



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

PO BOX 100, GLEBE NSW 2037 AUSTRALIA

Print Post Approved - No: 234093/000 10

No 8 of 1997

September

Annual General Meeting

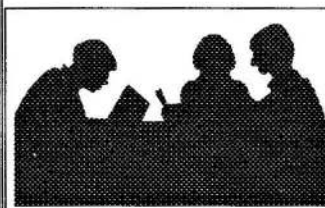
At the Annual General Meeting, held on 31 August, the following people were elected:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| President | Russell Stewart |
| Junior Vice-President | Cynthia Jones |
| Treasurer | John Sleeman |
| Committee | John Cody |
| | Ted McKeown |
| | Christine Newton |
| | Marianne von Knobelsdorff |

Other members of the Management Committee are Mavis McCarthy, ex officio as immediate Past President and convenors of sub-committees. Jan Wilson has resigned as convenor of the Environment sub-committee and Christine Whittemore will take this over. Other convenors remain the same.

No nominations or volunteers were received for the positions of Senior Vice-President or Secretary, nor for the position of Bulletin Editor, which Jan Macindoe indicated that she plans to relinquish at the end of 1997.

The Society is, therefore, urgently seeking some more "new blood", to add to that we are delighted to have already on the new committee. If you could spare some time, or if you know of someone who may be able and interested, please contact Mavis (9660 5119), Jeanette (9660 7781) or Jan (9660 0208).



New committee members were elected at the Annual General Meeting

The Senior Vice-President is a member of the Management Committee, and may be called on to stand in for the President in his/her absence to chair the Management Committee meeting or attend an outside function. We admit to always being hopeful that the Senior Vice-President will be prepared at a later date to consider standing as President.

The Secretary is responsible for taking and distributing minutes, preparing agendas, and general correspondence. While it is quite time-consuming, it does keep you in touch with what is going on! The Management Committee would be happy to split the position if two people were prepared to share it, e.g. as Minutes and Correspondence Secretaries.

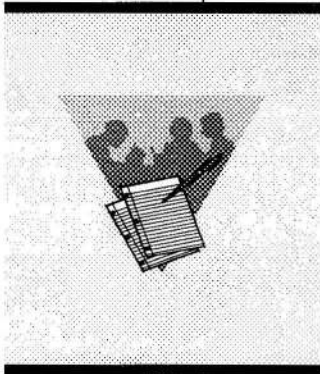
The Bulletin appears 10 times a year and the Editor has to ensure copy is received by a stated deadline, compile each issue, send it to the printer, and ensure it is mailed to all members. Familiarity with a desk-top publishing package is highly desirable.

Inside This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>President's Report</i> | 2 |
| <i>Traffic Annual Report</i> | 3 |
| <i>Wentworth Park Annual Report</i> | 4 |
| <i>Report from Council</i> | 5 |
| <i>Environment Annual Report</i> | 6 |
| <i>Archivist's Annual Report</i> | 7 |

President's Report, 1996 - 97

As always, it has been an interesting year to be part of the Glebe Society. The best thing was, of course, the opening of the Library. It's nice to have something to celebrate and something to come to fruition given the many other things that seem to meander on year after year -



Wentworth Park, problems with Harold Park, rubbish in Glebe, the Glebe Point Road Project etc. etc. We do see progress in many of these areas but they are slow. The Library, on the other hand, was a wonderful cooperative effort for Glebe, & it is great to see it in operation. Almost as good, is that the awful fence has come down and the open space has become a pleasant, green area instead of a wasteland.

On other fronts, we have been involved in negotiations about the site owned by Leon Fink at the end of Glebe Point Road. At present, it looks as though there will be a Development Application involving a mainly residential complex with some commercial component. It will be interesting to see how this all works out. There is sure to be opposition from the tenants and (perhaps) the Chamber of Commerce to this idea. Part of the plan is a 15m waterfront walkway that the Glebe Society has always insisted should be part of such a plan. We will have to wait and see what develops.

Other projects have been extensively reported upon in the Bulletin by the various subcommittee convenors and you will see from those that we have continued to monitor progress (or lack thereof) around the suburb and beyond. We welcome Bruce Davis who has taken over the Light Rail sub-committee from Andrew Wood who is on sabbatical for several months. Bruce is a great enthusiast and has already successfully organised - with the help of Judy Vergison and her husband - the inaugural trip on the new "tram". We

will continue to exert pressure on the Light Rail Consortium to have a station for Glebe Point Road.

