

Schools

Schools in Glebe

Members of the Society will have followed our campaign over the last two years to have the Hudson's timber-yard acquired by the Department of Education for a High School. We seem to have succeeded. We have been assured by our politicians that the Department has made the purchase.

Members will also recall that some of us were involved in the battle over Forest Lodge Primary School. In what the media might have called "unprecedented scenes", the parents called a strike, withdrew their children and bussed them to Parliament House, marching on to the refrain, "Forest Lodge is falling down, falling down, falling down, Mr. Pickard". An event which may have ended that Minister's career.

But these actions led to change. Money was promised to "build it up again" and the renewed sections of Forest Lodge Primary School have recently been opened. They are a credit to the Education Department (and by reflection) to the community that demanded that the work be done in spite of cuts to Education generally. This is the modernised restored school we fought for.

Now at Forest Lodge open plan teaching and advanced teaching methods are possible, but the school may lose the chance the new facilities provide because the community doesn't support the school it fought for. Numbers at the school are falling, although the facilities are the best and newest in Glebe, and falling numbers mean less staff and reduced possibilities. Will this put paid to hopes we have for Glebe High School?

Jim Coombs

Gardening

GARDENING

CONGRATULATIONS to Theo Ahlston on his election to the Committee of the Garden Club of Australia.

GARDEN CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

Five members of our society attended the sixth biennial convention of the club at Terrigal on the 13th, 14th and 15th September. There were 260 members of affiliated clubs in attendance.

The conference commenced with the annual general meeting. The main item was the election of office bearers and Glebe friends may be interested to know that I was elected to the federal committee.

The remainder of the time was taken up with coach tours to places of interest including a launch trip from Patonga to Bobbin Head. Terrigal is well-located within easy reach of many beauty spots.

The convention was an occasion to fulfil one of the objects of the club, viz, "Friendship through Gardens" and the contacts made could lead to reciprocal visits between members of the various clubs. Glebe gardening enthusiasts may care to contact the undersigned in this connection.

The Garden Club of Australia consists of 90 affiliated clubs and continues to grow.

Theo Ahlston

LET NOT your fellows say
To your eternal shame:
"Here Nature's gifts remained
unspoiled
Until the day YOU came".



ALDERPERSONS

The Bulletin offers its congratulations to Ivor Cawley and George Millard, the endorsed Labor candidates, who were elected to represent the Glebe Ward on Leichhardt Council for a second three-year term. Both are well-known local figures.

The election pamphlet for the "Cawley and Millard Team" sets out their achievements during their three years as Alderpersons, making particular mention of opposition to container depots, removal of undesirable industries, acquisition of open space, reduction of traffic problems, restoration and preservation of buildings and areas of historical and architectural significance, support of tree-planting programs and achievements in finance, health and convenience. The pamphlet states that the Leichhardt Planning Scheme includes special provisions to preserve the character of Glebe. The scheme apparently incorporates the "most modern and up-to-date planning principles and concepts" and is expected to be on public exhibition soon.

Glebe Society members will be particularly interested in the official statement of "Future Aims" of the team, thus the standards they have set for themselves and by which they will wish to be judged. These are:

1. Assisting the aged and the poor; rate rebates for all pensioners; further stabilisation of municipal rates; further support for Meals on Wheels and Senior Citizens Centres.
2. No further industrial expansion in Glebe; no concrete plants for Glebe; no additional container storage in Glebe.
3. No expressways through Glebe.
4. Preservation and improvement of existing parks. Development of neighbourhood parks.
5. Improvements to schools. Development of childcare centres and cooperation in community projects.
6. Repairs to streets and footpaths. Re-direction of heavy traffic to avoid use of residential streets.
7. Cleaner streets. More traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.
8. Expand tree planting programmes."



