



THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

3/1980

WENTWORTH PARK GRANDSTAND

From the Consultant Town Planner's Report of the Leichhardt Council Meeting on the 4th March, it appears that the Wentworth Park Grandstand issue is lost. Amended plans which were passed at the meeting allow for (i) The 86 ft. high grandstand to go ahead. (ii) No extra parking apart from permanent staff. (iii) Use of the grassed areas of Wentworth Park for extra off-street parking for visitors to "conventions, exhibitions, indoor sports and other non-racing oriented facilities"; and (iv) The entrance to remain at the intersection of St. John's Road and Wentworth Park Road.

In allowing this development to go through without modification and without regard to the large number of local objections, Council appears to have caved-in fully to pressures from the National Coursing Association and the Wentworth Park Trust (which seems to be a puppet of the N.C.A.)

On the 11th February, Council wrote to the architects for the proposed grandstand, stipulating, amongst other things, that the main entry was to be moved and that "a defined and properly constructed on-site parking area separate from the general grassed areas available for off-street parking for race patrons should be provided for users of the convention, exhibition, indoor sports and other non-racing oriented facilities and also for permanent staff. This area shall be paved and drained to the satisfaction of Council".

Thus the passing of the amendments on the 4th March represents a complete back-down by Council and a virtual "rubber-stamping" of the original plans.

What this means for Glebe is the erection of a massive permanent structure in a public park (which was originally dedicated to the people in perpetuity) and the alienation of further grassed open space.

This move, together with the recent development of the Leichhardt Oval Grandstand and the restriction to right-of-way through Harold Park (also a public park) indicates the current council's cynical disregard for

the rights of local people.

Glebe already has a severe shortage of open space. According to the minimum standard of the Planning and Environment Commission (2.83 ha. open space per 1,000 population) Glebe should have 39.6 hectares. In fact it has only 50% of the minimum amount (23.7 hectares) and this includes Wentworth Park and Harold Park! At a time when Council is approving more and more flat developments in Glebe under I.D.O. 27 and thus increasing our population, it appears to be whittling away what little open space we have left.

Tony Larkum

TOWN PLAN TRIBUNAL

We wish to hear from anyone who has appeared before the independent Tribunal which is being set up to investigate residents' protests to the Leichhardt Planning Scheme. We have no idea when the first hearings are due, and perhaps they have already started. Please ring either Tony Larkum - 660-7030 or John Hoddinott - 692-0071, if you have any information about dates and/or procedures.

THIS MONTH'S EPIGRAM

ECCENTRICITY - a method of distinction so cheap that fools employ it to accentuate their incapacity.

Ambrose Bierce



It makes the job of an editor unnecessarily difficult if items for publication are not received on time.

We are receptive to relevant news items and welcome new contributors.

Would you please submit all items before the 15th of each month. Otherwise you may have to wait to appear in print until the next month's issue of the Bulletin.

Merlyn Larcombe
Editor.

JAMES ROBERTSON

James Robertson will be in Australia from 31st March, to 12th April, 1980, as a guest of the New South Wales Humanist Society. He is a former British senior civil servant, lecturer and author.

If you believe that people matter most; that the way ahead lies in reason, and that the quality of life depends more on human relationships and a satisfying environment, than the acquisition of material goods,

then come and hear James Robertson:

Tuesday, 1st April, 7.45 p.m. Teachers' Federation
Auditorium, 300 Sussex St., Sydney. Entry \$2.00.
\$1.00 students, pensions.

Wednesday 2nd April, 8 p.m., The Wayside Chapel, 29
Hughes St., Potts Point.

Saturday 5th April, 2 p.m., International House, Sydney
University, City Road.

Tuesday 8th April, 12.30 p.m., Ideas Exchange
Luncheon, 2nd Floor, N.S.W. Leagues Club, Phillip
St., Bookings 922-6094. \$12.00

AS OTHERS SEE US?

