



The Glebe  
Society

# BULLETIN

P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037

no 8  
1978

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP??

There are a lot of important and interesting activities coming up for the Glebe Society in the near future. Several of them have long-term consequences for the Glebe. Your support is needed, in muscle power for the Blackwattle Bay Park, in letter-writing, and in support for Society activities. What will you do to help? :

1. Two important events are coming up with regard to schools : particularly the public meeting on the High School. See the article on p2 for this and for information on the Forest Lodge Public School Fete.

2. Muscle power for clearing and support for regular use in the Blackwattle Bay Park are urgent. See Eric Gidney's article on current efforts on p 2.

3. Who wants a heliport in Glebe? But it's been proposed. Details and addresses for letters of protest on p 2.

4. Jeanette Knox has set out the case for supporting revision of the Freedom for Information Bill on p 3, and why it's relevant to members of the Glebe Society. Who to write to.

5. Help is needed to make a success of the planned "Glebe Day" as part of the City of Sydney Festival on Sunday 21 January. The Vintage Car Rally which started last year from Jubilee Park will be in Federal Road in January 1979 and the Festival would like to make something special out of a Glebe Day built around the Rally and the estimated 15 - 20,000 people who will attend. All sorts of possibilities for entertainment, food, fun and games are possible because of the expertise of the Festival.

The Society has been approached to help as much as it feels able in suggesting and organising ideas for the back-up activities to the Rally. If this day goes well it could become an annual event.

Anyone with ideas, enthusiasm or time to help should ring John Hoddinott on 692-0071.

6. The Town Plan cannot be far off. Members should be thinking about what they would like to see in the Plan - what sort of a place Glebe ought to be. The Plan will be exhibited for public criticism, directly from residents and/or through the Society.

7. The Inner City Radio Coalition has been going since 1974 and may soon get a licence. It has been holding test broadcasts, free radio workshops open to all, a women's workshop and has wide contacts in the area. More on these activities in the next Bulletin. At the moment ICR is applying to the Australian Film Commission for a grant to get on air as soon as possible. Letters of support would be much appreciated. They should be addressed to Chairman, Australian Film Commission, G.P.O. Box 3984, Sydney 2001 and can be sent to Mark McDonnell,

Inner City Radio Coalition  
P.O. Box 153 Rozelle 2039.  
phone nos 560-1305, 660-5548.

8. The Glebe Society is trying to set up a phone tree for quick contact with members. You will probably be contacted soon to see whether you are prepared to take part. No-one will be asked to ring more than five other people. Please help.

9. Peter Stanbury of the Management Committee has proposed a booklet about house restoration, which has been endorsed by the Committee. He will be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to be involved, to provide ideas, or do photos or drawings - particularly from any architects, or anyone with firm ideas about the right way to do a house :- 660-1848.

10. Many members will now be receiving renewal of subscription forms (rather belatedly printed) and some receipts from the dim past. Please fill in and return as soon as possible.

11. The Glebe Society is accumulating more and more records and equipment - about a small room-full. If anyone can offer storage space, please ring Betty Wright on 660-1875.

12. The Glebe Society Christmas Cards are available once again at 15c each (with envelope). They have a black and white picture of "Avona" (c1876) on the front and are blank inside. Ring David Reeve (660-2207), Jeanette Knox (660-7781) or John Hoddinott (692-0071) for orders.

13. Would anyone like to take on the job of organising the coffeemornings? For information ring Maureen Coleman on 660-2302. Maureen is finding it a little difficult to look after the coffee mornings as she often has to work on Saturdays.

# Schools

The Glebe Society has strongly supported the Forest Lodge Public School and the planned Glebe High School. Two important events are coming up which members are urged to support:

\*\*The Forest Lodge Fete on Saturday 21 October

\*\*A public meeting on Tuesday 14 November of parents and citizens to discuss the activities of the high school. Please go along !!

1. Now that Forest Lodge School has been rebuilt, the P & C have decided to have a school Fete to show the school off to the community.

The Big "Forro" Fete is on Saturday 21 October from 10am to 4pm.

Come along and enjoy :

- ++++ The Daceyville School Band
- ++++ Police Boys Club - Gymnastics Display
- ++++ Ethnic Cooking
- ++++ Morris Men Dancing
- ++++ Broom Throwing Competition.

Things you can buy at the stalls for Xmas :

- ++ Second Hand Books
- ++ Children's Crafts
- ++ Bottle Stalls
- ++ Hoop-La Stall
- ++ Grocery Stall
- ++ Cakes and Jams
- ++ Plants and handicrafts
- ++ Lucky Dips
- ++ Clothing - New and Old
- ++ White Elephant and Sample Bags

Also pony rides and children's games.

