



2006 Local Action Plan

A well-attended community meeting, organised by the City of Sydney Council, was held on Thursday 10 August in the Glebe Town Hall to consider the Draft North West Local Action Plan (LAP). What is this North West? Well, it comprises Glebe, Forest Lodge and areas of Camperdown, and is one of nine designated zones across the City that give some recognition to the concept of the City of Villages in effecting the City's Strategic Plan. The Draft LAP has been prepared by Council from information gathered from household surveys, focus groups, community meetings, and the various strategic plans of the resident and business action groups. In introducing Steve O'Brien, Executive Manager, to outline the "Draft for Review", the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, paid tribute to the energy and keen involvement of the community as expressed in the numerous informed submissions and survey responses.

Steve gave a snapshot of the Glebe, Forest Lodge and Camperdown community – its makeup, shared values and priorities as gleaned from community responses. His summary of the Draft Plan summary listed "Community Request" against proposed "Action" and "Timing" (complete, short term, medium, long term). It was encouraging to see so many close correlations between requested and proposed action, as well as the significant number of projects in progress. The LAP has captured much of the views, hopes and concerns of a wide cross section of our community. The Council and its officers are to be congratulated for their strategic approach and professional management. It is great to know that our community is now being seen as deserving of a special place in the City of Villages, so it is important to keep up the communication. The Draft 2006 Local Action Plan North West is available as a PDF file on the city of Sydney Website, and submissions are open until close of business **Monday 11 September 2006**. The Glebe Society is currently formulating a response in the context of its Strategic Plan for Glebe and Forest Lodge 2006 to 2011 and Action Plan for 2006.

Francesca O'Brien, a Senior Planner, continued, giving an excellent survey of some current DAs - with clear explanations for the Council's decisions. Modifications of two hotel applications, one from the Toxteth, the other the Excelsior, were illustrative of the type of compromise often necessary for all sides. Questions were taken from the audience by both Steve and Francesca, the tenure of which again revealed the engaged nature of our community.

- Bob Armstrong



Filing through the Gully - see page 2.
Photo: Roberta Johnston

It is not too late to book for the Glebe Society's preview screening of Al Gore's amazing film about Climate Change,

AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

on Tuesday, 5 September at the Palace Cinema, Norton Street, Leichhardt at 6.30pm.

Following the film, at 8pm, there will be a 30 minute discussion period. Then you might decide to have dinner nearby and continue to talk about the film.

Tickets are \$12.

If you have not booked already, contact Bob Armstrong on 9660 4189 or r.armstrong@chem.usyd.edu.au to say you are coming.

Tickets can also be obtained at the ~~rate~~

**YOU HAVE BEEN
WARMED!**

Is this your last *Bulletin*?

If there is a Renewal Form enclosed with this *Bulletin*, it means that your Membership Renewal fee, due on 1 July 2006, was not received by the time of posting. We do hope that you "just forgot".

Community Meeting in Foley Park

By means of a flyer distributed throughout Glebe, the City Council invited residents to a community meeting to review the draft plans to revitalise Foley Park on 29 July. A fair crowd attended (and enjoyed the sausage sizzle that was provided!).

Our President, Bob Armstrong, made a speech on behalf of the Glebe Society (see box).

The plans were displayed and the design consultants from Aspect, along with Council officers, were available to explain the details and to receive comments prior to the lodgement of a Development Application, which it is hoped will be in September this year.

Prior to the community meeting the Foley Park Working Group met with Maren Parry (City of Sydney Design Manager for the Park) to discuss the proposal.

We examined the plan (kindly provided by Council) in detail and were delighted with the proposal. Our formal response to Council made the following comments:

1. It would reassure the Glebe community to learn of the possible relocation sites for the Baby Health Centre.
2. Could the circular pathway be rendered in a softer/warmer material than black asphalt?
3. We wholeheartedly approve of and support the preferred option for the interpretation of the Wireless House, and



Bob Armstrong's photo by Sharon Hickey, courtesy City of Sydney Council

we hope that provision will be made for its full implementation.

4. Consideration should be given to providing a fenced play area for toddlers. Some areas could be grouped together and fenced.

5. There would be advantages to linking the narrow path adjacent to the Church property with the main circular pathway, other than at its two extremities.

We thank Council for the community consultation processes employed on the upgrading of Foley Park and applaud the work of both the Council team and the consultants on the design concept. We note that there is to be further opportunity to comment during the DA process.

If all goes according to plan, work is scheduled to commence in January 2007, with a completion date six months later. How wonderful!

Bobbie Burke
for the Foley Park Working Group

Bob Armstrong's Speech

I welcome the opportunity to represent the Glebe Society, to congratulate the City Council on its initiative, and to give some background to the upgrade of Foley Park

The Glebe Society and its Foley Park Working Group were the original instigators of this present upgrade/transformation. It started in 2001 when the Glebe Society wrote to Leichhardt Council regarding the neglected appearance of the Park.

Months later, after a meeting with Leichhardt Council staff, Bobbie Burke and Ian Jones agreed to adopt Foley Park. This is part of a general policy that the Glebe Society has initiated for the Village. A working party was set up with a "vision" for Foley Park - UTS students conducted a survey of local residents about the Park - *Attitudes and Perceptions regarding Foley Park, Glebe*. Some Glebe Society members undertook

the care of two garden beds, to set an example. We planted and watered various areas in an attempt to encourage Leichhardt Council to at least maintain the Park.

And then Glebe was taken into the bosom of the City of Sydney!

Things took off from there - the Glebe Society/Working Group's homework and the resources and enthusiasm of the City set the pace. We are now at the point of more than a concept - a realisation.

I want to make special mention of the contributions of the Council staff and the consultants who have been so closely involved with the design concept. We all look forward to its realisation.

