



The **GLEBE SOCIETY** Bulletin

May/June 1998

A publication of THE GLEBE SOCIETY Inc Box 100 Post Office Glebe NSW 2037 Australia
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A THINK TANK AT THE TOXTETH - STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC.

Approximately 20 members of the Management Committee) attended the review on 23 May (see p1 April/May issue), to analyse the present role and relevance of the Society, after almost 30 years of community activity, and to foreshadow its vision into the next century.

Historically Glebe was considered a 'slum' in 1968 when the Society was established by a small but dedicated group which passionately opposed the freeways threatening to decimate the suburb. At that time, new members were recruited by door-knocking at

government support and gave Glebe its unique urban character.

Recent successes include the Bicentennial Park, and lobbying in support of the new Glebe Library.

While the Society has an impressive record, is it still relevant to today's issues? Are we more interested in the buildings than the people of Glebe? With a limited membership, can we tackle *all* the problems in Glebe?

A guest facilitator, Janice Farquharson, divided the meeting into four working groups to address particular issues. Armed with thick coloured pens and butcher's paper the groups worked diligently and concluded that:

**Are we more interested in the buildings than the people of Glebe?
With a limited membership, can we tackle all the problems in Glebe?**

houses which showed signs of renovation - unusual in those days!

The Society succeeded in stopping the encroachment of the freeways through Glebe; Lyndhurst was saved and as the Church's 99-year lease on the Glebe Estate drew closer to expiration, the Society put its energy and ideas into the formulation of a policy which encompassed the preservation of both the historical and social fabric of Glebe. These ideas won

It would be great if: the Society was better related to the Glebe Estate; there was a continuous foreshore walkway; less crime; restoration of key buildings; cleaner streets, and a light rail transport system through the suburb.

We value: the Victorian heritage and architecture; the sense of community; the variety and diversity of the suburb and its residents.

Important community issues were: saving these valued items; high rise development yielding a higher population density; more traffic; more crime, and the widespread garbage problem.

The Society should: improve communication between members, hold three or four open meetings each year; spend more money on membership; undertake a 'quality of life' survey of members.

In all, discussion was lively and productive. Judy Vergison has undertaken to provide us with a detailed analysis of the responses. The next step will be to allocate weight to the issues raised and come up with a priority action list which we hope will capture the interest of a broader range of Society members.

You will be advised in the Bulletin of the date of the next Strategic Planning Meeting; all members are urged to put forward their point of view.

Cynthia Jones

MINOGUE RESERVE

Following on our interest in work carried out in Minogue Reserve (pp 4-5 April/May Bulletin), we have included an insert re Council's Plan of Management Community Workshop and questionnaire for those members who may wish to follow up on this.

HIGHLIGHTS from

THE GLEBE SOCIETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING



12 May 1998

Progressive Dinner

A Yuletide (in July) Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday 4 July. The first course will be served at Cynthia and Ian Jones' house at 152 Bridge Road, the main course at Christine and Russell Stewart's house at 36 Toxteth Road, and the final course will be with Mavis and Bill McCarthy at 4 Boyce Street. The cost is \$45 per head.

Those interested should complete the enclosed reservation form and return it a.s.a.p. - there are only 40 places available at the table, and many people were disappointed last year.

Venetia (Bellevue)

Leichhardt Council has given an undertaking that this attractive but rather derelict building in Blackwattle Bay Park at the end of Leichhardt Street will be restored by 30 June 2000. Ideas for uses and possible tenants were being sought.

Missing Shopping Trolleys

"Trolley Tracker" are offering a \$1000 open order on Kmart each month to a caller selected at random giving information on unattended or lost Kmart trolleys seen

in parks or some distance from a store. This illustrates the extent of the problem. Call "Trolley Tracker" on freecall 1800. 641. 497.

Bicentennial Park

We are concerned at two proposals for Bicentennial Park; one for a three day exhibition (which will tie up Park space for nine days in all) involving displays and demonstrations of 4WD vehicles and other outdoor equipment (see article p 5); the other for a golf driving range into Rozelle Bay. The Society is strenuously opposing both of these inappropriate proposals.

