



Premier's Community Awards - Three Glebe Society members honoured

From left to right: Ald Robert Webb; The Premier, Morris Iemma; Jane Spring; Joe Mannix; Minister Sandra Nori; Bruce Davis; Cr Verity Firth.
Photo courtesy of the State Government



There was a very pleasant surprise at the Glebe Balmain Community Reception for the NSW Premier and Cabinet Ministers on Monday 20 November. The Premier's Community Awards for community service were announced, and no less than three of the four recipients are members of the Glebe Society. The Glebe Society congratulates them all.

Bruce Davis received his award for service to the community of Glebe with the Glebe Society, working for the preservation of the historically significant suburb of Glebe.

Jane Spring was rewarded for her sporting achievements in rowing and her ongoing promotion of rowing as a sport.

Joe Mannix was honoured for service to the Seniors in Port Jackson, in particular for his work at the Hannaford Seniors Centre and his tireless efforts with Public Housing tenants.

The fourth award was given to Leichhardt Council Alderman **Robert Webb**, for service to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community in the inner western suburbs.

- **Bob Armstrong**

The Massing of the Boats

You'll find an insert in this *Bulletin* drawing your attention to **The Massing of the Boats** on Rozelle Bay at 8-9am on Saturday, 2 December.

This activity is being organised by the rowing and paddling clubs as a part of the ongoing campaign against the proposed Dry Boat Storage and Marina on the northern shore of Rozelle Bay.

While the Glebe Society is fully involved in the campaign, mucking around in boats is not quite

our scene. Our role and that of the other local groups is to lend our support from the shore.

The best way to do this is to meet in large numbers somewhere in the area around Pope Paul VI Park and *Pavillions* to see the skiffs, sculls, dragon boats, outriggers, canoes and kayaks assembling from 8am. Then from 8.30am move with them down Rozelle Bay towards the Annandale end of the bay.



The proposed Dry Boat Storage buildings.
Drawing by David Mander Jones

While The Glebe Society will have banners in place to indicate our involvement and to serve as a focus point for our members, we are not organising any related social activity.

May we be so bold as to suggest you take your breakfast at your favourite Glebe Point Road café on your way home after 9am?

- **John Buckingham**

The State Cabinet comes to visit us

The Glebe Society, CoGG (Coalition of Glebe Groups) and BCC (Blackwattle Bay Coalition) were all well represented at meetings in Leichhardt Town Hall with the Premier and Cabinet Ministers – a first for the area - on Monday 20 November. Our strong opposition to the Dry Boats Storage Development was put separately to Minister Frank Sartor (Planning) and to Minister Joe Tripodi (Ports & Waterways), with senior advisers in tow.

Reports from these three groups are shown below. The outcome of all this lobbying? Few firm promises – but better lines of communication have been established and will be pursued.

- Bob Armstrong

The Glebe Society:

The Glebe against Global Warming sub-committee raised questions about the government's turn-around on extending the BASIX energy efficiency target of 40% to high-rise residential buildings, instead freezing it at the current modest target of 20%. We expressed our concern that this was a missed opportunity to achieve better energy efficiency in high-rise apartments, which currently emit a much higher level of greenhouse gases per person than other forms of housing. Frank Sartor claimed that for technical reasons the 20% target was in fact achieving considerable positive change in energy efficiency. However, he invited us to meet with a senior member of his department to discuss the issue further, and we'll certainly take advantage of this offer.

- Jan Macindoe

Coalition of Glebe Groups

Susie Cleary and Jan Wilson, on behalf of CoGG had an appointment to meet with Cherie Burton, Minister of Housing, to discuss public housing issues in Glebe. Owing to circumstances beyond our control we failed to meet with the Minister and in her place we met with Mike Allen, Director-General of NSW Department of Housing (DOH). Issues raised and discussed were:

DOH Strategic Plan for Glebe. Response to date has been that there are no plans for Glebe, however DOH's submission to City of Sydney's Urban Study indicated that there was a plan in progress. The anomaly was raised and we are seeking further clarification.

Glebe Community Development Project.

This is a joint Project, funded by the University of Sydney and DOH. Current funding finishes at the end of the year. To date the Project has been very successful for empowering DOH tenants and involving them in the community. A request, to be followed up in writing, has been made for ongoing funding.

Collaboration with City of Sydney Council re upgrade of Glebe Point Road and improvement of DOH properties on Glebe Point Road.

Given the amount of money City of Sydney is spending on the upgrade of Glebe Point Road, it was suggested that DOH address the heritage and renovation of their properties. •

Implications of City of Sydney Council's Urban Design Study for DOH property holdings in Glebe.

Some properties on Glebe Point Road sit within commercial zones and close examination is required re suitability for domestic use. Also for consideration is the existing floor space ratio.

