



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

8/1981

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

Pedestrian Crossing at Glebe High School

At the AGM a member of the Society who is also a member of Glebe High P&C Association requested the assistance of the Society in having a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights established outside the school. The Committee decided to approach Council and the Council Engineer to discover what the plans are for traffic in the area, and to express our concern that a crossing be established as quickly as possible.

Light Rail Seminar

Diana Sharpe reported on the Light Rail Seminar (see Bulletin No 7). The Light Rail Group plans to publish the papers given at the Seminar (cost expected to be about \$15). A short report will also be made available as a monograph.

The Group intends to approach the State government, requesting that a feasibility study be undertaken on the Light Rail proposals.

The Light Rail Group, which has been sponsored by the Glebe Society until now, is to be self-supporting in future.

RESPONSE FROM MINISTER ON LIGHT RAIL

The Society has received a letter from the Minister for Transport, Peter Cox, in response to the light rail proposal. The letter includes the following comments:

The Government is conscious of the need to constantly appraise new transport technology and be aware of trends and developments here and overseas. Officers from my Ministry attended the Light Rail Group seminar on August 16th and found it interesting and informative. I am advised that several speakers make the point that light rail is one of a number of options that need to be considered when planning public transport systems. You may be assured that my Government will not preclude light rail when any plans to augment the transport network are under investigation.

If You Want Heaps of Fun



COME TO THE GLEBE SOCIETY
HOUSE AND GARDEN INSPECTION!

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Adults: \$3.00
Children and Concessions: \$1.50
Family ticket: \$7.00

Send for your ticket now and avoid queues on the day. With your ticket you will be sent a programme, listing the houses open for inspection. When ordering your ticket be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Post your order, with money and self-addressed envelope to:

The Glebe Society,
Box 100,
Glebe. 2037

We also need people to look after the houses which are open for inspection. And your valuable assistance in this will be rewarded with a free ticket!

If you can help for a couple of hours, please ring:

Alan Robertson 660 6149
or John Hoddinott 692 0071

Your scheme for a specific light rail network is a complex one and requires detailed analysis. The issue has been further complicated by similar proposals to service the Sydney Entertainment Centre and by doubt surrounding the future of the Darling Harbour Goods Yard. When evaluations by the Transport Authorities have been completed and plans for the Haymarket area have been released, I will contact you again.

LYNDHURST AREA HOUSING STUDY

The Lyndhurst Area Housing Study is a report prepared for the Department of Main Roads by Perumal, Wrathall and Murphy, Environmental Planners, and Perumal, Neill, Barbara and Partners, Architects. It is an investigation of rehabilitation and redevelopment options for the land owned by the DMR around Lyndhurst in Glebe. The land was originally acquired for the building of a freeway, plans for which have now been abandoned.

The area involved is bounded by Wentworth Park Road, Lyndhurst Street, Bridge Road and Cardigan Street. It is mainly residential, with a Residential 2(b4) zoning, and includes about 48 privately-owned terrace houses, Lyndhurst, some commercial buildings and 43 vacant sites. Only 5 of the DMR-owned houses are let; the rest are occupied by squatters. The area shows the usual literally devastating effect of the DMR's policies. However, as they are now apparently trying to repair the damage they have caused this is not the time for recriminations.

The study considers various possibilities for the rehabilitation of the area. Total redevelopment was not considered as a possibility because existing built densities are already high and increases would necessitate high-rise development. This was rejected as not only undesirable from an environmental and social viewpoint but as unsound economically.

The major redevelopment options considered by the planners were:

- a public housing scheme
- sale of all properties for private redevelopment
- combined public/private redevelopment

The study recommends a joint public/private redevelopment scheme, more for social than economic reasons.

The study includes detailed reports on the existing property and its condition, illustrations, plans and detailed costings which are impossible to summarise or reproduce here. A conceptual site plan showing a potential rehabilitation scheme is one of the most interesting features of the study. This plan shows renovations of existing houses, some infill development, a considerable amount of new medium-to-high density housing development and a green belt connecting the Broughton Street Kindergarten to Darghan Street opposite Lyndhurst. The green belt involves the closure of parts of Darling Street, Cardigan Street (The cobbled part already closed) and Darling Lane. The plan also allows for a considerable open space around Lyndhurst involving the closure of Darghan Lane in the middle and the narrowing of Darghan Street in front of Lyndhurst.

On this plan, the vacant site on top of the cutting in Darling Street is designated for housing development, which may disappoint some people who would like to see it reserved for open space. However, being realistic it is obvious that the DMR is bound to weigh up economic considerations when deciding how much open space is to be provided. If as large an area of open space as possible is to be left surrounding Lyndhurst (essential if the house is to be seen to any advantage) then open space must be sacrificed somewhere else. In any case it must be emphasised that this plan is only a suggestion or possibility.