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2. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th November, 1978 in the Forest Lodge Public School at 8.00 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather together parents and citizens interested in the establishment of the proposed Glebe High School, to talk about curriculum development and other relevant matters, such as a school canteen, school uniforms and setting up a Parents and Citizens Association.

Mr J. E. Penman, a Departmental Inspector, will be present with audiovisual material to show proposals for the school buildings and to answer questions about the project. Also present will be Mrs Totti Cohen, President of Federation of P&C Associations of N.S.W.

# Blackwattle Bay park

BLACKWATTLE BAY - GET DOWN TO IT !!!

Forget all those empty election promises ! Work out your frustrations with a spade and a pickaxe and help us to really get Blackwattle Bay knocked into shape.

In case you've forgotten, or haven't read the recent coverage in the Sydney papers, Blackwattle Bay Park at the end of Leichhardt Street is one of our best bits of foreshore land. Back in August I formed the Waterfront Action Group to get things moving.

The first activity was the Spring Festival, well attended (500 people) which triggered off a fair bit of media interest and resident participation. A petition with 803 signatures from residents was sent to Pat Hills in mid-September, asking him to make urgent representations to the Minister for Planning and Environment about the future of the land.

We've now built a barbecue, planted trees, cut the grass, cleaned up some of the rubbish which Leichhardt Council doesn't dump -(who does ? - keep an eye open!) - and we're ready for stage 2 this Saturday, 7th October : the Election Dig.

We've come up with a plan, we've been given a 2 ton tip truck by Kennards just for the day, now all we need is your support - bring your muscles, pickaxes, spades, seedlings, trees, kids, ideas, wheelbarrows, lunch etc.

Help us to prepare the site for the next great event - The Guy Fawkes Celebration on Sunday 5th November at 7pm. Bring along something to grill at the bonfire, something to quench your thirst, and appropriate utensils. The Glebe Society will provide bread and salad, starting 7pm. No charge, but the Society would like donations towards the cost of renovations at Tranby.

Further working bees will be announced by the Bulletin or leaflet - or please ring on 660-5093.

PS - Has anyone seen Pat Hills around yet ? - it would be nice to know that he supports a foreshore park for Glebe.

Eric Gidney.(660-5093)

# Heliport

A HELIPORT FOR GLEBE ? - JUST WHAT WE NEED !!!

1. Well, just as we're getting up steam on a foreshore park 'Nifty Nev' drops his bombshell. How would you like a heliport in Glebe ?

When asked last Monday where he'd site the city terminal for a new helicopter service between Sydney and Gosford (to be extended to Penrith and Katoomba) Neville Wran said "There's a disused wharf on Blackwattle Bay in Glebe".

As if semi-trailers, containers and Parkes Developments were't enough!! We have to get a heliport as well.

Further enquiries elicited the fact that the Electricity Commission has been seeking to dispose of a piece of land #4 Banks St on the other side of Blackwattle Bay. They propose to auction most of the land for industrial, and hand on to a small portion for a helipad.

Now, a company called SCRUSE AIR (would you believe !) of Budgewoi are negotiating directly with the Electricity Commission for rights to use the helipad as a heliport for regular daily commute services.

So if you want to object - write to the Electricity Commission or the Federal Dept of Transport, or even better, write to the Minister for Mines & Energy, our old (invisible) friend, Pat Hills.

If Neville Wran really wants to solve transport problems, why not give us a railway service ? Or a ferry ?

(Incidentally, I wouldn't be surprised if the Electricity commission's helicopters are being used to monitor flow stations on the Colo River in order to decide whether to destroy the Upper Colo Valley for a proposed hydro-electric scheme).

Eric Gidney .

SMH 27/9/78 : 'Off-the-cuff' politicking.

SIR, On Monday, the Premier, Mr Wran, was reported as saying that an approach would be made to the Federal Department of Transport for utilising a disused wharf in Blackwattle Bay, Glebe, for a heliport, because it was not in a residential area.

The only wharf at present disused is directly adjacent to the new Glebe High School Site which, in turn, is adjacent to a residential area.

Mr Wran should know better by now than to issue this sort of "off-the-cuff" statement. Such a proposal, surely, would be the subject of a detailed environment study and should include several alternative sites.

E.L. Sandblom  
Hereford St.,  
Forest Lodge.