Boat Day

The Society's Boat Day will be held on Sunday 13 September, and a Matilda Cruises Ferry will depart from the Fishmarkets Wharf at 10.30 am, returning at 12 noon. The cruise will allow inspection of Glebe from the water, and will visit White Bay, the Aquarium and Circular Quay (no disembarking). No food will be sold on the ferry, but you can bring your own, plan a picnic afterwards, or eat at the Fishmarkets.

The cost will be \$5 per person or \$15 per family - no other concessions, as we feel this is a very reasonable charge for a 1-1/2 hour cruise. Booking forms will be in the July / August Bulletin - so reserve the date in your diary.

All correspondence to Society people should be sent c/- The Glebe Society Inc Box 100 Glebe 2037

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is part of the folklore that The Glebe Society originated in a community protest movement. A proposed freeway development, which would have destroyed a large part of the area, was successfully prevented.

The Glebe Society is still in the prevention business - preventing developments or activities which are against residents' interests, or which might damage Glebe's special heritage. The successful campaign which resulted in Benledi becoming a magnificent new library is an interesting example of protest turning, constructively, into a worthwhile community facility.

The Glebe Society in itself is a powerless organisation. It operates by influencing those who do have power - commercial, financial or public. To be credible it needs to be vigilant, well-informed, to reflect community values and opinion, to be constructive and to communicate its ideas to politicians and other decision-makers.

To be credible we also need to take account of wider community interests - not be limited to not-in-my-backyard stances. Venetia (Bellevue) is an interesting example. This building has been derelict for years. It seems that progress has been difficult because of legitimate local concerns about parking and noise if it becomes a commercial development. On the other hand, it is surrounded by a park, in a prominent position and, in its present condition, a blot on the landscape. It would be good to see The Glebe Society lending its weight to a constructive solution which reflects the various interests involved (not only local) to bring this conspicuous dead spot to life.

Russell Stewart



PARTICIPATION IN RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS

"Nearly all respondents reported that their group was a good way to improve the local area."

The following information is extracted from the Summary Report of a survey of resident action groups in metropolitan Sydney which was conducted by the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney in 1996. Fifty resident action groups participated in the survey which required members to complete a short questionnaire.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Two hundred and forty six respondents participated in the survey, and 56% were male. Some 50% were aged between 40 and 60 years, one third were aged over 60; less than 10% were under 40 years old. Seventy nine per cent were Australian born, and married or in a defacto relationship.

SATISFACTION WITH THE GROUP AND GROUP PROCESSES

Only 44% of respondents felt that their group had much influence in getting the local area the way they wanted it; slightly more (48%) felt that the group had been very successful in achieving its goals. More than half the respondents thought their group was cohesive and nearly two-thirds thought it was representative of local people. Less than half were highly involved, yet more than half were satisfied with the decision-making processes.

WHY DO PEOPLE JOIN RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS?

The following percentages indicate positive responses from this survey:

A good way to improve the local area	98.4%
Important to have the local area safer and in good condition	97.1%
As a neighbourhood resident I feel a responsibility to participate	94.7%
Interested in the activities of the group	88.9%
Good way to know people who live in the local area	86.1%
I think I have abilities that contribute to the organisation	86.0%
If something is going on I like to have a say about it	84.3%

Only 32.2% joined because another member of the group convinced them it was important to join.

PROBLEMS

Issues in their area seen by respondents as 'moderate' or 'major' problems ranged from traffic, parking, pollution, environmental health problems, crime, aircraft noise, youth issues, litter, health issues, drug and alcohol problems, personal safety, recycling opportunities, condition of houses, food safety. Traffic and parking rated highest at 72.9% and 64.1% respectively; food safety was listed by only 2.5%.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP - The five major benefits were seen as:

Providing a useful service to the community	77.6%
Increasing knowledge of the community and how to improve it	76.0%
Sense of contribution and helpfulness	71.1%
Friendship with other members	61.7%
Increased sense of handling the matters of the community	58.7%

COSTS OF MEMBERSHIP - The major costs were:

Apathy of local residents makes progress difficult	61.8%
Community activities require significant effort	50.8%
Feeling of frustration from lack of progress	36.4%
Concern at the amount of time involved	31.1%

Not surprisingly the survey found that "the greatest potential for increasing participation in the resident action groups surveyed would be in efforts to reduce the costs and increase the benefits associated with participation, and to increase the satisfaction of members with group processes."

