



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO 3 OF 1990

APRIL/MAY

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## KINGSFORD SMITH AIRPORT Alison McKeown

Four liquid gas tanks blew up at about 9.50pm on 1 April at the Boral plant in St Peters. The night sky glowed orange and windows rattled in Glebe with the main explosion; some people had views of the spectacle. The fire caused the International Terminal to be evacuated to the Airport Hilton which was itself later evacuated. The Sydney Morning Herald's aerial photograph on the front page next day indicated the path of one gas tank as it blew: it crossed a rail line and a locomotive can be seen near the tank's path.

What do we need to know about the hazards around Kingsford Smith Airport?

In 1982 a draft regional plan for the area emerged but no decisions were made. A 1985 risk assessment for the Botany and Randwick industrial complex did not include the airport. The 1986 risk assessment for Kurnell (petro-chemical industries) did not include the airport or the area to the north of it.

It appears that there are no base-line studies on the cumulative risks that exist in the whole area, yet an Environmental Impact Study for the proposed third runway is in progress (due in May).

There are two main hazard registers in NSW - those of the Department of Planning and of the Workcover Authority. The Boral plant is registered by the Dangerous Goods branch of the Workcover Authority. The plant was constructed in 1968.

A number of questions emerge and we may hope that the inquiries into the Boral fire will answer some or all of them. We can be thankful that this incident passed off without causing death or injury. It highlights the folly of the inner city location of the airport. You may like to comment in the light of this recent



disaster either at Kinhill's Community Access Centre, 117 King Street, Newtown, or at the mobile display unit.

Leichhardt Council has conducted a survey of residents' opinions on the third runway and Badgery's Creek Second Sydney Airport by pamphlet distribution and the Mayoral column in The Glebe newspaper on 28 March. Six hundred replies have been received opposing the runway.

Are planes flying over Glebe these days and are they on official flight paths? Yes! The Civil Aviation Authority's preferred flight paths plan for planes arriving between 6.45am and 7pm (domestic medium and small international aircraft) states 'if aircraft are not making a straight in approach then they are radar vectored to the runway in use taking into consideration the disposition of other air traffic and weather conditions. In effect these aircraft could pass over almost any area in the greater Sydney area.' (1989)

The implications for Glebe and the inner city are that, with possibly two north-south runways at KSA, a one-third increase in take-offs on the bigger runway and an increase in total numbers of aircraft movements, our suburbs will be adversely affected by aviation noise pollution and increased risks factors - permanently.

## MEETING WITH NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH)

On Thursday 19th April, Andrew Wood and Neil Macindoe met with the recently appointed Executive Director of the Trust, Wendy McCarthy AO.



As members of the Society are probably aware the National Trust is still in the hands of an Administrator. Much needs to be done to return the Trust to a strong financial position and for it to re-establish its vital role in providing independent advice in support of heritage and conservation issues in NSW. Over the past year the Society has been especially concerned about the Trust's failure to give the necessary expert advice about some important building and development applications in Glebe. Such applications, if passed by Leichhardt Municipal Council, will cause irreparable damage to buildings and streetscapes.

The Society's concerns were conveyed to Ms McCarthy during our talk and we now believe that the Society and the Trust can return to the close working relationship we have enjoyed in the past.



### 29 COOK STREET BOAT REPAIR SHOP AND MARINA

As reported in the last Bulletin, the developer has appealed to the Land and Environment Court.

Leichhardt Council's solicitors have advised that these proceedings are listed for hearing on 4th to 8th June, 1990.

The Society has nominated Marianne von Knobelsdorff to represent the Society, giving evidence of its objections to this DA at the above hearing.

You, being a member of the Society, are invited to voice your views and objections regarding this DA. Please write a letter to the Society attention Marianne von Knobelsdorff or contact her by phone.

### WENTWORTH PARK

Leichhardt Municipal Council called a meeting on 5th April at St Ita's Church Hall to elect representatives for a Resident Advisory Committee. This Committee is to advise the Park Management Committee on residents' needs and views regarding the park.

