



The Glebe
Society

BULLETIN

P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037

no 1
1978

THE UNGREENING OF GLEBE

GLEBE POPLARS :

Since mid-February the Glebe Society has been active in opposing the Council decision to cut down the poplar trees in Glebe Point Rd. The Society has been collecting signatures for a petition asking the Council to reconsider its decision. Though limited by the amount of time members could spare to take the petitions around after work, the Society managed to collect about 1,500 signatures in four days. The response to the petition was usually favourable and with more time to collect signatures there is no doubt that there would have been many more. But the petition had to be completed in a few days so as to be on time for the agenda being drawn up for a coming Council meeting.

The decision was taken at the Council meeting of 7 February but the matter went through the meeting so quickly that many people present did not realise that an official decision had been taken. The decision came to the Society's attention mainly through the activities of Tom Drake-Brockman of the Angel Pavement in Glebe Point Rd., who is most concerned that the move will destroy the appeal of that street. Eric Gidney from the Management Committee coordinated the Society's response to the decision, the petition and a press release. Many members will have seen the coverage in the Sydney Morning Herald, on some radio stations and on the Channel 10 Eyewitness News.

The matter may be raised at the Council's next meeting on Tuesday 7 March. If you get this Bulletin before then and can attend, please give John Hoddinott a ring on 692-0071. For those who may not have seen the media coverage, we reproduce the gist of the press release below :

"Plans to Destroy Glebe Poplars Attacked by Glebe Society.

Residents of Glebe are up in arms over a decision by Leichhardt Council to cut down the poplar trees in Glebe Point Rd. The decision, made by the Council's Tree Preservation Committee, has been condemned by the Glebe Society, a residents group with some 500 members.

A spokesman for the Glebe Society said that the removal of the poplars would be tragic. 'We understand that the Council has decided to investigate the possibility of replacing the poplars with a native species but quite frankly we believe that this is just a sop to public opinion. Once the poplars have been removed there will be no further action taken to replace them.'

Leichhardt Council's decision to cut down the trees followed a request from one resident of Glebe Point Rd. who asked that the tree outside his home be removed. The matter was referred to the Council's Tree Preservation Committee which agreed to the request but then went on to state that all of the poplars should be progressively removed and eventually replaced.

A spokesman for the Glebe Society's Environment Committee said that it was particularly ironic that the decision to cut down the poplars had been made by the Council's Tree Preservation Committee.

'The poplars in Glebe Point Road are tall and graceful trees that add to the appeal of Glebe. They soften the lines of the suburb's Victorian architecture and are in fact one of the landmarks of Glebe Point Road'.

He said that he understood that the funds for the removal of the trees would be allocated from a government grant of \$80,000 for improvements to the area.

'The decision to spend this money on destruction of trees is an indication of the Council's lack of imagination and paucity of ideas in the field of urban improvement. Money should be spent on planting more trees, not on destroying the few that already exist.'

He said that it was wellknown in Glebe that a number of Leichhardt aldermen had a 'particular dislike' of trees. 'The anti-tree attitude is hard to fathom but we believe that this decision by the Council is a reflection of this dislike.'

Petitions against the decision are being organised in Glebe and hundreds of signatures have already been collected. Any move by the Council to cut down any of the trees would be likely to lead to a confrontation.

'We hope that this ill-considered and unwise decision will be reconsidered by Leichhardt Council.'

FLETCHERS :

In the last Bulletin we reported on the progress being made on noise pollution coming from Fletchers in Sheehy St. Fletchers has come up again because of its development application for extensions near the Rowing Club.

In the last Council meeting (21 February) it was stated by Alderman Millard that some compromise had been reached between Fletchers, Glebe Rowing Club and the Council over the disputed Development Application for the Timber Developments land between Miller Street and Blackwattle Bay.

Apparently Fletchers have decided to appease the Rowing Club by not using Ferry Road, but are going to attempt to have container trucks making a right-hand turn off Miller St into the Timber Developments property (can you imagine??) and then taking a one-way route through the Fletchers site to return to Forsyth St.

The mind boggles as to what happens next : a semi-trailer leaving Forsyth St. and struggling into Miller St. It meets another just arriving, attempting to swing into the new entrance - just dont try to drive past at the same time ! The resulting bottleneck could result in trucks using Ferry Rd, Miller St and Forsyth St as a kind of one-way system in an attempt to resolve the problem.

