

FERRY ROAD

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS:

By a unanimous decision, the Leichhardt Council rejected the development application for a block of flats at 59-61 Ferry Road on Tuesday 16th March. It is an important decision both for Glebe and Leichhardt. Council wisely took note of the wide opposition to the proposal. The Deputy Mayor, Alderman J.L. McMahon, moving the motion for rejection, made important points about the way flat developments can rob surrounding areas of their amenity, and the growing citizen resistance. Aldermen Wyner and Origlass, of Balmain, spoke on some of the wider issues involved and despite the division between them and the Labor caucus were listened to with respect. The Mayor, Alderman Rodwell, agreed to meet representatives of the Society and discuss matters of mutual interest. All this was a triumph for good sense.

Comic relief was provided by Dr. Foley of Glebe and Alderman Barry of Annandale. In a hell-fire and damnation type of speech, Dr. Foley castigated the Glebe Society and its President as a gang of larrikins and dastardly plant-trampers; and stated (quite wrongly) that the Society had already decided to put up opposition candidates at the next municipal elections and - also wrongly - that the Leichhardt Council had already rejected the Ferry Road application. It did so about three-quarters of an hour later. Dr. Foley appears to have an increasing difficulty in remembering what is decided in Caucus and what in Council. Alderman Brady also provided some hilarious moments. Waving a letter about excitedly, he claimed to have proof that the Glebe Society had undertaken to cover the expense of every challenge in the courts to development proposals rejected by the Council. Alderman Brady appears to have some difficulty with the comprehension of written English.

Altogether it was a good show. Why, one wonders does one pay to go to revues like The Legend of King O'Malley, when Leichhardt Council can put on a show like that for free.

PROCESSION AND MEETING, SATURDAY 6TH MARCH

Members of the Management Committee present at the Leichhardt Council meeting of Tuesday 2nd March all gained the impression that unless the Society acted promptly and demonstrated the amount of civic opposition to the Ferry Road proposal the deferral of the application for 14 days would be followed by Council's approval on Tuesday 16th March. We may have been wrong in this, but we were not prepared to sit by and do nothing. Between Wednesday 3rd and Friday 5th March the Society organised a highly successful demonstration of some 200 people and many sympathetic resident groups. It was orderly, colourful, and kept to the footpath. The President, Dr. Bernard Smith discussed the proposed demonstration with the Sydney Metropolitan Superintendent of Police and gave his advice to the emergency meeting of the Society held on Wed-

nesday evening 3rd March. It is surprising to hear Labor party men denouncing an orderly procession as illegal. But perhaps they have been there so long they have forgotten.

The Glebe newspaper provided what might charitably be called an impressionistic account of what was in fact said by Margaret MacArthur, Ross Tzannes and Bernard Smith in Ernest Pederson Park. Dr. Foley's highly personal and vitriolic attack upon Dr. Smith was based entirely upon The Glebe newspapers account of the proceedings. Yet in his speech to Council Dr. Foley made it perfectly clear that he placed no faith whatever in reports in The Glebe. Not, one would have thought, the most logical way of arguing. For our part, and not withstanding some inaccuracies in the report, The Glebe newspaper's generous coverage of the demonstration was of the greatest value in getting our message across to the aldermen and the people

THE SEPTEMBER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

During this month the Glebe Society is seeking from all its members (you can do it by writing or phoning any member of the Management Committee and making plain your view) how the Society should act in the September elections. Should it continue the policy of seeking always to co-operate and negotiate with the aldermen on matters that concern us? Should we put up our own candidates? Or support independents? Should we support aldermen who have listened to us and given us some support on Council? What should we do with aldermen who act like developers' men in labour clothing?

The problem needs careful thought. At the last Municipal Elections the Hunters Hill Trust ran their own ticket and were just about 100 per cent successful. But they have real problems. Because a good alderman cannot be the servant of only one pressure group. But he must learn to accept the existence of, and listen to, pressure groups. They are one of the facts of political life and the way residents assert their democratic rights. Without them the individual is helpless.

But it is only too clear that some of the Leichhardt aldermen do not want their sleepy hollow disturbed. For them all ideas of value to the community must spring from their own minds or those of the Council's officers. We do not share this view. There are a lot of spurious ideas floating about in influential circles. One is the need, above all else, to increase population densities in the inner city areas and the ways this can be done. This claim itself, and the ways proposed for it to be carried out, need to be looked at.

It is the people and their social and living conditions that matter. We invite you to tell us how you think that this can best be done.

membership

We welcome the following new members to the Society: an encouraging number for just one month - let's hope we can keep up this rate.

