



THE GLEBE SOCIETY

BOX 100 GLEBE 2037

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, 1986-87

A lot has been happening in and around Glebe in the past twelve months that has the potential to change our environment. In the course of the year, the Society has taken all possible steps, within our resources, to support those changes which will enhance our area and to oppose proposals, or elements of proposals, which we see as undesirable, offering alternative suggestions wherever appropriate.

We have been helped considerably in the past year by many people, including State Parliamentarians, Heritage groups, the Ombudsman, the DMR and Public Works departments and some local aldermen.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. We have had articles written about us and letters published in the Sydney and local press and have had interviews broadcast on ABC radio on at least three occasions.

The Action Group sub-committees continue to carry the main workload for the Society, especially Jeanette Knox (Traffic), John Buckingham (Bicentennial Park and Marina) and Neil Macindoe (Planning).

The Management Committee has had several changes during the year. Eileen Lacey and Gwen Geschmay have both moved to Queensland and Alan Hunt and Nita Marusich had to resign during the year due to work and study commitments. As the year closes, Mike Curtis, John Stander and Doug Disher have also announced that they will have to step down.

However, Betty Wright returned to the Committee and Sue Littleton and Peter O'Gorman were also co-opted in the course of the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Andrew Wood now has a list of members, which is constantly updated, on his word processor. At the last count, approximately 600 people (over 300 households) are members. Membership fees for households and individual members were increased by \$1 (to \$13 and \$11 respectively) for the year commencing 1st July 1987. The Pensioner rate remains at \$4, which just covers their Bulletin costs.

The steady stream of new members receive welcoming letters from Sue Littleton, who recently took over the position of New Members Representative from John Stander.

THE BULLETIN

Ten issues of the Bulletin have been published in the past year, many of them with more than the standard four pages. The Bulletin continues to be distributed to all members and to over

thirty newspapers, action groups and conservation groups by mail. Andrew Wood prints the wrappers on his word processor. Gwen Geschmay edited the Bulletin for about a year, before moving to Queensland. I have been acting Editor since February, but this has hampered my role as President. Help with the Bulletin is urgently needed.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Betty Wright took over the job of Social Organiser during the year. The Christmas Party at Ragtime Restaurant and the Birthday Party, a Sunday lunch at the Glebe Rowing Club, were the main social events for the year.

The Monday Group is thriving, holding ten meetings a year. Our thanks to the Group's co-ordinator, Sally Nelson.

Two innovations this year have been the Playreading Group, organised by Sue Johnson, and 'Dining out in Glebe', which gives members a chance to get to know each other better and to sample the many different restaurants in Glebe.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

The Society has maintained a steady correspondence with the Leichhardt Municipal Council during the year, especially concerning the threat to 198-206 St John's Road and the proposed kerbing and resurfacing of Wigram Road. (Our action regarding these two matters has prompted a strong reaction from the Town Clerk, Mr Miggins). We are also monitoring plans for Strides Yard and other developments.

The Ombudsman is still acting on our behalf in the controversy about the sign on University Hall.

During the past year the Horse Trough was returned to its position in St John's Road, at least partly due to our efforts, but we lost five palm trees, taken from the grounds of the Homeopathic Hospital and believed to be destined for Darling Harbour.

BICENTENNIAL PARK AND MARINA

A proposal for a Marina in Rozelle Bay emerged during the year. The Society's reaction to this controversial proposal was that a Marina would be an improvement on the present unsightly site, so long as it did not interfere with traffic, the Rowing Club and other local activities. The Society has been liaising with the Public Works Department as plans are developed.

The Marina proposal became intertwined with plans for the Bicentennial Park. At this stage it seems that approval for the park is conditional on approval for the Marina. The rezoning for both projects has now been passed and the sub-Committee, headed by John Buckingham, will continue to keep a close watch on developments.

OTHER PARKS

Bob Armstrong, Gordon Rutherford and Tony Larkum continue to keep an eye on the other parks in the area.

TRAFFIC AND FREEWAYS

A major event this year was a public meeting which we held in June to discuss traffic problems in Glebe and to call for a Traffic Plan. The meeting was publicised by means of leaflets placed in letterboxes throughout the Glebe area.

Darling Harbour, the City-west link road and the Container access road all have a potential to create increased traffic in Glebe and steps must be taken to keep through traffic out of residential streets and to prevent street parking by outsiders.

OTHER LOCAL ISSUES

A feature of the Society's activities this year has been a growing liaison with other local groups and organisations. Representatives from the Pyrmont/Ultimo Society and the Glebe Planning Team have been guest speakers at our bi-monthly Meet the Members evenings. Committee meetings have been held in Lyndhurst, the headquarters of the Historic Houses Trust.

The Society has made donations to the Glebe High School Library and to the St John's Church Restoration Fund.

We have been in touch with the local Neighbourhood Watch and some people who belong to both organisations have been handing out Glebe Society membership forms.

We also had stalls at the Glebe Food Fair and the Foley Park Fair.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Society's Constitution has been updated to include changes made at Annual General Meetings over the years. The Walking Tour Guide has also been revised and reprinted and is on sale at 40¢ per copy. (Both items are available from the President).

Ian Edwards has been responsible for answering letters about the history of Glebe.

The Society is now listed in the white pages phone book (at the President's home number). It therefore should also be listed in the next yellow pages. It will be necessary to change this listing as each new President is elected.

THIS COMING YEAR

We still haven't managed to organise the House Inspection, an excellent money-raiser. The Committee's resources have been strained by the many activities mentioned previously.

The Society is playing a dual role in our area: Resident Action Group and Social Club. We have a strong membership, but it is essential that more of our members come forward to serve on the Committee, so that we can do even more for our community.

Good luck in the coming year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwina Doe", followed by a horizontal line.

EDWINA DOE, PRESIDENT
August, 1987.