At a coffee morning at Betty Wright's late in 1979 several Glebe Society members completed questionnaire on 'Leisure' for M.A. students in Psychology from Sydney University. One of them, Rowena Price, has sent a copy of the group's survey results to the Society, and anyone wishing to see it might like to contact the Secretary, John Hoddinott (692-0071). The students survey two areas, Glebe and Green Valley. As the best things about their area, Glebe people saw

- . closeness to the city (42.4%)
- . access to facilities (19.2%)
- . Closeness to family and friends (15.2%)

while the Green Valley residents rated as the most positive aspects of their area

- . closeness for family and friends (26.6%)
- . good outdoor environment/pollution free (21.1%)
- . outer suburban environment (18.8%)

On the negative side Glebe rated

- . pollution (38.4%)
- . traffic problems (14.1%)
- . vandalism (9.1%)

and Green Valley

- . Travelling distance (26.8%)
- . lack of leisure facilities (21.9%)
- . traffic problems (12.8%)

Interestingly, in both areas people answering the questionnaire identified their leisure pursuits as being of a 'domestic' kind (reading, walking, sewing, cooking, knitting, gardening, music) while expressing a preference for outdoor and social activities. Most respondents (in both groups) did not list TV viewing as an 'activity'. (Just a habit?)

The survey findings indicated a need in both areas to publicize free activities already available.

Leisure facilities identified as lacking in Glebe were

- . Parks, playgrounds & sporting facilities, both indoor and outdoor
- . community activities

and in Green Valley

- . theatres
- . cultural activities
- . social clubs

It was also interesting that, from the survey, Green Valley residents emphasize family activities while Glebe dwellers stress activities with friends.

Overall, the key factors identified as necessary for making a transition to social or outdoor leisure pursuits were the availability of time, money and facilities.

Perhaps we are all just too inert in front of the goggle box! Who's for moonlight bushwalking?

Jeanette Knox

OPERATION ABORIGINES TAKES ITS PLACE

Operation Aborigine - born and bred in Glebe is tooling up for its second big annual Appeal. Glebe residents should be more than a little proud of this locally generated national black-white movement to help Aborigines help themselves. Operation Aborigine sprang initially from the financial problems facing the Co-operative College, an Aboriginal and Islander training centre run by Co-operatives for Aborigines at Tranby, 13 Mansfield Street, Glebe. Some \$100,000 was desperately needed to restore Tranby which as most Glebe residents know is one of the grand old mansions of the locality and indeed has been declared a National Trust.

Through the years the Co-operative for Aborigines has been something of a voice crying in the wilderness preaching Action for Aboriginal development through the use of credit unions and self-help co-operatives. Because of this it was natural that Operation Aborigine should widen its base to include not just the raising of money for Tranby but nothing less than accelerating the emancipation of the Aboriginal people.

In this respect Operation Aborigine believes that only the Aboriginal people themselves can engineer this but it argues that somewhere along the battle line there must be a place for a black-white unit to play a part, not only in the social struggles, but in building warmer, friendlier relations between Aborigines and non-Aborigines.

OPERATION ABORIGINE's 1980 Appeal opens with OPERATION ABORIGINE WEEK on Sunday, 27th April, 1980 and climaxes in a button-selling day the following Friday, 2nd May, in the streets of Sydney. The button is, of course, the now already famous Aboriginal Dreamtime Medallion designed by the noted Mornington Island Aboriginal artist Goobalathaldin known generally as Dick Roughsey.

Funds raised will continue to go to the upkeep and expansion of Tranby and the education of public opinion in the justice of the Aboriginal cause through the organisation's magazine GOORIALLA.

Many "happenings" have been planned for the week including the world premiere of a new ballet The Rainbow Serpent - a son et lumiere event (to be held in a public place (probably Sydney Square) and a parade through the city of OPERATION ABORIGINE's very own 60 ft. x 6 ft. x 4 ft. Rainbow Serpent. Incidentally the ballet the Rainbow Serpent will be choreographed and produced by the brilliant dancer Ronaldo (who lives in Glebe) in association with the Glebe based Aboriginal and Island Dance Theatre which is making such a name for itself.

OPERATION ABORIGINE is inviting all Sydney suburbs and country towns to run their own button days on

behalf of its 1980 appeal. Glebe residents note. Those interested should ring OPERATION ABORIGINE - 660-6618 or call personally at headquarters, 13 Mansfield Street.

Leo Kelly

RAILWAY ALTERNATIVE ?

Transit lanes, clearways, no right turn, no stopping, residents demanding road closures, oil crises, smog, lead levels, traffic jams, noise....stop! Are we going the wrong way?

Over-use of and dependence on the motor car has made big cities like Sydney much less pleasant than they could be. Major traffic arteries in some directions (including the North West) are now so congested in peak hours that only juggling of lanes and virtually incomprehensible rules keep them flowing. Further increases in traffic in the inner suburbs will lead to chaos.

