

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

MEMBERS PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE; a cross means your sub. is due this month. Please post to The Treasurer P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037.	
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No.1 of 1972. Box 100, P.O., Glebe, 2037. Enquiries:6605996 or 6606485.

PIONEER CONCRETE THREAT or BENEFIT ?

In the past few months Glebe residents have been hearing odd reports about a proposed concrete plant; but the amount of information presented to us through the press has been so limited as to be ideal material for rumours. On the surface, the idea of a vast concrete plant on our doorstep gobbling up gravel and belching forth a stream of heavy trucks seems quite appalling; but what are the facts?

Fortunately for the Society, we now have a Local Council which is prepared to present copies of the relevant documents to us. (What a change from that recent concrete threat to Glebe - the proposed Marley plant at Jubilee Park - a threat which was largely averted by the overwhelming petition opposing it which the Society organised). Before summarising the situation as we understand it, we should point out that Management Committee has not yet decided what action, if any, the Society might take about the Pioneer proposal.

SITE: Pioneer Concrete Services Ltd. wish to use the old Howard Smith Wharf site on the Blackwattle Bay side of Bridge Road directly opposite the T-junction with Wentworth Park Road. This is just inside the edge of the Leichhardt Council boundaries. The site is zoned "5(a)Special Uses(port purposes)" under the City of Sydney Planning Scheme. The site is owned by the Maritime Services Board and has been leased to Pioneer Concrete for 20 years from 1st March 1971.

Comment: It appears from this that, before submitting their application to Council on 18th June 1971 Pioneer got the 'nod' from someone in power that they could use the site for concrete. With a 20-year lease to exploit, the Company has a big stake in developing the site; so also must those who approved the lease!

PROPOSED BUILDINGS: \$800,000 would be spent on erecting a concrete "batching plant", 80 feet high, housing storage bins, conveyors, mixers and grab cranes to remove blue metal from ships. The wet mix concrete produced will be poured into trucks for trundling off to building sites.

ENVIRONMENT: The Company says it would merely be adding another handling industry in between the existing coal (Miller's) and tanker (Hudson's) facilities. Further, they

think there's a good precedent to follow in the recent approval of the Sydney City Council for a similar concrete batching plant only a few hundred yards further around Blackwattle Bay, but just across the Leichhardt/City boundary.

One sentence must be quoted in full: "There are no residences or people living in the proximity of this area."

Comment: To the last statement - RUBBISH! Regarding Hudson's Timber Yard, there have been plots and counter plots to develop this site into a residential area. If these ever eventuate - and an enlightened low-profile development with public access to the waterfront would be splendid - there will be hundreds of people within a gravel's throw of Pioneer. Also, why have two concrete plants so close - a mockery of planning. The Company also have a glorious paragraph on "beautification" and aesthetics which may safely be ignored unless they have a Walter Burley Griffin-type of genius on their designing staff (Griffin designed some truly aesthetic municipal incinerators including the one near Glebe Island).

HOURS OF WORK: 6.00 am to 6.00 p.m.

Comment: A nice alarm clock for local residents.

