



Christmas party at St Schols

There are so many beautiful venues available for us to use in this wonderful suburb of Sydney and this year's pick was the Studio Room of St Scholastica's College where about 75 members of the Glebe Society, including Councillors Robyn Kemmis and Verity Firth, attended the Christmas Drinks on Friday 9 December. It was great to catch up with old friends and for many new members, including me, a chance to meet many of the "old" Glebe Society members for the first time.

Bob Armstrong, our valiant leader, threw caution to the wind, crumpled up his written speech and decided to speak off the cuff. And the result? Hey, Bob, you could be on to something here!

Being a new member I was particularly interested when Bob welcomed Robert, the inaugural Vice President, and Sandra Darroch, the inaugural Secretary. When he met Bob at another engagement, he enthusiastically accepted the invitation to attend and to speak at the Christmas Party. There was some debate as to the actual year the society officially began but either 1968 or 1969 (where is Max Solling when you need him?). And here it is today, the Glebe Society, still going strong and still making a worthwhile contribution to the preservation of our suburb as a true community. Robert Darroch saw himself as the administrative organiser and Dr Bernard Smith as the aesthetic leader of the Society in those vital first years. Well, be that as it may, it was good to meet two of the founding members of the Glebe

Thanks from the President

Congratulations on a very fine party last Friday evening. It went very well indeed. Thank you for all your hard work on the night and during the previous weeks.

The venue was fine, although probably more suitable as a winter venue. It was not made for speeches, but that may have been a good thing. The Spanish *panetone* was the only disappointment – *mea culpa!* A good ethnic experiment, helped by the addition of cream/ice cream the day after, but the mince tarts were a winner. Thanks again.

Bob



From left: Liz Simpson Booker, Marie Mayo-Clark, Verity Firth, Bob Armstrong and Robyn Kemmis. Photo: Andrew Craig

Society and to feel the sense of continuity. The food was wonderful and generous, the oysters being a particular hit. The wine and champagne flowed. Mari-Luise' spirited auctioneering made for a very successful auction. The main raffle prize was NOT won by Peter Martin this year, you will be pleased to know. Peter won it the last two years running. In fact, he sent a message along with his ticket purchases this year to the effect that if Makybe Diva can do it three times, so can he! But no such luck. The jinx has been broken so buy up big next year, once again you have a chance to win (we deny any nasty rumours that his tickets were removed prior to the draw!).

Our thanks for the evening go to:

- The generous donors of the raffle prizes and auction items (see p2 for details),
- George at Claudio's Seafood at the Sydney Fishmarket who provided the oysters at below wholesale price,
- Mari-Luise for her great auctioneering skills,
- Edwina, Jeanette, Cheryl and Cynthia for organising the catering and the venue,
- Shelagh Bott and friends for serving the food,
- Liz for the raffle organization and ticket sales, and
- Andrew Wood and Brian Herden, for managing the bar.

All in all a good time was had by all. It was a great end to a very productive year.

- Anne Fraser

See p5 for *The Birth of the Glebe Society*, an article by Robert Darroch.

Christmas Raffle Results

1st prize - Marie Mayo-Clark (ticket #1347)

Sony DVD-VCR player and Topfield digital set-top box, donated by Broadway Shopping Centre and Harvey Norman.

2nd prize - Sally Hill (ticket #1949)

Gardens of China, signed by the author, Peter Valder, donated by Gil Teague of Florilegium Books, St Johns Road.

3rd prize - Fay and David Mander Jones (ticket #0145)

\$75.00 dinner voucher for two, donated by Rochelle Spagnulo of *Osteria Dei Poeti* Restaurant, Glebe Point Road.

4th prize - Marie Tulip (ticket #1202)

Dinner for two, with wine, donated by Joe D'andrea of *Rosso Nero* Restaurant, Glebe Point Road.

5th prize - Steve Jackson (ticket #1937)

\$50.00 voucher donated by Gleebooks, Glebe Point Road.

6th prize - Dorothy Hoddinott (# 0883)

\$50.00 voucher (donated by Tom Osment of *glebepicture frames*, St Johns Road.

7th prize - Ian Jones (#1937)

Delicate ceramic bowl (donated by Inner City Clayworkers' Gallery), St Johns Road.

We thank our generous prize donors and congratulate all the winners.

Auction details

After the list of raffle prizes was publicised, the Committee was given several other great items. These were auctioned at the Christmas Drinks gathering.

The lively auction, conducted by Mari-Luise Agius, raised almost \$900.

- Double tickets to Lord Mayor's New Year's Eve Party, courtesy Cr Robyn Kemmis, City of Sydney,
- A 30-minute "Gliding Experience", courtesy of Libby and Ross Hindmarsh,
- A designer glass vase, courtesy of Glass Artists' Gallery,
- An autographed copy of Tom Kenneally's latest book, *The Community of Thieves*, donated by Bob Armstrong,
- A floral arrangement, courtesy of Setsuko Yanagisawa of Yuga Floral Design and Cafe, St Johns Road,
- Two bottles of Glebe Society wine, donated by Tony Larkum,
- The Twig Christmas Tree, made by Dorothy Davis, and
- Mince tarts and *Panetone*.

Wentworth Park Draft Policy

The draft policy shown below was approved at the Management Committee meeting on 14 December.

We now ask Members for your input. Members should send any comments or suggested changes to the Secretary, Liz Simpson-Booker, by Friday 3rd February 2006. It is planned that the Policy will be adopted by the Society at the meeting of the Management Committee on Wednesday 8 February 2006.

- Andrew Wood

Wentworth Park is the largest and most important public recreational space in Glebe and the adjacent suburbs of Pyrmont and Ultimo. It was designed by James Jones under the supervision of Charles Moore, curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and was opened in 1882 as a "public recreation space in perpetuity". At that time, with its lake, rotunda and gardens, it was used by thousands of local residents and was second only in beauty to the Royal Botanic Gardens. Over time a portion of the Park has been taken over by special interest groups, has fallen into disrepair and has been alienated from use by local residents.

The Glebe Society believes that Wentworth Park should be restored to its original beauty and returned as a recreational space for use by the increasing number of residents in the adjacent suburbs.

The Society's policy on Wentworth Park is as follows:

1. In the longer term, the entire Park should be placed under the control and management of the City of Sydney. Adequate funds should be provided for the ongoing maintenance of the Park. No part of the Park should be subject to the control of a special interest group.
2. The Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust has a licence to use the central third of the Park for the conduct of greyhound racing until 2007, and an option to renew the licence until 2027. The licence should not be renewed. The Society opposes any work within the Park that would perpetuate the presence of greyhound racing. The State Government should now encourage the greyhound authorities to relocate the dog racing to a more suitable site where it does not impinge upon the amenity of surrounding suburbs. However, in recognising that the licence could be extended, the Society encourages the City

of Sydney and the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust to undertake improvements to the sections of the Park which they control that will ensure preservation of heritage values and improve the Park's accessibility to local residents.

