



Glebe Society Bulletin

7/2003 August / September

Society honors two from its founding era



The Society gained two new Honorary Life Members and a revamped management committee at its Annual General Meeting.

Benledi was crowded with members for the AGM and the champers and sandwiches that followed.

The new Honorary Life Members are:

- Tom Uren, AO, who as a Minister of the Whitlam Government made the decision to purchase the Glebe Estate; and
- The Society's second president, "Peru" Perumal.

A new award, the Glebe Society Commendation, was also presented *in absentia* to Marianne von Knobelsdorff for her many years of

President's report centre pages

work for the Society.

Tom's citation was presented by Tony Larkum and "Peru's" by Tony Strachan and both are published in this edition of the *Bulletin*.

As a relatively recent 'blow-in' to Glebe, I felt privileged to hear the citations. It was illuminating to understand something of the vision, drive,



Top: Tom Uren drives home a point to a rapt audience at *Benledi*. Above: President Andrew Craig presents his Honorary Life Membership certificate to "Peru" Preumal.

hard work and personal cost involved in achieving their vision for Glebe.

Tom Uren subsequently spoke to the meeting about the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Glebe Estate and kindly provided a copy of his book *Straight Left* for the Glebe Society archives.

We are delighted to welcome the following members who were elected to the Management Committee at the AGM:

Bob Armstrong,
Robyn Kemmis,
Tony Larkum, and
Ted McKeown.

Please see inside back cover of the *Bulletin* for contact details.

- Liz Simpson Booker

Citations for new life members

Tom Uren

Tom Uren has been described by Bob Brown in Federal Parliament as “one of the most distinguished living beings on the face of the planet”. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Architecture by the University of Sydney in 2002. As can be seen below he ably qualifies for the award of Life Membership of the Glebe Society and in turn the Society is very honoured that he has accepted this award.

Tom Uren was born in Balmain in 1921. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939 and entered the war in Timor as a bombardier. He was a prisoner of war of the Japanese from 1942-1945. After the war he spent two years as a professional boxer before becoming a store manager for Woolworths in Lithgow and entering politics in the late 40's. In 1968 he was elected MHR for Reid and was quickly promoted to the opposition front bench representing Housing, Urban Affairs and the Environment. On the election of the Whitlam Government in 1972 he was made Minister for Urban and Regional Development and in this capacity he initiated a number of key developments which affected the Glebe Society and Glebe greatly. These are discussed below. In the subsequent years Tom Uren was in and out of government until he retired in 1990. Since then he has been active in the pursuit of his favourite subjects: anti-uranium policies, peace, former prisoners of war and urban and regional development. He now lives in Balmain.

In the early months of the Whitlam Government in 1993 Tom Uren made some key decisions that affected and still affect our lives and our townscape in Glebe. Firstly he set up a Commission which made two recommendations: first that a national statutory body be set up to work with the States, local government, local groups and members of the public for the protection, conservation and preservation of the National Estate; and second that a fundamental task be to start surveying the National Estate and make an inventory of its components. This crucial initiative eventuated in the

Australian Heritage Commission (in May, 1975) and the Register of the National Estate (July, 1976). The result of this legislation is inestimable throughout Australia and especially in historic, but often neglected Australian inner suburbs, such as Glebe.

However at the same time and through contacts in the Glebe Society and other interested parties in Glebe and the inner Sydney suburbs, Tom Uren also authorised in 1973 the purchase of the Glebe Estate from the Church of England, by the Federal Government. This was done after approaches to the Askin State Government failed, and saved this historic urban streetscape area for future generations at a time when unsympathetic development of high rise buildings was threatened. Tom Uren introduced the enabling legislation, the Glebe Lands (Appropriation) Bill, into Federal Parliament on 11 July 1974. The Royal Australian Planning Institute *Journal* noted in November 1979 “The Glebe project has become a classic example of successful rehabilitation. It stands as a refreshing and humane contrast to the insane excesses of commercial redevelopment of the central business district and as a remarkable symbol of official concern for community values rather than developers’s balance sheets.”

It was also the time of “Green Bans”, which were brought into effect by the Builders Labourers Federation secretary, Jack Mundy and a group of women from Hunters Hill. The Green Bans were effectively applied in Woolloomooloo and the Rocks and through a number of activities of the Glebe Society (involving the active work of Tony Strachan, Alan Robertson, Peru Perumal, Bernard Smith, Nick Origlass, Ian Potter, and Eric Sanblom) the Green Bans were used effectively in Glebe to stave off the demolition of *Lyndhurst* and the building of two motorways which was planned to cut a swathe across Glebe (including *Lyndhurst*). Although Tom Uren could not support such action publicly, he gave it his unofficial backing and was on many occasions able to give vital advice, which

benefited the urban development in Glebe and the Inner Western suburbs.

The legacy of the Uren legislation on the National Heritage Commission can still be seen in Glebe in such buildings as the Glebe Town Hall and Lyndhurst and, in the old Municipality of Leichhardt, in the Leichhardt Town Hall.

We therefore whole-heartedly endorse Tom Uren as a Life Member of the Society, after such incisive and far-reaching activities which have so fully accorded with the agenda and principles of the Society and have had such an historic effect on the Glebe we know today.