Incidentally it has been noted that container trucks are now using Darling St as a short-cut to Taylor St.

Eric Gidney, while not wishing to become closely involved in this issue because of many other commitments, is trying to organise a group to deal with this problem. He's got the file on Forsyth Street's successful attempt to stop the trucks. If this issue concerns you, please give him a ring on 660-5093.



WHAT THE MANAGEMENT DID

January 1978

This meeting was something of an interim meeting because of the holiday period, keeping a watching brief over a number of future activities and continuing issues. These included plans for Society activities for 1978 and a review of the progress of the coal loader, the question of an appropriate memorial for Bessie Guthrie, the possibilities for further public access to the waterfront and the question of when the new town plan will be available to the public.

February 1978

1. There is still no date for exhibition of the Leichhardt Town Plan but it could be soon. John Hoddinott (692-0071) will be anxious to hear from interested members as soon as it appears.
2. The committee is investigating the possibility of an appropriate memorial to Bessie Guthrie.
3. The Glebe - Balmain cricket match was washed out. It is hoped that this great test of strength can be rescheduled this season.
4. The result of discussions on a program for 1978 is indicated in the 'For Your Diary' column.
5. Letters have been sent about litter from Harold Park Trotting nights, stray dogs, funds for Elsie, Venetia and tree-logging. Harold Park has replied, and will provide more bins.
6. Tony Larkum will present a submission to the NSW Planning and Environment Commission on outdoor advertising.
7. Jim Coombs tendered his resignation as President since he is moving to Melbourne. This was accepted with regret and with thanks to Jim for all his work for the Society over recent years as an energetic letter writer and trouble-shooter in both his secretarial and presidential capacities. Best wishes for the future, Jim.



Jim Coombs

VALETE - JIM

At the last meeting of the Management Committee Jim Coombs announced his resignation as President. Personal commitments have taken him away from Glebe to The Other Place (ie Melbourne).

Jim was the third secretary that the Society had, for a record term so far of four years, and was elected President last August. We very much regret that it has not been possible for him to complete his term in this office.

Over his years on the Management Committee Jim has been an untiring writer of letters, contributor to the Society's Bulletin, presenter of submissions, maker of phone calls, and performer on TV about Glebe issues. He has 'stirred' about expressways, Fig Street, the use of waterfront land, particularly in the campaign of support for the Department of Education's acquisition of the Hudson site for a High School much needed in this area, developments at Glebe Point East, the needs of the Forest Lodge School, and the upgrading of the railway goods line that passes through Glebe as a passenger line.

One of Jim's most memorable achievements, logistically, was the organisation a couple of years ago, through the cooperation of the Railway Historical Society, of a nine carriage train which took a large number of people from Redfern Station to Redfern Station along a route which demonstrated the viability of his proposal.

In a more relaxed mood, Jim has captained the Glebe team in our annual cricket match against the Balmain Association. It is sad that this year's match had to be deferred because of the weather and consequently Jim missed the chance of a farewell flourish of his bat on the field (and of his pen in the Bulletin!).

Our best wishes to you, Jim, for your life in Melbourne, our thanks for all your hard work, and we shall hope to see you back again one day.

Jeanette Knox
for the Management Committee.

Gardening

SUMMER SCHOOL

As some members know, the Garden Club of Australia's Summer School for Gardeners was held at the Women's College, University of Sydney, on 7th, 8th and 9th February.

There were twelve day sessions and the subjects dealt with were : Plant Protection, Landscape Gardening, Bulbs and Perennials, Rhododendrons, Gardening for Beginners, Flower Arrangement, Vegetable Growing, Conifers, Hydroponics, Roses and Palms.

There were two evening sessions for those who could not attend during the day.

Attendance at the opening session was about 250, with slightly fewer on the second and third day.

This school is held each year and anyone interested in gardening would certainly benefit from attending.

The Garden Club of Australia provides items of interest to all its members, including this year a ferry trip in May, a visit to Canberra in September and one to the Dandenongs, Victoria, in October. Anyone interested in these trips could obtain further information from the undersigned on 6601083.

Theo Ahlston.

GARDENS ?

