

The Glebe
Society

BULLETIN

No. 3 of 1975. (Apr.)

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TOM GLASSCOCK



Thomas Denby Glasscock

(1862-1944)

Sydney grew not as a gradual extension from the centre, but as a series of what were at first isolated settlements around the harbour. The first municipalities were established in these suburban communities, which developed something of a tradition of local independence.

Glebe, incorporated as a municipality in August, 1859, was fully occupied with the task of paving and lighting its streets and collecting garbage. More ambitious Council functions, free libraries and child welfare services, were not realised in Glebe until 1882. The principal streets, watered with salt water, were lit by 308 gas lamps in 1887 and when, at the municipal elections in 1905, a majority of Glebe electors voted in the affirmative to the question "Are you in favour of the borough being lighted by electricity?", the gas lamps disappeared forever from the Glebe landscape.

The growth of the occupation of Town Clerk, Borough Engineer and Inspector of Nuisances were undoubtedly important forces in setting standards of administration and implementing policies. Thomas Denby Glasscock was born in 1862, the son of a Glebe harnessmaker, and received his education at St. Barnabas denominational school. He joined Glebe Council as a messenger at 8/- a week in 1876, when Glebe's green fields were being carved up as the process of residential development intensified and Council was busily engaged in kerbing and guttering the streets that laced the suburb. In his reminiscences, Glasscock recalled that at that time numerous mansions such as Hereford House, Strathmore, Arden, Avona, Venetia and Toxteth House dotted the landscape, and omnibus proprietors daily washed their horses in the pond near the junction of Glebe Road and Broadway. In 1884 Glasscock was appointed Town Clerk, a position he held until his retirement in 1933; and during his 49 years as Town Clerk he left his indelible mark on the general administration of Glebe Council, which had a reputation for being one of the most efficiently administered local areas in N.S.W.

Local government in N.S.W. was relatively free of party politics until 1920, when ninety-two candidates endorsed as A.L.P.

stood at the municipal elections throughout Sydney and twenty-four Labour men were successful. Glasscock witnessed a fundamental change in the elected representatives of Glebe in December 1925, when ten of the twelve successful candidates were A.L.P. representatives. Labour gained control of Sydney's inner suburban councils in 1928, and at the time the Secretary of the Local Government Association, Arthur Bluett, claimed that the introduction of party politics into municipal affairs would reduce the efficiency of local administration. "Party politics should have no concern in the municipal affairs of this State", Bluett declared, "and if important local matters are to be administered on party lines, the system will nullify the fundamental principles of local government which are that municipal affairs should be administered in the best interests of the ratepayers. What has party politics to say to the expenditure of the rates on essential municipal services?" (S.M.H. 23.11.1928 p.13).

The affairs of Glebe Council were at a low ebb in the years from 1927 to 1929. Allegations of bribery and corruption against some aldermen, wild scenes disrupting Council meetings and assaults during this period, when Bookmaker William Walsh was Mayor, greatly perturbed the ageing Glasscock in his final years in Council. Glasscock was for many years a staunch supporter of the Boy Scout movement and acted as treasurer for many Glebe charitable organisations. In his career with Glebe Council from 1876 to 1933 he had served under twenty different Mayors.

Tom Glasscock, the doyen of town clerks, died on 30th October, 1944 and was buried with his wife Annie, who predeceased him on 30th January, 1934, in the Church of England section, Rookwood Cemetery. Annie Glasscock, like her husband, took a keen interest in community affairs and was for twenty years Superintendent of Sydney Central nursing division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

In 1945 a Royal Commission was appointed to consider the question of local government areas in the County of Cumberland, and a variety of alarums and excursions on the political front resulted in a reduction of local authorities within the County from 66 to 40 in 1948. One of the suburban councils to lose its autonomy was Glebe, which came under the jurisdiction of Sydney City Council.

Max Solling

GLEBE PLAY GROUP

We have held Playgroup at the Sydney City Mission Hall, 47 St. John's Rd., since its inception 3½ years ago and we are most grateful to Sister Dukes of the Mission. We are continuing to use the hall on the third floor of the building, but we are constantly on the look-out for ground floor accommodation with access to outdoors.

