

## FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1974 Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Society will be held at the Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday, 21st August, 1974 at 8.00 p.m.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The past year has seen some major achievements and good progress on a number of important issues. It has been a year of hard work for many of our members in the various committees, but let me stress that the moral support offered by all our members was of tremendous help in maintaining the pace. I hope that this support is maintained for the forthcoming year.

Now, I would like to account for the issues I raised at the last Annual General Meeting.

#### 1. PLANNING

The major event has been the display of the proposed Statutory Planning Scheme. At a well-attended meeting held by the Society on 5th August, Alderman



Sandblom explained the proposed Planning Scheme and pointed out its implications. The Townscape Map and the proposed conservation area boundaries were presented and explained by the Convenor of the Planning Committee. There was lively discussion on both issues. At the end of the meeting a motion was carried as follows:-

"That the Townscape Map with amendments, and the newly defined conservation area, be submitted to Council for inclusion in the proposed new Planning Scheme."

THE GLEBE SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 100, GLEBE, 2037. Phone 660 0026

Annual Subscriptions: Ordinary \$2; Household \$3; Student 50c; Pensioner 50c.

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

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

NAME .....

PHONE .....

ADDRESS .....

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

## 2. EXPRESSWAYS

In the past year, there has been a lively debate by many sections of the community, State and Federal Governments on this subject. The outcome has been a strong opposition to inner urban expressways. The Federal Government, through the Bureau of Roads, prepared a strong case against them, and it is likely that they may be abandoned. The Federal Government now owns the Glebe Church lands, and a major portion of the proposed expressway passes through those lands.

At the last AGM I also mentioned the possibility of an alternative to the North Western expressway. I was glad to note that the "action plan" proposed by the City Council for Pyrmont shows that this expressway could be reduced in size and diverted through Victoria Road as an alternative. This came about directly through a discussion that Tony Strachan and I had with the Planners involved, at a seminar held by the Institute of Engineers on expressways.

I intend to pursue the monograph on this subject with a little bit more determination.

Here I would like to thank Albert Mispel for the great effort he has put into the anti-expressway movement. The work of Albert and others has resulted in a substantial change in public opinion on expressways throughout the City.

## 3. BOOK ON GLEBE

We have also seen the publication of "The Architectural Character of Glebe" by Bernard and Kate Smith. This book was well received generally, and I would like to thank Bernard and Kate for their magnificent effort. It had the added advantage of re-inforcing our arguments on the Glebe Church lands and the conservation area for Glebe.

The book will be used as part of the submission to the Council, the National Trust and the National Estate.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to pass on our thanks for Bernard's and Kate's generosity in giving the book's royalties to the Society.

## 4. PARKS AND GARDENS

The Parks and Gardens committee through Marie Webb was represented on Council's subcommittee. Council has been vigorously pursuing a comprehensive scheme to plant as many trees as possible in the Municipality. Local residents have also taken the initiative to speed up planting in their own streets by

carrying out their own planting with Council's permission. Interested members should form their own street committees and make application to Council.

## 5. THE GLEBE CHURCH LANDS

One of the most notable events in the past year has been the purchase of the Glebe Church lands by the Federal Government. Here, I would like to thank the Council through Aldermen Sandblom, Young and Origlass, and in addition Tony Strachan, Alan Robertson and other members for their concerted effort in the process. It must be terribly satisfying for all residents of Glebe.

We must now provide support for the restoration plans by the Government, and ensure that they reach a satisfactory conclusion.

## 6. MARITIME SERVICES BOARD

After our struggle with the Maritime Services Board, it was heartening to see the Board brought under the control of the Minister. Through Council and The State Planning Authority, we received support for the rezoning of part of Glebe Point East for park and residential purposes. If the section from Bridge Road to Cook Street remains industrial, we must be alert to the type and scale of industry that is permitted.

## 7. AUSTRALIAN PORTLAND CEMENT

With pressure brought to bear by local residents, the Society and Council over several months, Australian Portland Cement withdrew its application to build a 100 feet high concrete batching plant on the vacant George Hudson site. This success was particularly significant, since the proposal was strongly supported by the Maritime Services Board. Also pleasing was the joint effort between the Society and the local residents. The Society provided finance and expertise and the residents considerable time and effort.

## 8. GLEBE POINT EAST PROPOSALS

The Society in the past year attended meetings with Parkes Developments at the invitation of Council to consider Parkes' proposals for a residential development on a substantial industrial site on Glebe Point. The Council and the Society brought pressure to bear on Parkes to reduce the number of dwellings from about 450 units to 220 units.

