

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO 5 OF 1990

AUGUST

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21ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Concert at St John's, Glebe

Over 200 people attended the free public concert which was a gift to the suburb from the Society and the performers. The audience enthusiastically applauded the marvellous organ recital given by Dr David McIntosh and the magnificent performances by the vocal group from St Scholastica's College (led by Emily Furey), by the Cafe at the Gate of Salvation (led by Tony Backhouse), and by the rock band from Glebe High School (led by Robert Murphy).

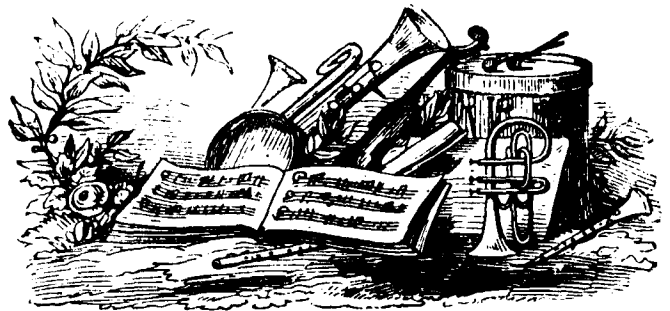
At the end of the concert members of the audience were given a piece of the Society's birthday cake. The cake, provided by Darling Mills Restaurant, was purchased from a generous donation by a member of the management committee of the Society, Ann Disher.

Special thanks from the Society go to all the performers and to the Reverend Hugh Scott who made St John's available for the concert. Tony Backhouse, Emily Furey, Loretta Richardson (headmistress of St Scholastica's), Robert Murphy and the Scotts attended the later cocktail party as guests of the Society. A cheque for \$100 was presented to Hugh as a contribution from the Society towards the cost of the restoration of the organ at St John's.

Cocktail Party, Darling Mills Restaurant

Speech given by the President, Andrew Wood:

Mr Peter Watts, the Mayor of Leichhardt Municipal Council, Mr Issy Wyner, Aldermen Origlass, Hand and Stock, friends and members of the Society, it is with much pleasure that I welcome you all to this 21st birthday celebration of the Glebe Society. In a few minutes I will invite Mr Peter Watts to propose the toast to the Society.



The Society was formed following a public meeting in Glebe Town Hall on Thursday 19 June 1969. Among other things the meeting was noted for a ferocious attack that a concerned resident, a Mr Tunks, launched against a local alderman for 'allowing the streets of sunny Glebe to crawl with rats!' The first president of the Society was Bernard Smith, one of Australia's most distinguished academics. Bernard and his family had moved from Melbourne to Glebe after he had accepted appointment as the foundation Power Professor of Contemporary Art and Director of the Power Institute of Fine Arts at the University of Sydney. Annual membership of the Society was \$2 and pensioners and students paid 50 cents.

The Society's first 'News Bulletin', as it was called, was sent to members in July 1969. Dennis McManus, convenor of the Town Planning sub-committee, outlined the major threats to the suburb and the changes to come - these included expressways, one of which was to involve the demolition of *Lyndhurst* in Darghan Street (now the headquarters of the Historic Houses Trust), the development of harbour foreshores (with no provision for access by the residents), and the demolition of houses for home unit development.

Continued

Max Solling was made convenor of the History sub-committee and the first social activity of the Society was a history walk, led by Max, on 19 July 1969. The walk began with an inspection of St Scholastica's College and then moved on to other points of interest. Such social and educative events have always been of importance to the Society. Just two weeks ago our monthly 'happy hour' was organised by Betty Wright in the reception area of her Catherine Street units and nearly 50 people attended.

House inspections have also been a feature of the social calendar and have also provided an important source of income for the Society. Our next house inspection will be held at the beginning of November this year.

In talking to Max Solling last week, he recalled the occasion when he was conducting a walk for the Blacktown Historical Society. The group arrived at Margaretta Cottage in Leichhardt Street, at that time owned by Dr Vincent Shepherd and now the residence of Dr David McIntosh, our organist this afternoon. Dr Shepherd must have had a marvellous sense of the absurd. He told the gathered throng, as they gazed in awe at the stone cottage, that he believed the house had been built as a holiday retreat for Captain Phillip's estranged mother!

