

**The Glebe
Society**

BULLETIN

No. 6 of 1976. (JUL)

P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037. Phone 660-0026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's Seventh Annual General Meeting will be held at the Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday, 4th August at 8 p.m. The following reports will be proposed and taken as read:-

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Glebe Society, someone commented to me recently, has had a fairly quiet year. Yet it is interesting to consider the calendar of a quiet year.

Following a lull at the end of 1975, we were suddenly faced with the prospect of a container storage and repair terminal in Federal Road, Glebe Point. Members of the Glebe Society worked at very short notice to gather signatures for a petition objecting to this development. The proposal aroused strong local opposition which we feel contributed to the decision of the lessees not to go ahead with the application. We appreciated the support of our local State member, Mr. Pat Hills, and Glebe Alderman, Ivor Cawley, in opposing this proposal.

Containers reared their ugly bulk again in mid 1976 when yet another container storage and repair depot application came before Council, this time on the old Hudson's site (between Bridge Road, Taylor Street and Ferry Road). The Society had, in the course of both this and the previous year, offered continuing support to the State Department of Education in its endeavours to have the area rezoned in order to build an additional high school, much needed in the Leichhardt Municipality. The Society issued a strongly worded public statement, appealing to the newly elected State Government to make a decision in favour of the Education Department's proposal, which was followed up by three of the four TV channels interviewing members of the Society. We may yet see this apparently unleaseable industrial slum waterfront replaced by a development of

use to the community (though we would be rather sad if the weekend boat builders could not find a new site).

Overall planning in the Municipality has occupied much of the time and attention of members. Eric Sandblom, planning committee convenor, and Jim Coombs, secretary, were active participants in the Leichhardt Planning Forum meetings. Our special thanks and congratulations to Eric for his share in organising and planning the collection of so many signatories to the municipality-wide petition objecting to changes in the 1974 town plan. It is a matter of regret that the Ministry for Local Government appears to have rejected both the 1974 and 1976 plans, the 1974 one on the grounds of being unrealistic about, among other things, the expressway routes. This is ironic in view of the stated policy of the present State government on inner-city expressways. It is depressing that a sane plan for the municipality seems as far away as ever.

Arguments for but (mostly) against the Parkes' development in Glebe Point East raged in the middle of the year - further developments are awaited.

The new Federal government's economy drive has had noticeable repercussions in Glebe, particularly as regards the Glebe Estate lands. Glebe Society members, both officially and privately, protested to the Prime Minister and to Senator Greenwood when the rumour was rife that the area might be sold to private developers. This threat seems to have been averted, but it is still a matter of regret that this worthwhile social experiment in preserving the character of both a community and its environment, has been slowed down so extensively because of the cut back in funding.

That Glebe was declared a conservation area by the National Trust was a step forward, but such a classification, and the listing of specific buildings as being worthy of conservation, is still only a minimal protection to the area and individual properties. The Society has continued to urge the State government to promulgate suitable legislation so that owners, councils, and developers, are aware of the rights, restrictions, and legal effects of classification, and so that judicial means of enforcing the restraints needed in a classified area are available.

A halt has been called, temporarily at least, to further expressway construction through Glebe. It is hoped that funds will continue to be insufficient to carry out the work, but, even more fervently, that planners should recognise and take cognisance of the social and historical nature of areas such as Glebe before decisions are made to break up and demolish a community principally to benefit later suburban developments. John Girofi and Jim Coombs presented an alternative to the expressway solution in their monograph A North-Western Railway, and people will have had, by the time the Annual General Meeting is held, the opportunity to see for themselves what a train route through the municipality might achieve.

The decision to halt the expressways means also, we hope, a decision on the use of properties in the route of the expressways acquired by the D.M.R. Foremost among these is Lyndhurst, designed by John Verge. The Save Lyndhurst Committee, which has maintained a watching brief over the property in the past year may be faced with a more active year to come. Will the State Government also make constructive use of the rest of the property it has acquired for expressway purposes, e.g. by renovations for low cost rental accommodation which would satisfy an obvious need in the area?

SECRETARY'S REPORT

After two years as Secretary, I can say that the questions I am most asked by intending members is "What does the Society do? What has it achieved? and Why aren't there more meetings?".

I think many people do not realise the amount the Society has achieved. For instance? Well, take the effect our constant lobbying has had on our parliamentary representatives in the matter of urban expressways. It is in fact the case that there has been an about face. The present incumbent Mr. P.D. Hills is now as redoubtable an opponent of the North-Western as could be found. Yet he was the Minister who introduced it back in 1948!

The Society has also kept a watchful eye on proposals currently being aired for a vastly expanded and developed Wentworth Park racing complex, which threatens to alienate more of the limited public park land of Glebe in favour of sectional interests and to the detriment of residents whose streets are choked with visiting cars several times a week already.

