

# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

8/1980

## HEARINGS ON 1979 LEICHHARDT PLANNING SCHEME

Objectors to the 1979 Plan have now been invited to attend hearings of their objections. The hearings will be conducted by Mr. James Colman, an independent town planning consultant, who is expected to give residents a fair and sympathetic hearing. The fact that Council is now controlled by aldermen more sympathetic to the residents views on town planning than were their predecessors makes it all the more important to attend the hearings and express your views.

Technical town planning knowledge is not necessary. The important thing is to express your personal views on your local environment. Following are some notes to assist you.

### Four floor height limit

Development at this height would be visually destructive of the historically and architecturally important townscape which consists mainly of one and two floor buildings with steeply pitched roofs. As well as being out of character, such development would cause loss of sunlight and privacy.

Suggest that a height limit of two residential floors with up to half a floor of parking above ground would be more appropriate as this approximates the height of the predominant existing terrace houses in Glebe.

### Residential 2(b4) zoning - 225 persons per hectare

This density is well in excess of existing densities in most of Glebe and will encourage excessive bulk and scale, particularly on large sites. It will also exacerbate parking and traffic problems on narrow streets. Suggest that a zoning of 2(b2), 175 persons per hectare, would still allow economic infill development and encourage urban consolidation while preserving the character and scale of the area.

### Urban conservation area

Point out that Glebe, as an urban conservation area classified by the National Trust, deserves the protection of demolition control and a detailed development control code.

### Open space

Note that Glebe has only 45% of the State target for open space and that much of this is poorly located or alienated for car-parking. Despite the fact that much of Glebe is totally devoid of parks and play-grounds, the Plan concentrates all future parkland reservations on Johnstons Creek and much of this has already been alienated.

Suggest the following:

- utilisation of vacant or derelict sites spread throughout the suburb for small parks and play-grounds.
- the creation of a waterfront park right round the foreshore.
- the use of Water Board reservations and some industrial land to form a series of linked parks on Orphan School and Johnston's Creeks.

### Road widenings

If you are affected by a road widening proposal, point out the serious environmental consequences of such proposals and the unnecessary personal hardships involved. Also point out the stupidity of retaining such proposals which are based on the assumption that total redevelopment will occur, when in most cases renovation of existing properties has occurred or is most likely to occur.

Alan Robertson

## PROPOSAL FOR

### THE JOHNSTON'S VALLEY PARKLANDS

The following is a small part of a parklands submission prepared by Alan Robertson for consideration by the Glebe Society and the Annandale Association. On Sunday, 13th September, representatives from both groups walked over the area and the two hours were spent discussing the submission and possibilities for improvement, enlargement and landscaping of the parkland area described below thus:

Annandale and Glebe are seriously deprived of public parkland. Annandale has only 15% of the recommended State standard, much of which is expressway affected, and Glebe has only 45%, much of which is alienated for car-parking.

This proposal recommends the creation of over three kilometres of near-continuous parkland through acquisitions and the enhancement of existing parkland and reservations.

The implementations of this proposal will provide landscaped pedestrian and cycle access through a series of parks from Pymont Bridge Road, Parramatta Road and Johnston Street to Federal and Jubilee Parks on Rozelle Bay. This will result in a significant improvement in open space availability for Annandale, Glebe and Camperdown residents. The resulting parklands will be of regional significance.

A substantial proportion of the land required by this proposal is already owned or controlled by Leichhardt Municipal Council or the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board. The area of land to be acquired is minimal when related to the total area of parkland created by this proposal.

The finalisation of these proposals requires action from Leichhardt Council, the Water Board and the Children's Hospital, following the preparation of a local environmental plan for the area.

Leichhardt Municipal Council

1. Broaden the present enquiry into the rezoning of the Melocco, Pabco and Edwards properties into a local environmental study into the Johnston's Creek valley and adjoining slopes in Glebe and Annandale. Following the procedures laid down in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, proceed to the preparation of a local environmental plan and an associated development control plan for the area.
2. Refuse all development applications in the area on the grounds, amongst other things, that approval of development would not be in the public interest to the extent that it would prejudice the completion and implementation of the local environmental plan.
3. On completion of the local environmental plan, proceed with the acquisition and landscaping of properties required for the parklands proposals.

