
THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

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September

Bays and Foreshores Report

Before beginning this year's Report I had a quick look at last year's report and realised how little things have changed. (I'm tempted to submit my Report just saying "refer to 1994 Report"). However a quick look around the bays might be useful.

The return of the *James Craig* to Rozelle Bay and the addition of a couple of old ferries to augment the stock of lovely old boats at the Maritime Museum's workshops will delight members.

The joining of the two spans of the new Glebe Island Bridge was accompanied by considerable publicity. I've reached the position now that if we must have this piece of typical Public Works and RTA overkill it may as well be finished so that we get any benefits that may accrue traffic-wise.

The clean-up of the waterfront between the fishmarkets and Glebe High is underway. While there is still some discussion as to its use, the improvement of the vista from Wentworth Park and Bridge Road is immediate and should be permanent.

The waterfront site at 29 Cook Street has been cleared but no development work has begun. Bellevue/Venetia remains unattended.

The three restored heritage houses on the old Stride's Yard look fabulous. New steps have improved access to the waterfront from the play area of Blackwattle Bay Park.

Harbour Lighterage residential development has not begun at this point.

Non-approved development work continued to be undertaken at the Hardie/Fink site. A development application was placed (**unsuccessfully**) before Council during the year. This proposal could serve as a base for discussions between residents and the owner.

Bicentennial Park Stage 2, though incomplete, looks magnificent!

John Buckingham

Spring Picnic

One suggestion made when we were reviewing social activities earlier in the year was that the Society enjoy the parks that we now have in Glebe and that we have them as a venue for a spring and autumn picnic.

You are, accordingly, invited to gather at Bicentennial Park on Sunday, 1st October, for a Spring Picnic. Meet under or near the large fig trees bordering Northcote Street. We had originally planned to organise a fish and chip lunch, but the particular fish and chip shop we had in mind has unfortunately closed! So - own choice! BYO lunch and drinks, rugs, etc. and enjoy the company of fellow members.

Assembly time - between 12:30 and 1:00pm
We look forward to seeing you!



The Bays and Foreshores Report was presented to the AGM in August.

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Planning Report (continued from last Bulletin)

Submission to Council concerning the former Grace Bros site

Traffic Management

This comment is qualified by the earlier proposal for the closure of Francis Street to extend Minogue Reserve.

The idea of what is essentially an anti-clockwise traffic movement around the site is the best and obvious plan. However there are some problem areas bordering Glebe Point Road. My suggestions are as follows :

- The plan to prevent a right turn from Glebe Point Road into Francis Street is necessary. Traffic entering Francis Street from Glebe Point Road, south-bound, is often travelling at considerable speed.
- Council should look seriously at the issue of pedestrian safety on that path, at it is quite a distance from one corner to the other (that is, along the eastern side of GPR). A form of pedestrian crossing could be installed there, as a pedestrian island is not really an alternative in the situation.
- There is also a worry about traffic turning right from Francis Street into Glebe Point Road north-bound. There will be long waiting times for such a manoeuvre. Council could consider the restriction of that turn. Local traffic would certainly be better served by re-entering Glebe Point Road via the Bay Street route, leading to St John's Road, for example.

Another worry concerning traffic flow is the possibility of vehicles finding their way back to GPR from Bay Street via Glebe Street and then Cowper Street. The exit from Cowper Street onto GPR is not especially dangerous, but is certainly not one which can handle much traffic load. This route necessitates crossing the five-ways intersection which includes Franklin Street; this intersection has very bad sight-lines. Every encouragement should be given to keeping extra traffic away from these local

and narrow streets.

The proposed traffic signals in Bay Street for the Smail/Greek/Francis Streets intersection are acceptable and the proposed traffic signal at the northern end of Bay Street would probably be better as a round-about, as this should be cheaper and more efficient.

The effect of traffic flow around the site will need to be monitored. I hope Council will review traffic flows around the retail complex in the first year or two.

