



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

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August

Special edition: local Government election

At our last management committee meeting an editorial committee was appointed for this section of the Bulletin.

Our regular editor is Jan Macindoe and her husband Neil is a local government electoral candidate. The editorial committee consists of David Browne, Ted McKewon, Mavis McCarthy and Christine Whittemore.

After the publication of the final list of candidates for the forthcoming local government election, Jeanette Knox, the secretary, wrote to each group or candidate asking them to submit material to this special edition of the Bulletin. Because of publishing deadlines only nine days was available for replies after the publication of the list of candidates. The letter was written in the following form:

"Because of the impact that Council policies and practices have in the above areas, members of the Society are interested in the platforms and policies of individuals and teams who are offering themselves for election as representatives of the Glebe/Annandale Ward on 9 September this year. The Management Committee, accordingly, has decided to run a special Council Elections issue of the Glebe Society Bulletin. This will be edited by the President, David Browne, assisted by three other members of the Management Committee.

May I therefore invite you to contribute approximately half an A4 page outlining your team's/your aims and policies for publication in our August Bulletin.

Please send your statement to Dr David Browne, 56 Boyce Street, Glebe 2037, by Sunday 20 August. We would expect to mail the Bulletin approximately a week after this date.

Statements will be published as contributed, together with an indication of team or party affiliation, with the proviso that a lengthy statement may be shortened by the editorial committee.

I regret the short deadline for contributions, but the official list of candidates was not available until this afternoon."

Replies were received from Labor, Liberals, Community Independents, No- Aircraft Noise and Peter Wright, Independent.



The local government elections will be held on 9 September.

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Peter Wright - Independent

My policies are aimed at preserving and enhancing the living environment of the municipality. Central to this is that Council base its decisions on an equitable Town Plan which discourages shoddy development proposals and that Council's finances be in order.

It concerns me that residential development proposals such as the Italian Forum in Leichhardt could be approved by Council, while the same Council spent years fighting similar developments in Balmain. Also, the extravagance of spending \$3.5m on a new library in Glebe was a knee jerk reaction strongly driven by politics, not sensible planning. That decision will cost the community the loss of basic services. I will use my voice on Council to ensure the fair and practical use of its resources.

Access to open space can alleviate many of the problems of inner-city living. In large sections of Annandale and Glebe, open space is either non-existent or is dedicated to specific activities, e.g., Harold Park and Wentworth Park. Council must negotiate with developers, government authorities and other councils to expand the joint use and maintenance of areas of open space.

Council needs a Youth Strategy, particularly in Glebe, to deal with the social dislocation of the rapid growth in youth numbers in the Glebe Estate. The Glebe Youth Centre is understaffed and under funded. The centre needs more resources. A specialist sports instructor should be employed to work with the centre's staff.

There have been no serious attempts to remedy the car parking problems of the area. Overuse of private motor vehicles poses the most serious long-term threat to the living environment of the inner city. Council must adopt traffic and parking control measures which encourage the use of public transport to give some relief to residents who are forced to live near traffic. A parking scheme similar to that employed by the Sydney City Council should be trialed in Glebe.

Kingsford-Smith Airport is obsolete and

must be replaced. This Council must continue fighting the worst urban planning decision in this city's history. It is not acceptable that a large swathe of the city should be written off in the interests of business and tourism, or the Olympics. The KSA site should be returned to the people of Sydney.

Liberal Party

Aircraft Noise

The local liberals have lobbied strongly the Federal Coalition to introduce legislation to enshrine the curfew into law. In addition, as part of our submission and lobbying, we were successful in the Federal Coalition accepting to reopen the East-West runway. We will continue to work closely with the Federal Coalition to introduce a reduction of curfew for Sunday flights. Planes should not land or take off in Sydney on Sunday before 8am and after 10 pm.

Community Projects

We are committed to the Homeopathic site for community use. We will strongly oppose any move to alter the community objectives for this project.

Glebe Library

Closing down services is not a solution. We will reopen the library for the residents of Glebe within the first month of being elected to Council.

Child Care

We have a strong commitment to expand child care to give parents a break. We commit ourselves to expand child care, day care, and respite centres, within the Glebe Annandale area.

Developments

We will establish a Glebe/Annandale development consultative committee, of which the community will be an integral part.

Garbage Collection

We will employ additional ordinance on Glebe's back lane garbage dumping.

Traffic

The local liberals have in place a comprehensive traffic reduction program for the Glebe Annandale district. This will be outlined to residents during the course of the campaign.