It is expected that a large part of the waterfront, including the old building Venetia, will be handed over to Council and the State Planning Authority for park purposes. "Venetia" could become a

community centre. The Society supported Parkes Development and Council on the rezoning of the land, but had reservations about the design proposals. In the meantime we have at least temporarily stopped demolition of the terraces fronting Leichhardt Street, and hope that in the new proposal by Parkes these houses will be retained.

The Society should in the coming year pay careful attention to the type of development proposed in this area to ensure that whatever is built is attractive and is in scale and character in terms of its surrounding, and especially its relationship to the waterfront. This is another instance where a concerted effort by the Council and the Society could bring the whole matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

#### 9. SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The Society held its usual successful Birthday and Christmas Parties, and details of other social functions appear in the convenor's report.

The Garden Competition and the Flower Show organised by Marie Webb were well attended and successful, and are covered in the convenor's report.

In November last year a House and Garden Inspection was held for the first time. Apart from giving the people in Sydney an idea of the nature of Glebe and its houses, the event raised several hundred dollars.

#### 10. THE COUNCIL OF LEICHHARDT

The Society, through its committees, has co-operated with Council in most matters affecting Glebe. This co-operation has been effective and mutually productive to both Council and the Society and I hope that it continues after the coming elections.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank our local Aldermen, Eric Sandblom and David Young, members of this Society, for the tremendous effort they have contributed through Council in helping to achieve most of the community's aims.

#### 11. NEW ACTIVITIES

For the first time last year the various societies in the Municipality held a joint function for their management committees to exchange ideas and generally get to know more about each others activities. I hope this can be established as a regular function for the future.

One of the more interesting community developments in the past year has been the opening of the Woolley Centre helped by our able secretary, Alan Robertson and other members of the Society. I hope that the project continues with its worthy aims. The Society should provide its full support.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the past year has been one of very great progress, especially the strengthening of the voice of local groups and local councils. We now have a greater say in the matters that affect us and our environment. The Federal Government and, to a lesser extent, the State Government, are beginning to realise that feedback from local areas, and community involvement is a necessary process in our society. Government and local Councils cannot operate in a vacuum imposing policies and decisions at random.

It is up to the communities and societies like ours to keep up and continue this dialogue and give support to our local representatives, to help them make decisions of a nature that is in our common interest.

There is a danger of complacency when each cycle of events seems to have been resolved. Let us not be caught off-guard.

The past three years have seen a complete halt in the construction of flats, boarding houses and such like, but we cannot assume that structures constructed under a new code are necessarily compatible with what we want for Glebe. A development code alone does not produce good architecture. We should, through Council provide constructive criticism and be adaptable to change as new priorities and policies emerge. We should not lose sight of our primary aims and objectives which are well on the way to being realised.

I believe that the coming year is going to be one of consolidation in the planning field and perhaps we should turn our attention to certain social problems and community aid programmes.

I would again like to thank the Committee members for the hard work they have put into the past year. It has been a rewarding experience for me to have worked with them.

I will give my full support to the incoming President and the new committee and wish them all success for the next year.

On a personal note, I will continue to work in and provide assistance on the planning committee, which has been my primary area of involvement during the past few years.

Finally I would like to thank all the members for giving me and the committee their moral support throughout the last two years.

P. V. Perumal  
President

## **PLANNING REPORT**

Virtually all the effort for the year has been devoted to the work of the Planning Committee of Leichhardt Council.

This aspect of "Open Council" has worked very well indeed and the Council is to be very much commended for its policy.

The work has now culminated in the current display of the proposed Statutory Planning Scheme.

### WHAT THE NEW SCHEME WILL MEAN

Essentially the new scheme will mean the CONSERVATION of Glebe. This is in complete opposition to the 1968 scheme, which in effect, provided for the progressive demolition of the area.

This great turnabout is directly attributable to the Glebe Society and the two hard working Glebe Aldermen.

Because the new plan is primarily concerned with CONSERVATION, the emphasis must turn from concern with new development to concern with how best to keep and enhance what we already have. The development of flexible policies to do this will have to be a primary concern of this Society and the Council from now on.

Very briefly summarised then the plan means:-

- very little demolition from now on (because (a) it will be uneconomic and (b) Council will have legal power to stop it)
- continuing public involvement
- any new building will generally be no more than two storeys (all future development will be controlled by density control)
- the most likely form of new development will be townhouses - though we

may get some flats on larger sites (such as disused trucking yards)

- infill town house development will be encouraged
- no large scale offices will be allowed
- no expansion of shopping zones is envisaged
- certain industry will be encouraged to remain
- historical buildings will be listed and certain areas delineated as conservation areas
- no new roads are proposed and previous major road widenings have been abandoned
- the expressway reservations have been deleted.