Those elected were Max Solling and Christine Stewart (Glebe Society), Beau Olsen and Carol Trist. Christine O'Brien was appointed as one of three alternate members.

### WENTWORTH PARK (Continued)

At a meeting on Sunday 8 April 1990 at Wentworth Park senior members of the Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing unveiled their plans to convert the top two floors of the uncompleted grandstand into air-conditioned offices. The offices will be reached by a private lift and will feature food preparation areas, toilets, showers, and an exclusive entertainment complex where Department staff and their friends can watch the greyhound races. The offices will be built using \$4m provided by the Department's 'racecourse development fund'. The Wentworth Park grandstand has never been completed: the racecourse development fund provided an initial grant of \$5m to build it but cost over-runs amounted to a further \$10m, covered by an interest-free, non-repayable 'loan' from the fund, to be renegotiated after 20 years.

The Society will be lodging an objection to the development as it is a change in use of the greyhound racing complex. There is also concern about the misuse of the Department's racecourse development fund which should be used for the benefit of racing. Why doesn't the Department spend the \$4m on relocating greyhound racing at Homebush Bay?

## GLEBE POINT ROAD PROJECT ACTIVITIES

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### Minogue Reserve

In response to an invitation to comment on Council's plans for upgrading Minogue Reserve, the Landscaping Group of the Glebe Point Road Project submitted two new plans.

With the increasing popularity of the Broadway Precinct (have you noticed yet another café, the romantically named *Rose Blues*, has opened there?) the Group considered the reserve has great potential to become an outdoor eating area and gathering/meeting place along the lines of a village square.

Can you imagine sitting at tables around a large tree drinking your cappuccino and eating a light lunch while watching the Glebe streetscape, possibly listening to buskers ... or perhaps while keeping an eye on your children playing safely in one corner of the park? Possibly the raised ground level could also be used to advantage by sloping it gently down from the perimeter to create an amphitheatre for outdoor entertainment.

In general, members of the Group considered they wanted to see the design for the reserve reflect more of the Glebe 'character' with its detailing and intricacies of design than was proposed in the plans originally drawn by Council's consultants, Cloustons. As they considered the foreground of commercial buildings fairly ugly, they also suggested the design orientate to Glebe Point Road rather than the city skyline.

It was also considered important to create the park as a more 'intimate', contained space, to encourage people to stay / visit it rather than simply walk through it - while also acknowledging the significance of the pathways.

The Group's options were :

**Option 1:** This made use of existing space. It emphasised a strong boundary between the commercial area and more integration with the Glebe Precinct.

**Option 2 (preferred road closure option):** The current shape of the park exists as a 'lost space' which lacks any orientation to the surroundings. Option 2 is to extend the area across Francis Street to *Badde Manors* to create a more usable space which integrates with Glebe Point Road - but which requires a road closure. This would therefore need to be considered along with a total traffic management plan.

There were various advantages and disadvantages in this but the Group considered that the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages and presented it as the preferred option.

Council replied in February saying it had decided to exhibit three of the consultant's plans and intended to treat the Group's proposals as a submission in response to these (you may have also been familiar with these plans when they were exhibited in the Glebe Point Road Project's tent at the Glebe Street Fair). The Project's plans were also presented at the February Glebe Society meeting.

Council later took into account some of the Project ideas, along with others such as incorporating play equipment, having a broader open area and a less monumental approach voiced by residents at a public meeting to discuss the exhibition on 7 March. The Glebe Point Road Project was also augmented on the day by a petition.

