

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2013**

### **AGM**

The AGM was successfully completed on August 25, 2013. Reports from subcommittees had been published and I gave the President's annual report. Officers were elected by the AGM which welcomed Jan Wilson as Vice President; Di Gray as Secretary; Tess Nicholls as Treasurer; and me as President. Rozzie Hecker, Jock Keene, Bill Simpson Young and Martin Wandmaker were elected as members of the management committee. I thanked the outgoing committee, proudly passed over a Life Membership award to Lesley Lynch; then Society commendations to Jan Craney and Peter Thorogood. Afterwards I introduced our guest speaker Corinne Fisher, convenor of the Better Planning Network. After her speech *Building community influence* the meeting formally ended and most stayed for drinks, nibbles and discussion. I would like to put the AGM draft minutes on the website. Our policy is not to publish minutes to our members until they are confirmed. I suggest that we make a judgement on that policy for AGMs. Are there any objections to this year's draft AGM draft minutes (as attached) being placed on the website?

### **FEDERAL CANDIDATES' FORUM**

The forum was successfully completed on August 26 and was favourably mentioned the following day on Sydney Radio (70.2) as an example of candidates meeting directly with their community. The Chambers Hall was full, so I estimate about 150 attended. I emphasised that The Glebe Society is non-aligned politically. This is a central tenet of the Society, which I would like to see noted and mentioned in our publications. I ask the Treasurer to provide costing of this event at a subsequent meeting.

### **GLEBE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The GCDP has operated successfully for 9 years. About a year ago I wrote to the University of Sydney with a view to holding discussions concerning its explicit community engagement strategy. TGS position is that the model of annual rolling funds (chiefly from NSW Housing) is not sustainable. As I explained at our last meeting the University has never adequately responded. However, things came to a head when funding from Housing NSW had become so delayed that it threatened 2013/2014 activities and short term cash flow. I am pleased to say that the University (June) and The Glebe Society (on 16 August) contacted the CEO of Housing and funds were released on 16 August. Consequently I have held discussions with Dr Rebecca Murray, Director of Strategy at the University of Sydney and there will be a meeting 26 September between the University and The Glebe Society to investigate a sustainable funding model for GCDP and to consider potential partnerships between the Glebe community and the University.

### **TRAMSHEDS DA**

I signed off The Society's objections to this DA and have received acknowledgement from the City.

### **NEW MEMBERS' NIGHT**

This night was successfully held on August 30 at the Harold Park Hotel. The events committee is thanked for all its work and management committee members are encouraged to stay in contact with new members.

### **NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The new management committee members met at my home on Sunday to familiarise themselves with the context of The Glebe Society so they can contribute effectively and enjoy doing so. Whilst we spoke briefly about governance and the way we organise, we spent most of our time getting to know each other and removing perceived constraints to their contribution.

### **THE GLEBE ESTATE**

The recent Auditor general's Report into housing in NSW shows neglect, mismanagement, lack of strategy and inadequacy to deal with current demand. It decried policies of selling off properties and noted the lack of social care. The Glebe Estate is recognised as a strategic matter for TGS.

During the last year I have met with each level of government, community agencies, action groups and tenants. I last met Jamie Parker MP on 9 September and discussed The Glebe Estate. I have corresponded with Millers Point action group and held discussions with the Deputy Lord Mayor. I have

a planned a meeting with the member for Sydney as soon as the recent election matters are settled. The next step is to form a group of influential and knowledgeable people which can meet briefly to consider data, define the problem and propose an action plan. I shall do that as soon as I have met each level of government and I ask you now to consider nominations. For example, if he agreed, I would nominate Professor Geoff Gallop, Professor of Government at University of Sydney.

### **CoGG**

CoGG has received no responses from AusGrid about the continual disruption to Glebe's streets by its digging machines. Consequently CoGG has referred the matter to the Australian Small Business Commissioner. A City of Sydney official made a presentation to CoGG about plaques policy. It seems that there will be two types of plaques for CoS. It is intended that there will be a green plaque for historical sites, which are determined jointly with the Royal Australian Historical Society and another (probably blue) plaque for social and cultural. The criteria will be sent to us in the draft report by September meeting. The City official agreed to transfer Peter Robinson's work into the City's database, which *inter alia* is maintained as a method of record and interpretation. The City currently has about 5000 on this database. It was also agreed that the plaque for Glebe Rugby League Football Club's foundation on 9 January 1908 can be mounted at The Glebe Town Hall. GRLFC was the first RL Club in Australia and I have had the ARL plaque since 2009. During that time the Town Hall has been refurbished. I will liaise with the Australian Rugby League about a function, when this season, which South Sydney will win, concludes in October.

*John Gray*

President