Also, Judy Vergison has become convenor of the Wentworth Park Subcommittee in place of Christine Stewart. Chris has done a wonderful job over the years monitoring the activities at Wentworth Park and the Glebe Society owes her a debt of gratitude. Judy has already been hard at work preparing a policy document for Wentworth Park and she and I have had a meeting with Sandra Nori on the matter. Most of you will know that the dogs may move to some (as yet) unknown destination. We all hope it will not be Harold Park. Although, this could herald a new facility for the Hockey Club at Wentworth Park. Once again we will have to wait and see what develops. This "wait and see" is often the only option for us pro tem because many initiatives, like the ferry and Light Rail are still very much at a preliminary stage. We have written to the Department of Transport suggesting that the option of Sydney Ferries becoming involved at Glebe might be a possibility as well as the private sector. We are always mindful, as well, of the rights of the rowing club in this matter.

One of the strengths of the Glebe Society, I think, is that we have firm policies in many areas from which we can develop our opinions and reactions to many of the issues (often complex) that arise in our area, for example, the ferry. We have a policy (obviously) in support of better public transport but also, our Bays and Foreshores policy specifically mentions the rowers and their historical importance to Glebe. So, in our response to the ferry proposal, we have to keep these two policies in mind. A simple approach, perhaps, but it gives us a key to consider the issues that will arise from almost any one proposal to do

(Continued on page 3)

Traffic Annual Report

Activities have generally been reported in the Society's Bulletin in the course of the year. Responses were received to our letters to Sydney buses about services to Glebe and suggesting consideration of a new cross-suburban route to improve public transport access to the Grace Bros. site redevelopment, Child Health services and the Universities. The company believed the ten minute off-peak services along (most of) Glebe Point Road was adequate but obviously does not seem to monitor how accurately the service matches the time-table. With regard to new routes, these were under consideration, and it is noted (*The Glebe* of 20 August, 1997) that several new cross-suburban routes are currently being looked at, although none would go directly past the Grace Bros. redevelopment and the Child Health Care centre.

While traffic arrangements for this year's Mardi Gras were an improvement on previous years' there was a major problem as regards advance publicity about the road closures in other areas of Glebe apart from those directly affected. Council acknowledged the problem and assured us that it would be dealt with next year.

Leichhardt Municipal Council prepared a draft Integrated Transport Strategy in the course of the year. John Hoddinott was able to attend three of the four workshops associated with the development of the strategy and I attended the fourth. The Society's submission in response to the strategy was published in a recent Bulletin. This emphasised in particular many concerns about parking in Glebe, including worries about possible transport in the future, such as a light rail extension, and possibly new ferry services. It is pleasing that our local member, Sandra Nori, shares these concerns, and the impact of any transport changes will certainly be monitored both by her and the Society.

Council's Transport Advisory Committee was merged last year with the Town Planning and Heritage Committees as a general Planning Committee, and I have attended as many of these meetings as I could.

Jeanette Knox

President's Report

(Continued from page 2)

with Glebe where a balance has to be struck between heritage and environmental considerations and the pressures on a suburb that is both waterfront and close to the city.

I think this kind of dependence on well thought out policies from which can evolve guidelines to approach problems and initiate action in Glebe is the sensible way to proceed. I commend it to the new management committee.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who has given me so much support in my two years as president. Jeanette Knox, in particular, has been a tower of strength and sensible advice but I have had wonderful help from everyone on the Management Committee and beyond. I am very grateful to you all making my time as President such a rewarding experience.

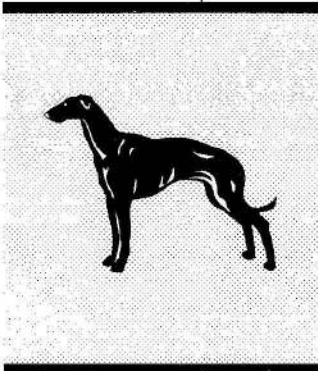
Mavis McCarthy

Wentworth Park Annual Report

Summary

A policy issues and discussion paper was prepared which summarised the history of the park from the time of dedication to the end of June 1997. This included a summary of the various proposals in the plan of management. A revised policy has

recently been prepared for consideration by the Society.



There has been a strong suggestion that the area will be used in the Sydney Olympics as a marshalling/registration venue. This would involve tents or other such temporary facilities. These suggestions have not been confirmed.

A number of meetings have been held with politicians to reaffirm the Society's view that the Park should be rejuvenate and returned to full public use.

Plan of Management

There has been no further progress on the adoption of the Plan of Management lodged by Sydney City Council to Minister for Land and Water Conservation. The Minister will not approve the Plan until the report on the rationalisation of racing facilities has been finalised by the Minister for Racing.

