The Glebe

Society

# BULLETIN

no 9 NOV.

1977

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

# Don't forget!:

Don't forget that there are several activities in the next couple of weeks, including the Ferry Trip, always one of the best events of the year. The Xmas party and New Members Welcome follows soon after, as well as the last coffee-morning and playreading for 1977. Xmas Cards will also be available by the time you get this Bulletin. See For Your Diary for the details of these activities:

Sunday 27 November - Ferry Trip Tuesday 29 November - Play Reading Saturday 3rd December - Coffee Morning Monday 5th December - Xmas Party.

All new members are particularly invited to the Xmas Party to get to know the Society. See you there.



# pollution

POLLUTION COMPLAINTS:

What pollution is annoying you? Let us know!

Out of the discussion of noise problems at Fletchers and on the suggestion of Eric Gidney, the Committee decided to try to compile an overall picture of pollution problems in Glebe, of the sorts of complaints that people have lodged and the kinds of problems in getting action. An overall picture should get better attention and action than individual complaints. It will still be hard to get action on petty annoyances but if you know of anything substantial under Noise, Water or Air Pollution, please let us know. Eric Gidney wants to know specific areas of complaints in Glebe and a history of complaints and action taken. We would like to present this sort of document to the State Pollution Control Commission. The SPCC should cover all large factories. Smaller ones are under local councils and we will have to consider what approaches are best. There are already thick files on individual areas of complaint at the Council and it should be possible to draw on these as well. So if you have a complaint, please ring Eric Gidney on 660-5093.

# Gardening

THE GARDEN CLUB OF AUSTRALIA:

The Annual Summer School for Gardens will be held at the Women's College, University of Sydney, Carillon Avenue, Newtown, on Tuesday the 7th, 8th and 9th February 1978.

The school comprises twelve daytime lectures, one evening lecture and an evening slide showing. A wide range of gardening topics by noted gardening authorities is covered by the lectures.

The charge for each day session is \$4.50 and this includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch. In the evening session the charge is \$2.00. Bookings close on January 15th.

This most stimulating event is recommended to all interested in gardening and full particulars can be obtained from Theo Ahlston (660-1083).

Theo Ahlston.

# **REPORTS:**

LEICHHARDT TOWN PLAN:

It is likely that a new town plan for the Leichhardt Municipality will be forthcoming over the next few weeks. Our Society would welcome architects and town planners to contact us (address is on the front page) with the view of holding a one-day ad hoc seminar on a weekend to present a professional submission to the Council and the NSW Government. This is an attempt to coordinate our Society's efforts over the Municipality and we plan to work in conjunction with the Sister Associations. Please write to us.

John Hoddinott.

### OPEN DAY:

The House Inspection on 16th October tempted some three hundred visitors to a baker's dozen of houses in Glebe - ranging from cottage to mansion. The weather was kind, fine but not too hot. People also were kind, and the Management Committee would particularly like to thank those of its members who gave up half a day of their time to 'house sit'. Without you as well as the houses there could not have been any inspection.

Jeannette Knox.





#### GOOD-BYE NORTH-WESTERN

Members of the Society will be gratified at the recent announcement by the State Labor Government that the North-Western Freeway has been abandoned. Those of us who have been members of the society for some years will recall that we have been associated with, if not in fact organizing, the campaign against this monster which threatened to rip Glebe in two. We provided members of the Anti-Urban Radial Expressway Committee, we provided the bodies that stopped the bulldozers at Fig St in October 1974 and we were active in the Coalition Against Radial Expressways (CARE).

We thought that Neville Wran's promises at Fig St and Peter Cox's campaign promises before the State elections would ensure that the DMR 1948 expressways plans would go to the wall. But the DMR fought back and hastened work at Darling Harbour and the matter was referred to a Cabinet sub-committee. It was agonised over for a year and we lobbied ministers to keep up the pressure.

For the time being the battle is won. But Opposition leader Eric Willis promises to restore the North-Western. Sobering thoughts in the face of our well-warranted jubilation. We will toast the decision at the Xmas Party.

Jim Coombs.

### SISTER ASSOCIATIONS:

The custom of a meeting of the executives of the Society and the Balmain and Annandale Associations was continued on 17th October. The President, the Immediate Past President and Treasurer Hoddinott attended and a friendly discussion ensued over the Society's wine and the Annandale Association's food in the Balmain Watch House. The President of the Society's grey hair was honoured with the chair and the classic matters of how to handle the Council were discussed, along with relations with Ministers and implications for campaigns like that against the Coal Loader. The meeting resolved to be alert as the Council could well proceed quickly to exhibit its Revised Plan and we will need to provide cogent expert criticism.