Here are our basic requirements:-

1. An indoor area not smaller than 15 feet by 20 feet.
2. An area to store our equipment (we have a large wardrobe, a smaller cupboard, painting boards and easels and a climbing frame.)
3. Toilet facilities.
4. A fenced outdoor area (We would love it to be sunny with a tree and some grass where we could have a sandpit and a swing.)

We hold Playgroup twice a week, Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning for two hours each session, but these times would be flexible. There are usually about a dozen mothers and fifteen children at each session.

We can pack our equipment into a fairly small space after each session so that it would not get in the way for the rest of the week. Somewhere to boil a kettle would be nice though not essential. We could only afford a small rent.

If any of the Bulletin readers have somewhere like this or know of somewhere, we would be most grateful if you would contact us through Annette Evans, 660.3386.

THE BULLETIN

In July, 1969, Sandra and Robert Darroch edited the first "Glebe Society News Bulletin":- "The Roads group will look closely into the Dept. of Main Roads Expressway proposals".

The Darrochs continued Bulletin production until the end of 1970 when Eric Sandblom took over and began offset printing. Albert Mispel took over in August, 1971, and continued (excepting for Nos. 4, 5 & 6 of 1972) until mid 1974 when Ted McKeown stepped in.

The editor's/producer's job is to write, bully, cajole and edit articles, and arrange typing and layout and art work in preparation for the printer. (Scissors, paste, Letraset, and cartridge paper spread all over the place for one or two evenings!) Anyone who would like to see the layout being done, please ring Ted.

The prepared cartridge sheets go to Albert Renshaw, who takes them to Snap Instant Printing. Printing takes two days, and costs about \$20 or \$25 for four hundred copies of a 4 page issue. Any photos used cost an additional \$10 to process.

One hundred copies approximately are sent to welfare groups and other interested bodies, and 347 to members. Albert Renshaw then delivers the Bulletin to the Glebe Community Care Centre for folding; he collects it and arranges addressing envelopes by a faithful band of seven or eight members. He also arranges the placing of copies into envelopes and delivers them to distributors around Glebe (about seventeen in number).

VERY IMPORTANT FOOTNOTE: The McKeown's are withdrawing from their job on the Bulletin after the issue following the A.G.M. this year (1975).

Volunteers for the position of editor would be most welcome.

The job is constant although not difficult and can be very interesting and rewarding.

GREEN BANS?

The Glebe Society was represented at a hastily convened meeting of residents' groups called by the N.S.W. Branch of the Builders' Labourers' Federation at the Trades Hall on Wednesday, 26th March. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the disbanding of the N.S.W. Branch and its merger into the Federal body. Emphasis was placed on the precarious position of green bans.

(It is as well to recall that most, if not all of the green bans imposed by the N.S.W.B.L.F. were imposed at the request of residents' groups, who were and are unable to obtain redress by more "legitimate" means.)

Joe Owens, Jack Mundy, their colleagues and supporters could no longer guarantee green bans, but would urge the Federal body to maintain them.

It is evident that the first green bans to be seriously challenged will be a trial of strength for the resident action movement, and it is now more important than ever for residents' groups to keep in contact and lend each other support by every possible means.



Any Old Iron?

New home required for Japanese Maple tree (4' high in the ground). Present position is too hot and unsuitable. 660.3917 - McKeowns.

FOR YOUR DIARY

SATURDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2 P.M. GLEBE SOCIETY HISTORY WALK with Max Solling, to welcome NEW MEMBERS. Would new and old members please gather outside the main gates of St. Scholastica's College, 2 Avenue Road. After the walk, afternoon tea will be served at Kate and Bernard Smith's, 23 Avenue Road. You can also taste the wine that's to be bottled on Saturday, 17th May.

SATURDAY, 19TH APRIL, evening, I.S.R.A.G. working night at the Methodist Christian Community Centre, 19 Toxteth Road for "Green Bans Day". Posters, leaflets, banners, etc. will be produced. Bring equipment if possible. I.S.R.A.G. enquiries please ring Joye Wallace 660.0137

WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL, 8 P.M. Join in the Demented Melancholia of the play reading group, (at Albert Renshaws', Unit 14, 2 Mary Street), as they plough through the harrowing tale of the great Egyptian Queen who, perhaps not unwillingly, eventually shuffles off this mortal coil due to a self-inflicted overdose of the aspics. Yes, it's John Dryden's immortal classic "ALL FOR LOVE". (If you can get hold of a copy of the book, please bring it).

