



Reports to the 2007 AGM

Bays and Foreshores

This was a year of realisation of hopes and of fears.

In his report last year Tony Larkum referred to a “quiet year - the lull before the storm”. The events presaged in that report were played out strongly during this year - some to our great satisfaction and joy, others to resignation and some disappointment.

Minister Frank Sartor chose 22 December 2006 to announce his approval of the **Sydney Slipways Facility**. This \$23 million maintenance complex at the base of the Anzac Bridge fits the policy of “Working Harbour” and as such was not opposed by the Glebe Society. This was after changes were agreed to the building design reducing its visual impact, and conditions were applied to address air and water quality and noise. These requirements are reflected in the DA, but the development’s impact on the environment will be significant in any event.

The Rozelle Dry Boat Storage Facility was opposed from the very start - for its inappropriate location and inordinate impact on Rozelle Bay, and - it is not a ‘working harbour’ activity. With issue of the DA in September 2006, the Glebe Society went into high gear, supported by many other residential groups and users of the Bays including the Dragon Boats, the NSW Rowing Association, Glebe Rowing Club, notably the Sydney University Women’s Rowing Club, the Councils of the City of Sydney and Leichhardt Municipality, along with strong representations from the Member for Balmain, Verity Firth. Over two hundred people attended the October 12 meeting organised by the Glebe Society in the Glebe Town Hall (see *Glebe Society Bulletin* 9/2006); and there was the “Massing of the Boats” protest, letters were written, stalls were manned, and some 1200 signatures were submitted with protest letters to Minister Sartor. Nonetheless, consent for a marginally modified development was handed down by Planning Minister Sartor in May 2007. But the long fight was rewarded by the imposition of some 80 limiting conditions

on the DA. These and the responses from the Glebe Society and the Rowers have been outlined in the *Glebe Society Bulletin* 5/2007. We remain deeply disappointed that this inappropriate development has been approved, and remain concerned about its impact on the safety and amenity of all users of the Bays. We now have to ensure that the requirements of the conditions imposed on this DA are implemented and observed in day-to-day practice.

In a related matter, the Glebe Society has not opposed a 12-month extension of the lease for *Liquidity*, to which strict conditions apply. This extension has been sought to cover the period for the completion of the Rozelle Dry Boat Storage Facility, expected to be some 12 months after the projected commencement of construction in September/October 2007, which itself includes alternative catering facilities.

At the opposite end of the Bay there is some good news to be found for the Dragon Boaters who have been in discussion with NSW Maritime Authority on plans for the development of the Bank Street site (under the South East of the Anzac Bridge). A DA for a park with dragon boat launching facilities is likely to be made public in the next couple of months.

Another development is currently undergoing DA approval, the **Multihull Sales and Service Centre** with Ancillary uses and Associated Watercraft Facilities, at the western end of Rozelle Bay. In line with the Glebe Society’s longstanding support for the working harbour, the representatives of the Glebe Society and the Glebe Point Residents Group were able to support the type of activity outlined by the proponents at an informal meeting held in November 2006. However, with no subsequent meetings we were presented with the above application for a development that could be said to have expanded - on water and land, and in diversity of activity. In some significant aspects the proposal now falls outside the requirements of the Master Plan adopted by Minister Sartor in September 2005. This expansion detracts from the original concept in a number of ways. These and their impacts have been noted in a

submission to SHFA from The Bays and Foreshores Sub-committee (25 July 2007 – copies available from Bob Armstrong and Liz Simpson-Booker) where we have restated our support for the original concept and the need to achieve view corridors from the Crescent through to the Bays and Bridges. Other waterfront developments proceeding in the immediate area, such as the Devine Marine Rozelle Bay Yard Redevelopment, and Polaris Marine Constructions & Recovery Pty Ltd have been considered by the Bays and Foreshores sub-committee to add benefit to the area in terms of their operation, design and high finishes, appropriate to this special waterfront.

Blackwattle Bay Maritime Precinct

Here, interest is in the proposed demolition of the partially collapsed coal bunker wharf and coal bunker at Blackwattle Bay. NSW Maritime intends to retain some of the timber bunker structure and coal unloader for incorporation as features within the future redevelopment of the site. NSW Maritime is being approached to carry out, in the short term, repair work on the unsightly and encroaching fencing that runs along the footpath fronting Blackwattle Bay in Bridge Road, and to reduce the accumulation of waste skips in the area. The City of Sydney plans to consult with NSW Maritime on these matters via a DA process.

The Glebe Foreshore Project has progressed remarkably in the course of 2007.

Continued on next page ...

