



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

1/1981



URGENT

Would the Glebe Society member who has the Open Space proposal for the Glebe Estate area by Bruce McKensie, please ring -

John Hoddinott - 692-0071, or
Alan Robertson - 660-6149

HISTORY

AN ARCHITECTURAL REGISTER OF GLEBE

The Management Committee has considered, from time to time, the possibility of creating a register of effectively every building in the Ward of Glebe. Obviously it would be a huge task, as there are over 3000 dwellings.

There exists a basis for the register, Bernard and Kate Smith's "The Architectural Character of Glebe". The book has identified the five main architectural styles extant in Glebe, and contains a thesaurus of terms.

I see the register as containing a street-by-street list, (rather than identification by style) with a brief description of the facade. Owners of the Smith publication will realise how much the area has changed since the early seventies. A great deal of fibro must have found its way to the tip over the last decade. Unfortunately some houses have also been demolished.

So as to test the response to this idea I invite interested members of the Society to come to the social meeting at the Rowing Club on Monday, 16th March (see For Your Diary)

John Hoddinott

HELP!

A Happy New Year to all our readers on this the first issue of the Glebe Society Bulletin in 1981.

The formalities aside, the prosletizing starts. The Society is one of the largest and most active resident action groups in Sydney. For a group such as ours to have survived and to have around 450 members means, essentially, that the problems haven't gone away. One of the main issues in the founding year, 1969, was a freeway, cutting a swathe through the suburb. That has since been resolved. In place we have several new major issues; these include the still undefined Town Plan and the threats to the architectural integrity of Glebe implicit in the 1979 Leichhardt Planning Scheme; the lack of open space and waterfront parks; the intolerable levels of through-traffic with increasing air pollution, noise and road danger; the distinct possibility of developers forcing unwanted and destructive "developments" on Glebe; the need for better public transport, etc.

The Management Committee does what it can, but calls on Society members to help. We need, desperately, some help in the following three areas:

BULLETIN EDITOR: Merle Larcombe is leaving for a vacation in April, and is resigning as Bulletin Editor. The work involves typing (but see below), layout, despatch to, and collection from, the printers' in Parramatta Road, Annandale. Ideally the editor should write some copy and look out for articles. Merle will handle the first two issues of 1981. After that time someone else must take charge; otherwise no more Bulletins. Ring Merle at 660-0491 if you are interested to help.

TYPING: Obviously the craft is dying. The Society has a constant, but low-level need for quick typing service. There are times when urgent letters have to be sent. Almost always it means that the Hon. Secretary has to hand write these letters, often hand-writing a file copy. I really do have better things to do with my time.

MINUTES SECRETARY: The appeal in the previous Bulletin fell on deaf or apathetic ears (with one exception, an offer to act in this position by an already busy Society member). We need someone who could take minutes at the 10 or 11 Management Committee meetings a year and prepare them in a type written form.

The Committee faces another busy year, at least until the A.G.M. in August when a new Committee is to be elected. Surely a few people out there can help us. Please ring John Hoddinott (692-0071) if you can help on typing or minuting. I wait with bated breath for a deluge of calls after the response from previous appeals, but maybe this time we'll be lucky.

John Hoddinott

PLANNING

THREAT TO HEREFORD STREET

Hereford Street is one of the quieter streets in Glebe, although it is bounded or intersected by some of the busiest and noisiest thoroughfares, Bridge Road, Wigram Road, Glebe Point Road and the Crescent/Ross Street.

Possibly the loudest noise heard in Hereford Street recently has been the sound of the smacking of lips of developers as they prepare another assault on a few more of the fine remaining houses. A development application was made about 15 months ago for a town house development, which involved the demolition of Nos. 43, 45 and 47 Hereford Street. On Wednesday, 12th February, "Hereford House", No. 53 Hereford Street went to auction. In the S.M.H. of 7th February, the auction notice included the following: "Glebe Res. on Large Site
Potential Town House Site
53 Hereford Street

Land area approx 1891 sq. m. (20,400 sq. ft.).
Zoned 2(b4). Should permit town houses in this popular and strong letting location....."