- Tony Larkum

“Peru” Perumal

I am delighted to be here today and honoured to have been asked to present the citation for the award of honorary life membership to Peru Perumal. I suspect that everyone thought Peru had been made a life member years ago. Even so, I think it more than fitting that he should be brought to this exalted state in the company of our hero Tom Uren. Perhaps we can have another category of “exalted life member”. Peru was elected President of The Glebe Society in late 1972, following the esteemed Bernard Smith. He was re-elected, held the office for the usual two years and thus guided the Society at a most important time, probably the most important time in its history.

The Glebe Society has a lot to be proud of. Not only have its achievements in Glebe and Leichhardt been so noteworthy for the area, but these same achievements did have Sydney-wide and indeed Australia-wide implications. Of course Glebe and its lively thinkers were not all alone in the early seventies. A big “something in the air” had been building since the late sixties. What gave Glebe, or should I use the old name of *The Glebe*, its chance were the unique, substantial threats and dare I say,

Citations (cont'd.)

opportunities of the time. Peru must have been with the planning committee of The Glebe Society from the beginning; certainly he was there when I came along in early 1971. I'm happy to say we have been firm friends ever since, so if I say anything nice, or even bad, about him, you shouldn't believe the word of a hopelessly prejudiced chap like me. I've been looking up some old files - what a hotbed of lively discussion and ideas that time was! It was all very stimulating and exciting. Peru was involved in every issue - whether as a generator of ideas, or later as official spokesman for the Society. Lest, however, Mr Perumal's head swell too much, I'm sure he would agree that what happened was very much a group effort.

There was so much to do; to have meetings about; to write serious papers about; to lobby about; to get other groups involved. The almost incredible thing is that everything we set out to achieve was subsequently achieved - even if getting the light rail did take 30 years! This is a remarkable historical achievement and I have heard Peru say often over the years that followed how proud he is to have been so intimately involved with the whole process. In retrospect The Glebe Society had some noteworthy people who were well organised and very tenacious. Everything intermeshed. Everything related to the question of how to make a better more involved society. On the ground we had these immediate issues:

- The DMR planned two expressways, which would have demolished around 1000 houses and destroyed the suburb. The Church of England wanted to totally demolish the houses on its estate and build high rise. They had commissioned a plan, which was published, to do this. When they were dissuaded from this, they simply could not grasp the arguments put to them, in meeting after meeting, that these old "slums" had immense historical value AND that there were important social issues involved.
- Developers, operating under planning regulations from the dark ages, were beginning to ruin the fine

Starch your ruffs for our Elizabethan banquet!

Start starching your ruffs for The Glebe Society's Elizabethan banquet on 18 October! Entertainment will include Elizabethan music and song, readings from the writings of the period in between courses, and a real live flautist. Dressing up is certainly not obligatory but there will be a prize for best male and female costumes. Elizabethan costumes are easily hired - with a refundable deposit - from the Opera Centre in Elizabeth Street Surry Hills (phone

9699.1099). You may find yourself rubbing shoulders with the Earl of Leicester or Shakespeare!

During the evening you will have the opportunity to bid for a variety of Elizabethan "monopolies" - five nights accommodation in New Zealand, completion of unfinished business in the way of knitting or embroidery, a weekend at Pearl Beach, a sail on the Harbour, and many more.

A booking form with more details is enclosed with this *Bulletin*.

streetscape with the infamous three storey walkups.

So, ever practical, together with the people of Balmain, we took over the Council. Peru was amongst the door knockers who managed to achieve the election of Eric Sandblom and David Young for Glebe. He was amongst those who sat on the Leichhardt Planning Committee which wrote the most remarkable new town plan of its time. And of course, the revolutionary idea of "open council" is still making waves in local government.

Then came the big chance; a new Government was elected in Canberra! Prior to this, as mentioned, The Glebe Society had put various propositions to the Church to no avail. The position was becoming desperate as the church announced it would sell its estate piecemeal. The Society then wrote the policy adopted by Leichhardt Council. Peru, Eric and I were intimately involved in this. Various advisers to Tom Uren were kept informed. So, one week after the great Labor Party victory, the Leichhardt Planning Committee, sitting on the floor at 35 Arcadia Road, wondering what on earth to do, made a simple decision - let's ask the new Federal Government to buy the Glebe Estate! Nick Origlass, the redoubtable Nick, immediately rang Tom who said, surprise, surprise, YES! Thereupon began all the negotiations with the Church, within the Labor

Party, and in due course, everything The Glebe Society had formulated in 1971 became a reality. Peru, later as professional architect, formulated most of the practical aspects of the system used to assess houses for restoration and repair. Together we appeared on *This Day Tonight*, the television program of the times. They got the lights perfect for Peru, I looked like I had chronic anaemia. In the meantime, lots of other issues were being taken up. In November 1972 Peru wrote the foreword to The Glebe Society monograph no. 1, by David Potter "An Alternative to Inner Urban Expressways". A detailed submission was made to the National Trust incorporating a lot of Kate and Bernard Smith's work, regarding the listing of buildings in Glebe. Later Peru and I, together with Bob Clark, worked on the listing of Glebe as a conservation area by the Urban Conservation Committee of the National Trust. There wasn't much doubt about this going through - all three of us sat on the Trust Committee. This listing and the methodology served as the basis of the Leichhardt Town Plan later extended all over the municipality. So you see Peru was President at a time of great achievement and excitement. He could not have been that bad as the Society leader. I expressly say so, because there was someone who can only be described as evil, who had

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Website annual report

Since the Society's website was established two years' ago, it has served some useful roles. These include keeping members up-to-date on News and Coming Events and local and Society functions through its Calendar webpages.