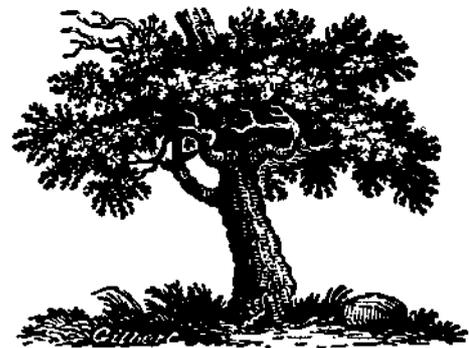
Council staff then recommended to the 10 April Council meeting that the Project's road closure option for the reserve be examined further in the light of development of the Grace Brothers site and there be adequate provision for a possible future road closure in the design.

At the same time Council voted to reduce the potential funding for work on the reserve and to request the consultants to prepare a modified design.

### An Arboricultural Survey of Glebe Point Road Street Trees

The Group has also approached Ryde Horticultural College to carry out an arboricultural survey with a view to removing unsafe specimens, replacing missing specimens and interplanting, incorporating experimental plantings as recommended by Knox and Tanner in the *Heritage Study* completed recently for the Project.

You may have seen the presentations on Glebe Point Road by students in design from the School of Architecture at Sydney University and the Group hopes that a tertiary institution may also be able to carry out the arboricultural survey and then that much needed attention is given to street trees along Glebe Point Road.



### IMPROVING GLEBE POINT ROAD:

#### (1) STUDENTS' IDEAS

Architecture students at the University of Sydney will present a number of interesting ideas for Glebe Point Road at the Old Fire Station in Mitchell Street on Thursday evening, 3 May, between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Subjects treated by the students include the light rail gateway to Glebe, Foley Park and St John's Church as a public plaza, infill treatment of vacant sites and some schemes to improve the appearance of the street.

#### (2) GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

On a recent Sunday, we learn from a report in the Primary School's newsletter, 'a wonderful group of people called The Men of the Trees donated and planted close to 60 native trees and shrubs along the Glebe Point Road fence'. They later also helped the children plant a 'Class Tree' for each class in the school.

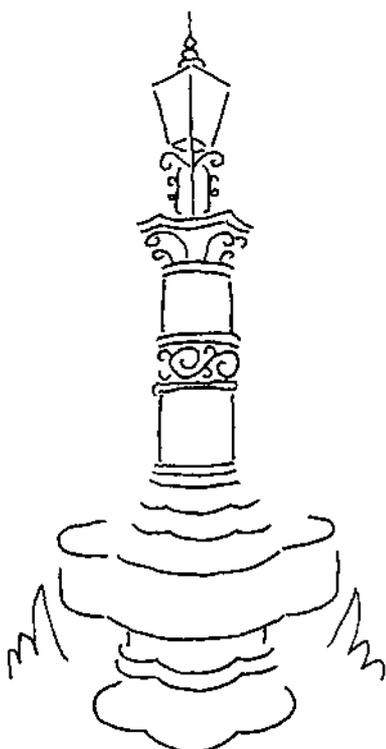
## COUNCIL'S TREE PLANTING AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

This is blossoming (sorry!) well. Meetings are chaired by the Mayor and open to any resident (or anyone). They are held at Council every month on a Thursday at 7pm.

Among many issues discussed, some include:

- **The Greening of Marion Street:** The Greening Marion Street Sub-Committee is organising a major street tree planting in May and has been successful in gaining a grant of over \$2,000 from Greening Australia for this.
- **Successful Planting along Campbell Street:** If you walk down Campbell Street in the Glebe Estate you will notice the trees now growing well after being planted on the Community Tree Planting Day organised by the Department of Housing and Council last November.
- **... to be extended to all the Glebe Estate? :** The Committee has recommended that an imaginative plan for tree planting in the Glebe Housing Estate, prepared by Department of Housing Landscape Architects, is acceptable and should proceed. This is an inspiring chance to carry out a major co-ordinated planting and the Estate provides an ideal precinct for this.
- **A Register of Significant Trees:** Discussion on nominations for significant trees in the municipality are continuing. As Council does not have the resources for a survey to document these and the definition of a 'significant' tree is being debated, one proposal is for a form to be made available so people can nominate appropriate trees to be considered by a committee for listing.

