



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO 9 OF 1989

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

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THE GLEBE SOCIETY'S

PARTY IN THE PARK

Sunday 10th December, 1pm

Spit roast and salads in our Bicentennial Park. Under the trees. 10 December.

After some debate we decided to confirm this as a lunch rather than an evening gathering since we couldn't repeat the fireworks and fairy lights of last year's opening of the Park.

Time is now 1 o'clock rather than noon. In the case of rain, we will move to the Church Hall, opposite St John's, at the corner of St John's Road and Derwent Street.

Cost is \$14,

Bring your own rug/cushions/chairs, and china, cutlery, and your own choice of liquid refreshment.

The Caterers need to have firm numbers 10 days beforehand, so please book with Jeanette Knox (660 7781) by Wednesday, 29 November, who would also like to have money in advance of 10 December, please.

HAPPY HOUR AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

All paid up members will have received a draft of the revised Constitution of the Glebe Society. We will discuss this and vote on it during the Happy Hour on Sunday 26th November. Michael and Beverley Horsburgh will be our hosts, at 443 Glebe Point Road, from 11am. All members are urged to attend.

HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The President and Committee Members send the season's greetings to all our readers. Have a happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.



BOOK LAUNCH

'THE ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER OF GLEBE'

At Lyndhurst, Darghan Street

On Friday 1st December, 5.30 - 7.30pm

All members will soon receive a personal invitation to the launch of the second edition of Bernard and Kate Smith's excellent book. Bernard Smith will be present, so you will be able to give him your congratulations in person.

THE GLEBE POINT ROAD

ART PRIZE

An exhibition of entries for the 1989 Glebe Point Road Project Art Prize and announcement of the winning artist will take place on Sunday 3rd November, 4 - 6pm, at the Darling Mills Restaurant, opposite the Post Office. You should receive an invitation soon. RSVP to Sarah Adey at Darling Mills or Andrew Wood on 660 2194.

PLANNING REPORT

University Hall

On Sunday 29 October, almost a year after the original judgment was handed down by the Land and Environment Court, the cigarette advertising sign on University Hall was removed. The delay was the result of two separate appeals, one heard in June and the other recently.

In the meantime, the owner has put in a DA for a seven storey, 192 room hotel. The application differs only slightly from an earlier application to the Heritage Council, and the response of the Society to that application has therefore been submitted to Leichhardt Council.

Briefly, the Society applauds the proposed restoration of the facade to its 1889 form, including three levels of balconies. The Society argues for the retention of at least the front part of the adjoining terraces, and the billiard and dining room at the rear, and also suggests a more compatible stepped design for the new building, and a new facade that addresses and contributes to the streetscape.

Backpackers Hostels (A Bird's Eye View)

Four Committee members and numerous residents attended the inspection of Youth and backpackers' hostels in Glebe at 10am on Saturday 28 October.

The Youth Hostels were well presented, have good facilities and a high standard of accommodation, are well-managed and have rules which are consistently enforced. The Hostels in Hereford Street and Glebe Point Road are high rise buildings. From the recreation areas on the roof there are spectacular views of Glebe and the surrounding area, largely because there are only a few other high rise buildings in the way. This makes a very strong contrast with some other areas closer to the main harbour, such as Kirribilli. I took the opportunity to drive and walk through some of that area on Sunday 22 October, when Kirribilli and Admiralty Houses were open for inspection. There are many handsome buildings, but the streets are often like canyons, and the once spectacular views from many buildings have been impeded or completely cut off by high rise. It was very strong support for the Society's continued opposition to increased densities.

Other features of Glebe noticeable from such lofty heights are the importance of mature trees in enriching and softening the landscape; and the urge Glebe residents have to extend their houses to cover almost the entire allotment. Lot sizes in Glebe are small at the best of times: we should continue to press for adequate compensating public open space.