3. Following community consultation, a Plan of Management for Wentworth Park should be written. The Plan should address the following:

- a. the eventual removal of all non-heritage buildings and structures, including the dog track and its massive grandstand.
- b. the restoration of the railway viaduct (so that all under-arch infills are removed).
- c. the restoration and suitable adaptive re-use of historic buildings. It may involve their use to support the recreational activities in the Park.
- d. the possible extension of the Park to the harbour foreshore so that it links directly with the foreshore walkway and Fish Markets.
- e. a complete landscape design for the Park, including the location and selection of tree plantings, walkways and sporting ovals, as well as the development of easy pedestrian access to the Park from each of the adjacent suburbs. Car parking should be prohibited within the boundaries of the Park.
- f. an ongoing community consultation to ensure that a wide range of recreational uses for the Park is maintained. The communities' needs vary from passive, quiet areas, where residents can relax, to active recreational sections that could include jogging tracks and ovals.
- g. any new buildings in the Park should be consistent with its heritage character.

The Glebe Waterfront



Photo courtesy HBO+EMTB

There have been two relevant meetings in the last month – the Sydney City Council Glebe Foreshores Committee (6 December) and the Public Meeting on East Glebe Foreshore Draft Plan of Management (8 December). Since these covered approximately the same area, this report will combine information from both.

Bellevue

- Council has set aside a sum of ~\$1m for restoration and development of this building. A decision on usage is still pending. Options range from: café, art gallery, cycle hiring site, crèche, meeting rooms, etc. Public toilets are to be built in the park and one option is to place these on the lower floor of *Bellevue*.
- Pontoon. A pontoon is planned on the waterfront adjacent to *Bellevue*. This will be designed to allow access by small craft (including water taxis) – but not big ones.
- Tree planting. The dead trees killed by herbicide are being replaced.

Australand Site

- The waterfront site will be opened to the public but no date has as yet been announced.
- The Burley Griffin Incinerator building will be available for public use. However the exact usage has yet to be determined.

Glebe Secondary College Foreshore

Negotiations for a walkway along this part of the foreshore are well advanced and should be implemented in the first half of 2006. Plans have been drawn up for a timber walkway over the present rocky foreshore, intermingling at places with mangroves. A suitable exit on Ferry Road by the Glebe Rowing Club has yet to be agreed upon.

Open water

Council's jurisdiction stops at the low water mark. Council's representatives agreed that proper planning for the open water areas was necessary and they would start discussions with NSW Maritime on the subject. This would cover maintaining water quality, natural communities and anchorage for boats.

- Tony Larkum

Convenor, Bays and Foreshores
Sub-committee

Removal of Poisoned Trees Fronting Blackwattle Bay Park

The City of Sydney will soon be removing the dead, poisoned trees fronting Blackwattle Bay Park as they could pose a safety hazard.

The tree removal work will be commencing on or after Monday 19 December 2005 and will include removal of the banners.

Replanting will commence in the new year as part of the Glebe Foreshore Upgrade Works. The replanting will be consistent with the Blackwattle Bay Draft Plan of Management and will be carried out as advertised on the site notice boards located around the park. The species will comprise mixed Gum Trees (*Eucalyptus sp.*) as well as Peppercorn Trees (*Schinus areira*) along the foreshore.

The Blackwattle Bay Draft Plan of Management can be viewed on the Council website at www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to the City's Tree Management Officer, Matt Wareing on 9246 7716 or mwareing@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

At last the Australand fence is down! Would you mind circulating this among our Glebe Society friends? I had promised I'd let them know.

I'm off to take the dogs on their first walk in our new waterfront park!

Asa Wahlquist
Thursday 15 December

 **May we all have a happy Christmas ...** 



Glebe Urban Design Study Explained

On 23 November 2005, Councillors Robyn Kemmis, Verity Firth, Marcelle Hoff and John McInerney, and around fifty residents of Glebe and Forest Lodge, were welcomed by the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, to a workshop at Glebe Town Hall which focused on the new City Plan. After a presentation by Lynne Hancock, from consultants HBO+EMTB, we split into neighbourhood groups and discussed various aspects of our environment.

We will receive feedback on these discussion groups, and give information on other workshops, soon.

The Lord Mayor's Welcoming Speech

The Council is committed to supporting and building on the distinct character of local areas that make up our city.

To begin translating that vision into a reality, last year we prepared a new Strategic Plan and set in place a Corporate Plan with specific city-wide and major projects. Many of these are underway, such as an integrated transport plan, the bicycle plan and child care studies.

We are now looking specifically to a local level, to identify new ways to make our neighbourhoods more pleasant to live in, work and visit.

Over the next six to twelve months, Council will be undertaking a community consultation program on two important projects to maintain and develop the distinctive character of local areas across our City - the new **City Plan** and **Local Action Plan**.

Tonight's workshop is focused on the new City Plan - but first I would like to outline the Local Action Plan process that will run in parallel with, and complement, the City Plan work.

Local Action Plans

The Local Action Plans will address the unique needs of our local areas and neighbourhoods that make up the City of Sydney. It is part of our work to deliver on our City of Villages vision.

Each Local Action Plan will be developed in partnership with the local community.

Here in Glebe and Forest Lodge, a lot of work has already been done by local community and business groups working together, and we will build on that to move quickly. In some areas of the City, much more work needs to be done.

The Local Action Plans will identify ways to improve each neighbourhood as a place to live in, work and visit and will develop a list of priority improvement projects for each area.

Local projects will be picked up by relevant Council programs. These could include, for example:

- A streetscape upgrade as part of our Capital Works program,
- Expanding youth services as part of our Community Living program, or
- Planting more street trees as part of our Environmental Management Plan.

Everyone in the community will have the chance to participate in the development of their Local Action Plan.

We will involve active local groups and local representatives, but we are also developing a comprehensive consultation process to reach those people who are not part of established organisations and who might not otherwise become involved.

New City Plan

Tonight, though, we are looking specifically at our urban environment and the development of a new City Plan.

We need a new city plan because at present, the city has a mix of planning controls, the result of the boundary changes in 2003 and the amalgamation last year. The City is operating with Leichhardt Council controls in Glebe and Forest Lodge, South Sydney controls in the former South Sydney areas, and City of Sydney controls in the CBD, Pyrmont and Ultimo.

This new City Plan will create a single consistent and transparent set of land use and development controls for the whole of the Council area - a new Development Control Plan and Local Environment Plan, to use planners' language.

The new City Plan will update these controls and bring them together as a single package. The goal is to have the plan complete by the end of 2006.

Basically, the Local Action Plans will be implemented by Council and may cover a range of local social, environmental, economic, cultural issues - while the City Plan will be the legislative planning controls that guide the way private development occurs in the City.

Urban Design Studies

As part of preparing the City Plan, Council has engaged consultants to undertake detailed 'Urban Design Studies' for local areas where there are known problems with existing planning controls.

The Glebe and Forest Lodge area is the first cab off the rank tonight, with meetings occurring over the next week for Surry Hills and City East (including East Sydney, Darlinghurst, Woolloomooloo, Rushcutters Bay, Kings Cross, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay).

Workshops will begin early next year for the Urban Design studies in other areas, including Redfern, Eveleigh, Darlington and Waterloo, and Green Square.

The Urban Design Studies look specifically at how the built environment works for the local community to create your living environment.

These workshops are your opportunity to tell us about the built form of your area and discuss what you think works and what doesn't. We will be focusing on the local level, on issues such as life style and type of development, density and heights.

Your input will help guide our planners to make recommendations on core planning controls like Floor Space Ratio and height.

This is also just one part of the City Plan process.

We will be undertaking separate studies and community consultation on heritage to ensure strong and effective heritage controls to maintain the distinctive heritage of the glebe area.

In closing, I encourage you to get involved with the process tonight, make a difference to your area and help us to know what we can do to improve your community.