Additional matters raised include ongoing funding for Centipede (before school and after school care at Glebe Public School). This project supports underprivileged children living in Glebe. Glebe Youth Service also requires funding for the Year 10 program.

It is still the intention of CoGG to seek a meeting with the minister. In the meantime, letters will be written to the Director-General and CEO of City of Sydney to seek confirmation of our requests.

- Jan Wilson

Blackwattle Cove Coalition

BCC representatives Anne Fraser, Elizabeth Elenius (Pymont) and Mary Mortimer (Ultimo) met with Minister Grant McBride (Gaming & Racing) to try to get

some State Government financial contribution to the replacement of the Sporting Complex walls.

They then met with Sam Haddad (Director General of Planning) plus representatives from SHFA to press the Department of Planning to take the initiative in developing an integrated plan for Wentworth Park and the whole Blackwattle Cove area involving all the various authorities with jurisdiction in the area. They received a positive response from the Director General of Planning and have followed up with an immediate submission to this effect.

Finally BCC met with Minister Tripodi (Ports and Waterways) on matters related to the treatment of the area around the Coal Loader and the Fish Markets. Soon after, Minister Tripodi issued a press release announcing a \$30 million redevelopment of the Blackwattle Bay foreshore which in effect means the State Government has given its sanction to what the NSW Maritime planned to do anyway, ie put the B1 B2 and B3 sites out for Registrations of Interest in the hope that a \$30 million development will occur there (see next page). The State Government are not actually developing the area themselves, but at least this means that they have at last recognised the existence of this area and raised its profile a little. For that it has to be commended.

- Anne Fraser

Terminal abandoned

A plan to build a \$31 million cement terminal at White Bay in Balmain has been withdrawn after the Minister, Frank Sartor, raised "serious concerns" with the developer, Independent Cement and Lime Pty Ltd. The plan caused public outrage. (*SMH* Monday 27 November, page 2.)

Is this a good omen for Rozelle Bay?



A very cluttered Blackwattle Bay. Photo: Edwina Doe

A Blackwattle Cove Coalition update

It is a very exciting time for the Blackwattle Cove area. We seem to be poised on the cusp of interesting changes in the relatively near future.

Here is a brief summary of what is happening.

\$30 million Redevelopment of the Blackwattle Bay Foreshore

On 22 November, the Minister for Ports and Waterways, Mr Joe Tripodi, released a press statement - see the box.

The BCC are delighted with the state Government sanctioning such development of the foreshore. We will still pursue our concern with the linkage area between the Fish Markets and the Coal Bunker where current plans for development are inadequate. This little inlet area is affectionately referred to as the cesspool. It fills with rubbish largely blown in from the harbour. BCC are pushing to broaden it into a boardwalk running flush with the coal bunker site that would operate as a true linkage from the Foreshore Walk to the Fish Markets, passing the coal bunker area and creating a spill out area and a "front door" for the Fish Markets. In addition we are still trying to ensure that the Foreshore Walk and foreshore access remain a viable part of any planning. However, the interest of the State Government is welcomed.

See-through walls at Wentworth Park

A feasibility study is to be carried out into the viability of replacing the ugly, gaol-like walls that surround the Sporting Complex at Wentworth Park and replacing them with see-through walls. This study is a response to the City of Sydney Council's offer to contribute up to \$500,000 to the cost. The feasibility study is a joint commission of the Council and the Sporting Trust. The results of this study should be available next March. The BCC is hopeful that this momentous step, in effect opening up the park visually and making the Dogs a part of the park instead of alienating themselves from it, will occur in the foreseeable future. It would have a great impact in making it a visually more attractive and user-friendly park.



**Minister for Energy
Minister for Ports and Waterways
Minister Assisting the Treasurer on Business
and Economic Reform**

Media Release - 22 November 2006

Blackwattle Bay maritime precinct to be revitalised

NSW State Plan Target P2: Maintain and Invest in Infrastructure in NSW

Ports Minister Joe Tripodi today called for registrations of interest in a multi-million dollar project to revitalise the maritime precinct of Blackwattle Bay.

Mr Tripodi, inspecting the site with the City of Sydney Councillor Verity Firth, said that the project involves the redevelopment of the former coal bunker wharf and gatehouse building, as well as the adjacent commercial wharf and jetty.

"This new project, estimated to be worth \$30 million, will transform the old coal bunker wharf into a vibrant maritime precinct," Mr Tripodi said.

"A foreshore access link will be built across the nearby shallow waterways to provide improved public access and a link to the Sydney Fish Markets.

"The proposed redevelopment, will transform the derelict wharf and coal bunker into a modern, visually pleasing maritime-related facility

"The site's historic and maritime significance will be retained through the refurbishment of the coal bunker and the reinstatement of the former coal unloader gantry crane.

"In addition, the site on the foreshore next to the fish markets will see the construction of a brand new maritime-themed commercial building," he said.

