



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

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THE GLEBE SOCIETY: A STATEMENT FOR THE FUTURE

Mavis McCarthy

The following draft statement is offered for comment by members of the Society and other interested people. Suggestions and additions are welcomed: please contact Mavis McCarthy on 660 5119.

Glebe is one of Sydney's oldest suburbs with a colourful history, some of the city's best early architecture, and a population drawn from differing cultural and socio-economic groups. It is home to such diverse establishments as a Chinese temple, two fine 19th century churches, Lyndhurst House, Tranby Aboriginal College, St Scholastica's Convent and two courts, to name but a few of the buildings housing the varied activities undertaken in Glebe. The suburb is home to many older people who have lived all their lives here as well as more recently arrived families and business people who enjoy the proximity to the city, and a more transient population of young people and students drawn from the two nearby universities. It also has a high concentration of artists, writers, academics, and professional people. Despite this diversity, all who live here value its community-centred, village atmosphere, which is maintained along with the more cosmopolitan feeling reflected in its many restaurants and small shops.

The Glebe Society's task is to represent the unique character of Glebe by ensuring that the community has a strong voice to speak out when its values and heritage are threatened.



The Glebe Society is formed by members of the community in order to provide a base from which issues that affect the standards of living of the area can be explored and, if necessary, acted upon. Action may take the form of consultation with various bodies such as Leichhardt Municipal Council, The National Trust, or governments (both State and Federal), written submissions to such bodies, the development of policy statements to act as guidelines (e.g. Foreshores Policy, Policy on Airports), or support (both physical and financial) for local activities such as the annual Glebe Street fair.

Issues arise from such diverse areas as the foreshores (Bicentennial Park, Blackwattle Bay park, and the bays themselves), traffic control, light rail development and other public transport issues, town planning (in terms of the architectural and heritage aspects of life in Glebe, controlling the excesses of developers, or monitoring plans at Leichhardt Council), future use of sporting facilities in the area (Harold Park, Wentworth Park), and wider issues such as the development of Kingsford Smith Airport. All of these kinds of issues are part of the continuing concerns of the Society.

The aims of the Society in terms of the future are as follows:

- 1. To maintain the broadest possible community base and to liaise closely with groups such as the Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the churches, and other bodies involved in the daily life of Glebe;
- 2. To become a forum through which individuals can seek assistance and information about issues that affect them in their local area;
- 3. To involve itself in wider community issues which affect the well-being of Glebe and nearby suburbs and the life of Sydney as a whole, and to bring concerns to the notice of the appropriate body, e.g. Government;
- 4. To take initiatives for change on behalf of the community, where appropriate (e.g. Glebe Point Road project, light rail development), rather than simply reacting to problems as they occur.

TEC TOURS JUNE - OCTOBER

The Total Environment Centre has notified us of the following one-day tours it is arranging this year:

- * Art Deco Walk in Sydney - Sunday 7 June
10am from War Memorial, Hyde Park (\$25 donation)
- * Rouse Hill House & Estate - Sunday 5 July
10.30am (\$25 donation)
- * Wollongong Gardens & Rainforest -
Sunday 2 August 10.30am from Byarong Park,
Mt Keira Road (\$20 donation)
- * Ku-ring-Gai Wildflower Garden - Sunday
6 September 10am (\$25 donation)
- * Newtown - Sunday 4 October 10am at
Hollis Park, Wilson Street (\$25 donation)

For further information and booking forms contact TEC at 18 Argyle Street, Sydney, phone 247 4714 or 241 2523. Bookings with payment must be received by the Thursday before each event.

VENTWORTH PARK

Christine Stewart

The Management Committee of the Society, at its meeting on 15 April, discussed a draft letter to the Sydney City Council from the Environmental Defenders Office. This letter gave an opinion of the duties of the City Council as the Trustees of the Park. The Committee agreed that the letter should be sent to the Council once certain details had been checked.

Message in need of good exposure

SIR: Your readers may wonder why the picture of the anti-smoking mural at the corner of Glebe Point and Wigram roads was taken at such an odd angle (*The Eastern Herald*, April 9).

At least your readers could see the picture; those passing by can scarcely see it at all, because it is concealed behind a high cyclone-wire fence. Leichhardt Council has been asking for some time for the fence to be removed so the mural can be seen; but so far no action.

