

THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

9/1982

NOVEMBER

WHAT THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DID



Extra race meetings at Harold and Wentworth Parks have been introduced since Michael Cleary became Minister for Sport in the Wran Government. A letter of protest will be sent from the Society.

Also, paling fences at Harold Park have recently been replaced by chain wire fences, which has caused a great deal of light and noise nuisance to residents. The ugly back of the grandstands is also more apparent. Leichhardt Council is attempting to have paling fences reinstated. A letter will be sent to them to express our support for their efforts in this area. If they are unsuccessful, it might be possible to arrange tree planting to minimise light and noise from the grounds of Harold Park.

OPEN SPACES AND TREES SUBCOMMITTEE

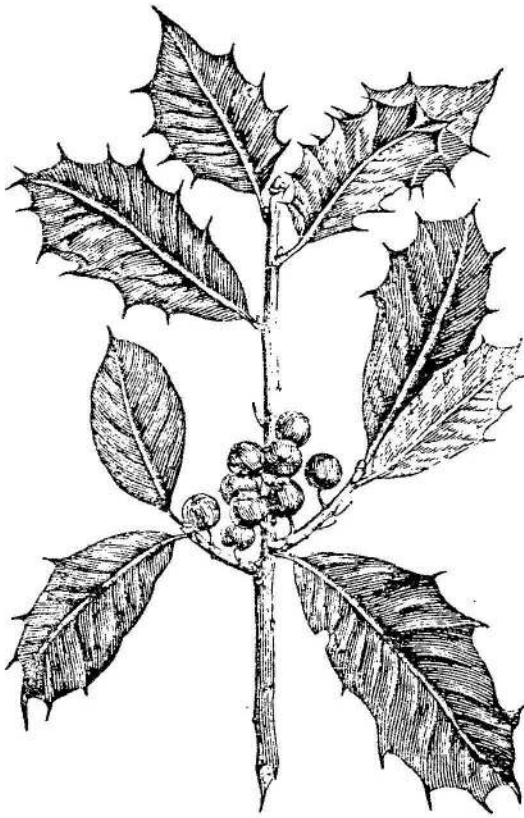
Bob Armstrong, John Buckingham, Neil Macindoe and Bill Nelson will now feed ideas to Council on these areas from the Society. It was agreed that the emphasis should be put on historically appropriate plantings for the 'Greening of Glebe' rather than simply on any native tree.



PARKS

There has been no significant news on either the Bi-centennial Park or the Blackwattle Bay Park, although negotiations are still going on.

I will include a report on progress made with the Parks in the next issue of the Bulletin.



BULLETIN EDITOR

I have taken over as editor of the Bulletin. Jan Macindoe was the previous editor, and Helen Deller did the typesetting. Many thanks to Jan and Helen for their great efforts in the past. As the new editor, I would welcome any articles, news, events and snippets of information for the issues to come.

Material should be in by approximately the 15th of each month, and can be dropped in to me at 40 DARLING STREET, GLEBE, or if you ring me on 660 0060, I can probably arrange to pick it up.

Belinda Weaver

HISTORY

by MAX SOLLING

CHRISTMAS PARTY - THE EVENT OF THE YEAR

The Christmas Party will be held this year at Tony and Hilary Larkum's, 17 Alexandra Road, Glebe, on Saturday, 4th December, 12.30-3.00 p.m. The very reasonable cost will be \$12.00 per person. This includes lunch and one glass of wine. Drinks will be available.

Members are encouraged to attend and bring along friends and others who may be interested in joining the Glebe Society. The date is not late in the month of December, so it should not interfere with members' plans for other Christmas activities or holidays.

Do come along if you can. For tickets and other information, see FOR YOUR DIARY. Remember, you should let Rita have names and monies by November 19.