Contents

P i - Bays and Foreshores

P ii - Planning

P iii - Infrastructure Defect Reporting

Piii - Arts and Culture

P iv - FLAG

P iv - Blackwattle Cove Coalition

P v - Membership

P v - History of the Glebe Society

... Continued from previous page

This is the good news story! There is no need for detail. You have all been there - walking your dogs, jogging, cycling through to the Fish Markets, throwing a boule or two, or just sitting under the fig trees enjoying the view. Thirty years of "wishing and pushing" has come true. Bicentennial Park has never looked better; the kids' parties in the pavilions seem to be the best gig in town; the restored Jubilee Pavilion looks proudly over the field defined by the new picket fence, the mangroves are sprouting to the north. As you move east, ignoring the occasional decapitated tree, you come across the pétanque/boule players just before the Anchorage site - that broad stretch of lawn that allows you to rest and survey the Bays, the three bridges and the rowers, sheltered from the cold southerly. This is where Clover greeted the happiest crowd of people to be seen in the area when she opened the Foreshore Walk on 11 November. But that relic of Stride's Shipyards, the gaunt crane, beckons and leads you to *Bellevue* sitting elegantly on the Point - waiting for the pontoon to offer a water-borne welcome from the new café lessee (we hope). What an amazing rebirth of a gracious old building with some 2000 people present in March 2007 when the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore performed the official opening. Avert your eyes from the gap in the treescape (soon to be filled with 17 replacements) as you proceed through Blackwattle Bay Park, taking in the whiff of barbecued offerings, and then on to the Boat House Restaurant - but dally here at your own expense. We have now reached STAGE 6! When completed (in the course of the 2008 City of Sydney Budget) this will allow you to proceed past the Sydney Secondary School to Bridge Road. And then the challenges to further progress start all over again! The Glebe Society and Blackwattle Bay Coalition are working on it.

So much has been achieved since+

the City of Sydney accepted the challenge to upgrade the Glebe Foreshores and the adjoining parks and budgeted some \$15m for the project. Over the last few years some 18 Community Representative Workshops have been held where the views of the residents were debated with council officers and advisers. The last of these was held earlier this month. Praise must go in particular to the patient Chair of these meetings, Council-

lor Robyn Kemmis, and to Gynt Drynan and Adam Fowler of the City of Sydney, and of course to those who were representing the Glebe and Annandale residents. The constructive process and the splendid outcome is a tribute to all those involved. Enjoy!

- Bob Armstrong, for the Bays and Foreshores Sub-committee

Planning

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Planning Subcommittee, though not for the Glebe Society. Most of the action has been, and continues to be, in Bays and Foreshores, handled by that subcommittee. There have been plenty of other development proposals we have dealt with, but they have all been pretty minor, and the more important among them have been canvassed in the *Bulletin*. However, this situation could change quite suddenly.

Harold Park Paceway

There are well-founded reports that Harold Park Paceway may move to Menangle in Sydney's southwest, and if this happens the future of both the Paceway and the adjacent Tramsheds that it currently owns will be a major concern for the Society.

It is early days. The Trotting Club will not make a decision until the end of 2007, and they require 70% of their committee to agree. It is not the first time the Club

Presidents' Reports by Jan Macindoe and Bob Armstrong, together with any other sub-committee reports, will be published with the next *Bulletin*.

has tried to move, either. The Society would not wish to see the Paceway discouraged from moving. Many people have noted the decline in patronage over the last thirty years, and in the same period virtually all the horses and trainers have gone as well. It makes good sense for the trots to be located closer to where the participants live.

However, the Society does not want to encourage the notion developers can do whatever they like with the two adjacent sites. Indeed the 2005 application for residential high rise in place of the Tramsheds was roundly defeated after a

short, sharp campaign by the Society. We have evidence now that the Paceway would be willing to relinquish ownership back to the NSW Government. The Tramsheds are a Heritage Item, and the Society has made it clear they should be returned for community use.

Both sites are currently zoned Open Space. The zoning of the Tramsheds was changed from Special Uses - Transport to Open Space under LEP 2000 when Leichhardt Council thought it likely the Sheds would be adapted as stables by the Paceway, which had acquired the site in a questionable manner. All the plans proposed by the Paceway were withdrawn, lapsed or were refused. It is clear now the Tramsheds should never have been transferred to the Paceway.

Even if the Paceway is sold, the existing Open Space Zoning should be retained for the track and the green space it encloses. This represents about half the Paceway site. How the remainder of the site could be adapted to other uses is unclear. Rezoning to Public Purposes would allow educational uses, such as might be required by the University of Sydney.

