

## REPORTS:

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although the past year was not one in which the Glebe Society took to the streets (Fig or Ferry) to demonstrate, yet progress towards the Society's general aims of maintaining and improving the amenity of Glebe has continued.

In my report last year I expressed the hope that we would see the industrial slum of the Hudson's site replaced by a much needed High School. We have continued to 'nag' by letter and phone this year, following our media campaign last year, and it does now appear that the Education Department has broken through the bureaucratic toils of the Maritime Services Board and the Valuer General's Department and that the School is likely to become a reality.

We hope too that this may be a breakthrough as regards use of waterfront land. Glebe residents are still cut off from virtually all access to the waterfront in spite of the suburb's topographic situation of being almost a peninsula into the harbour.

The halt to Parkes' activities on the Glebe point development has been followed by much discussion between our Secretary and the Lands Commission about the future of the site, whether a more imaginative development could be adopted, with better access to the waterfront, and the restoration and use of 'Venetia'.

Steady pressure has also been exerted on the State Government about the urgency of action to preserve Lyndhurst (sympathetic statements by the Premier on this point have not, to date, been followed up with any positive action) and the need to come to a decision about the North-Western Distributor, which is still not off the local planning map.

Local planning has remained an area of concern, though a frustrating one in present circumstances, and the Planning Group, led by John Bushell, has participated in the Leichhardt Planning Forum meetings, and has met with representatives of the Balmain and Annandale Associations on planning and to discuss a submission to the Boundaries Commission on local government areas. John Bushell and Steve Harris, with comments from Jim Coombs, submitted a well thought-out and presented statement from the Society to the Commission in relation to Glebe specifically, which envisaged Glebe's re-incorporation into the City Council area, with hopes of particular benefit to planning and conservation in the suburb in consequence.

Glebe has been declared a conservation area by both the National Trust and the National Heritage, but unless formal legislation is enacted by the government, there is no effective means, under present planning legislation, of preventing the demolition or extensive alteration of existing buildings.

The Society was pleased that the threat of disposal of some of the land owned by the Chinese Community on which the Joss House stands has been averted. Sydney's Chinese community wishes to preserve the Joss House, and the Society offered any support that might be needed in achieving this. The Joss House is a significant and unusual witness to a colourful period of both local and Australian history.

Local history has been very much in our minds this year with Max Solling's winter series of illustrated lectures on Glebe and its neighbourhood, held at the Forest Lodge School on Wednesday evenings in June and July. The quite considerable number of people who attended have found the evenings most worthwhile and extremely informative.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wed 10 Aug 8pm

glebe town hall

We are at present working on Max to think about a publication, either of some or all of the lectures, or some other aspect of Glebe's history which might form the third monograph of the Society. We hope that this can be arranged.

Jim Coombs presented, on behalf of the Society, a submission to the Wilenski Commission, drawing attention to the difficulties which groups such as ours, not to mention private individuals, have in obtaining information from governmental and semi-governmental bodies, such as, for instance, the Department of Main Roads, or the Maritime Services Board.

Various groups in the Society have met regularly or irregularly, such as the monthly Monday afternoon group, the play-readers, and the gardeners. The Society arranged a number of social functions in addition to the coffee mornings on the first Saturday morning of each month - Ferry trip, Christmas Party, Birthday Party, Welcome to New Members, Asian Evening, etc.

My thanks to all those who organised functions or volunteered their houses for them. In particular, I would like to record thanks to Dorothy Perkins for all her work both this year and previously in connection with coffee mornings, social activities, and bulletin distribution. We shall miss her if she leaves Glebe as she is planning to do at present.

An informal sub-group of those who meet on Mondays has been active with crochet hooks and knitting needles. Result, a supply of blankets for Elsie, the Women's Refuge. The tally in early July had reached six blankets delivered, with several more in progress, and the members hope that Elsie residents find them cheerful as well as warming. The Society contributed \$25.00 to purchase supplies of yarn, in addition to that which individuals also contributed. There are indications that funds for the Women's Refuges may be cut back. The Society believes that this would be a very retro-grade step, and that services such as Elsie's meet a considerable need. We would be most concerned if support for the refuges diminished or ceased.