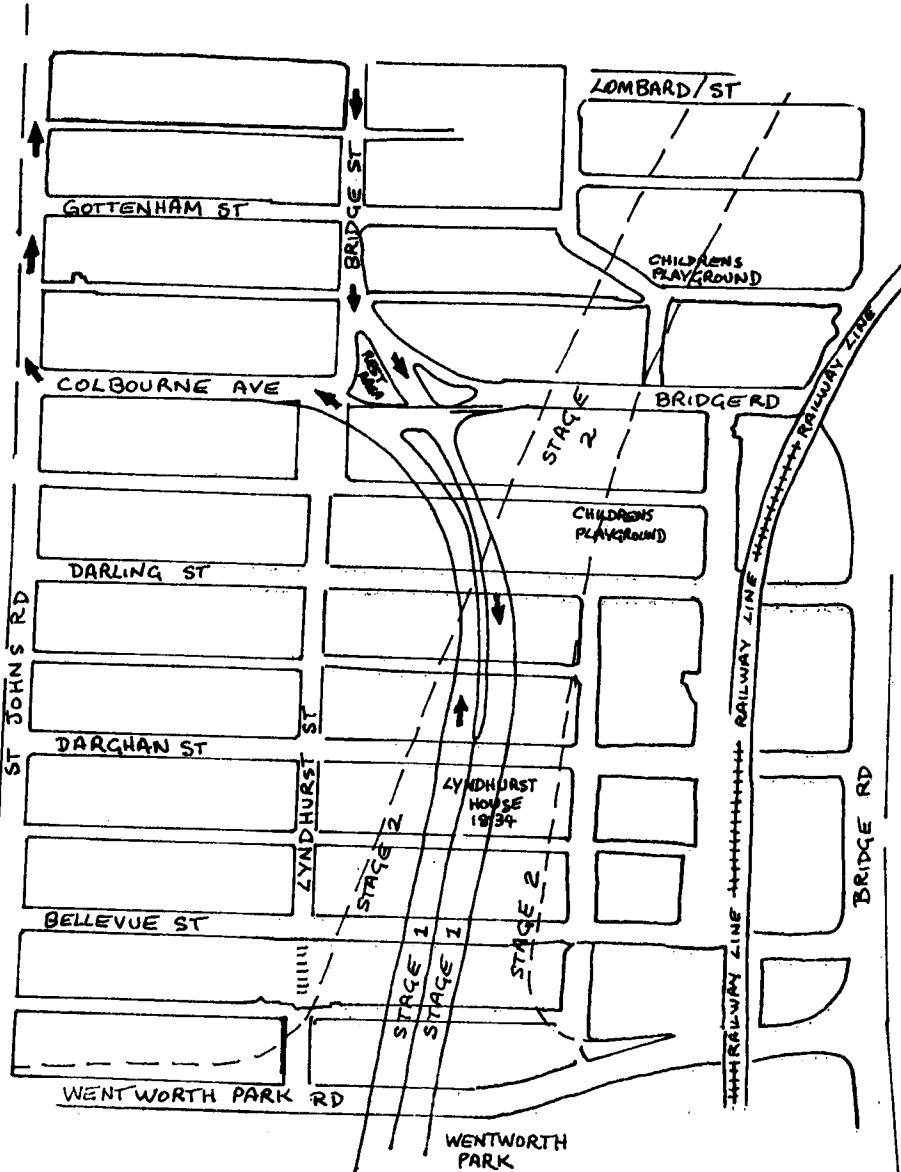
NOISE: Claimed by the company to be negligible. They say they have silent machinery (and by omission, they must claim apparently to have silent trucks - a great advance unknown elsewhere).

Comment: Are "assurances" enough? Once it's built and roaring away, it's too late.

TRAFFIC: 110 truck movements per day - you know, those huge rotating types you can never pass on the road - at this rate there'll always be one coming out or going in. The Police Traffic Department are quoted as having no objection. The Company says "we intend bringing in (blue metal) by ship", thus reducing the number of gravel trucks. The trucks will only travel 200 yards through Leichhardt's area, presuming the Company says a "high percentage of the vehicles leaving the site would travel towards the city".

(Continued on Page 4.)

EXPRESSWAYS



LEICHHARDT COUNCIL
ANTI-EXPRESSWAY COMMITTEE
ACTION DAY
PUBLIC MEETING

Saturday, 12th February, 1972
10.30 a.m.

at the Dr.H.J. Foley Rest Park
(Cnr. Bridge and Glebe Pt. Rds.)
HEAR SYDNEY'S TOP URBAN EXPERTS
EXPLAIN WHY THESE EXPRESSWAYS
WILL BE A DISASTER TO ALL SYDNEY.

MEET MANAGEMENT

Suzanne Tzannes, the Glebe Society secretary for the last couple of years. Like most of us anxious to preserve all things good in Glebe, and elsewhere for that matter, she does nevertheless have some less noble traits. The list no doubt is endless, but friends have detected the following -
Loves: Cooking (preferably for Continentals), New Guinea, Glebe's friendly garbos - and Glebe.

Hates: The numerous Glebe garden bugs, motor-cars, houses-let-in-lodgings - plus an odd injustice here and there.

Favourite colours: Pumpkin.

Magic Moments: The minute the minutes have been typed.

Ambition: To invent a type-it-itself typewriter.

Albert Renshaw, the Treasurer, came to Glebe originally in October 1969 to mind the home of a friend of his while he and his wife went overseas for a couple of years. He made more friends in six months in Glebe than he had made in thirteen years at his previous address in the Eastern Suburbs. True to form, (he looks after the fiscal problems of several other clubs and societies), he allowed himself to be nominated for, and accepted the position of, treasurer, at the Annual General Meeting in 1970.