The Department of Health, which now controls the site, doesn't seem to care whether children get the anti-smoking message or not.

**Ald Neil Macindoe,
Leichhardt Council.**
April 11

Eastern Herald 16.4.92

A bridge too high

SIR: Leichhardt Council agrees with the views expressed by Sydney City Council concerning the proposed new Glebe Island Bridge (*Herald*, April 11).

The channel to be bridged is the narrow entrance to a pair of landlocked bays. The proposed bridge is 27 metres high and 800 metres long, second only to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The justification for such a massive structure is the need for two vessels to discharge their cargoes into storage bins on the shores of Blackwattle Bay.

Such a high bridge is not only much more expensive to build; it is much noisier and requires more fuel to cross. It has adverse impacts both upon its users and nearby residents, existing and proposed. Alternative storage bins for the vessels are already available in the silos of White Bay, on the Harbour side of the proposed bridge. The RTA has not sufficiently considered either the environmental impacts or the alternative solutions.

**Alderman Neil Macindoe,
Leichhardt Municipal Council,
Leichhardt.**
April 12

S.M.H. 20.4.92

Good news and bad news. The good news is the Parliamentary Works Committee announced it will refuse approval for any work at KSA until the Federal Airports Corporation completes a master plan (AFR 6/4/92). The third runway has been "planned" when in fact there is no adopted overall master plan for KSA.

Dr. John Hewson, Leader of the Federal Opposition called for both private investment and fast tracking of Badgery's Creek Airport on ABC radio news 14/4/92. Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) is pleased with Dr. Hewson's call as it is consistent with their views. WSROC would like the \$58,000 December decision allocated to Badgery's Creek site works and runway construction and the private sector to become involved with providing the ground facilities. WSROC would like a requirement that the FAC seek out the availability of private funds, then assess how much more of the design can be achieved with those funds. WSROC is opposed to the third runway but it comments that if the runway were to proceed the FAC expertise would be tied to that project therefore private sector management should be sought for Badgery's Creek development. Construction companies and some airline operating and maintenance companies have expressed interest in operating at Badgery's Creek.

We understand that the Industry Commission's Intrastate aviation report says the FAC and the CAA are uncommercial therefore their decisions are uncommercial. 70% income is non-aviation. Yet The FAC is required to be a commercial operation. Is it functioning more as a shopping mecca and are we subsidising an expensive industry's operations?

Despite the efforts of Sandra Nori, MP, the state Labor Party is not presently willing to act to do all that it could to ensure dredging for the third runway in Botany Bay would proceed in accordance with state legislation. Similar approaches were made to several of the independents. Society members should write to the Hon. Bob Carr, asking him to ensure dredging is done within state environmental legislation if the runway proceeds.

Is this all we get? Not only would we get an airport (KSA) that would be comparatively substandard but the federal government has no process in place to ensure that we are compensated for aircraft noise from KSA operations and the Environmental Management Plan for the runway has provision for only minimal community representation. The Management plan suggests a study should be carried out on the health effects of KSA aircraft noise on human beings for future airport planning consideration. Talk about testing on live animals! What about the Kryterstudy "Aircraft noise and social factors in psychiatric hospital admission rates: a re-examination of some data". Psychological Medicine, G.B., 1990.

Members need to keep writing to federal and state politicians. There is a need to ask Leichhardt Council to press for SPCC guidelines on noise to be adopted for construction if the runway were to proceed.

Aviation Minister Senator Bob Collins has not yet replied to the Society's letter (17/3/92) asking him what measures he is taking to ensure signing agreements for Badgery's Creek Airport is receiving priority, and whether the first runway will be on a taxiway alignment or a runway alignment.

There is confirmation that bigger aircraft will come into service (Flight International, April '92). KSA will be too small to handle the wing-spans of eighty and more metres. The third runway has all the ambiance of a wrong scheme.

The next open campaign meeting will be on 6/5/92 at the Community Hall, Mitchell St. Glebe, 7.30pm. Would you please advise people of the meeting.

