



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

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Social Activities

The change to the Christmas Party date means, I believe, that the next activity be held over until next year, although I am sure some of us are amenable to having a cheap meal or a drink over the holiday time - 9692-0071. The new cafe, Colours, at the start of Glebe Point Road, looks pretty good; it catered very well for the function when the Governor of NSW opened the drinking fountain and the new paved area in August. Check the next Bulletin, the first for 1997.

The Christmas Party was well attended and we have collected a few new members and renewals in the last couple of months. Thanks to all the helpers and those who attended. Good food, talk and company. Our thanks especially to Betty, Ann, Maureen, and Ted - I hope I haven't forgotten anyone - for their work for the function.

John Hoddinott

Traffic

I attended a second workshop held by Leichhardt Council at the Balmain Town Hall, where the issue was "traffic", rather than the first workshop's issues of parking. Jeanette was not able to attend, and I think I was the only person not from Balmain or Rozelle. It was poorly attended, only about seven residents, plus two Council Officers. However many issues were noted. Of course traffic is a real problem in the peninsular (as is parking).

The Local Area Traffic Management study for Glebe will be delayed a few months probably, as the Traffic Officer overseeing the study has left Council to take up a job with the RTA. This matter

was discussed briefly at my first Traffic Committee meeting in early December. Most of the agenda items were fairly uncontroversial, but I imagine that won't continue. It is good to be back on the Committee and I was welcomed by the chairman, Cr Evan Jones and the Traffic Manager, Trevor Jennings. I believe that its job is very important to the business of Council, even if often its decisions can often only be "band-aid" solutions. This will improve when the LATMs for the whole Municipality are completed.

John Hoddinott



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FFROGS

The FFROGs group has now received an offer from the National Trust (Environment Section) to provide a management plan for the Orphan School Creek Gully. A public meeting for all interested parties and our local community was held in Leichhardt Town Hall on November 7. The purpose of the meeting was to start the process of plan development with the co-operation of Leichhardt Municipal and South Sydney City Councils, Sydney Water, The National Trust, and local community members.

The expertise and support provided by the national Trust will ensure that the Gully will indeed be a unique and beautiful part of Glebe. At the completion of the project the Gully will be a bird sanctuary capable of attracting and sustaining native birds, and an exemplary model of what can be achieved in a degraded urban land site.

The cost of providing the management plan will be \$3,000.00. FFROGs is currently approaching the local business community and other sources for funds to support this unique project. Funding will be channeled through the Glebe Society. Of course our fundraising will be an ongoing process to facilitate each stage of the management plan. Leichhardt Council has been very supportive and will contribute both practically and financially where possible. FFROGs will continue to provide volunteer labour, liaison and support throughout the project.

Other FFROGs activities lately have been :

1. Two successful working bees to plant bird friendly shrubs and trees on the Foss Street Embankment, with much support from Leichhardt Council's Parks Management team and especially Mr Robert Ebb.
2. At our October public meeting, Mr Arthur White from the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of N.S.W. gave a very informative talk on frog habitat and frog species likely to be native to the Glebe area. Robyn Sim from Sydney Water will be the speaker at our November monthly meeting.
3. We have organised a bird watching work-

shop with Mark Robinson for the 16th November from 10 am to 12 noon. This will provide us with a reliable model and guidelines to begin collating statistics of bird populations in our area.

4. We welcome all to our monthly public meetings, at 7pm on the second Monday of every month in the Glebe Neighbourhood Centre, St Johns Road.

Planning Report

463/465 Glebe Point Road

The fourth meeting of the Council-convened group of the identified interest groups has been held, and my thanks to John Buckingham for his attendance at the previous meeting while Mavis was away. Mavis and I attended the fourth meeting where the tenants, represented by two architects, presented their plans for the 465 site only. It was prepared by the five architects who work in the complex. Mr Fink was overseas at the time, and was represented by his town planner.