I am confident that Foley Park will become a major focus for Glebe - its fulcrum perhaps - a true Village Centre. Congratulations all around!

Getting to know the Gully - and each other

At the invitation of the City Quarter Community Residents Association, FRROGs (Friends, Residents, Ratepayers Of the Gully) were invited to give an educational tour of the Gully and its adjacent lands. ("City Quarter" is the redeveloped Children's Hospital site.)

The event was scheduled for Sunday 6 August, and in the stormy and sodden week leading up to the day, including the Saturday, only an optimist could have expected the Sunday to turn out to be such a glorious day.

Kim Wheatley, Elizabeth Dark, Andrea Robertson, Judie Christie and I, were armed with long histories of the campaign for the Gully in our heads, detailed knowledge about plant species and weeds (this last excludes me - I'm an amateur) and as much written material to do with small and other native birds as could be practically carried. We wore our 1996 "Save the Blue Wrens of the Gully" badges to identify ourselves.

The walk was preceded by a well-attended BBQ for the residents of City Quarter to get to know each other. This gave an opportunity to give a brief talk, so I outlined a history of the Gully. This was followed by the walk, where Judy was able to use her expertise to talk about the plant strategy and why the habitat needs of our local fauna are so important.

The Gully is at the moment, due to its uncompleted restoration, two embankments with a thin winding path through the centre. The walk was so well attended that the walking group had the appearance of several crammed carriages on a peak hour train winding a way through the Gully. The people at the middle and tail end of the group could not hear what Judie was saying at the head of the tour.

Questions were asked at various stops along the way and hopefully everybody feels better informed and connected to the project. Certainly feedback during the walk indicates much appreciation, support and interest in the Gully project.

We look forward to ongoing interactions with our new neighbours at City Quarter and plan to have weeding days and a community planting day when possible, to include as well, other local residents. We thank Jane Worthy and the other committee members for organising the event and inviting us.

- Roberta Johnston, FRROGs

Tea and a Tour at Tricketts



Liz Trickett welcomes the Glebe Society. Photo: Bruce Davis

Liz Trickett provided an opportunity for Glebe Society members and friends to view her home at 270 Glebe Point Road, a fully restored Victorian mansion, with afternoon tea and a conducted tour on Sunday, 30 July 2006. The tour was preceded by a welcome from Bob Armstrong, the President of the Glebe Society, and a description of the history of this Victorian mansion by Liz.

Liz's talk included information from various historical sources, including the *Leichhardt Historical Journal*, no.11, 1982, which states in relation to the Census of 1846, "... on the elevated land towards Glebe Point there were large estates with handsome villas; it was too far out for any sensible person who did not have a horse ...". At the same time, slaughter houses and tanneries clustered along Blackwattle Swamp Creek, so that the offal and blood could run away into the water. The swamp covered what is now Wentworth Park, and the head of the swamp came close to Parramatta Road.

Liz gave an outline of the history of this area from the early days of European settlement. In 1789, the Sydney Glebe lands were granted to the Church of England, hence *glebe*, denoting church lands. 1828 saw the first subdivision of the Glebe lands, "... to relieve the pressing needs of the clergy ...". Subsequent cutting down of trees through what had been a dense forest, pulling out stumps, filling in the largest of the holes, doing some leveling, provided a fenced access road, or more accurately, track,

with bush tracks off to the sides, and led to the first sale of the Glebe lands.

It is relevant at this stage to mention that Lots 22-24 were purchased by George Allen, for whom John Verge designed *Toxteth Park*, which was built in 1831. George Allen died in 1877, and in a covenant in his will, George Allen decreed that only private dwellings be built on any future subdivisions of his estate, and that they be built of either brick or stone (reference Craig Burton, *Housing the Glebe* pp.24, 25, 38). The covenants placed on his estate by George Allen not only ensured the quality of the fabric of future buildings, but prevented hotel or inn development, because as a devout Wesleyan, Allen objected to the consumption of alcohol. As a consequence of this, some large houses were built in Glebe Point and along Glebe Point Road around the turn of the century, and the area became a fashionable and so a highly desirable place to live, as it is today. Perhaps we can, in part, thank George Allen's covenant for that. Those same fashionable homeowners objected to the siting of the Glebe Walter Burley Griffin reverberatory incinerator on the elevated land near their homes, so it was built overlooking Blackwattle Bay.

In 1828, Alexander Brodie Sparks purchased 20 acres, known as Lot 21, at auction. Sparks then subdivided this estate, which was called *Eglinton*, into 31 allotments. He subsequently went bankrupt, and the estate was sold. *Eglinton*, Lot 1, of half an acre, was purchased by William Townley Pinkey in 1846. Pinkey was a chemist, and Lots 2, 3 and 4 were bought, also in 1846, by Charles M Penny, a chemist, then known as a druggist. On 7 September 1846, Penny purchased Lot 1 from Pinkey, so Penny now owned approximately one and three quarter acres between Glebe Road and Edward Street - which was called Francis Street at that time.

Penny had houses erected on Lots 1 and 2, now 268 and 270, Glebe Point Road. Both houses were seven room brick villas, with shingle roofs and were leased. Penny was evidently a successful devel-

oper, as his own home was at Guilford Lodge, situated opposite Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, where he died on 9 August 1857. One of the houses was leased to the Rev John Pendrill, who opened the Collegiate School at *Eglinton House* in 1858. He then leased the second house, at what is now 270 Glebe Point Road, for the school, which had day pupils as well as boarders. This house was probably the northernmost house at the time that Pendrill died in January 1872, and the lane on the northern side of 270 was named after him. The old boys of the school put three stained glass windows in St Johns Church in his memory. In 1878 the school moved to the site now occupied by the Glebe Library.