- Clover Moore MLA

Robert Darroch, our inaugural Vice President, and Sandra Darroch, the inaugural secretary, were guests at our Christmas Drinks gathering. Robert has sent us this eye witness account of the Society's beginnings.

The Birth of the Glebe Society

The Glebe Society was officially launched at a function in Glebe Town Hall in, I believe, 1968*.

If my memory serves me, Dr Kemp Fowler, who had some executive role at Sydney University and lived in Leichhardt Street, chaired the inaugural meeting.

We must have publicised the meeting well, for I think over 50 turned up (which, given the then low level of gentrification, was a surprisingly large number). Yet I also seem to recall that it was held in a heavy storm, which may have deterred a few potential attendees.

Bernard Smith, Professor of Fine Arts at Sydney University, was elected the inaugural President. I was elected vice-president. My wife Sandra was elected secretary. Bernard's wife Kate became social secretary.

I have a feeling that Max Solling was elected treasurer (though I may be wrong – Max was certainly involved in the launch of the Society, for I recall him hosting at least one pre-launch meeting in his rented premises in Glebe Point Road).

There was little or no involvement by "old Glebe" residents, many of who viewed what they saw as Paddington-type gentrification of "their" suburb with deep suspicion, bordering on hostility.

An interesting question to ask (and we asked it at the time – see my answer below) is: was there a viable or substantial "old Glebe" community in 1968? Were we obtruding into something important, even precious? Were we responsible, perhaps, for its weakening, even its ultimate destruction?

I'll go back to that in a moment. For I want to return to the launch of the society, and what led up to it (for I gather the history of the society is being compiled).

Historically, it followed the establishment, first, of the Paddington Society,

then that society's first "clone", the Balmain Association (the inner-Sydney gentrification movement, having started in Paddington in the early 1960s, spread first, to Balmain, then to Glebe).

To a large extent, it was the example of the Paddington Society that played midwife to the Glebe Society, and led to its coming into existence.



Robert Darroch. Photo: Andrew Craig

The Paddington Society itself had been inspired by London's Chelsea Society, which had been founded by a gentleman called Marsden-Smedley, possibly in the 1930s. His son, Luke Marsden-Smedley, a railway engineer, came out to Sydney in the late 1950s and, to his colleagues' dismay, decided to settle in Paddington, then regarded as little more than a slum, ripe only for demolition.

Luke and John Thompson (poet and broadcaster), with the help of an architect called Gazzard, I think, resolved to "save" Paddington, and the Paddington Society, consciously modelled on the Chelsea Society, was one of their main instruments of preservation.

Sandra and I knew Luke and his wife Marigold very well because of our mutual friend, the artist Paul Delprat (we four were on the board of the Julian Ashton Art School – Paul being the great grandson of Julian Ashton).

At the time we were living in rented premises in South Street, Edgecliff, but hungered after a terrace house like Luke's in Hargrave Street.

However, we couldn't afford the Paddington prices (over \$20,000 for anything at all decent), nor was Balmain much cheaper. But Glebe was.

Sandra and I were both going back to Sydney University to do courses (it was the Wyndham gap year), and so Glebe, adjacent to the university, was a logical place for us to look (besides, I knew a bit about Glebe – see below).

Around the same time, a number of Sydney University staff were also looking around Glebe for places to buy. Some had already moved in. Bernard Smith had just been appointed Professor of Fine Arts, and he had found a house in Avenue Road in the Toxteth estate.

So it turned out that, around the end of 1967, we ourselves found a lovely, un-done-up terrace house around the corner from Avenue Road in Toxteth Road. It cost \$13,500, which we could just afford, mortgaging ourselves to the hilt.

At that stage we did not know Bernard and Kate. However, we met soon after, and the idea of forming the Glebe Society was born.

The actual genesis of the Society took place at a meeting at Newington College, where Paul Delprat was the art master. Newington's headmaster, Doug Traithem, had either just been sacked for his anti-Vietnam views, or was threatened with dismissal (by the then head of the ABC - Talbot Duckmanton - who was on the board of Newington).

Sandra was at this protest meeting (I was working that night on the Daily Telegraph) and she met there Bernard and Kate, who were also supporting Traithem.

They discovered that we lived within a few hundred yards of each other, having recently moved in. I do not know if it was Sandra who suggested to Bernard forming a local society (I suspect, given the Marsden-Smedley connection, that it was), but in any case the suggestion was made, and a decision taken there and then to follow it up.

Which was all very well, but a lot had to be done before we could hold that

* The Inaugural Meeting was held on 27 March 1969, and the first General Meeting on 19 June 1969 (Kate Smith, Bulletin 4/1975)

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inaugural meeting in Glebe Town Hall.

I was put in charge of the politics, which were very complex – far more complex than anyone realised.

The first thing was to find out what sort of place we were trying to “preserve”, what were the threats, what were the existing power structures, who were the community leaders (indeed, what were the existing community subsets), who were our allies, who our likely opposition, and so on.

There appeared to be two main threats. One was Parks Development, a big real estate “developer”, which was trying (very hard) to get the foreshore land, which was zoned “waterfront industrial”, even though the waterfront industries – timberyards, etc – were in terminal decay.

The fact that Max Solling worked for the Maritime Services Board, which was in charge of the foreshore land, was a plus for us, as was the fact that my father was high up in the Department of Main Roads (see below).

The other threat was what were called “three-storey walk-ups”. For what was happening in Glebe was that developers (like Parkes Development) had moved in, and were actively demolishing old houses (Glebe was once a very fashionable suburb) and replacing them with three-storey, red-brick apartment blocks, of very low quality, and abutting directly on to the street.

And Leichhardt Council, the local authority, was being (suspiciously) compliant in this obvious rampant destruction of Glebe.

Oh, yes, and there was a third – and perhaps the greatest – threat, called “the Western Distributor”. This was a Main Roads plan – believe it or not – to drive an open-cut expressway through the heart of Glebe. Worse, it was to go through the middle of the Toxteth estate, and would have meant, for example, the destruction of the old Allen home – Toxteth House – then (as now) St Scholastica’s College.

We could not confront these horrors immediately, but it did give us a potential constituency. And so we began to enlist the incipient opposition to these threats to our preservation cause, along with “easy” support targets, such as the academics who were increasingly moving

in – I recall that a Professor of Architecture lived around the corner from us in Mansfield Street.

But the key, it seemed to me, was Leichhardt Council. And here there was a crucial local “power-broker” – the deputy Mayor, Les McMahon.

Les was a man on the make. He was an official of the Plumbers’ Union, and an up-and-comer on the right of the Labor Party. He lived with his family in a Housing Commission bungalow in Forest Lodge, behind the Lew Hoad Reserve. He had married the daughter of the local MP, Danny Minogue (who lived a few doors up from Bernard in Avenue Road). And he had just replaced the previous local Labor big-wig, “Doc” Foley (it was a very Irish-Catholic area, despite its Anglican origins).

Doc, who was still very much alive, and



“Doc” H J Foley

president of local Labor’s Glebe Point branch, was a rather seedy GP, whose surgery was in Glebe Point Road, near Boyce Street. He had commandeered a concrete bus bench for his waiting room, and dispensed doctors’ certificates and local patronage in traditional Tammany fashion. (Once he had commandeered a council steam-roller, so legend had it, repainted it, and sold it back to the council.) Around the Wentworth Park Housing Commission estate was graffiti declaring “DOC FOLEY WEARS LACE UNDERPANTS”.