Cr Firth said that the announcement was great news.

"This project will transform the old coal bunker and commercial wharves, providing a significant visual improvement along the Bridge Road streetscape and from the Sydney Fish Market," Cr Firth said.

"The new public access along the Blackwattle Bay foreshore, which will be incorporated into the Woolloomooloo to Glebe foreshore link, is also a great part of the project," she said.

The registrations of interest are expected to close early next year, and redevelopment is expected to be completed by 2009.

Editor's note: The headline to Kate Sullivan's article on p5 of The Glebe, 23 November, is "Marina for Blackwattle Bay". The word "marina" is not mentioned in the Press Release.

Wentworth Park Upgrade

Sydney City Council is to spend \$400,000 on upgrading the park in the southern and northern ends and the list of works was included in a previous *Bulletin*. That work should get underway in the new year.

Hopefully it is the beginning of a whole new phase in the history of this much used and iconic area of Sydney. It is rich with history and has much potential for the residents who live nearby and for commercial and maritime interests. And it is just on our doorstep! The City of Sydney Council is to be commended for its commitment to the area and the state government for its interest which we hope will flow on to a greater sense of commitment here also.



Room for improvement.
Photo: Edwina Doe

- Anne Fraser

The Foreshore Walk is open



Waiting for the opening ceremony

At last, the Glebe Foreshore Walk now links over 27 hectares of open space with a wide, level paved pathway extending more than two kilometres from the Annandale end of Bicentennial Park towards the Sydney Fish Markets at Pyrmont. Also, steps have been installed that give access to the water and these will be extended when the pontoons are installed.

On the afternoon of Saturday 11 November, hundreds of people of all ages, many with their dogs, came from Glebe and beyond. They gathered in perfect weather, greeting old friends and making new ones as they queued for the free plants and sausage sizzle.

The celebration took place on the Anchorage Site on Rozelle Bay. Council's

purchase of the site in 2004 opened up this section of the foreshore for public use.

Council had also finalised negotiations with the developer, Australand, to open a section of the foreshore walk as part of their Glebe Harbour development.

The Walkway was officially opened by the City of Sydney Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, who paid tribute to the tireless work of the many community leaders who had made the day possible. She said "quite simply, the Glebe

foreshore would not be the magnificent series of parks and walkways it is today if it hadn't been for the persistence and commitment of many local residents, particularly the Glebe Society, over many, many years. It is their vision that has delivered this wonderful, greatly improved, foreshore while we at the City of Sydney have worked hard to make this vision come to life".

The Lord Mayor told us that the next stage of the City of Sydney's foreshore work would

be the complete restoration of the historic Victorian Italianate *Bellevue Villa*, constructed in 1892 at what is now Blackwattle Bay Park.

After unveiling the official plaque, the Lord Mayor left the stage and moved to the red gravel *pétanque* courts, where she played the first game, under the tuition of Gary Hosie, of *Boules Artistes*. A *pétanque* court in Glebe has long been a dream of Bruce Davis and other Glebe Society people.

Judging by the level of interest on the opening day, the new Foreshore Walk will rival Bicentennial Park as a place to enjoy our unique suburb.

- Edwina Doe



The Lord Mayor makes the first toss. Gary Hosie of *Boules Artistes* is instructing and Judy Pearson (Glebe Society member and "bouler") is looking on. Photos: Bruce Davis

The GLEBE SOCIETY Christmas Dinner



Last chance to book for the Christmas Party!

Come one, come all, to the Annual Glebe Society Christmas Party on Friday 15 December.

The event should be lots of fun, with a sit down informal dinner, a great game of Trivia to find out just who knows Glebe best, and lots of dancing into the wee early hours. The venue is a mysterious little cottage in Jarocin Avenue which surprisingly has a complete ball room and undercroft to the rear. It is a wonderful secluded piece of history in our midst.

Come and celebrate the end of another year in Glebe and get to know other members of the Glebe Society.

If you have not booked already, please send me an email (herden@pacific.net.au) by Thursday 7 December. This is your last chance to book, as we must finalise the catering.

- Cheryl Herden

The Season's Greetings



The management Committee of the Glebe Society sends best wishes to all Members and friends for the Christmas holiday and the coming year.

And the *Bulletin* Team sends greetings to all our readers. We will be back with you at the end of February for the first *Bulletin* of 2007.

Planning Matters

Home Again

Thanks to Jan Wilson for holding the Society's first line of defence while I was overseas. Imagine our pleasure when we arrived home to discover that the City was revegetating the kerb gardens in our beloved Wigram Road, and there were applications, for 61 and 70, to restore two of its more prominent dwellings! We were also just in time to attend the opening of the Foreshore Walkway and the Glebe Gardens evening at the Rowing Club.

