



Election '07 - We met the candidates

Over sixty Balmain Electorate voters came to Forest Lodge Primary School on Wednesday 7 March to meet four of the candidates for the election on 24 March. They were Peter Shmigel (Liberal), Verity Firth (Labor), Jane Ward (Independent) and Rochelle Porteous (Greens). There were two other candidates, Edward Okulicz (Australian Democrats) and Jane Hyde (Independent) but as their nominations were not announced until 9 March, we were unable to invite them.

The meeting, chaired by Glebe Society President Jan Macindoe, provided an excellent opportunity to meet and compare the candidates. In the first hour, each of them spoke for 15 minutes, telling us about themselves and giving their responses to a series of questions which we had sent them a few days earlier.

Bruce Davis used his laptop computer to record these speeches which, in a great new use of the Glebe Society website, could be heard in full in the comfort of your own home, a few days after the meeting.

In the second part of the meeting, Jan read out questions from the floor. Although many questions were addressed to just one candidate, it soon became obvious that everyone wanted to answer them all.

We thank the candidates, the staff at Forest Lodge Primary School, the members who helped to set up and clear the room, and everyone else who attended, for contributing to such a successful evening.

-Edwina Doe

Room for all on the Bay - NSW Maritime

NSW Maritime has told The Glebe Society that the proposed dry boat storage will have minimal impact on the southern part of Rozelle Bay used by rowers and paddlers, and that there is room for all on the bay.

Turn to page 7 for a full report.



**Anzac Day Service
War Memorial
Foley Park
25 April 7.30am
All welcome**



The winner, Cr Verity Firth. Photo: Bruce Davis

Promises, promises ...

As readers will be aware, Cr Verity Firth (ALP) won the seat of Balmain at the recent election and will become our local Member of Parliament. Cr Firth was one of four aspiring parliamentarians who attended the "Meet the Candidates" evening organised by the Glebe Society and during the evening she addressed many issues of local and State-wide concern.

We report here some of her thoughts so that members can monitor her progress over the next four years, and if necessary give her a gentle prod by reminding her of what she promised as a mere candidate.

Development of the Bays

Cr Firth promised to fight for the defeat of the dry boat storage proposal. She supported the bays continuing as a maritime industrial precinct together with continued use by rowers, dragon boaters and kayakers.

She described the proposed dry boat storage as a "complete anathema to the concept of maritime or working harbour use". It was a complete waste of valuable foreshore land, and was too large for Blackwattle Bay. The bay was already completely busy with motorised craft and had reached saturation point. Powerboats driven at the speed limit that applies on the bays created a massive wash, and there was limited existing harbour space for passive recreation.

Cr Firth said that millions of dollars had been spent on the foreshore walk and "we don't want a massive powerboat storage facility

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Promises, promises ...

opposite such a lovely piece of green space”.

Cr Firth was questioned on the planning and future development of the Blackwattle Cove precinct (Blackwattle Bay foreshores, Wentworth Park and the surrounding streets), and whether she would support the State Government contributing to the demolition of the walls surrounding the greyhound track. She replied that the government was developing the Blackwattle Bay wharves in accordance with a masterplan that included community access. She believed this was important with regard to the completion of the foreshore walk to Woolloomooloo, particularly the section

between Glebe and the Fish Markets. The masterplan did not allow for residential development. She supported demolition of the Wentworth Park walls so residents and visitors could enjoy the vista across the park to the water, and advocated both State and Council funding for this project.

Transport and Traffic

Cr Firth supported an extension of light rail along Hickson Road as part of the East Darling Harbour development, and believed this might generate capital for the light rail company to fund an extension of the system to the west.

She said the redeveloped Leichhardt bus depot would house Australia’s lowest greenhouse emitting bus fleet and provide more buses for the inner-west, and supported the development of cycle and pedestrian pathways.

Cr Firth described Bridge Road as a “long-term problem”. The idea of blocking off Bridge Road near the Fish Markets was attractive but you had to be careful about such proposals because of the impact they may have elsewhere in Glebe. But there was no reason why heavy truck traffic should use Bridge Road as there were major arterial roads on both sides – Parramatta Road and the City West Link.

She supported traffic calming measures and lower speed limits on Bridge Road.

She also supported the installation of flashing lights outside the Forest Lodge School to improve pedestrian safety.

Family support and child care

Cr Firth described child care as fundamental to the ability of women to participate in the workforce. The changing demographic of the inner-west area required:

- more child care places,
- improved school infrastructure, and
- more green space, and the defence of existing green space.

The Federal and State Governments needed to cooperate in developing a comprehensive child care system. There



President Jan Macindoe introduces question time. Photo: Bruce Davis

also was a big role for local government, eg in establishing a centralised waiting list.

The Glebe Estate

Residents should have the services they need, their homes should be properly maintained, residents should be treated with dignity by government agencies and be safe and secure from crime.