Another important function is that we can speedily publish articles and reports of much greater length than our *Bulletin* is able to publish and keep this material archived online for as long as it is of use to members. This was particularly relevant when the local debate on our incorporation with The City of Sydney was at its peak (Sproat's report, Boundaries Commission and other important documents were archived) and then, during the last state election.

We have run our own forums on graffiti and traffic and expect to soon initiate one on our experience with the new City administration. It is intended that more news events in the city be published.

And of course, the website has been sheer joy for a "team member" to become up close and personal with his digital camera, so that we are now able to publish photos and improved graphics without the same constraints as the *Bulletin*.

Of the future? Lack of time and resources has delayed our promised revamp of the site but we look to 2004 for that goal. We do hope Society members and website visitors will continue to use this site and send comments, contributions and especially letters to keep this a living and vibrant website. We are always working towards that goal and urge any web volunteers to get in touch!!

Our team is Bruce Davis, Edwina Doe, Hilary Wise and myself. We thank you for the many positive comments we have received and learn from any negative ones brought to our attention.

- Cynthia Jones (Webmaster)

Planning report



Council adopts new notification policy

There is little to report this month. Generally the Society's objections have been successful. Most notably, the application to demolish the Victorian semis at 77-79 St Johns Road has been refused. Many thanks to those who wrote objections. It is easy to object when something affects you personally. It is much more difficult when the site is distant and your objection is based on the public good. Those people embody the true spirit of The Society.

The City Council has adopted a new Development Control Plan regarding notification of developments (a notice in your letterbox) and advertising of them (a notice in the newspaper). They have had to do this because the areas they took over on 8 May all had different policies.

The main advertising will be in the *Herald's* Public Notices section

Monday to Friday. Ads will also appear in *The Glebe*, but not as quickly and with less information. Notices will be posted only to neighbours affected by a development. Applications will continue to be available for scrutiny at Glebe Town Hall as well as the City. Because Glebe is almost entirely a Conservation Area virtually every proposal except some commercial changes of use will continue to be advertised. These changes are not very great, but we should continue to be alert because there are those who will try to take advantage of any change. For example, The Society has complained to City Council about an apparently unauthorised steel frame erected on top of 1-9 Glebe Point Road, and about damage to a balcony on the Heritage Item at 242 Glebe Point Road.

- Neil Macindoe

The 14th Annual Glebe Music Festival, 8-23 November

Another full festival brochure will be sent out with the next *Bulletin*, but here is a reminder for your diary...

Saturday 8 November, 8pm - Star Soloists of the Future at *Margaretta Cottage* (\$40/\$20)

Saturday 8 November, 10pm - Mainline (new rocking blues band) at *Margaretta Cottage* (free, no ticket required)

Sunday 9 November, 2.30pm - Star Ensembles of the Future at The Great Hall, University of Sydney (\$10/\$5)

Friday 14 November, 7.30pm - Andean

Dreams at Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road (\$20/\$10)

Saturday 15 November, 8pm - Douglas Hollick harpsichord "Keyboard Music of the Baroque Avant-Garde" at *Margaretta Cottage* (\$40/\$20)

Sunday 16 November at 3pm - Bel a cappella at St Scholastica's (\$20/\$15)

Sunday 23 November at 3pm - Sydney Chamber Brass at St Scholastica's (\$20/\$15)

www.glebemusicfestival.com has further details and an advance booking form.

Clean out your household chemical clutter

Drop off your old or leftover paints, pesticides, herbicides, solvents and household cleaners, oils and fuels, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, flares, pool and hobby chemicals, acids and alkalis between 9 am - 3.30 pm on Saturday, 13 September, at

Marrickvale Works Depot, 15 Unwins Bridge Road, St Peters.

For more information call the Clean Out Info Hotline on 1300 787 870 or visit www.resource.nsw.gov.au.

(Our thanks to Alison McKeown who drew our attention to this notice.)

President's report to 2002/03 AGM

Watch out for "sleeping tigers"

In this report I propose to:

- Recognise the most important ingredient in our achievements this year and most years. This has been the commitment, energy and foresight of a large number of likeable people, our active members.
- Outline the most notable achievements over the last 12 months.
- Draw your attention to some threats looming on the horizon.
- Suggest how we move forward towards 2008.

Thanks

Before referring to our achievements in the last year I want to express, on behalf of the Management Committee, our sincere appreciation of and heartfelt thanks to those people who have contributed so positively to our successes in the last 12 months. This especially includes the members of the Management Committee but also includes many people who have so enthusiastically supported the Committee and its activities. I hesitate to name names but feel I must, as I am only too aware of the commitment so many people offer. Those who come highest to mind include Bob Armstrong, John Buckingham, Fiona Campbell, Bruce Davis, Edwina Doe, John Gray, Collin Hills, Cynthia Jones, Jeanette Knox, Neil Macindoe, David and Fay Mander Jones, Margaret Sheppard, Liz Simpson-Booker, Steve Stewart, Judy Vergison, Hilary Wise and Andrew Wood.