CORRESPONDENCE

The Glebe Society has received a letter from the Premier concerning "Lyndhurst" and a copy of a letter from Mr Bedford, Minister of Education to Mr Hills, Minister for Industrial Relations, Mines and Energy, concerning the Glebe High School. These are both causes which the Glebe Society has pressed. The gist of the letters is as follows:

(a) Lyndhurst

"My Government is anxious to see "Lyndhurst" restored. However, you would of course appreciate that this would be a very expensive project indeed and we are still examining the various aspects involved to determine the most appropriate means by which this aim might be achieved.

"In the meantime, I have asked that action be taken to prevent any further deterioration in the condition of the building. Your suggestions about a caretaker or sympathetic tenant have been brought to the attention of my colleague, the Minister for Planning and Environment".

(b) Glebe High School

"I have noted with pleasure the support the Forest Lodge Branch of the Party has given to the proposed purchase of land from George Hudson Pty Limited for the establishment of Glebe High School.

"Please inform the Forest Lodge Branch that negotiations for purchase of this site appear to have been successful and I hope to be in a position to instruct the Crown Solicitor to exchange Contracts shortly".



PLANNING

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION :

In June 1977 the Glebe Society made a submission to the Local Government Boundaries Commission. The submission was compiled by John Bushell and Stephen Harris. Copies are available from the Secretary, John Cowling (660-3057).

The submission contains an introduction; general recommendations with explanation; discussion of the boundaries of Inner Sydney with recommendations and explanation; and a Conclusion. We reproduce below point no. 3.22 on Glebe and the General Conclusion.

" GLEBE

Glebe is typical of a mixed use inner suburban area; in particular it contains a major hospital, mixed small industrial premises, waterfront land (much of it presently zoned waterfront industrial), limited open space and a good cross-section of housing stock.

It is precisely the sort of area which can benefit from alliance with the Central Business District, since in addition to being able to contribute a wide variety of housing near the city centre, land for mixed uses is available thus giving a degree of flexibility of use adjacent to the densely developed city.

CONCLUSION

Metropolitan Co-ordination

For the Sydney Region to function efficiently as a metropolis, state government, perhaps in conjunction with local councils, must set metropolitan goals, policies and priorities. Whatever the new local government boundaries, this metropolitan co-ordination is needed, and should be expanded from its present, very limited nature to encompass all fields of government activity.

As an example, overall health care planning is essential to correct the present imbalance of the provision of major hospitals, with their attendant specialist health care. At present the city is favoured substantially in comparison with the high growth area of the Western Suburbs.

Policy Implementation

The implementation of these metropolitan policies should be the responsibility of local government, guided and co-ordinated by advice from relevant government departments. The Planning and Environment Commission, with its planning policies, technical bulletins and the like already does this to an extent, and the system should be extended to cover many more fields.

In conjunction with this there is an urgent need for the planning activities of many government instrumentalities to be separated from their administrative and construction functions. Conflicts almost inevitably arise between governments and the people, between state and local government, and between government departments when bodies such as the Department of Main Roads, the Maritime Services Board and the Housing Commission, whose primary interest is in constructing and maintaining their works, also have the responsibility of planning them, for this planning will inevitably be done with a bias towards the interests of the authority doing the planning. We believe that all regional planning should be a function of a department of the State Government, in consultation with local authorities and specific service authorities, and that implementation should be the responsibility of these authorities.

Regional Groups

Many councils and groups of councils have already recognised the fact that some of their functions can be carried out effectively only in conjunction with their neighbours. To this end, many ad hoc groups for specific purposes have already been formed. Despite any boundary changes, there will remain activities of councils that are better carried out on a sub-regional basis, and each activity may well have a different, but equally logical set of boundaries. There appears to be a need to increase and better organise these regional groupings of local government areas to undertake specific activities. This would take the form of an expansion and co-ordination of the present ad hoc arrangements between councils and should be undertaken on the initiative of the State Government, Sydney Regional Authority, through the mechanism of forming specific purpose authorities.