Penny's family inherited his property, and the house on this site (270 Glebe Point Road - sometimes called Glebe Road) was leased to J Fletcher. On 9 September 1887, the two brick villas on 268 and 270 Glebe Point Road, built by Penny soon after 1846, were sold for £1700 to Stephen Bryen, Gentleman, of Randwick, who demolished the buildings on 270 Glebe Point Road. Bryen sold the land to William Pope, a fruit merchant, in 1891 for £1350, and Pope built a house, the present house, in 1892 and called it *Rewa Villa*. Seven years later, in 1899, the name of this house was changed by Pope to *Wahroonga House*, and it was Pope who sold it to Carl Carlson in 1902 for £2125. It was first listed in the Sands Directory of 1897, and at that time was occupied by William T A Shorter, solicitor.

After Carlson died, his widow, Anna Sophia, married John Alexander Kerr Esq and named him as joint owner, with the property registered in both names, c. 1923. Anna Sophia Kerr sold the property to the Crown (George V was then on the throne), on 11 July 1924 for £4850. The property

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An attentive audience in the ballroom. Photo: Bruce Davis

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had a 66ft frontage, and a depth of 330ft, to Edward Street.

In 1925, the property was held in the name of the Public Instruction Department, and then in the name of the Child Welfare Department until 1933. From 1925, the Sands Directory lists the name of the property as *Roylestone House*, and it was known as the *Roylestone Home for Wayward and Abandoned Boys* until it was closed in 1983. It was the Children's Court from 1983 until 1992, when the Court was transferred further up the road, to *Bidura*, which had been the home of the renowned architect, Thomas Blackett.



Liz Trickett shows the ceramic stove to Margaret Sheppard. Photo: Bruce Davis

When it was being set up as the *Roylestone Home for Wayward and Abandoned Boys*, six or seven highly decorated ceramic stoves, which had been imported from the Austro-Hungarian Empire and used for heating the building, were destroyed. Fortunately, one stove still remains (see photograph). The rest were smashed to pieces. The smashed remains were dumped under the house and in the surrounding grounds, and the beautiful ceramic pieces were found by Liz Trickett during the restoration.

In about 1966, the house next door, 268 Glebe Point Road, called *Eglinton*, and built for C M Penny in the mid 19th century, was demolished. A block of red

brick flats now stands on the site.

Berchervaise & Associates, in *Main Street Study*, stated, inter alia, that 270 Glebe Point Road is an outstanding example of a two storey freestanding Victorian house in a garden setting, and that at the time it was built it made a significant contribution to the development of the Toxteth Estate as a precinct.

In February 1993, 270 Glebe Point Road was sold to Liz Trickett. Liz won the tender; prior to which interested developers had envisaged 80 one-bedroom apartments on this site, much to the distress of the neighbours. Liz is responsible for the full restoration of this lovely late Victorian mansion, which she runs as a 4 ½ star B&B. In *The New York Times*, Tricketts was called *the best B&B in the Southern Hemisphere*. During her talk, Liz patted the wall and said "I tell the building that it has to earn some money, and then it will be safe!"

The success of the afternoon would not have been possible without the willing, cheerful and expert help of Anne Owens, Cheryl and Bryan Herden, Dorothy and Bruce Davis, Susie Cleary and Mari-Luise Agius, who were involved in helping throughout the afternoon. Our thanks are extended to other volunteer helpers, and, importantly, to Liz Trickett for her generosity in hosting this event. Thanks are also due to Max Solling and his associate, Michael Foster, who undertook so much of the historical research.

- Margaret Sheppard.



The workers - Anne Owens, Dorothy Davis and Margaret Sheppard. Photo: Bruce Davis

Comings and goings in Blackwattle Cove

The Coal Bunker

The Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, has approved a Development Application (DA) for the coal bunker site next to the Sydney Fish Market.

This has been a long time coming – several members of the Management Committee attended a briefing on the project by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) arranged by John Buckingham early last year. And given the disappointment of the Fish Market redevelopment (a less than desirable plan that is now dead in the water), and the fact that the building appears to be in a pretty poor state, one wonders if it will ever proceed.

The DA approves the adaptive reuse of the building for "maritime related retail and/or commercial use". The building is to be three storeys high and reinstatement of the gantry crane that was unceremoniously cut down some time ago is described as a "key component of the proposed development".

There are some changes to the original proposals though (eg height lowered by a metre to create a clear division between the gantry crane and the new building, and the six metre wide colonnade along the bay side of the building is to be dedicated to pedestrian use only) but SHFA's original concept has been accepted.

A significant feature of the building will be construction using light-weight, transparent materials (eg glass cladding) to provide a "smooth and understated contrast to the heavier, timber structure of the coal bunker".

The approval also requires that an experienced conservation architect be employed on the project.

It is expected that NSW Maritime will call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) in the coal bunker site simultaneously with the adjoining wharf fronting Bridge Road that is presently used by tourist boats and littered with the detritus of maritime industry.

The Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC) is working hard to ensure a high level of public access to the foreshore in this area, and that future buildings on the wharves are positioned to preserve the best

possible view of the bay from Wentworth Park. BCC's convenor, Anne Fraser, recently wrote to the Minister for Ports, Joe Tripodi, seeking an assurance that the community's wishes would be given significant weight when the responses to the EoIs are evaluated.

"The Matrix"

The BCC's wish list for the Blackwattle Cove area, affectionately known as "The Matrix", has prompted very positive comments from some important people in the City Council.

The document runs to eight pages and ranges from major issues such as the Fish Market redevelopment and the relocation of greyhound racing, to detailed improvements to Wentworth Park. It is far too detailed to publish in the Bulletin, but we hope to be able to publish it on the Society's website soon.

