



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO. 6 OF 1987

JULY

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THE TRAFFIC SITUATION IN GLEBE

Report on the Public Meeting - Saturday
20th June.

The results of the Public Meeting organised by the Glebe Society have so far been very satisfactory. The meeting was well attended - it filled the St Johns Parish Hall.

The meeting achieved results even before it took place. Ald. Brian Thompson, in a letter regretting his inability to attend the meeting, said that he would be pleased to arrange a discussion of traffic matters with a deputation from the Society, the Mayor and the Chairman of the Statutory Traffic Committee.

Two other aldermen, Issy Wyner and Larry Hand, phoned after the meeting expressing their interest. Unfortunately, we had sent personal invitations only to the Glebe aldermen.

The speakers and their topics were:

JEANETTE KNOX - City West Link Road and Darling Harbour Freeway. (Jeanette also reported on the Traffic sub-committee's meeting with representatives from the DMR on Friday 12th June.)

ROD HAMMETT - the container slip road proposal. (This proposal was news to many attending and caused much concerned debate.)

JOHN HODDINOTT - the deteriorating through traffic situation in Glebe.

NEIL MACINDOE - Leichhardt Council's proposal for kerbing and guttering in Wigram Road.

JOHN GEROFI - the public transport system.

Eight detailed motions, prepared by the Traffic sub-committee, were put to the meeting and were all passed unanimously with minor amendments. (See page 3 of this Bulletin for full details.) These motions are currently being acted on by the sub-committee.

An Environment Impact Study is being commissioned by Leichhardt Council on the Wigram Road kerbing. Whilst we would prefer the proposal to be dropped and the money directed to a traffic plan, we (or the National Trust) will respond to the EIS.



Auto Brand.
Taubmans', Sydney.
Varnishes, paints and
colors; 1906.

A Traffic Petition, approved by the meeting, has been printed. A copy is enclosed with this Bulletin. Would every member please obtain twelve signatures from their neighbours and friends in Glebe (they must be residents) and return the petition to a Committee member or to PO Box 100.

We will keep you informed of other developments.

The meeting also had another pleasing outcome. We have had an influx of new members to the Society, as a result of the letter-box drop of leaflets throughout most of Glebe.

MEET THE MEMBERS MEETING - 14th JULY

Our guest speakers at the next Meet the Members evening will be from the Glebe Community Planning Team, the group which is co-ordinating social and planning decisions for the Glebe Estate. They have commissioned a Traffic Study for their area, which we would love to see, and will have other interesting things to tell us. The meeting will be at 7.30 pm in St Johns Church Hall.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL AND THE ST JOHNS ROADSHOPSNeil Macindoe

The June Bulletin expressed concern at Council's strange behaviour concerning the application of Fibrent Pty Ltd to demolish four shops and dwellings in St Johns Road near the corner of Ross Street (neglected by the then owners for many years) and to replace them with a three storey structure - underground parking, a ground floor of showroom/shops and offices on the first floor.

The first report from Leichhardt Planning Department had recommended refusal because the existing buildings, although neglected, were structurally sound and all of them were of considerable historic and architectural value. Moreover, the building intended to replace them took virtually no account of the prevailing architecture of St Johns Road and was twice the size permissible for the site's zoning (Neighbourhood Business, i.e. shops).

As it turned out, our Planning sub-committee's worst fears were justified. Council on 20 May deferred its decision pending a further report. This second report was not made available with the usual business papers, which are lodged in Council libraries several days before a meeting. When I contacted Leichhardt Planning Department, they had been given instructions not to discuss this new report. With some difficulty I managed to discover the recommendations from someone in the Town Clerk's office. They were still for refusal, but greatly watered down.

With some trepidation I joined the group of residents supporting retention of the buildings before the Council Building and Development Committee meeting on 3 June and began to read the second report. It is an extraordinary document and I shudder to think of the ruthless pressure brought to bear on the poor planners who wrote it and the horrendous future for all of us if it is to be repeated. Basically it tries by every sycophantic means to make the proposed structure so soundly criticised by the first report look acceptable - even desirable! However there is a serious problem. Since the earlier report, the efforts of the Society and the National Trust bore fruit and the Minister for Planning and Environment signed an order on 29 May that prevents demolition of three of the buildings. Not even the most intimidated and obliging planner can therefore pretend that they are worthless.

The report plumps for a solution which has become quite common in the CBD, though not, fortunately, in Glebe. What the Minister must have been thinking about is the streetscape. Only the facades, therefore, need to be preserved. The proposal (which smashes every brick of the old buildings) cannot be approved in its present form, but with a bit of tinkering

Other problems are swept aside to make the way as clear as possible for the developer. What a stroke of luck! An amendment to the Act in April makes it possible for Council to make its own decision independently of a Ministerial Order. Whacko! Let Leichhardt Council be the first to approve the demolition of buildings in a Conservation Area, protected by its own town plan, classified by the National Trust, and on the register of the National Estate!