The meeting ended after lengthy discussions amongst seasoned campaigners and new faces alike.

Jim Coombs.

## **XMAS** cards

The Xmas Card has on the front a clear reproduction of the above picture (it is impossible to get an equally good version in the Bulletin because of the way it is printed). The card is about 14 x 11 cm and comes with an envelope, a bargain at 15c each. There is no message inside so that it can be used for other occasions. Get your Glebe Society Xmas cards while stocks last, from the person nearest to your area:

John Hoddinott - (Wigram Rd area) - 692-0071 David Reeve - (St Johns Rd area) - 660-2207 Jeannette Knox - (Victoria Rd) - 660-7781.



# **HISTORY**



At the Annual General Meeting members were treated to yet another Max Solling performance, the highlight of the evening. Though we cannot reproduce the panache with which the report was delivered nor the style with which he flourished a revoltingly battered set of false teeth in his peroration, the report is still well worth a read on its own.

#### HISTORY - 1977

This year a series of seven talks on aspects of local history - estate development, housing and the community, local history and its approaches, leisure and cultural activities, religion, local government, transport and communications, education and social welfare - were held at Forest Lodge School during June and July. Next year, if enough material can be got together, talks will be given on the effects of the 1914-18 war on the lives of Glebe eople, community response to the depression of the 30's, biographies of local worthies and middle class reformers and the slum stigma. The view was expressed that the ideal approach to local history involves a simultaneous assault along the three routes of (1) place (2) sources and (3) people at one and the same time but the most important would seem to be that approach through questions related to persons for this will direct us to the real subject to the study.

On Saturday 20th August we had a look at the graves of some of those who formed part of the continuous tide of people who have occupied this site over the last 140 years or so. Inscriptions on the gravestones are a valuable source material and sentiments expressed on the tombstones tell us much about the attitude to death in any particular period.

There's a sidelight I thought you might like to hear about. In the late nineteenth century the workingman had two alternative styles of life to choose between; the life of the pub and the music hall or the life of the temperance society, mutual improvement society and church: there was nowhere else to go. Competition between these two different interests for the attention of the new masses was not to be one-sided contest.

As Sydney became more industrialised, from the 1880's and the numbers finding a home or lodgings in Glebe and the other inner suburbs swelled, drunkenness increased. Working hours were very long, living accommodation was cramped and unattractive, and often the only relaxation open to a worker with only a copper or two to spend, was the brilliantly lit, warm, friendly drink shop.

Temperance workers were fervent creatures, and sometimes toilers in the same vineyard (if one might be permitted the expression) came to blows. There was a new word for a man who did not drink -teetotaller. Of this new phenomenon Samuel Butler wrote:-

"There should be asylums for such people. But they would probably relapse into teetotallism as soon as they came out".

Forces mustered to fight the good fight. Philanthropists and reformers got together to combat the demon drink, supported by powerful manufacturers who objected to drunkenness both on pious grounds - they tended to be nonconformists and for the more practical reason that their labour force was rendering itself unfit for work.

And so the temperance movement grew apace, dedicated not as its name would suggest to urging moderation, but to the total abolition of alcoholic drinks.

Many temperance writings were anonymous. Possibly because of the author's modesty but more probably because the author did not embrace the cause but was merely earning himself a quick half-guinea. It is odd that few temperance lecturers and writers seem to have pointed out that excessive drinking almost invariably brought its own punishment.

However in 1937 appeared a full accurate, first hand description of a crapula or hangover. I'll read just a portion:-

A hangover is when your tongue tastes like a tram driver's glove.

When your boots seem to be steaming and your eyes burn in their sockets like hot gooseberries.

Your feet appear to be swollen, and walking is like wading through a swamp of bumpy, thick custard.

When you brush your hair you are certain that there is no top to your skull, and your brain stands naked and throbbing in the stabbing air.

Your back aches and feels as though someone is nailing a placard to your shoulder blades. Knee joints have burned to dish water and eyelids are made of sheets of lead lined with sandpaper.

Lights flash and crackle before you and innumerable little brown dwarfs start tapping just below the base of your skull with tiny, dainty hammers made of compressed rubber.

O Death, where is thy sting.

A monumental archaeological discovery was made in the gravel beds of Glebe Point recently. The find, a fossilised lower jaw oral prostheses, completely intact, is strong evidence that a Cro-Magnon or some earlier form of Homo Sapiens lived within the precincts of sunny Glebe and it is conceivable that the direct descendants of this fossil became local aldermen. This will, of course, remind you of the sad case of the man who caught the 431 bus to work with his oral prostheses in his hip pocket. When he sat down, he bit himself and sadly he was ineligible for worker's compensation because it was a self-inflicted wound.