The State Government would provide an additional 163 public housing units in the inner-west.

Global warming

Cr Firth said the Government had established strict targets to reduce greenhouse gasses – cutting back to 2000 levels by 2025 and by 60% by 2050. It had also set a mandatory renewable energy target of 15% by 2020, and established a \$310m climate change fund that would enable rebates to be paid to households for installing water and energy saving devices.

Labor promised to recycle 100 billion litres of water a year through various schemes.

Planning

Cr Firth was questioned on the Minister for Planning’s power to “call in” development proposals. She replied that in general she favoured keeping the power with local councils but there would be circumstances where it would be necessary to take things out of the hands of corrupt or incompetent councils. She also believed it was necessary that the Minister have the power to call in certain projects of State and regional significance, especially major infrastructure projects that were environmentally sensitive.

Even when a development was called in, the community should not give up on

“good old fashioned people power.” There were still mandatory exhibition periods and the law required that the Minister respond to submissions. This was how the community got a number of

conditions attached to the Anzac Bridge slipways project.

Councillor v local MP

When asked whether she would continue as a councillor if elected to the Legislative Assembly, Cr Firth said there were a lot of synergies between being a member of parliament and a local councillor. However she would not run again for council in 2008 although she would continue as a councillor until her term expired in order to avoid an expensive by-election.

Harold Park tramsheds

When asked about the Harold Park Tramsheds, Cr Firth described the buildings as having heritage significance. She would like to see them become creative spaces, like the Blackwattle Studios once were. Another possible use was as a tram museum. The City Council and the State government needed to work together on this issue.

- Bruce Davis

Bellevue Opening Ceremony

Saving our heritage is up to all of us



The elegant style of the official opening of Bellevue, on Saturday 3 March, was in keeping with appearance of the building itself.

Those who arrived early enough sat at tables with covered with gleaming white tablecloths. Smartly dressed waiters served them champagne cocktails and delicate finger food, while a string ensemble played classical music. Later arrivals helped themselves to sandwiches and bottled water, and sat on the grass.

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, welcomed everybody and talked about the history of the house. She then unveiled a plaque and cut the red satin ribbon at the door to open the house officially. We were then invited to walk through the house, which has been carefully restored. The old paint on some walls has been left exposed, showing the layers of the house's past appearance. Photos, some of them from



One of the refreshment tables.

Photos by Renato Grome, courtesy of City of Sydney Council.

Some of the of the 2000 strong crowd.



The Lord Mayor cutting the ribbon

Max Solling's collection, helped us to understand the house's place in the history of Glebe. Four members of the Glebe Society, identified by red roses, stood by to answer visitors' questions about *Bellevue*.

On leaving the house, we signed the Visitor's Book and were given commemorative bookmarks.

Duncan Fine, Senior Media Officer at the City of Sydney, says that the unofficial count put the crowd on the day at 2000.

The next step will be to welcome new tenants to Bellevue and to see the building put to an appropriate use.

-Edwina Doe

The Heritage Sub-committee has not met since I replaced David Mander Jones in the role of convenor. Therefore, except for saying on behalf of the committee, "David, thank you for your work in heritage and thank you for continuing as a member of the sub-committee", much of what I have to say is general and occasionally personal.

Most members of the Glebe Society record an interest in heritage when they are surveyed. I suspect many would agree with me when I say we are only minding Glebe for later generations. From that perspective individuals can consider the effect today's actions may have. They are guided in this by planning and heritage legislation, and government agencies. Perhaps, they should also be reminded by the Glebe Society that their action or inaction can affect our village strategically.

Each of you can no doubt name several buildings that seem to be suffering demolition by neglect. In many cases, there are perfectly legitimate reasons why our neighbours are not attending to their property. From a heritage point of view, and a neighbourly point of view, we must do all we can to preserve our buildings and streetscapes. We all have a duty to conserve Glebe's unique character. It is our duty to remind property owners that our village is a conservation area and that they have responsibilities to ensure our future generations also have the opportunity to connect with their past.

If you send me an email at mSCO@bigpond.net.au with details of these neglected sites, I will let you know what we have done about them in the next *Bulletin*.

Notice I have said, "What we have done". I do not mean the sub-committee, I mean all those who live in Glebe.

-Dianne Gray

Convenor, Heritage sub-committee

We thank David Mander-Jones for his valuable contribution as Heritage Convenor and Dianne for taking over the important role.

The Glebe Society and *Bellevue* - a history

1892: The house overlooking Blackwattle Bay at Glebe Point was designed by Sydney architect Ambrose Thornley Junior and built for a wealthy Sydney businessman. For many years it was known as *Venetia*, but this was a different house, long since demolished. It is a significant building, and the only one of its kind now in the area.

1973: as part of the “agreed in principle” package with Leichhardt Council, Parkes Development, which was building the units facing on to the Bay, was to retain and restore ‘*Venetia*’ for community use.