GLEBE DURING THE 1914-18 WAR

England's declaration of war on Germany in August, 1914 brought crowds into Glebe Road to celebrate, cheering and singing, surging with strength and joy and confidence. Most of the early avalanche of volunteers was roused by a sense of adventure; it was to be a Great War, something not to be missed. However, the rigorous medical examination in 1914 rejected many with unfilled teeth, flat feet, puny chests and those under 5'6". In 1918 survivors of the "1914 men" stood out clearly from other soldiers. Long lists at Glebe Court in 1916, filled with citizens seeking exemption from service under the Defence Act, was evidence that not all in Glebe shared the same martial or Imperial enthusiasm. Neil McKibbin, for instance, gained exemption when he told the Court that he was the sole support of his mother, adding that he gave her sometimes "ten bob" and sometimes "two quid" a week. A thirty one year old storeman "subject to fits", and supporting his widowed mother, was not so lucky.

Glebe Rugby players responded enthusiastically to the challenge, forming a rifle club and local oarsmen held a patriotic regatta. By 1917 the ranks of Glebe's sporting clubs were depleted with 65 rowers, 41 cricketers and 93 rugby league players enlisting.

At the end of 1915, fourteen Glebe men had died at Gallipoli but many more were to die in the morass of trench warfare in France - 42 in 1916 and in 1917, the worst year, over 80 Glebe men were killed. The names of 792 men for the Glebe district "who heard and answered the call of King and Country" are inscribed on the brass honour roll at the Town Hall. There are 174 names on the Glebe War Memorial although an examination of casualty lists indicates that more than 200 volunteers from Glebe died in the War.

Mounting casualty lists from 1916, and real and concocted reports of German atrocities, turned simple patriotism at home into something much more grim and ugly. All Germans were considered evil and barbarous and loyalists saw potential traitors everywhere. Australian Germans were beaten up, spat on, dismissed from jobs, abused for attendance at church and refused service at stores and theatres. The Sydney Mirror vilified "Hun" bakers, three of whom, August Heinrich, Christian Raith and Joseph Wroblewski conducted bakeries in Glebe.

The Glebe Anti-German league condemned the government for not doing anything about the enemies in their midst, thereby putting "every British man, woman and child in the community in danger of life, honour and property". Two Glebe residents were singled out for special treatment. Rudolph Bohrsman, the son of a German migrant who arrived in Sydney in 1854, was a medical graduate from Sydney University. Dr. Bohrsman began his medical practice at 36 Glebe Road in 1898 and was remembered as an avid supporter of Empire Day and Glebe Superior School and a committeeman of several local organisations. In 1913, when he was one of the suburb's most respected citizens, he stood as the Liberal Party candidate for the State seat of Glebe and gained almost 43% of the vote. But during the war he became a victim of anti-German hysteria and left the suburb in 1918.

Fred Kurtz, the "premier milkman" from Darghan Street, was born in Balmain in 1866 of German parentage and his younger brother Ted enlisted in the A.I.F. In 1906 he was described as "a real white man" for the good things he had done as secretary of the rugby club. But he too was caught up in strong communal feelings against the "square heads", was shunned by local folk and disenfranchised during the war.

King George V showed he would do his bit to assist the war effort when he announced that he would become an abstainer for the duration of the war. This was a godsend for the temperance movement which intensified pressure for prohibition of alcohol or early closing, using the patriotic argument that such action would reduce the nation's liquor bill at a time when the utmost economy was needed. The limited recreations of the common man suffered another blow when a majority voted for six o'clock closing of hotel bars in 1916. Within the different neighbourhoods of Glebe opinions on drinking varied greatly. At the Derby Place and Mitchell Street polling booths, areas with a distinctively working class character, people voted overwhelmingly for nine o'clock closing, while in the heart of the suburb's most prestigious residential precinct, Toxteth Road, the residents by a two to one ratio, indicated they wanted six o'clock closing. The figures at the St. Johns Road polling booth were evenly divided.