I must thank convenors of the various sub-groups and committees of the Society who cater to specific member interests and welfare. Our sincere appreciation goes to Eric Sandblom for his efforts on Planning, to Dorothy Perkins who took up the time-consuming task of organising our social activities, Theo Ahlston who has kept the gardening fraternity in active touch, Tony Larkum and Ralph Kaye for their environmental work, Albert Renshaw for being a very active membership contact and bulletin distributor, Max Solling for arranging exciting history activities, and Joy Wallace and Ian Evans for save Lyndhurst activity. Ted McKeown has kept our financial records in apple-pie order, and Jim Coombs has been an exceedingly active secretary and prolific letter writer. Thanks also to those who gave us the use of their homes for functions, and to those who cared for our artistic welfare in the way of theatre parties and play readings. And all of you for being members and concerning yourselves with Glebe and the people who live there.

As I said at the beginning of the year, the Glebe Society's strength has been, to a great extent, in the concern and activity of its individual members. This has been very evident in the past year. Thank you all for your energy, thanks too to the 400 plus members who provide the solid backing and support of the Society and lend weight to its comments on, complaints about, and commendations of local and regional activities.

Jeanette Knox
President

Take town planning. Once what councils did was an unseemly mystery. Now even those aldermen who persist in vilifying the Society and the Associations feel constrained to justify their actions in terms of the public interest. Some 6,000 signatures opposing the 1976 revised town plan came from Glebe, collected by the Society.

What do we do? Represent a belief in an improved future for Glebe. Such a belief is catching.

Achievements? This has been a year of them. We have at least stalemated, and probably stopped, the expressways. Lyndhurst may be saved. Containers are not

ferried up Glebe Point Road from Federal Road. The new government is favourably considering a high school on the Hudson's timber yard site. "Venetia" has been saved at Glebe Point East and Parkes have been persuaded to build less units (nearly 50 less) on their seven acres there. This is what the Society has lobbied for.

What else? Well we are pretty social. Ladies crochet group, play reading group, monthly coffee mornings and parties seem to crowd one upon another. People regularly meet to discuss gardens, our history, town planning and the environment.

Why aren't there more meetings? Mostly because no one comes. Give us an issue and

everyone turns up. But members have every reason not to be satisfied. There must be a million things we haven't done, ideas we haven't discussed. After all, train rides are only one thing.

Any member should feel free to use the Society and its resources to promote any matters of local interest - you can advertise in the Bulletin and the Committee and Group Convenors will happily assist you. The Secretary especially.

I look back over 3½ years association with the Society with pleasure. There ought to be more of it.

Jim Coombs

PLANNING

THE GLEBE IN LIMBO

The last 12 months has seen a major attempt to turn the planning clock back altering to '74 Planning Scheme to allow the worst forms of development to take place. Fortunately, this was so badly conceived it is unlikely to receive the Minister's blessing (Leichhardt Council sacked their most qualified Planners, Miss Penny Pike and Mr. Jonathon Falk, within weeks of being elected so they are now a bit thin on expertise).

The Council showed that it does not respect public opinion in any form right through the whole process. Firstly, they did not attempt to find out if people wanted to change the '74 Plan, they just imposed changes.

Secondly, they disregarded massive attendances at Council meetings protesting against both the changes and methods used by Council.

Thirdly, they ignored a petition signed by 16,000 people residing in Leichhardt Municipality. Petitioner reported an average of over 90% of those approached supported the petition.

Recent events have served to cloud the planning issue greatly. The election of Labor to power in this State means more than a change of Minister. Policies regarding amalgamation of Councils effect The Glebe in particular, and here we can only talk about probabilities and timing.

It is likely that The Glebe will be again merged with the City and most of the rest of Leichhardt Municipality amalgamated with Marrickville.

If this happens before the Leichhardt Planning Scheme (in any form) receives Ministerial approval it means going back (in every sense) to the City of Sydney Planning Scheme which includes The Glebe, having been formulated previously when The Glebe was part of the City. This Scheme is even more "out of date" in its proposals than the Leichhardt 1968 Scheme, which nobody has much time for now.

It has been stated by Wran that it would be necessary to appoint a City Commissioner for a period during the restructuring of borders. After viewing Sydney over recent years and seeing the damage done by the last trio of Commissioners one can only shudder.

Coming back to the present, the most likely outcome is that both the '74 and the '76 Plans will be rejected: the '74 Plan because it purposely omits expressway reservation - a problem which is caused by a lack of decision of the new State Government: the '76 Plan because of public pressure and being very poorly conceived.

Hence the heading: Planning - The Glebe in Limbo. It seems necessary to await one or more decisions before knowing what action to take.