Enquiries to Albert on 660.0682

SATURDAY, 26TH APRIL, 8 P.M. "An Evening with Antiques and Art" at Mrs. M. Baker's home, 18 Valerie Avenue, Seven Hills. R.S.V.P. 20th April 798.5204. Supper \$3.00. Informal talks by experts, and items on display. (Ashfield and District Historical Society)

SUNDAY, 27TH APRIL, C.R.A.G. GREEN BANS RALLY, Sydney Town Hall. Watch press releases for commencement time.

SATURDAY, 3RD MAY, COFFEE MORNING with Marian and Randal Jones, at 27 Mansfield Street. Coffee, tea and biscuits are the usual 20¢. 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

MONDAY, 5TH MAY, 7.30 P.M. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE invites members to come along and air their views on what they would like organized this year. The meeting will be at Cathy and Ian Pickles' home, 50 Toxteth Road. Social activities are important to the Society for members to meet one another.

THURSDAY, 8TH MAY, I.S.R.A.G. GREEN BANS MARCH. Meet in Martin Place at 4.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, 11TH MAY, Gardening Group meets (see previous Bulletin) Lewis Hoad Garden and the McKiernan's garden.

SATURDAY, 17TH MAY, 2 P.M. ITS ON! Wine bottling will happen at 17 Alexandra Road with Hilary and Tony Larkum. Bring your own clean bottles for the fill.

SATURDAY, 7TH JUNE, 10.30 A.M. - 12.30 P.M. Coffee morning at Gwen and Jeanette Knox's, 26 Victoria Road. You know the details about coffee, etc!

SUNDAY, 8TH JUNE. Gardening Group meets at the Ahlston's, 58 Toxteth Road, 2-30 p.m. Mr. Conley of R.H.S. is the speaker.

SATURDAY, 21ST JUNE, Glebe Society Annual BIRTHDAY PARTY (6 years old) at Hilary and Tony Larkum's house, 17 Alexandra Road. See elsewhere for details.

Sundays, 9.00 a.m. Tennis at Pidcock Street, Camperdown Courts. Ring Max Solling (Wk: 2.0545 ext. 306 or home: 660.1160) if you would like to play.

MISCELLANY

In our last bulletin you noticed a note that Leichhardt Council requested comments about trees in our municipality. If you haven't written yet, and would like to give your opinions on the desirability (or whatever) of trees, DO IT NOW! The Town Clerk, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Town Hall, Norton Street, Leichhardt.

A garden inspection will be arranged for 6th September, 1975, of gardens in Glebe. The Paddington Society's group extended their hospitality on 6th April, and we would

like to return the compliment and include groups from other suburbs on that day.

The special school for Autistic Children, at 274 Johnson Street Annandale, would welcome volunteers on a regular basis (one day a week or fortnight) to assist teachers during the school day. The head teacher would be glad to arrange a visit and discussion before commitments are made. Please telephone Mrs. Gwen Morgan on 827.3623 between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

The Glebe Society needs its members now, to volunteer for many small jobs and tasks that make the Society efficient and effective, e.g. roster to attend Leichhardt Municipal Council meetings; pollution monitors, etc. If you are dissatisfied with the Society, it may mean you are now ready to work for it and understand it better. If you are satisfied, volunteer and enjoy working with other people whilst increasing your knowledge.

Jim Coombs (secretary) invites you to ring him 660.0026 (H), 27.2868 (W) or call at 16 Eglinton Street, Glebe.

WHAT THEY DID

The management committee met on 2nd March, 1975 and discussed the following topics.

- * Jim Coombs and Jeanette Knox attended a joint meeting with the Annandale and Balmain Associations, where it was agreed to co-ordinate reports of Leichardt Council meetings.

- * Another House and Gardens Inspection day is being planned for October this year. (The previous inspection was an outstanding success).

- * Jim has had replies from ministers (but none from Mr. Fife at the time of writing) concerning the railway monograph.

- * It is hoped to increase the activity level of the Society's sub-committees. These include history, popular planning and environment.