A representative of the National Trust attended the first meeting of the Society and said that the trust would 'support the Society in every way except in the horrible matter of money'. In 1974 the Glebe area was listed by the National Trust as a conservation area, receiving the highest category of listing, indicating that preservation is essential.

The unique value of the character of Glebe was further recognised in 1984 by Leichhardt Municipal Council which has provided a series of conservation controls, through the Local Environmental Plan No.20.

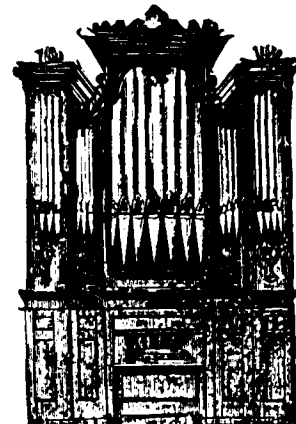
To return to the National Trust, the Society has been specially pleased to see the activities of the Trust revitalised following the recent appointment of Wendy McCarthy as its executive director. Your committee believes that the Trust played a vital role in a recent case in the Land & Environment Court in which a house in Allen Street was saved. It is also Ms McCarthy's birthday today, so she was unable to accept our invitation to be here today. The

Society looks forward to a continuing close and supportive working relationship with the National Trust.

At this time I must also say a special thank you to the Mayor, aldermen, town clerk and other officials of Leichhardt Municipal Council for their recent support of the residents of Glebe in the Land & Environment Court. Such court cases are very expensive and time consuming not only for the Council but also for the Glebe residents who have appeared as witnesses in the Court. It is likely that such legal challenges will continue to occur as Glebe feels the pressure of developments that take no account of the conservation orders in place for the suburb or of the effect that they will have on the amenities and well-being of its residents.

So what of the future? With such a history of service by its members to the Society over the past 21 years, I believe that the Society will continue to provide a strong voice for the conservation of our suburb. In 1971, in a letter to the Society, Mr R.A.Gillings, President of the Royal Australasian Institute of Architects, said: 'Somehow the people in the street must be made aware that they personally have a responsibility for environment (and conservation) matters and that they can do something about it by demanding proper action from their elected representatives'. There are encouraging signs that many of our elected representatives at local, State and Federal levels are becoming more supportive of the wishes of their electorate in Glebe.

I now invite Mr Peter Watts, Director of the Historic Houses Trust, to propose the toast to the Society.



Recent and forthcoming activities include:

- meetings with Peter Baldwin, MHR, Senator John Faulkner and the Airport Coordinating Taskforce (ACT), chaired by the mayor of Marrickville, Barry Jones, which is commissioning community studies parallel to the EIS
- NSW Environment Coalition conference and workshops including the effects of tourism & recreation on employment, rent, airport expansion, etc on 28 July
- the EIS is due for release in mid August
- Forum at the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre discussing the outcomes of the current processes for assessing the impacts of major projects, at 2pm on Saturday 25 August
- seminar arranged by the Botany Bay & District Historical Society on the Bay's ecology, history of water supply & developmental impacts (phone 667 2142 for details)

Health effects of a third runway II: from the New Doctor Journal, winter 1990 - 'Focussing on traditional health education priorities such as quit smoking, exercise & nutrition programs pale into insignificance next to the sense of vulnerability created by events such as fuel dumping by airplanes, chronic noise and air pollution and the hazards of unexpected chemical plant explosions which these residents [in postcode district 2044] live with day to day.'

Many unusual directions in flight movements have been noticed recently. Have they been practising for the recently announced simultaneous operations on the north-south and east-west runways?

PLANNING REPORT

In a letter dated 27 June, the acting Minister for Planning, Joe Schipp, informed Council that he was not prepared to refuse the application of the University of Sydney to build a residential college at the corner of Arundel and Catherine Streets, Forest Lodge. After some debate, Leichhardt Council reluctantly consented to the development, which will entail the demolition of two early terraces in Catherine Street. The University had agreed to meet certain conditions, however, which

may reduce the impact of the development on the streetscape. A number of buildings on the site will be preserved as a result of the efforts of the Society and others. Nevertheless, the result is not very satisfactory and sets a precedent for unsympathetic development in a very old part of Glebe.