Mr. L.B. Adolphus, Miss Beryl Allen,
Mr. & Mrs. B. Campbell, Mr. R. Carfield,
Mr. R. Clark, Mrs. M. Cockett,
Mr. S.W. Conning, Miss N. Coulson,
Mr. & Mrs. P. Deller, Miss L. Duffy,
Mr. P. Duffy, Mr. & Mrs. J. Duncan,
Mrs. B. Guthrie, Miss M. Green,
Mrs. M. Harris, Miss S. Higgins,
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hillman, Mr. K. E. Jacobs,
Mr. & Mrs. R. Jones, Mrs. D. Mordaunt,
Miss J. Nichols, Mr. C. Osborne,
Mr. & Mrs. P. Perumal, Mr. & Mrs. G. Page,
Miss H. Plummer, Mr. & Mrs. D. Potter,
Mr. E. J. Powell, Mr. P. Roebuck,
Miss M. Sankey, Dr. L. Selwood,
Miss A. Teddman, Miss O. To,
Mrs. E. M. Touhy, Trange & Co. Pty. Ltd.,
Mr. D. White, Mr. I Wood.

Membership now stands at 253. How about every member introducing at least one new member by the Annual General Meeting - that is a target of 500 members.

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTORS

For all enquiries about the Bulletin or membership contact your nearest distributor in the following list:

Margaret Hext	24 Arcadia St., 660-1351
Agnus Dolle	57 Arcadia St., 660-4446
Lynn Conlon	42 Toxteth Rd., 660-5279
Kate Smith	23 Avenue Rd., 660-1824
Olga & Beth McIntyre	28 Ferry Rd., 660-2164
Jan Potter	8 Gottenham St., 660-1604
Kathleen Mispel	3 Cardigan St., 660-5996
Helen Deller	T.A.B. Chemist 660-3089
Jenny Pockley	19 Mansfield St. 660-6363
Eric Sandblom	140 Hereford St. 660-6593
Elizabeth Barker	38 Lodge St.
Nora Brickhill	18 Eglinton St. 660-2280
Max Solling	17 Avona St., 660-1160
Albert Renshaw	"Eltham"
	Leichhardt Ave. 660-6149

civic design

The Glebe Society is a Group Member of The Civic Design Society whose aims are:

"to foster public interest in the appearance and the functioning of our cities; and to help make our cities better places in which to live."

Activities include lecture meetings on a variety of topics affecting the urban environment. Civic design developments in Sydney, such as Australia Square, the King's Cross Village Centre, The Gazebo, Martin Plaza, and the Centrepoint Project have been described in talks usually by both the developer and the designer.

A Symposium on Home Unit Development was held during last year attended by some 150 delegates, including local council aldermen from all over the metropolitan area, planners and other interested citizens. There will be further activities relating to this important subject during the course of this year.

Currently there are some 400 individual members and over 50 Group Members belonging to the Society. The Group Members include local councils (in the metropolitan area), local civic groups, and other organizations.

council rounds

FERRY ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The first round in the fight to preserve Ferry Road resulted in a victory for the residents! At its meeting on Tuesday, 16th March, Council wisely decided NOT to approve an application to build a 3-story block of flats on the already hazardous bend in narrow Ferry Road despite the Town Planner's recommendation which was worded in the Developer's favour. Congrats..... to our three Ward Aldermen! Naturally Ferry Road residents are jubilant. They had worked very hard aided by the Glebe Society, to prevent a miscarriage of their lawful rights under the amendment to the New Local Government Act. Will there be a return bout? Watch this column.

FLATS BLOCK FOR GLEBE:

An application to build a 3-story block of flats on the northern corner of Glebe Point Road and Pendrill Street has been referred to the Police Dept. because it was proposed to allow all traffic from the project to enter and leave via Pendrill Street, which is only 20 ft. wide.

STUDENTS' HOSTEL

An application for permission to demolish 83/85 Hereford Street and erect a 3-storey hostel containing 101 single rooms has been deferred to the State Planning Authority, Dept. of Main Roads, and the Police Dept.

HOSTEL FOR WORKING BOYS

Approval has been granted to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to build a hostel on a site bounded by Woolley St., John St., St. James Avenue, and Woolley Lane, Glebe.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LOCAL GOVT. ASSOCIATION

Glebe Alderman, Mr. L. McMahon has been elected one of three delegates to represent Leichhardt Council at a four-day conference to be held at Wagga in August. Glebe Alderman, Dr. H.J. Foley and the Mayor of Leichhardt Mr. L.J. Rodwell, will also attend as observers, and the Town Clerk, Mr. Bassett, will accompany the delegation. What an opportunity for our Aldermen to submit motions of local concern for consideration and to hear submissions from other councils! Any suggestions/ideas for your Ward Aldermen? Closing date for submitting motions by Council, 15th April, 1971.

