



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

3/1981

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

University Hall

There is now an urgent need to obtain a Permanent Conservation Order on this building. The Committee hoped to obtain the opinion of an architect on the viability of developing it and not demolishing, for submission to the Heritage Council. Max Solling has provided information on its high historical importance, having been built in 1856.

Edwards Site

The Glebe Society, as well as the local Council, have objected to plans by Ben Loman for small units on the old Edwards site, and the matter will soon be heard at the Land and Environment Court. The developer has submitted a new set of plans but these also are unsatisfactory. The Glebe Society will be represented at the court hearing.

Train Ride

The latest train ride made a profit of \$313 and there are still copies of the Light Rail monograph left, which can be purchased from the Secretary for \$3.50 per copy.

Other matters discussed are covered by separate articles in this Bulletin.

GENERAL MEETING ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

The projected General Meeting for May has been postponed; my decision, as I have not had time to organise it. I will try to put it together for mid to late June, on a Wednesday night at the Glebe Town Hall. The Planning Scheme report (see this issue) contains apposite comment on traffic in the Municipality and gives urgency to a public discussion of the matter.

I'm sure that Glebe residents noted the relative peacefulness over the Easter weekend, with much reduced private traffic through the suburb.

Notice of the General Meeting will be circulated by pamphlet, probably accompanied by the Society's special issue about the Leichhardt Planning Scheme report.

John Hoddinott

VENETIAN TWINS THEATRE PARTY

The Nimrod Theatre has kindly offered members of the Glebe Society the chance to see one of the hits of Sydney's theatre the wonderful production of The Venetian Twins. The play is to be revived at the Seymour Centre and we have been offered seats to the preview on Wednesday, 8th July, at 8pm, the night before the official opening night. With a cast substantially the same as the previous production, the "preview" will no doubt be at the same high standard as later performances.

The Venetian Twins opened at the Drama Theatre at the Sydney Opera House in November 1979, and ran to packed houses, and excellent reviews. It is a musical, based on the play by Carlo Goldoni, with lyrics by Nick Enright and music by Terence Clarke. The action is set in Northern Italy and Australia, more or less in the 17th and 20th centuries, more or less. The 1981 cast is almost that of the 1979 production. It is likely to be fully booked before it opens this time.

It is an absolute hoot of a play, suitable for children from about 8 years old too; but it is not a kids' show.

The prices are \$8.50 (adults), and \$5.50 (children, pensioners and bone fide students). These prices are below normal party rates and considerably cheaper than ordinary box-office prices.

Bookings must be made by Friday 29th May. Send a cheque/money order/etc and a stamped addressed envelope, stating clearly the number of seats required, and mentioning if concessions are required.

Tickets will be sent to you around the end of June. Pensioners requiring a lift to the theatre should note this while booking.

I will try (but no promises) to have some of the cast back for a glass of wine or cup of coffee after the show. If this eventuates, details will be sent with tickets.

I saw the original production three times, each time being better than the last. I'll be seeing it again on the 8th of July. Don't miss out.

John Hoddinott

PARKS

ROZELLE BAY: PARK OR MARINA?

Entrud Limited has submitted a proposal to the Maritime Services Board to develop the old Steetley Industries site as a marina. To our horror we learn that the M.S.B. is actually considering the proposal and has asked Council for comments.

Fortunately, Council views the proposal with the same dismay as we do. Clearly this site, bordered by Rozelle Bay, Johnston's Creek and Federal Road, should be given to the park-desired residents of Glebe as parkland. Yet each time we have argued that this site is not used for genuine port purposes and should become parkland, the M.S.B. has argued that it must be retained for "future port purposes". That the M.S.B. even considered the marina indicates that the land is no longer needed for "future port purposes".

The proposed marina, providing both "wet" and "dry" storage for boats, would add enormously to the discomfort of Glebe residents through increased noise and traffic, yet we would be providing residents of other suburbs with the parking facilities for their luxurious boats and their cars.

The proposal appears to be ill-conceived anyway. It does not appear to have taken account of

- the increased traffic flow on Glebe Point Road;
- parking for boat owners' cars (did they think, perhaps, that Jubilee Park would be made available?);
- the need to open Glebe Island Bridge more frequently to accommodate tall-masted yachts;
- the clash between small boats and commercial shipping on joining the main harbour.

The real issue though is that in Glebe we lack parks. The Steetley Industries site is not being/ never has been used for genuine port purposes. It should be turned into a simple park where people can walk and kids can play. We don't need a parking area for boats.