In the meantime, rather than wait for the State Government to go soft on inner-city expressways the pressure must be kept up. Remember, those that run the D.M.R. have a "hot line" to the Minister!

E. I. Sandblom

Planning Group Convenor

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Of the various groups within the Society the Social Activities Group is regarded as the "ugly sister", perhaps because of its lack of intellectual pretensions. In the following lines I hope to create a more attractive image of this group, which needs a great deal more support to organise the Society's social functions.

The various activities for which the Group is responsible varies slightly from year to year, but they are generally as follows:-

MORNING COFFEE - held in the home of a member on the first Saturday of each month (January excepted). This year there has been a slight increase in the attendance, and a short Garden Group meeting has followed most morning coffees. The response to the request for homes for this function has been very good and I should like to say a most appreciative thank you to those members who have offered their homes.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - There are usually two of these each year, one in each half of the year. Of the one held in the first half of this year, the credit for its success must go to Lyn and Sam Conlon who offered their home for this function at very short notice.

SOCIETY'S STALL - GLEBE COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE FAIR - These Fairs are organised once every four months by the G.C.C.C. They are gathering impetus and quite well-attended. The social activities group is endeavouring to maintain a stall at each Fair, but there is a great deal of organisation required if it is to be worth the effort from a money-making point of view. At the moment, the first point in favour of continuing to man a stall, is that this is one of the few activities in which the Society joins with the community generally. The second point is that it provides an opportunity for the Glebe Society to advertise its existence and function in the community in an informal and friendly atmosphere. The third point is that it provides an opportunity for the individual groups within the Society to let the rest of the community know what they are attempting to do to improve the standard of living in Glebe.

The selling of second-hand goods has been criticised by some members, but in view of the lack of interest shown in the activity by the Society generally, it is highly unlikely that any of the traditional handmade articles will appear on our stall in large enough quantities to do away with secondhand goods. I should like, as con-

venor to thank those few most reliable members who continue to make or supply articles or to man the stall. This particular activity has a great deal of potential and would be a much greater success if it could have a convenor of its own.

BIRTHDAY PARTY - This year it was combined with the Great Train Ride. There was criticism of this amalgamation as some members objected to the break with the tradition of holding it indoors in the evening. There were two good reasons for making the break this year. Firstly, for those who take an active interest in the Society, July was a very busy month. The Society's Birthday falls in July and that was also the month for the Train Ride. Secondly, the Birthday Party, along with the two Welcome to New Members and the Christmas Party requires a large home. The Social Activities Committee often finds itself in the embarrassing position of relying on the same people with large homes to come forward and offer their homes for these functions. We saved ourselves this particular embarrassment at least, by holding an outdoor Birthday Party.

FERRY TRIP - This is usually held in October, and despite rising costs of hire, it was organised last year and a boatload of happy people enjoyed themselves on the Harbour.

The Social Activities Committee is responsible for liaising with the Executive Committee to bring about the social functions mentioned above, which many members enjoy. It is therefore worthy of greater support.

My observation is that, after a year of somewhat tentative convenorship, it would appear to be a sensible idea to distribute the work-load over several convenors of the separate functions, and a co-ordinator of all the groups could be sought to co-ordinate on the matter of dates, places, work-load and forces, advertising, etc.

A word of encouragement to anyone who might be contemplating a convenorship. You do not need to have a "hard sell" approach, just the ability to get people to do things which they would not do of their own volition!

Finally, I should like to thank those people who, without complaint, can be relied upon to assist the committee with offers of help or homes.

DOROTHY PERKINS
Social Activities
Convenor

GARDENING

During the year under review, there were ten meetings of the group, of which probably the more successful ones were the rose pruning demonstration and talk on organic gardening by Mr. P.G. Conley of the Royal Horticultural Society of N.S.W., and the inspection of some of our gardens by visitors from neighbouring garden clubs.

A few members attended the summer school of the Garden Club of Australia held at the Women's College, University of Sydney, in February and those who did were rewarded by the excellent programme presented.

We were represented at the Annual Presidents' Day of the Garden Club of Australia in April.

Contacts have been made with other local garden clubs with mutual benefit to all those involved.

Theo Ahlston

Gardening Group Convenor

FOR YOUR DIARY

August, 4th. The Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Glebe Town Hall at 8 p.m.

August, 7th. A combined coffee morning and gardening group meeting will be held at Jenny and Peter Pockley's, 19 Mansfield Street. Tea, coffee and biscuits served from 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Price 20 cents.

Wednesday, 11th August. Play reading. (Deferred from June for a variety of reasons, ranging from the weather to the time some people were keeping on their watches!) You are invited to come to the Knoxes, 26 Victoria Road at 8 p.m. to read Alex Buzo's play Coralie Lansdowne says no - bring a copy of the play if you can, but some copies will be available.