Despite the impending crisis in city transport, Sydney has a number of unused and underused railway facilities in the city and inner suburbs which are not used at all for passenger services!

In 1974 the Glebe Society prepared a monograph with proposals to use the line which passes under Glebe as a passenger line. Although the then Minister for Transport could not give a satisfactory reason for it, our proposals were not taken up. Indeed, it was just shortly after the publication of the monograph that the Eastern Suburbs Railway was curtailed to Bondi Junction! Perhaps the monograph was ahead of its time.

Since then the situation has changed. The E.S.R. has begun operating and is much more popular than expected. Petrol prices have trebled, and crude oil has become scarcer.

Pollution levels have risen. Congestion and traffic related environmental problems have worsened. New developments have occurred along the Glebe railway that make it even more attractive as a proposal than before. The recent Telegraph article (see last Bulletin) is an example of the renewed public interest in public transport possibilities in Sydney.

The time is therefore right to produce a revised proposal for the use of the Glebe Railway, taking into account all the above factors, and also modern developments in Public Transport. We intend to propose a scheme which combines the advantages of trams and trains. We hope to produce a new monograph to explain the new scheme. Your ideas and assistance are invited. Phone John Gerofi on 692-0876 (home) if you are interested.

John Gerofi

CRICKET

After a lapse of two years, the Glebe Society issued a challenge to the Balmain Association to do battle in the annual cricket match. The challenge was accepted and a talented Glebe team containing two members of the victorious 1977 team, Peter Manning and Norm Rowe, took to the field of St. Andrews College (Syd. Uni.) on the morning of Sunday, 2nd March, to face the Balmain team. Glebe struck a blow in the opening over with the speedy Peter Manning whipping a ball past the opening batsman and bowling him, 1 for 0! With the score at 14, Balmain's second wicket fell to Peter Manning after a fine catch by Andrew Gonczi, resplendent in his silver-winged cap - 2 for 14. Peter Saunders shared the new ball and his six opening overs yielded only 12 runs. Spin was introduced at the fingers of Norm Rowe and in his first over a skied ball was magnificently caught by Peter Manning an instant before a sickening collision between Peter and the hardy John Dengate. Unbeknown to Peter he fractured a rib in the collision and John was escorted from the field with concussion and a bleeding nose, 3 for 28. John returned to the field after the break and captured 2/22 (6 overs) with his leg spinners. Norm Rowe was the main wicket taker with 3/18 (8 overs). Other wicket takers were David Iverack 1/16 and Andrew Gonczi who combined with wicket keeper Steve Rosenman to capture the final wicket. Balmain total 128. Unfortunately the Glebe batting did not live up to the skill shown by the fielding team and fell 32 runs short of the Balmain total. Only two batsmen reached double figures, Mark Henschke 43, and John Dengate, 18, not out. It was an enthusiastic but friendly battle and one that augurs well for the success of future encounters between cricket teams from Balmain and The Glebe.

Mark Henschke

UNDER 35's PARTY

A good time was had by all at the Under 35's Party hosted by Peter Vester at his mother's home in Bridge Road. Although poorly attended it was really great to meet so many new and interesting people in a relaxed atmosphere. Food and wine in abundance and conversation very refreshing.

Maybe next time we'll see a few more faces. Thanks Betty and Peter for all your work and preparation and congratulations on a job well done.

Chanel Waterford

THE ROCKS PLAYERS

The Drama Studio, St. James Hall, 153 Bridge Road, (just off Glebe Point Road) are holding a Youth Creative Drama Workshop with a difference, for children, aged 9-14 years. The course will also encourage parent involvement.

Dates from - Monday, 5th May to
Saturday, 10th May, 1980,
9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Miss Lyn Tuit - a highly qualified youth creative drama specialist, who has been involved in youth creative drama in New York, will be conducting the course with three assistants.

Enrolment is limited to 30. One child \$30.00 each
Family \$25.00 each
Parent \$25.00 each

For further information and bookings phone -

Bill Pepper - 660-6203

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Gordon Grant
Mr. & Mrs. R.R. Lee
Ms. Lu Szuhyta

For your diary

Sunday, 13th April, 11 a.m.

Coffee Morning at Dennis McManus, 133 St. John's Rd.

Monday 14th April

Monday Group - Contact Vi for further details -
660-3694

Monday 14th April

Drinks at the Rowing Club. This is especially for new members to meet the Management Committee.

Sunday, 11th May, 11 a.m.

Coffee Morning at Kie Jennings, 43 Avona Avenue.