



The Glebe
Society

BULLETIN

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

No 10

1977-78

pollution

In the last Bulletin we asked members to report their pollution complaints (noise, water and air pollution) to Eric Gidney so that an overall picture of pollution problems in Glebe could be compiled. This picture will be the basis for more coordinated action than former individual complaints. So far no one has responded, perhaps through preoccupation with Xmas and New Year. It will not be possible to act without information, so if you have complaints please ring Eric Gidney now, on 660-5093.

This sort of action can lead to results, as with John Fletchers in Sheehy St. The State Pollution Control Commission has served a notice on Fletchers to cease making the noises from the repair of containers. The notice will have run out when you receive this Bulletin and Fletchers appear to have taken no action. The action should then begin in earnest. Residents of Forsythe St. should be ready to notify the SPCC (212-3769) of violations of the Noise Control Act.

cricket ...

Once again the annual grudge match between the Glebe Society and the Balmain Association !!! Come one and all to witness the Glebe Flanneled Fools - otherwise known as the 'Dirty Whites' - beat the Balmain Association at Five Dock Oval on Sunday 29th January !!!

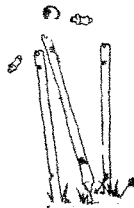
This event is a recent tradition from the early 1970s but also stretches back as far as about 1864 when the Toxteth cricket ground was created, as Max Solling shows in a history of Wentworth Park in this Bulletin. The Glebe Society's cricket team are proud (if unlikely)

bearers of a tradition at least 114 years old and the modern counterparts of George Wigram Allen and Matthew Harris. Spectators are most welcome but there are also still places to be filled on the team - all volunteers should contact Jim Coombs (architect of past victories) on 2121444 (office hours). After Balmain's traditional and foreordained loss, Jim Coombs will write his equally traditional analysis of the match, revealing not only the folly and presumptuousness of Balmain but also the wicked cunning of their tactics. See you at the match !!

... other activities

Beyond the cricket match on 29 January the normal activities of the Glebe Society shortly get under way for 1978. The first coffee morning of the year will be held on Saturday 4th February and the first meeting of the Monday Group on Monday 13 February. The detail of these events is included in the Diary column. Pat Moor has also kindly provided an article in this issue describing the Monday Group. On 11 March a History Walk will be held, and new members will be particularly welcome. A workshop on house restoration is being discussed, probably to be held around May or June.

Ideas and help are needed, as usual, for social activities. Gwen and Jeanette Knox invite any members who would be interested in organising or helping to organise one social function or activity for the Society in 1978 to call in for a coffee on Wednesday 8th February at 8pm (26 Victoria Rd.). Come along if you have an idea for a get-together (cycling, kite flying, walking or a party) or if you would be willing to help someone else with planning, publicity etc.



the monday group

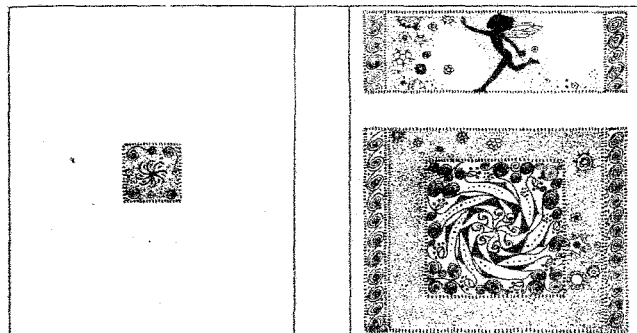
HISTORY

The 'Monday Group' meets on the second monday afternoon of each month, 2:30 p.m., in the homes of the members. Membership is open to anyone in the Glebe Society. For further information, one may telephone Gwen Knox 660-7781 or Pat Moore 6604178, or attend the first meeting of 1978 in February (listed in the 'Diary' section of this Bulletin).