The sub-committee is concerned at the possibility of further ministerial intervention, as has occurred in Balmain with the instruction to prepare plans for rezoning five industrial sites. It also brings the number of demolitions in Glebe in recent years to a total of twelve, although four of these have been timber houses in fairly poor condition. A much larger number have of course been saved from demolition through resident action, but there have also been several disfiguring alterations that have reduced the heritage value of buildings. While it is true that large scale demolition is no longer likely, there is a process of attrition at work that must be resisted.

On a brighter note, Council is installing new playground equipment in Hereford (Foley) Park, where it is much needed because of the Baby Health Centre.

Council has decided not to relocate the Glebe Library from Bridge Road to Glebe Town Hall because the site is not sufficiently central. The librarians believe Glebe would be better served by having the library in Glebe Point Road.

REFORM OF THE EIS PROCESS

As noted in the item on the Airport and third runway, a Forum is being held at the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre at 2pm on Saturday 25 August to discuss the outcomes of the present processes for the assessment of the environmental impacts of large developmental projects. Conservationists have been advocating changes such as having an independent assessment of EIS findings and having independent committees appoint consultants to compile EIS reports, rather than leaving this to the proponents of the schemes.

This Forum will also look at the EIS on the proposed third runway and will provide an opportunity to discuss the EIS

4 29 COOK STREET BOAT REPAIR SHOP & MARINA

The Society has written to Bruce Baird, Minister for Transport about this proposed development:

6 July, 1990

Dear Mr. Baird,

29 COOK STREET, BLACKWATTLE BAY, GLEBE
BOATREPAIR SHOP WITH ASSOCIATED 14 BERTH MARINA
DA 418/89 REF 88 005 89

After Leichhardt Municipal Council (LMC) had twice unanimously rejected the above application for a boat repair shop, the Land and Environment Court approved the development on 8 June, 1990. We believe that it was approved due to a flaw in the law where this industrial activity has been looked at as two separate applications, one for the land based boat repair shop by LMC and one for the attached marina by the Maritime Services Board (MSB). The new Regional Environmental Plan (REP) for Sydney Harbour has recognized this flaw in the law and now such development applications must be considered as a whole.

As far as we know, the 14 berth marina projecting far into Blackwattle Bay, is unacceptable to the MSB and, if the developer wishes to proceed, he will have to lodge a new application for a marina of reduced size. We believe that the new REP should be applied to this new application.

The developer apparently wishes to repair four boats on land and 4 boats on the water - a total of 8 boats. We have been advised that if 5 or more boats are to be repaired, the developer is required to submit an application for a 'designated development' and an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared.

The Glebe Society, on behalf of local residents and the Glebe Rowing Club, has strongly objected to this DA. The residents have sent numerous letters to LMC and the MSB and two petitions with more than 300 signatures were given to LMC.

We would be grateful if you would ensure that -


1. The MSB hold a full public enquiry into the proposed marina development to determine its effect on the local residents, Blackwattle Bay generally, shipping for existing businesses, the Glebe Rowing Club and High School.
2. The application for the marina be considered as a 'designated development' and an Environmental Impact Study be conducted.
3. The application be considered in the light of the guidelines of the new Regional Environmental Plan for Sydney Harbour.

We would value having the opportunity of discussing with you our concerns about this proposed marina development.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely



(Dr) Andrew Wood
President



Marianne von Knobelsdorff
Vice President

(Note: The developer has since reapplied for approval of a ten-berth marina.)

We record with sadness that David Drain died on 20 June 1990 in his 106th year. He had been a keen member of the Society since, at the age of 98, he came from Queensland to live here with his daughter Dorothy, to whom we offer our sympathy.

TEC TOURS

Two forthcoming tours organised by volunteers for the Total Environment Centre may interest Bulletin readers:

- Palm Beach to Pearl Beach & back on Sunday 2 September 1990: meet at 10.30am at Palm Beach Ferry Services, Palm Beach jetty, at the end of Barrenjoey road. By ferry to Patonga, a tiny settlement surrounded by Brisbane Water National Park; walk to Pearl Beach through the Warrah Flora Reserve on tracks & fire trails; lunch there and return for the 4.15pm ferry back to Palm Beach. Price \$20.

