

The Glebe
Society

BULLETIN

No.2 of 1975. (Mar.)

P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037. Phone 660-0026.

Light at the End of the Tunnel.

Since the Fig St. Fiasco in October, 1974, the Anti Urban Radial Expressway Committee has continued various forms of activities designed to achieve the objectives implied in its name. (We have discussed shortening or changing the name but it really is the most relevant.)

Just to recap - the Fig St Fiasco saw hundreds of residents turning out in a spontaneous demonstration against the DMR's policies. For one long week Fig St Ultimo was THE place to be. Residents, bulldozers, police, politicians and the media were there. Tension was high. Twelve people were arrested. But a real community spirit pervaded and the residents prevailed.

Three weeks later a hastily-called public meeting in Glebe Town Hall was attended by over 140 people. Films and a videotape were shown. An open committee was formed with a charter to oppose the Western and North Western Expressways by all possible means, and to contact other groups with similar aims in other areas. This committee has met regularly since and has very successfully carried on the campaign. We have achieved quite a lot of publicity, made a comprehensive submission for a study of the North Western (and all other) Expressways(s), raised funds, lobbied state and Australian politicians, contacted other groups, researched the issue and we are now working on a documentary videotape to be shown at block-by-block residents meetings.

We have fully supported those arrested at Fig St., but the cases continue to be adjourned and further charges added. All cases still to be heard have had the charge of "being on a building without reasonable cause" added to their other "crimes". This despite the fact that many of the buildings are still wide open to passersby, with no indication that "Trespassers will be pro-

secuted". The Court cases of the Fig St Eight (some cases already heard) come up in Court again on Wednesday, 12th and Thursday, 13th March. Please demonstrate YOUR support for our heroes outside Central Court, Liverpool St., between 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. BOTH days.

In addition, we are working closely with the Save Public Transport Committee. Allan Sorrensen is working as a full time unpaid public transport lobbyist from the A.F.U.L.E. office. A deputation of 12 people to Mr. Fife, N.S.W. Minister for Transport and Highways, has been organised by this group. The pro public transport, anti expressway case will be put very strongly by unionists, residents, environmentalists and others. We aim to prevent legislation from the Shirley, Neilsen and Atkins - Meinhardt Reports in the short term and lessen our social and economic dependence on the car by improving public transport in the long term.

The Anti Urban Radial Expressway Committee wishes to record very sincere thanks to the Glebe Society for its very generous donation of \$50.00 recently. This is a valued and valuable contribution.

We would like to briefly mention that current indications are that the proposed road tunnel under the Toxteth Estate will be of a "cut-and-fill" type and not a "driven" one.

Finally, the Committee meets every second Sunday at 11.00 a.m. at the Methodist Christian Community Centre, 19 Toxteth Road.

All those interested in preserving Glebe from the concrete monster are very welcome. The next meeting will be held on Sunday 16th March. Further details from Allan Sorrensen, 660.1604, or Jeanette Knox, 660.7781.

Allan Sorrensen

WHAT THEY DID

At its meeting on 2nd February, some of the matters discussed by the Management Committee were -

- * The railway monograph, various resultant news items and Jim Coombs' interview with Julie Rigg (see elsewhere in this Bulletin).
- * A proposed objection to the State Planning and Environment Commission (with the support of the National Trust) concerning the Leichhardt Council's draft town plan, to the effect that the Conservation area should be co-extensive with the area classified by the Trust.
- * The Glebe Society/Balmain Association Submission on the M.S.B. Foreshore Zoning Scheme.
- * Tony Stachan has been appointed the Society's representative on the Planning and Architectural Panel of the Australian Government's Glebe project.
- * A letter to the Minister for Planning (Sir John Fuller) suggesting legislation for the protection of historic buildings.
- * Particulars of the Society have been furnished to the N.S.W. Environment Centre.
- * A reply from the S.P.E.C. to the Society's submission that its survey of recreation areas be extended to Leichhardt Municipality, as a comparison with Sutherland Shire.
- * Press release "A Short-Sighted Transport Policy" prepared by Allan Sorrensen of A.U.R.E.C. and endorsed by unionists, academics and residents' groups.
- * Peru Perumal agreed to prepare a review of the S.P.E.C. Planning Scheme Prospectus.
- * Donation of \$50.00 approved to the Anti Urban Radial Expressway Committee (A.U.R.E.C.).
- * Jim Coombs agreed to fix a date for the Glebe Society v. Balmain Association Cricket Match.