THE *just-announced* LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY

I attended a special Traffic Committee meeting at Council on 15th May, where the municipality-wide Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) study was presented to us by the consultants. We only had time to listen to the overview, suburb by suburb, and to ask some questions. I was very impressed by the quality of the report. We were given maps which showed traffic volumes in many streets, the year in which the counts were taken, and the 85th percentile speed, i.e. the speed below which 85% of vehicles were travelling. Some of the figures were worrying, being above 60 km/h, whereas one would expect the 85th percentile speed to be perhaps 52-ish. There was also a record of accidents over the last five years taken from police files. This only listed accidents reported to the police, and did not include the small non-serious (although annoying) bumps which may happen.

Finally we were shown, suburb by suburb, the consultants' recommendations. I will attempt to precis those referring to Glebe, pointing out that the full recommendations are contained in a sizeable document, again by suburb, which we haven't yet had time to view. And please remember that these are *only* recommendations. Nothing is set in stone, and we will have plenty of time to comment or criticise, complain about, or praise, each one. As well, there is the matter of whether the Council or the RTA, or both, should pay for any changes in traffic management.

The major recommendations are:

- A roundabout at the Wigram / Glebe Point Road intersection.
- A change in the traffic flow in Mitchell Street east from GPR, so that the cross streets, rather than Mitchell Street, will have stop signs.
- Parking lane line markings in GPR north from Bridge Road, and in Wigram Road from GPR to the Crescent.
- The possibility of angled and parallel parking in Derwent, Westmoreland and Catherine Streets, Avenue Road and a small part of Arundel Street.
- Various centre median markings - these, as far as I can tell, being bricked, rather than painted, probably like those at the GPR/St John's Road intersection, south from St John's Road.
- Various traffic slowing devices, such as slightly raised thresholds in GPR and Taylor Street.
- A general recommendation that a maximum of 50 km/h be imposed in the majority of the main roads in the municipality (excluding the major roads, Victoria, Parramatta, Bridge, etc); in off-roads the maximum is to be 40 km/h.

There are other suggestions, but those above are a reasonable cover of the suburb. In this regard, there is Traffic Workshop in the gymnasium of Saint Scholastica's College, 4 Avenue Road, on Wednesday 3rd June, from 7 - 9 pm. More information from Council on 9367. 9216. I recommend that members attend to listen to the reports and to make initial comments. As far as I can assess, the recommendations will not cause any significant increase in traffic through our suburb, and should have the effect of slowing it down marginally.

NEW PLANS FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION

After a trial in Balmain, Council has voted to reduce garbage collections to one per week, municipality-wide, beginning in July. Households will be given the following choice of garbage container: one 55-litre bin; two 55-litre bins; one 80-litre mobile bin, or one 120-litre mobile bin. A 55-litre bin is about the size of the usual large bin obtainable from hardware stores. The bins will be supplied by Council, and rates will be levied depending on the size of the chosen container. It will also be possible to buy Council tags which can be used to tie up extra garbage bags, at no extra cost except the cost of the tags.

All this may sound controversial, but if it reduces the volume of refuse by even a few percent, and encourages recycling and composting, it will be worthwhile. The cost of diminishing landfill, and the consequent increase in rates, should concern us all. More details in the next Bulletin.

John Hoddinott



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOMEBOUND OFFICER

Leichhardt Municipal Library offers a free delivery service to residents who are unable to visit the library. A doctor's certificate needs to be shown. Three-weekly deliveries are made Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings. To join this service call the Homebound Officer at Leichhardt Library on 9367. 9266.

FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

Do you want to know more about family history resources? Glebe Library is holding a Seminar on Thursday 18 June. Starting with refreshments at 5.30, the Seminar will run from 6 - 8 pm - cost is \$15 per person and bookings and prepayment are essential. To register please ring Margaret Penson or Ellen Forsyth at Leichhardt Library on 9367. 9266.

LEARN HOW TO SEARCH THE INTERNET

If you would like to attend an introductory lesson on the Internet, Leichhardt Library runs sessions every second Monday night, and during the day. One hour sessions cost \$15 per person, in groups of two or three; private sessions cost \$30. Bookings are essential, phone Ellen or Joanne at Leichhardt Library, 9367. 9266 for more details.