My warm personal thanks go to Hilary who has adeptly chaired meetings I have been unable to attend and Liz who has kept me on the straight and narrow with gentle but disciplined foresight. Bruce has picked up so many loose balls I have lost count and John has been the wise mentor.

Our comprehensive and well-presented web site is our front window to the world. Congratulations to Cynthia and Bruce for the marvellous result they have achieved.

I know that many help on the subcommittees and these are too numerous to

detail here. However I am aware that Yolanda Bell, Bobbie Burke and Sue Ingram are but a few of those who are generous in their contributions of time and effort. Ian Edwards is another who helps regularly with the hand delivery of our mail. Lyn Milton is the heroine of our archives. Betty Mason kindly fulfils the important role of monitoring our media.

While thanks are due to those I mention here and many others, let's be honest with ourselves. We sometimes wonder "Is it all worth it?", "Do I need another meeting when I could flop in front of the tele?", "Can I take another late night?"

Yet we all know it is worth it. Apart from the great things we are doing for our community, I suspect that we all enjoy the interaction with each other. Despite our petty disagreements (and there are very few), I suspect that we all feel the same as I do. That is, membership of our little band reinforces our sense of community, keeps us in contact with some great people and enriches our lives in the melting pot of diverse thought and attitude. So let's not pretend it's all hard yakka but also let's make sure we continue the fun!

A snapshot of the year's activities and achievements

Communications with the City of Sydney

The most momentous event of the past year has been our transfer to the City of Sydney. Although we disapprove of the Government's process, I feel that the committee should be congratulated on its balanced, unemotional and thoughtful approach leading up to and during the transfer. Our initiatives in 2001, including the addresses by Maire Sheehan and Frank Sartor, provided insights into what each Council stood for and allowed us to take a much more informed view. Although we were not able to influence the process much and

we recognise the high risks, I feel that the committee and members are happy with the result so far. This happiness can be attributed in part to the effort we put in to understanding the process and communicating well with most stakeholders.

I warmly thank the energetic people who worked on the boundary changes subcommittee for your objectivity, intelligence and determination.

The appearance of Marcello Massi at the new Glebe Neighbourhood Service Centre has brought new fresh air and accessibility to our community and I encourage everyone to make use of Marcello's good offices.

Strategic planning

The strong likelihood of a local government boundary change arose under John Buckingham's term of office in 2001. John presided over the formation of and worked on the new subcommittee, which was to examine the whys and wherefores of the change. This subcommittee, in its efforts to communicate well with both Leichhardt and Sydney, developed a "Matrix of the Needs of the People of Glebe". I believe it was this discussion, leading to the obvious conclusion that we must communicate well with our local government partners, that stimulated the committee's decision to examine and update our strategic plan.

Several members of the Management Committee attended a stimulating and enjoyable workshop conducted by Judy Vergison at her place in 2002. From the ideas agreed, Judy produced a succinct and well-structured proposal for our future plan of attack. Judy's documents formed the basis of our later discussions and these were developed by Liz into the first draft of a "high communication" document to be used for communicating with the City Council. Liz's volume was further tweaked to produce our newly published strategic plan entitled "Partnerships to a Vibrant Community".

I am hoping that this plan will prove helpful in achieving what the people of Glebe want for Glebe. It has already been valuable in our ability to communicate with the City, the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders. I hope it will encourage the responses we want from our very important partners. I believe it will.

Our strategic plan is not a solution. It attempts to define our course ahead. Our compass is set. There will be many wind changes, reefs, storms and some fair breezes ahead. We will want to nudge the tiller, trim and re-set the sails and even occasionally change crew but we know where we want to go. We also know that we will need to man the oars when the headwinds are strong. I am confident that our muscular ship's company is up to the task.

We have reaffirmed that the first step in getting somewhere is to know where it is you want to get to. The second step is to let others who may want to help you, know about it.

Limited numbers of copies of "Partnerships to a Vibrant Community" are available to Glebe Society members and our partners. It is an open document and we invite comment from anyone interested in the future of Glebe. We enthusiastically encourage involvement of members in our activities, events and meetings, all directed towards achieving the goals outlined in our plan. It will be fun! We have already sought feedback from the City and the Chamber of Commerce. Informal responses from both are encouraging.

The committee owes much to the members of the strategic planning subcommittee for this document and I thank them. These especially include Judy and Liz who put in the hard yards.

Bays and foreshores

This highly active subcommittee (managed by Colin and John with major contribution by Bruce) leads the charge on our most topical and important strategic issue. This is the establishment of the foreshore walk and cycleway from Bicentennial Park to the Sydney Fish Market.

While planning at state government level is in its early stages, our subcommittee has well and truly attracted the attention of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority and the City Council. The subcommittee has been instrumental in making us feel that our long-held dream of being able to walk right around the foreshores is realisable. Fantastic!

This subcommittee also updated and re-published its policy document in 2003.

I commend to you the Bays and Foreshores Subcommittee's annual report provided in the July/August Bulletin. This report shows that there is much ahead to fight and that vigilance against governments that just do what they want will be essential.

The revival of Glebe Point Road

We have all noticed and been saddened by the slow but steady decline of Glebe Point Road. This is a complex but very important strategic issue to us.