1975: despite the agreement, illegal demolition within the house began in October 1975, but was stopped by members of the Glebe Society. It was later claimed that this was a mistake made by members of the demolition team while the sub-contractor was out of town. Serious damage was done, however.

1976: The Glebe Society urged Council to pursue the development of community uses for the building, and to ensure that the developers secured the property against vandalism. The then Town Clerk claimed it was not his responsibility. The Society believed Council should have told him that it was.

1979: Hillary Hewitt produced an excellent study of Blackwattle Bay Park and *Venetia*.

1981: “*Venetia*” continued to be a problem. Parkes Development accepted no responsibility for it, and Council would not consider spending money on it unless local residents put up a viable proposal for its use. Circulation of Hillary’s report could have been a means of stimulating discussion.

1982: a committee of local residents took part in negotiations with Council and Parkes Development, as a result of which work was begun on turfing and planting in the Park, *Venetia* was fenced off and planting and paving around it was completed. Later in the year Council took control of *Venetia* and made plans to restore it, allocating \$19,000 for works, which was to be matched dollar for dollar by the Heritage Commission.

1983: the President’s annual report was able to say that: “*Venetia*, the historic house in the Park, has been considerably restored during the past year, and the

Committee has been exploring with Council means by which the Society can have access to *Venetia*. We are hoping to have a room for meetings, storage of records, and, hopefully make available to members the many publications and reports received.”

1984: Further restoration was delayed for lack of funds.

1985: The future of “*Bellevue/Venetia*” appeared clearer. In 1984 the Society had surveyed local residents and community organisations and offered their collated suggestions to Council, who prepared preliminary sketch plans. A scheme for funding was also presented to Council. However, later in the year expectations that an agreement had been reached on public uses for the upstairs section of *Bellevue* and a caretaker’s flat below were dashed. “... Alderman Thompson, who enjoys the distinction of representing Glebe without ever having received a single vote, has let power go to his head and objected to the proposal ... He feels he wasn’t sufficiently consulted.”

1989: Council again moved on *Bellevue* and called for expressions of interest. These included one from the Society of Authors and eight restaurant/function proposals. Council prepared a brief which included a public wharf to encourage waterborne access to *Bellevue* and reduce the impact of traffic and parking. The Blackwattle Bay sub-committee considered that a more appropriate siting for a wharf would be the end of Glebe Point Road. It sought a compromise scheme which would lease *Bellevue* to the Society of Authors for a moderate period but also include lease of the lower section as a tea-room, thus providing a reasonable return to Council. Motions opposing any restaurant development that would increase traffic and noise, and supporting the Society of Authors’ lease were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

1990: DA presented to Council for restoration of *Bellevue* by Glebe-based conservation architect Otto Cserhalmi. It was to incorporate a 50-seat restaurant and kitchens on the top floor, and on the lower floor, public lavatories, a caretaker’s flat, storage area and a tea-room kiosk plus outdoor seating. Financial viability of this small restaurant would have been

supported by provisions to supply a cruise boat from a jetty near the southern end of the building, and for the arrival of most customers by courtesy boat from the Fish Markets (rather than by road). Public access to *Bellevue* would be available while the restaurant was open. The Society supported this proposal at the time on the grounds that this was likely to be the smallest available commercial development that would be viable, and that public funds were unlikely to be available to restore the building for community uses.

1991: Council approved the proposal.

1994: DA advertised. In mid 1994 the Glebe Society opposed the restaurant development, and suggested an alternative use for the building (kiosk, public toilets, park equipment storage, local environmental museum). Another proposal from a private citizen was to lease *Bellevue* from Council, restore it and use it as a private home with designated “open days”. In her Year in Review, Senior Vice President Marianne von Knobelsdorff commented that “Council appears to have painted itself into a corner here. Notwithstanding the fact that the original DA for a restaurant had expired, Council signed a lease with the developer subject to a DA, the Council being the consent authority! The problem is that local residents are not nearly as well disposed to a restaurant as they may have been 3-4 years ago, largely because of developments which have taken place in the meantime, such as the rezoning and proposed redevelopment of the Harbour Lighterage site.”

2003: *Bellevue* was still in limbo, looking more dilapidated by the day. This was one of the issues the Society was pushing for as a matter of priority in any talks with the new consent authority, the City of Sydney.

2005: *Bellevue* was included in the City of Sydney’s \$15.1 million plans to redevelop Glebe Foreshore. *Bellevue*’s renovation completed Stage 3 of six stages of the upgraded Foreshore from Bicentennial Park in the West to the Fish Markets in the East.

2007: The newly renovated *Bellevue* was opened by Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP on 3 March.

- Jeanette Knox

Wireless House to stay in Foley Park

I attended the meeting of Council's Planning Development and Transport Committee on Monday 26 March, which considered the Development Application for Foley Park.