The Glebe Society has reacted to the D.A. and the potential demolitions. Objections were lodged against the demolition, particularly of No. 45, a fine c.1877 cottage known as "Kinrara", and No. 47 "Eardsleigh", formerly "Clifton", an end terrace c. 1881.

Our Planning Convenor, Alan Robertson, has written to the auctioneers regarding "Hereford House", detailing to potential buyers the difficulties involved in obtaining planning permission for demolition and future development. Alan has also prepared a superb document on behalf of the Glebe Society of objections to be presented to the tribunal hearing opposition to the Nos. 43-45 D.A. (At the time of writing, Alan is interstate and I hope that this article represents his ideas and notes accurately).

The Glebe Society's historian, Max Solling, has supplied information about the three dwellings, Nos. 45, 47 and 53. They should be of interest to members. Here is an abbreviated version:

"Kinrara" was built by Alexander Leckie Elphinstone (1828-1892), about 1877 for (Sea) Captain Robert Troup Moodie (1822-1899). Alexander Elphinstone was a Glebe resident and lived in Derwent Street from 1858.

It is an interesting, essentially symmetrical building. with few like it in Glebe. Its side entrance, a rare feature in Glebe dwellings, with its fine etched glass and leaded-glass door, is very much in the style of Ferdinand Reuss's "Hermitage", 160 Bridge Road, and includes in the design the superimposed initials R.T.M. of the dwelling's first owner.

It has baroque barge boards, and the chimneys relate to the Gothic style in ornamentation and to the Picturesque movement, being at 45 degrees to the main axis of the house. "Kinrara's" jerkin roof was a feature of architect Elphinstone's style.

The structure of the original building is intact with easily removed minor additions. Complete restoration to the original state would be a relatively easy task.

"Eardsleigh", formerly "Clifton", c.1881, has a current facade filled with fibro. This house probably was similar to its contemporary neighbour (No.

49) with an open verandah decorated with filigree cast iron work. Its most notable feature is its roof which is low and hipped with three ridges and a central valley. This style is reminiscent of a much earlier period, of which very few examples are extant. Also notable are the sturdy, tall chimneys.

"Hereford House" is a wide and very impressive terrace and was built for William Bull c.1875 making it one of the oldest surviving houses in Hereford St.

While it is hoped that good sense will prevail and that development does not mean demolition, Society members are invited to take a walk down Hereford St. (near the Glebe Point Road end) and have a look for themselves at these properties. "Kinrara" is a most unusual and charming house.

It is worth looking upon No. 55 Hereford Street, "Kerribree" every now and then, to raise your spirits. In safe hands now, fortunately, it is a reminder of what Hereford Street means to Glebe. The Glebe Society will try to ensure that life (for developers) isn't meant to be easy.

News of these sites will be published as it comes to hand. Nothing definite is available at the time of publication of this Bulletin.

John Hoddinott

GLEBE HIGH SCHOOL

The Minister for Education, Mr. Paul Landa announced in December that Glebe High School was to be built. This was pretty much a foregone conclusion as it had been promised to the community about three years ago, by several prominent politicians. In fact the school should have been built by now, at its third year of student intake.

Several inner-city schools will be closed or amalgamated, and this will undoubtedly result in a decrease in teacher employment in the inner-city.

There was a sting in the tail of the G.H.S. building proposal: to include a school of Marine Navigational Studies. The High School, planned to accommodate 600 students, is on a smaller site than normal for that number of school children. The inclusion of a TAFE institute, no matter how small, reduces the area available to the school.

After consideration, the Society has decided to write to the Minister for Education to ask that the TAFE area not be included within the present school boundaries. There is a great deal of premium waterfront area now not used properly, on which a marine school could be built.

