



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

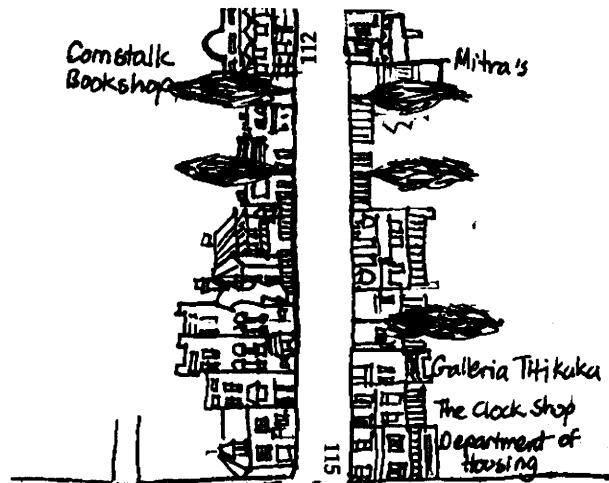
PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

Registered by Australia Post - Publication No NBG 7483 No 1 of 1994 JANUARY

A Way Ahead for Glebe Point Road Trees

A Street Tree Management Strategy for Glebe Point Road is being exhibited by Council for comment from November until the end of February..

The strategy has been prepared for Council by Garry Clubley and John Douglas, Arboricultural Consultants, who have been members of Council's Trees and Open Space Committee for some time.



What does the Glebe Point Road Street Tree Management Strategy Recommend?

Basically, the criteria for the strategy have been to:

- Document all existing trees for:
 - age, condition and life expectancy
 - impact of trees on pavement and structures
 - impact of power-lines on trees.

Develop:

- interplanting and/or replacement programme
- tree management programme leading to minimal future maintenance obligations.

Balance and maximise historic, cultural and aesthetic considerations

The conclusion is that the major tree species in Glebe Point Road, *Populus nigra* 'Italica' (Lombardy Poplar) as a group are declining and many are in very poor condition, some being potentially dangerous.

Some of these trees are also causing significant damage to the pavement surface and adjacent houses. This causes high maintenance costs, legal liability and payment to residents for property repair.

Other species have been planted in an ad hoc manner; some are inappropriate species selection; some are in poor condition. They have no unifying theme.

The recommendation, of *Flindersia australis* (Australian Teak) for replanting is consistent with a recommendation given by Craig Burton, who completed a landscaping design for the Jubilee Fountain.

What do you think?

An open meeting to discuss a response to the strategy by the Glebe Society will be held at Mitchell St Community Room, Sat 12 February, 10:00 - 1130 am.

Contact Fiona Campbell, 660 0185 (home) for any queries.

The exhibition of the strategy is the culmination of a long process.

- As a result of liaison with the Glebe Point Road Project, in 1990 students from Ryde Horticultural College prepared a project summarising advantages and disadvantages of different courses of action available to Council to manage the existing trees.

- In May 1991, the Glebe Point Road Project submitted recommendations for landscaping and a detailed brief for management of an avenue (including details for an ongoing maintenance schedule) to Council.
- Just after the Glebe Society Bulletin featured an article on 'the headless poplars', Council sought professional advice from John Douglas on a solution to problems from the tree roots and revised its management techniques. At this time, the August 1991 meeting of the Tree Planting and Preservation Committee gave approval to develop a Strategy, largely based on the Glebe Point Road Project's proposed brief.
- There was some community consultation on the strategy when John Douglas spoke at a Glebe Point Road Project meeting in June 1992. John also spoke again on the Strategy at the Glebe Society's public meeting last August.
- The Strategy was eventually submitted in its final form at the last, November meeting of Council's Trees and Open Space Committee. At this meeting it was emphasised that the Strategy be strongly promoted at the Council, libraries and that advantage be taken to promote it at the Council's stall at the Glebe Street Fair.

Unfortunately, the strategy was not exhibited at the Fair (although some material was available at the Glebe Society stall.) Given the local lack of awareness of the existence of the Strategy and the exhibition period, in December Council adopted Councillor Macindoe's recommendation for a sub-committee of the Trees and Open Space Committee to be formed to promote the study in Glebe. This committee is now organising promotion through articles for the local press and Leichhardt Leader, the Glebe Society and Chamber of Commerce and is organising a display in the local Post Office.

Fiona Campbell

Report from Council

Cr Nick Masterman died on New Year's Day after a brief but terrible illness. He is survived by his partner, Christine O'Brien, a Glebe Society stalwart, who had a profound impact on Nick's understanding of environmental issues and Glebe. Nick was also guided by Andrew Wood in implementing the Society's light rail policy, and by Jeanette Knox in public transport and traffic issues. Peter Strickland and myself provided guidance in matters concerning the bays and Glebe Island

Bridge. Nick was a stimulating and valuable colleague: we had similar interests and frequently supported each other. His loss is being deeply felt.

A Costly By-election

Nick's death means a municipal by-election will be held on 26 March. Unfortunately, a previous mayor abolished wards in Leichhardt to increase his own chances of re-election. The entire electorate must vote for a replacement who will only serve 18 months before the next full poll. The cost of this exercise is about \$ 100 000. My view is that wards democratically based on the 1991 census should be reintroduced, both to eliminate unnecessary expense and to make councillors accountable. This could be achieved by means of a referendum held in conjunction with the by-election.

Garbage Collection Streamlined

After some months Council has successfully negotiated a package which will maintain the same level of service but reduce the cost of garbage collection by \$ 700 000 per annum. This was achieved by servicing half the Municipality in the evening and half in the morning, which halves the number of vehicles required, and reducing the number of garbos per truck to the State average of three.