John Buckingham
Parks Convenor



BLACKWATTLE BAY: A CONTINUING SAGA

Those of you who were concerned enough about the dumping of soil waste from the adjacent development site onto Blackwattle Bay Park to write to Council (Bulletin 1/1981), are no doubt pleased with Council's response. Council organised an on-site meeting at Blackwattle Bay Park on Wednesday, 15th April. Included were aldermen, council officials, a representative of the developer, Parkes, local residents and members of the Glebe Society.

The Mayor, Ald. Evan Jones, opened the meeting, then handed it over to the Deputy Mayor, Ald. Nick O'Neill in his capacity as Chairman of the Trees and Open Space Committee. Ald O'Neill made it perfectly clear to the developer's representative that the amount of fill dumped by the developer is totally unacceptable to Council. Further, the plan the developer professes to be working to (but in fact, whose contours and levels he is far exceeding) is itself unacceptable to Council.

Council itself has engaged a landscape architect to look at the site and report on its present condition. The report stated in a general introduction: "... that excessive filling has been disposed of on site to the extent that future amenity of the proposed parkland will be diminished and a satisfactory landscape development will be made very difficult. Eventually this would also mean unwarranted expense and continuing maintenance problems for Council. We recommend that adjustment be made to the slopes and batters that have been formed and that superfluous fill material be removed from site".

A detailed report followed this general introduction and led to specific recommendations. The Glebe Society will co-operate with Council in ensuring the developer carries out these recommendations
John Buckingham
Parks Convenor

HAROLD PARK TRAFFIC

Stephen Rosenman, representing the Glebe Society, and Anne Pickett from the Annandale Association, were present at a meeting between the Secretary of Harold Park, Mr Bone, and Leichhardt Council's Traffic Committee on 19th March to discuss traffic from Harold Park meetings. The Traffic Committee then sent a recommendation to Council that the back gate to Harold Park (Maxwell Street) be closed for all meetings except Friday nights, for a trial period of three months. They recommended that a study be conducted before and after the trial period, to note changes in traffic in the area around Maxwell Street, as well as other areas affected by Harold Park traffic.

The meeting felt that a more effective solution would be for Harold Park's own parking facilities to be free, but the Harold Park representative claimed this was impossible because they could not afford to forgo the \$15,000 per year which is collected in parking fees.

The Traffic Committee's recommendations were accepted by Council at its meeting on April 7th, and Council will approach the Trotting Authority for its co-operation. Council has no legal authority to enforce these recommendations but its action should enable residents to put pressure on the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Booth, to act on the issue, although he has so far not made any substantial response to letters and petitions.

PLANNING

THE 1979 LEICHHARDT PLANNING SCHEME: R.I.P.

Just over two years ago, in April 1979, the Leichhardt Planning Scheme was gazetted as Interim Development Order (I.O.D.) 27 by the then Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Paul Landa. In other words, the Scheme's recommendations became, de jure, the new rules for development within the Municipality.

The Scheme was greeted by massive opposition from many groups and individuals. Almost everyone in Glebe was made aware of the Scheme, and the criticisms of it as seen by the Glebe Society, whose opposition was organised by our Planning Convenor, Alan Robertson; many Society members undertook the job of door knocking and petitioning to record public opposition.

The Local Government Act provides for the assessment of residents' objections. Mr James Colman, MRARI, FRAIA, was appointed in August 1980 as Commissioner to undertake the onerous task of receiving verbal submissions and of consolidating all written and verbal submissions. His report has just been submitted to the Leichhardt Municipal Council.

The Glebe Society has not had the opportunity to digest this 44-page report at present. We are considering the possibility of issuing a special Bulletin, to go to every dwelling in Glebe, with a summary of the Commissioner's findings.

Alan Robertson's comment, on seeing the report, was that it vindicates completely the Glebe Society's opposition to the L.P.S., and bears out the Society's recommendations for town planning in the inner city.

I have chosen a few sections of the report. The number in brackets is the report's reference paragraph. The report will be available at the Council Chambers. Exerpts follow:

"All in all, several hundred people appeared before me (1.2)". "A total of 4,316 objections are on file. The task of assessing such a large number of objections has indeed been a formidable one (1.4)". "I would stress my view that the value of many of the submissions goes far beyond that of mere 'objections' to a certified planning scheme. [The submissions contain] perceptive criticisms,

comments, suggestions, observations and draft policy proposals which in my view will [assist] in future planning efforts (1.8)".

"An analysis of the objections to the Certified Scheme reveals that by far the most contentious issue arising from that scheme is the matter of residential density policy (3.1)". "I have reached the view that... on-going development control should be based on retention of existing densities in all parts of the municipality. Such is my recommendation to the Council (3.15)". "I believe that far greater recognition and attention must be given in the future to the social and economic implications of urban conservation, especially when extensive areas of inner-city housing are involved (4.9)".