<p>SYDNEY AIRPORT AIRCRAFT NOISE COMPLAINTS ALL HOURS TEL. 211 4570</p>
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THE WOMEN

During the nineteenth century the women of Glebe, one half of the population, were largely invisible in a society that was male dominated and hostile to women's participation in civil and social existence. Their legal position was made consonant with their subordinate economic position. At a municipal level, for example, the property-based franchise meant that only a handful of women were enrolled as electors. Still fewer became local elected representatives. Glebe was a separate municipality from 1859 to 1948 but it was not until 1932 that the first woman was elected to Glebe Council, and there were only two during the ninety years of its existence: Mary Ann Dunn (1932-1937) and May Pitt (1941-1945).

Women's lives were ordered around marriage, motherhood and work. The wife of an unskilled labourer performed basic domestic chores such as cooking and laundering under extreme difficulties in her tiny home.

Unskilled workers on the wharves, at Glebe Island abattoirs and in the building trades, employed on a casual or seasonal basis, only just made a living wage. For their wives poverty was a constant companion. Apart from their unpaid labour in the home, they often took in laundry, did mending, sewed clothes, cleaned lodgings and minded children to supplement the inadequate wage of their husbands. Their lives were also profoundly affected by infant and child mortality rates higher in Sydney in the 1880s than in London.

Membership of trade unions strengthened the bargaining position of skilled workers. Better paid than his unskilled counterpart, the skilled tradesman saw himself as respectable. Nonetheless the opportunities for the wife of a stonemason, for instance, to relax were very restricted and the notion of leisure was inapplicable to her.

Young single women who successfully avoided domestic work (domestic service remained the single largest area of paid employment for women until 1940) found themselves working very long hours in shops and factories. Their work was considered to be less skilled and of less value than men's, resulting in consistently lower wages for women workers.

Many women found employment in the clothing

trades on piece rates which forced them to work long hours at home for small reward.

At Glebe Point, married middle class women had more opportunities to engage in improving activities. Domestic servants gave them increased leisure time to pursue charitable activities. (In 1871, for example, 100 of Glebe's 700 residents were domestic servants.) Wives of the well-to-do were numerically prominent in organisations associated with the churches (they kept them solvent) but in the improvement and temperance societies they took a self-effacing role. The Allen family of Toxteth Park were known for their Protestant philanthropy, yet part of the vast wealth that enabled them to acquire a philanthropic reputation was gained from being extensive slum landlords.

Middle class ladies also took active roles in dramatic and choral societies, hospital Saturday committees, and on the Ragged School Union, but there were virtually no equivalents for women of the associations, lodges, and sporting clubs which catered for men.

In Glebe directories reveal local women operated a variety of businesses and they frequently took over the running of their husband's business when he died. Need frequently found an outlet in Glebe through private money lenders. From 1910 Fanny Lewis operated a pawnbroker's shop at 153 Glebe Road and became something of a local identity. Small boys stood in wonderment as they read the prominently displayed sign:

£1 lent for 6d

What an Eldorado! Just down the road at 115 Glebe Road, the suburb supported another pawnbroker, Rachael Cowen.

For the youth of Glebe, a night at the Glebe Moving Picture Theatre (84 Glebe Road) preceded by a delicious pie in an enamel dish at Mrs Fortescues' shop (No 109) was all one could wish for.

Glebe's dancing schools offered ballroom and stage dancing. Perhaps the best known one was Trixy Ireland's Dancing Academy at 78 Glebe Road, with a predominantly Protestant clientele. At 6 Westmoreland Street Catholic children were taught to dance by Mrs Annie Eager. At local concerts they showed off their pupils - with tap dancing the main feature - in the hope that the proficiency of their proteges would attract custom.

Many women ran corner stores in Glebe, were licences of local pubs - especially well-known were Annie Brennan, Margaret and Kathleen Toohey, and Mary Gee - and operated businesses as tea merchants, milliners, confectioners, laundresses, hairdressers, and fancy goods shops.

In the city were hundreds of boarding houses, frequently run by widows. There were never a great number of Glebe boarding houses listed in directories, but doubtless many people took in a lodger or two to supplement their income.

Young, and not so young, women ran many private schools in Glebe up to 1914. At about 225 Glebe Road in 1880 there were three private girls' schools: Denmark Lodge, Hereford College (Mrs Sarah Gray), and Mary Saclier's Young Ladies' College. The curriculum of these schools, with their 'accomplishments', were more designed to make ladies than scholars.

