

The Glebe
Society **BULLETIN**

No. 8 of 1976. (Sept)

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

SYDNEY YOUTH HOSTEL



In 1873 the Rev. George Sutherland built a 14 room mansion in Ross Street, Forest Lodge as a home for his family and as a centre for his work as a Presbyterian minister. In 1974 Youth Hostels Association (YHA) purchased the property as well as two old factories adjoining what was now a "gracious, old mansion". In fact it had become almost a wreck used only by the more unfortunate members of society.

The Rev. George Sutherland was born in Nova Scotia, Canada and became Chaplain to the Provincial Parliament of Prince Edward Island and a member of the Board of Education. He wrote a handbook on the geography, nature resources and economy of Prince Edward Island. His church work led to the unification and formation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Rev. Sutherland moved to Dunedin, New Zealand in 1867 and then in 1872 he accepted a call to St. George's Free Presbyterian Church in Castlereagh Street, Sydney. A marble tablet in the church cites him as "a wise scholar, eloquent preacher and devoted pastor".

By 1914 the Sutherlands had vacated the house and it was being run as a guest house, mainly for professors and lecturers from the nearby Sydney University. Two of these were Professor Edgeworth David and Professor Raymond Prestly. Both were eminent geologists who visited Antarctica. David's party located the South Magnetic Pole. Prestly subsequently became Chancellor of Cambridge University.

From the 1930's the guest house became more and more run down and by the time YHA purchased the property, the wrought iron balconies which ran around the building at 2 levels on 2 sides had been removed.

Having acquired the property the YHA was then faced with the problem of the best way to use it. It was decided that whilst the "atmosphere" of the mansion should be retained there was no way in which it could be restored to its original order at an acceptable cost. The Hon. Architect, Ron Davis, set about preparing plans and discussions with Leichhardt Council commenced. It quickly became obvious that even renovating the existing building was going to tax YHA's financial resources so plans for a large new building adjoining the mansion were deferred.

Thus Stage I of the Sydney YH will have accommodation for 20 hostellers and a self contained flat for the Resident Warden.

Some of the work on the project has been done by YHA members working voluntarily - there have even been some local residents helping. However most of the work has been done by contractors working with YHA's own staff. The expected final cost of Stage I is \$180,000. Fortunately the then Australian Department of Tourism and Recreation gave \$43,718.90 and £Stg 10,000 has been given by the International Youth Hostel Federation but even so YHA is still looking for more funds.

Sydney YH will serve a very wide section of the public. Quite apart from the usual individual itinerant hosteller from other parts of Australia or overseas we see the hostel being used by people coming to Sydney -

- (a) to visit medical, dental, optical specialists,
- (b) for job interviews,
- (c) to take part in sporting events,
- (d) to take part in or attend cultural activities.

We can see parents whose children are in nearby hospitals for short periods staying at the hostel. When latter Stages are completed school groups on excursions to see the Opera House, Parliament, Museums, Art Gallery...sports teams, etc. will all be using the hostel.

The Glebe Society has been asked to assist with the preparation of leaflets on historic walks around Glebe to be available at the hostel and once the hostel is enlarged it is envisaged it will be used as an Environmental Studies Centre as there are so many different types of human activity taking place within close range of the hostel.

So an old building has been saved and put again to good use. Whilst it may not look as it did originally YHA hopes that it will enhance the Glebe landscape.

The Official Opening of Sydney YH by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales Sir Roden Cutler, VC, KCMG, KCVO, CBE, will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, October 30th, 1976. All members & friends of The Glebe Society are invited to be present.

R. B. Willis
Secretary of YHA
and Member of The
Glebe Society

THE SUB-COMMITTEES

The convenors of the Society's groups are as follows:-

- HISTORY: Max Solling (660.1160)
PUBLICATIONS: Joey Rowden (660.5704)
PLANNING: John Bushell (660 5704)
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Dorothy Perkins (660.7623)
and Merle Larcombe (660.0491)
GARDENING: Theo Ahlston (660.1083)

All group convenors are automatically members of the Management Committee. Please contact the convenors of the groups in which you would like to take part.

POSITIONS VACANT: Ralph Kaye has resigned as convenor of the Environment Group. Enthusiastic would-be convenors of this group should contact Jim Coombs on 660.0026

The above list represents existing groups and more could be added. The Society used to have a photographic group which the editor would like to see revived. All those feeling the same way should phone Joey on 660.5704.

PRESS RELEASE



GLEBE SOCIETY CALLS FOR COMPLETION OF EASTERN SUBURBS RAILWAY

The Glebe Society has called for the completion of the Eastern Suburbs Railway and its connection with passenger rail services on the existing inner western suburbs goods railway line. The call was made in the Society's submission to the Committee of Enquiry into the Eastern Suburbs Railway.

The submission recommends that greater emphasis be placed on improving public transport facilities as an alternative to freeway construction.