The latter issue has become particularly relevant with the recent incredible act of destruction in the cutting down of a fig on a development site at Balmain. It has been resolved since that the developers are to replace the tree with another, well grown one - which will cost no small sum - and also donate \$10,000 to Council's tree planting fund. The tree stump is to remain in place with a plaque .



## The Jubilee Fountain

The Glebe Point Road Project Committee has retained Mr. Craig Burton, noted architectural historian of early Glebe as consultant on The Jubilee Fountain. Mr. Burton believes that the Fountain would easily meet the criteria for registration as an item on the N.S.W. heritage inventory.

His proposal, which was accepted by the Committee, was in two stages:

1) To gather all existing documentary and physical evidence of the site (presumed to be the concrete kurb forming the traffic island) to determine the significance, as well as the elements that make it up. Analysis of evidence to determine whether restoration or adaption is the preferred approach.

2) To prepare design and drawings suitable for construction of selected works, together with cost estimates.

Stage 1 is now completed, and his recommendations include:

integrating the site and setting of the fountain with the streetscape;

recognising the cultural significance of the site and conserving the significant fabric of the fountain;

identifying and promoting the commemorative items of the site and providing interpretative information;

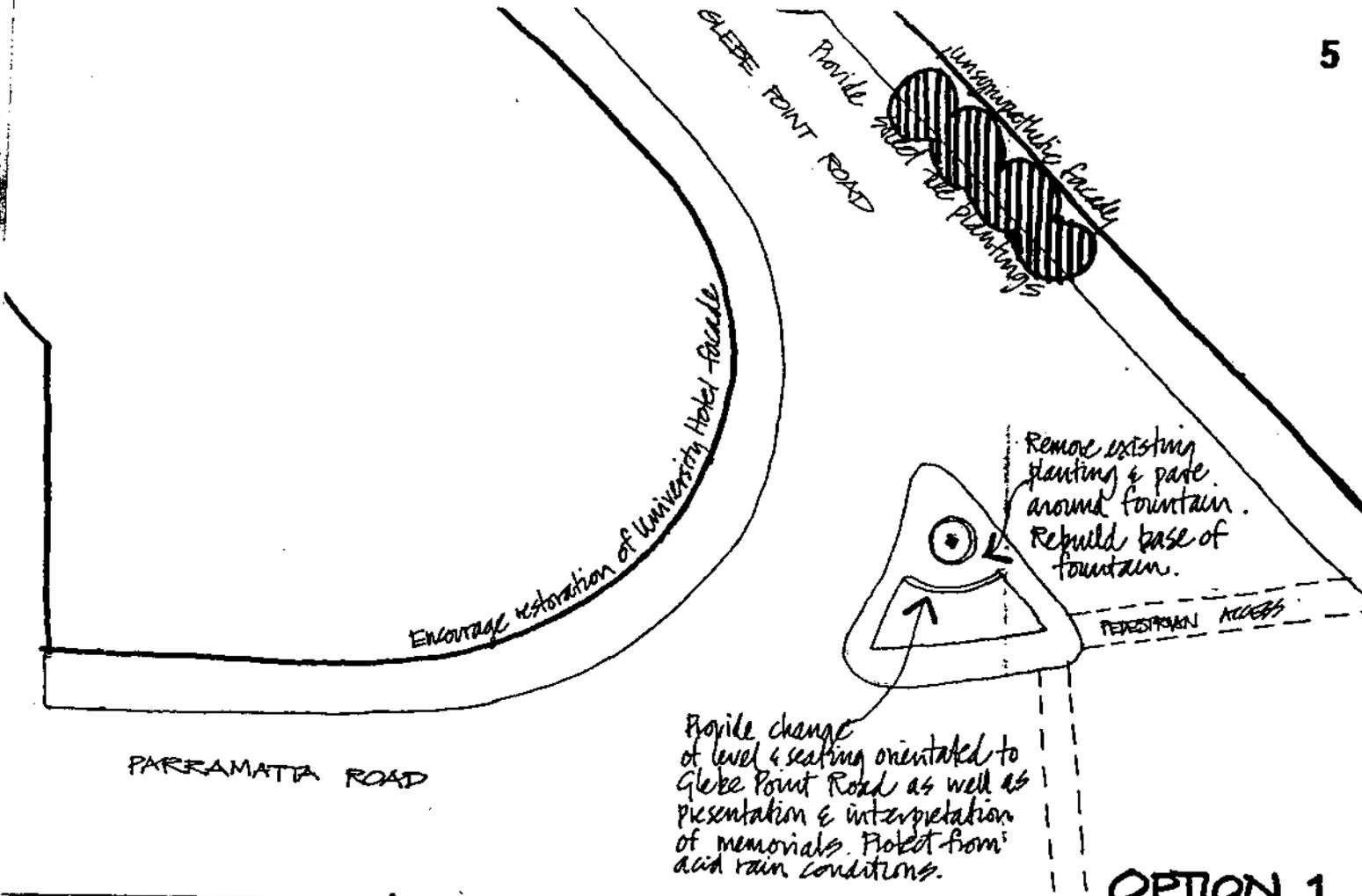
improving the environment of the place for safe use, particularly pedestrian access;

