

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

No. 4 of 1973



THE HOUSE ON THE HILL

LYNDHURST 1837

The following was extracted from Item 1, ML MSS 1198/8 in the Mitchell Library on October 27, 1972.

It is from "Heads of the People," November 2, 1847, page 49. QO59/H.

"....once upon a time and the Glebe was a sort of 'Terra Incognita' to the inhabitants of Sydney. What with its lofty gums waving their dark tops in the breeze, silent and alone, looking as gloomy as the black feathers on a hearse; it seemed a sort of enchanted forest, no underwood nor scarcely any grass was to be seen...But now what a change is there; cottages are rapidly up about it and the Glebe instead of being considered a wilderness by the inhabitants of Sydney

is now one of the suburbs of the city. 'Tis there Lyndhurst College is founded, from which in future ages are destined to arise the spiritual Heads of the People. This mansion of learning is most appropriately established within view of the lands allotted by a liberal government, for the use of the Church, and we have no doubt that the young and sanguine student of Divinity, as he gazes from his chamber window upon the broad lands before him, will return with fresh ardour to his studies, cheered, comforted, and led on by the prospect of the advantages to be derived from his profession."

THE GLEBE SOCIETY, P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037.

Phone 660 3529 or 660 6149

Annual Subscriptions: Ordinary \$2; Family \$3; Student 50¢; Pensioner 50¢

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: A RED CIRCLE HERE MEANS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS NOW DUE.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to (commence membership of the Glebe Society.
(renew

NAME:.....

PHONE.....

ADDRESS:.....

I enclose cheque/postal note/cash for.....for my annual subscription as an
ordinary/family/student/pensioner member.

PLANNING IN LEICHHARDT MUNICIPALITY

This is the third in a series of articles dealing with Planning in Leichhardt Municipality and the involvement of the Glebe Society.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES PRECINCT MEETINGS.

On Wednesday 9th May, the fifth and last of the series of the Glebe precinct meetings was held (that for Forest Lodge in the Glebe Town Hall).

It was one of the last of the series of 21 meetings held throughout the Municipality sponsored by the Council and organised by Miss Penny Pike, Planning Co-ordinator for Leichhardt Council. Throughout the Municipality a great deal of the work and ideas for these meetings has been done by small groups of residents (members of the Glebe Society taking a very active part). Hundreds of photographs have been taken, many sketches have been drawn and detailed "problems and opportunities" maps have been prepared.

Issues put forward and discussed have included traffic, parking, zonings and density codes, parks, street closures, tree planting, shopping facilities etc.. What will it all add up to?

Firstly, the old Leichhardt town plan is, in effect, in a state of suspension and will never be gazetted in its present form (This was recently agreed to by the State Planning Authority). Within two or three months aspects of a new town plan incorporating the new ideas will come before further public meetings in the Municipality. These meetings will be much bigger affairs than the precinct meetings and probably there will be only one or two for Glebe.

On the present timetable a complete new town plan will be ready before the end of 1973.

Although this plan will have to go through the usual statutory procedures, it should differ in many ways (we hope) from most of the rigid town plans of the past in New South Wales.

Planning is, or should be, very much a continuing process and the expectation will be that Leichhardt Council will have a "forward planning department". So far as many of the "small" suggestions go (like street closures, small parks etc.) a lot will depend on local residents getting off their backsides and asking for schemes to be implemented. Petitions, meetings of residents in a street or an area can play an extremely important part in keeping the pressure on Council and letting aldermen know what people want.

ACS

For All Gardeners

The next meeting of the Garden Group will be held at the Robertson's, "Eltham", Leichhardt Avenue, Glebe, on Sunday May 20, at 10.30 a.m. We will be having our first sale of plants along with coffee, general discussion and a look at the Robertsons' terrace garden.

The following meeting (June 17) will be devoted to a discussion on "Planning a Garden". A guest speaker from the Society for Growing Australian Plants will give a talk on planning and laying out a garden, choosing plants and landscaping effects. This meeting will be a must for all those developing a garden and should be of interest to all. More details in the next Bulletin.