There are no controversial developments in Glebe at the moment apart from the Valhalla, and this is just as well, as the Society has its hands full with the Boat Repair site and the Dry Boat Storage in Rozelle Bay. Christmas is the favourite time for developers to lodge controversial applications, as most potential objectors are away, so I will be keeping a close watch over the next few weeks.

Involving Youth

While in France we were fortunate to participate in not one, but two Harvest Festivals (*Fêtes des Vendanges*). The first was to celebrate the vintage of the only remaining vineyard in Paris, and was held on Montmartre, with every region of France participating. Quite different, but equally spectacular, was the festival in the small seaside town of Banyuls sur Mer, near the Spanish border, where we stayed with friends. This festival, spread over a whole weekend, began with the children from the local primary school treading the new season's grapes, brought from the surrounding vineyards in panniers on the backs of mules. The whole town gathered outside the Post Office, the priest gave a blessing and the older men made a great fuss of the children. The French were acknowledging the importance of involving the next generation in maintaining their traditions.

The Society is making an effort, through the Art and About program and also through its social events, to include both young people and new residents. These efforts deserve our strongest support because they will ensure the Society's values do not die out with the current generation.

Light Rail

It was very noticeable, not only in major cities such as Paris, Berlin and Dresden, but in all the major cities of the Rhine and even in Spain, that public transport systems are being extended and improved, given fresh impetus by the looming fuel crisis. Every large city has a metro or light rail system, and sometimes both. Seville is installing a light rail that operates as a metro as well. Even ultra-capitalist Dubai in the Middle East has an extensive system planned. Wake up, Sydney!

- Neil Macindoe

Glebe Point Road upgrade

On Monday 6 November at Glebe Town Hall, the City of Sydney Council gave a detailed design presentation of the plans for the Glebe Point Road revitalisation.

After an introduction by Robyn Kemmis, Maren Parry, the Council Landscape Architect showed us an interesting series of illustrations of the proposed upgrade, including very realistic digitally produced images of possible alternatives. You can see this presentation on the City website - just Google Glebe Point Road.

The main points to emerge from this presentation were:

- ◆ Undergrounding of power cables from Parramatta Road to Marlborough Street will start in February 2007 and be finished by October 2007. Undergrounding the whole length of Glebe Point Road immediately would take the greater part of the budget.
- ◆ Other work will start in April/May 2007 and finish in the third quarter of 2008.
- ◆ Council will try to minimise disruption to businesses. Lessons have been learned during upgrades of other areas.
- ◆ A shared pedestrian zone is not possible. Glebe Point Road is a main bus

corridor and the RTA requires a maximum of 300 vehicles per day to consider a shared zone.

- ◆ The RTA plan to install traffic lights at the Primary School crossing is strongly opposed.
- ◆ The "No Parking" zones near intersections could be replaced with wider footpaths.
- ◆ The footpath opposite Foley Park would be widened to meet Council standards and the parking spaces there removed. An extra nine parking places could be created in Derwent Street.
- ◆ Sandstone kerbing, which is being restored in the rest of Glebe, is too soft for use in Glebe Point Road, where bluestone is proposed.
- ◆ Cobbles to be used at some intersection, most notably at St Johns Road/Glebe Point Road, to calm traffic.
- ◆ The final choices for street furniture are not yet made, but the alternatives shown were criticised by some people as being too similar to those used in the rest of the City. Council has some contracts to honour, for example the JCDecaux garbage bins, and for maintenance reasons there is

a need for standardisation. However the proposed Smart Poles, designed to remove clutter by combining several functions (lighting, street names, parking notices, bike rings etc) on one pole, are very angular and not in keeping with Glebe's architecture.

- ◆ There was much public support for the Art Competition design by Nuha Saad for a picket fence to replace the cyclone fencing at the Glebe Public School. However the Education Department has rules for school fences. Discussions are continuing.
- ◆ Trees would be planted on the space at the intersection of Glebe Point Road and Parramatta Road.

- ◆ The Jubilee Fountain would be restored and informal tree planting introduced in the square.

Discussions continue over details of the upgrade. We must work together towards achieving the most appropriate outcome. As any home owner knows, a bad renovation can cost as much as a good one but can become a source of disappointment for many years.

- Edwina Doe and Bob Armstrong

Carlton United Breweries site, 26 Broadway

The Glebe Society is supporting the Coalition of Chippendale Groups in its objections to the plans to redevelop the CUB site, which is on our doorstep.

Although it is too late for you to lodge a formal objection (closing date 27 November), here are the main points the Coalition makes against the proposal.