The Glebe Society is sometimes asked whether gardening groups could come to inspect the gardens of Glebe. The first reaction is to think that there is not much to see here for people with a specialised interest in gardens, mainly because of the small size of front yards. But it has occurred to us that the back yards are often much bigger and that there may be very good gardens at the back that no one knows about. If you have a garden like that, or if you know of one, the Society would be very grateful if you could give David Reeve a ring on 660-2207 .

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 11 March: Coffee Morning.

To be held at Bill and Sally Nelson's,
21 Alexandra Rd., Glebe.

Saturday 11 March: History Walk.

Max Solling will lead a history walk through Glebe. Meet at St. Scholastica's at 2pm. All members are welcome, with new members particularly invited. The walk is free. Afternoon tea will conclude the afternoon, with a small charge for the tea.

Monday 13 March: Monday Group Outing.

The Monday Group will take an outing by train and ferry to the Hawkesbury River, from 8am to 2.30 pm. The outing is open to anyone interested - if you are interested, please ring Gwen Knox, on 660-7781.

Tuesday 14 March : Play Reading.

The first playreading for 1978 will be held at Jo Bastian's, at 5 Allen St., Glebe (660-7107), at 8pm. The play will be Tennessee Williams' The Sweet Bird of Youth. Tyrrell's bookshop has several second-hand copies of the Penguin Pocket Plays edition of Sweet Bird of Youth and Other Plays, and the Uni Co-op in Manning Rd and the Pocket Bookshop also have copies. People are most welcome to come and discuss what sorts of plays they would like in future.

Saturday 1 April : Coffee morning.

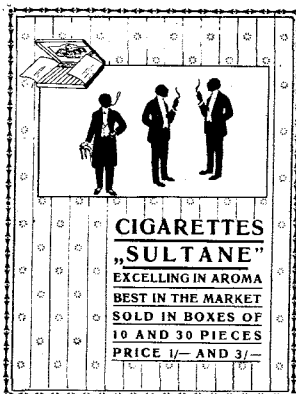
Tentative date for this event. Details in the next Bulletin.

Saturday 15 April: Wine Bottling.

Tony Larkum is arranging to bottle Saltram red and white wine. Ring Tony on 660-7030 to let him know how many empty (washed clean) bottles will be accompanying you. The price is expected to be \$1 per bottle.

Wednesday 19 April: Social Activities.

A meeting of those who agreed in February to organise part of this year's programme. Other eager workers or people with ideas most welcome. 8pm at Merle Larcombe's, 14 Toxteth Rd.



Other dates and events: more details later :

April : Cycle ride.

This event still being planned. All Glebe Society cyclists to gather by St. James Park for a ride to Centennial Park. Bring your lunch for a barbecue. Teenagers especially invited. Details next Bulletin.

May : Garden Slides evening by courtesy of Jean and Theo Ahlston. To be complemented in August with a visit to Katandra Bushland Sanctuary.

Friday 16 June: Pakistani Night.

Saturday 15 July : Birthday Party.

NB If anyone would like to offer their house for this year's birthday party, please contact David Grant (660-1109). Past birthday parties suggest about 80 to 100 people coming and the Society will take care of the catering.

Wednesday 16 August: Annual General Meeting.

Sunday 20 August : Visit to Katandra Bushland Sanctuary.

Other activities under consideration are the House Restoration Seminar, possibly for a Saturday in May, a tour of the Observatory, a series or weekend of films in July or August - a mixture of films on urban living and of more direct entertainment value, possibly for members' children.

Other suggestions being investigated include area meetings in particular areas of Glebe - now that the membership is fairly widespread, a regular drop-in for drinks at the Rowing Club, and the use of Glebe's parks for outside summer events - with the hope of drawing in a much wider participation from other Glebe residents.

If you would like to help with the planning of any of these or other activities, please come to the Social Activities meeting on Wednesday 19 April.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE :

(now under revision and reorganisation - revised list in next issue. If you want to contact the Committee, please ring any of:)

Immediate Past President :

Jeanette Knox - 660-7781

Senior Vice-President :

Ralph Kaye - 660-2165

Junior Vice-President :

Tony Larkum - 660-7030

Secretary : John Cowling - 660-3057

Treasurer : John Hoddinott - 692-0071

Committee : Sue Johnson - 692-0318

Patrick Macalister - 660-7218

Noeline Sandblom - 660-6953

Nigel Stokes - 660-7181

Eric Gidney - 660-5093

Auditor : Alan Robertson

Bulletin Editor : David Reeve - 660-2207 .