The backpackers' hostels in Glebe Point Road received a lot of criticism from residents because of their failure to set a reasonable standard of behaviour for hostellers. The contrast with the standard of accommodation and management of the Youth Hostels was very marked. Society members are asked to continue to monitor behaviour to provide support for stricter enforcement of regulations. Six aldermen and the Town Clerk were present, so Council is now well aware of the character and scale of the problem. There are a number of possible courses of action and these will be assessed in the forthcoming report, and passed on to members for comment. (At its meeting on 14 November, Council approved attempts to license and control backpackers' hostels.)

Fruit Bats

Fruit bats or flying foxes are a common sight in Glebe, usually flying silently at night with their broad and angular wings a bit like an oversized crow, or more noisily feeding in native figs or non-native mulberries. Sometimes, unfortunately, they are electrocuted while hanging from wires, which does, however, expose their rich red-brown fur and dog-like faces, normally difficult to see at night. They have a growing band of avid admirers, including the ABC's Richard Moorcroft. Contrary to a common belief, and unlike possums, these mammals do not live in Glebe. They sleep and breed during the day in large colonies in gullies in native bushland, and at dusk they head off along old watercourses, and more recently, along freeways, to feed wherever there are concentrations of fruiting trees. Because the Glebe area has many mature native figs it is a much favoured spot. The figs recently planted in the Bicentennial Park will no doubt keep the bats supplied for another hundred years or so. They return to their colonies before morning.

On Saturday 28 October I attended a guided tour by the Bat Protection Society of a major fruit bat colony in Edward Street, Gordon. It is possible to view the colony at any time, however. Take your binoculars.

Several members have told us that just when so much interest is being generated in the heritage value of Glebe Point Road, Australia Post has blocked up the slits in the lovely old pillar boxes in Glebe Point Road and St Johns Road. Very ordinary new mail boxes have been installed beside them.

If the old pillar boxes are to be left in place, why can't they still be used? Surely Australia Post isn't planning to remove them. Please write to Australia Post's Public Relations Department protesting against their bizarre behaviour.

TRAFFIC

The Final Report of the Glebe Local Area Traffic Management Study was presented to Council on 24 October.

Council resolved to place the Final Recommendations of the Report on public exhibition for at least one month and to hold a public meeting for each of the three precincts defined in the Report.

However, since preparation of material for the exhibition is expected to take several weeks, this would bring an exhibition very close to the summer holiday season. The exhibition, therefore, is likely to begin in late January, 1990.

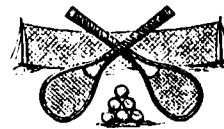
The Society has reiterated our suggestions for displays being shown more widely than in Council Chambers only - e.g. in Glebe Town Hall, Glebe Library, the Estate Office, etc.

Traffic and parking are also being considered by the Glebe Point Road Project group as part of its heritage submission.

GLEBE YOUTH CENTRE

This new youth centre at 51 Glebe Point Road, managed by a committee of local residents and supported by some local organisations, is now open three days a week (Monday and Wednesday 4 to 6pm; Thursday 4 to 9pm). The committee would like to open it more often but does not have enough funds to employ staff.

The Glebe Society is making a donation to help the Centre provide much-needed space for young people to enjoy their leisure during the approaching summer holiday period. We urge members to respond individually to the committee's call for donations of equipment, furniture, money, ideas and time. For further information please phone Judy Kawolski 692 9583 (AH) or Bernice Redman 560 4100 (BH).



VENTWORTH PARK

The Premier, the Hon. N. Greiner, and Ian Causley, Minister for Natural Resources, favour the takeover of Ventworth Park by local government and have written to the Trustees to present them with the idea.

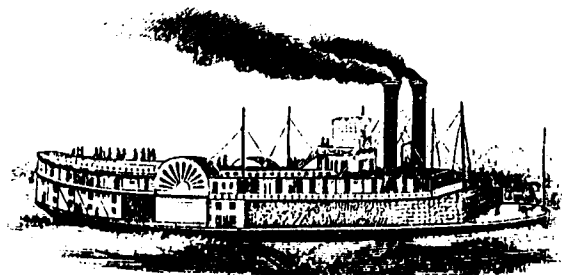
The three relevant councils - City, South Sydney and Leichhardt - have already met to discuss the proposal. In principle they favour Sydney City Council becoming the trustee since this Council has the greatest resources to develop the park. South Sydney Council has given consent and Leichhardt has expressed conditional approval as long as the park remains within the Leichhardt municipality and certain other conditions are met.