All enquiries about the Garden Group should be directed to Andrea Robertson (Phone: 660 6149).

redevelopment of glebe point east

On Friday 4th May, five representatives of the Society attended the unveiling of Parkes Development's plans for the land owned by them in Glebe Point. The Company proposes to build 222 home units in blocks of 2 to 4 storeys on 4.83 acres of land and to dedicate 2.74 acres of waterfront land to the Council or the S.P.A. for public open space. The Company hopes to obtain Council's approval of the scheme before approaching the S.P.A. and the Maritime Services Board for the necessary change in zoning. The Society will be submitting comments on the proposals to Leichhardt Council. Interested members should contact Alan Robertson (660 6149) or Peru Perumal (660 6060) with their ideas.

COUNCIL ROUNDS

Over the past few years the Glebe Society has had an observer at each meeting of Leichhardt Council - to collect a copy of the business papers and to be able to keep the Society up to date on all Council decisions (or non-decisions) that affect Glebe. At times effective protest by the Society has been possible only because this "early warning system" has brought an issue to our attention as soon as it has arisen.

This watching brief generally falls the lot of the most active members, and the actual numbers involved have fluctuated. At the moment we are in need of some more volunteers. During the regime of the previous Council this work was crucial for finding out who next was going to wake up and find a high-rise development planned for next door. With the new Council this aspect has disappeared, but with so much more now happening in other fields, it is vital to keep up with what is going on in our suburb.

All of those interested should get in touch with Alan Robertson (660 6149) Or Peru Perumal (660 6060) to find out full details of what is involved and to get their names on the roster (which need only happen once or twice a year).

historical journal

In case you are confused by the rapidity with which the issues have followed each other, both issues No.2 and No.3 of the Leichhardt Historical Journal are now available - 50 cents each from Max Solling, 17 Avona Avenue, Glebe (660 1160). Alternatively you may subscribe at \$1.30 per year (for 2 issues plus postage).

Articles in No.3 include "The Balmain Cemetery" by Max Solling, "Harold Park Race Track" by Margaret Quinn, and "Ferdinand Hamilton Reuss Sen." by Ross Wilson and Neil Patrick. Issue No.2, in case you haven't seen it, is mainly about Lyndhurst.

meeting with hunters hill trust

The Society was recently contacted by the Hunters Hill Trust about our monograph, "An Alternative to Inner Urban Expressways". The Trust expressed concern that the monograph appeared to recommend the construction of the Lane Cove Valley Expressway. In a joint meeting, representatives of the Society explained that our view is that ring-roads, not necessarily of expressway standard, should be provided, but only where the environment is adequately safeguarded. Later discussion centred around the Society's recent anti-expressway activities and the need for close cooperation in this field amongst resident action groups. Considerable support for action against radial urban expressways was expressed by members of the Trust.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 20th May: WEEKEND GARDENING GROUP meets at 10.30 a.m. at the Robertsons', "Eltham", Leichhardt Avenue - see separate article.

Friday, 25th May, WINE & CHEESE EVENING at the Colmans'. Have you got your application in yet? To Anna Forknall, 23 Ferry Rd., before 19th May. (Phone: 660 5162).

Mondays, 28th May and 4th June: CIVIC DESIGN SOCIETY meeting where Elias Duek-Cohen, past president of that Society, will talk on "The City Centre as a Pedestrian Precinct: Past, Present and Future". He has recently returned from sabbatical leave during which he visited numerous malls, new town centres, etc., designed for pedestrian use. At the second meeting it is hoped to screen a film showing ideas for the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow proposed for the Disney World in Florida.

Saturday, 2nd June: COFFEE MORNING at the McKeowns', 10 Albert Street. Come and find a street that in all probability not many of you have visited. Same coffee (20c) - different view. 10.30 a.m.-12.30.