"The Gap"

BCC is rather unimpressed with plans put forward by NSW Maritime to deal with the area between the coal bunker and the Fish Market entry off Bridge Road.

The current proposal is narrow in scope as it does not include issues such as improved pedestrian access to the Fish Market from Wentworth Park, which would involve the RTA, or any contribution from the Fish Market itself to improve the appearance of this entrance. This is typical of the problems faced in the Blackwattle Cove area - all doing their own little thing and nobody looking at the big picture.

The NSW Maritime proposal is primarily a board walk around the edge of the unsightly tidal pond (and frequently rubbish tip) which currently dominates the site. BCC hopes to be able to convince the various authorities concerned with this site to work together to develop a more comprehensive and imaginative solution.

- Bruce Davis

Our 37th AGM

The Glebe Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 27 August, just after this Bulletin was sent to the printer.

There will be a full report on the meeting in the next Bulletin. Meanwhile, the Sub-committee reports presented at the meeting are printed as an insert to this Bulletin.

Light Rail - the Society's position

The debate about light rail in Sydney is gathering pace. Here is the Glebe Society's current position on the topic.

Position Statement

The Glebe Society recognised the need for improved public transport instead of more roads over 30 years ago:

- *Glebe Society Monograph No.1 - "An Alternative to Inner Urban Expressways", 1972*
- *Glebe Society Monograph No. 2 - "A Northwestern Railway instead of the Expressway"*
- *Glebe Society Monograph No.3 - "Better Public Transport in Sydney's Inner Western & South-Eastern Suburbs", 1980*

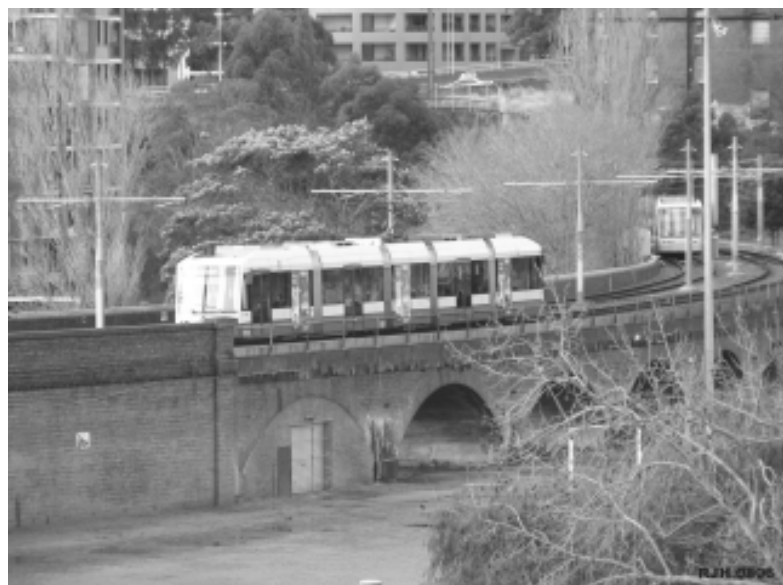
Time has proved the Society correct, in the scrapping of the expressway that was planned to bisect Glebe, simply to allow more cars to access the Central Business District of Sydney.

The Society supports the implementation of a metropolitan transport strategy that gives priority to public investment in public transport instead of private transport. Investment in light rail is an investment for the future of Sydney. In contrast, the recent construction of the Cross-City Tunnel has provided lesser benefits. However it has the ability of taking away east-west traffic from CBD streets, which will allow a new light rail service along Castlereagh Street to be operated with little side effects on traffic circulation in the CBD.

The Society supports the City of Sydney in other complementary measures, such as strict controls on car parking in Central Sydney. The parking available to Central Sydney commuters needs to be restricted and reduced. In addition, the Society supports the introduction of congestion tolling of vehicles entering Central Sydney. The introduction of electronic tolling for motorways now allows the implementation of this measure, to act as a disincentive to unnecessary private travel in Central Sydney. Such tolls could in turn be used to cross-subsidise the light rail extension.

The State Government is failing in dealing with the increasing pressures on the Sydney transport system. Options such as the plan to add an extra two lanes to the low level opening bridge at The Spit, at a cost of \$50M, are not the most cost-effective ways of reducing travel times. This option only benefits counter-peak traffic, with benefits lost at the choke points on the hills at either end. In contrast, this investment towards the extension of the Light Rail could provide long term benefits to Central Sydney commuters and visitors.

Central Sydney needs a catalyst for public transport improvement, a sign to car-borne commuters that changes are essential if Sydney and the inner suburbs are to continue to develop. Priority **must** be given to public transport over private transport.



Light rail trains approaching each other on the Wentworth Park viaduct. Photo: Rod Holtham

Wishes fulfilled – well almost

In April last year the Coalition of Glebe Groups (CoGG) presented a wish list to the City Council. It was done in a bit of a hurry in order to meet the Council's budget timetable, but it was reasonably comprehensive and representative of the wishes of community and business in Glebe and Forest Lodge.

This month Council unveiled its draft Local Action Plan (LAP) for "the North West" (our patch plus a little of Camperdown), so it seemed an appropriate time to see how much of the wish list had been achieved or was included in the LAP.

The answer is very encouraging.

The major item on last year's list was the upgrade of Glebe Point Road, and Council has now committed about \$12 million to this project. CoGG has suggested a rather more imaginative strategy than that proposed by Council, and no doubt there will be some discussion before concepts are agreed and locked down as detailed plans.

Nevertheless, a very positive start has been made. At its last meeting, CoGG decided that the next step towards the revitalisation of Glebe Point Road should go beyond the "bricks and mortar". We hope to meet with Council's business development unit to discuss the "positioning" of Glebe Point Road in the market place and how we can encourage appropriate businesses to set up shop here.

