



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

6/1982

AUGUST

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year that has just finished has been a satisfactory if not outstanding one in the history of the Glebe Society.

The main achievement has been the establishment of the Blackwattle Bay Park after years of negotiations with Parkes Developments and a great deal of quiet and sustained effort by various people. Notably Bob Armstrong. If you have not been down to the new park, go and see what can be achieved with determination and persistence.

The working of the Society never stops, and the big task for the years ahead, which is only just beginning now, is the establishment of a Bicentennial Park. I urge you all to support the Society in this effort in the years to come.

Other matters which have occupied the Committee during the year and which are likely to be of continuing interest are the future of the Glebe Estate, the presence or absence of a TAFE institute on the Glebe High School site, pollution from power stations, a second Harbour crossing, the rehabilitation of the Lyndhurst area, possible extensions to Sydey airport and the continuing problems of traffic and lack of open spaces. Above all, the question of a new Leichhardt town plan with reduced residential densities is still hanging in the air, and the Council needs the support of everyone on this.

Last November we held our biennial Houses of The Glebe Open Day, which was a great success. I would like to thank Alan Robertson and John Hoddinott for organising it and the houseowners for generously opening their houses.

Other activities have included the Christmas and Birthday parties, wine bottling and wine tasting, a ferry trip and our usual coffee and wine mornings. Thanks to Betty Wright, Doris Sharpe, Jeanette Knox and Tony Larkum for these. The Monday

group is also flourishing and meets regularly for a variety of activities. All these activities are not merely enjoyable in themselves but absolutely vital to the health and vigour of the Society. They serve to knit the members together and to attract new people.

Extremely important in the task of keeping members informed and developing the "esprit de corps" is the monthly Bulletin. We are all very grateful to Jan Macindoe for her continuing invaluable work in writing and editing, to Helen Deller for the typesetting, and to Doris Sharpe, Neil Macindoe and their numerous helpers for the distribution.

I may say that I took on the job of President rather reluctantly but I have had tremendous support from the other members of the Committee, in particular the Secretary, John Buckingham. The Secretary is the person on whom the bulk of the work falls, and John has been most hard-working, co-operative and helpful — and cheerful into the bargain.

The Glebe Society is a flourishing institution thanks to all its enthusiastic helpers, and I feel sure it will go from strength to strength in the years ahead.

Maureen Colman  
President



## AGM AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Don't forget the A.G.M. on Wednesday 11th August. The President's report is printed here, and the Treasurer's report will be available on the night.

And if you haven't yet sent in your subscription, now is the time to do it.

## WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID

### BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK:

The Council has accepted (at considerable expense to itself, it must be acknowledged) the Glebe Society's suggestions for park furniture, and the use of sandstone in the cutting in the centre of the Park. The furniture will be installed in time for the opening, which will be in about three months.

### POLLUTION:

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the reply to our letter on pollution from power stations. Both letters are published in this Bulletin.

### TOWN PLANNING:

Tony Larkum reported on a meeting he and Alan Robertson attended, which had been called by Council to bring together representatives of all the industries which occupy waterfront land in Glebe. The meeting put the industries concerned on the defensive over their use of the land, as Council's position was that such sites should be occupied only by industries genuinely requiring water frontage for the purpose of their business. The Council hopes to achieve at least a footpath along the waterfront.



## PUBLIC PROTEST OVER TOWN PLAN

More than 200 people crowded the cold and draughty Leichhardt Town Hall to protest Directive 117 which threatens Council's new Town Plan. As stated in the last Bulletin this directive prohibits any reduction in planning densities. In effect this would allow the present indiscriminate and unsympathetic flat-development which we have all seen going on around us. A motion was passed by the meeting roundly condemning the actions of the Minister of Environment and Planning and calling on the Department of Environment and Planning to allow Council's plan to go on public display immediately.

Tony Larkum

## MINISTER REPLIES ON POLLUTION

In March this year the Secretary of the Glebe Society, John Buckingham, wrote to the Minister for Health, Mr Laurie Brereton, on the issue of pollution in Glebe resulting from the use of White Bay and Pyrmont Power Stations. His letter is printed below.

The Minister has replied, and his letter is also included in this Bulletin. It will be noted that he assures us that: *"the operation of these power stations may not pose a significant health hazard in the short or medium term"*.

If you feel that "may not" is not sufficiently reassuring, write to the Minister giving your opinion!

*Mr Laurie Brereton,  
Minister for Health,  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street,  
Sydney*

*23 March 1982*

*Dear Sir,*

*The consistent use of White Bay and Pyrmont Power Stations has increased significantly the observable levels of pollution in Glebe. This obvious "fall out" gives us considerable concern, but no more so than the generally held belief that even more dangerous substances are exhausted from the Stations undetected by the general population.*

*Telephone conversations with officers in the State Pollution Control Commission indicate that absolutely no monitoring is carried out in Glebe to determine what substances from the chimneys are falling on Glebe. Further there are no studies underway to monitor the health patterns of the population of Glebe now that it is being subjected to increased pollution.*

*We urge you through your Department to:*

*\* immediately establish monitoring stations in Glebe so that scientific analysis can be made of the "fall out" from the Stations at present being deposited on Glebe;*

*\* initiate a study in Glebe to determine the medium term effects the pollution is having on the population of Glebe.*

*John Buckingham  
Secretary*



C.13443

Min. 82/1789

Sydney

17 JUN 1982

Mr. J. Buckingham,  
Secretary,  
The Glebe Society,  
Box 100, P.O.  
GLEBE. 2037.