Metropolitan Water, Sewerage & Drainage Board

1. Participate in the preparation of a local environmental plan for the Johnston's Creek valley by agreeing to make drainage reservations and easements available for public recreation.

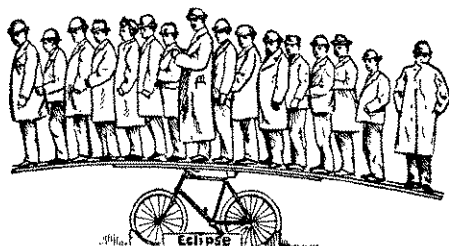
Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children

1. Participate in the preparation of a local environmental plan for the Johnston's Creek valley by agreeing to sell idle and unused land on the north-eastern side of Orphan School Creek to Leichhardt Council for public recreation.

THE REACTIONS TO THE SUBMISSION.

The Annandale Association has written to Alan Robertson with its comments. The Glebe Society Management Committee will prepare its reply at its meeting in the next few days. Contentions exist, particularly about the proposed use of the industrial areas near the Wigram Road/Booth Street intersection, the Edwards, Pabco, Melocco industrial sites. The ward boundary runs through this area, and the two action groups' views are not necessarily the same. However, it is very likely that we will reach a consensus opinion. There is no time or space to pursue the details now, but the essentials of the final document will be published in a later Bulletin. The inspection happened before the recent Local Government elections. The results of 20th September probably bear out Alan's essential optimism, that the Valley area plan is realisable and can provide more open space for Annandale and Glebe.

John Hoddinott



Following the public meeting called in July to protest the possible closure of the Glebe High School, the Department of Education set up a Working Party. This comprises representatives from the Department, the P. & C., The Glebe Society and the Teachers' Federation. The Society was asked to present two submissions, "Community Attitudes to the Glebe High School" and "Population Trends in the School's Catchment Area". These papers have been duly written and are under consideration, along with many other points of view. The final report will go to the Minister, Mr. Landa, for his decision about the school.

It is difficult to guess the final result, except to say that we are slightly more hopeful about the school's future than we were a couple of months ago. We will keep you in touch with developments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The elections on 20th September resulted in some new faces in Leichhardt Council. The residents' Associations look forward to a more progressive attitude from the new Council to the Town Plan, open space, traffic, etc., than we have been subjected to over the last few years. We will be, as usual, lobbying strongly towards our aim of making Glebe a pleasant place in which to live.

The two Glebe Aldermen, Messrs. Cawley and Millard were returned to Council. At the last meeting of the old Council they proposed and seconded a decision to reject a development application for 43-47 Hereford Road for 37 town houses. The development proposed the demolition of three houses including a fine structure, 45 Hereford Street. The Society opposed this strongly, recommending that at least two of the three houses be retained, along with other considerations about vehicular ingress and egress and the 2(b4) density implicit in the application.

PROFESSOR BERNARD SMITH'S 1980 BOYER LECTURES

Bernard Smith was the Glebe Society's first President, the former Professor of Fine Arts and Director of the Power Institute at the University of Sydney. He and his wife Kate wrote the fine volume "The Architectural Character of Glebe, Sydney", along with several erudite books on the history of art.

The 1980 Boyer Lectures, entitled "The Spectre of Truganini" can be heard on 2FC, 576 KHZ, on Sundays at 1.30 p.m. By the time this Bulletin arrives, three of the five will remain. They are strongly recommended, if the first talk was any guide.

The series may be repeated later and published in book form by the A.B.C. We will note them in the Bulletin at a later date.

I quote from the ABC Radio Guide: "The series of five half-hour talks will survey our cultural history drawing largely from literature and the visual arts in discussing the continuing impact of the Aboriginal presence upon Australian culture.... Bernard Smith will consider some of the ways in which Australian artists have responded, or failed to respond, to the continuing presence of Aboriginal society, and how the aborigines have responded to the challenge of white occupation".