Australian Labor Party- Cr Neil Macindoe, Alice Murphy, Liam Gash, Suzanne Tzannes

For the last twenty-six years The Glebe Society has shown it is possible to achieve great things, and protect our environment, without always going public. Sometimes it is necessary to seek publicity, sometimes it is not; but the ordinary work of The Society must go on, and the same is true of Council.

Like our own lives, it is expected Council will do its allocated tasks as a matter of course. We do not deserve, and we should not receive, praise for doing our proper job. For the last four years, Leichhardt Council has made a great deal of noise - hardly a day passes when it does not hit the headlines. However, it has not been doing its proper job of maintaining services and making them more efficient. In its ordinary, everyday duties Council has struggled to perform - many individuals work very hard - but the resources have been channelled away from the traditional duties to pyrotechnic spectacles.

The Labor Team which I lead will put the community and its needs first, without neglecting the defence of the Municipality against the terrible things that threaten it from time to time. A community that knows it is well cared for and has a sense of pride, which has well-maintained parks, clean streets, high quality childcare and efficient services, is much more likely to be united in defending its environment, values and standard of living.

Over the last four years I have become increasingly concerned about the slow progress Council has made in these vital areas, sometimes even slipping backwards. I can proudly point to some successes, such as the Leichhardt Aquatic Centre, the University Hall and Jubilee Fountain plaza now under construction, and the purchase of the Homoeopathic Hospital and its adjacent open space; but I cannot feel proud that the general administration is still so poor and underresourced, and that a lack of unity and sense of purpose has delayed the new town plan, improved waterfront ac-

cess, getting rid of through traffic, and making Glebe Point Road the jewel-like main street it ought to be.

We know what we have to do. Give us your support and we will do it.

No Aircraft Noise - Máire Sheehan, Marguerite Winter, Judy Prosser, Gwaine Powell Davies

The main issue we are running on is the urban planning disaster known as Kingsford Smith Airport. We regard planes on the north-south flight path the greatest threat to environment, health and quality of life in the Glebe/Annandale area. It is bad now but it is going to get worse. Three times as many planes will be using the 3rd runway when it is at full capacity and the FAC has acknowledged that there are major plans for the expansion of KSA.

Our local government policies are based on the same principles that determine our stand on the airport. These are:

Concern for the environment

Glebe and Annandale are important inner suburbs with high heritage values. We advocate careful and sensitive planning, and a proper balance of resident and commercial interests. We note that the government's insulation programme is destroying the heritage values of affected suburbs including those in the Leichhardt municipality.

We recognise the importance of the remaining natural environment in the area, and believe it needs careful protection.

Open government that is responsive to the community

The third runway is an outstanding example of secretive and dishonest government. We stand for open government in Leichhardt, with difference being settled by negotiation and compromise rather than confrontation wherever possible.

Financial responsibility

The expansion of Kingsford Smith is an overwhelmingly bad investment for our community. We recognise the importance of proper financial management and careful cost control to enable Leichhardt Council to provide high quality services in Glebe and Annandale.

Community Independents - Cr Larry Hand, Brad Roberts, Kathy Farrawell, David Lawrence

The Community Independents were first elected to Leichhardt Council in 1987. Our platform has always revolved around three aims, namely: open council process, environmental planning and social justice. In this election we are standing 12 candidates across all three wards. In the Annandale-Glebe Ward we have a team of experienced and energetic candidates who are willing to work hard for you: Cr Larry Hand, Mayor, Brad Roberts, Kathy Farrawell and David Lawrence.

In this election we are addressing six key policy areas: open council; clean streets; environment and planning; increased community services; traffic, parking & transport; and aircraft noise. The space we have been allocated does not allow us to fully expand on these policies. Your members nonetheless will be able to read our policy statement that will be available from Friday 25 August. However, we would like to mention four matters that affect the Glebe area. We are committed to:

- improving youth employment and recreational opportunities
- a new area-based staffing program to clean streets more regularly
- an integrated Traffic & Transport study that addresses through traffic
- lobbying the State Government to ensure the Light Rail is extended from the Fishmarkets through Glebe, Annandale and onto Leichhardt by 1997.

Report from Council - Cr Larry Hand, Mayor

Cr Larry Hand has asked for the opportunity to respond to matters raised by Cr Macindoe in the last Bulletin.

The Glebe Society Bulletin July report by Cr Neil Macindoe is full of myths. I reply to the top five myths.

Neil Macindoe Myth No 1 - Council has a **deficit of \$5 million**. **The Facts** - Council has a surplus of \$1 million and Neil Macindoe voted for it.