He likes: the small streets with small, neat, well-kept houses; the little parks abandoned in odd spots around Glebe; Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays; people, music, books; sun, wind, rain. He dislikes: dirty streets, unplanned expressways, stray dogs all over the place, stray cats, lack of consideration of the people involved in any planned changes, unnecessary use of motor vehicles, trucks in narrow residential streets, poorly kept houses, ill-conceived blocks of home units, houses-let-in-lodgings, etc. He is unmarried and expects soon to settle into a home unit in Glebe.

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT & STUDY GROUP

Glebe is an inner-city suburb with a long history, some rather nice Victorian terrace houses, and potentially interesting houses yet to be renovated. The Glebe Society has shown great concern about these charms of inner-city living. But Glebe is also a community. People live here. Children are born, go to school and grow up here; adults may spend their whole lives here, work here or at least travel to work from here, and find most of their friends here; old people wait here and die here. The Management Committee of the Glebe Society feels that the Society can broaden its own perspectives towards more involvement in this community.

As a community Glebe has some strong advantages over the majority of Australia's suburban wasteland. At least there is greater opportunity for contact with others - small corner shops and pubs provide some focus for people who live nearby; houses that front the footpath and are close together bring people into fairly continuous contact with each other. A cosmopolitan population creates expectations of "acceptable" behaviour which are not all that rigid. As a community Glebe also has enormous problems. We have a State Government attitude which treats inner-city suburbs as expendable - so recreation areas, though virtually non-existent, are readily taken over for other purposes like race-tracks, car parks, container depots and expressways. Belonging to an old suburb, Glebe schools are in an extremely poor condition; there are few facilities for children's play. In a poor suburb, many tenants are subjected to rather merciless treatment from absentee landlords; many people (and particularly old people) are lonely and insulated from any sense of controlling their lives or environment.

The Glebe Society has already become involved in the community - for example, with protests against bad flat development, against Marley Cement Works and expressways, and in entering the debate leading to the 1971 Council elections. The Management Committee can see two gaps that a Social Involvement and Study

Group (SISG) could fill. The first is in understanding the social nature of the Glebe community - in discerning the major social issues which are problems for people who live here; the second is in obtaining information which we can have confidence in about Glebe - its social life and change. The Glebe Society is a pressure group. If it is to act effectively as one, this action must clearly be based on the most accurate of information.

Consequently in SISG we are proposing a group which is oriented towards social change in Glebe, but one which may not necessarily implement it. It may not implement change because organizations already exist to fulfill this function - eg: the Town Hall Residents Action Group, the Council, Social Work institutions, or (believe it or not) the government. SISG would be oriented towards finding what are the key social problems and issues of the Glebe community - from the community rather than by imposing our definitions on the people who live here. SISG would couple such a sensing function with (a) information gathering - to obtain relevant information on issues identified as being important; and (b) liaison with all other relevant groups - both within and outside the Glebe Society - to work towards social change where that is desired.

Perhaps early work of SISG would be to establish a social profile of the area, and to establish contacts throughout the whole of Glebe. Perhaps our first task is to understand something of the different perspectives residents have on living here. A good starting point may well be to focus on children and bringing up children in Glebe. This is probably a good starting point because it is of interest to just about all classes of resident here: people are likely to feel they can talk fairly openly about their own feelings and problems with kids, and there are obvious social problems directly connected with the children's development in this area.

So....let's get together and talk about forming a group like SISG. We need people who are concerned about social issues in Glebe. We particularly need people who are committed to action on social issues. We also need a back-up group of people trained as social scientists to act as resources in any social study or social action programme we may initiate. Our first meeting will have to wait a little while (till about March when I'll be back in town), but between now and then start gathering ideas and plumbing your own resources of enthusiasm. If you're interested in focussing on 'children' in Glebe, why not have a chat with some of your neighbours about their main concerns about their kids and bring any notes you make along to the first meeting. We'll let you know soon exactly when and where we'll get together for the first time.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A large gathering (about 120 people) assembled on Sunday, 12th December in Dr. Vincent Sheppard's beautiful house and garden at 6 Leichhardt Street. Among the guests were the Mayor of Leichhardt, Alderman N.I. Origlass, and the Glebe Ward aldermen, Eric Sandblom and David Young. The evening was pleasantly cool after a very hot day. Guests ate, drank, talked, and listened to some music from Dr. Sheppard and a friend. It was generally agreed that the party was a great success and made a pleasant conclusion to the Society's activities for 1971.

Maureen Coleman.

Stephen Hill.

MISCELLANY

FOR YOUR DIARY

The State Government's Local Government Appeals Tribunal could mean the end of residents hopes to have a say in local planning decisions.

