

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

MEMBERS PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE; a cross means your sub. is due this month. Please post to The Treasurer P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037.	
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No. 4 of 1972. Box 100, P.O., Glebe, 2037. Enquiries: 660 3529 or 660 6485

THE UNGREENING OF GLEBE

Sydney will remember the 1970s as the decade we used up all the grass. Private homes once provided reasonable areas of grass but our tendency is to tear down these homes, build units and put cement drives where lawns used to be. Quarry tiles, bricks, gravel and even bark are the style for inner-city yards and grass is just not "in".

We think a stretch of grass useless - not worth the effort of mowing - better put to more profitable purpose. We prefer sheds, car-ports, Hills hoists or swimming pools.

Our thinking applies also to public open space. The planned extensive "improvements" (mini-golf courses etc.) at Centennial Park, for example, which have barely received a mention in the press.

But what of Glebe's public grass? We had 2 acres of promised parkland in Glebe fronting Ferry Road, Avon Street, Palmerston Avenue and Lombard Street, reserved under the City of Sydney Planning Scheme (certified by the Minister for Local Government) for 1(a) Open Space (Parks and Recreation Areas). We saw that area rezoned to Light Industrial 4(b) - in the middle of a residential area - by the City Commissioners in April 1968. The reason given for the illegal (time for objections to the scheme having closed) change of zoning was that the area was not very suitable as park space due to its locations and levels. The many semi-trailers now visiting the site negotiate the levels without too much difficulty (though not without noise). We have some grass in Wentworth Park. A member of the Society is reported to have spied a few blades between the time Grace Bros was using it as a car-park and the Russian Circus last visited us.

The recent "Disney on Parade" group had armed guards constantly patrolling the fenced off Northern section of the park ensuring no residents should try to use the park benches the group had carefully included in its domain.

The area between the railway line and the dog track is constantly used as a car park and is a dustbowl (or quagmire - depending on the weather).

A low brick wall was recently built around the whole park to restrict entry by those not parking a car or paying to attend a circus, dog race or whatever other money-making purpose the park is being put to. There are now threats that a further section of the park is to be fenced off from the public.

The Department of Main Roads has carefully rerouted its North-Western expressway through a large slice of the remaining public area of Wentworth Park, all of the Splatt Playground (Broughton Street), half of the small park below Keegan Avenue and a section of Jubilee Park.

All but two of Glebe's parks, playgrounds and reserves are affected by future proposals by organisations which consider our grass quite expendable.

Glebe has had a very poor deal with parkland. Apart from the small Glebe Point Marine Reserve, few would realize that Glebe has an extensive waterfront. The George Hudson site bounded by Ferry Road, Taylor Street, Bridge Road and Blackwattle Bay is for sale. The site is close to the "stolen" 2 acre park site in Lombard Street.

The influx of multiple dwellings in that area over the past few years has increased Glebe's population and the need for open space.

The George Hudson site presents an opportunity for a magnificent and much needed new waterfront park for Glebe.

Or would we prefer the site to accommodate an 80 feet high cement batching plant or a container depot, further walling off our foreshores?

Albert Mispel & Peter Pockley

Our special Welcome to New Members this year takes the form of a History Walk followed by afternoon tea. The Walk will be conducted by Max Solling, Convener of the History Group, who is full of expert knowledge and interesting lore about the old buildings of the Glebe. The Walk will be in two parts: those who do not wish to have a long walk can stop for tea after the first part; the more energetic members can go on further before they also stop for tea. Tea will be served at the Forknalls', 21 Ferry Road, and at the Pockleys', 19 Mansfield Street, and in accordance with our usual practice for Welcomes, there will be no charge. An illustrated historical leaflet will be on sale, price 20¢. The Walk starts at 2.0 p.m. outside the main gates of St Scholastica's (corner Avenue and Arcadia Roads). All members, old and new, are welcome.

TREE SURVEY



In Bulletin No. 2 of 1972 we published part I of a Tree Survey being undertaken by Tony Rodd and the Parks and Gardens Sub-Committee. Part II is published below - it consists of recommended trees for more of the unplanted sections of Glebe streets, and suggestions for further tree plantings in some of the bigger areas of park.