THE RAILWAY ALTERNATIVE

Jim Coomb's and John Gerofi's recent monograph "A Northwestern Railway. instead of the Expressway" received publicity on 12th December last - an A.B.C. radio news broadcast that Mr. Milton Morris was looking at this alternate proposal, and on 13th December in the Financial Review - a short article. On 17th December, Jim was interviewed on the A.B.C. radio programme "New Society" by M/s Julie Rigg....

Excerpts....

Jim: "One of the things is, it does not require a large amount of area. It does not require parking facilities in the city, it does not require the demolition of homes in Ultimo, Glebe and Annandale and so on. The line exists and the cost is the same as two miles of expressway.

"You have to use all the modes of transport to have the most efficient system.....Our system is designed to cross the city to join up with the eastern suburbs railway; people could travel from Randwick to Cheltenham.

"This particular network (the existing goods line) covers most of industrial Sydney, and could be used and developed for goods and passenger transport. Where the proponents of the expressway are suggesting one of their chief arguments is to provide routes for trucks using the container terminals, there is already an existing railway network which could be used more to get container traffic away from the terminals into proper dispatching areas closer to the industrial suburbs that are growing in the west of Sydney".

Julie Rigg: "Why is it historically the potential of railways here and in other countries as movers of passengers and goods has never been developed the way it could?"

Jim: "I think partly it's fashion. We have always looked to the thing that is "the coming thing" and the railways were that in the 1860's. When they were all built, people began to regard them as a second-rate service."

Alison McKeown

Any Old Iron ?

Slates and timber roofing battens and other bits are available from Mrs. Sargent, 40 Boyce Street, Glebe. Tel. 660.5925.

Lengths of old building timber suitable for firewood available from Alan Robertson 660. 6149.

Courtesy costs nothing, and the converse is equally true. The Christmas party lost \$117.00, largely because of the failure of members to notify the organisers of their attendance in time for catering arrangements to be made. If the lists had been closed on the advertised last day for notification, only 12 people would have been there - in fact well over 100 turned up.

THE HATTED PUDDING

The Secretary has received the following letter from a St. Ives reader who must remain anonymous (because we can't read his signature).

Dear Sir,

Be advised that I am ashamed that your Society should stop the monument to this State's greatest Premier, Sir Robert Askin. The gesture would have been appreciated by citizens from all walks of life, and I deplore your small-minded and parochial attack.

Wentworth Park would be the better for this memento to Sir Robert who for over twenty years lived only a few hundred yards from the site. It is a revelation to see that the power your Society exerts was greater than that of the Premier of the State.

Yours etc.

Leichhardt Council has placed advertisements in the local press recently, requesting people's comments on trees. Please record your opinion by writing to the Town Clerk, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Leichhardt Town Hall, 107 Norton Street, Leichhardt. 2040.

The Glebe Society Playreading Group requests the pleasure of your company

To read a part or be an observer

at

The Wedding Breakfast

"Dimboola"

at

42 Toxteth Road,

on

Wednesday, 26th March, at 7.45 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Monday 24th March
Vivian Clarke
660.5279

GARDENING NOTES.

The Garden Group met at the Colmans' house on Sunday morning, 9th February, and again at the McKeowns' on the 9th March.

We talked about eradication of weeds and animal pests, ways of disposing of garden clippings, planning and growing gardens around temporary renovation rubbish, and beautiful gardens that members had seen in Balmain and Paddington.

We decided to have a break from the garden competition this year, and instead, hope to organize a garden inspection in the coming spring.

The small library will be re-organised.

Meetings over the next few months will be as follows:-

Saturday,
5th April

At 2 p.m. at 96 Windsor St., Paddington to inspect the gardens of the Gardening Club of the Paddington Society. Please bring a flask of tea, coffee or whatever for consumption in one of the gardens we shall visit.