Originally the group began meeting in 1974 and was named the 'Crochet Group' under the direction of Kate Smith. Several Glebe Society members wished to learn how to crochet so Kate offered lessons in her home. Monday mornings were chosen and housewives who traditionally used that time for house cleaning, now made friends over tea and crochet instruction. They brought along their small children and learned to make toys for them. Others joined who wished to revive their crocheting. So the group expanded and various homes were now used for these sessions. At this time 'Elsie', the women's refuge in Glebe, was starting and Bessie Guthrie, the founder, met with the 'Crochet Group' to speak of the home's need for blankets. Toys gave way to blankets and community welfare became a goal of this group, continuing today and resulting in eleven hand-made blankets given to the 'refuge' since early in 1977. Knitted vests are being made for the children of the occupants too.

Members of the 'Monday Group' discuss various chosen topics at their meetings and all participate. Tea is served by the hostess who has offered her home for the monthly meeting. Normally a member offers her home for these afternoon gatherings once a year.

Pat Moore
21/10/77.



WENTWORTH PARK :

A feature of early Victorian Glebe, its pleasure gardens, like the horticultural delights of Geoffrey Eagar's garden or George Miller's 'romantic Italianate pleasure grounds', were disappearing in the early 1870's and a little later. As population pressures mounted, the remaining large gardens and grounds of the original nucleus of the settlement were gradually being carved up.

Before 1880 the only sports field in Glebe was the Toxteth cricket ground, created about 1864 by George Mansfield. Use of the oval was initially restricted to the Allen family and their friends but in 1872 it became the home ground of the Glebe Point gentlemen's cricket club, Toxteth, and by 1879 the Toxteth football team was also playing occasional matches on the ground. Elsewhere in the suburb boys played cricket on Bishopthorpe Estate, but when subdivision of church lands began in 1856 the local lads, including F.R. Spofforth, ambled across Parramatta Road with bat and ball for a game in the spacious surrounds of the University.

The lack of playing fields inhibited the expansion of organised sport within Glebe. Completion of reclamation of that bed of pestilence, Blackwattle swamp, in 1880 was quickly followed by invitations calling for designs for a recreation ground and ornamental gardens. Locals became excited in 1882 at the prospect of a playing field within the precincts when turfing of much of the area wedged in between the Ultimo ridge and Glebe was completed.

At the opening ceremony in 1882 a sporting correspondent observed : 'The cricket ground is situated in the centre of Wentworth Park. This park, looking at the surroundings, bids fair to become one of the finest in the colony'. Local teams in the Wentworth Park Cricket Association - Glebe, Toxteth, Corio, Pymont, Excelsior and Osborne - competed for the Evan Jones Challenge Cup and gentlemen holding 'influential and representative positions': Matthew Harris, George Wigram Allen, Michael Chapman and other pillars of the community,



WENTWORTH PARK, LOOKING SOUTH - THE UNIVERSITY IN
THE BACKGROUND.

occupied executive positions on the Association, and were pleased to lend their patronage to activities that helped the masses fill their increasing leisure time with recreation that was healthy and harmless, and satisfying to local patriotism. Cricket began to develop its modern organisation in 1893/4 with the introduction of electoral cricket and a focusing of local loyalties and talents in a fine meshed network of Sydney suburban clubs. The Glebe supporters were an enthusiastic lot, flocking to Wentworth Park to see the men of Glebe play, prompting one observer to note : ' on some occasions the following has been rather too strong; but if the attempt to have erected a picket fence round the ground proper be successful, with the presence of a few guardians of the law much of that will be obviated.'

Throughout the nineties Rugby Union was being played extensively in the inner suburbs and when the Sydney District competition began in 1900 Wentworth Park became Glebe's main ground. The Glebe men, wearing 'maroon jersey and stockings and white knickers', and affectionately known as 'The Dirty Reds' won all three grades in the first year of the competition and a further seven premierships before the 1914-1918 war when the competition was abandoned.