The DA contained the following recommendation regarding the Wireless House:

"The Wireless House is to be retained *in situ* (and repaired where necessary) and an appropriate heritage interpretation/public/art strategy applied to the building."

As members of the public are invited to address councillors, I took the opportunity to advise the Committee of the background of the Glebe Society's Foley Park Group, from its beginnings in late 2002 (with Leichhardt Council) until the present.

I particularly wanted to make the point that we felt that the process in relation to the upgrade of the Park had fallen down. The whole of 2006 (after the Plan of Management had been approved) was spent in developing the concept and detailed design – all involving exhaustive study, numerous arrangements, solving conflicting needs, whether it be in lighting, security, location of seating, toilets, children's play space and including the reluctant decision to remove the physical presence and dominance of the Wireless House structure – but not its history and function, which was to be interpreted with a new plinth on the site, with an audio installation, together with a wireless modem to allow free internet access for park users.

All this led to an accepted design – accepted by the public through on-going consultation – that therefore should have simply required a tick at DA presentation.

But in the last couple of weeks, strong and heartfelt opposition to the removal of the Wireless House was received and

Council, in just these few short weeks before presentation of the DA, and without any further public consultation, resolved to reinstate what had been seen by Council planning staff, consultants, and many members of the public, as an element too physically dominant to be successfully allowed to stay.

We do think it is a mistake. Hopefully we will be proved wrong, and maybe the intended public art will soften the dominance of the Wireless House. This said, and as we are happy with the remainder of recommendations included in the DA, we urge Council to approve the plans, and move to an early commencement date.

Cr Robyn Kemmis acknowledged that there had been some convolutions in Council's handling of the process. Jan McCullough expressed her opinion that the art work proposed for the Wireless House could raise its stature and profile, and make it a tourist attraction. Jan Macindoe, the Society's President, asked if the public could see proposals for the art work.

- **David Mander-Jones for the Foley Park Working Group**



The Wireless House in Foley Park. Photo Edwina Doe

Changes afoot at Wentworth Park

The Wentworth Park Sporting Trust have approved plans to upgrade the entrance to the Sporting Complex below the Tower opposite St Johns Road. The Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC) were shown the DA approved drawings last month. The work has gone out to tender and it is hoped it might happen later this year.

The project involves the removal of the walls and all the redundant buildings below the Tower between the Grandstand and the heritage kennels. The old, now unused, Tote goes and the walls are replaced with see-through heritage era palisade fencing. The old Tote area is to be landscaped.

The Trust is made up of 12 board members: representatives of the two greyhound associations, the Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) and National Coursing Association (NCA), representatives of the community, business, NSW Department of Lands and the Sydney City Council. The Trust is chaired by Susie Cleary.

This development should make a remarkable difference to this ugly section of the park and open up the complex to view. It will have a much more community friendly presence in the Park.

The Trust is to be congratulated on this very positive initiative.

BCC also noted with interest recently that the agenda for the Environment and Heritage Committee of the City Council, in making recommendations regarding the Open Space and Recreation Needs Study, notes:

"... the strategic directions for Wentworth Park have been amended to emphasise the need to progress the master planning and upgrade of the northern and southern sections of the park without waiting for the relocation of the greyhound facility. The need for visual and physical connections from the Park to the Blackwattle Bay Wharves is also included."

- **Anne Fraser, Convenor, BCC**

Getting to know the Dogs

BCC policy is to accept the presence of the Dogs in Wentworth Park until their lease expires in 20 years' time.

Many members of the BCC committee met for a social evening at the Dogs on Saturday 10 March. The Wentworth Park Sporting Trust invited them to dinner in a box overlooking the track. They had a wow of a time and more importantly, made contact with the president of the National Coursing Association. They tried to break down the mental walls so that the physical ones might be more easily demolished.

This document should be read in association with the Society's Bays and Foreshores Policy and the charter of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition. These documents are available on the Society's website.

Wentworth Park - Draft Policy Statement

The draft Policy Statement below was presented to the Glebe Society Management Committee meeting on 14 March 2007. If there are no objections from members the draft will become official policy. Please send any comments to the Secretary.

The Glebe Society is one of the contributing members of the Blackwattle Cove Coalition which is comprised of the community and commercial representatives from Pyrmont, Ultimo and Glebe. Its aim is to work in consultation with the Wentworth Sporting Park Complex Trust, the City of Sydney and the various State Government Departments involved in planning the future of the Blackwattle Bay foreshores and contiguous areas, particularly Wentworth Park (an area referred to as "Blackwattle Cove").

Wentworth Park

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

The Glebe Society believes that ultimately Wentworth Park should be returned as a recreational space for use by the increasing number of residents in the adjacent suburbs.

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

1. In the longer term, the entire Park should be placed under the control and management of a single authority. Adequate funds should be provided

for the ongoing maintenance of the Park. No part of the Park should be subject to the control of a special interest group.