The good news is that tenders are being called for the construction of the school exactly as planned. The original plans were excellent and remain unchanged. Work should start in a couple of months and be completed for the 1983 school year. In the meantime the pressures on the staff and students, housed as they are in demountable classrooms, will increase.

The Glebe community gave a clear message to the State Government at the public meeting in July 1980 that it would not accept the cancellation of the high school project. The meeting demonstrated the common interests of all Glebe residents "old" and "new". It is to be hoped that such mutual co-operation and agreement will prosper within the suburb on other issues.

John Hoddinott

VANDALISM AT BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Blackwattle Bay Park, for which members of the Glebe Society fought so hard, and on which they worked so diligently moving rocks and planting trees and shrubs, has become a dump for the excavated material from the adjacent home unit site.

The quantity of excavated soil dumped there precludes any worthwhile landscaping. The developer of the adjacent site must be required to remove his waste from the park immediately.

Members will be aware that Council's approval for the development was dependent upon the developer providing parkland and landscaping it to Council's satisfaction.

The park is Glebe's only significant waterfront open space at this stage. The developer must not be allowed to treat it with such contempt.

We have informed Council of the Glebe Society's attitude to the situation, and we have advised residents in the vicinity about the state of the park. However, Council needs to know your attitude as well. We request that you write to Council immediately -

Ald. Evan Jones, Mayor of Leichhardt,
C/- Council Chambers,
Wetherill St.,
Leichhardt, 2040.

Demand that Council take steps to halt the development of the adjacent unit site until -

1. Every cubic metre of unnecessary fill is removed from Blackwattle Bay Park;
2. The developer supplies a landscape plan for the park that is satisfactory to Council, or he agrees to develop the park to Council's specifications.
3. The developer removes his fence from park lands;
4. The developer hands over legal title of the landscaped park to Council.

John Buckingham

THE SYDNEY CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY Glebe Primary School, Derwent Street.

The following is a resume of a press release issued by S.C.E.S.H.

"A museum of the history of education of Sydney and a resource centre for the local history of Glebe and Annandale are being set up in two rooms at the Glebe Primary School. Bill Collins, Deputy Principal conceived the idea and a committee was formed to develop it. A Schools Commission grant has made it possible to employ a historian, Dr. Alan Roberts full time for one year, to develop the resources and to publish booklets."

The meetings on week days cannot be attended by Management Committee members, but others are invited to go along. Ring Dr. Roberts at the school - 660-4549, during school hours for information.

THE TRAIN RIDE AND LRT PROPOSAL

There is a lengthy report on this subject from John Hoddinott, but due to lack of space cannot be printed in this Bulletin.

However, as there is a separate flyer advertising the next Train Ride, there is enough information for you to be going on with.

Wait for the next episode.

PARKS

Leichhardt Council and Open Space

Members should recognize the outstanding efforts being made by the "new" Leichhardt Council to achieve a real responsiveness to the ideas and needs of the people of the Municipality.

Council is encouraging people in the area to join and to attend meetings of a number of committees which have been established to provide input to it.

The Committees include Trees and Open Space, Town Planning, Community Care and Traffic.

Members of our Society attend Council and Committee meetings.

The Trees and Open Space Committee was convened in the last months of 1980, and the first few meetings were relatively unstructured, in order to allow people the opportunity to bring forward their ideas and concerns. Now that the Committee is well established, an Advisory Group has been formed, which is "to assist the main committee by developing draft policy papers and attempting to maintain a programme which, after a period, will achieve a comprehensive policy for the area on trees and open space". The Society is represented on this Advisory Group. The convenor is Bill Hume of Annandale, and the Chairman, ex-officio, is Nick O'Neill, Deputy Mayor.

One has to attend such Council meetings to begin to appreciate the great amount of work and the zeal and dedication shown by such Council personnell.

Members will be pleased to know that Council's policies in many directions are coincident with our Society's aspirations. We feel much encouraged

accordingly, and it is up to us to support and encourage Council's efforts in the areas that we wish to promote.

