20 (general). **Venue:** Meeting point to be advised when booking. **Enquiries:** 9518 6866.

This event is organised by the Historic Houses Trust in conjunction with Sydney Water Corporation.

Anzac Day Service

An ANZAC Day service will be held at the Diggers’ Memorial on the Glebe Point Road side of Foley Park at 7:30 am on Friday 25 April.

Since 1992, ANZAC Day services have been held there each year, attended by members of the 55th and 53rd Battalions which served in New Guinea in WW2.

The service will be conducted by the Rector of St Johns, Rev Martin Hunnybun.

National Trust tour of Glebe

Don’t forget the National Trust guided tour of Glebe on 12 April starting at 1:30 pm. The tour includes a visit to Sze Yup Temple and a grand Victorian House. Cost is \$20.00. Bookings are essential - phone 9660 7157.

Orphan School Creek plan

The draft management plan for Orphan School Creek can be inspected in Glebe Library.

History Of Glebe

Leichhardt Historical Journal No 23, with an article by Max Solling on early Glebe houses, is available from the Library for \$20.

Poplar seedlings

Members are urged to use the Clean-up Glebe Fax-Back form (downloadable from our website at www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutTGSI/CleanUpGlebe/FaxBack.pdf) to report to Council any instances where poplar seedlings reappear. Left unattended, the seedlings break up our footpaths and gutters.

For your diary ...

Wednesday, 9 April 7:30 pm - Glebe Society Management Committee meeting, upstairs meeting room, Toxteth Hotel, cnr. Glebe Point and Ferry Roads.

Saturday, 12 April, 1:30 pm - National Trust tour of Glebe (see News and Notes).

Sunday, 13 April, all day - Tank Stream tours (see News and Notes).

Wednesday, 16 April, 6-7 pm - Farewell to Marianne von Knobelsdorff at the Fireplace Room, ground floor, Toxteth Hotel, cnr Glebe Point Road and Ferry Road. All Marianne's friends from the Glebe Society and elsewhere are welcome. Buy your own drinks, stay on for dinner if you wish. (See News and Notes)

Friday, 25 April 7:30 am - Anzac Day service, Foley Park (see News and Notes).

Saturday 3 May - White's Creek Wetlands tour sponsored by Leichhardt Council. Morning tours 10-11.30am, afternoon tours 2.00pm. For further information: David Winterton 9367 9229.

Saturday 17 May - Friends of *Benledi* annual Book Fair. Morning event at *Benledi*, 186 Glebe Point Road.

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

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	Andrew Wood	9660 6104
including Noise Pollution	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	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

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

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The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
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Ordinary member	\$40
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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, 15 April, 2003**

