



# THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

NO. 1 OF 1988

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## TWO NEW SUB-COMMITTEE CONVENORS

Maureen Colman answered our plea in the November Bulletin for someone to monitor the activities of the Wentworth Park Trust and is now the Convenor of a separate Sub-committee for Wentworth Park. Maureen needs suggestions from members to improve this ill-managed area. Please ring her on 660 2302 if you can help. Gideon Rutherford continues to watch over Harold Park.

Prompted by the interest expressed by several Aldermen on our new Council in Light Rail, the Light Rail Sub-committee has been revived and John Hoddinott has been appointed as Convenor. Please ring John on 692 0071 if you would like to help him.

## ROZELLE BAY BICENTENNIAL PARK TWO STEPS CLOSER

On 24th December 1987 Stage One of the park was gazetted into the care and control of Leichhardt Council. Apparently the M.S.B. is required to meet the costs of clearing the land, including any legal costs that may be incurred in evicting squatters.

On 19 January 1988 the Committee and other Glebe Society members attended a Special Meeting of Leichhardt Council which voted to proceed with Stage One according to Bruce Mackenzie's plan, with the addition of an ablutions block and including Federal Road as part of the park. Society members expressed their strong support for Federal Road's closure and inclusion. A thorough renovation of the two existing amenities and the cricket pavilion should satisfy Council's enthusiasm for ablutions.

Bruce Mackenzie gave a most charming, relaxed and informative talk on the Stage One proposals and clearly deserves the trust vested in him by the Society and the Council. Council also resolved to write to the M.S.B. asking it to discharge its obligations.

A HAPPY BICENTENNIAL NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS



## BOB CARR'S VISIT TO GLEBE

On Saturday 16th January, over 200 people, including many members of the Glebe Society, accepted the invitation from Bob Carr, Minister for the Environment, and Sandra Nori, Labor Candidate for our McKell electorate, to take part in a Heritage Walk around Glebe.

At the end of the walk, the Minister took the opportunity to announce four Conservation Orders and 18 Section 130 orders (preventing demolition for 6 months) for some of the buildings in Glebe worthy of protection. He also announced that a painting scheme would be introduced for Glebe Point Road, stipulating Heritage colours. This would be similar to the schemes already in place in Oxford Street and Darling Street.

## CITY OF SYDNEY

It is only four years since Glebe escaped incorporation into the City of Sydney, largely owing to the vigorous opposition of both the Glebe Society and Leichhardt Council. Given subsequent events, we assume no-one would now doubt the wisdom of resisting amalgamation. The latest disaster to befall the beleaguered residents of the City of Sydney is the Goran Report, commissioned by the State Government. The Committee will obtain and study the report in detail, but already its recommendations have proved so controversial that it has been referred back to the writer for reconsideration.

The Society extends its sympathy to the unfortunate residents and reaffirms its support for a democratically elected body to represent them, a rigorously enforced development plan for the City that conforms to the requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and improvement in public transport access and traffic control.

## PLANNING UPDATE

1. The Valhalla Cinema in Glebe Point Road (previously the Astor) has been bought by the present lessees, Chris Keilly and Barry Peak, and presumably will continue to be a repertory cinema. The Committee is writing to the new owners suggesting measures to conserve and restore the building, which includes three attractive shops.

Is there a cinema buff in the Society who would undertake the writing of a report on the Valhalla to be sent to the National Trust?

2. Work on the extensions to the Harold Park Hotel has begun (the block bounded by Wigram Road, Ross Street, Alfred Street and Minogue Crescent). The isolated Victorian terrace house has been pulled down for a car park. The extensions will include a beer garden and a restaurant.

3. The Committee has written to the Minister for Health, Peter Anderson, concerning an application to demolish four houses in Hereford Street owned by the Children's Hospital. The Hospital has a poor record of conservation in Forest Lodge and the Society suggests the Minister require it to consolidate its site west of Orphan Creek.

4. The Heritage Council has approved a redevelopment proposal for 198 - 206 St Johns Road, a row of sadly neglected shops. This new proposal must now be submitted to Leichhardt Council. This will be the first major test of the new Council, so far as Glebe is concerned. The proposal involves preserving the facade and front section of 206 and the facade of 204. Everything else is to be demolished. The new building includes reflective glass on the upper floor and concrete hoods over the entrances at ground floor level. There is parking below ground, shops on the ground floor and offices on the first floor. Whilst this represents an advance over total demolition, much of the proposal is still objectionable.