treating the site as the subject of urban design rather than by horticultural treatment.

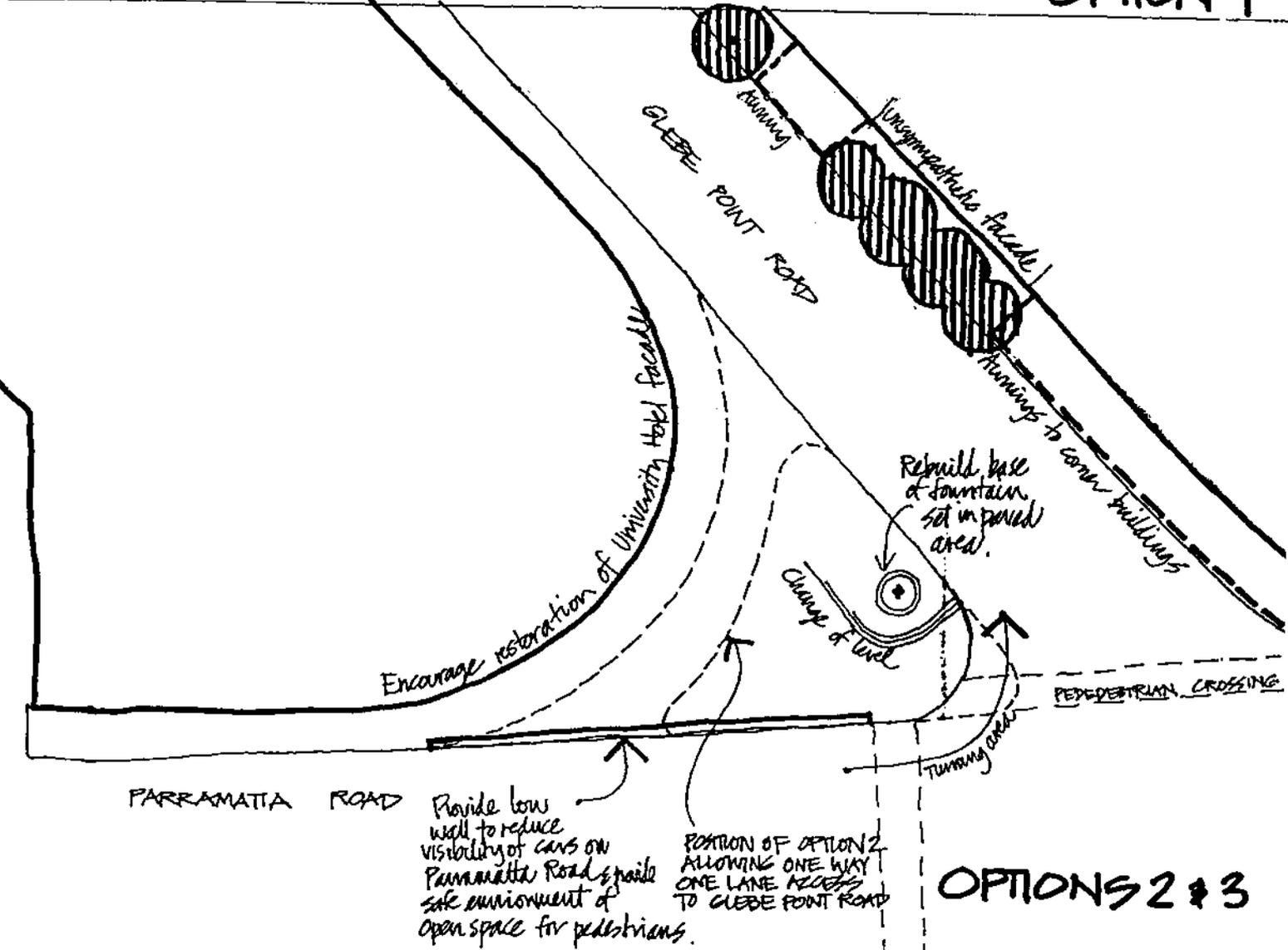
He offered the Committee three options for consideration, all of which include removing elements of the fabric that detract from the significance of the site, and encouraging the restoration of the University Hotel facade.