Other wish list priorities included:

Foreshore walk: now well advanced. Council is expected to submit a develop-

ment application for the last piece in the jigsaw – the section between the rowing clubs and Bridge Road – in the near future.

Town Plan: both the Urban Design Study draft masterplan and the draft Glebe Conservation Area Study Report have been released for comment. While the first document was favourably received there were some problems with the second report and we hope these will be dealt with promptly.

Blackwattle Bay/Wentworth Park: This has been largely carried forward by the Blackwattle Bay Coalition (BCC) which comprises groups from Ultimo and Pyrmont in addition to the Society and the Glebe Chamber of Commerce. Council has proved very supportive of BCC's aims, and we hope to see significant progress in the coming year. (See more detailed report on page 4.)

Walter Burley Griffin incinerator: restoration complete, but final use not yet decided.

Orphan School Creek: land swap finalised and the FRROGS are croaking with glee!

Parks: Plan for Foley Park upgrade plan well received (see article on page 2).

The Society's Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2006 covers even wider territory than CoGG's wish list and it will be interesting to assess the LAP and other Council initiatives against this yardstick.

Bruce Davis
Chair, Coalition of Glebe Groups

Update on Crown Land in Forest Lodge

Members of the forestlodgetrees group were able to speak to the Lord Mayor and Councillor Kemmis at the recent Community Forum about the campaign to save 9 Alfred Road (the land behind 77 Hereford Street). Council officers have met with the Department of Lands and are waiting for a reply to the Council's offer of a peppercorn rate to acquire the site. The Council has also offered to fund the care and maintenance of it if the State Government requires this to retain it in public ownership.

For further information our blogspot is <http://forestlodgetrees.blogspot.com> which is regularly updated. We can be contacted at forestlodgetrees@yahoo.com.au.

- Mary Pollard



Letter to the SMH Editor

\$2000 car subsidy

What happened to user pays? And means testing? Neither seems to be applying to the \$2000 LPG subsidy, which surely would be better spent on research for alternative fuels.

Margaret Sheppard

(Margaret's letter was published in full under *Postscript* in the *SMH* on Saturday, 19-20 August.)

An Ugly Door Closed

From *Stay in Touch*, Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday 24 August:

"It's pretty harsh when a court not only rejects your case but insults your taste.

That's exactly what happened to Susie Grdinic, who was refused a building certificate for a roller door on her shop on Glebe Point Road, and was then asked to demolish said door.

Grdinic appealed against both decisions to the Land and Environment Court, but she did not meet a sympathetic audience there.

'Put simply, the roller shutter, when observed in the streetscape, is bog ugly,' said Commissioner Moore, who decided the case on July 28.

'It is not merely neutral in my view, in the streetscape, it detracts from it.'

(This story is about the white roller door near the Post Office.)



Artist's impression of the Valhalla with a new coat of render. Courtesy Prue and Mike Williams

A History of the Valhalla Cinema - Part One

This is an extract from the Conservation Management Strategy as prepared by Roy Lumby of Rod Howard & Associates on behalf of W Property Pty Ltd, April - June 2006.

“Early Site History

The site of the Valhalla Theatre was once a small part of Portion 25 of the 1828 subdivision of Glebe. It comprised 37 acres and was subsequently granted to Frederick Wright Unwin, who promptly organised subdivision of the land during 1830. Some 6 acres were purchased by James Brown, Acting Collector of Customs, the following year. Brown died in 1836, leaving the property in the hands of George Allen and Peter Gardiner as trustees acting on behalf of his children¹. On 25 November 1853 Allen and Gardiner signed an indenture with Thomas Woolley, who was formally granted the property on 18 January 1855². Woolley mortgaged the land to Charles Chapman at the beginning of March, 1857³, but had the misfortune to die the following February so that the mortgage became the responsibility of the trustees of his estate⁴.

At the end of July 1869 the trustees sold the property (or at least a part of it, comprising just over one acre) to merchant Walter Scott⁵. Scott had leased the cottage known as *Rosebank*, which occupied part of the land, for a number of years prior to purchasing it⁶.

On 1 August 1881 Scott sold *Rosebank* to wool merchant John Geddes, who lived there with his family until his death at the end of May 1894. His widow Rachel and their children moved to Arncliffe and leased the property for a number of years. The terms of Geddes' will enabled his family to sell *Rosebank* to meet mortgage commitments and so in June 1901 Mrs Geddes and her son Samuel sold the property to John Goodlet, William Crane and James Harrison, acting as trustees for the Sydney Female Refuge Society⁷. William Crane was for a number of years the secretary of the Society⁸.

The Society was a venerable institution, established in 1848 to manage homes for “working and wayward women”, and imposed quite severe conditions on inmates. It took up residence in *Rosebank* during 1903⁹. In November 1915 the Society was registered as a limited company. The property was placed under the control of two new trustees, Hannah and Herbert Crane, after Goodlet, Crane

and Harrison had died. It is understood that Hannah Crane was the widow of the former trustee William Crane. The Cranes conveyed the title of the Refuge to the Society on 29 October 1919¹⁰, which then applied to bring it under the provisions of the Real Property Act in October 1921¹¹. The title changed hands once again about four years later when it was transferred to the Church of England Property Trust, Diocese of Sydney, on 25 June 1925¹².