JOHN HODDINOTT

COPY OF LETTER FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER AND MINISTER  
FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PORTS, ADDRESSED TO JOHN  
BUCKINGHAM, 11/9/80.

"I refer to your representations of 19 May, 1980 containing a request that certain lands along Federal Rd, fronting Rozelle Bay, under the control of the Maritime Services Board be established as a marine park.

As you will recall, considerable discussion re the subject land ensued at the meeting held on 17 June 1980, at which the Society was represented and, at that time, I indicated my intention to further investigate the possibility of making land formerly occupied by Steetley Industries Pty. Ltd., between the Johnston's Creek stormwater channel and Pope Paul VI Reserve, available for public open space.

While I share your concern over the shortage of waterfront recreational land, it is for this reason that I have taken a number of initiatives to improve the situation, including the setting up within the Board of a Waterfront Parkland Fund. This Fund will receive revenue from the sale of some 500 small parcels of reclaimed land located around the harbour foreshores. Only those sites without access, or too small for public use, will be sold and the proceeds from these sales will be used to purchase waterfront parkland sites in areas where there is a shortage. Such sites will be selected by the Planning and Environment Commission.

Furthermore, as a result of recent deliberations and further discussion with the Board, several parcels of land have been offered for sale or divestment to the Leichhardt Municipal Council, subject to Council agreeing to a number of conditions attaching thereto. The proposed sale and divestment will, I believe, provide improved access to the waterfront for residents in the area and, in other cases, generally advance the proposal for a waterfront walkway for future years.

However, while I have taken these steps I must point out that, as Minister for Ports, I also have a responsibility to ensure that the Port of Sydney operates satisfactorily. One of the necessary requirements is to retain the availability of waterfront industrial land for port purposes. In this regard there are very few sites available for waterfront industries and consideration must be given to the long-term needs of the port, as well as ensuring that these needs are met.

For these reasons I am unable to agree to requests that other areas such as the Board's land along the foreshores of Rozelle Bay be set aside for recreational purposes.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) L.J. Ferguson

#### GLEBE SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Society plans to hold its end of year party at the Glebe Rowing Club on Monday, 8th December at 7.30 p.m. The likely cost will be \$5.50-\$6.00 with concessions for pensioners and students. The ticket will include food, beer, wine or soft drinks. We hope particularly that new members come along to this function. Final details will be announced in the next Bulletin.

#### HELP WANTED

A Minute Secretary is urgently required to help our overworked Secretary. Anyone willing to take down the Minutes, type them and attend a Management Committee meeting once a month, please phone John Hoddinott, 692-0071, or any member of the Committee.

#### GIVE US BACK OUR PARKS

An unexpectedly high attendance of around 300 residents meant that it was standing room only at the GUBOP meeting on 10th September at the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre.

Wide publicity was given to the meeting by both leaflet distribution and over the air by City Extra. Caroline Jones interviewed Tony Larkum and the Chairman of the 4-Shores Committee, Nick O'Neill (now alderman for Balmain) on the 9th September. This was followed by a phone interview with Mayor Rodwell on the 10th Sept., in which Mr. Rodwell promised that all building applications for the Edwards/Pabco/Melocco Bros. sites would be disapproved.

The meeting was chaired very ably by John Buckingham. Speakers from five of the six wards in the Leichhardt Municipality described the current position in their areas and outlined the continuing alienation of dedicated and future open space. Those candidates standing for the local government election who were present, put their views and the meeting was heartened by the unanimous call for more open space.

Three resolutions arose from this meeting as follows:

This public meeting of residents of Leichhardt Municipality demands that Leichhardt Municipal Council conducts a local environment study into the open space needs of the municipality.

This meeting demands as a top priority that the State Government return its waterfront land at Mort Bay and on Rozelle Bay as open space.

This meeting demands that no further parkland be alienated from the residents, that parkland taken from us be returned, and that further parkland be purchased.

Since the meeting, a letter has been sent jointly by the Glebe Society and the Annandale Association to the Minister of Planning and Environment, Mr. E.L. Bedford concerning the resolutions and calling for an early meeting on the concerns expressed. Another letter has been sent to Leichhardt Council and local aldermen.