Sunday,
13th April

We meet at 2 p.m. at 93 Ferry Road, to inspect Patricia Colemans' garden.

Sunday,
11th May

We will first go to have a look at the Lewis Hoad garden, Minogue Crescent, at 2 p.m., after which we shall proceed to Patty and Ted McKiernans', 181 Bridge Road.

Sunday,
8th June

Mr. Conley of the Royal Horticultural Society will give a talk on some gardening topic, at Jean and Theo Ahlston's, 58 Toxteth Road, at 2.30 p.m.

Theo Ahlston



FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, March 17th, 2 p.m. 1/75 St. Johns Rd., (St. John's Village). Bring along your knitting, mending or what you will, to meet friends at Mary Wargenau's. This will be the first meeting of many, and a programme of discussion (a talk, reading, music or what you will) will be arranged.

Sunday, 23rd March, 11 a.m. Volunteers and supporters, fanatics and families to Birchgrove Oval, Grove St., for the annual CRICKET MATCH with the Balmain Association. The "first eleven", reserves and umpire please volunteer by phone to Jim Coombs 660.0026. If the weather is doubtful on the day, ring Jim to find out if play will occur.

Monday, 24th March, 7.30 p.m. New ideas are essential for the social activities committee. Come to the meeting at Kathy and Ian Pickles', 50 Toxteth Road, and surprise yourself with the spontaneous ideas that the meeting will stir up within you.

Wednesday, 26th March, 7.45 p.m. Playreading. See elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Saturday, 5th April, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Leichhardt Planning Forum has arranged a conference at Balmain Town Hall, "Towards a New Planning System". Mr. Peter Webber of S.P.E.C. will be Chairman. People from the Planning and Environment Commission are included amongst the speakers. Ring Betty Mason 660.3468 or David Chesterman 290.2722.

Saturday, 5th April, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Coffee morning, just a short walk from one of Glebe's shopping centres. Come to the Forknell's at 21 Ferry Rd., 20¢ as usual.

Saturday, 5th April. Genesian Theatre. Two plays, "Transcending" and "Black Comedy" at \$2.50 a seat. Kathy Pickles is still taking bookings from members, telephone 660.4924. Hillary Larkum is one of the actors.

Sunday, 13th April. The Mulwaree - Goulburn Rotary Club has arranged the opening of "Kippilow" Homestead, Grabben - Goulburn Road, near Goulburn. Admission \$2 per family.

Sunday, 13th April. Gardening Group meets at Pat Coleman's, 93 Ferry Rd., 2 p.m.

Saturday, 19th April, 2 p.m. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - HISTORY WALK. You are invited to explore Glebe on foot with Max Solling. Old members are, of course, welcome to come. We are meeting outside St. Scholastica's main gates, Avenue Rd. Have your car handy for a possible trip to St. Stephen's Cemetery, 189 Church Street, Newtown. (Transport arranged on the spot for anybody wanting it). Refreshments will be served after the walk.

Wednesday mornings. Are you interested in going to a film every second Wednesday morning? Perhaps lunch afterwards? The day hasn't been fixed yet - it could be a Tues., Wed., or Thurs. Ring Anna Forknell 660.5162 and discuss what you'd like.

Drinking wine is a pleasant pastime. So is bottling and drinking wine! It can be done, and Tony Larkum is prepared to make arrangements. Ring him this month and start the ball rolling. 660.7030

TOWN PLANNING

The National Trust Junior Group is holding a series of lectures on Town Planning on Tuesday nights in March and April at the Hall of Assembly, University of Sydney Law School, 173 Phillip Street, Sydney, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 per lecture (\$6.50 for the series, or \$6.00 for Trust members).

The first lecture, on March 4th, was by John Toon and was entitled "Conservation and Town Planning : Conflict or Collusion?"

Further topics will be -

<u>March 11th</u>	"Historic Towns in Changing Regional Economies" - Denis Jeans.
<u>March 18th</u>	"Planning for an Inner Suburban Area" - Penelope Pike.
<u>April 8th</u>	"Scenic Conservation" - Gardner Browne.
<u>April 15th</u>	"Conserving Historic Buildings" - Tom Heath.

For further enquiries, contact Albert Renshaw on 660.0682.