Max Solling.



#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Dr. J.A. McCluskie of Wigram Rd has sent the following letter to the Leichhardt Council asking for action on the piece of land in Minogue Crescent. Although the letter was sent in September he has had no reply to date (11 November). The Glebe Society is supporting the proposal for the land to be cleaned up. Members may also wish to write to the Council in support.

'The Town Clerk Dear Sir,

Some months ago in the Bulletin of the Glebe Society there was some correspondence which states that your Council was willing to take care of a strip of ground adjacent to the footpath on Minogue Crescent between Wigram Rd and Hereford St. Glebe. I understand unofficially that there is not enough finance available to the Council to enable your engineering, landscaping and public parks experts to take action, although literally hundreds of racegoers use the footpath.

Accepting this reason as being justifiable, I examined the 'no man's land' as it was called in the Bulletin. Neglect was obvious from the presence of empty drink cans, wastepaper, excreta of varying types, pets empty food cans, broken glass, a large cardboard cylinder of rubbish, two large pieces of scrap iron and a sheet of plywood. May I respectfully suggest that, until the horticulturalists on your staff get the finance, your Health Inspectors' authority could be used to promote some semblance of civic consciousness.

The ground on Minogue Crescent at the junction with Rose St., Annandale would make a good model.

Yours sincerely,

John A. McCluskie'.

### WHAT THE MANAGEMENT DID

- The House Inspection was a great success with about 320 people attending. Takings were approx \$700 with expenses of around \$200.
- The Xmas card will be available soon. Printing of the Max Solling monograph is being investigated.
- 3. The Sister Associations meeting was held (see
- 4. The Society now has about \$2000 and approximately 480 members. But many members have overlooked renewal of subscriptions for the year ending 30 June 1978. We would be grateful for payment.
- The Coal Loader seems to be going relentlessly
- 6. The Society wants to compile an overall picture of Glebe Pollution problems (see article).
- 7. The Committee reaffirmed its view that we want to see less traffic in Wigram Rd but that we do not see the reopening of the Federal Rd Bridge as an acceptable solution.
- 8. Concerning the priority road system, it seems that it will be some time before there are plans to examine as individual Councils have to make their own proposals to the DMR on the applicability of the system to their particular areas.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

Welcome to:

John and Jacqueline BARRETT Elizabeth THOMAS Heather STEWART H.G. GIBSON Beverley and Andrew PAVEY Ian and Sue McLEOD Miss J. KENWAY.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 27 November: Annual Ferry Trip.

The ferry will leave the Glebe Rowing Club at 11 am to return at 4 pm, probably visiting Clifton Gardens. Tickets: Family - \$7, single - \$3, child - \$1.50. Bring your lunch and refreshments. For tickets ring Diana Schlict, 11 Arcadia Rd, 660-3959 and Dale Dengate, 25B Avenue Rd.

Tuesday 29 November: Play-reading.

Last meeting of the play-readers for the year will be held at the Knoxes, 26 Victoria Rd at 7.45 pm. We plan to read Moliere's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. If you can obtain the penguin edition (the Miser and other plays), do bring it, otherwise any other translation you have access to. The evening will also be a special thank you for Dorothy Perkins who has moved out of Glebe but who has been a stalwart supporter of the playreading group (as well as many other activities) for several years. We look forward to seeing anyone with dramatic aspirations (no experience necessary).

Saturday 3 December: Coffee-Morning at Noeline and Eric Sandblom's, 140 Hereford Street.

Monday 5 December: Xmas Party and New Members welcome. This had to be rescheduled because of the elections. To be held at Glebe Rowing Club from 7 to 11 pm. Tickets are \$5, which includes food, drinks (soft, beer and wine) and music. New Members who have joined since the last Welcome in March 1977 are invited FREE. If you are coming please let Treasurer John Hoddinott know by 1 December (692-0071).

### NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

President : Jim Coombs - 660-0026. Senior Vice-President : Ralph Kaye -

660-2165. Junior Vice-President: Tony Larkum - 660-7030.

Secretary: John Cowling - 660-3057.

Treasurer : John Hoddinott - 692-0071. Committee: Sue Johnson - 692-0318.

Patrick Macalister - 660-7218. Noeline Sandblom - 660-6593.

Nigel Stokes - 660-7181. Alan Robertson.

Auditor :

Bulletin Editor: David Reeve - 660-2207.