### THE GLEBE TOWNSCAPE MAP

As part of a submission to the National Trust it was decided long ago to prepare a "Townscape Map".

This map has now been prepared, and was worked on by Peru Perumal, Bob Clarke (the acting Chairman of the Urban Conservation Committee of the National Trust) and Tony Strachan.

The map should not be seen as a definitive work but only as the start of a lot of effort which will attempt to define what is really meant by a "Conservation Area".

What follows are notes on the map and its interpretation.

The following definition appears in the Council draft ordinance: "Conservation area means land (outlined on the Scheme map with dark blue edging) having important urban, architectural or historical qualities, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance".

Essentially a number of subjective judgements must be made in assessing the worth of an area in these terms.

However once certain criteria are established, categories for various classifications can be set up and followed in a fairly consistent manner.

### CATEGORIES ESTABLISHED

- (1) Historical and/or buildings of Architectural merit. (This means that every effort should be made to preserve these buildings - that is, they are regarded as essential).
- (2) A Building or groups of buildings which have focal point value or



prominence on the skyline. (This means that such buildings are highly desirable to preserve).

- (3) Building lines of visual importance. (This means that the buildings, fence lines, etc., are quite desirable to preserve, but not absolutely essential).
- (4) Building lines of "potential" visual importance. (This would generally mean that renovation or restoration should be encouraged. A good reason would be needed for demolition but preservation is not regarded as absolutely essential).
- (5) Buildings of no importance but not visually disruptive in scale. (This means that demolition would not generally be opposed).
- (6) Buildings etc., which are visually disruptive - usually buildings out of scale or of unsympathetic materials (This means demolition may be encouraged or policies adopted to disguise the disruptive elements).

#### ESSENTIALLY THE MAP SUGGESTS THAT:-

- (1) Glebe should be looked at as a whole, that is, Glebe is for the most part, homogeneous in the quality and/or historical interest of its buildings.
- (2) Put simply, very good individual buildings and good streets of genuine townscape interest are found right throughout Glebe and are not confined to one area.
- (3) Although there are buildings of disruptive scale and others of no importance, these are small in number in relation to the rest. (This is the single factor distinguishing Glebe from the rest of the Municipality - that is, its buildings are, in the main, of a quality and standard such that most should not be demolished.
- (4) It follows that any policies devised for the particular management of a conservation area are applicable to all parts of Glebe.

#### CONCLUSION

The greater part of Glebe should be declared a conservation area. Essentially this means that Council Management of the area should be concerned with the conservation of the majority of the existing buildings. A conservation area means simply:-

- (1) That most buildings should not be demolished.
- (2) That these buildings are of some historical and/or architectural interest;

- (3) That these buildings are so grouped that they form (together with their immediate spaces and the topography of the area) a significant piece of townscape;
- (4) That new development will be in sympathy with the old;
- (5) That policies will be developed by Council which deal specifically with the preservation and enhancement of the area.

A. C. Strachan

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The Social Activities Group met regularly during the past year and, while having some ups and downs, did arrange a varied programme of activities aimed at enabling members of the Society to get together socially. Some of the groups in this Society are of a specialised nature, but the social function of the Society (as distinct from any social welfare activities), while appearing perhaps more 'frivolous' is, I believe, very important inasmuch as it generates and fosters a community spirit, and social functions themselves are occasions for the communication of ideas and information about activities.

As in previous years a regular event has been the coffee morning on the first Saturday of each month (except January) giving members a chance to chat over a cup of coffee on the way home from shopping.

Parties were arranged for Christmas (at Dagmar and Peru Perumal's), for the Society's Birthday (at Jan and Eric Sandblom's, July), to welcome new members (at Maureen and Adrian Colman's in October, and at Jenny and Peter Pockley's in June, the latter in the form of a 'Super Soup Supper'), and for Election night (at Marion and Randall Jones' in May).

Two parties of Glebe Society members visited the Sydney Observatory in February and another group enjoyed a History Walk Round the Rocks under the able direction of Mrs. Shirley Ball in March.

Plans for a group of car travellers to visit the Everglades (September), and for a coach trip to Mt. Wilson (May), were less popular. The Election distracted people's attention in May we suspect, and this trip had to be cancelled. However, the annual Ferry Trip in November proved a success. A number of

children from Bidura were our guests again this year, and some members brought along a group of Royston boys also. The day was fine, and we enjoyed a swim at Parsley Bay and lunch at Shark Island.

Members of the Social Activities Group participated actively also in the arrangements for the successful House and Garden Inspection on 4th November, being on duty at many of the houses as 'guards', and serving tea at the Hilda Booler Kindergarten during the morning and afternoon.