Neil Macindoe Myth No 2 - Council has expended large amounts of money to further the Mayor's political interests, eg, lawsuits in Balmain. **The Facts** - This is unsubstantiated and incorrect. The two Balmain Peninsular lawsuits were as a result of a Council resolution and Neil Macindoe voted for both of them.

Neil Macindoe Myth No 3 - Large numbers of staff are employed on public relations exercises. **The Facts** - Council employs one publicity officer, who also undertakes other administrative duties.

Neil Macindoe Myth No 4 - Devices are used to deny councillors control of, or opposition to expenditure. **The Facts** - This is unsubstantiated and incorrect. All councillors have total access to financial information and all budgetary decisions are voted on by councillors at Council Meetings.

Neil Macindoe Myth No 5 - Council is proposing to close the Glebe Library. **The Facts** - Council is not closing the Glebe Library, it is being transferred to the Homoeopathic Hospital site within a year. In the interim a temporary service will be provided for Glebe residents.

Views expressed by Councillors are not necessarily those of The Glebe Society Inc.

Keep Glebe Clean Day

It is not possible to report finally about the day, as the KGC committee has still to have its final meeting, for the moment at least. In brief about 170 people turned up on the day, which was close to the aim of 200. About half were children, who did a great job, even if some were dragooned. A 20-ton dumper was filled on the day and there was more to be collected. Several areas of the suburb look distinctly better, but our aim should be to keep it that way. I will give a report in the next Bulletin, and at the meeting I imagine that there will be the issue of whether the day should be an annual event, and also whether we should work with Clean Up Australia on their famous day early next year to concentrate on our suburb. As well there will be the issue of how Glebe can be kept cleaner through the devices of Council.

Thanks to all of you who gave us a hand on the day. At least there were no accidents or injuries reported, as far as I know, and the sausage sizzle in Foley Park went well. The young people, helped by some of those not so young, managed to finish off all the food.

John Hoddinott

Dumped Cars

Further to my note about this matter in the previous Bulletin, I have managed to report one car near to where I live, and there seem to be two other cars which can also be reported. These three vehicles are within a few tens of metres of each other, so keep your eye out for cars which are in essence taking up illegal parking space in our streets.

If you suspect that a vehicle has been abandoned or stolen, please ring the Ordinance Officers at Leichhardt Council (367-9222), providing the vehicle's location, its number-plate details, and any other details which may be useful.

John Hoddinott

Light Rail Report - for AGM

Under the Federal government's "Building Better Cities" program, the Pyrmont Light Rail Consortium (made up of Australian, British and German companies) was in 1994 awarded a contract to construct a light rail system from Central Railway Station to the Fish Markets. The impetus for the construction of the system appears to have come mostly from the need to provide public transport for patrons of the American-owned casino presently being built at Pyrmont.

The State government and the private Consortium soon realised, however, that if the light rail system was to attract a significant number of passengers to become financially viable, it would have to be extended. Thus last year the State government awarded the consortium a \$2 million contract to conduct a feasibility study into extending the system to Glebe and Leichhardt, and Circular Quay. Such a full light rail service to the inner west (using the now disused freight railway line) had, of course, already been proposed by John Gerofi in 1980 (Glebe Society Monograph No 3). Not surprisingly the Consortium adopted the Society's proposals and recommended to the State government that the "gamblers' tram" service should be turned into a full public transport system capable of carrying thousands of passengers per hour.

In August last year the Glebe Society made a written submission (prepared by John Hoddinott) to the Sydney City Council regarding the Development Application for the Central to Fish Markets stage of the light rail system. The DA was approved by the Minister for Planning in January 1995. The Consortium has now prepared about one third of the detailed designs for this first section and is drawing up the final contracts to permit tenders to be called for the necessary construction work.

A successful meeting was held between the Consortium and the Society in November 1994 to discuss details of the proposed extension of the light rail system to Glebe. The Consortium was made aware of the Society's policy on light rail. The Consortium

also presented its future plans to a meeting, chaired by Neil Macindoe, of Leichhardt Council in May this year - the Glebe Society was represented at the meeting and made an important contribution.

So, where are we in July 1995? With the election of the new State government in March 1995, approval is yet to be given for the Consortium to build the extensions to Glebe and Circular Quay. The Consortium is keen to build and operate the full light rail system as it will then have the chance of operating the system at a profit, unlike the city monorail. Society members will be interested to know that TNT, the operator of the monorail, is the Australian company involved in the light rail Consortium.

Proposals submitted by the Consortium to the State government recommend the following light rail stops in Glebe:

- a "Bridge Road" - located at the bottom (eastern end) of Palmerston Avenue, adjacent to the tunnel entrance
- b "Jubilee Park" - located at the Junction of Victoria and Maxwell Roads and again adjacent to the tunnel entrance.