2. In accordance with the Crown Lands Act, the Wentworth Park Sporting Trust has granted a licence to the Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (GBOTA) and the National Coursing Association (NCA) which permits greyhound



Photo: Bruce Davis

racing at certain times within the Sporting Complex. Those greyhound organisations have a right to renew this licence once more for another 20 years in 2007. Therefore Greyhounds have a right to operate in the Sporting Complex until 2027. In the meantime BCC will attempt to work with the racing clubs and the Sporting Complex Trust to achieve greater public access to the central section of the park, and physical changes to this section aimed at visually reuniting the park and creating a less alienating environment.

3. Following community consultation, a Plan of Management for Wentworth Park should be adopted and implemented. The Plan should address the following and incorporate short term and long term concepts:
 - a. Eventual removal of all non-heritage buildings and structures in the short term and in the long term the removal of the grandstand.
 - b. Restoration of the railway viaduct (so

that all under-arch in-fills are removed) in the short term.

- c. Restoration and suitable adaptive re-use of historic buildings. This may involve their use to support the recreational activities in the Park.
- d. Redesign of the northern section of the park, Bridge Road, and the Blackwattle Bay wharves so the park links directly with the foreshore walkway and Fish Market
- e. Preparation of a complete landscape design for the park, including the location and selection of tree plantings, walkways and sporting ovals.
- f. Development of safe and easy pedestrian access to the park from each of the adjacent suburbs, particularly Pyrmont and Ultimo.
- g. Car parking should be prohibited within the boundaries of the park.
- h. An ongoing community consultation to ensure that a wide range of recreational uses for the Park is maintained. The communities' needs vary from passive quiet areas where residents can relax, to active recreational sections that could include jogging tracks and ovals.

Blackwattle Bay Foreshore

The Society's Bays and Foreshores policy covers Blackwattle Bay. Specific issues identified by BCC that the Society agrees should be addressed as a priority are:

- ◆ Sympathetic development of the B1, B2 and B3 sites (Blackwattle Bay wharves located on Bridge Road) that incorporates:
 1. public access to the foreshore;
 2. a continuation of the foreshore walk; and
 3. linkage between the park, foreshore and the harbour in terms of access and in terms of site lines.
- ◆ Sympathetic development of the Bank Street and Sydney Fish Market sites.

Room for all, says NSW Maritime

The Chief Executive of NSW Maritime has told The Glebe Society the proposed dry boat storage will have minimal impact on the southern part of Rozelle Bay used by rowers and paddlers, and that there is room for all on the bay.

In a letter, Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould says: "I firmly believe that the Harbour (and Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays) are big enough for both groups to equitably share."

Admiral Oxenbould says Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays are successfully shared by industrial, commercial, Government and recreational craft including superyachts, dragon boats, rowing shells, sailing vessels and canoes.

"Dragon boats and rowing shells are the major users of the southern side of the Bay while the northern and western foreshores of the Bay represent an important part of Sydney's 'working

harbour',," he writes. Vessels accessing these industrial and commercial sites predominantly use the deepwater channel along the northern foreshore.

"The Marine Centre is proposed for the northern foreshore of Rozelle Bay. This area has been used for industrial purposes for more than a century. The proposal will have minimal impact on the southern end of the waterway. One of the conditions required of the Marine Centre owners is that they develop a plan of management for their on-water activities. This plan will need to take into account all current usage of Rozelle Bay.

"If the proposal is approved, NSW Maritime plans to develop a Code of Conduct, in consultation with all users of the Bay, to ensure safe and equitable access for all users.

"The dry boat storage facility is intended to provide much needed facilities for

boating on the Harbour, not penalise rowing and dragon boating ...

"... In fact, a master plan has been developed for vacant land at Bank Street, Pyrmont, to allow easier access to both Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay for rowers, paddlers and dragon boat racers."

Society takes "minders" on a trip around the Bay

On Wednesday 7 March, from 10am to 11am, a boatload of government officials saw for themselves the problems posed by the Dry Boat Facility Storage Facility proposal.

The trip was organised by Susie Cleary, Mark Dent and Tony Larkum of the Glebe Society, together with Hannah from Verity Firth's office. Mark Dent was the boat's skipper.

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Planning Matters

Valhalla, cnr Glebe Point Road and Hereford Street

The City Council Planning Committee, on Monday, 26 March, approved the adaptive reuse of this historic cinema and theatre for 38 business units and four shops. It is very sad it cannot remain a cinema, but the former owner, Chris Keily, gave a speech ranging over the whole recent history of independent cinemas here and overseas, and in the context of closures everywhere the current proposal seems the best solution. In theory at least the building could be converted back to a cinema, and the foyer will be preserved intact and made available to the Society for functions four times a year. There were some objections about parking from nearby residents, and consequently the businesses will not be able to participate in any parking scheme. Let us hope they use public transport as much as possible.