# Information

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

In June this year a Bill for an Act 'to give to members of the public right of access to official documents of the Government of the Commonwealth and of its agencies' was tabled in the Senate by the Attorney General, Senator Durack, who made his second reading on 9th June. The Bill was debated again in August, the debate was adjourned, and, most recently, the decision was announced that the Bill was to be referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs.

The Bill, as presented in June, ignored 27 amendments proposed by the Law and Government Committee of Government backbenchers. Considerable publicity has been given to the Bill by the media. In Sydney, the Herald has not only consistently reported debate on and criticism of the Bill, but has also made it the subject of its first leader in at least two editorials.

The grounds on which the Bill has been criticised include :

- the Bill would, with minor exceptions, apply only to documents created after the Act comes into effect.
- documents initially withheld will remain secret for thirty years.
- if a Minister thinks disclosure of a document would endanger defence, security, international relations, or is a cabinet document, he can issue a certificate deciding conclusively that the document is exempt. There is no appeal from this decision.
- except in the area of internal law, there is no provision for the preparation of indexes to public documents.
- agencies have sixty days in which to respond to requests for information (cf a normal time lapse of 14 days in the USA, which is already operating Freedom of Information legislation).
- exemptions in the Bill are excessively broad, for instance, a document may be exempted if it is decided that its disclosure would be 'contrary to the public interest by reason that the disclosure would have a substantial adverse effect on the financial, property or staff management interests of the Commonwealth or of an agency or would otherwise have a substantial adverse effect on the efficient and economical conduct of the affairs of an agency'.
- appeals against a denial of access made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal involve the appellant in costs.

In short, what most people regard as very broad terms of reference enable Ministers to classify documents as confidential - for thirty years, the Bill builds in a considerable delay in response time, and little or no provision seems to have been made for the adequate indexing of documents and publication of such indexes, although people seeking documentary information are required to identify what they seek fairly precisely.

\*\*\*\* So - what has this got to do with the Glebe Society and its members and why should they be concerned ? \*\*\*\*\* :

There is no dispute that the concept of Freedom of Information legislation is a good one, in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Australia is a signatory. However, it would be sad if the Bill, when enacted, is not as worthwhile as it might be.

Whatever legislation in this area is enacted federally is likely to have repercussions at the state level also. The Wilenski Enquiry (to which the Glebe Society presented a submission on the problems of dealing with some State Government departments) included in its report a section on information and the public, and emphasised (S.21.24 and S.21.25) that the bounds for exemption of sensitive documents for publication should be precisely and narrowly drawn. The more information about the workings of government and the agencies of government that is available, the more informed public criticism, comment and decision-making can be. This is equally important on the national and the local scene.

Already public reaction has succeeded in having the Freedom of Information Bill referred to a Senate Committee so that its provisions can be reviewed and an opportunity provided for public debate. If you believe that citizens in a democracy have the right to information, should be governed as openly as possible, I would urge you to write a letter, preferably to one of our Senators, supporting revision of the Bill, so that it truly becomes a Freedom of Information Bill rather than the Freedom from Information Bill, as it is presently described by some of its critics.

The Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs is Senator A. Missen (who will be speaking on the Bill at the Council for Civil Liberties meeting on October 28th), the leader of the Government in the Senate is Senator the Hon. J.L. Carrick, the deputy and Attorney General, Senator the Hon. Peter Durack, the leader of the Opposition in the Senate is Senator the Hon. K.S. Wriedt, and the deputy, Senator J.N. Button.

Jeanette Knox. ( 660-7781 )

## THE NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE :

President : Eric Sandblom - 660-6593

Immediate Past President : Ralph Kaye -  
660-2165

Senior Vice-President : Tony Larkum - 660-7030

Junior Vice-President : Peter Stanbury.

Secretary : Betty Wright - 660-1875

Treasurer : John Hoddinott - 692-0071

Committee : Jeanette Knox - 660-7781

Eric Gidney - 660-5093

Tony Harfield.

Boris Sherban - 660-7552

Auditor : Alan Robertson

Bulletin editor : David Reeve - 660-2207

Distribution : Noeline Sandblom - 660-6593

## FOR YOUR DIARY

NB : Several of these events may be over by the time you get your Bulletin. This is because events often get arranged at short notice, which doesn't fit in with the Bulletin's printing and distribution schedule. When this happens we include them in the hope that at least some people will hear of them here. In general we try to give two Bulletin's notice of everything being planned. We hope the planned telephone tree will help with events that suddenly get going.

### Saturday 7 October : Election Day Dig.

A working bee to improve the Blackwattle Bay foreshore between Cook and Leichhardt Streets. See Eric Gidney's article on Blackwattle Bay (p2) for details. Enquiries : 660-5093

### Sunday 8 October : Coffee Morning.

The second Sunday wine and coffee morning, at Judi Pritchard's, 54 Toxteth Rd, 11 to 12.30. (50 cents for wine or coffee). All welcome.