4WD SHOW IN BICENTENNIAL PARK ?

At the 15 May Traffic Committee meeting there was also a presentation and discussion regarding a proposed 4 Wheel Drive show in Bicentennial Park running from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th August inclusive, from 9 am to 6 pm. The organisers have requested a 4-day set-up and a 2-day knock-down period, making 9 days in all. An area of the park will be fenced off and about 2400 parking spaces need to be provided for the 25000 people expected in total over the 3 days.

They have asked for 1600 spaces to be provided in Federal Park, via Chapman Road, with a one-way entrance from Chapman Road, near the timber yard off the Crescent, as well as 800 spaces in Harold Park, entering from the roundabout in the Crescent. This would also be the exit for the cars parked in Federal Park. There would be one security guard during the day and up to six guards overnight " ...to protect an estimated \$18 million of new product display".

It is proposed that "...four wheel drive test rides will occur over a specially constructed track which will be separately fenced and marshalled with authorised and trained drivers. The course is considered conservative with an obstacle speed limit of 5 km/h", I quote from the meeting agenda. The organisers gave a very professional presentation in regard to their show, and there is no doubt that they have plenty of expertise in such exhibitions.

We were told that Council would receive a considerable amount of money (I believe in the vicinity of \$40000) and this may be additional to the provision of top-dressing to the fenced area, as detailed above. Any damage to the park would be repaired. The organisers readily concurred that the majority of their likely clients would come from the northern and eastern suburbs.

As a voting member of the Traffic Committee, I am worried, as I am sure are many other people, about more 4WDs in this part of Sydney. They consume much kerb space and are difficult to see around at corners. Bob Moore, the Bicycle Users' representative at the meeting, read part of an article from the latest issue of the NRMA's *Open Road*, in which it was stated that 4WDs were not especially safe, were quite expensive, and promoted an unwarranted sense of security against accidents which was not justified, etc. I think we could do without the exhibition, but in the end it is not up to me to decide.

At the vote, the police and RTA were not opposed to the exhibition, Cr Kate Butler was undecided and I spoke against it. The STA representative was concerned with the expected interruptions to the bus terminus and bus movements, especially at Friday peak times. The fate of the exhibition will finally be decided by Council, about the time that this Bulletin arrives, and I will let you know their decision.

John Hoddinott

BLACKWATTLE AND ROZELLE BAYS

I attended a Blackwattle and Rozelle Bay Master Plan Stakeholders Workshop in the city on 21 May, and found it interesting, but worrying. I was advised that "the objective of the workshop is to identify issues, concerns, ideas and requirements of the major user groups, land owners and administrators of the Blackwattle and Rozelle Bay precinct as input to the Master Plan". The Master Plan is an obligation in accordance with the requirements of Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 26.

Among the 50 or more people who were there, only seven represented the community. Industry pressure groups were able to make their presence felt, and representatives from Pioneer Concrete, Sydney Ferries, charter boat companies, recreational craft owners, wharf builders, etc. etc. called for much greater access to both Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays; there were suggestions to demolish the old Glebe Island Bridge so that vessels with a beam (width) of more than 15m could enter, as well as a call for on-land storage of recreational craft.

We must not give in to these calls. Legitimate waterfront industry is fine, but not open slather by every Tom, Dick and Henrietta.

There is to be a public meeting at
Glebe Town Hall
at 7 pm
on Thursday 4th June
to discuss the use of waterfront land in the
Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays area.
I urge Glebe residents to attend *en masse*, so
that the community is not outnumbered
by representatives of industry.

Incidentally, the three ferries in Rozelle Bay will be auctioned on 23 June, probably to go overseas; they are not permitted to ply on Sydney Harbour.

John Hoddinott

THREE PUBLIC PLANNING MEETINGS AT GLEBE TOWN HALL

1 - Hamilton/The Abbey/Reussdale

A meeting to discuss proposed development of this site will be held on Thursday 28 May from 7 - 9 pm.

2 - Traffic Workshop

A meeting to discuss new traffic management recommendations for Glebe will be held on Wednesday 3 June from 7 - 9 pm.