Dear Mr. Buckingham,

I refer to your letter of 23 March 1982 in which you have requested that the Health Commission of New South Wales undertake to establish monitoring stations for "fall outs" from White Bay and Pyrmont Power Stations and also initiate study on the effect of such pollutants on the health of the population of Glebe.

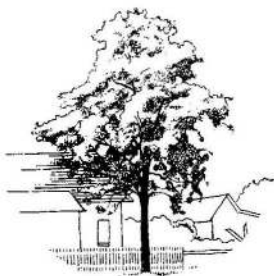
The establishment and monitoring of pollution levels from the fossil fuel fired power stations are the responsibility of the Electricity Commission and the State Pollution Control Commission and I suggest you take up this matter with these two authorities. However, officers of my Department have discussed the matter with the Electricity Commission and have provided me with the following information.

Installation of fabric filters is underway in White Bay and two boilers currently in operation are fitted with such filters. Two other boilers are out of commission now as they are being fitted with the filters. Unfortunately, installation of fabric filters cannot be undertaken at Pyrmont before the end of this winter. The continued use of coal with low ash and sulphur content in both these power stations has the effect of reducing the level of pollution. Monitoring by the Electricity Commission, both at the ground level and higher up, around the vicinities of the power stations has demonstrated that the contribution to pollution due to the operation of these stations is much less than those generated by motor vehicles, industries and domestic operations.

As for initiating studies on the health of the population of Glebe, you may realise that the cause of ill health is multi-factorial. To study the effect of a single factor such as pollution on human health, the effects of such other factors as housing standards and sanitation, nature of work, nutrition, genetic and ethnic influences, social habits and lifestyles, drug and alcohol intake, etc. has to be considered and eliminated. It is not possible at present for the Health Commission to commit additional financial and manpower resources to a long-term study of this nature which still may not provide clear cut data to draw any worthwhile conclusions. We have, however, taken note of various studies done in other countries and of the data collected by the World Health Organization and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. From these data we can draw some conclusions that the level of pollution from the operation of these power stations may not pose a significant health hazard in the short or medium term.

Yours sincerely,

(L. J. Brereton.)



## 1982 – YEAR OF THE TREE

Leichhardt Council, through notices to ratepayers and newspaper advertisements, is encouraging tree planting and proper care of street trees in the municipality. We have been told that requests for tree-planting by the Council have increased by 50%.

The Council has a set of guidelines for the planting of street-trees. These include a footpath of sufficient width and plantings at specified intervals, and appropriate selection of natives and exotics, smaller trees for areas with overhead wires, and of course the consent of the inhabitants. By comparison with other areas in the municipality, Glebe has not had much planting of street-trees in recent years. There are probably still many streets where planting could be initiated or increased. Interested folk should contact Leichhardt's Municipal Engineer.

The purpose of the Year of the Tree is to increase awareness of the importance of our environment. Trees are essential to control erosion, for weather protection, to maintain and increase soil fertility, to produce oxygen and increase rainfall, to provide timber and fuel, to provide a sheltered, restful and varied landscape, and preserve all forms of bird and animal life. Many of these functions are as important, or more important, in the city as in the country. Forests are being depleted at a tremendous rate, and there is a need to increase pressure to renew and preserve this vital resource. The Year of the Tree began on June 5th, UNO World Environment Day.

In our own area trees and large shrubs are especially valuable for providing beauty, bird life, shade, privacy, and protection from wind. Yards can be kept cool in summer with a spreading deciduous tree, and the western side of a house protected by a tall evergreen. The formal, ornate streetscape of Glebe benefits from shapely trees and modest but decorative gardens.

Native birds were once more common in Glebe as a recent article in the SMH on sightings at Sydney University pointed out. Plantings of native trees such as those at Blackwattle Bay Park should assist in attracting greater numbers and more species. Residents can share the benefits of any increase by planting bird-attracting trees or shrubs.

Bill Nelson  
Neil Macindoe

## 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 distributions |                   |          |
|                        | Neil Macindoe     | 660 0208 |
| Bulletin typeset by    | Helen Deller      | 660 7428 |

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 11am – 1pm**  
Coffee morning at the home of Betty Wright, 280 Glebe Point Road. Come along and meet other members.

**POST SCRIPT**  
Coffee morning postponed until Sunday 29th August.

**WEDNESDAY, 11TH AUGUST 7.30pm**  
Glebe Society A.G.M. at Glebe Town Hall. The meeting will be both interesting and brief! Supper will be served. So do come along and hear reports on the Society's activities for the past year.

**SATURDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 2.30pm**  
Wine bottling at Tony and Hilary Larkum's 17 Alexandra Road. Bring your own bottles. Apologies to all members who have ordered wine, and were expecting the bottling last month. The postponement was necessary when the wine was not delivered in time for the previous set date, (660 7030 for enquiries).

**MONDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2.30pm**  
The Monday Group will meet at the home of Marion Harris, 280 Glebe Point Road. For enquiries, ring Vi Hicks, 660 3694.

## FOR SALE

Solid timber desk with four drawers, 1.2m x 0.75m (4ft x 2ft 6in) \$50. Please ring Maureen Colman, 660 2302.