

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

No.10 of 1973

NOT FOR PUBLICATION!

2nd November, 1973

The Editor,
The Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir,

With the events of recent weeks, it may be appropriate at this time to review the conditions of two of the green bans enforced by the Builders' Labourers' Federation - the demolition of Lyndhurst and the construction of the North-Western Expressway.

The legislation and announced government policy under which we expected protection is as follows: -

In January, 1972 Premier Askin stated that "it is Government policy that, before any action which could significantly affect the quality of the environment is undertaken, its implications shall be expressly identified and evaluated". Under this policy responsibility for the preparation of environmental impact statements lies with the operating authority, in these cases the Department of Main Roads.

The State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC) under its enabling legislation has the responsibility "to protect the environment from defacement, defilement or deterioration" and has the power to conduct an enquiry into any matter relating thereto, particularly "where it is required to arbitrate on disputes on the environmental considerations and/or where the environmental issues are of major consequences or highly controversial".

The history of our attempts to apply this legislation and policy include the following: -

Leichhardt Municipal Council has persistently requested the Department of Main Roads to release specific information about the social and environmental impact of the North-Western Expressway. No such information has been forthcoming.

The Glebe Society has repeatedly requested the Minister for Environment Control, Mr. J.G. Beale to exercise his statutory power to require the SPCC to conduct an inquiry into the environmental impact of the North-Western Expressway. No such inquiry has been initiated.

No legislation whatever exists to ensure the preservation of historic buildings such as John Verge's "Lyndhurst". Well-documented appeals for this building's preservation have been met only with uninformed remarks from the responsible minister.

The green bans on these projects were made at our request and we will continue to support these bans until the government implements existing legislation and policy regarding protection of the environment and introduces long-promised legislation for the preservation of historic buildings and areas.

Alan Robertson,
Secretary,
The Glebe Society.

On behalf of:

The Glebe Society
The Annandale Association
Glebe Anti-Expressway Action Group
Save Lyndhurst Committee

Betty Mason
Alan Rees
Ian Evans.

THE ABOVE LETTER OR ANY LIKE LETTER SENT TO NEWSPAPERS BY RESIDENT GROUPS INVOLVED WITH GREEN BANS HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AT THE DATE OF THIS BULLETIN GOING TO PRESS.

In case you missed the news, The Sydney Area Transportation Study, headed by Dr Robert Nielsen and carried out by the N.S.W. State Government at a cost of \$1,500,000, is expected to recommend (so say OFFICIAL sources) that the North Western Expressway project through Glebe be abandoned. Advisers working on the study agreed that the \$30,000,000 first stage would be a technical and political mistake.

This was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on 23rd November 1973 with the unfortunate headline of "\$3m spent, but work may halt on expressway". Readers may have been misled to believe that \$3m had been wasted of tax payers money. Most of this money was spent on property acquisition. With the small amounts of money paid in some cases (one case of the DMR paying \$4,750 for a house in Rozelle last year) the DMR is the owner of a lot of real estate - probably worth somewhat more than they paid for it -.

Lyndhurst is in a very dangerous state of risk with two fires in the last two months. The Annandale Association asked the DMR for permission to clean the place up but were informed that the building did not exist, and besides, it was in a very poor state (uh?).

Actually the building is not in too bad a state of repair in spite of the fires and vandalism - but something must be done soon. Now that the freeway may not be built it would be a very sad thing if our inaction allowed a needless loss of so valuable a piece of our heritage.

A.M.

MUSIC GROUP

Anyone who is interested in doing some carol singing in Glebe on one or two nights in the week, beginning 17th December, please contact Dorothy Perkins on 660 8187 (work) or 660 7623 (home). A couple of practices of about an hour each will be required.

FERRY TRIP

Some eighty people joined the Society's harbour cruise this year (a head at Parsley Bay and Shark Island indicated 41 adults and 47 children - on both occasions!) and thoroughly enjoyed a very fine day. Quite a number of people were daring about swimming at Parsley Bay - not really cold once you were in. Included in the junior section of the party were eight girls from Bidura and ten boys from Royleston. The children were good company, we enjoyed having them, none of them went overboard, and our sincere thanks go to those who 'adopted' girls or boys for the day.

VISIT TO THE OBSERVATORY

We have the Society's name down for two inspections of the Sydney Observatory in late February or in March. These will probably be on Fridays, and they will be limited to groups of fifteen each time. I'm not sure how much notice we shall have of the dates for our visits, so it would be useful to know which members of the Society would like to go. Would you let me have your names and phone numbers sometime in December or January if you would like to be in the party. (Just in case notification from the Observatory and the publication date of the Bulletin don't fit together very conveniently). Jeannette Knox, 26 Victoria Road, Phone: 660 7781.