Concerning public open space a working party has been appointed by Society's Committee to review parkland and open space in Glebe area, and to come up with draft policy for consideration by Committee. It would be much appreciated if members would communicate their ideas on the subject to the convenor, John Buckingham (Tel. No. 660-7780), including suggestions on areas that might be suitable for public open space or recreation areas, especially in those part of the Municipality which are at present poorly provided for.

This is urgent.

W.P. Nelson

Does Your Saddle Hurt?
THEN RIDE



WINE BOTTLING

A wine bottling is being arranged for April. Red and white wine will be available, at about \$1.00 per bottle, perhaps slightly more, depending on bulk wine prices.

Only written orders will be guaranteed. Others will be given second preference. Send your order, red and/or white, name, address and telephone number by letter to our postal address. No telephone orders will be considered, being too difficult to co-ordinate. Closing date end of March. There will be a reminder in the next Bulletin.

If you wish to bottle some wine, start collecting wine bottles now. It becomes a much easier job if bottles can be cleaned thus: soap them in a weak detergent solution for a few hours, remove the labels at the neck and on the body of the bottle; give them a scrub inside with a long bottle brush, wash well in clean water, and drain. It is very important to clean away any label on the neck of the bottle, as the filling level is judged visually.

The bottles will be sterilised just before bottling starts on the day. Corks and labels will be supplied.

NEW MEMBERS

Mark & Deborah Darling
Allan Garrick
Mrs. De King
Mrs. Joan Halford
W.N. & E.K. Holmes
Trevor Purvis
Mr. N.A. Walker
Mrs. P.G. Rudland
Roland Schmid
Colin & Jean Mackenzie
Mark Weatherly
Miss Jan McLean
Miss D. Harris
Roger & Mrs. Berenice Shelley
Rita Ramsden
Peter Jones
Helen McLean
M.J. O'Rourke
Paula Thomas
Beau Olsen

Management Committee

President:	Tony Larkum	660-7030
Senior Vice Pres:	Bill Nelson	660-0038
Junior Vice Pres:	John Buckingham	660-7780
Secretary	John Hoddinott	692-0071
Treasurer	Mike Reynolds	692-0790
Bulletin Editor	Merlyn Larcombe	660-0491
Committee:	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
	Peter O'Gorman	660-0302
	Kemp Fowler	660-5258
New members' representative	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Bulletin Distribution	Doris Sharp	660-6636

For your diary

22nd February to 13th March - 11 a.m./6 p.m. Wed. to Sun.

THE BLACKFRIARS GALLERY, 172 St. Johns Road, presents an exhibition of Melanesian Art; from the upper Sepik area.

Fridays and Saturdays at 8.15 p.m., Sunday, 5.30. February and March

NEW THEATRE, 542 King Street, Newtown, 519-3403 present "Colonial Experience, by Walter Cooper.

Monday, 2nd March

THE MONDAY GROUP are meeting at the corner Wigram Road and Glebe Point Road at 10.45 a.m. to go by bus to the Quay and then to Manly. For further details, ring 660-3694.

Sunday, 8th March, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

COFFEE AND WINE MORNING at Hilary & Tony Larkum, 17 Alexandra Road, Glebe. ALL WELCOME.

Monday, 16th March, 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

DRINKS AT THE ROWING CLUB - Come along and meet the Management Committee, and perhaps join them. Bottom of Ferry Road,

Saturday, 21st March

THE GREAT TRAIN RIDE NO. 3. Booking Essential. A journey of about 65 minutes from Redfern, via Canterbury, Leichhardt, Annandale, Glebe, Darling Harbour, returning to Redfern.

Sunday, 29th March, 1 p.m.

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA is sponsoring NSW's first Heritage Week from 23rd March to 29th. Activities include a free puppet show, Morris dancing bush band, sheep shearing etc. For further information phone them at 27-5374.