Also since the meeting the local government elections have taken place and the complexion of Council has changed (see separate article in this Bulletin). It is to be hoped that the new Council will press with all possible vigour to support and effect the resolutions of the meeting of the 10th September.

Tony Larkum

## NEW MEMBERS

Philip & Celia THOMPSON  
 Bill BOLDISTON  
 Adrienne & Gideon RUTHERFORD  
 Nick & Lynn BOOTH  
 Robert MILNE  
 Ailsa MILNE  
 Jan MILNE  
 Alison FREEMAN  
 D. DALEY-WESSON  
 Willem & Monse KRAAN  
 Cathy BOYLE  
 Terry DELANEY  
 Ralph CATTS  
 David COLMAN  
 John & Marita OGBURN  
 John OGBURN  
 Sean FLOOD  
 Elizabeth FINK  
 I.B., E.S. & C.W. MARR  
 Mike ELLWOOD  
 Jennifer JENNINGS  
 Paul BROWN  
 Jill POSTER  
 Derec & Lynne SMITH

MIKE REYNOLDSLETTER BOXES

I would like members to undertake an experiment; replace this Bulletin in its envelope and try to put it through your own letterbox.

The Glebe Society has distributed, over the last 18 months or so, tens of thousands of pamphlets and thousands of copies of the Bulletin. It is surprising, not to say frustrating, how many houses have no receptacle whatsoever for mail, and the number of dwellings with either a tiny letterbox or one so placed that the mail must be refolded.

Doubtless much gratuitous mail is scarcely regarded, but if it, and sales information, can be easily held it can then be disposed of as the householder wishes. Far too much paper blows around the streets.

I have no pecuniary interest in the manufacture of letterboxes, nor do my employers. Think of the postman and of the distributors.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

I omitted, in the last Bulletin, to note the Society's thanks to Peter and Elizabeth Stanbury for holding the very successful 11th Birthday Party at the Toxteth Lodge in early August. It was a most pleasant evening, thoroughly enjoyed by the 50 or 60 people who attended. Thanks also to those who organised the food and drinks.

The Stanburys report that a green belt from a woman's coat was left behind. The owner should ring 660-1848.

John Hoddinott

The Forest Lodge P & C Fete is on Saturday, 18th October. Pony rides and other activities for the children and all the usual stalls. Guessing competition for free meals for two at some of Glebe's best restaurants.

Please come!

## For your diary

Saturday, 11th October, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ST. JAMES SCHOOL AND PARISH FETE, Foley Park.

Saturday, 11th October, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coffee and Wine Morning, at Gwen and Jeannette Knox, 26 Victoria Road. All welcome.

Monday, 13th October, 6 - 7-30 p.m.

Drinks at the Rowing Club. Come and have a chat and a drink with the Committee. All welcome.

Saturday, 18th October, Noon to 4 p.m.

Vote in the morning and in the afternoon examine the character of the Glebe on a self guided tour and inspect the interiors of Glebe's grand civic buildings.

Tickets \$2.50 available only on the day from Forest Lodge School, cor. Pyrmont Bridge Road, Ross St., and Charles St., Glebe.

Monday, 20th October

Monday Group - next meeting it is hoped to visit Taronga Park Zoo. Enquiries ring 660-3694.

Thanks to the kindness of Sally Nelson, some members of the Group recently spent a very pleasant day inspecting several beautiful gardens in the Strathfield area.

Saturday, 26th July

Saturday, 27th September at 8.15 p.m. and every Friday and Saturday at 8.15 p.m. and on Sundays at 5.30 p.m. for an eight weeks season -

THE NEW THEATRE presents a new play "WILLIE ROUGH" by Bill Bryden.

For further information or bookings please ring 519-3403, Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, 15th November

THE GREAT TRAIN RIDE - Individual and family tickets and sale of John Gerofi's "Light Rail Transport" monograph.

For further details see next issue of Bulletin.

Monday, 8th December, 7.30 p.m.

Glebe Society Christmas Party at the Glebe Rowing Club.