CLEAN STREETS CAMPAIGN

The next meeting of the Clean Streets Group will be at 8 p.m. on Monday 3rd December at the Colmans', 48 Boyce Street. Aldermen Eric Sandblom and David Young will be at the meeting to hear our views and give us Council's angle on this pressing problem, so come along and join in the discussion.

A Thought for this month - The Council does not allow cartons, plastic bags, etc. to be used for household garbage - a most sensible rule in view of the mess that can be made by marauding cats and other pests. But the Council places no restriction on the number of standard garbage bins used on premises. The maximum permitted size of bin is 2 cubic feet, i.e. approximately 19" high and 16" in diameter (approx. 48 cm. high and 41 cm. in diameter). This is a big bin and it will hold most things short of a mattress (which you should phone Council about specially). You can put out half a dozen large bins full of rubbish if you like - the equivalent roughly of 36 bucketfuls. We hope that no member of the Glebe Society is producing garbage at that rate, but even if you are, please PUT IT IN BINS.

M.M.C.

HOUSE AND GARDEN INSPECTION

Over 250 people inspected houses and gardens in the Glebe on Sunday, 4th November and despite the occasional shower, obviously found their visit to this suburb of great interest. (Good publicity, we hope!) Congratulations to Tony Strachan and his committee on their efforts.

The committee's very sincere thanks go to all those members of the Society who gave up quantities of their time to house- or garden-sit or to help serve tea and biscuits at the Kindergarten. Your assistance was very much appreciated.

ay reading

About ten people invaded Albert Renshaw's flat on Wednesday evening (14th November) to read Ionesco's 'The Future is in Eggs'. Our host proved a superb Roberta - who else could have maintained for so long and so fluently the sustained crowing demanded by the part! In short a superbly farcical time was had by all.

Absolutely no experience necessary to participate - see details of next performance elsewhere in this Bulletin.

CHILD WELFARE

The Society's interest in the child welfare institutions in Glebe has led to a fuller appreciation of the inadequacies of current legislation on this subject and the urgency of having the whole system of care of "welfare" children drastically overhauled or, ideally, totally re-structured. As the Child Welfare Act is now undergoing review with a view to considerable (long overdue) legislative amendment, Julia McConnochie and Jim Coombs of the Glebe Society's Management Committee are looking through the Act with the intention of suggesting and pressing for amendments on behalf of the Society. If you have any relevant bright ideas to offer them, please get in touch with either Julia (at 660 7605) or Jim (at 665 1221(work) or 660 0026).

Meanwhile, I hope that the interest and enthusiasm shown by Members for giving direct support to the local institutions continues. The manager of Royleston, Mr. Mueller, has been delighted by the fact that so many of his boys have enjoyed outings with us. He would obviously be pleased if any Glebe families were willing to share their Christmas Day with a Royleston boy or two - those boys remaining at the Depot over the Christmas/New Year holidays will particularly appreciate any extra kind attention you can give them. If you have any to give, ring Mr. Mueller at 660 1269 and tell him. (If you do have any difficulty contacting him or arranging an outing, please ring me (Margaret Coombs) at 660 0026).

Some couples have hung back from inviting boys out because they imagine that if they have no children of their own or are "too old", the boys will not enjoy going out with them. This simply isn't true. Just think what it is like to live in a severely over-crowded institution with 80 other boys and think again!

Some of the places to which boys have enjoyed going with Glebe Society members or have said they would like to go are: the zoo; Lane Cove National Park; Fort Denison; Harbour cruise; wax-works and (the all-time favourite) Luna Park. However, they have also enjoyed far less ambitious outings and simple days spent with a family - they really do enjoy just "getting out".

M.C.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM

COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM
Thursday, 7th February, 1974

ed in social welfare at the Annual General Meeting, a special meeting has been arranged to discuss what role, if any, the Glebe Society could play in this field. Guests of honour will be Mrs. Marjorie Bull, community social worker recently appointed to Leichhardt Council, and Dr. Sue Morey, Director of the Glebe Community Care Centre.

I might point out that many of our members are already actively involved in a variety of very worthwhile projects which receive little or no publicity. However, it seems that we have reached a stage in our development when the society as a whole has the motivation and the resources to identify a definite focus for our activities in community welfare; to make explicit a policy on our welfare commitment as distinct from the individual work which has been implicit in the Glebe Society to date.

So whether you are interested in children's homes or aged pensioners or whether you simply want to know more about the social fabric of Glebe, come along to this open forum and exchange ideas with two well-qualified experts who have a professional perspective on this issue. Show by your attendance and participation that the Glebe Society cares about people as well as architecture.