The Department of Lands is very supportive, particularly of the idea of removing parking from the park.

The Sydney City Council's solicitors are working out how the trust can be transferred when the present Ventworth Park Trust expires on 18 February 1990.

Two committees are proposed to run the trust - a Steering Committee and a Consultative Committee. The Steering Committee would be responsible for planning under the leadership of Tempe McGowan, Town Planner with South Sydney Council. It would consist of planners from each council and two architects from the Institute and the National Trust. The Consultative Committee would consist of interested residents. Alderman Frank Sartor suggests at least one person from the Glebe Society and one each from the Pyrmont/Ultimo societies, and someone from the Department of Housing. More details of the proposal will be provided in future Bulletins as they become known.

(See the Society's recent letter to the Premier on the next page.)





THE GLEBE SOCIETY

BOX 100 GLEBE 2037

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24th October, 1989

The Hon. N. Greiner, M.P.
Premier,
Premier's Department,
State Office Block,
Macquarie Street,
SYDNEY 2000.

Wentworth Park

Dear Mr. Greiner,

The Glebe Society was delighted to learn of your plans to restore Wentworth Park to its former grandeur and we are pleased to give you our full support. We believe that the management of Wentworth Park should be transferred from the Wentworth Park Trust to local government. The decision as to which local authority is selected should be based upon the financial resources the authority is prepared to commit to the restoration and continued maintenance of the park.

The policy of the Glebe Society, with respect to Wentworth Park, is as follows:

1. The original conditions for the creation of the park be observed i.e. that the land be set aside in perpetuity for the people of New South Wales and not be annexed for sectional groups.
2. The restoration, maintenance and day to day management of the park should be controlled by a Management Committee. In addition to representatives from the local government authority, the Committee should also include members from the local community - Glebe Society, Pyrmont/Ultimo Society, Glebe Estate, Department of Housing, local schools.
3. The new Management Committee should seek advice from landscape architects, engineers, traffic consultants, the local community and others in drawing up plans for the restoration of the Park. The plans should be displayed so that local residents and other interested parties have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Further, no work should commence on the restoration of the Park until there has been full and public discussion of the proposals.
4. There should be easy and safe access to the Park from the adjacent residential areas in Glebe and from the foreshores of Blackwattle Bay (including the Fish Markets.)
5. Any activities in the Park, such as skate board riding or bungy jumping, which could lead to serious personal injury should be developed and controlled by private enterprise and must not be a responsibility of the new Wentworth Park Management Committee. The Glebe Society is concerned at the possibility of significant personal injury claims against the Management Committee should such activities be under its control.

6. No additional agreements should be made to permit car parking in the Park. Further, the existing parking arrangements should not be permitted when wet weather conditions will lead to cars causing irreparable damage to the Park surface. The eventual aim of the Management Committee should be to eliminate car parking in the Park by encouraging the development of parking stations in the adjacent buildings in Wattle Street and in the Fish Markets.

7. A light rail system, using the existing railway line crossing the park and with a "Wentworth Park Station" should be constructed. The rail system will link the Park with the City of Sydney and the suburbs west of the Park and will also assist in the plan to eliminate car parking in Wentworth Park.

8. The Park should contain clearly defined active and passive recreational areas. Landscaping and tree planting should assist in the division of these two areas and should also be aimed at reducing the visual pollution of the greyhound racing facility. In drawing up the plan for the restoration of the Park, provision should be made for the following:


- (a) Walkways with adjacent seating.
- (b) Bicycle paths.
- (c) Public toilets and bubblers.
- (d) Play equipment for young children.
- (e) Tennis and netball courts.
- (f) Open space for team sports.
- (g) Kiosk (perhaps incorporated into the greyhound racing facility).

9. An athletics and fitness track should be built in the centre of the greyhound facility and made available for use by the local schools and residents.