The Society should prepare for the eventual move by Harold Park, but not encourage public debate too soon. We can achieve this by encouraging the City to prepare a masterplan as a guide to any proposed development. The sub-committee has already suggested to the City one way of doing this, as outlined below.

Heritage Development Control Plan 2006

Heritage issues are of great interest to the Sub-committee because Glebe is a Conservation Area with many Heritage Items, and hence heritage is frequently a factor in a development application. Section 3, Heritage, in the LEP 2000 also provides some additional protection for the suburb in addition to rules about zoning, density and height, although not as much as I think a planning document should provide. Therefore it was good to see the City adopt a new Heritage Development Control Plan in 2006, and I often find myself consulting it when responding to applications. The reinvigorated Heritage Sub-committee under Diane Gray's enthusiastic leadership gives me hope that more Heritage Items will be identified and conservation controls strengthened.

Glebe and Forest Lodge Urban Design Study

We are still awaiting a new Town Plan, following the exhibition of the Draft Urban Strategy last year. Originally we had expected it in May. The subcommittee considered the latest version at a meeting in July and is recommending further consultation and a more holistic approach, given the City's focus on 2030 and the variety of studies that have been done or are under way. We have written to Council proposing changes to Chapter 7 of the Urban Design Study to include Harold Park Paceway as well as the Tramsheds as a Significant Site requiring a masterplan.

Other Developments

Following the successful adaptive reuse of the Toxteth Church site, attention is now focused on buildings such as the *Valhalla*, the *Abbey* and *Reussdale*, which recently changed hands, and more recently, the University Motel. Also we are still awaiting a successful application for *Bellevue*, which suffered somewhat in the recent severe storms. There are some encouraging signs that commercial Glebe, including Glebe Point Road, is experiencing a revival, for which we should thank, among others, Charles Plumridge for his revamp of Rosso Nero as Glebe Point Diner. However we should moderate our expectations while the makeover of Glebe Point Road is under way, since businesses will be disrupted in varying degrees for about a year.

The situation beyond our borders is less satisfactory. Broadway, in particular, will be further disfigured by high towers on the Carlton Brewery site. Other Broadway sites are also being redeveloped, but not, as far as I know, in anything like so extreme a fashion.

- Neil Macindoe
Convenor, Planning Sub-committee

Infrastructure Defect Reporting

The 2006 Infrastructure Defect Reporting Annual Report anticipated the progressive introduction of better lighting and improved surfaces for all footpaths in conjunction with the upgrade of Glebe Point Road. The revitalisation of Glebe Point Road is yet to happen, and so associated improvements designed to reduce the trip and slip factor of the

uneven surfaces of Glebe Point Road footpaths have not yet been implemented.

Associated with the revitalisation of Glebe Point Road will be better designed street furniture, including waste bins - slimline ones which will allow more, and so safer, walking space on the footpaths.

Among other defects which have been repaired were the unstable logs forming a low fence at one end of the Woolley Street side of St James' Park. The unstable logs were a potential hazard for children playing in the park and on the logs, as well as for adults sitting on the logs.

- Margaret Sheppard
Convenor, Infrastructure Defect Reporting Sub-committee

Arts and Culture

This is the third year the City Of Sydney Council art event, *Art and About*, will be brought to Glebe by the Art and About committee.

In the previous two years our program brought together many Glebe groups and initiated opportunities for their work to be displayed in a professional and public setting. Raising the profile of groups without much representation paid handsomely in terms of community happiness and positive self-image. The City of Sydney Council embraced our efforts with funding and a supporting work partner within Council.

In 2006 *Facing Glebe* featured larger than life photos mounted on building walls around Glebe and displays in shop fronts, Glebe Library, Art Almanac and the Glebe Youth Service.

Images were drawn from workshops in the Glebe Youth Service and those taken by photographer Roslyn Sharp, employed by the City of Sydney to take photos of Glebe identities. Curator Michael Goldberg drew from this mix to organise the large scale photo show. A youth launch event took place in the Youth Centre and Jan McCulloch generously provided an opening party for the whole community at Art Almanac. All sections of our diverse suburb were represented and it created enormous goodwill.

This year we have an even greater cross-section of the community involved. Glebe Primary School, Glebe Youth Service, the Mitchell Street/Hope Street art workshops, Cafechurch, the Glebe Chamber of Commerce and other commu-

nity members are all keen to contribute photographs and images of their art works.

2007 Glebe on Track has been the focus of the Art and About Committee this time. Planning began early in the year. We employed a curator and developed detailed plans based on the hope of receiving a Council grant to finance the event. Approaches were made to businesses for partnership agreements.