Disappointingly, the Consortium consider the construction of a "Glebe Point Road" stop, at the corner of Ferry and Glebe Point Roads, as "too expensive". There is no doubt that the construction of such an underground stop will cost several million dollars, but such a stop is essential if Glebe is to be adequately serviced by the light rail system. The Society must ensure that the provision of the Glebe Point Road stop is made a condition of the approval of the extension of the light rail system to Leichhardt.

In summary, the good news for Glebe is that, if all goes well, by 1997 we should have one of the best public transport systems in Sydney.

Andrew Wood

"The Consortium is keen to build and operate the full light rail system ..."

Planning Report

The following is a summary of the almost 5-page letter I sent to the General Manager of Leichhardt Council concerning the redevelopment of the former Grace Bros site in Broadway.

Minogue Reserve

While welcoming the detail presented in the landscaping plans for the redevelopment of the site, the Glebe Society Inc. is also advocating changes to landscaping to be undertaken for Minogue Reserve.

As previously proposed by the Glebe Point Road Project, the Society's Environment Subconvenor (Ms Fiona Campbell) has made a submission, included here, again recommending that the reserve be extended across Francis Street to create a community open space linking the two existing cafes. Such a space would be the only park that is readily accessible to the pedestrian areas of Glebe Point Road. This design offers options for the reserve to become an outdoor eating area and entertainment / meeting place along the lines of a village square.

Such a use would be impossible in the current plans when the reserve extends as a large verge alongside Francis Street. If left open, this would be choked with cars attempting to come and go from the new development. Access from Francis Street is too narrow to carry the anticipated traffic from the site and any cars using this access threaten to bring Glebe Point Road to even more of a standstill than already occurs - especially on Saturdays.

The Society's other concern in landscaping is to take note of security needs and to ensure strong lighting and reduce the number of large trees to the perimeters of the reserve and away from central areas.

The Bay Street Air Bridge

The Society is surprised to see that the existing bridge between the Grose Street Building and the Homemakers Centre is to be maintained. I believe that this bridge had disappeared in an earlier proposal. It may have been useful, ugly as it was, when Grace Bros was trading, as it served two re-

tail spaces. The buildings now have different uses. It should not be too much to ask the students to cross the road if they wish to visit the cinemas, the supermarket or any other retail part of the site.

The landscaping plans for Bay Street as shown in the D.A. documents are very pleasing, and the view from Broadway down Bay Street would be improved immeasurably by having the present obstruction removed.

The air bridges over Francis Street and Greek Street are acceptable, especially as they are to be redesigned in the style of the restoration. They also make sense as they link buildings with similar functions and help access for the large number of elderly and disabled people who will doubtless shop there. They also aid in moving shopping trolleys more easily in a multi-storey complex.

The Cinema Complex

The Society was very pleased to see the reduction from 2,500 seats over 10 cinemas to 1,600 over 6 cinemas. The presence of the cinemas has been one of the most discussed aspects of the redevelopment of the site - not so much for the idea of cinemas per se, but more because of the fears of, let me call it, "the George Street cinema scene". The Society's impression is that the cinemas will be along the lines of, say, the Stanmore Twin or Valhalla concept; i.e. more art films and quality first releases than the major blockbusters.

The questions I have received concern more the infra-structure that may develop in the surrounding area, such as numerous fast-food outlets, pin-ball-type premises, etc. than with the cinemas themselves. Such developments are most likely to be mainly in the South Sydney Council area, such as Smail Street, over which Leichhardt Council has no control.

John Hoddinott

The remainder of John's report will be published in next month's Bulletin



For Your Diary

Saturday 9 September - Local Government election

THE GLEBE SOCIETY inc. Management Committee	Convenors of Sub-Committees
President	All convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee
David Browne 660 0865 (H)	Aircraft
Senior Vice President	Alison McKeown 660 3917
Vacant	Bays & Foreshores
Junior Vice President	John Buckingham 660 7780
Cynthia Jones 660 2451 (H)	Children & Glebe
Immediate Past President	Louise Schweikert 660 7205
Ted McKeown 660 3917 (H)	Diggers' Memorial
Secretary	Max Solling 660 1160
Jeanette Knox 660 7781	Environment
Treasurer	Fiona Campbell 821 6287 (W)
Mavis McCarthy 660 5119 (H)	Harold Park
Committee	Vacant
Otto Cserhalmi 552 3800 (W)	Light Rail
Barbara Sutton 660 0782 (H)	Andrew Wood 660 2194
Marianne von Knobelsdorff 692 0916 (H)	Planning
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Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

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

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