10. The unused stands on the eastern side of the greyhound racing facility should be demolished so that the two halves of the eastern side of the Park are linked.

The Glebe Society looks forward to assisting in any possible way in the restoration of Wentworth Park. Please feel free to contact the Society or Christine Stewart (tel. 660.8324), the Convenor of the Society's Wentworth Park sub-committee, should you have any questions about our proposals.

Yours sincerely,


Cynthia Jones,
Secretary.

c.c. Sydney City Council (copies to Town Clerk, Alds. Sartor & Griffiths)
Town Clerk, Lord Mayor and Aldermen of Leichhardt Council
Town Clerk, South Sydney Council.
Secretary, Pyrmont/Ultimo Society
Editor, Glebe and Western Weekly
Secretary, Glebe Community Services Planning Team.

The Glebe Society's policy on Sydney's domestic and international airports is:

1. The Society recognises the need for airports in Sydney to serve both domestic and international travellers.
2. Airport developments and associated works, including roads, which adversely affect the amenities and living standards of inner city residents will be opposed.
3. The Society encourages the development of airports and types of aircraft with minimal residential impact. Airports should be linked to the City by environmentally sensitive public transport.
4. Airport developments should only proceed following appropriate environmental impact studies and consultation (between residents and government and airport authorities) and then only if in accordance with their findings.
5. The Society is concerned that the proposed third runway at Kingsford Smith Airport will lead to a major increase in low level flight movements over Glebe, with resultant increased noise and reduction in air safety. The Society will actively participate in seeing that the third runway is fairly assessed and that the concerns of Glebe residents are given due weight in this process.

The next meeting of the Society's Airport Sub-committee will be held at 6pm on Sunday 3rd December at 48 Boyce Street (the McKeowns'). All interested members are urged to attend.

NOTE:

The Glebe Society was elected as an affiliate of the Second Sydney Airport Coalition (SSAC) at a meeting on 7th November 1989.

The report of the Environmental Impact Study for the proposed third runway will be released early in 1990.

For the latest Airport news, see the 'Third Runway Update', which is included with this Bulletin.



MARINA UPDATE

You will have read in the October Bulletin that Council had reversed its earlier approval of the Rozelle Bay marina. The issue has since been before Council three times in various guises and on each occasion the anti-marina position has been reinforced.

The present position is that Council is opposed to the marina and is seeking to have the marina site rezoned to open space.

The Glebe Society's concerns about the marina have always centred on the specific Development Application. The concerns we have expressed to Council are:

- * The compromising of the Annandale side of the Bicentennial Park.
- * The container road which forces the marina building into the Bay on reclaimed land.
- * The excessive on-shore marina development totalling 4,500 sq/m (including 1,200 sq/m of commercial premises unrelated to waterfront use).
- * The excessive number of marina berths (247 berths fills half of the entire bay).
- * Environmental concerns relating to:
 - fuel spills
 - noise (the public address system will operate at 110 dB[A])
 - anti-fouling paint
 - disturbing heavy metals in the soils which will be dredged from the Harbour bottom and relocated as the reclaimed land for the marina building and park.

You can support Council's anti-marina stance by showing Council has the backing of the local community. Please get as many signatures as possible on the petition enclosed with this Bulletin. Return the petition to PO Box 100 or directly to John Buckingham, as indicated on the bottom of the petition, by 30th November.

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

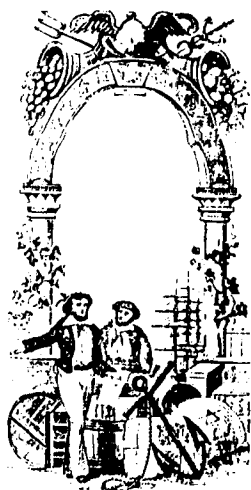
The Total Environment Centre (at 18 Argyle Street) has been providing expert and effective support for heritage and other environmental causes over the past 17 years. Glebe Society members have attended some of the courses run by the centre. The Centre depends on donations and volunteers and now finds its resources stretched to the limit.

The Glebe Society invites members to make individual donations to help sustain this important resource group. For more information phone 247 4714 or 241 2523.