TEACH YOUR NEIGHBOUR ENGLISH

Some of members of the Glebe Society under the guidance of Mrs. Kate Smith, a representative of the Good Neighbour Council, are teaching their migrant neighbours to speak English. A need was found for this in two main areas, one where women at home were not mixing with Australians and therefore not learning and were consequently feeling lonely and isolated; and two, where men and women were unable to get jobs because of their inability to speak English

Although the Department of Education provides some language classes it was found that many people were unable to attend, or found it difficult to learn in a large group situation. The Glebe Society teachers however feel that their function has been to supplement rather than take the place of any such classes.

The group has had seven teachers and six pupils to date, and although small group teaching was tried it was found individual tuition was best.

For Your Diary

Saturday, 3rd April, History Walk. The walk will start at Vince. Shepherd's at 1.30 p.m. (6 Leichhardt St.) and then to Presbyterian Manse, 244 Glebe Point Rd., Chinese Joss House, St. Scholastica's, Camden College, St. Johns Church, Record Reign Hall and Briarbank. The walk will be conducted by Max Solling and Dr. Bernard Smith. After the walk, tea will be served at the Colmans', 48 Boyce Street. Charge for walk and tea 50c adults, 25c children.

Sunday, 4th April, 8 p.m. Planning forum meeting at the home of David Potter, 8 Gottenham Street.

Sunday, 4th April, 7-30 p.m. History sub-committee meeting at the home of Max Solling, 17 Avona Avenue.

Wednesday, 14th April, 8 p.m. Social Activities Group at Maureen Colman's, 48 Boyce St. Come along and help us to arrange this years Birthday Party.

Sunday, April 18th, at 2-00 p.m. at Dr. Foley Park, corner Glebe and Bridge Rds., Glebe Walk with Tony Rodd and the Green Thumbs. Afternoon tea at 30 Talfourd St., to discuss future policy for planting street trees.

Green Thumb

Last year, Tony Rodd compiled a very informative survey of trees growing in some Glebe Streets. Tony, a botanist with the National Herbarium, will lead a Glebe Walk on April 18th. The aims will be to follow up the survey and to formulate future plans for tree planting in our local streets which can be submitted to Council. The walk will commence at 2.00 p.m. at the Dr. Foley Park and will finish at Marie Webb's home, 30 Talfourd St., for afternoon tea and discussion.

Schedule 14 (Horticulture) for the Royal Easter Show, is available from The Director, Royal Agricultural Society, Box 4317, G.P.O. Sydney, 2001. Entries close April 1st.

Very often when choosing a tree suitable for a small garden the answer is a lemon! Eurekas and Lisbons are eminently satisfactory, but you may wish to try some of the newer varieties such as Mir. Whichever one you choose you can be assured of an abundance of decorative foliage combined with the advantage of a constant supply of fresh lemons.

RENOVATING

In the next column we publish a letter from the R.A.I.A. highlighting some of the pitfalls of terrace renovation. Before interfering with the stucco (cement render) on the surface, it should be remembered that most of the older buildings in Glebe do not employ cavity wall construction.

They are DOUBLE brick without a cavity so that moisture penetrating the outer layer will soon find its way inside. Think twice before you begin to chip away.

Restoration means what it says - restoring the original character of the building.

RESTORATION OF TERRACE HOUSES IN LEICHHARDT AREA

A copy of the following letter was received by the Society:

The Town Clerk,
Leichhardt Municipal Council.

Dear Sir,

The NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects is concerned at the way in which the manner of restoration of many of the terraces in the Leichhardt Municipal area is fragmenting the present quality of uniform scale, material and period character. Most terraces have been considered as an entity and not as individual units.

Unfortunately, at the present time some developments are taking place which break up the visual quality of the area. While it is difficult to deny individual owners the right to make changes to their houses to suit their own specific tastes, it seems desirable to ensure that the overall character is not destroyed. This may mean the preparation of broad recommendations which Council could suggest to terrace owners who propose making alterations accompanied by a publicity campaign directed towards a better understanding of the factors involved in maintaining visual and environmental coherence and quality.

Some of the changes which are being made are inconsistent with the period character of the buildings. An example is the use of texture bricks. Others are well meaning but misguided. One particular change which is taking place is not only visually inconsistent but also leads to the deterioration of the fabric of the building. This is the practice of stripping stucco from the face of the building to reveal the sandstock bricks beneath. Stucco is an integral part of the structure of these buildings and the walls stripped are, in many cases, porous, and may allow the transmission of damp leading to deterioration of the wall and of interior plaster and paint. This has a consequent effect on the health of the occupants.

Chapter wishes to draw the attention of the Council to this problem and to suggest that some action should be taken. We would be happy to provide advice on the matter, through the Historic Buildings Committee of the Chapter.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) H.B. Mortlock
President, Royal Australian Institute of Architects

WANTED

Someone willing and able to do sketches for the Bulletin - to illustrate articles and generally give the Bulletin greater impact.