Landscaping and Heritage Values

Apart from the major issue of the Minogue Reserve and the Bay Street air bridge, the landscaping of the site seems to be very acceptable. It will be a great thing for Broadway to have the copper domes reinstated. The removal of the top three storeys of the Grose Street Store Building and the re-installation of the atrium seems there is a wonderful idea, if the QVB or the Strand Arcade renovations are models.

The Effect on Local Glebe Businesses

This issue may be outside Council's considerations for the site's approval. However it has been mentioned to me by some Glebe residents as a possible consequence of the proposal. Perhaps the supermarkets in Glebe Point Road could be affected, but on the other hand the influx of people from outside our local area may well improve the prospects for the many interesting shops in our area. The outcome will probably be decided by that mysterious thing called "market forces".

Parking, including Disabled Parking

The doubling of the previous car-parking spaces is welcome. The analysis in the D.A.'s traffic management document seems to fulfil general traffic-flow requirements. The idea of the first two hours being free and then a fee being charged is very sensible. There is a provision for 20 disabled parking spaces. Could Council request an increase from 20 to 30 spaces, thus bringing it up to about 2% of the total? The number of permits issued is increasing year by year, as the population ages and as the public becomes more aware of the possibility of obtaining such a permit.

In summary, in the lead-up to this submis-

This article is the conclusion of the Planning Report commenced in last month's Bulletin

sion, the Society's Management Committee has discussed the proposed redevelopment at length. We invited the developers to give us a presentation of the plans, which they were happy to do, and we have invited ideas and comments from our members. As well, many of us have discussed the proposal with friends and neighbours.

I have heard no serious in-principle objection to the proposed development, although there have been some comments, criticisms, ideas, etc about certain aspects. I believe these have been faithfully recorded in this submission. The general feeling is that Glebe and surrounding areas need a high-quality shopping centre, one that is accessible to all. The closure of the Grace Bros stores in 1992 has been felt severely by many people in the area, especially the elderly and those without cars. This lack has extended into areas well outside Leichhardt Council's influence.

The developers have quite correctly identified a need for a major retail centre close to the forthcoming Pyrmont-Ultimo rehabilitation area. The development, if approved, will have an impact on the surrounding communities for decades. We hope that Council bears in mind those who will be using the shopping centre in the future.

On behalf of the Glebe Society Inc. I hope that Council will consider our submission with care, and that once issues raised by us and others are resolved, the development/restoration of the former Grace Bros site be approved. It is the least controversial recent major D.A. in the last few years.

(signed) John Hoddinott
Planning Convenor

There are no obviously difficult or controversial Development or Building Applications at the time of writing this report; however I keep an eye on all those that may have some effect on our suburb. I am always happy to discuss planning issues with members, or to examine the appropriate documents at Council's offices.

Just a quick thought which impinges on the Grace Bros matter I noted in the Herald in the last few days that there is a proposal to redevelop the Fairfax site, also in Broad-

way, roughly along the lines of that above. It was not approved by Sydney City Council as it stood. It seems that the inner-west may soon be overwhelmed by more retail stores than we can poke a credit card at. I will keep an eye on this matter. It may be possible for us to make a submission, even if it is not in our local government area.

Nomination of Edwina Doe as honorary life member of the Glebe Society

From the Annual General Meeting

On Melbourne Cup day 1978 Edwina Doe moved into her home in Bridge Road Glebe, where she also conducted her market research business. In about 1981 Edwina joined the Glebe Society after enjoying one of the steam train rides organised by the Society - the train travelled along the good-railway line that, if all goes well, will become the light rail line linking Glebe with the central business district. Soon after joining the Society, she volunteered to help hand-deliver the Bulletin to members and later in 1981 took on the role of Editor of the Bulletin and became a member of the Management Committee. Edwina continued as Bulletin Editor until 1985, served again as Editor from 1987 to 89, and assisted the next editor, Jeremy Long, until 1992.

In 1985 Edwina was elected as Senior Vice-president of the Society and then President in 1986 and 1987 (following Neil Macindoe). Since then Edwina has continued to serve the Society as Immediate Past President (1988, 1989), Treasurer (1990 - 1993), and organiser of the membership list (1992 - 1995). Over the years she has also helped at innumerable Society functions including "happy hours", "dining out nights", home inspections and street stalls.