I am excited about the work that John Gray has undertaken as the new convenor addressing this problem. John's significant achievement so far has been to commission a study of the commercial, marketing, cultural and social issues in our main drag. This was undertaken by an energetic and thoughtful group of MBA students at the Macquarie Graduate School of Management. Their comprehensive report is available for perusal to all members. We are now implementing the first recommendations arising from it. This consists of convening some stakeholder workshops to agree on a medium-term concept for GPR, likely to be held in November 2003. We are hoping that the City and the Chamber of Commerce will be our partners in this process.

John is to be congratulated with this result and his "do it yourself" philosophy is already having effect. However, we have many yards to go.

John's progress report is included in the July/August *Bulletin*.

Heritage

David is our expert convenor of what has recently become one of our most active subcommittees. This subcommittee conceived and largely organised our most successful event this year, the "Wander and Wonder" held on Sunday 22 June. Attendance by more than 100 people, the presence of so many from the City (including the Lord Mayor) and informed Glebe Society presenters combined with perfect weather to create a memorable social and strategically purposeful occasion. Our congratulations go to David and his subcommittee.

Another hugely successful heritage event was the visit to *Bidura* in July 2003. Liz was a leading light in this event and again, she and the subcommittee are to be congratulated.

The Heritage annual report was also published in the last Bulletin. The report outlines the other achievements including the publication of *Glebe's Treasures*. This subcommittee also drafted a policy document in 2003.

Thirsty Thursdays

This initiative was introduced and remains organised by Edwina. On the first Thursday of every month all members inclined to do so meet at the Toxteth Hotel for a drink and dinner, commencing at about 6.30-7 pm. The purpose of these sessions is almost entirely social. Three have been held so far and all have been well attended. The conversation seems to range across everything except the important matters at hand! Well done, Edwina, your evenings represent some of the reasons the Glebe Society exists!

New members drinks

Hilary was the instigator of these sessions, also held at the Toxteth in 2002. They were also well attended and Management Committee members were able to meet and welcome many new and existing members for the first time. We will continue to encourage our new members to participate in and enjoy all our events. Thank you Hilary for your initiative and hard work in organising these events.

The Bulletin

The *Bulletin* continues as an informative, professionally edited and valuable



President Andrew Craig presents Tom Uren with his Honorary Life Membership at the AGM.

publication to the people of Glebe and us. It remains the key instrument of communication between the Management Committee and our members. Bruce scooped up this ball as it started to wobble last year and invested a huge amount of time and effort in getting it to the publisher by the appointed times. He has earned our undying gratitude and respect for his astuteness and tenacity in ensuring that this happened.

Bruce also deftly managed the transfer of the editorship to Edwina. Edwina is now the editor extraordinaire of the *Bulletin* and now has at least three masterful publications under her belt. Edwina seems set to lift the bar even higher on the quality and reliability of our regular lurid tabloid.

Infrastructure

While there have been few major infrastructure issues arising in the last 12 months, Margaret continues to monitor and report on problems with our public facilities. She is in regular and close contact with the City. We thank her for her conscientious attention to detail and her regular reports.

Margaret's informative report is included in the July/August *Bulletin*.

Planning

Neil continues to so ably manage our planning interests and issues. His monthly reports to the Management Committee are always full of objective

information, interest and focus. Our responses under Neil's guidance are comfortably consistent in their thrust and ideology.

Neil's achievements this year have included the publishing of our planning "Action Plan" and our effective objection to numerous undesirable developments. He has also effectively

digested for us the planning processes used by our new overlords in the City. Neil's major contribution to our main strategy document should also be noted.

Neil's annual report in the July/August *Bulletin* provides an excellent overview of the history, status and challenges of our planning issues.

Treasury

Heart-felt thanks are due to Bruce and Fay for the management of our accounts over the last 12 months. After a minor crisis after the loss of our previous treasurer, Bruce pro-actively took control and both Bruce and Fay successfully got our accounts in order. We thank Fay warmly for taking up this tricky task and we hope we haven't stretched the friendship.

Bruce now occupies the Treasurer's chair and we are grateful for his professionalism, tenacity and accountability in this vital role.

Environment

The last twelve months has seen the reappearance of some stalwart members - Andrew and Bob. Andrew has pro-actively pounced on the environmental ball and has already formed a subcommittee and agreed and published our environmental policy. Fiona Campbell ably assists Andrew, with both members well qualified for this task. We thank you both for your efforts and enthusiasm.

The Environment subcommittee's

annual report was also in the last *Bulletin*.

Traffic

Our traffic convenor, Steve (ably assisted by Jeanette) continues to lead our resistance to the ever-increasing imposition of undesirable traffic in our streets and related issues such as air quality. Steve's expertise on traffic issues is invaluable to us.

Steve is currently addressing what is looming to be one of the most concerning issues facing our community. That is the likely increased traffic arising from the opening of the Cross City Tunnel and possibly the traffic changes arising from the greening of Broadway. We observe progress with interest.

The July/August *Bulletin* includes the "Traffic Matters" annual report.

Parks and open spaces

Several of our members have joined with other local residents as "adoptees" of Foley Park and Kirsova Playground. They have been energetically reversing Leichhardt Council's neglect of our parks. Their efforts in the improved Foley Park and attention to the Diggers' Memorial stand out strongly. Special thanks go to Liz, Bobbie and others for their green thumbs and hard work.