Foley Park, cnr Glebe Point and Bridge Roads

At the same meeting Council approved the development application for the most central of Glebe's parks. All the concerns expressed by the Society were met, and consequently the historic and unique Wireless House will be preserved and

accommodate an exciting new sound art work. The boundary wall of the demolished Hereford House will also be preserved and sympathetically adapted to improve access.

23 Allen Street

The extension at the rear of this building is currently being constructed. It was modified as a result of objections, and the impact will be small. An application for minor modifications to the fenestration is currently being considered.

61-63 Hereford Street

This matching pair of terraces on one title, previously leased to adjoining owners, was put up to be auctioned on Election Day, 24 March. We will keep an eye out for any proposal to redevelop the site, but it seems more likely at this stage the pair will be separated and subdivided, which would bring them into line with other houses in the street.

George Street, Glebe

Don't try and look this one up in your street directory, as it has been an unmade private road, between Blackwattle Mews and Watermark in Cook Street, for more than a century. Currently it is just a patch of grass, and has been maintained by the

occupants of adjacent Blackwattle Mews for many years. Not surprisingly, they would like to see this choice site remain much as it is, and indeed, I think most Society members would prefer that too

The accumulated unpaid rates for the site are about \$770,000. Council is understandably keen to collect them, but has been unable to trace any descendants of the owner. It is obviously important that Council should follow a transparent process in selling off the site to collect the rates, but I think the sympathies of most people would be with any reasonable offer made by those most likely to be affected by a development.

Broadway Centre

The old Grace Bros site was recently sold by the Walker Corporation to Mirvac. You are probably aware that a further level of shopping is due to open in April. The Sub-committee will keep a close watch on what happens, particularly from a traffic point of view. The use of Francis Street for access to Glebe Point Road is still contentious, and we hope Council will have better luck in dealing with the new owners.

- Neil Macindoe

Mourning the Passing of my Outdoor Dunny

Before I came to Glebe I lived in the same house for 25 years. At about the 10 year stage I had it “landscaped”. We sat down, the designer and me. I described my life style and what I thought I wanted. She went away and came back with a whiz bang design which involved razing everything to the ground and starting afresh. Seemed good to me at the time. In the process we would demolish all the old stuff that had accumulated like jerry built

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Boat trip for minders

The guests were representatives from the Sydney Harbour Foreshores Authority (SFHA), NSW Planning Department, the Premier’s Department, the NSW Rowing Association and Dragon Boats NSW.

The trip was judged to be a success. The problems of passive and power boat use of the Bay, wash, manoeuvrability and limited access through one span of the old Glebe Island Bridge, were demonstrated. Jane Spring’s mother was out rowing at the time of the trip and we are told she was almost capsized by the wash. All three government representatives said they had learnt a lot from the trip and now had a much better appreciation of the problems.

We will keep up our contacts with the various departments and Verity Firth has also promised to lobby against the facility. We should do all we can to help her meet this promise.

- Tony Larkum

Rowing Backwards?

“Glebe Rowing Club and Glebe Youth Service have joined together to offer local kids a chance to learn to row. With Blackwattle Bay on their doorstep it made sense to the Glebe Rowing Club to teach kids from the estate to master the art of rowing.”

Kate Sullivan reported on this initiative, for boys and girls aged at least 14 and able to swim, in *The Glebe* on Thursday 15 March.

It’s ironic that as these young people are benefiting from the sport, the future of all rowing in Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay is under threat. The Glebe Rowing Club has been on Blackwattle Bay since 1879.

- Edwina Doe

sheds but also the old, now unused, brick outside dunny that stood as a testament to harder times and was a long way down the back. Years ago people must have made long journeys in the depths of the night if they felt the call of nature. Now I think about it, it must have been set so far back to keep the aroma far from the house. It was only small, but brick with a tin roof and now it is gone. The next 15 years I spent redesigning the whole garden that I’d had professionally done at vast expense. Why? I was yearning for something I hadn’t expressed to the designer so it was hardly her fault she hadn’t come up with a design that would ultimately satisfy me.

Amongst other things, I was mourning the passing of the outside dunny. What I had done was raze from the backyard all the layers of occupancy, all the previous footprints of the last 90 years in the history of my garden. I wish I had looked more carefully at what was there instead of assuming the necessity to declutter the place and start with a clean canvas. Expensive lesson - I spent the next 15 years trying to give the garden the personality, depth and human interest that I had removed. How well I could have incorporated that little outhouse into an interesting and useful garden shed, so much more interesting than the aluminium number I subsequently put in.

What is the point of all this? Well, Glebe for me is all about people, people now and people past. I love its clutter and evidence of their time. I love the messy little back lanes that were once dunny collection lanes. Maybe I have a fetish about outside toilets? Could be. I might see someone about that. But I also love the rows of houses along Mt Vernon and Derwent Streets, the pubs on nearly every corner, the buses, the noise, the people of such diversity. I suppose I love the tolerant, encompassing nature that is Glebe. I very nearly bought a wonderful house in Rozelle/Balmain but just missed out. At the time I was devastated. Instead I ended up in a bit of dump that is in need of vast amounts of TLC and money (unfortunately) in Glebe. How glad I am now about this change in fortune. Glebe is a very special place.