Unfortunately the Council grant was not forthcoming and all other funding avenues failed to provide the necessary funding.

As a result of this disappointment we have totally reassessed the program and have attempted to distil the essential elements. Central to this is the involvement of all the interested community members.

The network of community members is eager to participate and we will preserve enough of the original program to display their images as best we can.

Our pared down display will still include images from Glebe Primary School, the Glebe Youth Service, the Mitchell Street/Hope Street workshops, Cafechurch and images from the wider community.

We will use funds remaining from last year's allocation and may avail ourselves of the generous offer of a grant by the Glebe Society. Jan from Art Almanac has offered free promotion in her magazine and other assistance.

Obviously this funding arrangement is not sustainable. I cannot take on such a broad event again without the firm commitment of Council from the beginning of the planning stage. We need guaranteed funds and an allocated Council representative to work with us to create a successful multifaceted event. We cannot do it again without those elements.

The dedicated group of committee members consists of Jan McCulloch, Neil Macindoe, Andrew Craig, Roelof Smilde and Colin Stokes. Nick Vickers embraced the role of project manager with great verve and good humour. Thank you everyone, it is good to work with people of such warmth, enthusiasm, and generosity.

Public Art in Glebe

While our funding shortfall for Art and About was disappointing, we have done

Continued on next page ...

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far better on the public art front.

Jan McCulloch and I joined a panel of Council representatives and experts in the selection process. We chose from the submissions for public art, designed for specific sites and exhibited in Glebe Town Hall. All public feedback was considered.

Three public art initiatives were chosen and have been approved as part of the street upgrade:

- **The School Fence** - a delightful colourful fence with concepts originating in the historic picket fences of Glebe, designed by Nuha Saad.
- **The Wireless House** - Nigel Helyer, renowned sound sculpture artist, will give new life to something found nowhere else in the world. The old building will be polished up to show off with interpretive panels over the windows and door.
We will have a sound sculpture celebrating the history of the building, the area and the times. Let's rename Foley Park, Wireless Park.
- **Earth versus Sky** – Allan Giddes designed this sculpture of light and colour. The two big Morton Bay figs on the foreshore of Bicentennial Park will be bathed in projected colours changing as the sunset progresses, for about two hours each night, and will be powered by a wind generator.

Susan Ingram

**Convenor, Art and About committee,
and the Art and Culture subcommittee**

Forest Lodge and Glebe Coordination Group (FLAG)

FLAG has met regularly throughout the year. Its function is to increase communication and collaboration between the diverse stakeholders of Glebe (commerce, key state government departments, City of Sydney and community services and groups) and to support initiatives that address local social issues.

For the second year it has been responsible for organising the Mitchell Street Fete, which is held in the first week of December. A community grant from City of Sydney helps to fund this event. It must be noted that, owing to a large increase in Community Grant Applications, **FLAG** received a reduced grant for the running of this year's Fete. This will mean looking for sponsorship and support from the community for this valuable event.

FLAG maintains a close liaison with the Glebe Police and crime in Glebe has been reduced significantly. It is also noted that crime in Glebe is no worse than in any other inner City suburb. Fluctuations in crime vary according to weather patterns and school holiday periods.

A current initiative of **FLAG** is examining the needs and function of a community centre for Glebe. Whilst it is acknowledged that many functions already occur in Glebe, what is lacking is a physical hub where people can meet.

Redfern has such a purpose built centre that services the needs of the community. **FLAG** is undertaking a scoping study in this regard and will be liaising with all stakeholders for their input.

FLAG is chaired and coordinated by the Glebe Community Development Project, which is a partnership between University of Sydney and the Department of Housing. This Project is coordinated by Ally de Pree-Raghavan. Its objectives include:

- increasing community capacity amongst the social housing community within Glebe and Forest Lodge,
- developing new relationships and strengthen existing ties between residents, community groups and stakeholders,
- increasing collaboration and coordination between stakeholders,
- increasing residents' social and economic participation in society,
- engaging with sectors of the community that have proved "hard to reach",
- liaising across the Faculty of Education and Social Work to identify and implement opportunities to support the educational outcomes of children and young people in Glebe.

Blackwattle Cove Coalition (BCC)

Over the last 12 months the BCC has worked steadily:

1. to raise the profile of Wentworth Park in the eyes of both state government and council authorities.
2. to get an overall planning concept that marries together the whole cove area – the foreshore and the Park.
3. to increase the cooperation between the Dog organizations that use the Sporting Complex and the community and the council who use and manage the northern and southern ends of the Park.