The Plan was submitted by SCC in October 1996 and this covers the upgrading of the Park, except for areas leased by the Greyhound Racing Associations.

Upgrading of Facilities

Sydney City Council is reluctant to commence any major works until the Plan of Management is agreed and the issue of parking on the grassed areas by patrons of the greyhound meetings is resolved. The parking compacts the soil and causes considerable damage to the southern and middle grassed areas.

In July/August 1997 twenty five seats

were installed in the northern and middle sections of the park. Most of the seats face onto the fields and a small number face Black Wattle Bay. Several seats were also located around the newly installed playground equipment in the southern section of the Park.

The seats are an attractive design, consisting of black cast iron frame and timber slats. This has encouraged increased usage of the park for passive recreation.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Frank Sator, has advised that major funding will not be available for upgrading the Park until after the Olympics. The Lord Mayor still supports the removal of the grandstand and the return of the Park to full public use.

The major development in the last year has been the opening of the Sydney Light Rail which terminates at Wentworth Park Station.

Greyhound Association Usage

1997 has been the first time that a number of options for the relocation of the greyhound racing have been seriously considered by the two greyhound racing Associations. This formed part of the report to the Minister for Racing and Gaming on the rationalisation of racing facilities. Several options for relocation have been raised and these include:

- Harold Park (which has not been supported by the Glebe Society)
- New premises in south western Sydney
- New premises in western Sydney

Consideration was also given to further facilities remaining and being upgraded. This is not considered to be a viable option due to the falling patronage and the financial considerations.

(Continued on page 6)

Report from Council

Reports are welcomed from councillors, but the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Glebe Society.

Three areas of Glebe will undergo change over the next two years. For two of these there is an existing program of resident consultation.

In the Forest Lodge area, some development sites have already been completed, such as the Woolworths site in Hereford Street, and others are nearing completion, including the old trucking yard in Wigram Road and the properties in Forest Lodge that used to belong to Children's Hospital. Consultation on the Hospital site itself is continuing. Council is still trying to get a better result on the farmhouse site at 75 Hereford Street, and there will be a public meeting in Glebe Town Hall on Monday 22 September at 7 pm to discuss the future of the Army depot next to it. Construction work in the area is likely to continue intermittently for about eighteen months.

Two parks, the Paddy Gray Reserve and the Orphan School Creek, will be extended as a result of these developments, and about one hectare of the Children's Hospital will become available as public open space.

The other area where there is extensive public consultation is Glebe Point Road. Works on Glebe's main street are funded for the next twelve months. The angel has now been restored to the Diggers Memorial and the honour roll cleaned and regilded. There will be repaving of the St Johns Road intersection and part of the Mitchell street intersection before the end of 1997. There will also be replanting of trees and replacement of street furniture over the whole length during that time.

A model is being prepared of the new square to be formed between Glebe

Point Road and the rejuvenated Grace Bros. This area of open space includes the existing Minogue Reserve, the forecourt of the old Grace Bros. carpark, and the closure of part of Franklyn and possibly also part of Francis Streets. This new square includes on its eastern side an indoor basketball court and childcare centre, already under construction.

When the model is complete there will be a further period of public exhibition and consultation. The new shopping centre will open in March 1998.

Gabrielle Kibble, Director General of the Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning, has recently agreed to the exhibition of the draft Leichhardt Town Plan provided there are some minor modifications. This agreement will have an impact on the third area of Glebe to undergo change, the waterfront.

All the remaining major foreshore sites between the end of Glebe Point Road and Glebe High School are either being or about to be redeveloped. As part of this process I estimate roughly 8,000m² of absolute waterfront will be dedicated to or acquired by Council as open space. This includes two major heritage sites, the Walter Burley Griffin incinerator complex and Bellevue. It is appropriate that council commence public consultation for this very large area and I intend to move that this happens in the near future.

Neil Macindoe
Councillor



Environment Annual Report

The major project for Glebe during 1996 - 1997 has been the development and implementation of the Glebe Point Road Master Plan. This has been a successful community consultative process. The consultants managing the project, D.M. Taylor & Associates, have maintained a constant liaison with the Glebe Point Road Committee and Leichhardt Council.



Owing to financial constraints of Leichhardt Council, the project has had to be implemented in stages. The first phase is currently under construction, at the intersection of Glebe Point Road and St John's Road. Some of the older diseased Poplars are being removed and replaced

with more suitable species along the start of Glebe Point Road. I believe the scheme will improve the amenity of the area and provide a cohesive community precinct for the residents of Glebe, as well as attracting visitors and tourists. The streetscape will be enriched by the inclusion of artworks and street furniture. With the development of the Grace Bros. site at Broadway, there continue to be ongoing discussions regarding the closure of Franklin Street. At this time no final decision has been made.