So the Foley Park issue, the Glebe Point Road issue, the new foreshore walk, all interest me in that we have a chance to create something that reflects the very richness of layers that is Glebe. Our wonderful Council has offered to put in money to develop these places. How lucky we are! But do we know what we want? Have we thought about what Glebe is and how we best develop these places

without sterilising them and losing the richness, the sense of layers of occupancy?

This is a plea to rethink the process by which decisions are made



Photo courtesy of City of Sydney Archives

and who should design the spaces we wish to develop. How could we make the process work better? Have we ever sat down and worked out what it is that makes Glebe work so well and how can we best develop spaces that respect and enhance the nature of Glebe rather than create something that could be anywhere in Sydney? Can we find landscape architects who are sensitive to this specific area or can we help the ones we must use to understand the nature of the place they are working in? And once the plans are drawn up are we locked in, totally committed or is it reasonable to say, “I didn’t express myself well, I didn’t quite know what it is I wanted. From the design you have created I can see there is going to be a problem, can we revisit this part or that part or all of it?”

It would be a shame to find ourselves, some time in the future, mourning the passing of the layers of habitation, be they pretty or otherwise, because we acted too hastily. Maybe we would be better to sit down and work out what we want first, more carefully, before we attend the public consultation meetings or be prepared to accept that it might take two or three goes to get it right before we start the actual work. In landscaping terms we need to look at and develop our own sense of place.

- Anne Fraser

Glebe News

Glebe Point Road update

Work on the Glebe Point Road revitalisation is now expected to start in July 2007 and to be finished early in 2009.

A City of Sydney press release promises that the "magnificent 98-year-old fountain on the corner of Parramatta Road will be meticulously restored as a centrepiece to the \$15 million upgrade of Glebe Point Road by the City of Sydney.

"Drinking water will be restored to the Jubilee

Fountain which was erected in 1909 to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Glebe Municipality ...

"The City has reached an agreement with the owner of University Hall to remove the



Artist's impression of what the Jubilee Fountain corner may look like. From the City of Sydney press release.

existing shade structure at the corner of Parramatta Road. This corner will have new trees, new seating and an open public space to make it more appealing".

Find out more at the Community Forum.

Community Forum

What's happening in Glebe and Forest Lodge? Come to the Community Forum and find out.

Where: Glebe Town Hall, 160 St Johns Road, Glebe.

When: Tuesday 3 April, 6pm to 8.30pm.

Residents are invited to talk to the Lord Mayor, City Councillors and senior staff about issues in their area from 6 to 7 pm. Then from 7 to 8.30pm, hear about the City's projects, including:

- Update on Glebe Point Road upgrade
- Local projects
- Sydney 2030 - future of our city
- Wood Street land development application for Orphan School Creek
- Development Applications update

The Library's 10th Birthday Party

As part of Glebe Library's 10th anniversary celebrations, the Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library are holding a Cocktail Party on Friday 27 April from 7pm.

The same Jazz Band that provided music for Glebe Library's opening party, has

"The Restoration of Bellevue"

- a presentation followed by supper

Did you miss the chance to walk through Bellevue when it was re-opened recently by the Lord Mayor? Never fear, you will have another chance on 1 May when the architect, David Stevenson of Lacoste + Stevenson, and the builder, Gary Waller, Director of G & C Waller Builders, will provide a presentation with a slide show on the restoration of this historic villa, including the research undertaken and the design philosophy.

This is a special opportunity to see the interior of Bellevue, understand its history and learn of the work required to renovate a neglected building.

Date: Tuesday 1 May

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Bellevue, Glebe Point.

Cost: \$20.

This is a "first come, first served" function so fill in the enclosed flyer and return it immediately. Numbers are strictly limited to 60 people, and Society members are limited to one guest.

- Ros Wheeler and Heather Sykes

- Dorothy Davis



Letter to the Editor

Dear Madam

Most of us have cars but we are all pedestrians. Unfortunately, in spite of protestations to the contrary, politicians of all parties and at all levels of government do very little to further the interests of pedestrians.

I have sold my car, and as anywhere in Glebe is in walking distance of anywhere else in Glebe, I have noticed the generally poor state of repair of many pedestrian

crossings. Although most of them are the responsibility of the City of Sydney Council some of them come under the Roads and Traffic Authority. In either case I think we would have a better chance of getting something done if our complaints were coordinated through the Glebe Society.

I would be pleased if you would send me your comments, preferably by email to iaedwards@westnet.com.au, or phone or fax to 9660 3240, or mail at 109 St Johns Road Glebe 2037. I guarantee to forward your complaints through the Glebe Society, anonymously if you wish, to the appropriate authority.