TEMPE HOUSE

The Marrickville Heritage Society will have Mr Clive Lucas, conservation architect, as guest speaker at its meeting at Petersham Town Hall at 10.30am on Saturday 25 November 1989. Mr Lucas will speak on Tempe House, the restoration of which he is supervising for the new owners, Qantas, and on the architect John Verge and other architectural conservation projects.

Glebe Society members and friends are invited to attend the talk - phone Evelyn Watkins 51 4283.



ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Col and Jean Mackenzie's son and family from Melbourne are wanting to rent a unit or house (2br or larger) from Christmas Eve for two or three weeks. Anyone going away who would like caretakers to look after home, pets and plants please contact Jean or Col at 16 Avon Tower, 2A Forsyth Street, ph.660 0492



**What's
a Main Street Program ?**

The Department of Planning has introduced the Main Street Program as part of its role in advising communities on preserving and improving their local environments. The Program is based on a similar one in Canada and is in some ways an extension of the 'Townscape Studies' funded by the Department with assistance from the National Estates Grants Program and the Heritage Conservation Fund.

Basically, a Main Street Program suggests ways of organising local improvements and advises on promotion, education and heritage conservation while also encouraging each centre to make the most of its own characteristics. Improvements can cover anything from advising on paint schemes for heritage buildings to introducing more seating and rest places - or anything people may have in mind to make the area a better place to live and visit.

The Main Street Program has been taken up in Glebe as the Glebe Point Road Project by members of the Glebe Society and Glebe Street Fair Association as well as residents and council. Anyone is welcome to become involved or to contact committee members listed in the newsletter for more information.

We have formed a business group, headed by James Burgin (660 7008). Ken Burgin at Caffè Troppo (692 8251) is the convenor of the Communications Group (which, among other things, publishes this newsletter) and Fiona Campbell represents the Trees and Landscaping Group on the Project Committee.

**Members of the Glebe Point Road
Project Committee are:**

- Chairman:
- Ian Jones 660 2451
- Deputy Chairman:
- Ken Burgin 692 8251
- Sara Adey
- Bobby Burke
- Fiona Campbell
- Alan Coker (L'hardt Cncl) 560 4100
- Peter Strickland
- Brian Thompson (Alderman) 560 4100

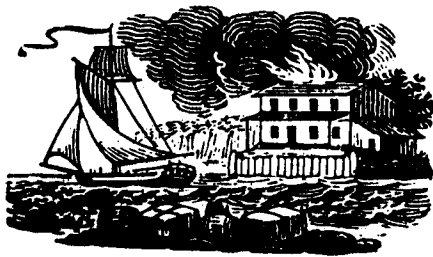
DINING OUT

We said in the last Bulletin that we would go to Glebe Eats this month. However they have changed their opening days and we decided it was easier to change the venue than the date.

We will be dining at Aniello's Trattoria, 284 Bridge Road, on Wednesday 29th November at 6.30 pm. Ring Edwina if you are coming.

HAVE YOU DESIGNED A GLEBE SOCIETY BADGE YET?

Entries must reach the Secretary by Thursday 30th November.



GLEBE POINT ROAD PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

Ian Jones - 660 2451
Bobbie Burke
Peter Strickland

CONVENORS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

All Convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee

BICENTENNIAL PARK

John Buckingham - 660 7780

PLANNING

Neil Macindoe - 660 0208

TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

HAROLD PARK

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

JUBILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 2302

WENTWORTH PARK

Christine Stewart - 660 8324

LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

KINGSFORD-SMITH AIRPORT AND GLEBE

Alison McKeown - 660 3917

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Contact a Committee Member

CONTACT THE PEOPLE LISTED ABOVE IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN OR GIVE INFORMATION.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 26 November - 11am - Happy Hour-443 Glebe Point Road. A Special General Meeting will be held at 12 noon to adopt the Constitution.

Wednesday 29 November - Art Prize entries to be lodged at Darling Mills.

Wednesday 29 November - 6.30pm - Dining Out - Aniello's Trattoria, 284 Bridge Road.

