

COGG 2013 CHAIR'S REPORT

During 2013 The Glebe Society provided the Chair for COGG and I took on the role. There were two meetings I could not attend and Susie Cleary, Glebe Point Residents Group, chaired. COGG worked on the Priorities agreed during 2012 and a standing agenda. I have annotated the priorities on the attached document to show progress. Agendas, minutes and correspondence have been handed over to the incoming Chair or I retain eRecords.

MAJOR ISSUES DURING 2013 AND SUGGESTIONS FOR CONTINUED MANAGEMENT.

- The Glebe Estate is central to the culture of Glebe yet it is poorly maintained and under continual threat of partial sale. COGG recognized this and formed a working group which explored options including asking *The newDemocracy Foundation* to conduct one of its peoples' juries as an investigation. Discussions concluded when the CEO of *The newDemocracy Foundation* insisted that it will only accept projects with no delimitations. COGG recognizes that social housing is a central feature of Glebe and would delimit any study to retention. The Glebe Society has commenced discussions with the University of Sydney on *The Glebe Project*, by which the University's faculties of Education and Social Work, Health Science, Nursing and Midwifery (initially) and the Chancellery will use Glebe as a major feature of community engagement. It is anticipated that projects with the University will provide opportunity to protect The Glebe Estate. A crisis occurred when The Glebe Youth Service was closed by Housing due to safety and engineering defects. COGG worked with the community and housing to stabilize that issue but it is not fully resolved until a lease is signed. ***Establish effective relations with the new Regional Director; gain reports on housing stock and planning; ensure COGG can work with Housing and gain results. Produce a strategy for influencing this significant issue. Invite the newly formed Neighbourhood Advisory Board to send reports to COGG. Consider offering COGG membership to the Board.***
- The Glebe portal ideally provides a community facility for wide engagement with Glebe and beyond. It was established through a City of Sydney grant managed by the Chamber of Commerce. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Chamber and the Society that they will jointly work to make the portal a community facility. Several invitations were extended to Red Ant which helped finalise the portal to speak at COGG but none were taken up. ***Review COGG's commitment to the portal.***
- Affordable housing supply in Glebe is arguably lower now than a decade ago yet demand is much higher. Social housing was demolished in Cowper and Elger Streets so that a mixed private and affordable project could be developed by Housing NSW. The DA has not been lodged and there is genuine concern that the government may not proceed. Affordable housing in the Mirvac and Elias developments are medium term supply. A group led by Dennis Dougherty called *Hands off Glebe* has been active concerning affordable housing. Whilst there has been criticism of some of its claims within the Glebe community no one doubts it is active. Similarly the local MP, Jamie Parker has expressed interest in affordable housing and found grants to assist social and affordable housing. The Federal MP, Tanya Plibersek has held the portfolio of Housing in the previous Labor Government. ***Confer with Housing, Hands off Glebe, MPs and the City about affordable housing. Produce a strategy for influencing this significant issue.***

John Gray