



THE GLEBE SOCIETY

BOX 100 GLEBE 2037

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989

I am pleased to report that the twentieth year of the Glebe Society has been one of significant achievements and initiatives that demonstrate that the Society continues as a potent force protecting and improving the character and quality of our local environment.

Glebe today is very much the result of the efforts, persistence and patience of members of the Society throughout our twenty year history. Patience especially, because the important results are not achieved overnight, as witnessed by the Bicentennial Park opened last December, covering an area first proposed as public open space by the Glebe Society more than ten years ago.

We all owe much to those whose vision and efforts led to the formation of the Glebe Society in 1969 when many in positions of power and political influence saw Glebe as fit only for massive re-development and the building of freeways. Sadly, one of our founders, Kate Smith died earlier this year in Melbourne. She will be remembered for her untiring love for Glebe and her contribution to this area not only by those who knew her but also by those like me who were not fortunate to know her personally, but who are the beneficiaries of the appreciation of Glebe she did so much to promote. I ask that we pause for a moment to remember Kate.

A new printing of "The Architectural Character of Glebe" by Bernard and Kate Smith is soon to be released and copies will be available through the Society. We will keep you informed through the Bulletin. Understanding the history and architecture of Glebe's dwellings and other buildings is important for their preservation and restoration. This has been a key strategy in our continuing battles to prevent developments that could result in demolition or disfigurement of buildings that are part of our heritage.

Possibly our most important achievement is what has not happened. Glebe's proximity to the city and the harbour will always bring pressures for development but those pressures are countered by the recognition of the intrinsic value of what we have and the lesser value in architectural and social terms of what might replace what we have. There are still plenty of development applications going before Leichhardt Council and other issues to keep Neil Macindoe's planning subcommittee extremely busy. There are a few sites such as Lanham's laundry where the old structures will not be missed, but we must continue to focus our efforts to ensure that new development is sympathetic both in style and in terms of its impact on local residents.

A most successful house inspection was held last October and I would like to thank all who made their homes available or helped in other ways. This event helped us to promote Glebe and enabled us to raise the funds we will be contributing to the Glebe Point road project.

That brings me to the Society's major initiative of 1989. The Glebe Point Road Project is an unashamedly ambitious undertaking that brings together the business community, local government and residents. The opportunity exists for the Society to exert influence to improve the quality of Glebe Point Road to reinforce its historic character while improving the amenity provided to the people of Glebe. This is not going to be a quick paint job in heritage colours of a few building facades above inappropriate awnings. We cannot afford to compromise either quality or authenticity in the repair and restoration of the shops and other buildings in Glebe Point Road. All of this is going to cost a lot of money and so you can expect to see major fund raising efforts in the coming months. We will naturally take what advantage we can of government grants and contributions from the business community.

Glebe Point Road is a part of Glebe, not apart from Glebe and what happens there should reflect the character of the surrounding streets. We have protested strongly about the pair of marble fronted shops (now housing a real estate agency) about the changes made when an outstandingly pair became the Saigon Pearl (recent changes to the Thai Intra are better but no substitute for the original restoration) and about blatantly illegal modifications at 315-7 Glebe Point Road. All of these need to be followed up.

Further towards the Point there has been a recent increase in conversion of former boarding houses to backpacker hostels and we need to establish a policy of the Society's attitude to these. There can be no doubt that the income from such hostels should enable the owners to make these pleasant places to stay and positive features of our suburb. It is up to them to show that they deserve our support and not our opposition.

The recent closure of the Homeopathic Hospital leaves a gap in the overall package of health care services provided in Glebe. The alternatives offered by the State government are no substitute for a facility that has enabled many of our older citizens to remain living in Glebe. While we deplore the loss of services, we must fight to ensure that any new use of these buildings is conditional on their restoration, the removal of the extraneous red brick structure and the opening up of the grounds to the public. Application for a permanent conservation order should be considered.

A petition organized by the Society seeking a change in how Wentworth Park is managed went to the State Government and there is a fairly good chance that we will see some positive improvements.

The traffic study of Glebe is nearing completion and while it makes some recommendations to reduce the adverse effects of traffic in some areas, it falls short of what we had expected. There was no attempt by the consultants to address the problems of traffic in Glebe in the long term or to go beyond what can be done by Council in the short term.

