



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

6/1981

## WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

### Open Space

The Glebe Society will soon submit a report to Council, as requested, giving its recommendations for parkland in Glebe. Historical research by Max Solling suggests that there was a time in the 1920s or 30s when the waterfront was a walkway from what is now Pope John XXIII Park, as far as Annandale.

### Glebe High School/ TAFE School of Marine Studies

The Secretary referred to our letter to Mr Landa, objecting to the planned use of the Glebe High School site by TAFE since the site will be too small for the number of students, even without the TAFE school. Landa's reply indicates that the use of the site by TAFE will proceed, nevertheless.

### Power Stations

The Committee felt that Glebe Society members should be encouraged to protest to the State Pollution Control Board on days when the pollution from White Bay and Pyrmont power stations was exceptionally high. The number to ring is:

2 0661  
267 5152 (after 5pm)

For progress on Blackwattle Bay Park and the Glebe Estate, see elsewhere in this Bulletin.

## AGM GUEST SPEAKER

It is with great pleasure that we will welcome Mr Harry Seidler to speak at the AGM on 12th August. The provisional title of his talk is "The Urban Dilemma", to be illustrated with slides. Mr Seidler is probably Australia's best known architect, and our invitation to him arose from a stimulating newspaper article in early 1981 in which he spoke critically of the post-war planning schemes for urban Sydney.

I am sure that his talk will be of great interest to Glebe Society members and I feel that we are fortunate to have his views. So roll up and make it a good meeting. Incidentally, the AGM will be followed, as usual, by light refreshments.

John Hoddinott

## BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

A third set of landscaping plans, dated June, 1981, has been developed for Parkes Development in accordance with Leichhardt Council's instructions (see Bulletin No 4/1981). The Glebe Society, through its sub-committee convened by Bob Armstrong, has had the opportunity to view and to comment upon this proposal.

At the time of writing (14th July, 1981) a fourth landscaping proposal is nearing completion. Bob and I have viewed the part-finished plans and, while we must reserve judgement until Bob's committee sees the final plans, we are pleased to note that the sub-committee's suggestions are receiving due consideration in the form of lower mounds, increased flat areas, limited access from the units, increased access from Cook Street... Beyond this, we can't comment until we see the completed plans.

Pleasing to us is the ready acceptance by Parkes that it must remove all the excess fill. The suggestion by Parkes' representative, Steve Sampson, that he intends to have the park completed by 31st October, 1981 (by the end of the year at the very latest) delighted and stunned us. We remain a little sceptical.

The house, generally known as "Venetia", remains a problem. Parkes accepts no responsibility for it, and Council won't consider spending money on it unless local residents put up a viable proposal for its use. We would like to see at least a "holding operation" at this stage to prevent further decay. Given time, Hilary Hewitt's excellent 1979 study of Blackwattle Bay Park and Venetia could receive wider circulation and stimulate the response Council is looking for.

John Buckingham

## THE GLEBE PROJECT

We have decided that "The Glebe Project" is perhaps a better name. There are five Estates in Glebe, and two became the Project Area. The Glebe Society has received some copies of a recent publication, Glebe Project, published by the Commonwealth Government's Department of Housing and Construction. Priced at \$7.60 this book should be on your bookshelf (we hope to have it available at the AGM and House Inspection). It is nicely produced with before and after photos of restoration, a history of Glebe, its people and the Project, arguments for historic preservation and rehabilitation, etc.

John Hoddinott

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has been an active one for the Glebe Society. Satisfactory progress has been made in a number of directions but it is a sign of the times that no sooner is one problem resolved than another springs up to take its place. This year we have seen a new progressive local Council installed, a start on the permanent buildings for Glebe High School and two very successful train rides, together with the publication of the monograph on the "Light Rail" proposal. On the negative side we have seen a number of high density developments started or approved, including the previously designated parkland of the Edwards and Pabco sites, the beginning of the grandstand in Wentworth Park, despoliation of the site for the future Blackwattle Bay Park, and the shock decision of the Federal Government to sell the Glebe Estate.

Much credit for the smooth running of the Glebe Society goes to John Hoddinott, our Secretary. The other members of the management committee have also worked hard. Once again we have been dependent on a number of stalwarts, some new, some old friends, to organise the Bulletin (Merle Larcombe and Jan Macindoe, who has recently taken over as editor), bulletin distribution (Doris Sharpe), coffee mornings (Nan Waterford), town planning (Alan Robertson and Eric Sandblom), social events (Betty Wright and Jeannette Knox), History Group (Max Solling) and parks (John Buckingham and Bill Nelson).

### Protests on parklands

The year began with two successful protest meetings on alienation of parkland in the Leichhardt Municipality. Leichhardt is of course not alone in this deplorable trend. Parramatta Park has become a central issue in the fight against alienation. Recently a meeting of interested groups from throughout New South Wales met at the National Trust Headquarters and formed a body to coordinate the protection of open space and parkland.