J. McC.

For some years the Glebe Society has been providing drivers once a month for the Meals on Wheels service. As this service has grown considerably and is now being maintained almost entirely by Leichhardt Council employees, it was felt that some alternative form of service would be of more benefit to the community.

The Glebe Community Care Centre needs volunteers to help its patients with running messages, odd jobs, shopping, visiting, etc. The volunteers presently doing Meals on Wheels felt that this type of service would be more convenient, satisfying and socially useful and so they have offered to help the Glebe Community Care Centre as required.

There may be other members of the Glebe Society who have not felt able to assist with Meals on Wheels in the past, but would like to help with this new programme. It is anticipated that the time involved would be one or two hours a month, at the volunteer's convenience.

If you would like to contribute in a small way (an hour a month is not a great imposition) to help the needy in Glebe, would you contact Andrea Robertson (660 6149) for further details.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MISCELLANY

Saturday, December 1st: The last COFFEE MORNING for the year will be held at Jean, Theo and Elizabeth Ahlston's, 58 Toxteth Road, between 10.30 and 12.30 (20c). See you after you've done your Saturday shopping.

Monday, 3rd December: CLEAN STREETS CAMPAIGN MEETING. See elsewhere in Bulletin for details.

Wednesday, 12th December: Beggar's Opera is the PLAYREADING for December at Marian Jones', 27 Mansfield Street, 8 o'clock. There is a large cast so don't be backward about coming forward. Lots of parts for everyone.

Saturday, 22nd December: CHRISTMAS PARTY at Dagmar and Peru Perumal's, 12 Lodge Street. Details on enclosed leaflet.

~~Thursday, 10th December:~~ COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM at Evan and Julia McConnochie's, 50 Boyce Street, 8 p.m. For details see elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Saturday, 2nd February: COFFEE MORNING at Peter and Jenny Pockley's, 19 Mansfield Street, 10.30 - 12.30.

From the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads - "Report on the Effects of stopping freeway construction in State Capital cities", July 1973.

"The effects of stopping immediately all freeway construction would be: - (Point 5) Creation of uncertainty in the community. The community in the neighbourhood of the freeway would have been disturbed when the freeway commenced. This would have now been accepted, for the most part, and any further change would lead to anxieties and antagonism".

The Maritime Services Board of N.S.W., in a letter to Leichhardt Council, 3rd August, 1973, regarding property at Blackwattle Bay leased by the Board to Pioneer Concrete Services Ltd., advised Council that the Board cannot agree to Council's request for the setting aside for public access an isolated section within this area as the Board does not see ad hoc piecemeal setting aside of small areas of conflicting land use as being consistent with good planning.

THE WOOLLEY CENTRE

(See enclosed leaflet.) Assistants for workshops and part-time volunteers to assist with organizing and supervising children's activities, 10th December - 28th January - are invited. Please ring Kathy Mispel, 660 5996.

The news that the Sydney Area Transportation Study will recommend that the North-Western Expressway through Glebe NOT be built (S.M. Herald 23/11/73) certainly got Glebe's over abundance of Real Estate agents hopping. Homes in the path were visited that very day and since by agents with the old story of "We have had a buyer in who is very interested in buying YOUR house etc.". Some of these agents expressed great surprise when told of the newspaper article by home owners.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE GLEBE SOCIETY, P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037.

Phone 660 3529 or 660 6149

Annual Subscriptions: Ordinary \$2; Family \$3; Student 50¢; Pensioner 50¢

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: A RED CIRCLE HERE MEANS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to (commence/renew) membership of the Glebe Society.

NAME:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

I enclose cheque/postal note/cash for.....for my annual subscription as an ordinary/family/student/pensioner member.

G L E B E S O C I E T Y

Christmas Party

Saturday

22nd December, 1973

Dagmar and Peru Perumal will be home from overseas in time to welcome everyone for a final social evening this year. The Christmas Party will be at their home, 12 Lodge Street, from 8 p.m.

Wine, soft drinks, hot and cold savouries will be served.

In addition, to celebrate the good news about the Church and roads, and, we hope, the expressways, we're splurging on a modest quantity of champers.

So, come and sparkle!

Cost \$3.50

Pensioner members 50¢

Reservations please to

Gwen or Jeanette Knox
26 Victoria Road
Phone: 660 7781

NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 16th DECEMBER

(Retain this portion for reference, and send in the slip below)

GLEBE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY, 22nd DECEMBER, 1973

Please make reservations for me @ \$3.50/ 50¢ per head

and enclose \$.....

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____