Just in case Council should want to disagree with the report and consent to demolition, all the conditions that would need to be attacked are helpfully printed along with a useful outline of the arguments that could be used to justify consent for the benefit of planning-illiterate aldermen.

Those in favour of retention spoke passionately, but there could only be one conclusion. Curiously enough, the most rabid demolisher was the Independent alderman for Leichhardt, Doug Spedding, whose speech was mainly an attack on the integrity of Prof. Bernard Smith, co-founder of the Society. The actual motion to overthrow the Planning Department's recommendation and consent to demolition was put by Alderman Brian Thompson of Glebe, who was so keen to do the deed that he replaced his colleague on the committee and brought the matter forward.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will see a motion asking Leichhardt Council to rescind consent to demolition. This is a matter of great concern and the most serious perversion of the Leichhardt Town Plan in recent years. We must keep up a constant pressure to have the buildings preserved and incorporated into an attractive new development that conforms to the standards set by the Town Plan.

THE ABC SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS

We had planned to end the Traffic Meeting with an inspection of the threatened shops. However the ABC TV News team arrived during the meeting, so we changed plans quickly and marched down the road straight away.

The TV News was unable to use the item - Election news took precedence - but Neil's interview was broadcast on ABC Radio News.

DON'T FORGET TO GET THE

TRAFFIC

PETITION SIGNED

TRAFFIC:

This meeting calls upon Leichhardt Municipal Council, as a matter of urgency, to undertake a traffic study in Glebe and to commission a traffic management plan for Glebe and the whole municipality within two months.

This meeting draws to the attention of Leichhardt Municipal Council and relevant members of State Parliament and Cabinet

a) the grave concern felt by residents at the volume of the traffic coming through this area, with consequent major loss of amenity;

b) their anger at the inactivity of elected representatives at both levels of government in the face of problems being endured by residents.

This public meeting of concerned Glebe citizens authorizes the Glebe Society Traffic sub-committee to conduct a campaign to achieve the above objects using such methods as letters, petitioning, demonstrations, media releases, street stalls, civic action, and whatever may be appropriate, and promises to support the campaign by offering their services and using their influence.

This meeting requests Leichhardt Council to retain the stone kerbs and gutters in Glebe including Wigram Road, and to direct all current grants for roads and requests for grants to a traffic management plan for Glebe to improve the safety of pedestrians and motorists and reduce through traffic.

This meeting calls upon the Minister for Roads, Ports and Public Works to instruct the Department of Main Roads to redesign The Crescent and City-West Arterial Link and redirect the container terminal access road, as currently proposed, so that the need for container vehicles to enter Annandale and Glebe in order to gain access to the Arterial Road is eliminated. This should follow a full and adequate assessment of alternative routes such as those already suggested by the Glebe Society.

This meeting notes that by building a new 26 metre Glebe Island Bridge the NSW Government is subsidising two companies very substantially although very few vessels benefit from the extra height. Facilities for these vessels could easily be relocated outside Blackwattle Bay. The height of the bridge and the noise from it will be detrimental to the amenity of the area and to the traffic flow. This meeting therefore requests the Minister for Roads to reduce the height substantially.

This meeting deplores the failure of the State Government to undertake comprehensive planning not simply of roads but also of an integrated, quality, public transport system to serve the needs of a city of this size, and to increase the options for mobility of its citizens.

This meeting deplores the Urban Transit Authority's reduction in frequency of the 459 service and their inability to make it run on time. Special bus priority measures should be added whenever there are significant delays to the service.

198 - 206 ST JOHNS ROAD:

This meeting requests the Leichhardt aldermen to rescind their consent to the demolition of 198-206 St Johns Road, Glebe, and in future to respect and enforce the provisions of the Leichhardt Town Plan, which attempts to preserve the historic areas of the Municipality by defining Conservation Areas and Items of Environmental Heritage.



FOUND - GENT'S BLACK UMBRELLA

It was left behind at the Traffic Meeting.
Phone Edwina if it is yours.

BICENTENNIAL PARK AND MARINA - ROZELLE BAY

As was foreshadowed in the June Bulletin, the committee closely examined the draft Local Environment Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for these projects.

Our committee met with Geoff Powys, the officer responsible for the projects in the Public Works Department, and detailed to him our suggestions and concerns. Following that meeting, we outlined our position to Council

as shown in the letter below. This has been the third (and least detailed) of our submissions on the proposal over the last six months.

Between now and the submission of the Development Application, we hope to have discussions with all the professionals involved in the project to ensure the marina will make the Bicentennial Park an even more enjoyable place than it otherwise might have been.

The Mayor and Council,
Leichhardt Municipal Council,
Wetherill Street,
Leichhardt. 2040.