Jan Wilson

Wentworth Park Report

(Continued from page 4)

It would appear that there is a strong possibility of greyhound racing moving to the outer suburbs. There have also been suggestions that the centre oval could be made available to the Hockey Club.

As yet none of these proposals have been confirmed. The Minister's office has confirmed that the final decision will be made by the Greyhound Associations and he will not force the relocation of the track.

Judy Vergison

Archivist's Annual Report

Records Capture

During the year some progress has been made in sorting and identifying the records held in the room which has been made available to us in the Glebe Town Hall. The following records have been identified

- Minutes of the Management Committee
- Constitutional records
- Correspondence
- Reports of Annual General Meetings
- Membership lists
- Planning Files
- Publications
- The House and Garden Inspections
- Financial Records
- Local History Information
- Memorabilia

These record series are by no means complete.

Administrative and Functional History

Work has been commenced on the study of the Society's structure and activities since its inception which will be part of the descriptive documentation of the records.

Descriptive Documentation

This has not yet commenced and will form the most time-consuming part of the project. Fortunately the Australian Society of Archivists Inc has almost completed an automated system which will be available as 'freeware' and fulfils all of our requirements.

Summary of the Society's Achievements

Two years ago a summary of the society's achievements was compiled in order to supplement two short articles on the history of the society. Some members of the Management Committee have expressed interest in this project which is being updated at the end of each calendar year.

Bulletin Index

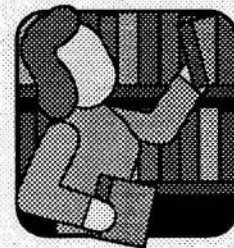
The *Bulletin* has been indexed in con-

siderable detail from its commencement until 1988 and has been of value to some people preparing articles for the *Bulletin* and for answering inquiries from members and the public.

Access

Four people (mainly students of town planning or environment) have used the records during the current year.

Lyn Milton



For Your Diary

Sunday 9 November, 5.30pm - Darling Mills
Glebe Music Festival

Thursday 13 November, 8pm - Gleebooks
Glebe Music Festival

Saturday 15 November, 8pm - Margaretta Cottage
Glebe Music Festival

Sunday 16 November, 3pm - St Scholastica's
Glebe Music Festival

THE GLEBE SOCIETY Inc Management Committee

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| President | 60 |
| Russell Stewart | 9692 8324 |
| Senior Vice President | |
| Vacant | |
| Junior Vice President | |
| Cynthia Jones | 9660 2451 |
| Immediate Past President | |
| Mavis McCarthy | 9660 5119 |
| Secretary | |
| vacant | |
| Treasurer | |
| John Sleeman | 9692 9507 |
| Committee | |
| John Cody | 9692 9364 |
| Ted McKeown | 9660 3917 |
| Christine Newton | 9660 8349 |
| Marianne von Knobelsdorff | 9692 0916 |
| Contacts | |
| Bulletin Editor: | |
| Jan Macindoe | 9660 0208 |
| Membership List: | |
| Penny Haskens | 9566 4450 |
| Archivist | |
| Lyn Milton | 9660 7930 |
| Historian | |
| Max Solling | 9660 1160 |

Convenors of Sub-Committees

All convenors are ex-officio members of the
Management Committee

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft | |
| Alison McKeown | 9660 3917 |
| Bays & Foreshores | |
| Ian Edwards | 9660 3240 (BH) |
| Children & Glebe | |
| Penny Haskens | 9566 4450 |
| Diggers' Memorial | |
| Max Solling | 9660 1160 |
| Environment | |
| Christine Whittemore | 9660 7969 |
| FRROGS | |
| Roberta Johnston | 9552 3248 |
| Light Rail | |
| Bruce Davis | 9660 7873 |
| Planning & Harold Park | |
| John Hoddinott | 9692 0071 |
| | 9518 9218 (fax) |
| Traffic | |
| Jeanette Knox | 9660 7781 |
| Wentworth Park | |
| Judy Vergison | 9692 9200 |

Membership of The Glebe Society Inc

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Costs: | Ordinary | \$30 | additional household members \$5 each |
| | Student/Pensioner | \$15 | |
| | Institution | \$30 | |

Write to P.O. Box 100, Glebe 2037, or ring Jeanette Knox on 9660 7781