



For a society such as this to be really strong and flourish, there needs to be a vital issue, a threat to our environment here in Glebe, to provide the impetus, even to inspire, for members to go out and fight or work for a particular cause. Folk rally around and general enthusiasm binds us all together. But without that situation it is much more difficult to 'keep our act together' - to resort to a cliché. Therefore, at the outset I wish to thank the Management Committee, mostly new to the committee and recent members, for their work and support for the Society.

Make no mistake, there are many worthwhile and necessary projects that can and should be followed up. It has recently been suggested that an attempt be made to start a local Chamber of Commerce in order to help engender some civic pride and 'clean up Glebe'; another suggestion is to have the unsightly power lines put underground in Glebe Point Road, and now there is the urgent and vital issue of the likelihood of Glebe Ward being amalgamated with Sydney City Council.

Council
amalgama-
tion.

In response to an advertisement in January this year by the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission inviting submissions on proposed amalgamation of municipalities affecting Leichhardt Municipal Council, the Society forwarded a submission. This stated that it opposed amalgamation of municipalities in general on the grounds that smaller councils give greater opportunity for participation and involvement by the community - which certainly has occurred with our own Council, and objected to the indecent haste and bypassing of the formal procedures of a public enquiry, which occurred. We stated that we were very pleased with the performance of the Leichhardt Council during the years 1971-74 and particularly since 1980, when open Council meetings and representation on committees were introduced, and therefore we did not wish to support any change which would weaken the close co-operation existing at the moment. Our final resolution was that if, in spite of all representations Marrickville and Leichhardt councils were to be amalgamated, then the Society considered that historically and geographically Glebe's community of interests lay with the Sydney City Council. I should add that this was based on the expectation that Leichhardt Council would be amalgamated with Marrickville. The latest information is that Leichhardt might only be expanded by Petersham and Stanmore, areas with which Glebe has some empathy. Therefore we look forward to further clarification of this situation.

This is still an open issue, and one in which the Society will be actively involved.

Housing
Densities

Leichhardt Municipal Council Draft Local Environmental Plan - Residential Densities. As a result of the rejection by the Department of Environment and Planning of the June 1981 draft plan submitted by Council, and following extensive research work by Council Officers, a revised plan was submitted by Council. In April this year the Department of Environment and Planning confirmed a general density control of 175 persons per hectare throughout the Municipality would be acceptable with certain exceptions of sites that have already been developed or have developmental approval. Apart from the proposal to allow density of 200 p.pha on larger sites, the density proposals are generally in line with the Society's recommendations of 1979.

Blackwattle Bay Park It is a great pleasure to report that Blackwattle Bay Park was officially opened on Sunday last, 7th August. This was the culmination of several year's work by the Society, to ensure that the area would become a much needed open space. Latterly the Society has been able to co-operate with the Parks Committee of the Council in planning the Park, has been consulted on the type of lighting to be installed, and has also kept a watching eye on the Park's maintenance. Quite a number of Society members attended the Opening and stayed on for a barbecue lunch - it certainly is a delightful oasis in Glebe.

Venetia Venetia, the historic house in the Park, has been considerably restored during the past year, and the Committee has been exploring with Council means by which the Society can have access to Venetia. We are hoping to have a room for meetings, storage of records, and, hopefully make available to members the many publications and reports received.

BiCentennial Park It is disappointing to have to report that there has been no progress with the plans for the BiCentennial Park, and no meeting held with the Minister concerned, over the past year despite repeated requests. The Park was not included in the initial publication listing projects approved the the 1988 Bicentenary, but in spite of this we should still be pressing for the expansion of Jubilee Park.

Train Ride In co-operation with the NSW Rail Transport Museum, Ron Best a member of the Society, was the instigator, promoter and organiser of the Great Glebe Train Ride. In fact there were 2 train rides on the 14th May when the 9 carriage train pulled by a steam locomotive built around 1916, was full for both trips. As well as being a novelty, and great fun, the ride also had the purpose of drawing attention to the fact that part of the route could be used as part of a Light Rail System - the section from the Lilyfield goodsyard through to the new Entertainment Centre in Haymarket and would be part of a much larger network linked by unused tunnels in the city and eastern suburbs, the whole scheme being set out in a Monograph and advocated by the Light Rail Association which had its origins in our Society.

Harold
Park

With regard to that source of many serious problems to local residents Harold Park, protests have been made at the increasing number of meetings held. Happily the giant neon sign proposed for the roof of the grandstand about which obviously we protested, was vetoed by Council. The Park management presented Council with a fait accompli by replacing paling fences with cyclone wire. The suggestion that trees and shrubs be planted to help screen the Park from local houses was agreed to by Council.

High level
bridge

The proposal for a high level bridge to replace the old Glebe Island Bridge has caused some concern because of accessibility for larger ships to Blackwattle Bay could increase industrial activity, together with possible increased traffic noise.

The Society has pursued the problem of fall-out from Pyrmont Power Station and Council has been approached to revitalise the poplar trees which are a feature of Glebe Point Road.

Bulletin Members have been contributing articles in recent months to the Bulletin which has been most encouraging to the new Editor Edwina Doe, who took over from Belinda Weaver, and, please keep them coming. Members' contributions are as necessary as the news of what your Management Committee has been doing, in order to produce an interesting and informative edition. There have been worrying problems with distribution of the Bulletin during the past year. The Committee has been concerned about this as it is realised that we keep in touch with the majority of our members through this publication. However, the problems are now overcome and I would take this opportunity to thank the Distributor, Neil Macindoe and his team of 'letter-boxers' for their work.

Social It has been active year socially, giving members the opportunity to meet for a glass of wine or coffee in members' houses, at the restaurant dinners, the annual Ferry Ride, and not least, the highly successful 14th Birthday Party at historic old stone house at 242 St. John's Road. It has been a deliberate policy to promote these events to give members particularly, new ones, the opportunity to meet people in the neighbourhood.

Finally on my own behalf, and on behalf of all of you members, very grateful thanks indeed to the Committee, those with special expertise who work in the background, and co-opted helpers, for all your time, work, co-operation and support.

I am leaving Glebe shortly, but shall remain a member of the Society and continue to take a keen interest in all that happens here. I would exhort old members who have had a break in active participation in the management of the Society to please, please consider joining once again in the management of the Society as your knowledge and 'know-how' is essential to back up the energy and enthusiasm of new members serving on the committee.

Doris Sharpe
August, 1983