



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

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What a Few Weeks It Was

Historic Photographs

The talk by Max Solling at the Toxteth Hotel was terrific. About 35 people attended, while Max talked for just over an hour, explaining the 60 or so framed photos on the hotel walls. Every one of them held a story, and I am sure that the talk could have gone on for much longer. Max was his usual knowledgeable and witty self, and answered many questions after the tour. The morning finished with an excellent morning tea of Italian coffee, tea and delicious pastries supplied by the publican Shaughn Murphy. It was a very successful event. Our thanks to Max and Shaughn - I have written to them both thanking them officially from the Glebe Society.

The Glebe Library

The next day saw the poster clean-up on the brick wall around the Library. Thanks to members and residents who offered their help - it took about 15 person-hours to clean the bricks, and the area survived three weeks of poster-free life. The garden landscaping project has started, and one task completed was a lowering of the wall height, to such a level that most posters will no longer fit.

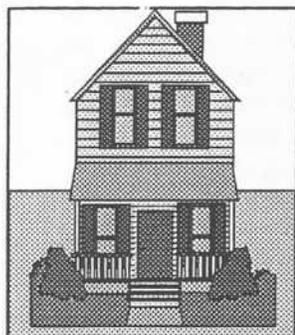
The cocktail party was wonderful, and some of us stayed too late, necessitating dark glasses for the Library's official opening the next morning, (or was it later that day?). The weather stayed perfect for the opening and the book fair the following day. I was on the Society's stall most of the day, but I gather that the event was very successful for the many book shops in Glebe.

Photograph Copying Session

There did not seem to be a big turn-out for the copying of old photos at the library in the week following the opening. However I did manage to rustle up a few from residents, including four taken in 1965 of the Wigram Road and Mansfield Street intersection. One was a photo of Mansfield Street taken from across Wigram opposite the telephone box. It was easy to see the four terraces, the next three houses (one of which was Black Books until recently), then Tranby and even the large house across Boyce Street. There was on small tree in the photo, and in all four there were only two trees.

Such a shot is no longer possible, as there is now so much greenery in Glebe. It may be that the back lanes present an even more striking impression of the increase in trees than the views from the main streets. I think many of us forget how "ungreen" the suburb was even twenty years ago. Just as many residents do not know of the state of Bicentennial Park in the mid-80s, with its derelict buildings.

I hope members will remember to check photo albums for the next session - not planned yet. What may seem a mundane photo to us could well have enormous interest and historic importance in thirty years



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time. I wonder if anyone has a photo of the old shoe repair shop run by Eric Shaw, near the corner of Ferry Road. I remember the old-style telephone number on the window with two letters and four digits. I managed to get from Loui the original of the photo which appeared in The National Times in late 1987, with Loui's brother holding a large watermelon in front of his head, standing amongst the flowers in front of the fruit shop. In black and white - now it would be in colour.

Social Activities

Jeanette and I discussed the next venue, and decided on Cafe Otto in Glebe Point Road. The date will be Sunday 1st June, for about 12.30pm. Give me a call by Thursday 29th May if you are coming, so I can reserve. The cafe is licensed and BYO, and wine is available by the glass. The range of dishes suit a light lunch through to more substantial meals.

John Hoddinott

Planning Report

461/463/465 Glebe Point Road

I was wrong in my claim in the previous Bulletin that the working party for the three sites would be reconvened. I have since spoken to Cr Maire Sheehan, who chaired the WP, and the matter will now lie with the owner and Council. This is certainly the only solution, after five or six meetings. I think there was very little for the other four parties to contribute further. There will be a further opportunity to have input, either from the Society, Precinct, residents or tenants, if and when the matter proceeds to another stage.

In this regard, I have heard recently some comments along the line that "Glebe does not need more residential development". It is not the Glebe Society's policy to oppose any legal development on principle; we lucky ones here have no right to pull up the drawbridge and prevent others from living here. There is, after all, only a finite amount of space available for development of any kind in our small suburb, and as long as developments adhere to the Council's planning guidelines, we must be very close to putting up a "No Vacancies" sign for that reason. Perhaps some industrial sites could be rezoned (although I know of none except for the address above and the John Fletcher site, of which I have heard nothing).