12th June, 1987.

Dear Sir,

Re: Leichhardt Local Environmental Plan No. 40.

We support this plan to rezone land in the vicinity of Rozelle Bay which:

- a) permits the use of the southern shore of Rozelle Bay for open space; and
- b) permits the development of the western end of Rozelle Bay for recreational boating activities including the development of a marina.

However, despite our acceptance of the linking of the marina and Bicentennial Park, we have certain reservations when looking at the L.E.P. and E.I.S.-as a package. Some of these reservations will be the subject of ongoing communication between authorities involved and ourselves, and some will be more appropriately detailed at the D.A. stage. For now though, I will simply list our reservations so that they can be given due attention before the D.A. is submitted.

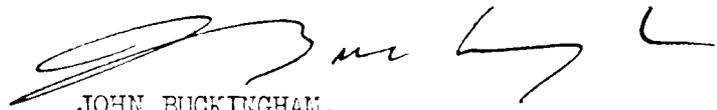
- * a specific date should be given for inclusion of the Annandale site into the Bicentennial Park;
- * the container road remains the most significant impediment to the whole proposal (for reasons stated in earlier submissions);
- * the changes proposed for Johnston Street and The Crescent, must not result in increased traffic densities in residential streets;
- * Federal Road must be closed at Stage 1;
- * pedestrian access from Lilyfield/Rozelle needs to be provided;
- * on-shore marina development totalling 4500 sq. m. is excessive particularly as it includes over 1200 sq.m. of commercial premises unrelated to waterfront uses;
- * a total of 247 marina berths is excessive in Rozelle Bay ;

- * the marina fairways should open to the north providing entry/exit for boats along the northern wharves and resulting in separation between power and rowed craft;
- * the design of the building severely restricts/discourages public access along the water front;
- * failure to incorporate The Crescent Timber yard and the alienated S.R.A. land between The Crescent and the viaduct, means a loss of potential open space with parking being transferred to the S.R.A. land;
- * a new line for the boardwalk (and shark-proof net) between the new pedestrian bridge and its proposed fix at the marina end, could result in a larger beach area;
- * some plantings do not seem to be entirely appropriate for the site;
- * an attempt to regenerate natural water vegetation would serve to focus attention on the cleanliness of the bay;
- * the \$1mill. cited for Stage 1 seems excessive;
- * some environmental issues cause us concern, not least of which are those related to fuel spills, anti-fouling paints and the present industrial discharges that enter the bay via the stormwater canals.

Each of the above concerns has been examined closely by our committee, and can be detailed and argued at length. We urge Council to initiate a meeting among aldermen, council officers, the landscape architect, representatives of the authorities involved (M.S.B., P.W.D., traffic) and our committee with a view to making those improvements to the project that we believe are quite possible before the D.A. is submitted.

While we do not wish to appear negative (in fact we believe the marina will enhance rather than detract from the enjoyment of the Bicentennial Park), we take the view that the project should be more than just acceptable—it should be the best that can possibly be achieved.

Yours faithfully,



JOHN BUCKINGHAM.

Bicentennial Park (and marina) Co-ordinator.

MEET THE MEMBERS EVENING -

TUESDAY 14TH JULY

THANKS FROM ST JOHN'S CHURCH FUND

We would like to thank members of the Glebe Society for their support of the restoration recitals and for your generous gift of \$150.

St Johns Church is a Blackett design built in 1868 and at present the parish is working towards a restoration and preservation of the building. We are particularly looking at the north-west wall of the church. The upper stones in this section have moved and the engineers are concerned about the stability of the wall. Work also needs to be done on replacing a few stones and repointing (replacing the material between the stones).

We are being financially supported by the Sydney Diocese and the Heritage Council for funds. The repairs will be very expensive and we need all the support we can find.

You may like to know about further fund-raising activities:-

WINTERFEST - Saturday 11th July. Roast chicken, turkey, plum pudding and music - \$10. 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall, preceded by hors d'oeuvre in a parishioner's home. For further details and bookings ring Rev. Hugh Scott 660 1818.

MUSIC RECITAL - Sunday 9th August 3 pm. The staff and girls from SCEGGS Darlinghurst will present a programme - Vocal, Madrigal, Instrumental and Organ. It was excellent last year and we are looking forward to hearing them again. \$6.50 for programme and afternoon tea.

Again thank you for your support.

E. Hindmarsh

for Restoration Committee, St Johns Church

MONDAY GROUP

The next meeting of the Monday Group will be lunch at the home of Lecka Rose, 200 Glebe Point Road on 20th July at 12 noon. Bring lunch for one - no more food than you will eat!

PLAYREADING GROUP

Tennessee Williams' play, "A Streetcar Named Desire" is the next play to be read, at 8 pm on Sunday 19th July. The venue is Sue Johnson's place, 70 Arundel Street.