### Thursday 12 October : The Monday Group.

Why should a 'Monday' Group only meet on Mondays ? Instead of the planned visit to the Art Gallery, the Monday Group will be catching an 8 am train to Bowral to visit Anna Forknall, a former strong supporter of the group. Take your own lunch - a visit to the tulips is also planned. All welcome - enquiries : Pat Moore : 660-4178

### Saturday 21 October : The Forest Lodge School Fete.

See the information provided by the school P&C on pp1-2. Come along from 10am to 4pm to see the rebuilt school and to give it support.

### Saturday 21 October : Wine Bottling.

Another wine bottling under the expert supervision of Tony Larkum, from 3pm at 17 Alexandra Rd. Saltram white and red, plus Hunter red will be available at \$1 a bottle. Please ring Tony as soon as possible to let him know how many empty (washed clean) bottles you will be bringing (660-7030).

### Monday 23 October : Drinks at the Rowing Club.

The fifth of a regular set of meetings for members to meet the Committee over a social drink in the Rowing Club, from 6 to 7.30 pm. Pay for what you drink - members will be there to sign you in.

### Sunday 5 November : Foreshores Day :

#### morning : 11.00 am : Coffee Morning :

Another coffee and wine morning, at Marilyn Bayscho's, Unit 7, 27 Leichhardt Street, overlooking Blackwattle Bay. Come along and join us for a drink of coffee or wine (50 cents).

#### evening : 7 pm : Guy Fawkes Celebration :

Remember, remember the fifth of November. No need to dress up as a Guy, but bring along something to grill at the bonfire, something to quench your thirst, and appropriate utensils. Bread and salad will be provided. The famous Mummers will be performing - roll up, roll up for traditional-type entertainment, toffee-apples and parkin. Place : Blackwattle Bay Park, at the end of Leichhardt St., near the water. Cost : we'd like to make a contribution towards the renovations at Tranby, the Aboriginal Co-operative, so we'll leave it to you to make a donation. We and the 'entertainers' will have some minor costs, but the 'take' will basically go to this Glebe centre. Contact : Jeanette Knox (660-7781) or Eric

Gidney (660-5093) if possible so that we have an idea of how many lettuces to order.

### Monday 13 November : The Monday Group

This is the rescheduled date for a return visit to the Art Gallery, having lunch at the Gallery. For final details see the next Bulletin or ring Pat Moore (660-4178).

### Tuesday 14 November : High School Meeting.

This very important meeting for parents and citizens concerning the planned High School is described in the 'Schools' meeting on pp 1-2. At the Forest Lodge Public School at 8pm

### Thursday 16 November : Playreading.

The playreading group did not die and will hold its last meeting for the year at 8pm at Dale Dengate's, 25B Avenue Rd. The play will be Dimboola - bring a copy if you have one - spare copies will be provided. All welcome : no acting ability or experience required. Enquiries : Jo Bastian : 660-7107.

### Monday 20 November : Drinks at the Rowing Club

The sixth meeting for a social drink for members to meet the Committee, from 6 to 7.30 pm at the Rowing Club.

### Sunday 3 December : Christmas Picnic

Keep this date free for the 1978 Glebe Society Christmas Picnic. More details in the next Bulletin, but we have in mind a family lunch, out of doors, to be combined with (negotiations are successful) the annual Glebe - Balmain Association cricket match.

### Sunday 21 January : "Glebe Day"

This is to be the planned "Glebe Day" of the Sydney Festival. The Vintage Car Rally will start from Jubilee Park, and various other activities will be happening in and around the Park. John Hoddinott is liaising with the Festival Committee, and would be pleased to hear from any member with some time to help with local liaison, planning a self-guided history walk etc etc. (692-0071).

### The Observatory Tour :

We're still waiting on the Observatory. All those who have expressed interest will be informed as soon as we know. Anyone else interested should ring John Hoddinott on 692-0071.

### Other activities around Glebe :

#### Saturday 28 October : Civil Liberties AGM :

To be held at the Law School, Uni of Sydney 173-175 Phillip Street; level 2, lecture theatre B. The morning session from 10 am is for general business, but the afternoon session from 2.30 pm has Senator Missen speaking on Freedom of Information (see Jeanette Knox' article, this Bulletin). There will be a barbecue at the Glebe headquarters in the evening - enquiries : Betty Wright : 660-7582 (office hours).