The inner western suburbs goods railway line has been in existence for some 50 years but is at present inadequately used. The Society recommends that it be converted to passenger service and linked with the Eastern Suburbs line through tunnels under George Street South to a point near the corner of Wattle Street and Pyrmont Bridge Road, Pyrmont.

This would provide a complete East-West railway link which would strengthen Sydney's public transport service.

The Society also suggests that the railway be serviced by light passenger rail cars which could run as trams along roads in areas where traffic is not heavy.

The type of vehicle envisaged would be virtually a large modern tram, capable of high speeds and rapid acceleration.

The Glebe Society envisages use of these vehicles on the inner western suburbs line and through various streets in Annandale, Balmain and Leichhardt.

LETTERS TO THE MANAGEMENT

Glebe Infants' School,
Derwent Street,
Glebe, 2037

23rd August, 1976.

Hon. Secretary,
The Glebe Society.

Dear Jim,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Glebe Infants' School Mothers' Club.

This year the parents and children of Glebe Infants' School have raised \$800 towards adventure-type log equipment for their playground. You may have noticed that the asphalt playground is very barren at the moment with only one piece of steel climbing equipment for well over 100 children. The Infants children do not have easy access to the Primary School's "Zuzza Bwogga" and until now their play has been severely limited by the almost total lack of playground equipment.

The \$800 we have raised will buy us two log structures made by Koppers Australia Pty. Ltd. However, we are now seeking additional money for seeing these installed properly and safely e.g. for buying sand, tan bark, additional logs for terracing, etc. If we can raise a significant amount more, however, we could buy a third piece of log equipment which I can assure you would give a great deal of pleasure to, and is sorely needed by, the children.

The Department of Education has given us approval to go ahead with our "adventure playground". If you could contribute financially, even in a small way, towards this important project, we would be extremely grateful. Receipts will be given for all donations and those over \$2 are tax-deductible. Donations should be sent to the Mothers' Club, Glebe Infants' School, Derwent Street, Glebe, or I will collect them personally if you ring me on 660.5248.

Very many thanks for your co-operation and interest.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Macleod
(President-Mothers' Club)

Ed's Note: The Society has donated \$50 to this very worthwhile project, and hopes many members will follow suit with donations either large or small.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 9th October - Morning coffee.

For this month only, due to the Public Holiday, the coffee morning will be held on the second Saturday in the month. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at the home of Joye Wallace, 9 Upper Street.

Saturday, 16th October - A whole day trip

to Mount Wilson where the gardening group will be guests of Sally & Bill Nelson. For further details or for those requiring transport, please phone Theo Ahlston 660.1083.

Sunday, 17th October - A theatre party to

hear the "King's Singers" at 7.30 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Opera House. Tickets normally costing \$6.00 are available in A Reserve for \$4.00 only. Bookings and money should be sent to Dorothy Perkins, Flat 20, 411 Glebe Point Road by 1st October. For further details contact Dorothy on 660.7623.

Saturday, 30th October - GLEBE FAIR in

Foley Park. Publications, pamphlets and literature on or by the Glebe Society will be on display on the Glebe Society Stall. No second-hand goods will be on sale. Volunteers are needed to man the stall from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Please contact Dorothy Perkins - 660.7623, if you can help.

Saturday, 6th November - History Walk.

Max Solling will take members on a History Walk through Glebe starting at 1.30 p.m. from St. Scholasticas College, Avenue, Road.

Saturday, 6th November - This month's coffee morning will be held at Merle & Dick Larcombe's, 14 Toxteth Road.

Saturday, 20th November - Annual Ferry Trip.

Commences from the Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Road and cruises around the foreshores of Balmain, under the Harbour Bridge to Parsley Bay. A stop will be made at one of the islands for a barbecue or picnic lunch before returning to Glebe. Tickets are on sale from Dorothy Perkins, price \$5 per family, \$2 per adult, children \$1.

BENEVOLENCE

It is not too late to buy raffle tickets for the Norman Lindsay lithograph "Benevolence". If you haven't bought a ticket yet, phone Dorothy Perkins (660.7623). All moneys collected will be used to the benefit of the Glebe Estate.

BULLETIN

The Management Committee has decided that two complete sets of the Bulletin should be kept as a record. Both sets are to be bound and one set will be presented to the Glebe Library, while the other will be retained by the Bulletin's editor. In order to make the complete sets, please see if you can produce any of the following missing issues:-

Set 1

No. 5 of both 1975 and 1976.

Set 2

All issues for 1969 and 1970.

Nos. 1 and 3-9 of 1971.

Nos. 1-5 and 8-10 of 1972.

No. 5 of 1975

Please phone Joey Rowden (660.5704) to arrange collection.

If you would like to make a verbal contribution to your Bulletin, please contact the editor, Joey Rowden at 4 Leichhardt Avenue, phone 660.5704.