

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

MEMBERS
PLEASE WATCH THIS
SPACE; a cross
means your sub. is
due this month.
Please post to
The Treasurer
P.O. Box 100,
Glebe 2037.

No.2 of 1972. Box 100, P.O., Glebe, 2037. Enquiries: 6605996 or 6606485.

pyrmont bridge road paint-in



Part of the crowd
which helped to
make Saturday, 12th
February, the
successful first
climax of the
Leichhardt Anti-
Expressway Campaign.

Photo by
courtesy
of "The
Glebe Weekly"

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 4th March - COFFEE MORNING.
10.30 - 12.30 at the Colmans', 48 Boyce St.
Charge 20 cents.

- TREE WALK.

Meet Tony Rodd 2 p.m. at Foley Park, corner
of Glebe Pt. Road and Bridge Road.

Wednesday, 8th March - MONTHLY MEETING.
8 p.m. Glebe Town Hall, "The Crowded Years -
Aspects of Life in Glebe from 1861 to 1891",
an illustrated talk by Max Solling.

Thursday, 16th March - TALK.
Mrs. Ruth Allen from the Co-operative for
Aborigines Ltd. 8 p.m. at the Smiths', 23
Avenue Road. See last Bulletin for details.

Saturday, 18th March - THIRD ANNUAL FLOWER
SHOW. Glebe Public School, commencing at
2 p.m. Further details from Meredith
Champion or Marie Webb (660 6483)

Saturday, 1st April - COFFEE MORNING.
10.30 - 12.30 at the McKiernans', 179 Bridge
Road. Charge 20 cents.

Wednesday, 12th April - MONTHLY MEETING.
Organised by the Social Involvement and
Study Group. Glebe Town Hall, 8 p.m.

Thursday, 13th April - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
GROUP MEETING. Colmans', 48 Boyce Street,
at 8 p.m. Everyone who is interested in
helping with the Society's social activities
is welcome.

TREE SURVEY

<u>STREET</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Footpath Width</u>	<u>O'head Wires</u>	<u>Predominant Building Type</u>
ALEXANDRA ROAD (S.E. from corner only.)	N.E.		12'	Yes	1 storey houses
	S.W.		12'	No	1 storey houses, & 2 blocks units.
VICTORIA ROAD	N.W.	Allen-Avenue St.	8½'	No	1 storey houses
		Avenue - Park	12'	No	side fences & 2 houses
	S.E.	Allen-Avenue St. Avenue-Maxwell.	8' 12'	Yes Yes	Fences & side walls 1 storey houses
COOK STREET	N.W.	Glebe Pt.Rd	7½'	Yes	1 storey, very low-roofed
	S.E.		4½'	No	3-4 storey units
FORSYTH STREET	N.W.	Millers St to Glebe Pt.Rd.	5¾'	Yes	1-2 storey terraces.
	S.E.	" "	5¾'	No.	2 storey terraces
FERRY ROAD	N.W.	Glebe Pt.-Avon	6'	No	1 storey houses
		Avon - Miller	6'	No	2 storey terraces
		Miller - water	6'	No	Timber-yard
	S.E.	Glebe Pt. - Avon	6'	Yes	2 storey & park
		Avon - Miller	6'	Yes	Factory
		Miller - water	6'	Yes	Timber-yard
TAYLOR STREET	N.E.		6½'	No	Industrial
	S.W.		6½'	Yes	Vacant, some rock
HEREFORD STREET	N.W.	Glebe - Walsh	5'	No	1-2 storey houses
		Walsh - Ross	8½'	No	Factories
		Ross - SW end	5'	No	2 storey, fencing
	S.E.	Glebe - Ross	5'	Yes	2 storey terraces
		Ross - SW end	5'	Yes	2 storey terraces
ST. JOHNS ROAD (NE of Glebe Pt. Rd.)	N.W.	Glebe Pt -Park	6'	No.	2 storey terraces
	S.E.	Glebe Pt-Broughton	8½'	Yes	2 storey terraces
		Broughton-Wentworth	6½'	Yes	Cottages
		Wentworth - Park	6'	Yes	High-rise flats

MEET MANAGEMENT

GEOFF PAGE ambled into Glebe fifteen months ago with the greedy intention of buying up a semi-derelict house, superficially improving it and selling it for an exorbitant profit which could then be reinvested in a house in a more salubrious suburb. However, a combination of normal human lassitude and a growing desire to meddle in the affairs of the community have resulted in the house remaining semi-derelict and the grand dreams of exorbitant profit gently floating away. These considerations, coupled with severe domestic population growth, have justified the reassessment of his objectives to including a rather more prolonged stay in Glebe and eventually even tolerating its other inhabitants. Recently he has pontificated at planning forum meetings, mullered over local election literature, blundered on to the Committee of the Glebe Society, and wandered along to occasional Anti-Expressway gatherings. His likes are mostly associated with his creature comforts but include a group of items which he has some vague idea

are fashionable and respectable things to support; the contents of this group vary from day to day. He is beginning to manoeuvre his idiosyncrasies into the forest of similar items that comprise the Glebe Society and hopes that the other denizens of that throbbing hive of human involvement will endure him a little longer.