But Glebe was now Les’s bailiwick, and he viewed it as his stepping-stone to higher things (he eventually succeeded Jim Cope as the local MHR). He immediately saw the emerging Glebe Society – for he would have soon seen our “recruiting” literature – as a threat, or challenge, to his “territory”. And here he had in his vision the example of what had happened

recently in Balmain, also Leichhardt Council territory.

Balmain, once the very cradle of Labor power in Sydney, was slipping away from the party, as gentrification and, even more worryingly, left-wing radicalism, set in. Les and Labor had seen some of their branches in Balmain taken over by – horror of all horrors – the Trots (not Harold Park, but followers of Leon Trotsky). The names Origlass and Wyner, Trotskyite Balmain Labor turncoats, had struck fear in local Labor throughout the Leichhardt Municipality. The last thing Les wanted was to see that repeated in his own backyard.

So it was a very concerned Les who sought a meeting with me in mid-1968 (a date which had other resonances - Detroit was burning, and Paris was in revolt).

First, he tried to come to grips with what we were after. He took me around “his” Glebe, pointing out various items we might try to preserve (including the bandstand in Jubilee Park and the AIF memorial fronting what is now (surprise, surprise!) the Dr H.J. Foley Rest Park.

I told him we were more interested in the tiles on the steps of the houses in Victoria Road, and the Cape Cod architecture in Toxteth Road. He confessed to me that, although he had lived all his life in Glebe, he had never “seen” those tiles before, nor realised they were of significance.

Strangely, but gradually, he began to look on me, and through me the nascent Glebe Society, as his educators about a Glebe he had never before realised existed. (Eventually, we became friends.)

And it was because of this blossoming relationship (coupled with my fervent assurances that we had no political designs on or in Glebe) that he sent me to see the real power in Glebe – Father Roberts.

Father Roberts, with whom I was granted an audience in the Catholic presbytery in Woolley Street, grilled me on the motives behind what we were doing in the area. (I gathered that Les had told him that we were benign, but he wanted to hear for himself.)

However, his primary concern was not our political potential, nor even our preservation activities (though the fact that we were trying to save St Scholastica’s went down well with him). Rather it was our religious intentions.

It turned out that he had heard we were interested in saving Lyndhurst, the then almost derelict former mansion in Bellevue Street. And residing in Lyndhurst, apparently, was a religious cult called "The Children of God". Worse, its local leader had shown interest in our activities (naturally enough, as we wanted to save his premises), and Father Roberts was very afraid that we might be in cahoots with him and his sect.

What had happened, I learned out later, was that the sect was proselytising in the Catholic areas of Glebe (particularly in the Glebe church area between Parramatta Road and St Johns Road), and gaining converts among the young. When I laid his fears in this direction at rest, he gave his considerable imprimatur to our plans to form the Glebe Society.

And so, with local Labor and the Catholic Church on side, or at least neutralised, we were able to go ahead and hold our inaugural meeting in the Glebe Town Hall.

The rest is history.

Postscript

As it happened, the Glebe Society did play a role in stopping the Western Distributor (which now goes through Lilyfield) and thus saving St Scholastica's and much of Glebe Point. We also stopped any more three-storey "walk-up" developments. And although we lost some foreshore land, most of it was saved.

And not only did we preserve the Cape Cod houses in Toxteth Road, and the more-significant Italianate villas in Allen Street and elsewhere, but we were present at the creation of the Federation style in Australia's architectural history. Bernard and I were walking along Bell Street one Sunday when we came to the house – "Montana" – on the corner of Boyce Street. Bernard stopped and said: "You know, that style of house is now called 'Queen Anne'. That's not very appropriate. It should have a better, more Australian name". And he thought for a moment, then said: "It was probably built around 1900. I think that style should be called 'Federation' ". And so it has been, ever since.

Finally, what happened to us, the Darrochs? Well, around 1970, London beckoned. So in 1971 we sold our house in Toxteth Road (doubling our investment) and sailed off to Europe. With our

windfall, we bought a large house in what was then the worst part of Notting Hill (we inherited 13 black tenants!). But we could see a suburb that was bound to rise. And it did. Alas, however, we sold too early. The house we finally ended up in, before moving back to Sydney, we let go in 1992 for the equivalent of \$600,000. But Notting Hill continued to "improve", and indeed accelerated. That house is today worth the equivalent of \$4 million. Weep, weep. Still, you can't win them all.

And the local community? Were we responsible for its demise? For I doubt if there is much left today as we found it in 1967/8. Interestingly, I know something about that pre-Glebe-Society community, for my mother grew up in Wigram Road and later lived in Toxteth Road. It was a tough, working-class community, very Irish-Catholic, as were Paddington and Balmain, pre-preservation-society. But it was decaying by the time we middle-class yuppies started moving in. To be frank, they – the pre-Glebe-Society community – looked on Glebe as a slum. It was a place to escape from, given any excuse, and as quickly as possible. They didn't take much pushing to quit for greener fields, perhaps at Winston Hills. But, also to be frank, what we in the Glebe Society were doing was restoring Glebe to what it was before its decline in the first half of the last century – one of Sydney's better suburbs, full of rare and marvellous buildings, as Bernard's book, "The Architectural Character of Glebe" pointed out. That, I hope, is what we will be remembered for.

- Robert Darroch

Best wishes, Jenny

We were devastated to learn that Jenny Underwood, who has been our Place Manager at Glebe Town Hall since the end of last year, is leaving us. She is taking a break from the workforce for a while to concentrate on her family commitments. We hope everything goes well for you, Jenny. We will miss you.

Nick Hespe has taken over Jenny's role while the search for her replacement takes place. Council hopes to make a permanent appointment in the first few months of 2006.

Strategic Plan agreed

The December meeting of the Management Committee signed off on the Society's strategic plan for 2006-2011 and action plan for 2006.

The plan was developed by a sub-committee chaired by Bruce Davis, and comprising Bob Armstrong, Liz Simpson-Booker, Neil Macindoe, Andrew Craig, Jeanette Knox, Mack Williams and Jan Wilson.

The plan replaces *Partnerships to a Vibrant Community*, published a couple of years ago. It identifies what we need to do to achieve our vision for Glebe. The Action Plan for 2006 comprises a list of tasks for next year, and indicates who is responsible, when the task should be completed and how we can judge if we have been successful.

The document will be distributed to government and council officials and a wide range of community groups. It will be published on the Society's website shortly.

- Bruce Davis



Be a part of history and join the 40th Walk against Want on Sunday 12 March 2006

Walk against Want began in the early 1960s when a group of Community Aid Abroad supporters walked 25 kilometres from Frankston to Melbourne. From small beginnings Walk against Want has become Australia's longest running outdoor fundraising event, raising more than \$10 million for Oxfam Australia's development work around the world.

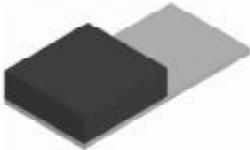
The 6-7 km Walk route will start and finish at Victoria Park, looping through Pyrmont, Darling Harbour and Ultimo, and including wonderful harbour views. You can even walk the dog and Wag against Want!

For further information, please contact Jan Macindoe on 8204 3920 or at workplace_waw_sydney@oxfam.org.au. There will also be more information next year in the *Bulletin* about how you can "Take steps against poverty" and join Oxfam Australia's 40th Walk against Want.