We are sorry that Joey Rowden will no longer be editing the Bulletin - again, thanks for the unflappable regularity with which you produced it over these last two years, Joey. And best wishes for continuing publishing success David (Reeve), who is taking over from Joey.

Jim Coombs as Secretary, and Ted McKeown as Treasurer, have been 'pillars of society' - my thanks to them, and all the rest of this year's committee for their hard work and support.

Finally, I must record our sadness that we shall be losing from the Glebe scene our foundation President, Bernard Smith, and that active stirrer and promoter of activities, Kate Smith. We shall miss them both very much. We wish them well in their, inevitably active, retirement in Melbourne. And our very sincere thanks to them for all they have done in, for, and about Glebe.

Jeanette Knox

#### FOR KATE

How wrong he was, that man from the North Shore.  
Solemnly shaking his head  
'There'll be no kookaburras in Glebe', he said.  
But I hear them, in Jubilee Park every morning,  
as the first grey light creeps in from the ocean.  
A whirring crescendo, and joyful cackle echoes  
along the avenue of palms, marching to the Bay  
like elephantine showgirls tossing their rustling headdress.

Then from the very tip of the pine that towers above the Kindergarten  
a city-bred currawong wails his wolf-whistle.  
The carolling magpie calls from the spreading fig-tree  
in whose depths, at dusk  
the flying-foxes squawk and jabber  
as mewling gulls soar in from the sea.

In wide, well-ordered streets bordered by poplar and brush-box,  
the Indian mynah struts, among the leaves and litter.  
How generously the fragrant frangipanni scatters  
its creamy flowers, like confetti on the footpath,  
and the gay hibiscus, flourishing its scarlet trumpets  
harbours a flock of foraging sparrows.  
Perched in the overhead wires, bulbuls drench  
the street with song.

Behind the prim facade of iron rail and white-painted bargeboard,  
are hidden gardens where splashing fountains  
spray the perfumed air.  
The tiny exquisite blue-wren leads his drab companions  
from loquat to oleander, in quick and darting quest.  
The white-plumed honey-eater hovers and hangs  
upside-down in the spider-flower.

Sarah Nelson

Glebe, June 1977

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1977

INCOME:

Subscriptions - Household	\$351.00	
Individual	206.00	
Pensioner	10.50	
Student	8.00	\$ 575.50
Bank Interest		91.96
Refund of stamp duty on cheques		9.20
Proceeds from street stalls, coffee mornings, etc.		19.40
Donations		20.00
Train ride		328.46*
Proceeds from Asian evening		2.38
Proceeds from Christmas party		15.16
Royalties from sales of copies of "The Architectural Character of The Glebe, Sydney" - donated by Bernard & Kate Smith		100.74
Raffle of "Benevolence" print		49.00
		<u>          </u>
Total Income		\$1,211.80
Less: Expenditure		<u>1,195.31</u>
Surplus for year transferred to accumulated funds		\$ 16.49

EXPENDITURE

Donations, subscriptions, etc. -		
Royal Horticultural Society of N.S.W.		\$ 4.20
Garry Barkemeyer funeral fund		20.00
Elsie Women's Refuge		50.00
National Trust		10.00
Glebe Infants' School		50.00
ACOSS		2.00
Garden Club of Australia		15.00
Youth Hostels Association		10.00
Civic Design Society		16.00
Royal Australian Historical Society		17.50
Glebe Rowing Club		20.00
Broughton Street Kinder- garten		5.00
Bulletin		219.70
Postage, stationery, etc.		343.22
Ferry Trip		54.03
Parks & Gardens Committee activities		150.00
Advertising		30.00
Welcomes to new members		67.32
Book sales		131.18
General printing		77.85**
Post office box hire		29.16
Telegrams, flowers, etc.		15.00
1976 A.G.M. - refreshments, hire of Glebe Town Hall, etc.		25.70
Royal Australian Planning Institute Journal - 10 copies		27.15
		<u>25.00</u>
Total Expenditure		\$1,195.31

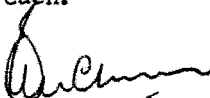
Accumulated funds at 1st July, 1976	\$1,353.15
Plus: surplus for year	<u>16.49</u>
	<u>\$1,369.64</u>

Represented by: Savings Investment Account	\$1,167.61
Savings Bank Cheque Account	174.83
Cash on hand	<u>27.20</u>
	\$1,369.64

Notes: \* Excluding \$27.50 profit included in accounts for year ended 30th June, 1976.