Thursday 30 November - Glebe Society Badge Competition entry deadline.

Friday 1 December - 5.30-7.30pm - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street - Launch of 'The Architectural Character of Glebe'.

Sunday 3 December - 4-6pm - Announcement of Art Prize winner - Darling Mills.

Sunday 3 December - 6pm - Third Runway Subcommittee meeting - 48 Boyce Street.

Sunday 10 December - 1pm - Glebe Society Christmas Party - Bicentennial Park

Wednesday 17 January - Committee Meeting

Sunday 21 January - Sydney Harbour Clean Up

NOTE: The Glebe Point Road Clean Up, planned for 25th November, has been postponed.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Andrew Wood 660 2194 (H)
692 2451 (W)

IMM. PAST PRES: Peter Strickland 660 7624 (H)
964 1729 (W)

SECRETARY: Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)

TREASURER: Ann Disher 552 2061 (H)

COMMITTEE: Bobbie Burke 692 0343 (H)
Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H)
955 9848 (W)

Marianne von
Knobelsdorff 692 0916 (H)
Jeanette Knox 660 7781 (H)

Bulletin Editor: Jeremy Long 692 8742
Membership List: Andrew Wood 660 2194
New Members Rep: Sue Littleton 660 5610
Monday Group: Sally Nelson 660 6138

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:
Household \$15, Individual \$12, Student or Pensioner \$5. Write to P.O.Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring Sue Littleton on 660 5610 for information.

THIRD RUNWAY UPDATE (Insert to The Glebe Society Bulletin, Nov/Dec 1989)

Motorcade. 14.10.89. Privately owned vehicles and trucks from Leichhardt, South Sydney, Marrickville and Hunters Hill Councils moved in convoy from Boronia Park at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. The motorcade created a highly visible statement about the 3rd runway to the shoppers and residents in Drummoyne, Balmain, Leichhardt, Newtown, Kingsford Smith Airport and Botany. Sydney T.V. stations commented on the convoy in the evening news. Many more cars were needed at that event.

March and Rally. 5.11.89. The march proceeded along King Street, Newtown on the Sunday morning. More people joined in along the way. The rally was very well organized at Sydney Park. Again, there was some coverage on T.V. news and an article on the third page of the following Monday's Sydney Morning Herald. Nowhere near enough people came to the rally.

Glebe Street Fair. 12.11.89. The Glebe Society and the third runway subcommittee were located opposite Glebe Public School grass playground. There was considerable interest in the map displaying the runway's location, flight paths and noise contours over the inner-city area - including Glebe.

The Federal Department of Transport and Communications document, released in September 1989, forecasts 85% landings from the north on completion of the 3rd runway and implementation of additional flight movement. The document also comments on 13% departures to the north, compared with the present 3%. The runway would be located east of the present north-south runway, therefore air traffic should be just the other side of Children's Hospital in addition to air traffic using the present runway a little further westward. Glebe could have permanent flights overhead. The Prime Minister's statement in March this year says "The proposed mode of operation for the third runway would not allow departures to the north ..."

Kinhills is conducting the Environmental Impact Study. They have established display centers in Mascot and Rockdale and mobile centers that will travel around 15 Council areas in the coming 8 months. They will include country areas, who are generally in favor of the proposed runway in the belief that country people will have continued access to Sydney in the usual way, at Kingsford Smith Airport. Second Sydney Airport Coalition has written to Kinhills requesting S.S.A.C.'s information is also made available at the displays to give balanced coverage. There has not been a reply to date.

As articles on this topic come to you in the Bulletin, remember that we are not experiencing normal flight operations as yet, due to the pilots' strike. Think of "normal" flights, add 30% more air-traffic movements, plus flight paths over Glebe and aircraft noise in the environment to arrive at some understanding of the implications of the proposed 3rd runway for this suburb.

We hope to set up information stalls in Glebe Pt Road on Saturday mornings in the near future.

The next event will be a fund-raising dinner {\$15 a head} at a city location late in January. Guest speakers will address the meeting. There is always more to know about this issue! As mentioned before, it is vital that more people attend the events. Watch for further publicity.