It has been claimed that residential development generates traffic - well so does industrial and/or commercial. At least new residential development requires a high degree of on-site parking, and as parking near both of the above sites is currently difficult, verging on the impossible, parking would improve. Traffic movement may not necessarily increase significantly.

John Hoddinott

Traffic Matters

UThis is not to usurp Jeanette's role as Society Sub-convenor. I have recently been asked by Sandra Nori to be her representative on Leichhardt Council's Traffic Committee. I was very happy to accept from the previous rep, Cr Kris Cruden, who could not continue in the role with the workload associated with her becoming Mayor. (My involvement is obviously not a Glebe Society position, but I thought members may be interested.) I was Sandra's representative for three years, 1988-91, until poor health forced me to step down. Then Sandra's electorate ran to about Young Street in Annandale, and the rest, more than two thirds of the municipality, was in Dawn Fraser's electorate of Balmain. That has changed and now I have to consider almost all the Council area. There is a small strip on the western edge which is in Mr Paul Whelan's electorate. The traffic problems in Balmain and Rozelle make ours look fairly slight.

The committee is chaired by Cr Kate Butler, and Council management is represented by Trevor Jennings, the Traffic Manager, and his off-sider, Peter Hammond. As well there is a Police Officer, and representatives of the STA (buses) and the RTA. These, and I, are the voting members. Interested parties such as a chamber of commerce, bicycle interests, precinct members, etc, may attend meetings, if an item concerns the party's interests.

Previously there were often about 20 items on the agenda, but after three recent meetings, this seems to have changed; there are perhaps 6 to 8 items, and the meetings are equivalently shorter. This is partly due to an administrative change whereby the Traffic Manager, after notifying the voting members of small issues, a disabled parking space for instance, can proceed on his own initiative.

Two matters which have arisen in Glebe concern the pedestrian crossing in Glebe Point Road for Glebe Public School. Sandra observed that the plantings of pampas grass could obscure the vision of car drivers. These have been replaced with small plants, and the sight-lines are vastly improved. The

crossing will soon become a "wombat" crossing, i.e. a slightly raised area in different coloured bricks. The other is a repositioning of the pedestrian refuge in Derwent Street, serving the same school. It is to be moved closer to the corner of Derwent and Catherine Streets. The steps serving the original refuge were supposed to be removed, but a resident asked the committee to keep them, and after a poll of residents has been undertaken, they will probably remain.

If members have any traffic concerns, please write to Mr Trevor Jennings at Council. It should be remembered that the primary concern of the Committee is safety. There was a recent consultant's study of traffic in Johnston Street, Annandale which showed that the 85th percentile speed at the northern end near Rozelle Bay was well above the 60 kph limit. Some sensible traffic calming measures will consequently be put in place, especially near the two Primary Schools on the street.

I raised the matter at the Committee of some bus zones in Glebe not having timetable information on display. The STA rep said that there had been money set aside for timetable installation and that he would see to it. Five weeks after I complained there are still no timetables in Wigram Road's three stops, for instance. I will keep up the pressure. This kind of thing should be undertaken in a matter of days, not weeks, and should have happened years ago anyway.

John Hoddinott



FRROGS: Looking through 90s eyes

Even in the "green 90s" the physical environment in Glebe and surrounding areas is still under-rated and is in many ways an untapped resource.

The FRROGs group, through its involvement with the planning of a revegetation strategy for the Orphan School Creek Gully (OSCG), and through guest speakers at our meetings, have learnt a number of interesting things about our local environment.

Green corridors, such as the one running from the old Children's Hospital site from Camperdown down through to Rozelle Bay, the wild open sites which are found on railway embankments, on cliff faces, older industrial sites (Harold Park and the tram sheds) and our gardens are good examples.

Many of these sites are neglected or unsuitable for human use (luckily!). They create an opportunity for us in the local community, with Council's support, to try to redress the imbalance caused by overdevelopment of urban areas.

Our gardens can provide shelter and food for resident and migratory birds, small reptiles and other fauna and our parks and open space sites share a similar function. Over the last two decades or so, plantings in many gardens and parks have been designed with native species, attempting to "put back what we have taken away". This has been a positive step away from the former English-garden-based philosophy which prevailed.