For a time the refuge apparently continued operations, while in 1926 the Oxford Laundry was established within its grounds. It became known as the East Sydney Laundry only two years later¹³. The Church established a home for elderly women on the site that was known as the *Rosebank Eventide Home* around 1929 or 1930. In the second half of the 1930s the Church decided to sell off part of the grounds of the Home. An L-shaped block bound by Hereford Street, Glebe Point Road and the southern boundary of the site and containing about an acre of land was purchased in the name of Mrs Violet Mary Bardsley, wife of Frank Bardsley. The couple may well have been related to prominent local identities - William Bardsley was at one time headmaster of Forest Lodge Public School, while his son Warren was an outstanding cricketer of international standing in the first and second decades of the twentieth century¹⁴.

The transfer of title to the eastern part of *Rosebank* took place on 20 July 1937¹⁵. Mrs Bardsley (and probably other members of her family as well) obviously had firm plans for their newly acquired property because the contract for the construction of a new picture theatre was let to H R Torr of Hurstville at the beginning of June, 1937 – several weeks before the transfer of title took place.¹⁶ The building was designed by the architectural firm of Kaberry & Chard.

The Astor Theatre

The new cinema was known as the Astor (or New Astor). The first screenings took place on Wednesday, 12 January 1938 with the movies *Easy Living* and *Borneo* on the bill¹⁷, but it has not been determined whether or not there was any ceremony or fanfare accompanying the opening of the theatre. The Astor was by no means the first cinema to have provided entertainment for the local populace. An establishment known as the Glebe Moving Picture Theatre at 84 Glebe Point Road was operating from June 1911 until 1930¹⁸. It had a capacity of about 800 persons, but by the end of the 1920s was in a run down state¹⁹. The theatre did not survive the early years of the Depression, but the building that housed it still remains standing.

The middle class character of nineteenth and early twentieth century Glebe gradu-

Continued on next page ...

- 1 Architectural Projects Pty Ltd, 2a & 2b Hereford Street Glebe: conservation management plan & statement of heritage impact, p.6
- 2 Primary Application 23842
- 3 Old Systems Title Book 48 No. 204
- 4 Old Systems Title
- 5 Old Systems Title Book 115 No. 494
- 6 *Sands directory*, 1858/59 edition. He may, of course, have taken up residence prior to this time although property was leased to solicitor Edward Reilly from 1841 to 1858
- 7 Old Systems Title Book 690 No. 787
- 8 *The Fifty First Annual Report of the Sydney Female Refuge Society Ending 31st December 1899; The Sixty Fourth Annual Report of the Sydney Female Refuge Society Ending 31st December 1912*
- 9 *Sands Sydney and suburban directory*, 1904 edition.
- 10 Old Systems Title Book 1167 No. 785
- 11 Primary Application 23842
- 12 Certificate of Title Volume 3426 Folio 127
- 13 *Sands Sydney and suburban directory*, 1926 to 1929 editions. However, it has also been suggested that a laundry was established as early as 1913 (Architectural Projects Pty Ltd, op. cit., p.5)¹⁴ Freda MacDonnell, *Glebe: Portraits and Places*, p.90
- 15 Certificate of Title Volume 3426 Folio 127
- 16 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 June 1937
- 17 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 January 1938. The Astor was by no means a first release movie house - although “Easy Living” received very favourable critical acclaim, it was released locally at the beginning of October 1937 at the prestigious Prince Edward Theatre (*Everyones*, 6 October 1937, p.14)
- 18 Ross Thorne et al, *Movie Theatre Register for New South Wales 1896-1996*, p.341; *Sands Sydney and suburban directory*, 1931 edition.
- 19 State Records Series 15318 Item 3519

... continued from previous page

ally changed as its population became increasingly working class. The Depression of the late 1920s and 1930s witnessed deterioration in the standard of housing in Glebe and *Rosebank* was acquired by Cannon R B S Hammond in 1938 to assist in housing those in need²⁰. Indeed, along with the belt of “terrace house” suburbs surrounding the inner city, Glebe was considered a “slum” by the second half of the 1930s²¹.

According to documentation held at State Records, the planning of the Astor Theatre was essentially the same as the building that existed at the beginning of 2006. Four shops and the entry to the Theatre were located on the eastern side of the building, along Glebe Point Road. It was not unusual to incorporate shops into a cinema development at this period – other examples from the second half of the 1930s include the Civic Theatre at Scone, the Cremorne Orpheum, the Savoy at Katoomba and the Kings Theatres at Mosman and Bondi. The Theatre entrance was situated at the north eastern corner of the building. A foyer with a ticket sales office at one end, a high vestibule, stairs leading to the dress circle, and male and female toilets (the latter only accessible from outside the building) were arranged in a compact linear arrangement along the northern side of the Theatre. The auditorium contained stalls and a dress circle above, at the northern end of the space. Female and male toilets were located at the north eastern and north western ends respectively of the dress circle, with an office adjacent to the male toilets²².

The Bardsleys did not just limit their investment to a cinema and shops. They initiated further development on the site around 1939, constructing the stolid brick block of flats next door to the Astor at 164 Glebe Point Road²³. As for the rest of their land, the south eastern part was resumed at the end of the 1940s by the New South Wales Housing Commission, then in May 1950 Mrs Bardsley sold off the rear section, which was accessible from Rosebank Street.

J V and N Bardsley were listed as the exhibitors at the Astor in the late 1940s and early 1950s. It is assumed that these were Jane and Norma Bardsley, probably the daughters of Violet Bardsley and her husband Frank. The women seem to have married in the early 1950s, becoming Mrs Bardsley-Smith and Mrs Sadler respectively. In any case, by the middle of the 1950s it was considered important to

upgrade the Astor to meet the most modern requirements, and on 12 May 1954 some 200 specially invited guests and members of the public attended “one of the biggest social events in the district for many years” at the grand opening night of the newly refurbished theatre. The invited attendees indicate the prominent position that the Theatre held in the local community, representing Glebe’s charitable, social, political and sporting communities, while the sum of £124/6/- was raised and donated to the Glebe Homoeopathic and General Hospital. The building upgrade included a new air conditioning system, new seating within what was termed the “lounge” (possibly the dress circle), repainting, improvements to lighting and the installation of a wide screen that allowed the proprietors to screen the newly introduced CinemaScope movies. It was claimed that this was the first complete “GIANT WIDE SCREEN” in Sydney’s metropolitan area²⁴.

