

## **Environment Subcommittee**

The Environment Subcommittee, an active and long-standing subcommittee has submitted revised terms of reference and an action plan for 2012.

**Motion:** *that the revised terms of reference for the Environment Subcommittee and the action plan for 2012 be endorsed by the Management Committee (Agreed)*

## **The Glebe Society Inc Environment Policy**

The Constitution of the Glebe Society includes amongst its objects:

- a) to improve the amenity of Glebe by:
  - vi) making Glebe a cleaner and healthier environment
- b) to preserve and enhance the natural and architectural character of Glebe

In keeping with these objects, the Glebe Society (“the Society”) is committed to improving, preserving and enhancing the following aspects of the natural environment:

### **Environmental sustainability**

The Society collaborates with other organisations such as the City of Sydney Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and depletion of non-renewable resources in our community. The Society supports strategies to minimise waste and increase recycling and re-use of resources.

### **Water quality in our bays.**

In collaboration with the Society's Bays and Foreshores subcommittee and various relevant authorities, we support strategies to ensure the water entering Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays is clean, and to remove rubbish which washes onto our shores or is dumped there.

### **Air quality in our streets and public places.**

The Society supports strategies to reduce air pollution, including reducing vehicle emissions and supporting anti-smoking measures.

### **Parks and open spaces.**

The Society supports the maintenance and enhancement of our parks and open spaces for the enjoyment of all residents, including facilities such as picnic tables, seats, bubblers, toilets and children's play areas as well as maintenance of sporting fields and facilities. We support strategies to achieve a harmonious balance between the needs of different users, including dog owners, bike riders and pedestrians. We support the creation of biodiversity corridors through planting of appropriate native species.

### **Pedestrian-friendly environment**

The Society supports strategies to encourage residents to walk to local destinations, recognising the benefits for health as well as the environmental benefits of decreasing use of cars. For this end we support strategies to make pedestrian routes clearer and more attractive through simple signage, provision of appropriate seating, bubblers and trees for shade.

### **Attractive and well-maintained physical environment**

The Society supports strategies to maintain and enhance the physical environment generally through the prompt elimination of unsightly graffiti, the removal of litter and rubbish (including abandoned cars and supermarket trolleys) from our streets, reduction in vandalism.

### **Community gardens**

The Society supports the creation and maintenance of community gardens for their benefit in contributing to local food production, strengthening local communities through collaboration, and providing a healthy outdoor activity suitable for all ages.

### **Private gardens**

The Glebe Society recognises the many benefits of gardens on private land, including contribution to the aesthetic appeal of the neighbourhood, contributing to biodiversity habitat, the role of soft landscaping in preventing water run-off, and the creation of a micro-climate which modifies extremes of temperature and reduces reliance on air-conditioning. The Society supports strategies to encourage the establishment and maintenance of private gardens, including sharing of information, access to suitable plant material and support for garden competitions.

### **Glebe Society activities**

The Glebe Society is committed to supporting these goals in its own activities, ensuring that its social activities have minimal environmental impact through use of reusable or recyclable materials, reducing waste and minimising energy use. The Society encourages discussion and sharing of information to enable its members to implement appropriate environmentally friendly strategies in local residences and businesses.

March 2012

## **Environment Subcommittee Action Plan, 2012 - 2013**

The Environment subcommittee will undertake the following action in the 2012 – 13 year:

Hold at least one environmentally themed educational/social activities per year as part of the Society's calendar of events.

Provide regular information updates through the Glebe Society Bulletin on topics related to the environment.

Work with the events planning group to develop a checklist to ensure that Glebe Society events have minimal environmental impact.

Advocate for the establishment of further community gardens in Glebe, in both the northern and southern sections of the suburb, and support such community gardens by participation in their establishment and governance.

Discuss with Council officers the option of holding environmental awareness workshops for the Glebe community, using Benledi as a venue.