During Edwina's time as President, the Society faced many difficult and time-consuming issues.

- a developer wanted to demolish four Edwardian houses at the junction of St John's Road and Ross Street. During the ensuing discussions, the Society was able to save the facades of the corner houses.
- an enormous neon sign advertising cigarettes was lifted onto the roof of "University Hall" at the corner of Glebe Point Road and Broadway. No development application had been approved and, despite requests from the Society, Leichhardt Council took no action. The Society was forced to lodge the complaint to the NSW ombuds-

man who insisted that the Council issue an order for the removal of the sign. The issue ended up in the Land and Environment Court with Society members acting as witnesses - the court found in the residents' favour and the sign was removed.

- under the leadership of John Buckingham, extensive work continued on the plans for the Bicentennial Park. A complication arose when the state Government proposed that a major marina complex should be built adjacent to the Bicentennial Park at the western end of Rozelle Bay. The Society prepared many submissions to the government and fortunately the marina has never been constructed.

- non-residential traffic using the quiet streets of Glebe as a short-cut to the city had also become a problem. Leichhardt Council had refused requests to conduct a traffic survey. In 1987 the Society held a successful public meeting in St John's church hall. The motions carried at this meeting finally forced Leichhardt Council to take note of the residents' concerns and a traffic study was eventually undertaken.

- in May 1987, Leichhardt Council decided to replace the 1887 sandstone kerbs in Wigram Road with a concrete kerb. In writing to Council the Society stated that the sandstone blocks forming the kerbs "are an integral part of the picturesque Victorian landscape". As members will have been delighted to see, the reconstruction of Wigram Road with the original sandstone kerbs is now almost complete.

The Mayor and Town Clerk of Leichhardt Council felt threatened by many of the Society's actions. In May 1987, the Town Clerk in a reply to a request from the Society that Glebe be included in a study of the effects of commuter parking in the municipality stated -

What article of the Glebe Society Constitution enables/ empowers its delegates to represent the concerns of its community in any matters which are rightly the concern of the elected members of the Council?

Further criticism by the Council of the Society and its work were published in the

Glebe newspaper and in documents tabled by the Town Clerk at a Council meeting. Such activities by the Council placed, as they expected, considerable stress on Edwina as President and the other office-bearers of the Society. They resulted in the Society realising that it would have to become an incorporated organisation so that in the event of any future threats from Council (or developers) office bearers of the Society would be protected from a possible financial loss.

In concluding, I emphasise that over the past 14 years Edwina Doe has rendered extraordinary, continuous and outstanding service to the Glebe Society. It is appropriate that her contributions should be recognised by the Society. Accordingly, I have much pleasure in moving that Edwina Doe be elected as an honorary life member of the Glebe Society.

Andrew Wood

For Your Diary

Sunday, 15 October - Spring Picnic, Bicentennial Park.
Assemble between 12:30 and 1:00.

| THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee | Convenors of Sub-Committees |
|---|--|
| | All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee |
| President Mavis McCarthy 660 5119(H) | Aircraft Alison McKeown 660 3917 |
| Senior Vice President John Barnes 660 7274 (H) | Bays & Foreshores Vacant |
| Junior Vice President Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H) | Children & Glebe Louise Schweikert 660 7205 |
| Immediate Past President David Browne 660 0865 (H) | Diggers' Memorial Max Solling 660 1160 |
| Secretary Jeanette Knox 660 7781 | Environment Fiona Campbell 821 6287 (W) |
| Treasurer John Sleeman 692 9507 (H) | Harold Park Vacant |
| Committee Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692 0916 (H) Christine Whittemore 660 7969 (H) Helen Griffiths 660 5548 (H) | Light Rail Andrew Wood 660 2194 |
| Contacts Bulletin Editor: Jan Macindoe 660 0208 | Planning John Hoddinott 692 0071 |
| Membership List: John Hoddinott 692 0071 | Traffic Jeanette Knox 660 7781 |
| New Members: Barbara Sutton 660 0782 | Wentworth Park Christine Stewart 660 8324 |
| Archivist Lyn Milton 660 7930 | |

Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

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