- Camellias & Flying Foxes on Sunday 7 October 1990: meet at 10.30am at Eryldene, 17 McIntosh Street, Gordon, once the home of Professor Waterhouse, a world authority on camellias, now run by a trust. The house was designed by Hardy Wilson and built in 1913. Friends of Eryldene will conduct the party round the house and grounds. Nancy Pallin of Kuring-gai Bat Colony Committee will introduce some friendly bats and give a brief talk in preparation for a visit to the bat colony. Price \$20.

For further information phone TEC 247 4714.

MONDAY GROUP

The Monday Group meeting for August will be held at Tattersalls Club, Pitt Street, City, on the invitation of Mary Vargenau. Meet in the foyer at 11.45am on Monday 20 August for lunch in the Corinthian Room at 12 noon. Pay own expenses.

Any member of the Glebe Society is welcome at the Monday Group which aims to promote neighbourly friendship in our community. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, except December and January.

The September meeting of the Group will be a visit to the Rocks on 17 September. Meet at the bus stop after the Regent Hotel at 11.15am. Inquiries to Sally Nelson, phone 660 6138.

DINING OUT

This month we are dining at Thai Intra, 207 Glebe Point Road, on Wednesday 22 August. Please phone Jeanette Knox on 660 7781 by 20 August to make your bookings.

HAPPY HOUR

Jean and Col MacKenzie will be our hospitable Happy Hour hosts this month at their unit in Avon Tower, Forsyth Street, from 11am to 1pm on Sunday 12 August (phone 660 0492).



**Neighbourhood
watch.** AREA 4 .

**STALLHOLDER.
PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.**

There is to be a " Street Fair " in Mitchell St Glebe in the section between Glebe Point Rd and Campbell St. This area will be closed to vehicle traffic for the duration of the fair which will be from 10-00 am till 4-00 pm on Saturday 1st of September 1990.

Stall sites of various sizes are available for a very reasonable fee - \$20.00. This Street Fair will be receiving a good amount publicity from the media, radio and letterdrop leaflets and posters.

For further information and bookings please contact -
Beau Olsen.

Tele Bus/hrs 663-9268 from 8-00 am till 3-00 pm.
After/hrs 660-3009 from 6-00 pm till 9-00pm.

GLEBE ISLAND BRIDGE

Objections to the design of the approach ramps to the bridge from the Pymont end, which were lodged with the Road Traffic Authority (RTA) by a company and major developer, have apparently been withdrawn. Work on the foundations of the bridge has restarted and the RTA is expected to make an announcement about the final design for the bridge in the next few weeks. The Society has again written to the RTA asking that the design of the bridge be modified to reduce its proposed height substantially.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Business woman - undeniably middle-aged - is looking for a garden or granny flat or to share with someone who enjoys a quiet lifestyle. Phone Nancy Currie 660 8587.

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

JUDILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 7030

WENTWORTH PARK

Christine Stewart - 660 8324

LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

KINGSFORD-SMITH AIRPORT AND GLEBE

Alison McKeown - 660 3917

ENVIRONMENT

Fiona Campbell - 821 6269 (W)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Contact a Committee Member

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

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 6 August - 7 for 7.30pm - Glebe Point Road Project 'Christmas in August' dinner - Darling Mills, Glebe Point Road

Sunday 12 August - 11am - Happy Hour - Unit 16, 2a Forsyth Street (Jean & Col MacKenzie)

Wednesday 15 August - 7.30pm - Committee meeting - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street

Monday 20 August - 12 noon - Monday Group - Tattersalls Club, Pitt Street, City

Wednesday 22 August - 7pm - Dining Out - Thai Intra, 207 Glebe Point Road

Saturday 25 August - 2pm - Forum on EIS Processes - Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

Saturday 1 September - 10am - Neighbourhood Watch Street Fair - Mitchell Street



THE GLEBE SOCIETY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

VICE PRESIDENT: Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692-0916 (H)

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)
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:

Ordinary \$20, Additional Household \$4 each, Pensioner/Student \$7, Institutional \$25.
Write to PO Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring Sue Littleton on 660 5610 for information.