"My conclusion in regard to public open space and recreation areas in the Municipality of Leichhardt is that the exhibited Planning Scheme is not a suitable vehicle for on-going planning work. As a measure of existing facilities, it is both inaccurate and deceptive (6.7)". "My recommendation... is that... all currently recorded road widening, alignment, and other technical 'improvement' proposals should be accurately mapped and documented (7.12)".

"I believe that the history of planning in the Municipality of Leichhardt can also be regarded as a history of the 'public participation' movement in Sydney... the 1974 Planning Scheme stands out as a high point in so far as such mutual effort is concerned (10.3(d))".

"I would summarise my findings as follows: Higher residential densities... are not achievable in many parts of Leichhardt... (12.4(a)). The cost to the community of implementing the density proposals would include severe loss of residential amenity, additional strain on already deficient community facilities, largescale destruction of heritage values, and dislocation of many of the traditional social bonds and networks which operate within the municipality (12.4(b))".

"If there is a single, all embracing recommendation arising from the contents of this report, it would be that the 1979 exhibited Planning Scheme for the Municipality of Leichhardt must be replaced with a more sensitive, relevant and socially responsive set of plans and policies by which the future development of the municipality can be adequately guided (12.1)".

I understand that Council intend to use Mr Colman's report as a basis for future town planning decisions. A new Town Planner is about to join Leichhardt Council, and doubtless we will see another Planning Scheme, and if so, the Glebe Society will once again scrutinise it carefully. But wouldn't it be lovely if we could agree with it. Here's hoping.

John Hoddinott

HELP WANTED

We need a Bulletin distributor for a small area, Mansfield Street, and Boyce Street and Toxteth Road between Glebe Point Road and Bell Street. The run is about 400 metres, perhaps 30 minutes, ten times a year. Ring Doris Sharpe, 660-6636, if you can help.

In the next couple of weeks the Glebe Society intends to letterbox the whole suburb. We require many people each to cover a small area, (one block, one street) Please ring John Hoddinott at the weekend, 692-0071, if you could help. Pamphlets will be delivered, already folded.

"OPEN COUNCIL"

Leichhardt Council is testing out the idea of a Council news sheet, to be issued 8 or 9 times a year. We have received about 100 copies for distribution and hope to get more, sufficient for all our Glebe membership. (Sorry, postal members, we won't be able to send you a copy.)

The idea of such a publication appeals to us, and we recommend that you read it, in particular the message from the Mayor on page two.

As residents and/or ratepayers, you have the opportunity to participate in decision making; details of the Council committees appear on page four. All residents are welcome to attend and participate.

It is to be hoped that soon Council's news letter will be distributed widely over the Municipality. In the meantime, the Glebe Society is happy to help out on this trial run. I am sure that Council would be happy to receive your comments, by phone or letter.

John Hoddinott



Glebe Society Birthday Party

The Society's birthday party is usually held in July. Would anyone prepared to open their home for this event please contact:

Betty Wright 660-1875
Janette Knox 660-7781
or Doris Sharp 660-6636
Your offer will be gratefully received.

Management Committee

President	Tony Larkum	660-7030
Sen. Vice Pres.	Bill Nelson	660-0038
Jun. Vice Pres.	John Buckingham	660-7780
Secretary	John Hoddinott	692-0071
Treasurer	Mike Reynolds	692-0790
Bulletin Editor	Jan Macindoe	660-0208
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
Minute secretary	Betty Wright	660-1875

For your diary

Monday, 4th May, 10.50am

At the recent meeting of the Monday Group, held at Jean Ahlston's home, it was decided that the next gathering would be in the form of an outing to Chinatown. Meet at the Wigram Road bus stop on the 4th May at 10.50am. Enquiries: 660-3694

Saturday, 9th May, 7pm

George Borwick, MBE, (cricket umpire of the Bradman era) will be leaving 'Althea', 19 Alexander Rd, after 60 years residence. A send-off party will be held at the home of Tony and Hilary Larkum, 'Wymering', 17 Alexander Rd, on Saturday 9th May at 7pm. Anyone interested in attending please ring 660-7030.

Sunday, 10th May, 11am

Coffee and wine morning at the home of John and Dorothy Hoddinott, 30 Wigram Rd

Monday, 11th May, 6-7.30

Drinks at the Rowing Club. Come along and have a chat and drink with the Committee.

Friday, 29th May, 7.30pm

Under 35s barbeque at 120 Bridge Rd. Bring your own meat, and other food will be provided. Two dollars per head. Reservations essential. Phone Peter Vesta 660-1875 by Friday 22nd May.

Sunday 14th June, 11am

Coffee and wine morning at the home of Eve and Neville Holmes, 78 Forsyth St.

Sunday, 1st November

House and Garden Inspection.