After almost twenty five years of providing entertainment screenings ceased at the Astor on 10 November 1962²⁵. In all probability this was due to declining audiences resulting from the advent of television. The Bardsley Import and Trading Company subsequently leased the building to store and distribute stereo equipment, and then in July 1965 the building was effectively de-licensed²⁶. However, in 1968 the building acquired a new lessee, Lawrence Jennings, who was the first of a succession of tenants that strove to keep it a viable cinematic venue. He initiated some minor works so that the Theatre could reopen, at which time it was licensed to seat 569 in the stalls and 270 in the dress circle. It has not been determined how long Jennings managed the theatre, but subsequent lessees included

20 MacDonnell, pp.119-120

21 Peter Spearritt, *Sydney's Century*, p.70.

22 State Records Series 15318 Item 3519

23 Leichhardt Municipal Council BA 18/39.

Although the application was refused the block that was built appears similar to the building described on the drawing forming part of the application. There is no designer’s name on the drawing.

24 *Glebe Observer*, 7 May, 14 May and 21 May 1954

25 State Records NRS 15318 Item 3519.

The Bardsley Import Trading Co also had interests in the School of Arts in Narooma, the Kings Theatre at Bega and unspecified venues in Bega, Moruya and Narooma.

26 Government Gazette, 2 July 1965

27 State Records NRS 15318 Item 3519

United Screen Arts Pty Ltd (a partnership between Peter Clifton, Peter Ryan and Paul Quiney), and then Garland Productions.

During 1969 exhibitors started showing foreign language films, but the theatre closed once more, in October that year. 1970 proved eventful – the theatre was reopened on 12 March and at some time during the year was rechristened the *Filmor*, while in August the architectural office of J W Roberts & Associates documented alterations that included removal of four banks of seats at the rear of the stalls, an inner foyer to be used for serving coffee and drinks and installation of a kitchen in place of lavatories and office space. Council records indicate that the application to carry out the works was refused, along with subsequent applications. However, physical inspection of the Theatre shows that the inner foyer was in fact constructed. The final event of 1970 was yet another closure – the management of the premises seems to have been lax to the point that the licence was suspended on 4 December 1970 due to non-compliance issues²⁷.

See the next *Bulletin* for the story of the *Valhalla* after 1970. We thank Prue and Mike Williams for their permission to publish this History.

The Valhalla - an update

The Melbourne group previously interested in leasing the building for use as a live music venue, is no longer pursuing the idea. The plans for three floors of creative office space and the restoration of the foyer and shops will go ahead.

They hope to begin building in January 2007. Provision will be made in the agreements with owners and tenants for the Glebe Society to hold a maximum of four events a year with a maximum of eighty people to each event in the foyer/terrace area. It will not be considered a hire out space for general community use.

When the DA has been advertised and if there are no major objections, we can look forward to being invited to hold a Glebe Society information evening in the foyer and upstairs terrace where everyone can meet with the owners Michael and Prue Williams, to see and discuss their plans. This will probably be in early October.

- Sue Ingram



Glebe Matters



Come and visit PHOENIX RISING ... from the ashes

- At the Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator in the park in Blackwattle Bay, at the end of Forsyth Street
- On Sunday 24 September at 11.30am.
- This will be our chance to see inside it, to view story boards of its past use and the restoration methods used.
- Trevor Waters, Heritage Architect, who has delved into its original workings will speak, as will Jannene Smith, a Built Heritage Specialist who was involved in its restoration.
- Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch. Hot coffee and muffins may be purchased.



The restored incinerator at the end of Forsyth Street. Photo: Adrienne Kabos

For more information, ring David Mander-Jones, phone 9953 4172.

Max Solling in conversation with Shirley Fitzgerald

Well known local resident and urban historian Max Solling talks with the City Historian Shirley Fitzgerald about the process of writing the history of Glebe. How does a historian conceptualise local history and is this different to regional history or urban history? Is the story of Glebe also Sydney's story?

Find out in this discussion between two eminent historians.

When: Tuesday, 19 September 6.30pm to 8pm.

Where: Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road.

Enquiries: 9298 3060, www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/hsitory

Cost: Free, but bookings essential for catering purposes.

- Ros Wheeler

Joint President, Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library

Council supports sandstone kerbing

Bulletin 2/2006 carried an article headed "Sandstone kerbing - good enough for developer but not for Council?".

Cr Robyn Kemmis asked Council staff to investigate why, apparently, Australand had installed sandstone kerbing in its Glebe Harbour development while Council had used concrete in the same area. Robyn asked Council staff to check out what had happened.

The investigation revealed that all the work was carried out by the developer to Leichhardt Council's specifications. "That said ... we are developing the public domain streetscape design palette ... [that] will avoid this from occurring in future", Council staff reported. "The palette will specify the types of materials to be used for kerbing as well as all other streetscape related infrastructure. It will apply to developers doing public domain works, as well as to Council jobs.

"Glebe has a significant quantity of sandstone kerbing and it is important that we not only maintain, but enhance this unique characteristic of Glebe."