### New Council

The next event was the most signal change of the year: the return of a progressive Labour Council in September. The new council has removed the barrier at Council meetings, opened up its committees to the public and is now into the third issue of a broadsheet called "Open Council" which summarises the aims of the present council. A most difficult task faced by the new council was the Leichhardt Planning Scheme which is currently the legally-binding planning document for the Municipality, as IDO 27, despite the fact that it has not been through the proper statutory procedures, has provoked a record number of written objections and has been roundly condemned by Neville Coleman, who was appointed by the previous council to assess the objections. The problems that have arisen over the introduction of new planning and environment legislation in 1979 has been discussed in issue No.5 of the Bulletin.

### Light Rail proposal

In October the Glebe Society published its Occasional Monograph No.3, entitled "Better Public Transport in Sydney's Inner Western and South-Eastern Suburbs" by Dr John Gerofi. Over 200 copies of the monograph were sent to public bodies, councils members of Parliament and the media and aroused widespread interest. The first printing (500 copies) was soon sold out and a further printing was made (250 copies). In addition, to highlight the proposal a second "Great Train Ride" was held on 1st November.

John Hoddinott did a great deal of the work of publicising the Monograph and organising the train rides. However it became clear in 1980 that this one aspect was absorbing too much energy of the Management Committee and as a result "The Light Rail Group" was organised with representatives on it of the Glebe Society (Diana Sharpe, Kemp Fowler, John Buckingham and John Gerofi) and a donation of \$500 from the Society. This Committee has been very active in promoting seminars and exhibitions to promote the concept of Light Rail Transport.

### Parks and Open Space

Parks and Open Space continued to be an active issue throughout the year. Alan Robertson presented his plans for Johnson Creek in November. This proposal would open up a walkway near to the Johnson's Creek Canal from the Parramatta Road down to the water's edge at Rozelle Bay. Furthermore, very little expenditure in the purchase of land would be involved. At Blackwattle Bay Park (around "Venetia") we were at first puzzled and then angered to see a fence go up and then building fill, several metres thick in places, placed on the park site (obliterating the Glebe Society's earlier work at revegetating the area with trees and shrubs). After much activity, including a Council site inspection and moves by a local residents' committee led by Bob Armstrong, a plan has finally been presented which seems acceptable (see article in this Bulletin).

Finally on parks, it should be noted with great satisfaction that the longstanding effort to obtain a waterfront park on Rozelle Bay have gained a great boost in the last month. Council's landscape architect has drawn up detailed plans of a park along Federal Road (Glebe Jubilee Park) which would be inaugurated as part of the Bicentennial Celebrations. Bill Nelson and John Buckingham, who have been taking a special interest in parks and open space for the Glebe Society, are taking an active part in these development plans, and we hope soon to be able to put them on display for comment by members of the Society.

### The Glebe Estate

The Glebe Estate erupted as a contentious issue in May this year as the Federal Government on the recommendation of the "Razor Gang" announced that it would sell the Estate. The Glebe Society has been very opposed to this course of action, not only for the dislocation and human misery it would cause but also because we regard the Glebe Estate as a unique part of Australia's architectural and cultural heritage, which would be threatened if the land and property involved were to fall into private hands. At the moment it seems that the Federal Government is holding firm to its intentions but is willing to conduct a land exchange with the State Government for the Estate, which possibly would then be given to the State Housing Commission. The Glebe Society will be maintaining a close watch on developments to guard against any moves that would disadvantage either the residents or the architectural character of the area.

This year John Hoddinott will be stepping down from the Management Committee after four years' very active service, first as Treasurer and then as Secretary. He deserves a rest and grateful thanks from each and every one of us. "Hoddi" is in no small way responsible for the present healthy state and good-standing of the Glebe Society.

A.W.D. Larkum

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1981

### INCOME

Subscriptions - Household	\$862.40
Individual	528.00
Pensioner	22.00
Student	4.00
Postage	64.50
	<u>\$1480.90</u>
Bank Interest	8.37
Building Society Interest	289.58
Miscellaneous Income (donations etc)	86.15
Community Action Groups	224.50
Income before functions	<u>\$2089.50</u>
Train Rides	4323.40
Monograph sales	1156.60
Theatre Evening	1832.00
Christmas Party	277.50
Birthday Party	223.11
Book and Card Sales	248.60
Council (Sydney) for Tram Promotion	300.00
Total Income	<u>\$10450.71</u>
Less Expenditure	<u>9421.01</u>
Credit for the year	<u>\$1029.70</u> CR
added to accumulated funds	

### EXPENDITURE

Bulletin Costs	\$408.41
Postage	140.72
Stationery	68.67
1980 A.G.M.	27.00
General Society Expenses	108.10
Subscriptions	21.40
Community Action Groups	440.28
Expenditure before functions	<u>\$1214.58</u>
Train Rides	3860.07
Monograph costs	1564.00
Theatre Evening	1820.00
Christmas Party	293.63
Birthday Party	242.00
Books and Cards	413.00
Expenditure of Council Grant	13.73

Total Expenditure \$9421.01

Accumulated funds at 1st July 1980 3034.58  
Add: Credit for year 1029.70  
4064.28

Represented by: NSW Permanent Building Society  
Account  
CBC Savings Bank Cheque Account

3073.55  
990.73  
4064.28

*Michael Reynolds*

Michael Reynolds  
(Hon. Treasurer)

In my opinion, the above statement of Income and Expenditure is in accordance with the books of account and reflect the transactions of the Glebe Society during the year ended 30th June 1981 in a true and fair manner.