Option 1 does not change the extent of the traffic island; Option 2 closes one lane of traffic adjacent to the Hotel; Option 3 closes both lanes of traffic and creates an urban place with the fountain as the focus. His sketches of the three options are reproduced below:

The Society would be interested receive members' responses to these recommendations and options.



OPTION 1



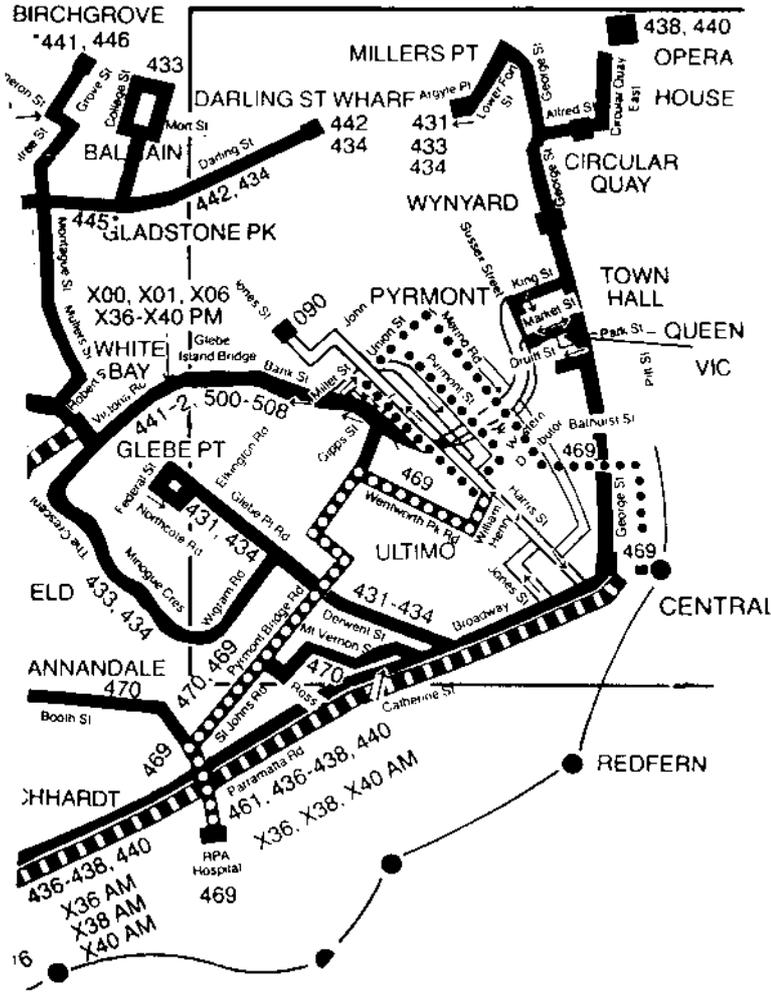
OPTIONS 2 & 3

State Transit has released 'Busplan', a proposal they claim will improve services. The closing date for submissions was 30th April but if you haven't made your comments yet don't let that hold you back. Send your comments (even if only to complain about the lack of time for public comment) to:

Busplan  
 State Transit S & W Divs  
 PO Box 1154  
 Burwood North NSW 2134

Here are some extracts from Busplan which affect Glebe:

- Route 470 from Lilyfield and Marketown Shopping Centre, will operate to and from the Queen Victoria Building instead of Circular Quay, except during the busy shopping period (11.00am to 2.00pm on Mondays to Fridays).
- For travel beyond Market Street to Circular Quay passengers will transfer to 422-440. Slight frequency reductions will be introduced during the morning peak period. However, the current number of trips to Marketown will be doubled.
- Route 459 will be withdrawn (Queen Victoria Building-Strathfield Station via Pyrmont Bridge Road). This service through Glebe is non-commercial and an approach to the Department of Transport regarding the funding of a proposed alternate service is being made. This service would be route 469, and operate from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital via the Children's Hospital, Pyrmont Bridge Road, Wentworth Park, Ultimo and Darling Harbour to Railway Colonnade.
- The 433 from Millers Point to Gladstone Park, Balmain will divert to provide a new service to Mort Street, the new Department of Housing estate at College Street and the Thames Street ferry wharf.



## The Glebe Chamber of Commerce

*presents*