To that end we have had talks and organised numerous meetings with:

1. Government authorities: The State Planning Authority (Sam Haddad); the then Minister for Gaming (Grant McBride) the Minister for Ports (Joe Tripodi) and SHFA.
2. All candidates in the last State Election
3. The Greyhound Breeders and Trainers Association, The National Coursing Association, the Manager of the Greyhound venues for NSW and The Sporting Complex Trust
4. The local schools (Ultimo Primary School and The International Grammar School who use the Park regularly and for whom it supplies much needed play-ground areas)
5. Sue Barnsley, Landscape Architect on the potential of Wentworth Park.
6. NSW Maritime Authority re the terms under which the Registrations of Interest for the B1 and B2 were invited.

Generally we have found the following:

1. There is no one authority that is prepared to form the umbrella for a coordinated planning approach to the Cove area. Instead there are about 6 authorities that work fairly independently of each other.
2. The coal loader is to be demolished as it has become unsafe through neglect and is no longer to form part of the Registrations of Interest (ROI).
3. The Dog organisations have signed up for the next 20 year lease of the Sporting Complex as was their legal right to do.

4. The Dog organisations and the Trust are receptive to changes in the venue that will make it more part of the park and less alienating to the community. The Trust is particularly supportive in this. However the matter of who pays for such changes is a vexed question. At present the Trust has initiated and is paying for the upgrade and landscaping of the Sporting Complex entrance on the western side.

5. The Trust is upgrading the Tower entrance to the Sporting Complex. This work has currently begun and will be completed this year. The heritage tower remains but the ugly walls around it are being removed and replaced with attractive see-through fencing from the Grandstand in the north to just beyond the dog kennels in the south. The whole entrance will be much more attractive, inclusive and far less alienating to the surrounding community. The area will also be landscaped. The Trust and particularly those of the Trust who worked so hard to bring this change about are to be congratulated on this initiative.

6. The matter of the walls being removed entirely and replaced with see-through fencing is under consideration following the offer by Council to contribute up to \$500,000 to bring about such a change. The results of an independent feasibility study into this proposal, which includes looking at the question of the parking and the opening up of the viaduct infills, has been completed but it is yet to be released for public comment.

7. The Council has started to invest some money in the upgrade of Wentworth Park as point 4 indicates but it is not excessive. Council has been inclined to wait until the Greyhounds leave but are gradually coming round to the concept that the community would prefer some development in cooperation with the Dogs now. The Council has invested \$400,000 in the installation of fitness equipment, a children's playground and some tables and seats on the southern section.

8. The Blackwattle Cove area is not very high on any of the government or council priorities lists. There is a general undervaluing of its potential and of its importance as an inner city open space area with an increasingly dense population density surrounding it.

BCC and the Community Games Day

To raise the awareness of the potential of this huge open space in our midst and of

its iconic value to our three suburbs (Glebe, Pyrmont and Ultimo) the BCC has initiated the running of Wentworth Park Community Games Day on 18 May, 2008. It is to take the form of a community participatory games day that will involve a fun competition between the three suburb Touch Football Game and Tug of War. There will be a great variety of games anyone of any age can enter and earn points for their suburb. One highlight is the possible running of Any Other Hound Dog races through the day in the greyhound race track in which any K9 who is not a greyhound can have a go chasing that rabbit around the ring.

It will also include historical displays and talks on the history of Wentworth Park and Greyhounds.

We have been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the City of Sydney Council. A wonderful committee of very talented and enthusiastic people has been formed and we are busily working towards this goal.

- Anne Fraser
Blackwattle Cove Coalition

Membership

2006/07 was a good recruiting year for the Society. Both the Individual Membership and Joint Membership categories, our most popular categories, grew (see table). There was little change in other membership categories.

It is important that the Society continues to recruit new members as we will inevitably lose members as a result of people leaving Glebe and natural attrition. It is also important that we keep our current members.

The year was marked by yet another successful New Members' Night organised by Cheryl and Bryan Herden at the Gig Gallery in Glebe Point Road.

Another initiative planned for this year is to redesign our membership brochure.

Category	2006/07	2005/06
Concession	21	23
Individual	104	95
Joint (2 people, one address)	93	82
Household	8	9
Institutional	5	5
Life	14	15

- Bruce Davis

History of the Glebe Society

Drafts of the first two chapters of the History have been completed, together with several appendices. I hope to circulate material to relevant people in due course for comment and further input. The aim is to complete the draft by the end of the year in order to edit and prepare the History for publication in 2008.

- Jeanette Knox

Disclaimer

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