The Society regularly receives bulletins from the Department of Urban and Regional Development ("Community"), Balmain Association, Annandale Association, Paddington Society, Ashfield and District Historical Society, and the National Trust.

NOW WE ARE SIX

For our birthday celebrations this year, we decided to try and beat escalating catering prices and make this an after-dinner social. There will be music and dancing, followed by drinks and light refreshments.

Help to make this a successful occasion by booking your tickets early from Cathy (660.4924) or Hilary (660.7030).

Birthday cakes are needed for the occasion, so all you good cooks please overwhelm Hilary with your promises to bring a cake (or a supper-time dish). Ring Hilary please.



WELCOME

Welcome to the following new members:

Gillian MITCHELL

Maria WARGENAU

Jean JOHNSTON

Norman and Mary BANCKS

Narelle RYAN

Robert and Janet COOLEY

Peter BOYD

Meredith CHAMPION

Lillian WILLIAMS

Julian HANCOCK

Louise WEST

J GRIMSHAW

Fred and Maria SIMMS

Una MONCRIEFF

Julie and Ian SMITH

Jill and Ralph KAYE

Susan and John WALL

ASHES BACK!

THE GLEBE SOCIETY Vs THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

23rd March, 1975

(From our sporting correspondent with apologies to the late Sir Neville Cardus)

In view of the poor record of the weather for this fixture, it was with disbelief that The Glebe Society took the field in perfect weather. Bright sunshine added to our optimism, and the delightful setting of Birchgrove Oval stirred the thinning cricketing blood of The Glebe.

The Society employed a varied attack with great success, and a slow outfield resulted in only two of the Balmainers (Ken Oates 16, and Richard Norman 12) making double figures. They totalled 59. Look at the bowling figures - Sorrensen 1-1 (watch out Wal Fife!); Plowman 3-5; Solling 2-3 (that's history); Secretary Coombs 2-6 (over-bowled tho'); and Rick Sandblom 2-8! Rod Mannett (never played before) took a mighty catch at square leg.

After lunch under the trees with our opponents, we batted. Once lawyer Tzannes was removed from umpiring, the score moved on - but the match-winning stand of 42 was hit up by Don Plowman 28 and Jim Coombs (who stuck there for 26). Others who starred were Peter Moye 7, Ross Tzannes 6, non-cricketer Hammett 6 and Ralph Kaye, who scored 3 baseball runs in professional style.

Fine bowling performances for Balmain - Errol Pickard 4-28; Reid 3-10; McCann 2-20 and Oates 2-12 - prevented The Society from clocking the ton.



THE SCOREBOARD

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

Porter	c. Perumal	b. Plowman	5
McCann		b. Plowman	1
Pickard		b. Solling	6
K. Oates	c. Hammett	b. Sandblom	16
G. Stevenson (C)		lbw. Solling	0
Norman	c. Sorrensen	b. Solling	12
M. Stevenson		b. Coombs	6
McDonald		lbw. Sandblom	0
Reid		b. Coombs	1
Garder	c. Plowman	b. Sorrensen	4
N. Oates		not out	0
Sundries (B3, W5)			8
			59

Fall: 5, 10, 16, 16, 40, 45, 46, 54, 59, 59

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Moye	3	-	9	-
Solling	3	-	3	2
Perumal	3	-	16	-
Plowman	4	1	5	3
Palethorpe	1	-	3	-
Coombs	4.2	-	6	2
Sandblom	3	-	8	2
Sorrensen	2	1	1	1

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Perumal		lbw. Pickard	1
Coombs (C)	c. Pickard	b. McCann	26
Moye		b. Pickard	7
Tzannes		b. Oates	6
Plowman	c. ?	b. McCann	28
Solling		b. Reid	2
Palethorpe		c. & b. Reid	5
Sandblom		b. Pickard	0
Sorrensen		b. Pickard	0
Hammett		not out	6
Kaye	c. ?	b. Reid	3
Sundries (B6, W7, NB1)			14
			98

Fall: 2, 21, 29, 71, 77, 78, 80, 80, 87, 98

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Pickard	5	-	28	4
G. Stevenson	4	2	6	-
K. Oates	2	-	12	1
McCann	2	-	20	2
Reid	3.6	-	10	3
Norman	1	-	3	-
M. Stevenson	1	-	6	-

The Glebe Society won by 39 runs.