The success of many native plantings has demonstrated that you can increase the numbers of native birds returning to inner urban areas. However, current research shows that our community needs to rethink, further, how we influence the physical environment.

Information from the National Trust and bush management consultant Daniel Ondinea indicates that traditional flight paths for small and migratory native birds are being cut off all over the Sydney region by overdevelopment. Green corridors and

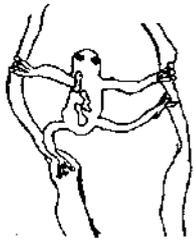
wild sites such as those found in our area will not increase, and may not even maintain, our current numbers of bird visitors unless furnished with suitable vegetation. Existing corridors need to be recognised, protected and well maintained and additional corridors developed if possible.

Dr Glenn Shea recently educated us about reptiles of the inner city. Reptiles such as small lizards, geckoes and blue tongue lizards have a limited range of movement, unlike birds. Therefore urban areas like Glebe act as a reservoir, containing remnant populations of some of the same species as recorded here around early settlement. Although snakes have not been reported in the area for decades, if you have a very old garden, which has not been disturbed too much over the years, you could well be protecting uncommon (for us, that is!) lizards such as the leaf-tail gecko (nocturnal); recently identified in an old garden close to the Orphan School Creek Gully. The weasel skink, delicate grass skink, common garden skink, and wall skink, all fairly common inhabitants of Glebe, were identified in the Gully during a recent visit. Stone geckoes, blue tongue lizards and water skinks may also remain in the area in suitable patches of undisturbed land.

You are likely to have easy success attracting local frogs (eg the striped marsh frog, the one that goes "Tok") to your garden by providing an appropriate pond (without goldfish, who will munch tadpoles and small frogs). If you have rocks, sandstone walls, and low-lying plants, remember that these may be homes to lizards which you might not see during daylight.

Are you thinking of replacing plants in your garden? You may be interested to try planting a variety of small native trees and shrubs which will provide shelter and food for small birds which are under enormous pressure in urban areas.

When thinking of the wider local area, the FRROGs group believes that it is time for a well thought out overall management plan for our many unused and wild sites. There is increasing interest in these sites, and small numbers of local people are becoming actively involved with some of them. Council supports community involvement and the many voluntary hours of community



labour are an invaluable resource to Council. However, the community must be accountable and encourage the development of guidelines and strategies to be implemented through Council itself.

We hope that you who live in Glebe will become actively interested in these issues and help to plan for the future of Glebe's environment by considering the impact of our actions in our gardens and wild areas.

FRROGs public meetings (usually with an interesting guest speaker) are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre, St John's Road (enter via Mt Vernon Street). Please come along to listen or join in! For further information, call Roberta Johnston (9552 3248) or Anne Peaston (9660 4393).

Reussdale

The following letter was provided by Cr Neil Macindoe. It is a reply by Hazel Hawke to a letter from the Mayor, Cr Kris Cruden, congratulating her on her appointment as Heritage Council Chair, and seeking an appointment with her to discuss Reussdale. The Glebe Society will be kept informed of the outcome of the meeting referred to.

Dear Councillor Cruden,

Thank you for your letter of 12 March congratulating me on my appointment. I am all too aware of the responsibilities that come with this position, and I am grateful for your expression of support.

With regard to *Reussdale* in Glebe, a meeting was held on 25 February this year at the Abbey Restaurant, followed by a site inspection by the Sub-Committee, Rosalind Strong, the Acting Director of the Heritage Office and Heritage Officer Lenka Dubsky in response to amended sketch proposals for *Reussdale*. The owner, the owner's public relations consultant and the owner's architect for the project were also present.

The sub-committee prepared an alternative sketch proposal which was discussed at the meeting. An important consideration in the new proposal is the retention of the adjacent building *Hamilton*. This proposal was approved at the meeting.

The architect is preparing drawings with appropriate landscaping and support documentation which will be lodged as a new Section 60 application, replacing the formerly approved application of 1993. An initial viewing by the sub-committee of drawings of the proposed concept will take place prior to consideration of the application by the Heritage Council.

You are welcome to this viewing and we will inform you as soon as a date has been fixed.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Hawke
Chair
Heritage Council

For Your Diary

Sunday, 1 June - Sunday lunch at Cafe Otto. Ring John Hoddinott by 29 May for your reservation.

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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