Their annual report provides more detail in the July/August *Bulletin*.

Glebe Society history

Jeanette continues to pursue our own history and produced a Glebe Society facts sheet for the Benledi event. Her report is in the July/August *Bulletin*.

Near and present dangers

Although we have achieved much in recent years, I draw your attention to some sleeping tigers. I believe they are threats to our community towards which we must remain vigilant. We must continue to act pro-actively to minimise these dangers. The most threatening issues include:

Traffic

Most of us are very uncomfortable about the outcome of the opening of the Cross City Tunnel yet our bureaucracies act as a sponge to our concerns.

Nothing encouraging seems to come out. We must focus on this more over the next 12 months.

Focus on Broadway instead of Glebe Point Road

We strongly support the City's strategy to turn Broadway into a pedestrian-friendly boulevard. However, there is mounting concern that the focus on Broadway may steal attention away from the efforts being made to revitalise Glebe Point Road. We will continue to draw our partners' attentions to this threat in all our communications.

Bays and foreshores

Colin's annual report refers to some gathering clouds in the shape of medium and long-term development in Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays. The chief danger here is that government may just ignore residents and acquiesce to the demands of commercial and industrial stakeholders. We need to send strong signals now and fight undesirable development every inch of the way. This is what our founders created us for!

Flagging enthusiasm at local government and community level

On the whole, the City is to be congratulated on the initiatives it has taken in the first few months of "occupation". Improvements in graffiti removal, rubbish collection, street cleanliness and maintenance have been welcome.

However, this has probably been designed to impress a slightly sceptical community and we may yet see some flagging of commitment. One of our important tasks will now be to keep the City on its toes and steadily increase its commitment to our objectives. We have already sought a written response to our strategic plan from the Lord Mayor.

Membership

Our membership has been stable at about 200 for some years. Retaining these numbers requires constant effort and where that effort is applied, it tends to be rewarded. Most of us are uncomfortable with the lack of youthful members.

Marianne was invaluable in our drives for members and she will be missed. We need a new membership champion. Is there anyone here that likes talking to people and would enjoy this task?

Memberships are one of our most important sources of greatly needed funds and we will continue to strive to increase our numbers. A membership drive will closely follow this AGM. We will also be asking how we solve the "greying of the members" issue.

The way ahead

In a recent issue of the *Bulletin* an article appeared entitled "We've come a long way but we've still got a way to go" that attempted to communicate a personal vision for Glebe in 2012.

I want to ask you today "What is your personal vision for Glebe in 2012?"

I submit that this is an important question for you to answer for yourself and for us. I believe that it is by you seeing clearly in your mind's eye what you want in 10 year's time that we all have the greatest collective chance of achieving it. Can I ask you to write it down clearly and keep it handy? Send it to the editor and we will publish it in the *Bulletin*. We are all instinctively drawn towards appealing, highly visual images. By this means we will always have a strong pulling force on our motivations and actions.

The article I refer to outlined some principles that I believe should be cherished by The Glebe Society and others in our community. I provide a slightly edited version here again:

1. Everyone living or working in Glebe should share in our successes but also appreciate their own responsibility to help make them happen.
2. Let's have fun! Let's celebrate one of Sydney's most diverse communities as we go.
3. Power, for us, resides in networks, patience, determination, good communication and a sense of humour.
4. Let's understand, see more of and involve the young people of Glebe.
5. We must negotiate with governments with a blend of political savvy and expectations of the highest standards of service from their offices.

6. The small and vulnerable amongst us must be shielded from the big and powerful.

7. We must demand direct representation in open government and insist on good management and professionalism in local government.

8. Our world is precious. Environmentally friendly solutions are not negotiable.

These principles are distilled into our goals in our main strategy document.

I also ask a question:

Perhaps Glebe's most untapped resource is its artistic community. Can we celebrate better our artists, musicians and writers?

Let's move forward together and create even more successes! Let's pull our partner organisations in close and strive with them so that we actually experience the pictures of Glebe in 2012 we see in our heads. It will be an exciting, rewarding and enjoyable ride!

- Andrew Craig

TGSI responds to Fish Market master plan

The Glebe Society has proposed changes to the draft Fish Market master plan which was released for public comment recently.

Points in the submission include:

Public transport facilities are inadequate - provision should be made for bus and ferry access.

The tall commercial building at the rear of the site occupies space that would be more appropriately used as public open space.

The major retail building creates a walled effect when viewed from the water. This would be ameliorated if the building was lower and set back further from the water.

The 10-20 metres devoted to the foreshore promenade is scant, and once eating tables are accommodated the space is "impractically narrow". The submission also proposes more space be given to the open-air square, and waterfront park.

Bays and Foreshores policy

The Management Committee recently reviewed the Society's Bays and Foreshores policy. For space reasons it is not possible to include the full text of the revised policy in this edition of the Bulletin. This summary includes a list of the issues covered but not the Society's opinions. The full version is available on the Glebe Society's website, www.glebesociety.org.au \About TGS\BaysAndForeshores and if possible more information will be included in future Bulletins.

The policy of The Glebe Society Incorporated, covering Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay and the land adjacent to them was first published: 1991 and revised in 1997 and 2003'

This updated policy was adopted at the Glebe Society's Management Committee Meeting on 13 August 2003.