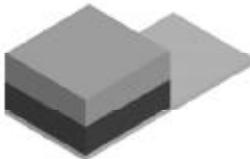
Floor Space for Dummies

These diagrams, used in Lynne Hancock's presentation on 23 November, clearly explain the concept of floor space ratio. The current ratio in Glebe is 0.7:1.

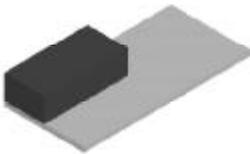
Lynne's presentation will be posted in full on the Glebe Society Website, www.glebesociety.org.au.



Site coverage 50% - 1 storey.

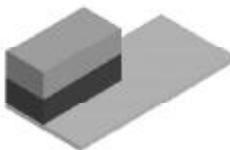


Site coverage 50% - 2 storey.



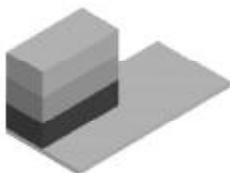
Site coverage 25% - 1 storey.

Floor space 0.25:1



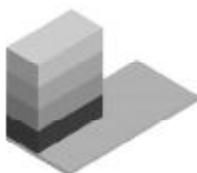
Site coverage 25% - 2 storey.

Floor space 0.5:1



Site coverage 25% - 3 storey.

Floor space 0.75:1



Site coverage 25% - 4 storey.

Floor space 1:1

As we the residents of Glebe, in collaboration with the City of Sydney, have an opportunity to give input into the future of our village, it is useful to be informed about the concepts and principles that assist the design, development and sustenance of our village spaces. These design principles incorporate the culture, history and ethos of different places. Much can be learnt from other countries' history and experience.

- Jan Wilson, Coordinator, Glebe Point Road Revitalisation Project

Why people need parks

Good Places

A closer look at the four cornerstones of a good place: uses & activities, access & linkage, comfort & image - and perhaps most important - sociability. From Park Talk, the newsletter of the Urban Parks Institute USA.

Recently there is increasing talk about the importance of rediscovering a sense of community that we somehow lost when we gave up time-honoured habits and stopped frequenting the vital meeting places, the "good places," in our neighbourhoods. From downtown management organizations to city commissions to transportation agencies, people are discovering that unique places once integral to people's everyday lives are slowly but surely disappearing. Parks are no exception. Through our research at the Urban Parks Institute, we are learning that many parks no longer function as important places that capture the hearts of local residents.

It was not always like this. Both landscape historian J.B. Jackson and architect/writer Galen Cranz write about the history and changing role of parks in people's everyday lives. They describe a time when city residents, on their days off, left their "noisy, dirty day-to-day world in search of nature, "but it was nature both connected to a recreational destination and with social activities. For example in Europe, many city-dwellers headed out for country walks on their day off to the 'volkgarten' (literally, "people's garden") which was a path lined with boisterous entertainment, including merry-go-rounds, dance music, and refreshment booths, leading to a larger recreational destination at the end. Artists of that period, like Impressionist painter Georges Seurat, showed people swimming while others walked along the promenade on the Grand Jatte, an island outside Paris - illustrating the popular intermingling of social activity with recreation.

In the United States, the promenades of seaside resorts and beaches such as Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York and Hoboken, New Jersey were lined with popular attractions such as food sellers, shooting matches, and horseshoe pitching. This focus on social and recreational activities and amusement in parks was supplanted by the great picturesque parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and others, that still frame what people think of as parks. According to Cranz, park officials discouraged loud activities in favour of leisurely strolls and appreciation of the beauties of nature in order to elevate people of 'lower classes' to imitate the behaviour of their fellow 'middle class' park users.

Unfortunately, many of these same parks - and their descendants - are not well used today. In addition to the obvious lack of maintenance and funding, parks often lack the right combination of physical amenities and activities that make the park a magnet and an important place within a particular community. In his book *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Time*, J.B. Jackson describes the loss of community in America and its impact on parks. As people spend more and more time at work, at indoor health spas, and at malls, he writes, they also share less time and fewer activities with their fellow residents and neighbours - resulting in the loss of a sense of community. With more people seeking recreational activities in malls and sports arenas - self-contained structures, largely privately owned with ties only to their neighbouring parking lots - parks have been left behind.

How can today's parks once again become important places in communities? Can - or should - the vitality of parks of the past be revived? We know that parks can provide serenity, calm vistas and an experience of nature, but shouldn't they also provide places for social activities? New York's Central

Why people need parks - continued

Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, both examples of the 19th century picturesque park, have evolved into very actively used parks and continue to attract people today. Last year alone, these two parks hosted roughly 30 million visitors who participated in a variety of activities ranging from jogging on trails, to bird-watching, to eating lunch and having a cup of coffee, to just doing nothing. Parks such as these have by no means stopped offering opportunities to contemplate natural beauty, but passive uses are balanced with areas that buzz with social activity.

To help other communities have similar successes attracting people, Project for Public Spaces has researched what attributes most social places share. We found that a good place provides a range of things to do ("uses and activities"); is easy to get to and connected to the surrounding community ("access"); is safe, clean, and attractive ("comfort and image"); and, perhaps, most important, is a place to meet other people ("sociability"). This model also provides a useful framework both for describing existing research and writing and for evaluating parks as places.

Activities and Uses

What types of activities make parks community magnets? When a park provides a place for people to ice skate and also an area nearby where people can sit and talk, get warm and get something to eat or drink, its chances of becoming a good place are increased, simply because there are numerous things to do, attracting many different people. A good place should be regularly available so that people can rely on it when the chatting whim strikes. *The Great Good Place* by Ray Oldenburg identifies neighbourhood spots that act as the glue of their communities, drawing people to them for companionship and relaxation. Examples might be a neighbourhood bocce court in a park, a corner bar, a coffeehouse or a playground - all are places characterized by popular informality. Their users can anticipate lively conversations with the "regulars," "characters," and other neighbours. According to Oldenburg, in good places every person is known for their social self, not as an employee or family member - roles, he says, that can



Photo courtesy
City of Sydney
Council

make people feel like they are in straightjackets from which they long to escape. A good place also encourages people to "sit and set a spell". Being able to sit, converse or just look at passers-by is key.

Comfort and Image

Good details can tantalize - they signal that someone took the time and energy to design amenities that welcome, intrigue, or help. *City Comforts: How to Build an Urban Village* by planner/developer David Sucher and *People Places: Design Guidelines for Urban Open Spaces*, edited by Clare Cooper Marcus and Carolyn Francis, are packed with thoughtful design ideas including community bulletin boards, restrooms, shade trees, child-friendly niches and bike racks. Author and urbanologist William Whyte talks about the importance of movable seating in his book, *City: Rediscovering the Centre*. Today two thousand movable chairs are scattered on the lawn of Bryant Park in New York, transforming the park from a drug infested public space to a popular mid-town haven.

Access and Linkage

A good place is easy to see and easy to get to - people want to see that there is something to do, that others have been successfully enticed to enter. On the other hand, if a park is not visible from the street or the street is too dangerous for older people and children to cross, the park won't be used. The more successful a place is, the more the success will feed upon itself. Sometimes, if a place is really good, people will walk through it even if they were headed somewhere else. Tony Hiss' book, *The Experience of Place* explores how people look ahead to orient themselves: "We let the layout of a place give us an advance reading on such

things as whether we can linger there or need to keep on moving" - if your visual signals are blocked you won't proceed.