# The Great Glebe Ball





**7:00 to Midnight**  
**June 23rd**  
**Glebe Town Hall**

Enquiries & tickets: Phone Laura on **552 2744**  
 Dress: Formal                      Tickets: **\$50**

The Total Environment Centre tells us of an excursion to Long Reef on Sunday 6 May 1990, when the guides will be Tony Larkum, Associate Professor of Biology at Sydney University (and convenor of the Society's Jubilee Park Sub-committee), and Dr Alan Miller, a taxonomist with the Royal Botanical Gardens and a seaweed expert.

Long Reef is a marine reserve - no shells, shellfish or any other life may be collected - and has a wonderful, wide wave platform with pools whose inhabitants will be shown and explained.

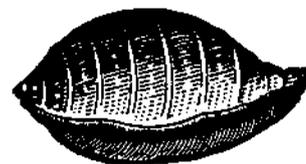
The party will meet at 10am at the ocean end of Anzac Avenue (off Pittwater Road) beside the Long Reef Golf Course. The cost is \$15 per person which includes a picnic lunch of sandwiches, fruit and drink. Participants should wear non-slip sandals, a hat, a blouse or shirt with collar and long sleeves against sunburn and should bring a jacket and back pack or shoulder bag. Binoculars might be added because interesting birds can often be seen from the Reef.

Those interested should book by writing to the Total Environment Centre, 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, 2000 or by ringing the Centre between 10am and 4.30 on a week day on 241 2523. Book early because numbers are limited.



#### GLEBE SOCIETY BADGE COMPETITION

The judge for the competition was the well known artist and Society member, Elizabeth Cummings. The winner was Christine Stewart and a copy of her design for a badge is shown above. Please let a member of the Management Committee know what you think of the design. Depending on the response from members, the Committee plans to have the badge available for purchase at our 21st birthday party in July.



#### MONDAY GROUP

The Monday Group will meet at 12 noon on 21st May in Sue Stainer's new home at 50 Catherine Street, Glebe. Please bring lunch for one person.