1. The proposal is a gross overdevelopment of the site. both the building height and the density proposed are substantially over what is a reasonable development.
2. The building heights are unacceptably high for a site which should provide a transition from the CBD to the low-rise heritage and largely residential suburb of Chippendale. The use of the widely detested UTS Tower as a reference point to maximise the height is repeating the very planning mistake which allowed that tower to be built in the first place.
3. The excessive density proposed for the site creates unreasonable crowding and loss of environmental amenity on the site with flow-on impact to the rest of Chippendale. Liveability standards on the site are severally compromised by the Expert Advisory Panel's decision to allow hundreds of apartments without the minimal sunlight standards – this breaches the intent and objectives of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, as it compromises the long-term social welfare and environment of the local area and is ecologically unsustainable.
4. The loss of the "Sunlight" building compromises the heritage retention of that group of buildings - leaving what is left as tokenism. The loss of buildings that should be readaptively used and absence of an appropriate contextual interface with the heritage conservation area of Chippendale would be a travesty.
5. The excessive development will promote deleterious traffic effects on surrounding main roads (already

unreasonably busy at times) and in the local streets both within Chippendale and on the site itself.

6. The minimal public green space, such as the "Main Park" which will be largely be in shadow (other than in summer) and represents only about 2% of the gross floor area (based on 245,000 GFA). Allowing so much parking on a site which is so well served by public buses and trains goes against government policy to promote public transport use, instead promoting more car use. Large-scale parking on the site only encourages day parking for city workers and increases traffic locally.

The Coalition also objects to the procedure whereby the Minister has taken over control of the site, and his conflict of interest as the Minister responsible for approving the planning controls for the site, as well as Minister for Redfern Waterloo, where the RWA benefits from the CUB site redevelopment.

More help please for the Glebe Youth Service

While it is providing vital support for the young people in Glebe, the Youth Service is forced to expend energy fighting for funds. After battering at some funding doors, financial support has been found to keep the Year 10 program going into next year in a limited capacity, but for the vital day per week of computer training at TAFE, funding has not been forthcoming.

This hand to mouth existence is draining for everyone connected with the Youth Service. Focus should be directed at providing support for GYS clients rather than on the undermining distraction of fighting for funds.

Roelof Smilde is on the board of directors. He has provided some background information, as well as a form letter to inspire a letter-writing campaign to target various funding bodies.

If you are able to send off letters to the NSW Minister for Education, The Hon Ms Carmel Tebbutt, it would be a great help. Letters to the Premier's Department, DOCS, the Department of Housing, the Attorney-General, the Juvenile Justice Department, NSW Health, Centrelink and

City of Sydney could have a great effect too!

To help you write, a form letter is on our website (www.glebesociety.org.au). Or ask me for a copy.

- Sue Ingram

A summary of the GYS situation

◆ The Glebe Youth Service Year 10 schooling program began when 14 regulars at the youth centre persuaded the co-ordinator to introduce a course that would help them gain the School Certificate. The youths involved had, for a number of different reasons, ceased attending high school and had marked gaps in their literacy and numeracy.

◆ At that stage, late in 2003, the course was unfunded. The co-ordinator, Dorothy Bottrell who was a trained teacher, ran the school with the help of volunteers and material from Distant Education.

◆ In mid 2004 the course gained funding

from TAFE under a start-up program. The school gained a teacher and some support staff under the Outreach 0-TEN program.

◆ Enrolments grew to 35 during the next two years and the course is full at that number. The great majority of the students are from Glebe although there are some referrals from outside the area, and most are Koori.

◆ The TAFE funding ended in June 2006, but representations to DET and TAFE saw an extension until the end of 2006. Despite further representations and a hope for Federal funding under their DEST POEM program no positive results have been achieved.

◆ The GYS program is of great value to the disadvantaged youth of Glebe and to the Glebe community at large. As a pilot in this educational field it has become known and admired in the larger Sydney area. It is also great value for money - \$120,000 per annum covers all aspects of the course.

- Roelof Smilde

The Environment

Glebe against Global Warming

Things move quickly in the global warming debate. There has been a minor epiphany on this issue in the Federal Government, and particularly for John Howard. John has finally agreed that something needs to be done about global warming. However, he has decided to use a debate on nuclear power as a means to delay development of a comprehensive strategy to combat the problem. Even his own experts agree that nuclear power is at least 15 years away and is only economic if carbon trading on a large scale is implemented.

If we wait 15 years for nuclear power (and it can only supply 30% of our energy needs) we will have waited too long. It is therefore very important for all of us to press our politicians to implement other sources of alternative energy in the next 10 years, ie to initiate massive solar, wind and geothermal energy developments, while undertaking research and development on clean coal technologies. Furthermore, there should be a moratorium on any further coal-fired power plants until zero emission technology has been developed.

As individuals, we can make substantial contributions to reducing CO₂ emissions

with quite simple techniques. We can use our legs and public transport instead of our cars, we can acquire solar hot water systems, we can turn down or turn off appliances, particularly air conditioners, when they are not needed, and we can encourage energy efficiency in our workplaces, in our schools, shopping centres and in public buildings. We can spend less time in the shower, fit a water efficient shower head and turn down the temperature of our hot water systems. We can insulate our houses and we can sign up for accredited "green power". We can join tree planting programs and plant trees ourselves in our yards.