Basically the tenants' proposal is to have the waterfront walkway, being the existing passageway, open only during business hours, roughly say 7am to 8pm, seven days a week. The site would be closed with gates at both ends at other times. There was also the possibility in their plan for the demolition of the Boatshed, the smaller building on the south side. Their plan did not include an overwater walkway. There may be some problems with this proposal, as the Precinct 13 representative felt, who described it as "The Strand Arcade by the Bay". His view was that it would become just another shopping arcade. The tenants' representatives say this will not occur as they are an artistic community.

The major issue remains the matter of rezoning of the three sites. Currently one is zoned residential, another largely residential, the other commercial. The view has been put that Glebe has enough residents already. It is included in the Society's Planning Policy that we must never stop new people coming to live in Glebe. After all, we all came here at one time, and we do not live in Fortress Glebe. There will be a limit



on the population here, that is obvious, but it will be decided by available space.

The John Fletcher Site

I have not been able to attend the residents' meeting about this site, but I have been told by a member of the local community, not a Society member, that their wish is for a floor-space ratio (FSR) of 0.5, while the developers have said that they will not move from an FSR of the proposed 0.8. I know of no recent development in Glebe that has achieved an FSR below 0.7. I think I will leave it up to the Blackwattle Bay Residents to fight this battle, but will put in a submission from the Glebe Society. I understand that Council has asked for a 20 metre on-land walkway.

The New Glebe Library

The expected completion date for the building itself is late January, with about a month to undertake the set-up, bringing in the shelving, books and computers, etc.

The Former Grace Bros Site

I have examined the Section 102 proposals related to the amended DA; this concerns the acquisition of the remaining block on the corner of Bay and Greek Streets. There are no major problems with the extra development, in my view, although the site should not become any larger.

The Haven Inn Motel, 196 Glebe Point Road

Cr Macindoe and I met with the owner of the motel, who is a long-time member of the Glebe Society, and two architects to discuss a refurbishment of the motel sometime in the next year. The architects and owner then presented a slightly revised plan to Precinct 13 a few days later. The main issues were the refacing of the building itself, the atrium over the pool having a movable cover installed, and the intention to move the restaurant from the first floor now beside the pool to the ground floor, with its front onto Glebe Point Rd. There will be a very small increase in the number of rooms, only four. The owner wants to make it slightly "posher", as he hopes to attract more interstate and overseas air-travellers. The new restaurant would mean a decrease in car parking space, but with fewer country visitors, who usually come by car, this may not be a bad thing.

The external walls will be rendered and the suggested colour would be a pale cream, more or less. Most, if not all, of the balconies would go, and the emphasis will be on a verticality with some small pilasters (*flat ornamental columns which project from a wall - Macquarie Dictionary definition*) being added. There are plans for a spa and small gymnasium on the roof, which will mean a very small overall height increase, less than a metre. The spa will be over the main entrance, on the corner where there is already a slight rise. Several possible plans were displayed at both meetings, but no final decision has been made.

No DA has been lodged yet. The architects noted that they could not mimic the Victorian style of nearby residential and commercial buildings, but a sympathetic compromise can certainly be reached. Much of the discussion revolved around the aesthetics of the externals. I suggest that interested members take the time, when the DA is lodged, to make a submission, which need not be an objection. This would mean keeping an eye on *The Glebe's* Council matters, and then visiting Leichhardt Council's offices, looking at the DA, and making a submission within about 14 days. If you have any questions, please ring me on 9692-0071 - I am very happy to help in such a matter. The owner has agreed to have a set of the plans and the DA available in the motel itself, to save residents having to visit Council. I will keep members informed.

I do not feel capable of making a decisive comment on the aesthetics of the proposals, except that I did have a degree of preference, as I'm sure will most people. I would prefer the architects, the owner, residents' submissions and finally Council to be the arbiters in the appearance of the renovation. I suppose just as the new library wing across Wigram Road did not attempt to mimic Benledi, but rather to be empathetic to it, I feel that the renovation of the motel will sit well with the Glebe Point Road Project's aims, to improve our great main road.