Introduction

This policy has been developed to provide The Glebe Society Incorporated with a single mechanism for responding to proposed developments/activities on the bays, on the adjacent foreshores in Glebe, and on foreshores outside Glebe but which impact on Glebe.

Inherent in this policy is The Society's belief that all relevant authorities should consider the total impact on the bays when considering any individual development proposal. Ideally there should be a moratorium on all development until a total development plan for the bays is conceived. It is suggested that such a plan should be part of the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No.26 (or an equivalent plan) provided that such a plan does not remove development consent/rejection power from the Council of the City of Sydney and/or Leichhardt Municipal Council.

This policy emphasises "passive" uses for the bays and foreshores. We understand a "passive" use would: be small scale; non-alienating; consider the attributes of the waterfront; maximise views to and from the water; maximise the quality of use;

and be an appropriate use. Such uses would be on a smaller scale than might be considered appropriate for the rest of the harbour, would not conflict with present uses and would support those genuine waterfront activities at present undertaken in the bays.

The Society is currently working to preserve the quality of this passive space and is actively involved in the community's push to limit noise from all types of aircraft to a minimum.

The policy covers the following areas.:

Land Based Developments

- Foreshores ("Foreshores" are regarded as the waterfront land around the bays from the "high water mark" to a minimum of fifteen metres landward, but generally encompassing those lands designated as being in the "Foreshores Protection Area").
- Waterfront Open Space/Parks
- Existing Waterfront Industry
- Local Building/Development Codes,

Water Based Developments

- The Natural Communities of The Bays
- The Rowing Clubs
- Shipping And Boating
- Marinas, Boat Repair/Slipways and Boatels
- Wharves And Ramps
- Commuter Ferries
- Recreational Fishing

Development of roads and bridges

- Roads
- Bridges

Landfill

Donor members

A big "Thank you!" to those members who included a donation with their recent renewals. Such generosity and encouragement helps the Glebe Society work more effectively to promote the interests of the community within an increasingly complex environment.



Letter to the Editor

Much as I share the admiration of Queen Elizabeth I expressed by the anonymous contributor on page three of the previous *Bulletin*, I feel it raises some questions which need attention.

Without wishing to detract from the achievement of Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the globe or the explorations of Frobisher, Hawkins and Raleigh I think they should be seen in context. Columbus had crossed the Atlantic, Diaz had sailed round the Cape of Good Hope to India and the Magellan expedition had sailed around the world, all before Elizabeth was born.

As a member of the Australian Republican Movement I would also like to question the propriety of celebrating the life of an English monarch who was unaware of the existence of this continent and certainly had no interest in the residents of Glebe.

Having said all that I hope the dinner goes well and may yet decide to attend it.

- Ian Edwards

Continued from page 3

Citations for HLMs

other views. After the success of the Campaign for Better Council, the two Glebe Aldermen and Peru personally, were subject to a campaign of extraordinary vilification in *The Glebe* newspaper. This did later result in legal action. Today this extraordinary person, one Mr Campbell may well have ended up in gaol. It may be amusing now to look back at the supposed antics of Captain Midnight Rides Again with Batman and Robin in his wake, but it was not amusing at the time. So Peru for all his community service, had this absurd extra burden. It says a lot for his strength of character, that he survived, perhaps further strengthened in the process. I commend Peru Perumal to the meeting.

- Tony Strachan

News and Notes

Biodiversity tour of the Inner West

The tour will showcase the diversity of opportunities for community involvement in natural resource management in the inner west suburbs of the Southern Sydney and Sydney Harbour Catchments. Sites visited will include St Stephens Cemetery Camperdown, Mason Park wetlands, Balmain High School, the Callan Park Bushcare site and Inner West Environment Group sites.

Date: Saturday 13th September 2003

Time: 9am - 3pm

Place: Meet Camperdown Park, near cnr Federation Road and Northwood Street, Camperdown

Bring: Picnic lunch

Contact Judy Christie, Regional Facilitator, DIPNR, Level 11, PO Box 3935, Parramatta, 2124, fax 02 9895 7501 tel 02 9895 7753 email judy.christie@dipnr.nsw.gov.au for bookings.

National Trust concern about 20th century heritage

The National Trust has signalled its concern about the need to safeguard 'modern' heritage.

The Trust notes that many major contemporary Australian icons are still not protected from demolition or destructive change. They point out how close we came to losing the former Maritime Services Building at Circular Quay, one of the few remaining examples of the *classical moderne* style. At particular risk are established gardens and landscapes from Federation properties through to the present day, many of which have disappeared due to development. The Trust is proposing to embark on a project to identify, assess and safeguard our recent history.

For more information, phone the National Trust on 9258 0123.

Thirsty Thursdays

All members are invited to meet for dinner in Glebe on the first Thursday of each month, to meet and eat with other people who live in Glebe.

In August, we were pleased to meet three members who had not previously attended a Glebe Society function. We hope to see them, and other "new faces" at future events. Our next "Thirsty Thursday" dinner will be at the restaurant in the Toxteth Hotel on 2 October. No bookings are needed – just turn up at 6.30 for 7pm. We will pay for our own meals and there is no BYOG.