There are elections coming up for our State and Federal politicians. We should make it clear to our candidates that only those who have comprehensive and mandatory environmental policies will receive our vote.

Many environmental organisations have developed policies to combat global warming. We should do what we can to support these organisations.

- Bill McCarthy, Convenor, GaGW

Selecting suitable plants for your garden

The *Sydney Water* website has a plant selector to assist people with appropriate plant selection.

It is a very comprehensive list of trees, shrubs and groundcovers, which includes exotic plants and native plants suitable for the Sydney basin. However, it is important to remember that within Glebe there are variations of soil types, aspect and microclimates. It is also important to remember that when using the term "Australian native plants", it must refer to a specific region of our vast continent. Plants from Western Australia are as exotic to the east coast of NSW as plants introduced from anywhere else in the world. Australia is firstly a continent, with a diverse range of climates, soil types and

topography. It is coincidental that it also happens to be one nation.

Other important points for consideration are the availability in local nurseries of plants that have been listed and checking appropriateness with a qualified horticulturalist.

How to use the website - www.sydneywater.com.au/SavingWater/PlantSelector

Select a suburb and then choose the category you are interested in, such as tree, shrub or groundcover. It is then possible to compile a list of suitable plants. It is not an infallible method and is only suggested as a guide.

- Jan Wilson

Walk against Warming

International Day of Action on Climate Change, Saturday 4 November

Perversely, there was not much warming in evidence as 40,000 concerned but chilly Sydney folk congregated at Martin Place on a cool and rainy Saturday recently to join in the Nature Conservation Council's "Walk against Warming". The purpose of the walk was to send a message to Canberra that many, if not most, of us are seriously concerned about the alarming speed of global warming and about the disastrous consequences lying in wait for us.

Judging by the sentiments expressed on T-shirts and placards, and the enthusiastic response given the various speakers, there seems to be a fair amount of concern also that the Federal and State Governments are asleep at the wheel regarding climate change, failing to ratify the Kyoto Agreement, cheerfully exporting vast amounts of coal to China, and failing to adequately address Sydney's growing transport and air pollution problems. There was widespread rage about the ongoing reluctance to extend the light rail to Circular Quay – OK, just me is it?

It was a very civilised and positive protest, although there were no doubt strong sentiments behind the waggish placards proclaiming "Howard is a Fossil Fool", "Abandon the coal-ition" and "Sequestrate the PM".

After some stirring speeches from Greens Senator Bob Brown, NSW ALP MP Anthony Albanese, John Robertson (Unions NSW) and Cate Faehrmann, Walk Against Warming organiser and director of the Nature Conservation Council, we marched, brollies aloft, around to the Tarpeian Way via George and Alfred Streets, where more speeches were made, including one by Greenpeace campaigns manager, Danny Kennedy. The success of the Walk in gaining media exposure for the cause seemed to be evident in the number of TV helicopters and camera crews present - Cate Blanchett and your Glebe reporter keeping an equally low profile.

- Helena Klijn

A bone of contention – the Wireless House in Foley Park

The Wireless House in Foley Park was built by Glebe Municipal Council in 1934, and the wireless set installed and launched in February the following year (see Bulletin 8/2003 pp5-6).

The Design Report on Foley Park prepared by Aspect Sydney for the City of Sydney Council and presented in July 2006, included a preferred option for the Wireless House which would create a plinth on the existing site, with the top surface containing interpretive text explaining its former function. The plinth would have an audio installation (possibly movement or touch activated), and a wireless modem to allow free internet access for park users. The audio installation would include broadcasts from the 1930s.

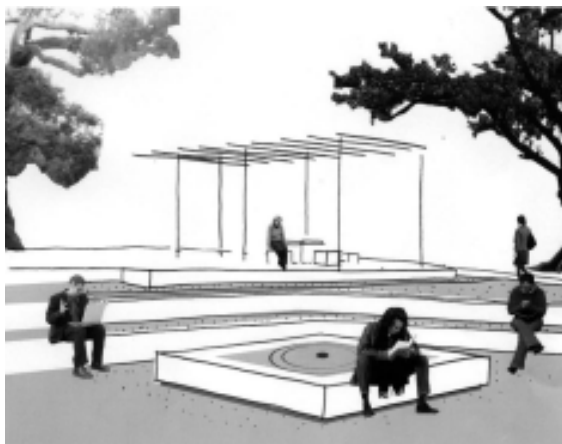
“This preferred option allows the location and function of the Wireless House to be recognised/understood, whilst removing the visual obtrusion of the existing building. Views over the proposed plinth will be possible to all parts of the park. The plinth will provide additional incidental seating opportunities” (Design Report, Aspect Sydney Pty Ltd).