The conservation of Lyndhurst has been undertaken by the Heritage Council of NSW and it is to be progressively restored. However, so far no particular suggestion has been made (at least, not publicly) as to the use to which the building may be put. The planners have taken the restoration of Lyndhurst into account by allowing for open space around it to set it off. Without knowing what the building is to be used for, however, they could hardly do more. One consequence of this is that no provision has been made for parking, a question which concerned many local residents at a preliminary consultative meeting last year.

It is impossible to summarise the Study in a brief account here. A copy is held by the President, Maureen Colman, and is available for consultation by any interested resident. Please telephone Maureen on 660-2302 if you are interested.

The Society will be discussing and commenting on the Study in due course. Nothing has been done or even decided yet by the DMR so now is your chance to make your views known. Don't let the opportunity pass!

Maureen Colman

SUMMARY OF TOWN PLANNING REPORT PRESENTED TO THE 1981 A.G.M. BY ALAN ROBERTSON

Over-all, Alan felt that we could look forward to a brighter future in the Town Planning field than seemed possible in the gloomy report of 1980.

Edwards and Pabco Sites

The worst news of the year was the loss of the A.W. Edwards and Pabco sites in Minogue Cres and Wigram Road. These sites were once designated open space, but due to re-zoning the land would now cost approximately \$3.8 million to buy back as parkland, and the Council, with the agreement of the Society, felt that the money would be better spent on purchasing land elsewhere.

But even here certain achievements have been possible. The developers plans for home units have been modified, and the number of units reduced from 102 to 86 on the A.W. Edwards site, and from 53 to 46 on the Pabco site.

New Council

The most important event of the year in regard to Town Planning was certainly the selection of a new Leichhardt Council. The Council's original impulse to oppose all development applications has had to be modified in view of the considerable cost, and the Council is now tending to reach a compromise with developers on cases which they could not hope to win before the Tribunal.

The Council's system of sub-committees, open to all residents, was beginning to show results (although not always working smoothly), and members were urged to attend, even if they have not done so before. (Details can be obtained from any copy of Open Council or by ringing Council Offices)

In an effort to get a new town plan in effect as quickly as possible, new lowered residential densities had been decided on and submitted to the Department of Environment and Planning.

University Hall

The Interim Conservation Order on University Hall (corner of Parramatta Road and Glebe Point Road) has been changed to a Permanent Conservation Order. The developers proposals include the restoration of the facade (including three levels of verandahs) and the new building behind to be no higher than University Hall itself. Approval and commencement of work is expected within 12 months.

Glebe High School/TAFE

The High School is now expected to cater for 800 students by 1985, on a site suitable for only 600 students. It is this problem of over-crowding which has made the Society concerned about TAFE's latest plan to erect on the same site a building 3-4 storeys and costing \$6 million.

Bird and Lucas

The owners of the Bird and Lucas Foundry have asked Council to re-zone the site for residential purposes. Council asked for a levy of \$5,000 for each of 18 units. The developers rejected this, although the simple re-zoning on the site would produce profits much in excess of this. The situation is still under negotiation.

Wentworth Park

The approval granted to Wentworth Park to erect a huge grandstand is a sad loss, and will entail the alienation of land now used as playing fields.

Rothwell Lodge

A strange anomaly has been revealed in regard to Rothwell Lodge, the large and historically important house in Ferry Rd. The site has been designated "for community purposes" on Town Plans since 1969, but is in fact privately owned. This matter needs to be rectified and the future of the building watched.

HISTORY

In this edition we give the last of Max Solling's notes to help you trace the history of your family or your house. Previous notes have been included in Bulletin's 2 and 4 for this year.

Directories: Directories, gazetteers and almanacs are a rich source of information for the researcher. An assortment of directories were published by different people in NSW, between 1832 and 1858 - Raymond, Tegg, Low, Wells, Ford and Waugh, supplying a mass of specific data about population, places, communications, officials, trades, landholdings, charges and transport facilities. The series of directories issued by John Sands almost every year from 1858 to 1932 are an absolute mine of information for Glebe and the other early residential districts that ringed Sydney and, if followed from one issue to the next, provide a detailed picture of general growth, new streets and constructions, residents' names and changes of occupation. Prior to 1880 a defect of relying too heavily on Sands' Directories is the partial nature of their coverage, for they contain only a small proportion of the total suburban population and that proportion always appears to be the upper and middle income groups. Later issues, however, give a fuller coverage of the population and are more comprehensive. The new format that Sands adopted of arranging suburban streets alphabetically (as well as listing names and occupations of those occupying homes fronting the streets) makes it easier to trace the change in occupants of a particular dwelling. The alphabetical listing of Sydney and suburban residents in a separate part of the directories is also a valuable source for tracking those who leapfrogged from one suburb to another. Directories when used in conjunction with title references, rate books and subdivision plans provides the sort of evidence so necessary if one is to determine the date of construction of a building with some degree of accuracy. Sands' Directories can be found on the shelves in the Public Library of NSW, and details of the various directories can be found in J.A. Ferguson, *Bibliography of Australia* (Sydney 1941-1969) a monumental work of seven volumes covering the years from 1784 to 1900.