Sociability

A sociable place is one where people want to go to observe the passing scene, meet friends, and celebrate interaction with a wide range of people that are different from themselves. Have you ever noticed how many enjoyable conversations you can have at a farmers' market or a flea market? Psychologist Robert Sommer's research says that people tend to have four and a half times more sociable talks with people in a market versus a supermarket. How can the builders and managers of today's parks learn more from other places such as markets about where and how social activity occurs?

In Conclusion

A good place is refreshing and rejuvenating; after you leave it, you feel better for having been there. Sometimes you can't miss a good place when you stumble upon it - for it has great beauty to beguile and recharge you; or you don't miss it because it possesses the siren call of thoughtful design touches that say someone wanted you to feel welcome there. At other times, a good place works well not because of an aesthetic appeal but because it is neighbourly - it draws people in and enables them to relax companionably. It might not look like much, but it knits its residents together as they wile away time together and it is seen as the place to be.

Reproduced from the website *Projects for Public Spaces* <http://www.pps.org>

Reference

The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
William Whyte



Council Meeting

Monday 5 December was a big day for Glebe at Council. First there was the Finance Committee, where Cr Kemmis presided over the award of tenders for the Glebe waterfront from Annandale to Cook Street, including the renovation of Bellevue. Work is expected to begin in January.

When finally the Planning Committee began, Glebe residents had already been twiddling their thumbs and solving the world's problems for almost an hour and a half. We were then able to observe Chippendale residents in full flight for two hours while Council debated the exhibition of draft planning controls for the big brewery site on Broadway. Hence by the time the three Glebe matters came up we were not exactly fresh as daisies, but at least the focus of discussion had been in our general area. The brewery site is very large, larger even than Children's Hospital and almost as close, so it is just as well for us to be aware of what is happening.

First cab off the rank was the proposal for a four storey commercial/residential building at **11 Ross Street, Forest Lodge**. I hadn't spoken to the residents until the meeting, but our concerns were sufficiently similar to move Cr Kemmis to call for a works inspection.

Second was the extensions to the **Broadway Centre** (at least, as far as we are

concerned they are extensions. They include parking for a further 48 vehicles and some extra retail space, including a new Target discount store, but both increases are within the totals already approved by Leichhardt Council and not yet built). The proposal sparked some lively discussion about the quality of the Centre and its obligations to the community. Among the positive outcomes are the transfer of the Auditorium to Council, a requirement for a shopping trolley management plan, and a condition requiring the removal of Earlybird parking. I have to confess there were far too many issues to raise in the three minutes allotted to me so I had to concentrate on just a few, and try to cover the others in general terms. However, it seems Council is of a mind to take its obligations in regard to Broadway much more seriously, and to enforce the conditions of consent and other agreements entered into by the operators.

If this is true it is good news indeed, but so numerous and difficult are some of the issues we may not see the results for some time.

Finally there was **The Abbey**. The debate hinged on the question of underground parking and the future of *Hamilton*. Finally the councillors resolved to require the rebuilding of *Hamilton* using as much as possible of the original materials, and this solution seemed to satisfy all but a

handful of councillors and two residents. The prior complete restoration of *Reussdale* is of course guaranteed, and the church will be restored with only two mezzanine levels, both set back to allow the interior space to be appreciated. The rebuilt *Hamilton* will contain two dwellings, and another seven will be built along Reuss Street. It is not a perfect solution, but after twenty-seven years of wrangling most people will find it much better and more acceptable than any previous proposal.

New Town Plan

As you will have read in this and the November *Bulletin*, it has also been a very eventful period for consultation with Glebe residents over the development of a new Town Plan for the City. Glebe is the first area to be reviewed, and the Subcommittee has written at length to Council's consultants about both the Conservation and the Urban Design workshops.

The Subcommittee is also proposing to hold informal discussions throughout 2006 about changes members would like to see to the existing town plan, and about changes they would like to see in Glebe generally. They are likely to be held over drinks at the Roxbury on one Tuesday a month, with the details to be provided in the first *Bulletin* for 2006.

- Neil Macindoe

No more stray Shopping Trolleys?

Has the problem of dumped shopping trolleys been solved?

Coles Myer continues to show no interest in solving the problem of the shopping trolleys that are dumped in our suburb each day. The Society asked Coles to implement a key-lock system (requiring a \$2 deposit) for all trolleys in its stores. As we have reported, the trolleys in our streets accumulate rubbish and are eventually returned uncleaned to the three Coles' stores at the Broadway Shopping Centre.

But things may change! A \$23 million extension to the Broadway Shopping

Centre has recently been approved by the City of Sydney. A condition of the extension requires that a trolley management strategy be approved before a construction certificate is issued. The strategy is to ensure that trolleys are not removed from the Shopping Centre.

- Andrew Wood

Just when I needed one, a shopping trolley appeared next door in Bridge Road.

Photo: Edwina Doe



Only in Italia

It seemed a dream when this trip was first mooted in early 2004, but come 2 October last, five intrepid Glebe Society members (along with two cohorts from the Annandale Local History group) set off on their long-planned adventure to the “wilds” of the Chianti Hills in Tuscany, between Firenze and Siena.

They had a check-in deadline to meet at a small, typically hilltop, village called Panzano-in-Chianti, thus requiring careful and precise timing within the two-hour window allocated to them by their establishment. There were five others from Europe joining this group of twelve but their proximity to Italy made their destination relatively easy to reach compared with the Aussies’ trek across the world.

So they came, in dribs and drabs – by plane, train, bus and rental car, somewhat subdued by the inherent airport queues and strikes, detours on muddy roads and the vagaries of foreign bus and train timetables. But still they came.

Triumphantly the first arrivals drove down the country lane to the villa to meet the deadline. Upon claiming the first key, they were told “there is a message on your door”. It all sounded like an episode from the “Survivor” television program. WHO could possibly find us and leave a message in this hilly area, they asked each other, for most of their mobile phones could not make or receive calls.



David Mander Jones and Ian Jones.
Photo: Andrew Craig

Upon retrieval of the note, they discovered that they had been literally outpaced by our well-known “walking devotee”, former-President Andrew Craig, who had arrived before the group on FOOT! Andrew knew the group was in the Chianti area and then phoned Bob Armstrong for the address, queried some locals in a bar for directions and hey presto, arrived before the rest of us. After the initial surprise, the group picked themselves up from the courtyard flagstones and two days of merriment followed!

The group reports that all twelve arrived within the prescribed time window.

- One of the Travellers



(From Left) David & Fay Mander Jones, Liz Simpson-Booker, Sue Tronser, Cynthia Jones, Graeme Hardie and Andrew Craig together in Italy. Photo: Ian Jones

Restaurant Review - a'Mews

It was one of those incredibly hot days at the beginning of December when we strolled down Glebe Point Road with Fiona Campbell to take advantage of the midweek offer at *a'Mews*, 99 Glebe Point Road. It had opened just a month earlier and is a couple of doors from the patisserie that has replaced Stephen Baker at 95, *Le Mille Feuille*.