This draft design for the Park was displayed for comment at a community meeting on 29 July (see *Bulletin* 7/2006, p2). The Foley Park Working Group advised Council of its “wholehearted” approval and support for this preferred option, as it retained both the history and the function of the 1930s Wireless House, updated to the 21st century.

The Council received 13 other responses in relation to the Wireless House: eight were strongly against its demolition, three supported the interpretative plinth proposal, and two suggested relocation within the park. The objections were heartfelt, and based primarily on its unique function, and its historical significance to Glebe.

Then came the Glebe Point Road Upgrade Public Art project and, at the community meeting on 6 November, we were advised that a proposal from Dr Nigel Helyer to “retain and refurbish the original structure” was being recommended to Council, though comments were still being invited.

Subsequently there was a small meeting on 16 November of concerned advocates and objectors to replacing the Wireless House structure with an interpretative plinth, as well as members of the panel advising Council on public art. Everyone



Graphic from the Design Report on Foley Park, July 2006, courtesy of City of Sydney Council

stated their reasons persuasively, and no opinions were altered!

There was, however, general concern that the public art proposals had come after the detailed design for the Park which had been through many community consultations; and the view was expressed that a park should be designed *in conjunction* with a work of art, rather than the artwork being imposed on the park’s (near final) design.

There was unanimous agreement to there being an audio installation connected with the Wireless House. It was felt by some that if Council decided to keep the structure for historical reasons, it should be retained as it is, without any embellishment or disguise.

I think I can say that collectively we agreed that Council’s design team should first decide whether or not to retain the existing Wireless House structure *in situ* – and if so, its close proximity to the Hereford House interpretation, and its place in the general park design, should be resolved.

To date, the D/A for the upgrade of Foley Park has not been lodged.

- Bobbie Burke, for the Foley Park Working Group

More information and details can be obtained from the Foley Park Working Group:

David Mander Jones - 9552 4172

Ian Jones - 9660 2451

Bobbie Burke - 9692 0343.

You can email your opinion to Mukesh Malhotra, Project Manager,

mmalhotra@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Contact him by phone - 9246

7768, fax - 9265 9116 or mail -

GPO Box 1591 Sydney NSW 2001.



Object gardens - sculpture “garden”, Queen Street



Roof garden, St Johns Road



Big effect with one plant, Cowper Street

Photos: Jan Craney



Ross Ingram speaking at the Garden Forum.
Photo: Bruce Davis

Glebe Matters

Another successful Glebe Street Fair



Jan buys a raffle ticket from Jeanette Knox



A happy crowd.
Photo: Jan Wilson

Once again the Glebe Society had a presence at the Fair Day, on Sunday 19 November. The aim as always was to promote the positive work that members of the Society do in the community.

This year there were display boards demonstrating achievements over the years, in addition to the Glebe Point Road hessian bags, promotional material and membership information.

A very positive response was gained to the sale of raffle tickets for *Centipede*, a before-school and after-school centre which runs at Glebe Public School. Money raised at our Fair Day stall exceeded \$500.

Centipede is a centre that provides breakfast for underprivileged children to enable them to learn. Then, in the afternoon, it provides after-school care and

another meal. The centre is supervised by paid staff and managed by a board of volunteers. The organisation is constantly seeking financial support and any donations would be greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Susie Cleary on 9660 4189.

I would like to thank the volunteers who set up the stall and worked tirelessly in promoting the Glebe Society's efforts.

- Jan Wilson

Forum - Glebe Gardens 1820 – 2010

"Your garden is whatever you want it to be" was the common message from the three panellists at the Garden Forum organised by the Glebe Society at the Glebe Rowing Club on 15 November. Each speaker stressed individuality, appropriateness to the site and aspect, and creating your own space. However, the practicalities were also outlined, from the choice of trees for small gardens to the importance of soil, and options for saving and storing water.

A local Glebe resident, at the end of the evening, reinforced the theme of individuality, through a series of photos illustrating the wonderful, idiosyncratic nature of small Glebe gardens.

More than 70 Glebe Society members and friends attended the Forum in a beautiful setting at Glebe Rowing Club overlooking Blackwattle Bay and the city skyline at dusk, with vases of Australian wildflowers in the foreground.