In investigating the history of people and places, the value of a mass of raw historical data, collected by governmental and municipal bodies over a long period, soon becomes apparent. This factual information is the product of a bureaucratic system and the researcher must understand something of the structure of the particular public office, its purpose and function if he is to get some idea of the type of information that will be useful in his research. Papers delivered by those thoroughly conversant with the inner machinations of various governmental bodies at the Conferences with the Affiliated Societies of the Royal Australian Historical Society, held annually, give the researcher in the field of local history an insight into the type of source materials he can unearth. Published proceedings of these conferences can be obtained at 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Management Committee

President	Maureen Colman	660-2302
Senior Vice Pres.	Bob Armstrong	660-4189
Junior Vice Pres.	Doris Sharpe	660-6636
Secretary	John Buckingham	660-7780
Treasurer	Gideon Rutherford	692-0239
Committee	Bill Nelson	660-0038
	Neville Holmes	692-0247
	Betty Wright	660-1875
	Diana Sharpe	660-4392
New members' rep.	Michael Hough	660-7232
Bulletin editor	Jan Macindoe	660-0208
Bulletin distribution	Doris Sharpe	660-6636

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters on any topic of interest to Glebe Society members should be sent to:

The Editor,
Glebe Society Bulletin,
56 Wigram Rd,
GLEBE 2037

For any interested stamp collectors

"The City and Western Suburbs Philatelic Society" meets every second Tuesday at the Glebe Police Boys Club, Minogue Crescent, Glebe - 7pm to 9pm. All are welcome. Membership costs \$1 per year. Trading is in used stamps on the basis of one third of catalogue value.

P. McKiernan

HELP WANTED

Firstly, many thanks to those who offered to distribute the Bulletin in Ross and Charles Streets.

However, we still need a volunteer to take over the job of organising Bulletin distribution from Doris Sharpe. Doris will be most happy to help the new recruit and can be contacted on 279271, 9am - 5pm.

Glebe Society members have been saddened to hear of the death of Jean Ahlston. Members of the Monday Group especially will miss her cheerful presence. We all extend our sympathy to her husband, Theo.

For your diary

Sunday, 4th October, 2.30pm

Wine bottling at the home of Hilary and Tony Larkum, 17 Alexandra Rd. For enquiries ring Tony on 660-7030.

Saturday and Sunday, 10th & 11th October.

The Friends of St Thomas's, North Sydney, extend an invitation to Glebe Society members to visit St Thomas's for the Annual Festival of Flowers.

Sunday, 11th October, 11am-1pm

Coffee morning at the home of Maureen Colman, 47 Darghan Street. An opportunity for members to meet the new president.

Tuesday, 13th October, 7.45pm

Local history talk at Glebe High School library. Craig Burton, lecturer in Landscape Architecture at University of N.S.W., talking on "People, Builders & Architects: Architectural Styles in Glebe, 1830-1914."

Monday 19th October, 11am

Monday group to visit the Botanic Gardens to enjoy the Spring blossoms. Meet at the Wigram Road bus stop, 11am. Anyone interested should ring Vi Hicks on 660-3694.

Tuesday, 20th October, 7.45pm

Local history talk at Glebe High School library. John Fletcher, Senior Lecturer in Germanic Studies at University of Sydney, talking on "Bookmen and Poets in Glebe".

Saturday, 24th October

A Community Festival at Quarry Street, Ultimo, organised by a number of inner-city community groups. There will be special attention to children's activities during the day, and in the evening a bush dance at the Sid Fegan Centre.

Sunday, 25th October

Spring Walk at Ball's Head Reserve. Everyone is invited! There will be walks for the energetic, or you can just come along for the picnic. Get in touch with Jeanette Knox for details. 660-7781

Monday, 26th October, 6-7.30pm

Members of the new committee will be at the Rowing Club, Ferry Road, for drinks. Come along and have a chat. New faces always welcome.

Tuesday, 27th October, 7.45pm

Local history talk at Glebe High School library. Max Solling, well-known local historian, talking on "Working Class Culture in Glebe 1860-1914".

Sunday, 1st November

House and Garden Inspection. See front page for details.