MAUREEN COLMAN, the Convenor of the Social Activities Group, was born in Scotland but has lived in Australia for ten years, and in Glebe for the last two. She likes the interesting variety of houses and people in Glebe; would like to see the suburb cleaner and tidier, and with better shops. She thinks a car is a boon and enjoys driving, though this certainly doesn't mean she approves of expressways through Glebe. As Convenor of the Social Activities Group she believes that one of the main functions of the Society is to provide opportunities for people to get to know their neighbours.

She lectures on literature part-time for the Department of Adult Education at Sydney University. She is married and has three children.

Last year the Parks and Gardens Sub-Committee, chiefly through Tony Rodd, began surveying Glebe streets to recommend trees for planting on the footpaths. Part I is published below; Part II is in the course of production.

<u>Av. bldg.</u> <u>setback</u>	<u>TREE RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>Spacing</u>	<u>Approx.</u> <u>No. reqd.</u>
12'	Agonis flexuosa, "W.A. Willow Peppermint"	40'	9
12'	Eucalyptus nicholii, "Narrow-leaved Peppermint"	40'	9
10'	Ulmus parvifolia, "Chinese Elm"	40'	5
12'	Celtis sinensis, "Chinese Hackberry"	40'	5
0'	Ulmus parvifolia, "Chinese Elm"		4
12'	Callistemon viminalis, "Weeping Bottlebrush"	40'	16
3'	Bauhinia variegata, "Butterfly Bush"	24'	12
	None - path too narrow		
6'	Podocarpus elatus, "Illawarra Plum"	30'	25
15'	Platanus Xhybrida, "London Plane"	40'	21
6'	Podocarpus elatus, "Illawarra Plum"	30'	40
3-10'	" "	"	
	" "		
3'	Fraxinus ocyarpa, "Desert Ash"	36'	35
0'	Populus nigra 'Italica', "Lombardy Poplar"	36'	21
	Tristania laurina, "Water Gum"	36'	20
6-20'	Celtis sinensis, "Chinese hackberry"	40'	
0'	Populus X canadensis, "Hybrid poplar"	40'	
6-15'	Eucalyptus nicholii, "Narrow-leaved Peppermint"	40'	
8-15'	Agonis flexuosa, "Willow Peppermint"	30'	
0-15'	Koelreuteria paniculata, "Gold-rain Tree"	30'	
0'	Brachychiton discolor, "Lacebark Kurrajong"	40'	
6'	Celtis australis, "Nettle Tree"	30'	
8-10'	Bauhinia variegata, "Butterfly Bush"	30'	
30'	Fraxinus oxycarpa, "Desert Ash"	30'	

MISCELLANY

The trucks of Glebe are not only increasing daily (a radial road system makes bases closer to the centre more economical) but seem to be free to tear down 2-ton limit streets (such as St. Johns Road and Talfourd St.), park illegally at will and use Glebe as one huge truck yard. They are constantly breaking the law and, while we enjoy a watchful truce with most of the industries of Glebe, we must not tolerate the arrogance of some of these trucking firms.

Architecture students at Sydney University are this year carrying out an intensive study of Leichhardt Municipality. Such topics as civic groups, politics, history, foreshore development and highway development will be covered, and all results will be released to Council.

The Leichhardt Anti-Expressway Campaign Committee gratefully acknowledges the donations of \$28 so freely given by members of the Glebe Society at the February Monthly Meeting.

A progressive (?) development company which has been busy replacing Glebe's homes with full site coverage eyesores had the hide to say in a recent newspaper promotion, "Glebe's farmlands have been graced with rows of Victorian homes overlooking the reaches of the Harbour." When they have finished their destruction will they replace "have been" with "used to be"?