We will continue to meet in the Toxteth Hotel for the rest of 2003. If you can suggest another "Thirsty Thursday" venue for 2004, or have suggestions for other social events, please ring Liz Simpson Booker on 9518 6186.

Railway buffs! - Eveleigh Heritage Walk

The Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) has arranged a walking tour of the former Eveleigh Railway Yards and Locomotive Workshops. The tour will be conducted by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) archaeologist Wayne Johnson, and will focus on the railway history of this site which was used as railway yards from 1877.

Date: Sunday 16 November 2003, 1 pm for 1.30 pm start

Meet: Outside Bay 8, Locomotive Workshop, Locomotive Street (short walk from Redfern Station or pay car parking is available on site)

Cost: \$10 members, \$12.50 non-members

Bookings: essential – contact RAHS on 9247 8001.

Camden Park open weekend

Camden Park, the John Verge designed Georgian mansion completed in 1835 for wool pioneers John and Elizabeth Macarthur, is open for public inspection on the weekend of 20th (noon-4pm) and 21st September (10am-4pm). Enquiries phone (02) 4655 8466 or consult camdenpark@iprimus.com.au.

Once again our feature, From the Archives, has been held over due to space limitations.



Sydney City Councillors

Cr Lucy Turnbull, Lord Mayor LLB (Syd), MBA (UNSW)
Telephone: 9265 9706
Fax: 9265 9416

Cr Dixie Coulton, Deputy Lord Mayor BA, LIM
Telephone: 9265 9706
Fax: 9265 9416

Cr Fabian Marsden BPHARM, MPS
Telephone: 9265 9706
Fax: 9265 9416

Cr Robert Ho OAM, JP
Telephone: 9265 9678
Fax: 9265 9188

Cr Kathryn Greiner AO, B. Soc.Work (UNSW)
Telephone: 9265 9701
Fax: 02 9265 9204

Cr Nick Farr-Jones AO, LLB (Syd)
Telephone: 9265 9701
Fax: 9265 9204



Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe Society Archives

Principal: Mrs Elva Salter Phone 9660 3530

For your diary ...

Monday 8 September, 5.30pm - City of Sydney Council Meeting – Level One, Town Hall

Wednesday 10 September, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting, upstairs meeting room, Toxteth Hotel

Saturday 13 September, 11 am-1 pm - Sydney City Council community information and consultation forum, Glebe Public School Assembly Hall (enter from Derwent Street)

Thursday 2 October, 6.30 for 7pm – “Thirsty Thursday” Dinner at the Toxteth Hotel Restaurant

Saturday 18 October, The Glebe Society Annual Dinner - Elizabethan Banquet in the Forest Lodge School Hall – see page 3 and enclosed booking form.

Monday 27 October, 5.30pm - City of Sydney Council Meeting – Level One, Town Hall

Saturday 8 – Sunday 23 November, Glebe Music Festival – see page 4.

GPR project

John Gray begs those readers who were eagerly anticipating the sequel to his article on page 3 of the last *Bulletin* to “watch the issue after next”.

GYS newsletter

The Glebe Youth Service recently published an attractive four page newsletter. Readers who are interested in learning about the Service’s activities can access the newsletter on The Glebe Society’s web site at www.glebesociety.org.au/NewsAndEvents\GYS_News.pdf

We are glad to publish letters or articles on any matters of interest to Glebe, any topic raised in the *Bulletin*, or any issues relating The Glebe Society.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
PO Box 100
Glebe 2037

or editor@glebesociety.org.au

Disclaimer

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

Copy deadline for the next issue:

Tuesday, 16 September 2003

Website

The Society also has a growing website (www.glebesociety.org.au) for the information of members and anyone with an interest in Glebe. The website will only flourish if members send comments and contributions to editor@glebesociety.org.au

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

Robyn Kemmis 9692 9440	Bob Armstrong 9660 4189
Tony Larkum 9660 7030	Ted McKeown 9660 3917

Sub-committee and project team convenors

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

Bays and Foreshores Environment, and Clean Up Glebe	Collin Hills	9660 8608
Glebe Point Road	Andrew Wood	9660 6104
Heritage	John Gray	9518 7253
History of The Glebe Society	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Noise Pollution	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Planning	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Reporting infrastructure defects	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Social activities, and Membership	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Transport and Traffic	Hilary Wise	9660 5845
	Steve Stewart	9660 5845

Adopt-a-Park contacts Foley Park - Bobbie Burke, Kirsova

Playground - Fay Mander Jones, Paddy Gray Park - Liz Simpson Booker

Contacts

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
Historian	Max Solling	9660 1160
Webmaster	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451

Starch your ruffs for our Elizabethan banquet - booking form inside

In this issue

- Tom Uren and "Peru" Perumal honoured at AGM - pages 1-3
- President reviews the year - pages 5-8
- New Bays and Foreshores policy - page 9



The GLEBE SOCIETY Inc
PO Box 100 Glebe 2037

POSTAGE
PAID

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Ordinary member	\$45
Joint (2 people, one address)	\$55
Household (2+ adults and/or children, one address)	\$60
Concession (student or pensioner)	\$20
Business or institution	\$110

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

Sydney City Council Customer Service
Telephone (24 hours): 1300 651301

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped supermarket trolleys: 1800 641 497 (BiLo trolleys 9281 4511)

Aircraft noise: 1800 802 584