<u>Street & block</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Footpath width</u>	<u>O'head wires</u>	<u>Predominant building type</u>	<u>Average setback</u>	<u>Species recommended</u>	<u>Suggested spacing</u>
BRIDGE ROAD Burton St to Kent.Pk.Rd	NW	12'	Yes	Factory	0	Fraxinus oxycarpa "Desert Ash"	30'
	SE	12'	No	Factory	0	Populus nigra 'Italica' "Lombardy Poplar"	30'
WENTWORTH PARK ROAD Cardigan St to Bridge Rd	SW	12'	No	DMR yard	-	Eucalyptus saligna "Flooded Gum"	50'
	NE	12'	Yes	(Park)	-	Tristania laurina "Water Gum"	30'
WENTWORTH ST whole	SW	8'	Yes	Housing Comm. flats	20'	Populus simonii 'Fastigiata' "Upright Simon Poplar"	25'
	NE	8'	No	Dept. Public Works	0	Flindersia australis "Crows Ash"	35'
AVONA AVE whole	SW	12'	Yes	Units - rentals		Koelreuteria bipinnata	35'
TOXTETH RD whole	SE	8'	Yes	2-storey terraces	15'	Crataegus phaenopyrum "Washington Thorn"	20'
	NW	12'	No	" "	15'	Gleditsia triacanthos 'Inermis' "Thornless Locust"	40'
AVENUE RD whole	SW	12'	Yes	Convent wall - houses NW	12'	Barklya syringifolia & Albizia julibrissin alternating	20'
WOOD STREET whole	NW	6'	Yes?	2-storey terraces	0	Glochidion ferdinandi "Cheese Tree"	30'
	SE	6'	No?	" "	0	Lagerstroemia indica "Crepe Myrtle"	30'
CREEK STREET whole	NW	6'	Yes	1 & 2-storey terraces	0	Podocarpus elatus "Illawarra Plum"	25'
	SE	6'	No	" "	0	Lagerstroemia indica "Crepe Myrtle"	30'
CROSS STREET Foss St to Hereford St	NE	6'	Yes	1-storey terraces	0	Melaleuca armillaris	25'
	SW	6'	No	" "	0	Populus simonii 'Fastigiata'	25'
	SW	6'	No	Vacant land	-	Eucalyptus cinerea "Argyle Apple"	30'

JUBILEE PARK

<i>Quercus ilex</i> , "Holm Oak"	Spreading evergreen shade tree
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> "Liquidambar"	Broad-conical, deciduous, leaves light green
<i>Pinus elliottii</i> , "Slash Pine"	Broad-columnar, shiny green needles, orange-brown bark
<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> , "Hoop Pine"	Columnar, very tall, bunchy dark green foliage
<i>Toona australis</i> , "Red Cedar"	Spreading, tall, deciduous, scaly grey bark
<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> , "Flooded Gum"	Very tall, straight trunk, smooth blue-grey bark
<i>Euc. microcorys</i> , "Tallowwood"	Moderately tall, broad-columnar, dense foliage, fibrous bark
<i>Euc. paniculata</i> , "Grey Ironbark"	Same habit, interesting deeply furrowed hard grey bark
<i>Chorisia speciosa</i> , "Floss Silk Tree"	Spreading medium tree, very fast-growing, bright green bark and leaves, large clear pink flowers: outstanding new introduction

ORPHAN SCHOOL CREEK

<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> , "River Oak"	Tall, conical, long-pointed crown; inhabits freshwater stream banks in dense stands; very fast
<i>Salix babylonica</i> , "Weeping Willow"	Familiar widely spreading tree, likes wet, soggy ground; very fast
<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> , "Turpentine"	Local native; tall, spreading high up, straight trunk; quite fast
<i>Casuarina littoralis</i> , "Black She Oak"	Small, quick-growing - may be good for screening tall wire fence along hospital boundary