Sometime during the next six weeks an Historic Evening will be held at Lyndhurst House.

meals on wheels

Mr. Williams, Health Officer at Leichhardt Council, has requested the Glebe Society's help with Meals on Wheels. Two ladies, (one with a car and a helper) are needed on the third Wednesday of each month between about 11 am - 1 pm. Meals are collected from the Centre and taken to housebound pensioners. Anyone who can help either directly or by minding another volunteer's child for those 2 hours, please ring Kathy Mispel, 660 5996.

How to date your house

There are various methods which can be used for ascertaining the date of your house. By checking one method against another it is possible to establish a reasonably accurate date.

The quickest way is to use the Sands Directory, copies of which may be found on the open access shelves of the Public Library of N.S.W. in Macquarie Street (at the far end, on the left, at floor level). These volumes cover the years from 1858 to 1931. A second set in the Mitchell Library includes some years missing from the Public Library. The surest method is to start with the year when your side of the street was first complete with houses and numbered as it is to-day, and then work backwards to the year in which your house is first recorded. (In Glebe most streets were completely built up by 1914 - so you might try starting with 1914 - though many were complete much earlier.)

As one works through the years various difficulties appear: street numbers change and finally disappear; there can be confusion about directions, for example "east side" can turn to "north side" according to the whim of the Directory's compiler for the area; names of the cross-streets can change or disappear. A volume of Sands Directory for 1888 provides maps which can sometimes help with these problems. The Directory for the year 1871 gives the first details for individual streets. For example, for Ferry Road:

Glebe Road to Blackwattle Bay.
East Side (now south side)
vacant land
Mitchell, F. 'Lynwood'
Bell, Capt. William. 'Rothwell Lodge'
vacant land
Here Avona Street
vacant land
Here Blackwattle Bay
West Side (now north side)
Here Glebe Road
Mansfield, George. 'Lynedock'
vacant land
Here Avon Street
vacant land
Bean, George Thomas, carpenter
Blackwattle Bay.

Before 1871 only an alphabetical list of all Glebe householders is given, together with the name of their streets and sometimes the name of their houses and occupations.

Another problem is the frequent change of householders, the houses often being let by the owner. Here the names of the houses often help to identify individual properties. On the other hand a householder may change the name of the house. In such cases the names of the adjacent houses or householders may help.

The names at present upon existing houses may be of great help in establishing the position of a house named in the Directory. For example: Sands Directory of 1893 cites that a Captain Cable lived in Rubiana on the west side of Park Street (now Allen Street). This was the only house cited on the west side of

Park Street for that year. The location of Captain Cable's house (he lived there for about 20 years) is established as No.8 Allen Street, which still bears the name Rubiana on a small wooden board above the front door.

NB Since housenames may thus serve to identify existing houses with the records it would seem highly desirable to preserve and display names given to houses, just as one would seek to preserve or restore the original architectural features.

The Directories are not, however, entirely reliable. A house may be listed on the wrong side of a street or be completely omitted, or be placed out of order. But these errors are usually corrected in later volumes. Furthermore, since the Directories appear annually the first entry of a householder may appear at any time up to twelve months after the completion of the house. Some entries state that a house is 'unfinished' or 'in course of construction'. This can be most helpful, especially if a householder or the entry 'vacant house' is cited the following year.

To obtain an exact date, rate books may be consulted in conjunction with the Directories. The rate books of the Glebe wards have recently been removed from Sydney Town Hall after requests from some interested members of the Glebe Society concerned by their deterioration in the damp conditions there, and because of the difficulty in consulting them in the Sydney Town Hall. They are now catalogued and kept in the Government Repository. They can be brought, on special request for research purposes, to the Mitchell Library. The rate books are big, heavy and dirty, and each volume for the whole borough of Glebe contains entries for only one year - which is the position for the years from 1890 to 1919. For earlier years, from the 1870s, there are volumes for the individual wards. The use of rate books requires time and space (since they are bulky) and should not be undertaken in a casual manner.

The Mitchell Library also has two large boxes of sub-division maps and auction-sale notices for the Glebe, in which the building lots are indicated. Some are headed by an illustration of the old house and grounds to be demolished. When I last used them the individual items in these boxes had not yet been separately catalogued, so it is necessary to search through a box for relevant material.

The older your house the more difficult it is to establish a precise date for it and recourse to the Titles Office may be necessary, but the use of such legal documents for the dating of houses is complicated (since they refer directly to the ownership and transfer of land) and rarely of value without other sources of information.

The History Walk led by the Glebe Society at the beginning of each year enables members to learn about the historical development of the Glebe and its various streets and buildings. Under the expert leadership of Max Solling who has studied the Glebe over many years it is something not to be missed.

Kate Smith