- Bruce Davis



The City of Sydney Council is gradually replacing the worn down and fractured sandstone kerbing in some streets in Glebe (seen here in St Johns Road). This is an important step in maintaining Glebe's conservation area status and it is to be hoped that this process will be continued throughout our suburb. Photo: Ian Jones



Hail and a shredded frangipani in a Bridge Road garden, Tuesday 15 August. Photo: Edwina Doe

The 17th Annual Glebe Music Festival

The theme this year is "The Glebe Music Festival goes to the opera". Concerts will include The Tall Poppeas at Gleebooks, opera by the river at Rivendell (Concord), Duo Agostino at The Old Court House, a soiree at Margareta Cottage, The



Margareta Cottage

Opera Project at Margareta Cottage and more. Further information is in the enclosed leaflet and at www.glebemusicfestival.com The festival runs from 10 November to 3 December 2006

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 next Thirsty Thursday is at *La Tavolaccia* Garden Restaurant, 355 Glebe Point Road (near the Toxteth Hotel) on 7 September at 7pm. There is no need to book, so just turn up and BYO wine. Put Thursday 5 October in your diary too.

Welcome to New Members

The following people were accepted as members of the Glebe Society at the August Management Committee meeting. We look forward to seeing them at future Glebe Society functions.

- Lisa Campano
- Jan Craney
- William Hammond
- Mary Hendriks
- Ian Kolln
- Nicholas Wade
- Peter Thorogood

Mapping The Glebe

Historic maps covering The Glebe are on display in Glebe Library. This is a part of a series of local history exhibits curated especially to celebrate Historyweek.

When: 16 - 24 September during Library hours

Where: Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road

Cost: Free

Want to get your hands in the dirt?

Do you have green fingers and not enough garden to exercise them fully? Come and join the new Pyrmont/Ultimo Urban Landcare Group (PUULG)! We are working along the light rail corridor: near Channel 10 in Pyrmont and around the Wentworth Park light rail station - weeding, planting natives, and encouraging birds back to the area. We welcome new members, and would love to see you at any (or all!) of our working bees: Wednesdays 8.30am to 12.30pm behind the unit blocks in Quarry Master Drive, Sundays 9am to 1pm next to the Wentworth Park light rail stop. Enquiries to Elizabeth 9571 9727, Mary 0410 679 204, John 9566 1664.

Mary Mortimer, Pyrmont/Ultimo Urban Landcare Group

Second Hand Saturday.

If you have any unwanted books, ornaments, furniture or other paraphernalia you would like to get rid of, please contact Elizabeth Elenius who is running a store at "Second Hand Saturday" in Ultimo. Her aim is to raise a little money for the Blackwattle Cove Coalition to spend on printing and other expenses incurred and to increase community awareness of this action group working for the betterment of the Blackwattle Bay foreshore and Wentworth Park.

She can be contacted on 9571 9727 or 0409 552 117.

The City's Grants and Sponsorship Program

Lord Mayor Clover Moore has announced that more than \$1.65 million in cultural development and community service grants will be awarded to 166 organisations this year by the City of Sydney, an increase of \$500,000 from last year.

Grants were made to the following local organisations:

- Centipede
- FLASCA Inc. (Forest Lodge After School Care Association Incorporated)
- Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group (Flag)
- Forest Lodge Public School Parents & Citizens Association
- Glebe Area Tenants Group – for Glebe Estate Children's Christmas Party.
- Glebe Art Show -
- Glebe Chamber of Commerce
- Glebe Police & Community Youth Club - for Touch Football
- St Barnabas Anglican Church
- St James Primary School Glebe

City of Sydney Councillors

Lord Mayor

Clover Moore MLA

Councillors

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

For enquiries:

Please contact the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.



Forest Lodge Public School

*Home of The Glebe
Society Archives*



Phone 9660 3530

For your diary ...

Tuesday 5 September, 6.30 - 8.30pm - *An Inconvenient Truth* - The Palace Cinema, Norton Street, Leichhardt.

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

Wednesday 13 September, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

Tuesday, 19 September, 6.30pm to 8pm, Talk - Shirley Fitzgerald and Max Solling - Glebe Library, 186 Glebe Point Road.

Sunday 24 September, 11.30am - 2pm - Phoenix Rising - from the Ashes - the Glebe Walter Burley Griffin Incinerator, corner Forsyth and Taylor Streets.

3 October – 22 October - Art & About 2006.

Thursday 5 October, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - Dinner at *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 11 October, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members welcome.

Friday 10 November to Sunday 3 December - Glebe Music Festival.

Wednesday 15 November, 7 - 9pm - Glebe Gardens, 1820-2010, Glebe Rowing Club, at the end of Ferry Road.

Sunday 19 November - Glebe Street Fair.

Contacting The Glebe Society

Mail

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Glebe Society Inc
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 email 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 September. The deadline for contributions is **20 September**.

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
	Bill McCarthy 9660 5119	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
Wentworth Park	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Environment and Open Spaces	Bill McCarthy	9660 5119
Glebe Against Global Warming	Bill McCarthy	9660 5119
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

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
Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)	Anne Fraser	9660 7560
Bulletin Editor	Edwina Doe	9660 7066
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	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Liaison with FLAG	Jan Wilson	9660 2698
Publicity	Sue Ingram	9692 8534
Social events	Jeanette Knox	9660 7781
Website	Cynthia Jones	9660 2451

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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

Download a Membership Form from our website (http://www.glebesociety.org.au/AboutTGSI/Membership/Membership_application.pdf).

Or 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

Manager-Neighbourhood Services Centre ; Glebe, Forest Lodge, Camperdown, Ultimo & Pyrmont: Baharak Sahebkhitiari, Phone: 9298 3191, Mob: 0417 426 201

Email: bsahebkhitiari@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Glebe Town Hall Office: 9298 3190 8.30am-5.30pm Mon- Fri
Sydney City Council Customer Service

Telephone (24 hours): 9265-9333

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