5. Members have expressed concern about the facade of 81 - 83 Glebe Point Road. The site was previously a used car yard and zoned Residential 2b (2). Without a change of zoning, the previous Council approved the construction of 'professional consulting rooms' which are clearly shops. Despite protests by the Society the ground floor is faced in polished marble, rather like an Edelsten clinic; the awning is oversized and intrusive; and the upper floor is faced in brick-sized sandstone of an inappropriate colour with window frames of the wrong period. Council is now contemplating rezoning the site Neighbourhood Business 3(b) as it cannot legally approve shops under the present zoning.

6. The NSW Heritage Council is to conduct a review of Leichhardt's Conservation Code in 1988. It is clear from the many complaints received by the Society, some of which have been noted in the Bulletin, that the conservation controls in Glebe are inadequate and have not been uniformly or consistently applied. One reason for this is the lack of a Heritage study for the whole of Glebe, and especially for Glebe Point Road, which would identify the precincts where special controls are necessary and incorporate them in the Town Plan. Already about a third of buildings classified by the National Trust are not protected by the Town Plan. Another reason is the failure of the previous Council to recognise the clear intention of the existing Town Plan to preserve the diverse elements of the Glebe Conservation Area. The Council took the attitude that whilst it was obliged to consider the impact of developments on the Conservation Area, this did not mean that particular structures should be preserved, or that others should not be built. This meant the loss of a number of fine structures and other features of the

ber of fine structures. Other features of the Conservation Area, such as the sandstone kerbs and gutters, are still under threat.

7. Members have also expressed concern about certain aspects of Department of Housing activities in Glebe. Opinion is divided about some of the new structures, such as those around Lyndhurst. Some people feel the exteriors are excessively fussy, and the interiors pokey and dark, e.g. those in Darling Street. Others find the style, which borrows most from Federation buildings, well-suited to larger structures such as the flats in Wentworth Park Road. A building planned for the site between Amigos and the Cornstalk bookshop in Glebe Point Road is likely to be controversial.

Members have also questioned treatment of existing structures. Some houses appear to have been completely gutted; some appear to have had virtually all their original features removed; and yet others have been given additions that are unsympathetic and visible from the street. Consequently the Society has written to the National Trust drawing attention to these practices and asking the Trust to assess whether or not they conform to modern conservation practice.

8. General fears have also been expressed that developments have been carried out, usually at the rear of buildings, following approval by Council employees of building applications. The previous Council did indeed attempt to improve its image and

finances by delegating authority to approve certain types of development. It is quite likely that many things were approved which should have received greater public scrutiny. Such cases should be reported to the Society. The Committee understands that under the present Council such practices have ceased.

9. Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative College is expanding into the adjacent Minnamurra flats. The College has occupied the post-Regency cottage at the corner of Mansfield and Boyce Streets for about fifteen years and has become the most successful institution of its kind. The Committee will seek further details, but members are asked to continue the support shown by members since its inception. The College includes Black Books, a most valuable source of current literature and materials concerning the original Australians.

#### OTHER PLANNING NEWS IN BRIEF ...

The wheat silos on the far side of Blackwattle Bay have become unfit for use and will be demolished. Does anyone know what will replace them?

The Burley-Griffin incinerator, in the same area, is not beyond saving, as had been suggested. It is being converted into a brewery and restaurant.

The Army is selling its very large site in Hereford Street, Forest Lodge.

#### HELIPAD PROPOSED FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In 1985 an emergency landing site was constructed on the Children's Hospital site, adjacent to Orphan School Creek. Development consent was not obtained.

In December 1987, when many people were conveniently away, a development application was lodged with the Council of the City of Sydney for a full scale helipad for "routine emergency" helicopter flights (transfers from country centres).

Whilst the Society has no objection to the continued use of the emergency landing site when it is necessary to save lives, the expanded use of helicopters over densely populated areas is not desirable. Alan Robertson has written the Society's formal objections.

On the final day for lodgement of objections, a helicopter of exactly the same make and size proposed for use at Children's Hospital crashed at Balmoral. This helicopter was undergoing assessment as a police aircraft prior to purchase. Only the skill of the pilot in manoeuvring the stricken craft away from populated areas into the harbour prevented a major disaster.

#### MONDAY GROUP

Our first meeting for 1988 will be at the home of Pat Moore, 7/26 Cook Street, Glebe Point at 12 noon on Monday 15th February. Bring your own lunch, as usual.

New members will be very welcome. Ring me on 660 6138 if you would like more information.

Sally Nelson.

#### PLAYREADING GROUP

The next meeting of the Playreading Group will be held on Sunday 7th February at 8pm. The venue is 3/415 Glebe Point Road. (Entrance in Cook Street.) The play to be read is David Williamson's 'Emerald City'.

We are still looking for new members for the Group, particularly men. Please ring me if you are interested in coming along.

(660 6406)

Ian Edwards.

#### DINING OUT IN GLEBE

We will continue to eat our way around Glebe this year. The first two restaurants are:

ROSTIHAUS - 41 Glebe Point Road - Wednesday 10th February at 6.30 pm. B.Y.O. (corkage 50c per person).