Other Change Needed

Although new boundaries can help bring about improvement in local government, there is no guarantee or necessity that they will do so. The Glebe Society believes that in addition to rationalising the boundaries to give more coherent and homogeneous areas, it is also imperative to improve the general quality of staff and local councils, an improvement in qualifications and managerial ability will result in better advice to councils, and should be an aid to better decision-making. Change may also be necessary to the basic system of administration of councils; the Barnett Committee recognised this, and the reasons behind its recommendations seem sound. It may be that we can no longer afford to maintain a system where such direct control of the day to day running of local government areas is in the hands of unskilled semi-voluntary Aldermen, but that we need a system of more professional managers."

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT DID

- (a) Meeting of 11 September 1977
1. The committee will write to the council stressing that Venetia is a valuable asset to Glebe.
 2. Plans for a Christmas card will go ahead.
 3. The committee will write to the minister in support of Elsie.
 4. A subscription to the Pram Factory has been bought for Kate and Bernard Smith.
 5. Our 200 \$1 shares in the Inner Sydney Media Cooperative Ltd are now worthless as that association has gone into voluntary liquidation.
 6. Plans were begun for the Xmas Party and for a pub crawl in January/February 1978.
 7. Jim Coombs reported on the Balmain meeting to protest against the Coal Loader.
 8. The committee will write to the council about the possible re-opening of Federal Road Bridge and is investigating the applicability of the priority road system to Glebe.
 9. The committee is to approach the council and NSW Trotting Association about the litter resulting from Harold Park meetings.
- (b) Meeting of 9 November 1977
1. Most of the meeting concerned final arrangements for the House Inspection.
 2. The Sister Associations meeting with Balmain and Annandale will be held on 17 October.
 3. The society will join the Bicycle Association.
 4. The Pram Factory subscription was well received.
 5. Membership and Bulletin delivery procedures will be computerised.
 6. We have about 460 members.
 7. Members will sample locations for the Pub Crawl.
 8. Noise from Fletchers is to be investigated.
 9. The Coal Loader is apparently proceeding very slowly.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:

John and Anita McCULLOCH
Rodney and Maxine JENKINS
M and G REYNOLDS
Dicky ZULKARNAIN

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 5 November : Coffee morning at John and Fran Affleck's, 'Volta', 2 Alexandra Lane. For enquiries ring Sue Johnson, 692-0318. More houses are needed for coffee mornings in 1978. Please contact Sue Johnson if you can help.

Monday 14 November : Monday Group meeting at Mrs Rose Carruthers', 69 Boyce St. This is the last meeting for the year. For enquiries please ring Pat Moore, 660-4178.

- * Sunday 27 November : Annual Ferry Trip. The ferry will leave Glebe Rowing Club at 11 am to return at 4 pm, probably visiting Clifton Gardens. Tickets : Family - \$7; single - \$3; child - \$1.50; bring your lunch and refreshments. We usually take some children from Bidura and Royleston and would be grateful for volunteers to look after a child and bring an extra lunch. For tickets and enquiries contact Diana Schlicht, 11 Arcadia Rd., 660-3959 and Dale Dengate, 25B Avenue Rd.

Saturday 10 December : This date is in mind for the Xmas Party. See November Bulletin for details.

Please Note:

XMAS CARDS : Glebe Society cards are being planned, with a good picture of Glebe on the front. See November Bulletin for details.

BULLETIN : If you know of anyone who is not receiving the Bulletin regularly, please ring John Hoddinott 692-0071, David Reeve 660-2207 or Sue Robey 660-2650.

NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE :

President : Jim Coombs - 660-0026.
Senior Vice-President : Ralph Kaye - 660-2165.
Junior Vice-President : Tony Larkum - 660-7030.
Secretary : John Cowling - 660-3057.
Treasurer : John Hoddinott - 692-0071.
Committee : Sue Johnson - 692-0318.
Patrick Macalister - 660-7218.
Noeline Sandblom - 660-6593.
Nigel Stokes - 660-7181.
Auditor : Alan Robertson.
Bulletin Editor : David Reeve - 660-2207.