Ian Edwards

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.

Our visit to *Baja Cantina* Mexican restaurant on 1 March was poorly attended, due mainly to the short notice. We will go there again and I promise to give more notice in future.

On Thursday 5 April at 7pm, we will go to the *Nag's Head*, 162 St Johns Road, where we all order and pay for our own dinner and drinks.

Looking ahead, on Thursday 3 May, we will try *Haiphong Harbour*, a new Vietnamese restaurant at the Parramatta Road end of Glebe Point Road. Cheryl Herden says it is lovely. On Thursday 7 June we will go back to *La Tavolaccia* Garden Restaurant, 355 Glebe Point Road.

Look out for more details next month.

Welcome to New Members

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

- Peter and Erica Robinson

Hessian Bags

There are only 19 Glebe Point Road Hessian Bags left. They are \$6 and a real bargain! Ring 9552 4172 if you would like one.

- Fay Mander Jones

Gentle Yoga Class at Glebe

The City of Sydney Council and St. Helen's Community Centre are supporting a Yoga in Daily Life class every Friday morning from 10 – 11.15am at Benledi, next to the Glebe Library.

It's specifically designed for active seniors. Bookings are not necessary – just come along and join in.

Cost: \$6 per session

More information from Michelle Rose on 9518 7788

Coro Innominata Concerts

Darkness to Light

Sunday 22 April 2007, 3pm, Saint Scholastica's Chapel, Glebe

Brilliant Baroque

Sunday 19 August 2007, 3pm, Saint Scholastica's Chapel, Glebe

From a New World

Sunday 2 December 2007, 3pm, Saint Scholastica's Chapel, Glebe

Subscribe to all three concerts and receive 10% off the ticket price. Call 0413 440 173 or Google Coro Innominata Glebe for more information.

Sydney Harbour: Seldom Scene

Sydney Harbour is the city's physical and emotional heart. This exhibition of rarely seen works is a tribute to both the harbour and the artists who have sought to capture its many qualities over almost 200 years. The images on display have been selected not only for their inherent beauty but also for their hidden stories. Embark upon a journey of discovery into Sydney Harbour's vibrant and fascinating life!

This exhibition is open until 27 May, 9 am to 5 pm weekdays and 11 am to 5 pm weekends, in the Picture Gallery, Mitchell Wing, State Library, Macquarie Street. Admission is free.

Walking tours with a social history focus

The Historic Houses Trust explores Sydney's bridges with Dr Don Fraser.

Pymont Bridge - Sunday 15 April, 2-4 pm.

Anzac and Glebe Island Bridges - Sunday 13 May, 2-4 pm.

Cost - general \$25; conc/HHT members \$20 per tour, including light refreshments.

Bookings are essential on 8239 2211. The meeting point will be announced at time of booking

Bulletins by email

If you would like to receive your *Bulletin* by email instead of snail mail, please email 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 ...

Tuesday 3 April, 6 - 8.30pm - Community Forum - Glebe Town Hall, St Johns Road.

Thursday 5 April, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - Dinner at the Nag's Head, 162 St Johns Road.

Wednesday 11 April, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street.

All members are welcome.

Sunday 15 April, 2 - 4pm - Pyrmont Bridge - Historic Houses Trust walking tour.

Sunday 22 April, 3pm - Saint Scholastica's Chapel - Coro Innominata concert.

Wednesday 25 April, 7.30am - Anzac Day Service at the War Memorial, Foley Park.

Friday 27 April, 7 - 9pm - Friends of Benledi and Glebe Library Cocktail Party.

Tuesday 1 May, 6 - 8pm - "The Preservation of *Bellevue*" - at *Bellevue*, Glebe Point. See flyer.

Thursday 3 May, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - *Haiphong Harbour*, Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 9 May, 7.30pm - Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting - The Old Fire Station, 115 Mitchell Street. All members are welcome.

Sunday 13 May, 2 - 4pm - Anzac and Glebe Island Bridges - Historic Houses Trust walking tour.

Thursday 7 June, 7pm - Thirsty Thursday - *La Tavolaccia*, 355 Glebe Point Road.

See the Glebe Society Website for our calendar of events in 2007

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 at the end of April. The deadline for contributions is **18 April**.

The Glebe Society Inc

Established 1969

Management Committee:

President	Jan Macindoe	9660 0208
Vice-president	Bruce Davis	9660 7873
Immediate Past President	Bob Armstrong	9660 4189
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 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	Andrew Craig	9566 1746
Glebe against Global Warming	Bill McCarthy	9660 5119
Heritage	Dianne Gray	0417 434 814
Infrastructure Defect Reporting	Margaret Sheppard	9660 4121
Membership	Cheryl & Bryan 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
Event Coordination	Dorothy Davis	9660 7873
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
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 (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@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.

Waterway Garbage: NSW Maritime response - 9563 8592