Fortunately we had booked early enough to be seated near an air-conditioner, but even so we decided it was just too hot to have two hot dishes, so we settled for mains and desserts. There is a decent wine list, but we had brought our own (we generally prefer to do this because we have a cellar) and so were charged a small corkage. The staff were cheerful and attentive despite the trying circumstances, and we discovered they would be open during January, which is useful to know as so many places close. The free-range pork with cabbage and caramelised pear was especially tender and succulent, and the sand whiting delicate and tasty, complemented but not overwhelmed by white bean and chorizo nage. The chicken confit with crushed peas, bacon and tarragon jus gras was also flavour-some, but we decided we needed a salad to increase our vegetable intake with something light.

There was a range of choice cheeses on offer but we plumped for the mocha tart, mango mousse and sable of strawberry, orange and lemon curd, all delicious. The servings at both courses were quite generous, and we were home by ten.

Glebe Point Road has been through a particularly rocky period this year, and it is good to see another restaurant worthy to keep company with *Atelier* at 22. We all know it takes only a few well-managed and popular businesses to change the character and mood of the street.

- Neil Macindoe



... and an
interesting
New Year

The US Marine Forces Pacific Band in Glebe - America's Musical Ambassadors

It poured with rain on Saturday morning 26 November 2005. The US Marine Forces Pacific Band travels with a chaplain. There may well be a connection, because the Saturday afternoon was warm and sunny for a series of three concerts separated by parades in Glebe by the US Marine Forces Pacific Band. The first indication that something unusual was happening in Glebe may have been the flash of brass, the glint of the sun on a highly-polished tuba. Then the blast of trumpets and the crashing of percussion heralded a stately parade down Glebe Point Road starting at Wigram Road.

The 46 members of the much-celebrated US Marine Forces Pacific Band were in Sydney to participate in the 16th Glebe Music Festival, under their Director and Officer-in-Charge Lauren LaVine. As soon as the idea of the Band performing in Glebe started to gel, I explored other possibilities for it to perform elsewhere in Sydney. The Band members, seated knee-to-knee in a 30 year-old C130 aircraft along with tons of equipment, arrived in Sydney on Tuesday 22 November after a 22-hour flight from Hawaii where they are based.

On the Thursday morning they performed for veterans, staff members, patients, local schoolchildren and others at Concord Hospital. The schoolboy invited to conduct the Band will never forget the experience. That afternoon they performed at the Children's Hospital Westmead. The concert was telecast to the bedsides of the sick children and the Band visited them afterwards in the wards. Friday 25 November saw them at



The Marines in Foley Park. Photo: Jan Wilson

St Andrew's College, University of Sydney, for an end-of-term concert, in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor.

But it was not until the Saturday that they were seen and heard in motion. They started with a concert in the reserve outside Glebe Library with repertoire drawn from Fillmore, Carmichael, Williams, Mangione/Ford/Herak and Sousa, all eagerly greeted by an enthusiastic crowd. Miraculously (with thanks to the mounted police and local police), the traffic stopped as the Band stepped out onto Glebe Point Road and paraded to Waltzing Matilda and Sousa, to Foley Park where more people were waiting for their second concert. Then there was a second march, down Glebe Point Road past the markets to the Peter Forsyth Auditorium for another concert, before going to Summer Hill to perform in front of a huge crowd at a school carnival.

The Band had a busy program during the next few days, conducted workshops and performing at the Bondi Beach Public School, at the Manly school, at Martin Place (where they were billed to play for 2½ hours but stayed for 3½ hours and at Victoria Barracks.

Then the band members were knee-to-knee again, their

mountain of equipment and instruments stacked beside them, for the long flight back to Hawaii.

The US Marine Forces Pacific Band came to Australia directly as a result and in collaboration with the Glebe Music Festival. They had clearly done their "homework" and decided that what we have to offer suited them: a diverse range of concerts, non-profit making, community-based, etc.

I did all the negotiations, which took months. There was extraordinary and invaluable support from various sources: the Reserve Forces Day (Lt Col John Moore), HMAS Kuttabul (accommodation provided by LCDR David Jones), the Council of the City of Sydney (who coordinated the parade, arranged the Martin Place concert and provided a grant), the Premier's Department (who gave the Glebe Music Festival top-billing on the website and cleared the logistics for the parade), the US Consulate, the Glebe Society and others too numerous to mention.

Those many who had the good fortune not only to hear the US Marine Forces Pacific Band but also to meet Band members were struck by their passion for music, their professionalism, their politeness, their friendliness and their commitment to being good ambassadors. They were embraced by the various communities and organisations with whom they had contact.

- David McIntosh
Artistic Director of the Glebe Music
Festival



The Marines in Glebe Point Road. Photo: Jan Wilson



The 16th Annual Glebe Music Festival

When does the Glebe Music Festival become the Glebe International Music Festival? We have heard Andean groups, Hungarian twin guitarists and an English harpsichordist in recent years. This year we heard (and danced to) an African Township jive band and witnessed concerts and a parade down Glebe Point Road by the US Marine Forces Pacific Band from Hawaii. It is not only the presence of these international musical artists that matters but also the juxtaposition of local artists of international standing that makes the Glebe Music Festival what it is today.

The Tasmanian-born cellist Trish O'Brien flew down from Coffs Harbour to perform alongside the guitarist Simon Powis in a concert of "solo instrument polyphony" at St Scholastica's Chapel – in other words, they each harnessed the extraordinary acoustic of the building to remarkable effect with Bach, Albeniz, Sor/Mozart, Sculthorpe's Threnody, Cassado's Suite for Solo Cello and other works. St Scholastica's was also the venue for choral concerts by Bel a cappella under Russell Ger (Palestrina's *Missa Papa Marcelli*) and Coro Innominata (Pastoral Modes in England).

Much Australian music was included by the Stables Flute Ensemble and the Sydney Conservatorium Percussion Ensemble: Gordon Hughes, Kathleen Mayne, Nigel Westlake, Stella Sung, Peter Schickele, Kevin Man, Houston Dunleavy, Carl Vine, and from Dan McKay: Blackwattle Caprices. And if a charming soprano duo appeals, how about Donna Cain and Nicole Smeulders at the Old Court House (thanks to Theme and Variations for a generous discount on the piano hire). And thanks to the Council of the City of Sydney for a grant towards this year's Festival. In fact thanks to all who supported the Festival, to all who performed and to all who attended.

Next year? Look out for opera on the river at Concord 11 November and visit www.glebemusicfestival.com.

- David McIntosh



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Congratulations to David McIntosh, entrepreneur extraordinaire!

The Marine Brass Band was wonderful - such precision, such musicianship, and to see and hear them marching down Glebe Point Road was an experience to remember!

Bobbie Burke

Le Petit Tarte



Photo of the photo: Edwina Doe

Last month, I commented on the name of the café at 219 Glebe Point Road, *Le Petit Tarte*.

I asked if the confusion of genders was a deliberate mistake.

The answer is that it is a very interesting and intelligent play with the notion of gender. The photograph in the café shows a man dressed as a woman in a French setting. He, she or s/he is a tart who may be a he or a she. The French sniff at such humour.

- John Gray

Hidden Gardens of Glebe

Spring tour - visit gardens, courtyards and rooftops

As announced last month, the Glebe Society is planning a tour next spring of Glebe's hidden gardens, courtyards and rooftops. The provisional timing is the second weekend of September and we are looking for small gardens, perhaps accessed through back lanes or behind fences or up stairs; vegetable gardens or shared nature strip plantings; courtyards or country cottage gardens - gardens which are characteristic of Glebe's inner city village atmosphere.