In January 1908 Glebe founded the second Rugby League club in N.S.W. and the district was a little proud of the football artistry of Chris McKivat or the sight of the fast, long striding Frank Burge thundering down-field. The park was also the home of Glebe Baseball and Lacrosse teams.

A favourite pasttime of those not interested in the growing cult of sports and games was a stroll in the well kept ornamental gardens adjoining the oval, especially on hot summer evenings, or listening to the Glebe Brass band playing on the weekends.

Intensely loyal local feelings that characterised the inner suburbs in the late nineteenth century had subsided by the 1920s and the pride and joy of Glebe, their powerful union and league football teams, went out of existence. The absorption of the 90 year old Municipality of Glebe into the City of Sydney in 1948 further contributed to a loss of suburban identity as Glebe became a seemingly shapeless tract of Sydney.

Proclaimed a public recreation area in 1885 for the people of the 'populous suburbs of Ultimo, Pyrmont and the Glebe', the construction of a brick wall around the cricket oval at Wentworth Park to keep the natives out ignored the original dedication purposes as the needs of sectional interests were increasingly catered for. The Darling Harbour railway line sliced through the park in 1916 but worse

was to come after 1926 when the Glebe Cricket Team abandoned Wentworth Park in favour of Jubilee Park. The ornamental gardens disappeared and by the early 1930s the park was used for motor bike and car racing. Finally in 1939 Wentworth Park went to the dogs.

Max Solling.

new members

Welcome to :

Miss R. BILTON
Jolieske LIPS
Jeanette McMAUGH
Monica ROBINSON
Jenny McNAUGHTON
John SLATER-SMITH
Peter and Anne McCULLOCH
Margaret SCRIVENER

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT DID

1. There is still little sign of the Leichhardt Council new plan.
2. The Xmas card was finished and available. The card has no message and can be used for all occasions.
3. No further news on the coal loader.
4. The Ferry Trip took \$151 and cost \$340, with over 80 people on board. This is clearly too expensive but it is a popular event. Either it must be organised to pay more or perhaps replaced with a bus trip to historic sights.
5. The Xmas Party took \$170 and cost \$354, the loss caused by invitations free to new members. About half the new members took up the invitation.
6. Planning began for activities in 1978.
7. We will write to the Council about the danger to public safety from loose, vicious and probably unregistered dogs.
8. We will write to the Council about its tree-logging practices. There have been several complaints about particular streets (Gottenham and Darling) and about the severity of the lopping, likely to kill the trees.

MEMBERSHIP

If you receive a renewal form with this Bulletin your subscription is at least a year overdue. We would be very grateful for payment, otherwise this will be your last Bulletin.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 29 January: Cricket Match.

Annual cricket match, Glebe Society vs the Balmain Association. To be held at Five Dock Oval from 11 am. Spectators are most welcome; volunteer players should ring Jim Coombs on 212-1444 (office hours).

Saturday 4 February: Coffee Morning.

First coffee morning of 1978 at Joy Wallace's, 9 Upper Rd, Forest Lodge.

Wednesday 8 February : Social Activities Meeting.

See front page for details - for all interested and with any good ideas. At Gwen and Jeanette Knox's, 26 Victoria Rd. at 8 pm for coffee.

Monday 13 February: The Monday Group.

First meeting for 1978 at Pat Moore's, 12 Alexandra Rd. at 2.30 pm.

Saturday 11 March: Coffee Morning.

To be held at Bill and Sally Nelson's, 21 Alexandra Rd, Glebe.

Saturday 11 March: History Walk.

The history walk through Glebe with a commentary by Max Solling will leave from St.Scholastica's at 2pm. Final details in the next Bulletin. All members are welcome with new members particularly invited.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE :

President : Jim Coombs - 660-0026
Immediate Past President :
Jeanette Knox - 660-7781
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 - 660-6953
Nigel Stokes - 660-7181
Auditor : Alan Robertson
Bulletin Editor : David Reeve - 660-2207.