As the war lingered on and losses mounted, the government tried to keep up the flow of recruits. 23,000 Australians died in August-September, 1916 at the Somme. Replacements were badly needed so W.M. Hughes sought to introduce compulsory overseas military service, hoping a large popular majority would vote for conscription. A majority of the nation rejected the introduction of conscription in 1916 and again in 1917, an issue that bitterly divided the country. The "no conscription" campaign committee in Glebe held a series of rallies in October, 1916 in Bay Street, Ferry Road, on the corner of Bridge Road and Ross Street and in Mitchell Street. Bill Martin told a crowd at Record Reign hall to record an emphatic no and "show the world that while always willing to do their share in the defence of the Empire they were not going to be forced to the points of German bayonets". The pro-conscription groups in Glebe were addressed by Premier Holman, Stanley Cole and Tom Glasscock. Mayor Ralph Stone chaired the "Compulsory Reinforcements" rally at Glebe Town Hall in October, 1916 when one speaker told the meeting that if "the Empire went down in the struggle, civilisation would fall with it" and exhorted locals to vote for conscription "so the name of Australia would not be dragged into the dirt".

The war contaminated every ideal for which it was waged and the sure mood of the pre-1914 era vanished into faction and strife. Brothers Dick and Murray Sharpe and Lance and Harry Dawson of Wigram Road, Gus and Alick Faerber of 160 Hereford Street, Earl and Harry Neaves of 33 Avona Avenue and Albert and John Cotter of 266 Glebe Road were among the products of Glebe and Forest Schools to die on foreign battlefields.

In Glebe, and throughout the country, the years from 1914 to 1918 was a period of trial and tragedy. The countless "In Memoriam" columns in newspapers reflect the personal tragedies many Glebe people experienced. Private Ern Welling of 199 Wigram Road was killed in France on 20th July, 1916. His mother inserted this memoriam:

"Oh the anguish of the mother
Oh the bitter tears she shed
When she heard her boy was missing
And she wondered 'Is he dead'
Oh the weeks and months of torture
Oh the agony and pain
And she wept and prayed and wondered
Would he come to her again
'Killed in Action' came still later
Oh the awful truth is bare."

S.M.H. 20th July, 1981 p.11.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Rita Ramsden has organised some functions for the following months. The first 'Happy Hour', which was held at the home of the President, Doris Sharpe, on October 11 was a great success. Several people attended, which seems to suggest that the new time of 5.30 p.m. is more convenient. People can pop in after work on their way home.

Rita also has tickets to sell for the Christmas Party. For details of the Party and other social events, see FOR YOUR DIARY.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Members may be aware that a drive is currently underway to encourage more Glebe residents to join the Society. The area is being letter-boxed with a new leaflet. If you know anyone who might be interested, encourage him/her to contact the Society at Box 100, Glebe, 2037, or alternatively refer him/her to members of the Management Committee. Members' telephone numbers are on the back page.



For your diary

MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER, 5.30-7.00 p.m.

An after-work social gathering at the home of Eileen Lacey, at 4 Avon Towers, 2A Forsyth Street, Glebe. Wine and coffee, \$1.00.

FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER.

Last day for payment of monies for attendance at Christmas Party. Ring Rita Ramsden on 660 8760.

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

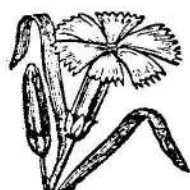
Tribune Fair will take place in Foley Park, Glebe. There will be entertainment, exotic food, and stalls featuring bric-a-brac, books, clothes, records, plants and jewellery. All welcome.

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 12.30-3.00 p.m.

Christmas Party at Tony and Hilary Larkum's, 17 Alexandra Road, Glebe. Lunch of chicken and salad will be \$12.00 per person. This price includes one glass of wine. Drinks will be available. Those wishing to attend should give names and money to Rita Ramsden by 19th November. Rita's address is 171 Arundel St, Forest Lodge. Telephone 660 7860.

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 5.30-7.00 p.m.

Pre-Christmas drink with Betty Wright at 120 Bridge Road, Glebe. Wine and coffee, \$1.00.



MONDAY GROUP

Activities for the Monday Group had not been finalised before this Bulletin went to press. For information on Monday Group activities for November, ring Vi Hicks, 660 3694.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Doris Sharpe 660 6636
Senior Vice Pres.	Bob Armstrong 660 4189
Junior Vice Pres.	Neville Holmes 692 0247
Secretary	Richard Lauder 660 3254
Treasurer	John Priest 660 3543
Committee	Jo Bastian 660 7107 Eileen Lacey 692 0173 Peter Vester 660 1875
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