A ferry ride earlier this year was enjoyed by all who attended and demonstrated the feasibility of a commuter service between Glebe and the city. There is also growing awareness of the possible use of the existing goods rail line that passes through Glebe as a route for passenger transport. We should continue to promote the society's policy that improved public transport is the only viable solution to our traffic problems.

Because we face many issues and the efforts of the Society depend on the dedication and time of a few individuals, we are not able to give every issue the same degree of attention. Meetings such as this provide a venue for discussing and setting priorities. What we can achieve depends on you and what you as members of the Society are prepared to contribute.

Our Constitution requires me to stand down as president at the end of this evening's AGM. It remains for me to thank my fellow committee members, sub committee convenors and other members of the Society who have given me their support during the past two years. I will continue to support the Society's objectives.

Thank you



Peter Strickland

MOTIONS PASSED AT THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. That John Buckingham be made a life member of the Society. Neil Macindoe/Edwina Doe
2. That the incoming Committee approach the Airport authorities protesting against the increased number of low-flying aircraft over Glebe and the inference for the necessity of a third runway. Merle Larcombe/John Buckingham
(Note - the Meeting was interrupted at this point by the noise of a low-flying plane!)
3. That the Glebe Society deplores the closure of the Sydney Homoeopathic Hospital and is willing to be involved in a public meeting to discuss health planning on a community basis. Libby Hindmarsh/Ross Hindmarsh
4. That the Glebe Society writes to the Central Health Services Area Board (Chairman Dr D Baird) pointing out to the Board that they have a responsibility to the trustees of the Moore bequest to ensure that the funds from the bequest are used for the purpose of the Sydney Homoeopathic Hospital. Libby Hindmarsh/Ross Hindmarsh
5. That the Glebe Society act to have the Homoeopathic Hospital re-opened and made available for use for the residents of Glebe. Marianne von Knobelsdorff/Mark Anderson

6. That the incoming Committee examine means of restoring the Homoeopathic Hospital building and retaining it for community use. Peter Strickland/Marianne von Knobelsdorff

7. That the Glebe Society opposes any plans to over-develop Rozelle Bay and Blackwattle Bay with marinas, and that the Society supports any actions by residents or resident groups with similar aims. Marianne von Knobelsdorff/Mark Anderson

Addendum: That no marina or foreshore development take place until regional studies of Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bay are completed. John Buckingham

8. That the Glebe Society opposes any plans to develop the Bellevue site in Blackwattle Bay Park into a restaurant or any venture that creates increases in traffic and/or noise that are not sympathetic with the area. Marianne von Knobelsdorff/Mark Anderson

Addendum: That the Glebe Society favours the submission by the Australian Society of Authors, provided that the public has access to the building and facilities. John Buckingham

9. That while acknowledging the potential benefits of the recommendations in the traffic consultants' Draft Final Report, the Society expresses its concern at the limited scope of the recommendations made and suggests that the consultants be asked to make further recommendations to cover the whole of Glebe (including Forest Lodge), to address traffic issues not fully addressed in their report (such as resident parking throughout Glebe) and to present options that might be considered over a longer time frame (say 5-10 years) as funds become available. Neil Macindoe/Jeanette Knox

10. That this AGM of the Glebe Society congratulates Leichhardt Council on the creation of the new Bicentennial Park on Rozelle Bay, which has proven enormously popular with residents and visitors alike, and that the Society welcomes the cooperation of Council in further projects to enhance the Glebe area. Neil Macindoe/John Buckingham

11. That the Society is against the alienation of any part of the Bicentennial Park. John O'Connell/John Buckingham

12. The Glebe Society requests Leichhardt Council to assist in preserving Australia's heritage by:

a) advertising all work that will be visible from public places within Conservation areas as Development Applications

b) supporting the conservation controls in LEP 20 and DCP 1

c) supporting recommendations of Council employees based on conservation guidelines

d) supporting the participation of resident groups on the steering committee for the proposed Heritage Study of the Municipality. Neil Macindoe/Peter Strickland

13. That the Society continues to endorse and support the objectives of the Glebe Point Road Project. Peter Kolbe/Libby Hindmarsh

14. That the Glebe Society expresses its deepest thanks to the departing Environmental Director of the National Trust, Chris Pratten, for his extremely able and conscientious support for important issues in the Inner West. The Society asks the President of the Trust to convey to Chris its profound regret at his untimely departure and best wishes for a happy and productive future. Neil Macindoe/Peter Strickland