The panellists spoke from historical, horticultural and design perspectives:

- ◆ James Broadbent, an architect/historian and restorer of the garden of The Retreat in Glebe, suggested that people should look at what is already growing well in the gardens and parks nearby, those plants and trees that have a history of survival - including the frangipani! He also advocated simplicity, and plants as individual features rather than over-kill.
- ◆ Ross Ingram, horticulturist at Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens, gave an overview of the steps in designing and planting a garden, with many great practical suggestions. He also took us through a photographic tour of Glebe, pointing out good and bad examples of plantings, especially trees. (Ross left behind the bushfire threat at Mt Tomah to participate in the Seminar, returning to the area late that same night – we really appreciated his effort).
- ◆ Matt Cantwell, a landscape designer, commented on the relationship between the client/garden owner and the designer and the lack of proscription on what a garden should be. He showed beautiful examples of garden

design for particular purposes, including for children.

- ◆ Jan Craney's photographs of tiny Glebe gardens - humorous and insightful - delighted the audience.

Lively discussion, chaired by Anne Fraser and summarised by Maren Parry, landscape architect at the City of Sydney Council, raised issues of the use of water tanks, trees that might frame rather than block water views, and plant homogeneity/variety.

The Glebe Garden Forum was organised to:

- inspire individual garden owners
- enhance the greening of our Glebe village and to
- encourage the use of water saving systems, as responsible citizens.

We plan to hold further seminars on garden themes. Please let us know if you are interested.

- Dorothy Davis

PTO for details of the raffle prize winners.

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 December at 7pm. There is no need to book, so just turn up and BYO wine.

We will try something new next year - a different restaurant or hotel each month. On Thursday 1 February we will have dinner at *Almustafa* Lebanese Restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Road. The restaurant is BYO only, and does not charge corkage.

Welcome to New Members

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

- Heather Barclay
- Anthony Barham
- Robert Curry
- Annette & Joseph Fliegner
- Alanna O'Meara
- Lisa Mulligan
- Arran Pearson
- Gregor & Dinh Ptok
- Debra Stewart

Garden Forum raffle winners

Congratulations to the winners, drawn at the event. And many thanks to the individuals and businesses who donated the prizes.

- * Cheryl Herden, Glebe: Three day stay at a Leura cottage (donated by Anne Fraser)
- * Annabel Davis, Marrickville: Wollemi Pine (Annandale Garden Centre)
- * Cheryl Herden, Glebe: Floral design lesson (Yuga)
- * Joe Fleigner, Glebe: Spring flowers - (Pearsons Florist)
- * Margaret Jones, Annandale: Voucher for flowers or plants (Michael's Flowers + Supermarket)
- * Cynthia Jones, Glebe: Picnic hamper voucher (Blackwattle Deli)
- * Sheryn Craig, Glebe: Worm Farm (City of Sydney Council)

Local Area Traffic Meeting, Thursday 7 December

There will be a Community Forum at Glebe Town Hall on Thursday 7 December, 6-8.30pm, to discuss the local area traffic plan.

This meeting is timely, as the Glebe Point Road upgrade and changes to local traffic are interlinked and can't be considered separately. Members are urged to attend.

Business Census Underway

The City of Sydney commenced the largest and most comprehensive census of buildings, businesses, floor space uses and employment numbers ever conducted in the CBD and neighbouring suburbs on Monday 20 November.

The Floor Space and Employment Survey is conducted every five years to provide detailed information on the amount of commercial space and types of businesses.

Research from the Floor Space and Employment Survey will guide the City's strategic planning activities, Sydney 2030 Strategy and will create a profile of the social, economic and physical structure of land use and populations.

2RPH - Radio Print Handicapped

Every day, volunteers at Radio Station 2RPH read from the day's newspapers. Our listeners include people with vision problems or who can't hold a newspaper or are driving their cars.

Radio 2RPH broadcasts from the St Helen's Centre in Glebe, next door to Benledi.

If you would like to take part in an audition to become a volunteer on-air reader, or work behind the scenes as a bookkeeper or to help in any other way, please contact the Station Manager, Noel Castley, on 9518 8811.

Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please tell editor@glebesociety.org.au.

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 ...

Saturday 2 December, 8 - 9am - The Massing of the Boats. Meet other Glebe Society members near Pope Paul VI Park.

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

Thursday 7 December, 6-8.30 pm - Community Forum - Local Area Traffic Plan - Glebe Town Hall.

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

Friday 15 December, 7pm to whenever - Glebe Society Christmas Party Dinner, 11 Jarocin Avenue.

Monday 25 December - Happy Christmas.

Monday 1 January - and a busy New Year.

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

Thursday 1 February, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - Dinner at Almustafa Lebanese Restaurant, 23 Glebe Point Road. BYO.

Wednesday 14 February, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members are welcome.

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 February. The deadline for contributions is **21 February**.

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: Dorothy Davis 9660 7873 Anne Fraser 9660 7560
Simon Fraser 9660 7560 Jan Macindoe 9660 0208 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

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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 Sahebekhtiari, Phone: 9298 3191, Mob: 0417 426 201

Email: bsahebekhtiari@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@cityof sydney.nsw.gov.au

website: www.cityof sydney.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.

Waterway Garbage: NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592