Other activities have developed as offshoots of the Social Activities Group. A meeting in November to discuss the possibility of having play-reading evenings proved productive, and play-readings have been a monthly event since then.

Mr. Albert Renshaw in 1973 was a regular organiser of theatre parties and his efforts were much appreciated. This year three theatre parties have been arranged so far by other members of the

Social Activities Group, and we hope to continue these.

Kate Smith, on her return from overseas, was active in setting up a weekly Crochet Circle, which is good for those who want to learn or practice this skill, and who are free during the day time.

May I thank all those who have opened their homes for coffee mornings or for parties, and all those who have, in one way or another, supported me during the year. As always, we have been pleased to see 'old faithfuls' at committee meetings and at parties, etc., and even more pleased to see new faces too.

At the last meeting of the Social Activities Group for the year, Hillary Larkum and Kathleen Pickles were chosen as convenors of social activities for 1974-1975. Welcome, and best wishes for a successful year.

Jeanette Knox,  
Convenor, Social  
Activities, 1973/4

#### The Glebe Society

#### Financial Report for the year ended June 30th. 1974.

##### INCOME

Subscriptions - Household	252.00	
Individual	230.00	
Pensioner	10.00	
Student	6.50	498.50
Bank Interest		18.59
Sales - History Pamphlets	8.00	
Christmas Cards	7.40	
Monograph No.1	15.50	30.90
Birthday Party - 1973		7.00
Houses and Gardens Inspections		412.22
History Walk		44.24
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>1011.45</u>
<u>Less Expenditure</u>		<u>881.97</u>
Surplus for year transferred to Accumulated Fund		<u>129.48</u>

##### EXPENDITURE

Bulletin - printing	188.36	
envelopes	32.77	
postage	45.00	266.13
Miscellaneous stationery, etc.		89.32
advertising		14.00
Expressway Protest		17.00
Ferry Road Cement Batcher Protest		25.53
Election Night Party		8.44
Annual General Meeting - 1973		9.00
Welcome To New Members		19.97
Ferry Trip		23.20
Monograph No.1		31.58
Christmas Party		34.80
Mt. Wilson trip (cancelled)		20.00
Subscriptions -		
Royal Horticultural Society	4.20	
Royal Aust. Historical Soc.	12.50	
National Trust of Australia	6.30	23.00
Donations -		
Moving and Living	20.00	
Leichhardt Art Exhibition	20.00	
* Hilda Booler Kindergarten	40.00	
* Presbyterian Manse	20.00	
* Anglican Sisters	20.00	
* Camden College	20.00	
Glebe Primary School	50.00	
Save Lyndhurst Committee	10.00	
Green Ban Fighting Fund	100.00	300.00
<u>Total Expenditure</u>		<u>881.97</u>

##### BALANCE SHEET

Accumulated Fund 1/7/73	433.49
Plus Surplus for Year	<u>129.48</u>
<u>Represented by -</u>	
Cash at Bank	536.19
Cash in Hand	<u>26.78</u>

\$562.97

\$562.97

\* These properties were opened for the Glebe Society House and Garden Inspection, November 1973.

*These accounts reflect the financial position of the Glebe Society in a true and fair manner*  
*Brenda Workman*  
*Honorary Auditor*

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEICHHARDT ART  
EXHIBITION 1974

Date has now been fixed for 17th November, 1974 as the opening date for the Municipality of Leichhardt Art Exhibition 1974. The Exhibition is to be held from Sunday, 17th November 1974 until Sunday, 24th November 1974 at the Glebe Town Hall, 160 St. Johns Road, Glebe. The Official Opening will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday, 17th November 1974. The Official Opening and presentation of awards will be performed by Mr. Tom Bass, noted sculptor. Leichhardt Council has again generously granted \$800.00 towards prize money plus the use of the Glebe Town Hall, and the Visual Arts Board has added to this a grant of \$400.00. It has therefore been possible to increase the prize money and it is intended to purchase good lighting equipment for this and future exhibitions.

Three prizes are offered for painting and two for ceramics and these will be allotted as follows:

Painting:

Traditional	
Any medium	\$300.00
Contemporary	
Any medium	\$300.00
Local Resident Artist	
Any medium	\$125.00

Ceramics:

Open - Stoneware or earthenware	\$ 75.00
Local Resident Potter	
Stoneware or Earthenware	\$ 35.00

JUDGES: We have been fortunate in obtaining the following judges for the exhibition:

Painting: EARLE BACKEN  
Acting Director  
National Art School.