*R.E. McKeown*  
(Hon. Auditor)

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED PROJECT AT GLEBE HIGH SCHOOL

Glebe High School has an I.Y.D.P. committee of fifty students whose aim is to "break down the barriers" between disabled and non-disabled people.

Recently Glebe students hosted a return barbecue-disco night for the students at Fred Birks school for physically disabled. Access to the demountables was a great problem until a portable ramp was eventually loaned to the school by Northcott school for crippled children.

Now students and staff are fighting for access in the new school, which is 3 storey, split level, with stairs everywhere. The regulation Ordinance 70 stipulates that all future building be accessible, but this does not apply to any public building.

We are fighting for access so that disabled kids in the community can go to their own local school rather than be isolated and segregated in special schools.

We want all members of the local community to be able use our school. The G.H.S. is the community's school. If you are interested in having an accessible building for all contact Ms T. Fletcher, Glebe High School, and write to

Mr Landa, Minister of Education  
Mr Hills, Local Member  
Mr Swan, Director General of Education, Bridge St.  
Mr Mulholland, Director, Central Metropolitan Region, 70 William St, Kings Cross

Terry Fletcher



THE GLEBE SOCIETY and ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE

present

A SPECIAL FAMILY CONCERT

right here in Glebe !

ON FRIDAY, JULY 31 - AT 7.30 P.M.

At the Music Room, St scholastica's College, 2 The Avenue, Glebe.

JACK GLATZER  
Virtuoso Violinist

JACK GLATZER is American-born, lives in Portugal, and spends six months of the year touring the world with his violin.

He specializes in brilliant works for unaccompanied violin, that display dazzling technique and wonderful musical effects: Bach, Locatelli, Paganine, Bartok.

Last year Jack Glatzer thrilled Sydney audiences and critics with his performance of Paganini's Violin Concerto No.1 at the Sydney Opera House, and several solo recitals. ("absolutely all of it was quite incredibly breathtaking"... "a celebration of violin virtuosity" - Sydney Morning Herald 28/4/80)

Tickets at Door: \$2.50

Students/Concessions: \$1

Family Ticket: \$6

Supper will be provided

Enquiries - 660 0847, 692 0071, 660 2395

Management Committee

President	Tony Larkum	660-7030
Senior Vice Pres.	Bill Nelson	660-0038
Junior Vice Pres.	John Buckingham	660-7780
Secretart	John Hoddinott	692-0071
Treasurer	Mike Reynolds	660-0790
Bulletin Editor	Jan Macindoe	660-0208
Committee	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
	Kemp Fowler	660-5258
	Merle Larcombe	660-0491

New members' representative	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Bulletin distribution	Doris Sharpe	660-6636
Minute secretary	Betty Wright	660-1875

## For your diary

Friday, 31st July, 7.30pm

Jack Glatzer, Virtuoso Violinist, gives a concert at the Music Room, St Scholastica's College, 2 The Avenue, Glebe. (See notice this page)

Sunday, 9th August, 11-1

Coffee morning at the home of Ted and Alison McKeown, 48 Boyce St, Glebe.

Coffee mornings are a good opportunity to meet other members. New members are especially welcome. An optional donation of 50¢ to cover costs is appreciated.

Monday, 10th August, 2.30 pm

Please note that in August the Monday Group will be meeting on the second Monday of the month, at the home of Mrs Sally Nelson, 21 Alexandra Rd, at 2.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday, 12th August, 7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Glebe Society will be held at Glebe Town Hall. Mr Harry Seidler will be guest speaker.

Monday, 17th August, 6-7.30pm

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

Sunday, 1st November

House and Garden Inspection.

SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT!

We would like to start a "Letters to the Editor" section in the Bulletin. If you would like to comment on any matters relevant to the Glebe Society please send a letter.

The Management Committee in particular would find this a useful means of learning members' reactions to issues which the committee considers, and of gaining suggestions about matters you think we should be acting on.

Send your letters to:  
The Editor,  
Glebe Society Bulletin,  
56 Wigram Rd,  
Glebe 2037

HELP WANTED

We need a distributor for a small number of Bulletins (7 or 8) in Cook and Leichhardt Streets. If you can help, please ring Doris Sharpe, 660-6636

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members have been most helpful in renewing their subscriptions promptly. However, if you have not sent your subscription yet, please do so now.

The rates are:

Ordinary member - \$3      Student member - 50¢  
Household member - \$4.50      Pensioner member - 50¢

Send to: The Glebe Society  
P.O. Box 100  
Glebe, 2037