Several interesting gardens and communal street areas have already been offered, but please let us know if you would like your garden – or that of a neighbour or friend – to be considered for inclusion in the tour.

If you would like to suggest a garden to be included, or you would like to be involved in the organisation of this event, please contact **Dorothy Davis** dorothydavis@bigpond.com phone 9660 7873

or **Lydia Bushell** lbushell@mail.usyd.edu.au phone 9571 7131

Australia Day

There are a number of **street parties** held in Glebe at different times of the year. If your street is party-less, we suggest you think about organising such an event on Australia Day. When better to celebrate "our patch"?

All it takes is a few people to get together to decide the details. Letterbox invitations 1-2 weeks in advance. They should specify date, time, duration, place, what to bring and contact details. EASY!

- Liz Simpson-Booker

Glebe Street Fair

The Glebe Society stall volunteers at the Fair on 20 November sold 26 of our now-famous hessian bags. They also sold raffle tickets for the Centipede Christmas Hamper. Centipede Coordinator, Maria Bamford, has sent a letter of appreciation and "heartfelt thanks" for our efforts in raising \$450 for this vital Glebe facility.

News and Notes

Thirsty Thursdays

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

The first Thirsty Thursday for 2006 is at *La Tavolaccia* Garden Restaurant, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel) on 2 February. There is no need to book, so just turn up. And BYO wine.

Welcome to New Members

The following people were accepted as members at recent Management Committee meetings. We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

- ◆ Jenny Dougherty
- ◆ George & Valerie Griffiths
- ◆ David McInerney
- ◆ Louise Newey
- ◆ John Scott
- ◆ Judy & Peter Seamer
- ◆ Audrey Tate
- ◆ John Williams
- ◆ Geoffrey Winestock

Productivity Commission – Draft report

The draft report on the Conservation of Historic Heritage Places has just been released and can be viewed at www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/heritage/draft-report

Public hearings on the draft report will be held in Sydney on Tuesday 31 January and Wednesday 1 February.

The Glebe Society will be assessing the implications of the draft recommendations and a decision will be made as to whether we will seek to attend the public hearings.

Dictionary of Sydney - at last, a site in sight

The Board of the Dictionary and its technical advisors have braved the rigours of a two day retreat and several workshops to hammer out some of the technical and editorial parameters for the Dictionary. By February 2006 there will be a project site on-line. The holding pattern at www.dictionaryofsydney.com.au will give way to something that you will want to bookmark and visit often. This site will not be the final Dictionary of Sydney, but it will be a place for its creators and for everyone who is interested in the Dictionary project to watch how it is evolving, to comment on the kinds of things being planned, and to make suggestions for its development. It will provide information and tools for contributors of articles to use, showcase material as it is developed and generate wide discussion about what we all want to see in the final on-line version of Sydney's history.

There's a mounting number of administrative and procedural tasks associated with the Dictionary aside from writing entries.

There are pictures to be sourced, reproduction rights to be cleared, 'facts' to be verified, files to be filed, lists to be compiled. If you are interested in working for the project as a volunteer, please fill in the form on the web site telling us your strengths and interests, and send it back to us.

Exhibition - Changing spaces

Elizabeth Bay House, 7 Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10 am – 4.30 pm

Two of Sydney's most renowned design teams, Freedman Rembel and Durbach Block have been commissioned to design a contemporary installation in the magnificently proportioned historic Dining Room and Drawing Room at Elizabeth Bay House. Each firm has transformed one of the rooms into a self-contained studio apartment. These contemporary designs propose bold ideas for using historic buildings and explore ways of using and adapting historic buildings, stimulating discussion and thinking about the interpretation of historic interiors and their meaning to a contemporary society.

National Heritage Investment Initiative grants program - Call for applications

National Heritage Investment Initiative (NHII) is a \$10.5 million, four-year investment by the Australian Government that provides assistance to restore and conserve Australia's most important historic heritage places.

NHII grants may be provided to assist in funding works to important heritage places listed on the Australian Government's National Heritage List or entered in a state or territory government statutory heritage register. Priority will be given to places on the National Heritage List.

Applications for grants of between \$10,000 and \$500,000 are invited from a wide range of individuals and organisations including ... legally incorporated not-for-profit bodies.

Further information including application guidelines is available from www.deh.gov.au/heritage/programs.

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor

Clover Moore MLA

Councillors

Philip Black
Verity Firth
Chris Harris
Marcelle Hoff
Robyn Kemmis
Michael Lee
Shayne Mallard
John McInerney
Tony Pooley



Phone the Town Hall, 1300 651 301, for contact details.

Forest Lodge Public School

Home of The Glebe
Society Archives



Phone 9660 3530

For your diary ...

Sunday 25 December - HAVE A GOOD CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 1 January - AND AN EVEN BETTER NEW YEAR

Thursday 26 January - Australia Day. Hold a Street Party.

Thursday 2 February, 7pm - 'Thirsty Thursday' - Dinner at *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 8 February, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

Thursday 2 March, 7pm - 'Thirsty Thursday' - Dinner at *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 8 March, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

Sunday 12 March, Walk against Want, starting and finishing in Victoria Park.

Contacting The Glebe Society

Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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PO Box 100, Glebe NSW 2037

Website

The Society 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 use the site. Send contributions or comments to webmaster@glebesociety.org.au

The Bulletin

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 to the Glebe Society. Write to the address above or send an email to editor@glebesociety.org.au

Disclaimer

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

Bulletin Deadline

The next edition of the *Bulletin* will be published in February. The deadline for contributions is **Saturday 18 February, 2005.**

The Glebe Society Inc Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Secretary	Liz Simpson-Booker	9518 6186
Treasurer	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Committee Members:

Anne Fraser	9660 7560	John Gray	9518 7253
Jan Wilson	9660 2698		

Sub-committee Convenors:

All sub-committee convenors are *ex officio* members of the Management Committee

Arts, Culture and Media	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Bays and Foreshores	Tony Larkum	9660 7030
Environment and Open Spaces	Andrew Wood	9660 1040
Heritage	David Mander Jones	9552 4172
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl Herden	9660 7371
Planning	Neil Macindoe	9660 0208
Transport and Traffic	Chris Hallam	9660 3670
Strategic Planning	Bruce Davis	9660 7873

Adopt-a-Park Contacts:

Foley Park: Bobbie Burke (9692 0343) **Kirsova:** Fay & David Mander Jones
Paddy Gray Park: John Gray

Other Contacts:

Archivist	Lyn Milton	9660 7930
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History of Glebe	Max Solling	9660 1160
History of the Glebe Society	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Liaison with CityRags	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Liaison with COGG	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Liaison with GPRd Revitalisation	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Publicity	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Social events	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Website	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451
Wentworth Park	Anne Fraser	9660 7560

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The GLEBE
PO Box 100



SOCIETY Inc
Glebe 2037

POSTAGE
PAID

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Individual member	\$45
Joint (2 people, one address)	\$55
Household (more than 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.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Acting Place Manager, Glebe, Forest Lodge & Camperdown: Nick Hespe, 9298 3191 (direct), or 0414 617 048.

email: nhespe@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Glebe Town Hall Office: 9298 3190, 8am-6pm
Mon -Fri

Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 1300 651 301

email: council@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Dumped Shopping trolleys: Bi-Lo - 9281 4511. Most other major stores - 1800 641497. Pacific Services - 0500 847 000 or trolleys@pacificservices.com.au.

Aircraft noise: 1800 802 584