Monday, 11th June - Saturday, 16th June: ANTI-EXPRESSWAY, PRO-PUBLIC TRANSPORT WEEK sponsored by Leichhardt Council's Anti-Urban Radial Expressway Committee and other groups from throughout Sydney. The climax will consist of a series of open air happenings in Glebe on 16th June. Watch for further details.

Saturday, 16th June: HISTORY WALK for new members. New members are invited to come on a tour of Glebe, under the experienced guidance of Max Solling. Meet at 2 p.m., outside the gates of St. Scholastica's (cnr. Avenue Road and Arcadia Road). Visits will include St. Scholastica's and St. John's, and the afternoon will conclude with afternoon tea at member's homes. Old members also welcome, of course.

Friday, 13th July: Keep this date free for the ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY. To be held in the fabulous Strachan mansion! More details in the next Bulletin.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the following new members:
Ilana Dunn, Mr. and Mrs. John Ward, Megan Cook, Lindsay Smith.

Theatre Parties

The Glebe Society has a theatre party during the third or fourth week of each month. April saw twenty-six of us at New Theatre enjoying an excellent production of Dick Diamond's "Reedy River" - a nostalgic Australian musical based on the shearers strike of 1891 and incorporating many of the old bush ballads of old Australia. And in March we were thoroughly fascinated by "President Wilson in Paris" at the Nimrod Theatre.

On May 30th we will be seeing Michael Redgrave play the lead role in "A Voyage Round My Father" by John Mortimer. Highly acclaimed overseas, it is to be staged for only a limited season - 16 days - in Sydney. By going with our theatre party, members of the Society are saving \$1.20 on each ticket they purchase. Bookings for the play will probably be closed by the time you read this but if you wish to be advised of future theatre parties, then please contact Albert Renshaw on 259 0454 (work) or at Unit 14, "Ellangowan", Mary Street, Glebe.

On a related theme, are there any members who would be interested in getting together occasionally for play readings?

THE GLEBE AS A CONSERVATION AREA?

Have you sent back the Questionnaire sent out with the last Bulletin? (For some people whom we unfortunately missed out, a copy is included with this issue.)

Some 35 members have so far - send your comments as well - and if you think the two questions vague, they were meant to be! Your ideas are needed.



MISCELLANY

Wednesday, 2nd May saw another very successful Music at St. John's. Our special thanks go to the artists: Vincent Sheppard (organ), Robert Goode (harpsichord), Rae Candy (soprano), and Roy Waterson (tenor) - also to Rev. Barry Skellett for the use of St. John's, and Vincent Sheppard (again) and Alan Robertson for their organisation.

With the last issue of the Bulletin we began distributing to members copies of the Society's monograph, "An Alternative to Inner-Urban Expressways". With those included with this issue, all financial members should now have a copy. If you haven't received a copy, check your financial status: if it is up to date, please ring Vernon Winley on 660 3529 who will quickly send you one with apologies for having missed you. Otherwise, buy a copy for 75 cents, or (better) pay your membership subscription.

The Glebe Community Centre has contacted the Society for assistance in driving incapacitated people to physiotherapy and film sessions at the Centre. This would be during the day - about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour once a fortnight. Anyone able to help please ring Jill Symons at the Centre, 660 7741.

In Bulletin No.3 of 1973 we mentioned how the residents of Arcadia Road had set about getting more trees planted in their street. Interested observers on Good Friday would have seen a sizeable group of residents actually planting four foot high plane trees in specially prepared holes down the centre of the road.

A member of the Society has suggested the empty Hudson timber site on the Blackwattle Bay waterfront as a site for the new Technological Museum. The site has an advantage over other sites in that, being on the waterfront, the Museum could include maritime exhibits. It is close to the city and the educational facilities of Broadway and the University, potentially accessible by ferry and bus and, unlike other sites, will not have to displace an existing facility.

The American Road Builders Association, America's greatest pro-freeway lobby, has a prayer they recite at their meetings which begins "O Almighty God, who has given us this earth and has appointed men to have domination over it; who has commanded us to make straight the highways, to lift up the valleys and to make the mountains low, we ask thy blessing upon these men who do just that."