Ring Sue for further details - 692 0101.

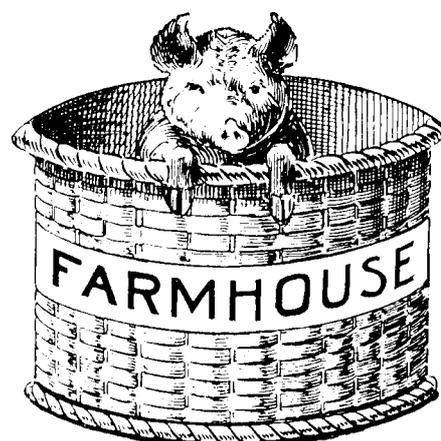
DINING OUT IN GLEBE

Each month, this Glebe Society activity attracts a few new faces and more are always welcome. There is no need to book, as we deliberately choose nights early in the week.

The next two restaurants to be visited will be Pasquale's, in August, and Rag-time, in September. See "For Your Diary" on the back page for further details.

GLEBE SOCIETY BIRTHDAY PARTY

Congratulations to Betty Wright, our Social Organiser, for suggesting both a Sunday Lunch and the Glebe Rowers Club for our Party. It seems to have been one of our more successful parties. Should we repeat the formula at Christmas? Let Betty know.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - WEDS 12th AUGUST

It is essential that we have a strong Management Committee and an active Membership if the Society is to pursue all the activities so clearly outlined in this Bulletin.

Please come to the AGM and please offer to serve on the Committee. A nomination form is enclosed with this Bulletin.

A great many members have already renewed their subscriptions for the coming year. If you have not already done so, please act now or you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM.

NEW NEW MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE

Sue Littleton has taken over from John Stander as the Committee Member who welcomes new members to the Society.

Ring Sue if you have any questions.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members and look forward to seeing them at the Society's activities:

Ian	Bovington
Geoff	Bull
Mercia	Bush
Jane	Gatwood
Duncan & Sally	Graham
Graeme & Elizabeth	Hurrell
Arthur, Robin & Adrian	Lawrence
Stuart	Lodge
Larry	Lucas
William & Mavis	McCarthy
Jack	Meridith
Mary	Mortimer
Sara	Murray
Judith	Paul
Casey	Ryan
Jean	Sankey
Margaret	Sankey
Frank	Sartor
Felicity & Walter	Sutcliffe
Phil	Sutcliffe
Anne	Wark
David Watson	Watson

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 11th July - 6.30pm - Winterfest - St Johns Parish Hall.

Tuesday 14th July - 7.30pm - Meet the Members Evening - Glebe Planning Team - St Johns Parish Hall.

Sunday 19th July - Playreading - 8pm - 70 Arundel Street.

Monday 20th July - 12 noon - Monday Group - 200 Glebe Point Road.

Tuesday 21st July - 7.30pm - Committee Meeting - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesday 4th August - 6.30pm - Dining Out at Pasquale's Italian Restaurant in the Australian Youth Hotel - 63 Bay Street. (Corner of Glebe Street) NOT BYO.

Sunday 9th August - 3pm - Recital - St Johns Church.

Wednesday 12th August - 7.30pm - Annual General Meeting - St Johns Parish Hall.

Tuesday 1st September - 6.30 pm - Dining Out - Ragtime - 85 Darling Street.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT FOR AREAS OF SPECIAL

INTEREST

(All convenors of sub-committees are ex-officio members of the Management Committee)

BICENTENNIAL PARK AND MARINA

John Buckingham - 660 7780

PLANNING

Neil Macindoe - 660 0208

TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

HAROLD AND WENTWORTH PARKS

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

JUBILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 7030

HISTORY GROUP

Ian Edwards - 660 6406

MONDAY GROUP

Sally Nelson - 660 6138

PLAYREADING GROUP

Sue Johnson - 692 0101

The Committee is anxious to form groups to cover other areas of interest. If you are willing to help form a sub-committee on any matter concerning The Glebe, contact Edwina Doe, 660 7066 (H), 922 3877 (W)

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP ?

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Edwina Doe	660 7066 (H) 922 3877 (W)
Imm. Past Pres:	Neil Macindoe	660 0208 (H)
Jun. Vice Pres:	John Stander	692 9927 (H)
Secretary:	Doug Disher	690 1933 (H) 660 1044 (W)
Treasurer:	Mike Curtis	389 1475
Committee:	Andrew Wood	660 2194 (H)
	Ian Edwards	660 6406 (H)
Social Organiser	Betty Wright	660 1875
Bulletin Editor:		
New Members Rep:	Sue Littleton	660 5610

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:
HOUSEHOLD \$12, INDIVIDUAL \$10, STUDENTS
AND PENSIONERS \$4. FOR INFORMATION RING
SUE LITTLETON - 660 5610