Contact your nearest Bulletin distributor (see list in this issue).

GEORGE WIGRAM ALLEN

George Allen's presence set the tone of respectability and "good society" in the northern sector of the Glebe, where "rural residences having all the advantages of seclusion and retirement with contiguity to the centre of business in a neighbourhood always select and improving", could be acquired.

Suburban respectability was largely a matter of the right address and the possession of it was a source of great satisfaction to many Glebe Point residents. In the quest for social exclusiveness, a house in a more elevated part of Glebe Point was not only remote from the "noxious inhalations and blighting winds" of Blackwattle Swamp, but also symbolised the householders position in the social pyramid.

In 1851 the discovery of gold suddenly brought a large wave of immigrants into the colony, and as the urban community expanded and became increasingly diversified, Allen's predominant position in the community declined.

Allen retired from his legal practise in 1855 and although his tremendous energy had faded somewhat, he continued to exercise considerable influence in Glebe and occupied pride of place at local meetings and in Church and charitable bodies.

From the late fifties until his sudden death in 1885, the eldest of Allen's children, George Wigram Allen, played a dominant role in Glebe affairs.

Born at Surry Hills in 1824, he was articled to his father in 1841 and 5 years later admitted as a solicitor. In July 1851 he married Marian, eldest daughter of Rev. William Boyce, who bore him 6 sons and 4 daughters.

The Allen's lived for a number of years at Lynwood in Ferry Road, before moving to Strathmore on Glebe Road (between Forsyth and Cook Streets) where they lived until 1881. In that year they moved to Toxteth House where Wigram Allen added a third storey to the central block, a tower and various victorian embellishments then in high fashion, disturbing the harmonious proportions of Verge's original design. At Toxteth, the Allen's entertained royally English visitors and public men from neighbouring colonies. "One evening we dined with Sir George Wigram Allen, the late speaker in the House of Assembly a man of vast wealth one of the millionaires of Sydney. His house three miles out of town was like the largest and most splendid of the Putney or Roehampton villas. There was a large gathering of distinguished people legal and political magnates; ladies dressed as well, perhaps as expensively, as the ladies of New York, some of them witty, all pretty, and one or two more than pretty. The cuisine would have done credit to the Palais Royal. The conversation was smart, a species of an intellectual lawn tennis which the colonists play well. There were as many attendants as you would find in a great house at home with the only difference that they wore no livery."

To be continued in the next issue.

Apropos our article Teach Your Neighbour English Lessons are held once a week in either the teacher's or the student's home, some in the day time and some in the evening. If you are interested in joining the group and becoming a teacher, in learning to speak English, or if you have any neighbours who would like to learn contact Mrs. Virginia Winley 660-3529.

If you are near Dargan St. at 7-00 a.m. on Sunday, follow the noise of jackhammers to the site of a new development there. Don't try to take your car as the street is filled with building materials. Unused cement and rubble have been thrown down the old stone steps, onto a nearby street and onto a vacant lot. Observe the site coverage and set back from boundaries. Learn how the builders break into a nearby house. When the owners are not at home to use their toilet and washing facilities. But most of all observe how the building blends into the environment - like a wart on the face of a beautiful woman.

Council elections are to be held on 18th September 1971. Have you verified with Council that your name appears on the roll? Voting, which is not compulsory, is not restricted to ratepayers but to all residents eligible to vote in State and Commonwealth elections. However you must have your claim for enrolment in to Council before the middle of May 1971 if your name is not yet on the roll.

Have you heard of all the new groups being formed throughout Sydney? Groups determined to give planning back to people - for people - not just huge profits for a few. These groups are growing out of a natural reaction to visual assault, invasion of privacy and indifference to peoples' needs. May we wish new groups such as CRAG and Planning for People Campaign every success and offer our support.

Dennis McManus from the Society spoke to Civic Design about Glebe recently. Civic Design is featuring the inner city suburbs this year, Glebe, Paddington, Balmain, Annandale etc.

There has been a good response to the book drive for the library at Glebe Public School. Many books and generous cash donations have been received from members and their friends. Exact numbers and amounts will be published in the next Bulletin. Thanks to all who contributed and especially to those who devoted time to collecting.

The Management Committee recently set up a photographic group to provide a collection of photographs of the area.

It was also decided at the Management Committee to set up a "Public Action Committee" to organise general public meetings etc. on such issues as expressways, preservation versus development and so on. Peter Pockley will act as convenor.

The pollution scare is really on! Readings taken in the central business district indicate levels of carbon monoxide that are amongst the highest in the world including Los Angeles. Drastic steps should be taken immediately to restrict cars in this area until some effective means is found to control pollution from car engines. Do we have to wait till people actually drop in the street before action is taken.