Council can now concentrate on the problem of improving cleanliness in Glebe. This has already begun with the resurfacing of lanes, which makes cleansing easier and faster. I will now press for universal use of bins, which are much tidier than bags or boxes, and regular lane cleaning.

It appears that Council has been right to resist the introduction of wheely bins, and to concentrate on recycling. Councils which have introduced Otto and similar bins have experienced a huge increase in the volume of waste, which results in increased tipping fees and increased pressure on rates.

Heavy Metal Contamination

Julie Markus of the University of Sydney has recently completed a survey of Glebe that shows soil contamination with lead far above safe levels, as is the case throughout the inner city. I will move in Council that these levels be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority, who are required to investigate excessive levels under the Act.

Through traffic is a major factor in elevated lead levels. I will continue to press for through traffic to be re-routed onto the new arterial roads being constructed around Glebe, so residential areas will be less affected. Council

has already agreed to my proposal to press for the closure of Bridge Road at Wentworth Park, and the inclusion of the derelict industrial sites as waterfront parkland while traffic is rerouted over the new and existing Glebe Island Bridges, and local residents can drive around the park to the City.

Greening Glebe

Many members have noticed the reconstruction of kerbs in Wigram Road, including a nature strip and kerb gardens. This has been possible because of a federal grant to reconstruct a major storm water drain that had collapsed. The new drain is located directly under the kerb, allowing the footpath to be reconstructed and the kerbstones retained. I argued that ground covers were less trouble and expense to maintain than grass nature strips, so the Engineer is using the strip beginning in front of my house as an experiment! A small level section of Annandale Street has also been reconstructed with kerb gardens.

Fiona Campbell has organised the construction of kerb gardens in her own area of Glebe. These are extensions of the unasphalted areas around trees. Groups of residents can band together to ask for these gardens, or for additional tree planting.

Planning Update

Members have until the end of January to comment on Glebe Markets and the Leon Fink site, and until March to comment on Council's Environment Strategy, Energy Efficient Building Policy and New Town Plan Papers.

Council has finally come to its senses and agreed to sell 10 Hancock Street, Rozelle, bought for a carpark using some Glebe contributions, and to evict the unfinancial tenants at the AGL site on The Crescent (see October 1993 Bulletin).

The first six months of 1994 promises to be very eventful, and I will do my best to keep members informed.

Cr Neil Macindoe

Book Review



The following review appeared in *Australian Rowing*, December 1993.

Max Solling, *The Boatshed on Blackwattle Bay: Glebe Rowing Club 1879 - 1993*, Glebe Rowing Club, 244pp, \$30

Formed in 1879, Glebe Rowing Club is a worthy institution for rowers and social members alike and it deserved a good history.

In *The Boatshed on Blackwattle Bay* author Max Solling, however, has done rather more than write a good history. He has produced a first-rate one.

Solling is to be commended on many counts. He accurately records the achievements of Glebe's many famous rowers and teams. He pays tribute to the hundreds of people who have contributed to the club's social and administrative life. But perhaps the most exciting thing about *The Boatshed on Blackwattle Bay* is its importance as a work of Australian social history.

'Proper' histories about sport are rare in Australia. For one thing it is easier just to sling together a set of statistics and results. Solling, however, has not taken any short cuts, either in research or writing. He has managed to place 'the Rowers' in its broadest historical context, while bringing together a great amount of evidence about the local history of Glebe, its community life, churches, pubs, sports and industrial make-up.

I was particularly delighted by the way Solling treats the disputes in the late nineteenth century about the 'gentlemen amateurs' who believed that rowing ought to be confined to persons 'of education, refinement, leisure and means' and black-balled manual workers from joining. A long way removed from our more democratic times, it is a reminder of just how deep class divisions really were in the late nineteenth century.

Glebe Rowing Club sorted out all of this nonsense by 1903. Solling painstakingly shows how the local composition of the club changed, developing a more blue collar base.

The Boatshed on Blackwattle Bay really does have something to say to a variety of audiences. Suffice it to say, however, that it is obligatory reading for anyone interested in rowing.

Andrew Moore
University of Western Sydney

The book is available at Glebe Rowing Club, Gleebooks, and at The Cornstalk Bookshop.

Dining Out

Members are invited to enjoy an evening dining out with other Glebe Society members at local restaurants. Dining Out is arranged regularly for the fourth Tuesday of the month.

In February we will meet at B.J.s Eatery, 99 Glebe Point Road. The date is 22 February; time, 6:30pm.

Please ring Ian Edwards as soon as possible on 817 4329, so that bookings can be made.

Monday Group

The first meeting of the Monday Group for 1994 will be Monday February 21, at 12 noon, at the home of Pat Moore, 7/26 Cook St, Glebe Point.

Please bring lunch for one person.

For Your Diary

Monday 21 February - 12 noon - Monday Group. Meet at the home of Pat Moore, 7/26 Cook St, Glebe Point.

Tuesday 22 February - 6:30 pm - Dining Out - B.J.s Eatery, 99 Glebe Point Road

THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee

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Diggers Memorial

Bill Nelson 660 6138

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Gideon Rutherford 692 0239

Light Rail

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Planning

Linda Nash 818 3095

Traffic

Jeanette Knox 660 7781

Wentworth Park

Christine Stewart 660 8324

Membership of The Glebe Society

Costs: Ordinary \$25; additional household members \$5 each;
Student/Pensioner \$10; Institution \$30

Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037, or ring Jeanette Knox on 660 7781.