The June meeting will be lunch at Jean McKenzie's, 16 Avon Tower, 2A Forsyth Street, on 18th June at 12 noon. Bring lunch for one person.

#### HAPPY HOURS

The next Happy Hour, on Sunday 13th May at 11am, will be at Edwina Doe's house, 224 Bridge Road. There is parking round the back if you can find the little lane behind the Ross Street shops.

Jan and Neil Macindoe will host the Happy Hour on Sunday 17th June at 11.30am. They are at 56 Wigram Road.

New members are especially welcome at Happy Hours. Light refreshments are served and there is a token charge of \$2 to cover expenses.

#### DINING OUT

In May we are dining at Rose Blues, 33 Glebe Point Road, a new eating place. Please phone Jeanette Knox on 660 7781 by 6 May to make your bookings.

Next month The Oasis, in the motel at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Wigram Road, has been chosen. This is a licensed restaurant but you may also BYO. Please phone Jeanette Knox by 3 June for your booking for this Dining Out night.

## THE GLEBE NEWSPAPER

Is The Glebe and Western Weekly being delivered to you? If you are not receiving a copy each Wednesday please telephone the Editor, Marilyn Vale, on 550-0311, who is concerned that deliveries may not be reaching some parts of Glebe.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3 May - 5.30pm - Glebe Point Road studies - Old Fire Station, Mitchell Street - see item this Bulletin.

Sunday 6 May - 10am - TEC Long Reef excursion - meet at Anzac Avenue - see item this Bulletin

Tuesday 8 May - 6.30pm - Dining Out - Rose Blues, 23 Glebe Point Road (BYO)

Sunday 13 May - 11am - Happy Hour - 224 Bridge Road (Edwina Doe's home)

Wednesday 16 May - 7.30pm - Committee Meeting - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street

Wednesday 16 May - 7.30pm - Airport sub-committee meeting - 397 Glebe Point Road

Saturday 19 May - Third Runway street stall, Glebe Point Road

Monday 21 May - Monday Group - proposed visit to NSW Art Gallery (details later)

Sunday 27 May - Street Sweeping, Glebe Point Road

Tuesday 5 June - 6.30pm - Dining Out - The Oasis, cnr Wigram & Glebe Point Roads (BYO or licensed)

Sunday 17 June - 11.30am - Happy Hour - 56 Wigram Road (Jan and Neil Macindoe's house)

Monday 18 June - Monday Group

### GLEBE POINT ROAD PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

Ian Jones - 660 2451

Sobbie Burke

Peter Strickland



## THE GLEBE SOCIETY

### CONVENORS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

All Convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

#### BICENTENNIAL PARK

John Buckingham - 660 7780

#### PLANNING

Neil Macindoe - 660 0208

#### TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

#### BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

#### HAROLD PARK

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

#### JUDILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 7030

#### WENTWORTH PARK

Christine Stewart - 660 8324

#### LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

#### KINGSFORD-SMITH AIRPORT AND GLEBE

Alison McKeown - 660 3917

#### ENVIRONMENT

Fiona Campbell - 821 6259 (W)

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Contact a Committee Member

CONTACT THE PEOPLE LISTED ABOVE IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN OR GIVE INFORMATION.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**PRESIDENT:** Andrew Wood 660 2194 (H)  
692 2451 (W)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692-0916 (H)

**IMM. PAST PRES:** Peter Strickland 660 7624 (H)  
964 1729 (W)

**SECRETARY:** Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)

**TREASURER:** Ann Disher 552 2061 (H)

**COMMITTEE:** Bobbie Burke 692 0343 (H)  
Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H)  
955 9848 (W)  
Jeanette Knox 660 7781 (H)

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Bulletin Editor: Jeremy Long 692 8742  
Membership List: Andrew Wood 660 2194  
New Members Rep: Sue Littleton 660 5610  
Monday Group: Sally Nelson 660 6138

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:**  
Household \$15, Individual \$12, Student or Pensioner \$5. Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring Sue Littleton on 660 5610 for information.