CAFE TROPPO - 175 Glebe Point Road - Wednesday 2nd March. B.Y.O.

Please ring me by the day before, if you are coming, so I can book the table.

Betty Wright (660 1875)

#### COME TO 'THE HABIT' ON SUNDAY 14th FEB.

We are looking for a suitable time and place for a weekly 'drop-in' session, so that members and other residents of Glebe know where and when to meet each other to discuss the latest planning issues etc.

Come along and try out 'The Habit', on the corner of Glebe Point Road and St John John's Road from 12 to 1pm on Sunday 14th February. You might also like to stay on for lunch.

#### PEDESTRIAN MATTERS

A pedestrian refuge has been installed in St Johns Road. This welcome protection indicates that the street has become more hazardous since the installation of lights at the corner of Ross Street. Directing through traffic around Glebe is a better and cheaper solution.

More pedestrian footpath ramps have been installed in Glebe Point Road. These are of great benefit to senior citizens and people with young children. Keep it up, Leichhardt Council.

GLEBE WAS SUBURB OF THE MONTH

Mr Eggins, Town Clerk of Leichhardt Council, has passed on to us the information that the Keep Australia Beautiful Council of NSW awarded Glebe the title 'Suburb of the Month' for October 1987.

All 1987 monthly award recipients will be considered in the final assessment for the overall awards to be presented at the Annual Tidy Towns and Suburban Awards Presentation Dinner, in Wagga Wagga on 13th February.

WHAT YOU NEED IS A WALKING TOUR GUIDE

Many people on the Heritage walk remarked on how little they notice when they drive past buildings. We recommend the Walking Tour Guide (40c from Committee members) to help you and your friends to study our suburb more closely.

CONVENORS OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(All Convenors are ex-officio members of the Management Committee)

BICENTENNIAL PARK AND MARINA

John Buckingham - 660 7780

PLANNING

John Tinkler - 692 9032

TRAFFIC

Jeanette Knox - 660 7781

BLACKWATTLE BAY PARK

Bob Armstrong - 660 4189

HAROLD PARK

Gideon Rutherford - 692 0239

WENTWORTH PARK

Maureen Colman - 660 2302

JUBILEE PARK

Tony Larkum - 660 7030

LIGHT RAIL

John Hoddinott - 692 0071

CONTACT THE PEOPLE LISTED ABOVE IF YOU WANT TO OBTAIN OR GIVE INFORMATION.

The Committee is anxious to form groups to cover other areas of interest. If you are willing to help form a sub-committee on any matter concerning The Glebe, contact Peter Strickland on 660 7624 (H) or 235 7258 (W).

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 7th February - 8 pm - Play-reading - 3/415 Glebe Point Road.

Wednesday 10th February - 6.30 pm - Dining Out - Rostihaus, 41 Glebe Point Road. BYO.

Sunday 14th February - 12 noon - Come to 'The Habit', cnr Glebe Point Road and St John's Road.

Monday 15th February - 12 noon - Monday Group Lunch - 7/26 Cook Street.

Tuesday 16th February - 7.30 pm - Committee Meeting - Lyndhurst.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Wednesday 2nd March - 6.30 pm - Dining Out - Cafe Troppo, 175 Glebe Point Rd.



Tasmania misses out once more

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

|                        |                  |              |              |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>PRESIDENT:</u>      | Peter Strickland | 660 7624 (H) | 235 7258 (W) |
| <u>IMM. PAST PRES:</u> | Edwina Doe       | 660 7066 (H) | 922 3877 (W) |
| <u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u> | Andrew Wood      | 660 2194 (H) | 692 2451 (W) |
| <u>SECRETARY:</u>      | Jeff Ibbotson    | 660 7713 (H) | 231 1244 (W) |
| <u>TREASURER:</u>      | Peter O'Gorman   | 660 0302 (H) | 925 9759 (W) |
| <u>COMMITTEE:</u>      | Sue Littleton    | 660 5610     |              |
|                        | John Tinkler     | 692 9032 (H) |              |

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|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| Social Secretary:  | Betty Wright  | 660 1875 |
| Bulletin Editor:   | Edwina Doe    | 660 7066 |
| Membership List:   | Andrew Wood   | 660 2194 |
| New Members' Rep:  | Sue Littleton | 660 5610 |
| Monday Group:      | Sally Nelson  | 660 6138 |
| Playreading Group: | Ian Edwards   | 660 6406 |

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GLEBE SOCIETY COSTS: HOUSEHOLD \$13; INDIVIDUAL \$11; STUDENT OR PENSIONER \$4. Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037 or ring Sue Littleton on 660 5610 for information.