September, 4th. This month's coffee morning and gardening group meeting will be held at Anna Forknell's, 21 Ferry Road, details as above.

September, 19th. Garden inspection. Some gardens of members to be inspected by visitors from neighbouring garden clubs at 2.30 p.m. For further details, contact Theo Ahlston (660.1083).

The Coffee Mornings are not held to give priority to the Garden Group which has a short meeting at the end of each of these mornings. Some members feel that this impression could be gained unless some clarification is made.

The Morning Coffee starts at approximately 10.30 a.m. and ends at approximately 12.30 p.m. (or when they have had enough of us). The Garden Group has a very short meeting lasting 5 to 10 minutes commencing at 12.15 p.m., which some people attend. It is, in no way intended to discourage non-garden enthusiasts from staying until 12.30 p.m. However, if it does appear to be having this effect, the arrangement, as it stands, will be reviewed.

ELSIE - Are you embarking on spring cleaning, redecoration or similar activities? Elsie can use any household items in working order, that would otherwise be discarded, to furnish accommodation for the women they are helping. Collection can be arranged. They'd be delighted to hear from you. Phone 660.1371.

NOMINATIONS

The following nominations have been received for the positions to be filled on the Management Committee for 1976-77:-

President

Jeanette Knox

Senior Vice-President

Ian Evans

Junior Vice-President

Ralph Kaye

Secretary

Jim Coombs

Treasurer

Ted McKeown

Committee

Dorothy Perkins

Joy Wallace

Diana Schlicht

John Gerofi

David Reeve

Russell Brickhill

An election for four committee members, to be selected from the abovementioned nominations, will take place at the A.G.M.

HISTORY

A Virtuous Crow

An enjoyable and informative day was spent, by about 20 members, on June 27th, delving into history with Max Solling.

The morning was spent meandering through some of the older sections of the vast Rookwood Cemetery. Many old Glebe residents are buried there in the Methodist, Anglican and Catholic sections, and the tombstones provide interesting glimpses into the lifestyle of bygone days. The years have altered the original sentiments as in the epitaph on one grave "A virtuous woman is a crow to her husband"; the original was crown!!

We met at Margaretta Cottage in the afternoon to discuss source materials for local history. Written documents, plans and visual material can be consulted for data on domestic buildings, in particular Sands Directories.

To trace people, the births, deaths and marriage registers are very important. The procedure is simple. Start with yourself and move back through time in documented steps, generation by generation. Immigration records, wills and conveyances also contain a mine of information.

As the sun sunk over the garden we wound up a very pleasant day with wine and cheese.

Joey Rowden

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1976

INCOME:

Subscriptions - Household	\$369.00	
Individual	198.00	
Pensioner	9.50	
Student	6.00	\$ 582.50
Bank Interest		79.99
Proceeds from Street Stalls, etc.		205.83
Donations		14.00
Publication grant from R.A. Hist. Soc.		50.00
Proceeds from Wine Bottling		23.49
Proceeds from House Inspection		502.06
Book sales		24.85
Royalties from sales of copies of "The Architectural Character of The Glebe, Sydney" - donated by Bernard and Kate Smith		217.12
Train Ride		27.50
Proceeds from Christmas Party		37.50
Total Income		1,764.84
Less: Expenditure		1,311.56
Surplus for year transferred to Accumulated Funds		\$ 453.28

EXPENDITURE:

Donations, subscriptions, etc. - National Trust	\$ 10.00	
Save Public Transport Committee		65.00
Royal Horticultural Society of N.S.W.		4.20
The Garden Club of Aust.		5.00
Woolley Centre		10.00
Inner-Sydney Media Co- operative		202.00
Friends of the Green Bans Movement		10.00
Royal Aust. Historical Soc.	17.50	\$ 323.70
Bulletin		365.84
Postage, stationery, etc.		247.61
Ferry trip		73.00
Parks and Gardens Committee activities		12.50
Advertising		137.20
Cricket match		45.00
Welcomes to new members		29.30
Hire of Glebe Town Hall		5.00
Flowers		16.40
Four copies of D.M.R. "The Roadmakers"		36.00
Printing history leaflet		20.01
Total Expenditure		\$1,311.56

Accumulated Funds at 1st July, 1975 \$ 899.87

Plus: surplus for year 453.28

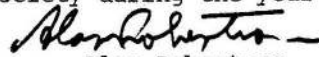
\$1,353.15

Represented by: Savings Investment account \$1,081.34
Savings bank cheque account 271.81

\$1,353.15


Ted McKeown
(Hon. Treasurer)

In my opinion the above Statement of Income and Expenditure is in accordance with the books of account and reflects the transactions of the Glebe Society during the year ended 30th June, 1976 in a true and fair manner.


Alan Robertson
(Hon. Auditor)