3 - Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays

A meeting to discuss the use of waterfront land in this area will be held on Thursday 4 June, at 7 pm.

Notice Board

Membership of THE GLEBE SOCIETY INC.

Ordinary	\$30
Concession:	
Student/Pensioner	\$15
Institution	\$30

Write to Box 100 PO Glebe 2037
or phone Jeanette Knox 9660. 7781

If you have a matter that you would like to discuss with the Management Committee, please ring the Secretary, Christine Stewart on 9660. 8324, and arrange to come to a meeting.

The Post Office in The Broadway Shopping Centre
(ground floor near the Bi-Lo store) is open:

9 - 5 pm Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri
9 - 6 pm Thursdays and
9 - 12 noon on Saturdays

Precinct Meetings

Glebe Point

1st Wednesday each month
7.00 pm - Toxteth Hotel Meeting Room
Contact: Christine Newton: 9660. 8349

Forest Lodge

Last Saturday each month
5.00 pm - Glebe Neighbourhood Centre
Contact: Lucky Comanos: 9660. 6577

The Glebe

4th Sunday each month
10.00 am - Glebe Neighbourhood Centre
Contact: Peter Wright: 9566.2018

DISCLAIMER

Individual views expressed in
this Bulletin are not necessarily
those of The Glebe Society Inc.

Kick Start
in Italian

needed by novice
planning to enrol in a
July course.

Hours and rate
negotiable.

Phone Cynthia on
9660. 2451.

SUNDAY LUNCH

The next lunch will be
on Sunday 14 June at:

BJs EATERY
99 GLEBE POINT ROAD
AT 12.30 PM

Please ring Ian
Edwards on 9660. 3240
so that a reservation
can be made. Hope
you can come.

The Glebe Library,
cnr Wigram and Glebe Point
Rds. is open as follows:

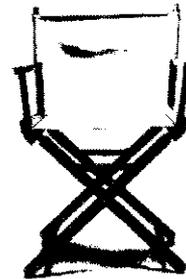
Monday and Wednesday
9.30 am - 8.00 pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9.30 am - 5.30 pm
Saturday
9.00 am - 12 noon

Phone: 9367. 9262
Fax: 9518. 9483

For Your Diary ...

Thursday	28 May	Public Meeting Hamilton /The Abbey /Reussdale 7 - 9 pm Glebe Town Hall
Saturday	30 May	Autumn Fete - 9am - 1 pm St Johns Parish Hall
Tuesday	2 June	Minogue Reserve Community Workshop (see insert)
Wednesday	3 June	Traffic Workshop (see article p4) 7 - 9 pm Glebe Town Hall
Thursday	4 June	Public Meeting - Blackwattle/Rozelle Bay 7 pm Glebe Town Hall
Tuesday	9 June	Glebe Society Management Committee Meeting 7.30 - Toxteth Hotel Meeting Room
Sunday	14 June	Society Lunch (all welcome) 12.30 - BJs Eatery, 99 Glebe Point Road
Wednesday	17 June deadline Bulletin copy
Thursday	18 June	Family History Seminar 5.30 - 8pm Glebe Library (see Library News, p5)
Tuesday	23 June	Leichhardt Council Meeting 7.00pm Council Chambers
ADVANCE NOTICE		
Saturday	4 July	Yuletide (in July) Progressive Dinner see enclosed reservation form
Sunday	13 September	Glebe Society Boat Day final details July/August Bulletin

The Glebe Society Inc



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President

Russell Stewart phone: 9660. 8324
fax: 9660. 6582

Senior Vice-President

vacant

Junior Vice-President

Cynthia Jones 9660. 2451

Immediate Past President

Mavis McCarthy 9660. 5119

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Christine Stewart 9660. 8324

Treasurer

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Lyn Milton 9660. 7930

Historian

Max Solling 9660. 1160

SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

All convenors are *ex-officio* members of the Management Committee

Aircraft

Alison McKeown 9660. 3917

Bays and Foreshores

Ian Edwards (BH) 9660. 3240

Children and Glebe

Penny Haskins 9566. 4450

Diggers' Memorial

Max Solling 9660. 1160

Environment

Christine Whitemore 9660. 7969

FRROGS

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Light Rail

Bruce Davis 9660. 7873

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DEADLINE

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