Ceramics: MOLLIE DOUGLAS  
Leading Potter and well  
known Teacher of Ceramics.

The Advisory Art Committee would particularly welcome entries from people who have never before entered a competition of this type as well as experienced artists. The aim of the Committee is to hang, if possible all entries received.

Closing date for entry forms is 19th October 1974. Entry forms may be obtained and enquiries made from Betty Mason - 660.3468 (day) or Mitzie Charlesworth, 660.1580 (evenings).

PRESS RELEASE BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
LEICHHARDT ART EXHIBITION ADVISORY ART  
COMMITTEE, 289 Annandale Street,  
Annandale.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

The following nominations have been received for the 1974-75 Management Committee.

President

Bernard Smith

Senior Vice-President

Jeannette Knox

Junior Vice-President

No nomination

Secretary

Jim Coombs

Treasurer

Albert Renshaw

Committee Members

Joye Wallace  
Olga McIntyre  
Tony Larkum  
Grahame Budd

Since there were no more nominations received by 7th August, 1974 than positions to be filled, the business of the Annual General Meeting on 21st August, will be to declare the President, Senior Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members elected unopposed. In addition, Peru Perumal (as immediate past President) will become an ex-officio member of the Committee.

In accordance with the Constitution, nominations will be called from the floor of the Annual General Meeting for the position of Junior Vice-President.

## **THRILL...**

to the attack by the giant sea monster! CRINGE before the awesome irrelevance of the chartered accountant who became god! WITNESS the sensual excesses of the widow Otterdale! This months playreading, FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, in three dimensional polyphonic sound, will be "After The Rain", by John Bowen. A terrifying look at the results of another great flood and the fight for life by its nine survivors. On Tuesday, August 20th, at 7.30 p.m., in Unit 14, 2 Mary Street, Glebe. Please let me know if you are coming - (660.0682 (h); 259.0544 (w) ).

Albert Renshaw

P.S. FREE NIBBLES!

# For Your Diary

Tuesday, 20th August: Play-reading at Albert Renshaw's, Unit 14, Ellangowan Mary Street. 8 o'clock. See elsewhere in this Bulletin for details.

Wednesday, 21st August: Annual General Meeting at Glebe Town Hall, at 8.30 p.m. The meeting will be preceded by an informal get together of members. Wine and cheese from 8 o'clock.

Saturday, 7th September: Coffee morning at Maureen Colman's, 48 Boyce Street. 10.30 - 12.30, coffee and biscuits still 20 cents. Conversation as good as you like to make it.

Saturday, 5th October: New members Mr. and Mrs. B. Wargenau are looking forward to greeting you at their flat, No. 1, 75 St. John's Road, for the October coffee morning.

## WEEKLY

Mondays, 10.30 a.m. Crochet group meets. Ring Kate Smith for details (660.1824)

Sundays, 9.00 a.m. Tennis at Pidcock Street, Camperdown Courts. Ring Max Solling (Wk: 2.0545 ext. 306 or home: 660.1160) if you would like to play.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

### Tree Planting Leaflet

Of course Paul Petit is quite right about the N.S.W. Department of the Environment - it is only one of many Departments of Masterly Inactivity run by the present State Government. But isn't he in danger of throwing out the baby with the bathwater? The leaflet does point out the advantages to be gained by planting trees, how to look after them and where to buy them. Surely this is quite unexceptionable?

Maureen Colman  
Glebe

# MISCELLANEOUS

## WELFARE CENTRE, 2A and 2B HEREFORD STREET, GLEBE ("THE OLD MEN'S HOME")

Leichhardt Council has written to the Society seeking its views on the architectural merit of the building and the best method of preserving it as it stands today.

## APOLOGIES

Our apologies to Bruce Wilson and Lyndall O'Keefe, whose names were incorrectly spelt in the last Bulletin. The editor's handwriting leaves much to be desired.

The crochet group has completed a small woollen rug for the Women's Refuge Centre in Westmorland Street. The Management Committee has approved payment of \$25.00 to cover the cost of this and similar projects.

## CONTEMPLATING RENOVATIONS ?

Contact the Society's Committee for comment and advice:-

Tony Strachan - 660.3374 or  
519.3393 (Bus.)

Alan Robertson - 660.6149 or  
2.0512 (Bus.)

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Moore  
Mary and Boris Wargena  
David Mathlin  
Miss L. Gillman  
Mr. & Mrs. K. J. Moylan  
Beryl Scott  
Fitzgerald Mulholland  
Enid Landers  
Fred Sticher

## Anything to declare ?

The Editor of the Glebe Society Bulletin is Ted McKeown. Would all copy be directed to him at 10 Albert Street; phone 660-3917.