The Building Regulation Advisory Committee on Standards for Residential Flat Buildings in its report to the N.S.W. Parliament, 12th August 1969, paragraphs 256-263, page 35, frankly admits that the initial prompting of the three institutes of Real Estate Developers, Agents and Builders caused it to arrive at a recommendation that appeal to the Land and Valuation Court be replaced in favour of a loose tribunal. The promptings and pleas of the elected local government representatives of thousands of the residents of Sydney counted for nothing.

If you have ever been to Paris
And walked along the Seine
And browsed among the bookstalls,
Watched fishers in the rain,

Then keep your splendid memories
But never venture to return
For the Right and Left Banks now are freeways
(Will those planners never learn?)

Now loitering is illegal
Where lovers used to roam
For cobblestones and cafes
Can't compete with steel and chrome.

So gather up the memories
Of every beautiful thing
That glorified our cities
Before the car was king.

Mr. Leigh Norman, development manager of Home Units Australia Pty.Ltd. says "Home-units that offer only narrow strips of grass between expanses of concrete driveways and parking allotments have always been considered suitable only for bachelors, young marrieds with no children or retired people." A pity more developers don't realise this Mr. Norman, but do only children need grass and trees?

PIONEER CONCRETE (Continued)

Comment: The operative word is "intent". What legal redress do residents have when the Company changes its mind because of "factors beyond their control" like the cost of ships or a wharfies' strike? The Police Traffic Department "non-objection" presumably also applies to the massive tower blocks of central Sydney which is concentrating our city's traffic so horribly. Finally, does our responsibility and interest in our environment end when we cross the municipal boundary?

AIR POLLUTION: As distinct from a cement plant, the Company points out that a concrete batching plant produces a wet mix which is not dusty. It also states its "intention to include the latest developments in dust suppression" to meet Department of Health standards.

Comment: The Department of Health has quite a good record in enforcing its standards, but can anyone claim that this is a pure industry?

BENEFITS TO AREA: No mention, except that 10 men will be employed. Whacko!

Saturday, 5th February: Coffee Morning at Anna Forknall's, 21 Ferry Road, 10.30am - 12.30. Charge 20 cents.

Wednesday, 9th February: Monthly Meeting for February will be organised by the Planning Committee on EXPRESSWAYS. 8p.m. Glebe Town Hall.

Thursday, 10th February: Social Activities Group meeting at 8 p.m. at the Smiths', 23 Avenue Road; all welcome.

Saturday, 4th March: Coffee Morning at the Colemans', 48 Boyce Street, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Charge 20 cents.

Tree Walk with Tony Rodd. Meet at 2 p.m. at Foley Park, corner Glebe Pt. Road and Bridge Road.

Wednesday, 8th March: Monthly Meeting for March will be organised by the History Committee.

Thursday, 16th March: A Talk on the work of Co-Operative for Aborigines Ltd. will be given by Mrs. Ruth Allen and other representatives from the Co-Operative at 8 p.m. at the Smiths', 23 Avenue Road. The Co-operative is responsible for, among other things, the operation of Tranby College in Mansfield Street, a residential educational centre for aboriginal people. All interested are welcome. Tea and coffee will be served.

Saturday, 18th March: Third Annual Flower Show will be held at Glebe Public School, commencing at 2 p.m. A copy of the Schedule is enclosed with this Bulletin. Further details available from Marie Webb (660 6483) or Meredith Champion.

STATE OF PLAY: Pioneer's original application of 18th June 1971 to the old (i.e. pre-election) Council was formally disapproved on grounds of noise, dust, traffic and injury to amenity of the neighbourhood. A new application was made on 18th October and considered by Council on 30th November. Approval was deferred until after a Council inspection late in December. Meanwhile Pioneer have been busy lobbying all and sundry, notably our Aldermen, and have let it be known that they will fight any opposition all the way up to the courts. But they have also let it slip that they are worried about what the Glebe Society might do to oppose them - it appears we have arrived!

Alderman Eric Sandblom has spelled out the legal situation to Council, namely that Council cannot refuse the application or impose any condition without the concurrence of the Minister for Local Government (Mr. Morton). The Council feels stymied by regulations which have made them powerless to take positive action against this development in their area. The best they can do is to ask the Minister to impose sufficiently difficult conditions on the development. Is this where "resident action" is needed to support Council?

ACTION OR APATHY? Are we to bow down in the face of this "million-dollar" development? Let Management Committee know your views and proposals and any further information you may have! (Phone numbers above). Also, why not jot down a brief letter for the Editor of the Bulletin to inaugurate his correspondence columns on this matter?

Peter Pockley.