I would like to thank the owner for his courtesy in inviting local residents to comment at this stage, and for the information which was forthcoming. This process will ease the progress of the DA and its passage through Council. The architects have also been working closely with Council planners to

ensure that planning guidelines are met. I wish this attitude was followed more frequently by all developers.

John Hoddinott

Linda Nash

The Glebe Society records with great sadness the death of Linda Nash on 7th November.

Linda was the Society's Planning Convenor in 1993 - 94. Her planning report was published in the '94 October Bulletin.

Linda was a town planner for Marrickville and Leichhardt Municipal Council before taking up an appointment as manager of strategic planning for Holroyd City Council in Sydney's greater western suburbs.

Whilst working at Leichhardt Council Linda became interested in the Society and what it manages to achieve from its community base. Linda became a member of the Society and at the time she was appointed to Holroyd she agreed to take on the role of convenor of planning with the Society.

The Society was fortunate to have had the benefit of Linda's expertise. We certainly would have wished it continued for a lot longer than her subsequent and untimely ill-health allowed.

Linda was a resident of Balmain. Many family members, friends and colleagues attended her memorial service held at St Mary's Church East Balmain, near her home, on 13th November. Holroyd City Council's planning department was closed that morning as a mark of respect for her. The Society extends its condolences to Linda's husband Kerry and their children, Rebecca and Richard.

Alison McKeown

The 1996 Glebe Music Festival

The annual Glebe Music Festival, now a fixture in the Glebe calendar, was celebrated from the 15th to the 17th November. The opening concert was given at the new Gleebooks by The Early Brass Consort of Sydney and The University of Sydney Motet Choir. The highlight was a lusty rendition of "Pastime" by Henry VIII. Early music featured strongly in the Margaretta Cottage concert by The Innominata Choir who impressed the European Ambassador to Australia so much that they have been invited to Canberra to perform.

rant, Contrasts and the Motet Choir will be at Gleebooks and there will be a celebrity organ recital at St John's.

David McIntosh



The appearance of Stephanie Giesajtis will not be her last at the Festival. Stephanie is a B. Mus. student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, majoring in Piano under Elizabeth Powell and her performances of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 6 were spell-binding. Stephanie was joined by the violinist/composer Natasha Rumiz in a work by Ravel. Rhythm-and-blues/jazz then wafted from the music room until the small hours.

The Glebe Society Concert at St Scholastica's Chapel started in an uplifting fashion with the Choir of Christchurch St Laurence (lovely to spot Father Day in the audience). The girls of the Choir of St Scholastica's then sang their hearts out to a foot-tapping beat which was only matched by the amazing Heavenly Light Quartet. Elgar's Imperial March performed by David McIntosh and a woodwind segment by Contrasts, including the charming Dance Suite by the unknown Gayfer, rounded off the afternoon.

All performers and those in charge of the venues are warmly thanked as are The Glebe Society and Da Capo Music for their donations. The 1997 Festival promises more musical entertainment. There will be a gala concert at Margaretta Cottage featuring the internationally acclaimed Australian soprano Shu-Cheen Yu recently returned from a period of study in London. Shu-Cheen will be accompanied by Stephanie Giesajtis. The Innominata Choir and the St Scholastica's Choir will perform at St Scholastica's Chapel, an *a Capella* group will perform at Darling Mills Restau-

For Your Diary

Saturday, 1 March, 1997- Progressive Dinner

Make a note in your diary - details to follow in first Bulletin of 1997.

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Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

Costs:	Ordinary	\$25	additional household members \$5 each
	Student/Pensioner	\$10	
	Institution	\$30	

Write to P.O.Box 100, Glebe 2037, or ring Jeanette Knox on 660 7781