CALDWELL PLAYGROUND

<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Native, medium-sized, rounded, dense; one to go a bit rear of centre
<i>Euc. tessellaris</i> , "Moreton Bay Ash"	Medium, graceful bright green foliage, open; 2? to go not far back from front fence
<i>Chamelaucium uncinatum</i> "Geraldton Wax"	Shrubs about 8' tall; row to go along inside front fence

LEW HOAD RESERVE

<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i> "Scribbly Gum"	Small, branching near ground, whitish bark; on rocky ledges in better-drained spots
<i>Euc. eximia</i> , "Yellow Bloodwood"	Medium-small, crooked trunk, long heavy leaves; for better-drained spots on slope
<i>Euc. luehmanniana</i> , "Yellow-topped Mallee Ash"	Multi-stemmed "mallee" with smooth slender stems about 10' high; for wetter spots on rocky ledges
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Tall for a <i>Banksia</i> , with upright branches; needs deeper soil than above three
<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>	Local native shrub, fine dark green leaves; inhabits dry rock ledges

WENTWORTH PARK [to be suggested to Park Trust]

<i>Casuarina glauca</i> , "Swamp Oak"	Medium-tall, columnar, spiky outline; local native requiring brackish ground-water: scattered stand around NW corner?
<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i> "Blackwattle"	Many-stemmed shrub 5-10' high, grows in gullies and along creeks. Gave name to Blackwattle Bay; row along Wentworth Park Road frontage toward W end?

MISCELLANEOUS

Society members could make a habit of keeping the footpath and gutter in front of their homes clean even if it is "other peoples' rubbish", "the council's job", "no one else cares" and so on. Just imagine if the habit spread!

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Do you realise that the Western Expressway will isolate Glebe's two public schools from four fifths of Glebe? Ever seen a five year old dash across a 16 lane expressway during peak hour?

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The United States Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe has proposed that by the mid-1970s about a third of the Highway Trust Fund revenues, currently \$5 billion a year and growing, be made available for mass transit.

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While on the subject of parks - and this issue is largely devoted to it - an alderman commented recently that the kind of children's play equipment being installed in parks now is by and large the same as it was 50 years ago. Has there indeed been no development in this design field in half a century? Or is it just that we haven't heard about it in this part of the world? We are keen to hear ideas from any member who has information on this topic (not so much plans for adventure playgrounds with specialised facilities, but equipment for kids' casual enjoyment in the few pocket handkerchief parks we have about Glebe).

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A fair bit of furore has been aroused in some parental circles about Council's decision to run Hilda Dooler Kindergarten as a full day care centre. Hopefully things will by now have been sorted out a little at a meeting between parents and aldermen scheduled for 3rd May, but it seems a pity that Council did not find some way of letting parents know where they stood before worries and tempers rose so high.

If this Miscellany column seems to change its style a little in future issues, you can probably put it down to the departure from these shores of the member who has contributed so many of its paragraphs - the inimitable Albert Mispel. Best wishes for your trip.

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FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 6th May: COFFEE MORNING 10.30-12.30 at the Tzannes', 14 Avenue Road. All welcome for coffee and conversation. Charge 20%.

Wednesday, 10th May: MONTHLY MEETING at Glebe Town Hall organised by the Parks and Gardens Sub-Committee with Mr P. G. Conley of the Royal Horticultural Society to speak and answer questions.

Saturday, 27th May: WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - History Walk. See special panel.

Saturday, 27th May: DAY CONFERENCE sponsored by C.R.A.G. on Reforming Local Government, at McMahon's Point Community Centre, 9.45 a.m. - 5.15 p.m. Representatives of many bodies and organisations will present their views, followed by discussion both in groups and the full conference. Lunch provided. Contact Sam Conlon (660 5279) for further details and application forms.

Saturday, 3rd June: COFFEE MORNING at Olga McIntyre's, 28 Ferry Road.

Monday, 5th June: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP MEETING at 8.0 p.m. at Anna Forknall's, 21 Ferry Road.

Wednesday, 14th June: MONTHLY MEETING at Glebe Town Hall when Professor Bernard Smith will talk on The Architecture of Glebe.

Is this the sort of advertisement we shall be seeing here soon?