HERITAGE WEEK 1992

On Sunday 3 May between 11am and 3pm, as part of Heritage Week 1992, the National Trust, Parramatta Historical Society and the Parramatta City Council will open three of Australia's most important historic sites:

- * the Female Orphan School, Victoria Road, Rydalmere
- * the Female Factory, Fleet Street, North Parramatta
- * The King's School, Marist Place, Parramatta.

Admission by donation. Refreshments on sale at the Female Factory. It is suggested that you allow about three hours to see the three places. A limited shuttle bus service will be provided between sites, and maps will be available at each showing the way to the next for those providing their own transport. For further inquiries phone Ian Stephenson on 258 0150.

Also on Sunday 3 May, the Royal Australian Historical Society will have its Heritage Week Open Day at History House, 133 Macquarie Street. The theme is 'We know about our house, do you know about yours?'

Members of the Glebe Society's Monday Group had a most enjoyable April meeting when, on a perfect Autumn day, in two cars, they took their lunches to the fresh air of Little Bay, where Mary Wargenau lives. Mary gave an entertaining account of her enviable holiday cruise, and lively discussion of recent films and concerts added to the stimulating yet relaxing and pleasurable visit.

The next two monthly meetings will be local:

* Monday 18 May at 26 Victoria Road (Gwen Knox - phone 660 7781)

* Monday 15 June at 9 Alexandra Road (Katharine Buck - phone 660 2879).

As usual, BYO lunch, tea & coffee provided.

All members of the Glebe Society are welcome at these informal get-togethers on the third Monday of each month. Convenor Sally Nelson is expected back from her Scottish sojourn in June.

Inquiries to Katharine Buck 660 2879.



DINING OUT

Ten members had a very pleasant evening at the British Lion, St Johns Road, on 8 April and decided on Aniello's Restaurant, Bridge Road, as the venue for May. This is BYO and was the first restaurant chosen when the monthly dining out night started some years ago. Do join us there at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 May.

Please phone Ian Edwards on 660 6406 a few days beforehand to make your bookings. New diners are always welcome.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4 May - 6pm - Members Get-together -
The Haven Inn, cnr Glebe Point Road &
Wigram Road

Wednesday 13 May - 6.30pm - Dining Out -
Aniello's Restaurant (BYO), 284 Bridge Road

Monday 18 May - 12 noon - Monday Group - 26
Victoria Road, Glebe Point (Gwen Knox's
house: phone 660 7781)

Wednesday 20 May - 7.30pm - Committee
meeting - Lyndhurst, Darghan Street
(Also deadline for Bulletin contributions)

Monday 1 June - 6pm - Members Get-together
- The Haven Inn, cnr Glebe Point Road &
Wigram Road

Monday 15 June - 12 noon - Monday Group - 9
Alexandra Road, Glebe Point (Katharine
Buck's house: phone 660 2879)



THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Ted McKeown 660 3917 (H)
391 3000 (W)

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

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT:
Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)

IMM. PAST PRES: Andrew Wood 660 2194 (H)

SECRETARY: Jeanette Knox 660 7781 (H)

TREASURER: Edwina Doe 660 7066 (H)
922 3877 (W)

COMMITTEE:
Mavis McCarthy 660 5119 (H)
Jenny Pockley 660 6363 (H)
Peter Strickland 660 7624 (H)
Christine Whittemore 660 7969 (H)

Bulletin Editor: Jeremy Long 692 8742
Membership List: Patricia Jackson 660 8849
New Members Rep: Jenny Pockley 660 6363
Monday Group: Sally Nelson 660 6138

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS:

Ordinary \$22, Additional household members \$5
each, Student/Pensioner \$8, Institutional \$28.

Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring
Jenny Pockley on 660 6363 for information.

GLEBE POINT ROAD PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

Peter Strickland - 660 7624 (H)
Ted McKeown - 660 3917 (H)
Anton Crouch - 660 2889 (H)

CONVENORS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

All convenors are ex-officio members of
the Management Committee

BAYS & FORESHORES

John Buckingham - 660 7780

DIGGERS MEMORIAL

Bill Nelson - 660 6138 (H)

ENVIRONMENT

Fiona Campbell - 891 8284 (W)

HAROLD PARK

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

KINGSFORD SMITH AIRPORT & GLEBE

Alison McKeown - 660 3917

LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

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