\*\* The following books are held in stock for sale to members:-

    1 copy B & K Smith "Architectural Character of The Glebe" @ \$10.95  
    15 copies F Macdonnell "The Glebe" @ \$8.00 each.



Ted McKeown  
(Hon. Treasurer)

In my opinion, the above Statement of Income and Expenditure is in accordance with the books of account and reflects the transactions of the Glebe Society during the year ended 30th June, 1977 in a true and fair manner.



Alan Robertson  
(Hon. Auditor)

# AGM

## PLANNING GROUP CONVENORS REPORT

This year has seen the fruition of some considerable lobbying and public demonstration over several years by Glebe Society members and others against the Western Expressway. The Department of Main Roads has finally been vanquished on this matter. The Northwestern and Johnson's Creek Expressways are still on the Leichhardt Municipality plan but are the subject of detailed scrutiny by the State Cabinet and these are indications that much more modest schemes than those proposed are likely to be adopted since these schemes are in conformity with a far more realistic budget.

Following the Planning and Environment Commissions deliberations over the Leichhardt Municipality Plan as amended in 1976, it is anticipated that the Plan will be displayed publicly shortly. This will afford individuals of the Municipality as well as the Society an opportunity to contribute positive suggestions to the Plan.

During the year Parkes Developments unleashed their "Hydra" on the gentle slopes of Glebe Point, there to perpetrate yet more destruction of the environs. In addition to constructing more Units "Venetia" has been allowed to decline into an advanced state of decay. Since the demise of Parkes the Lands Commission has shown interest in what remains of the site although no firm proposal has crystallised as yet.

A High School is planned for the old Hudson's site on Blackwattle Bay but with current fiscal restraints it appears that construction may be some time in the future. The site is, however, currently serving a very useful function in providing small firms and owner/builders a venue for constructing there steel, fibreglass and ferrocement boats.

The Society has made a submission to the Boundaries Commission which, in essence, recommends that Glebe rejoin an expanded City of Sydney Local Authority. Our submission also suggests a greater use of management and other special skills within all Local Authorities coupled with greater public participation; for example neighbourhood councils which are used on the Glebe Estate.

The Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday, 10th August at 8.00 p.m.

At this meeting you will be voting for a new Management Committee for the next 12 months. Nominations for election to the following positions are open to all members:-

President  
Senior Vice-President  
Junior Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
4 Committee Members

Nominations for positions on the Management Committee must comply with Clause 10 of the Constitution. This means they must be signed by the nominated person (with occupation and address) and two proposers, and must reach the Secretary at least 14 days before the A.G.M. i.e. 27th July, 1977.

Only positions for which no nominations have been received in advance will be open to nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

nomination received ...

president : Jim Coombs

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 2nd August: Playreading group will meet at Dale Dengate's, 25B Avenue Road, at 8 p.m., to read Buzo's Macquarie. Bring a copy of the play if you can, but join us in any case if you are interested.

Saturday, 6th August. This month's coffee morning will be held at Theo and Jean Ahlston's, 58 Toxteth Road.

Saturday, 20th August: Visit to Rookwood Cemetery with Max Solling. All local historians invited (and everyone else interested in some tombstone hunting). Meet outside the Glebe Town Hall at 1 p.m.

## The Monday Group

Monday, 8th August: Meeting at 2.30 p.m. at Mrs. Jean Ahlston's home, 58 Toxteth Road for tea and discussions.

Monday, 12th September: Meeting at Mrs. Miriam Harris', 280 Glebe Point Road.

## Balmain Theatre Group :

will present 'The Slaughter of St. Teresa's Day' - by Australian playwright Peter Kenna - on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm : 29 & 30 July, 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20 Aug. (Presbyterian Hall, Campbell St., Balmain) Tickets at Brays Bookshop or door - enquiries : ring Geraldine Edwards 6607065.