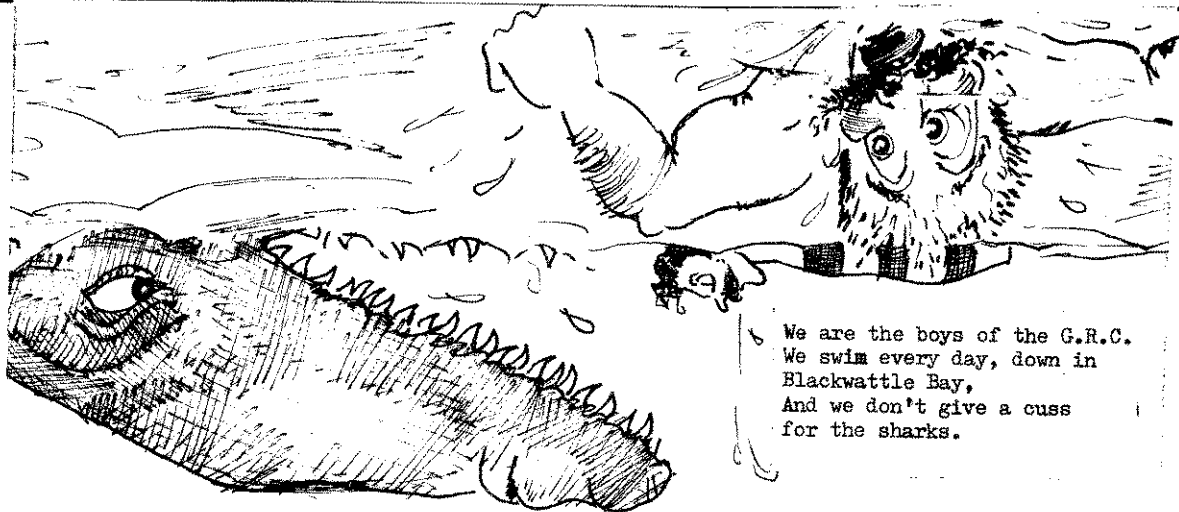


THE GLEBE SOCIETY BULLETIN

Box 100, Glebe 2037

4/1980



We are the boys of the G.R.C.
We swim every day, down in
Blackwattle Bay,
And we don't give a cuss
for the sharks.

"SPORTING HEROES OF GLEBE, 1880 - 1970"

Max Solling, the Society's erudite and entertaining local historian, has agreed to present a snappy talk and slide show on the subject of Glebe's sportsmen and sportswomen over the last 100 or so years. There will be a buffet dinner at the Glebe Rowing Club, Ferry Road, on Monday, 26th May at 7 p.m. The price will be about \$5.00, this to include food and drinks (wine, beer or soft drink).

We particularly invite new members to attend this function. You will be well entertained by Max's knowledgeable and witty presentation, while gaining some new information about a relatively unknown but interesting aspect of our suburb's colourful history. The slides, Max assures us, are of a high quality and will show some many interesting historical memorabilia.

Bookings must be received by Wednesday, 21st May, with confirmations to Jeanette Knox (660-7881) or David Reeve (660-2207). Accurate numbers are required for catering. It may be necessary to refuse those who have not booked, just as it is expected that, once booked by 21st May, the ticket (or tickets) will be paid for, and collected.

BOOKS FOR SALE

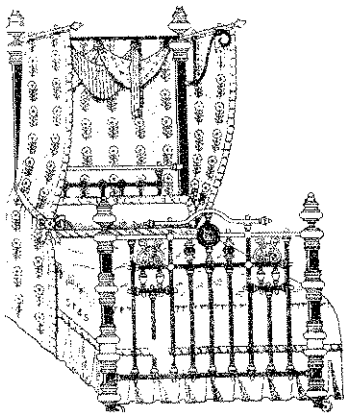
Ian Evans' "Restoring Old Houses"	\$36.95
Bernard Smith's "The Architectural Character of Glebe"	\$8.00

Orders to John Hoddinott, 692-0071.

WHAT THE COMMITTEE DID.

1. The possibility of a Glebe Fair, along the lines of the Queen Street Fair in Woollahra is diminishing, for this year at least. John Hoddinott spoke to the Q.S.F.'s founder, Leo Schofield, who explained the current system. It has grown to such an extent that the organisation is beyond the scope of an amateur group. A part-time salaried employee is now needed. The Glebe Society does not have this capacity.
2. The Combined Residents' Associations held a meeting in early April and a concerted effort is planned on the issues of traffic (and associated problems), lack of parks and the Town Plan. (See Tony Larkum's report).
3. The Society is trying to discover the criteria for traffic (i.e. load) limits in streets, and to whom to report violations. Members will be kept informed of developments.
4. Leichhardt Council has approved the grandstand for Wentworth Park. This seems to be a gross violation of the trusteeship of a public area which the Society believes was left to the public "in perpetuity". However, it will be a difficult fight to have the decision reversed. We will battle on!
5. The Society understands that some of the former expressway-affected houses will be sold soon; these are in the area around "Lyndhurst". This is to be investigated, to ensure that the public have a chance to be involved.

John Hoddinott



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Glebe Society is above all a residents' action group, but it also holds a range of social activities. It is sometimes not clear what the purposes of these activities are. Enquirers from outside often assume that the Society is basically a historical association, and some members feel that the social activities obscure the real, activist role of the society, that the effort put into organising such activities is misdirected. The opinion is sometimes expressed that tea parties, garden shows and house inspections give substance to the changes that the Society is very Glebe Point, essentially elitist and hopelessly trivial.

It is certainly true that few of the Society's social activities appeal to the Glebe estate community, the student community, the several migrant communities and the whole range of single, lonely people living in rather unpleasant boarding houses. New members often wonder what 'the Monday Group' is, whether or not to try one of the coffee mornings, and whether anyone can come to the activities offered in the 'For your Diary' column. On the other hand, the organisers of social activities often find little response to their proposals, and have to ring up old faithfuls to brow-beat them into attendance. Few of the major events (such as the Xmas and Birthday Parties) ever have more than 70 people attending - a bit more than 10% of the membership.

One problem is that it is hard to envisage what sorts of activities would interest the various communities living in Glebe, even though the Society often talks of the 'social mix' of Glebe as being an essential part of Glebe's character. A lot of thought has gone into ways of linking the Society and the Glebe Estate but little has come out of it. The 'Rites of Spring' in November, 1978, organised for Blackwattle Bay Park, largely by Eric Gidney and the Festival of English Ancient Rites (FEAR), attracted hundreds of people on a rainy night, suggesting that really popular activities are possible. Another problem is that most members of the Society are very busy, occupied with work and a range of other interests. While they are happy to support the Society by taking out membership, they have few nights free, and are inclined to see attendance at Glebe Society functions as a duty rather than a pleasure. Why then bother with history walks and concerts?

As a rather reluctant helping hand with a number of social activities, I see several reasons for such functions. Some of them are directly related to the Society's objectives. History activities and gardening interests provide an appreciation of the special character of Glebe and fit in with the concern 'to preserve the unique historic and architectural environment' and to 'encourage more parks, trees and gardens' - as spelt out in the aims of the Society. The activities at Blackwattle Bay Park were fun anyway, but also helped to make the point that people like parks and are prepared to use them.

Secondly, most of the 'real' work of the Society is carried out by the Management Committee and the convenors of subcommittees - writing letters to Council and to ministers, drafting reports and recommendations, planning doorknocks and petitions, consulting other organisations. Few people relish the monthly round of meetings and it is often hard

to fill all the positions. Thus much of the major work is done behind the doors of such meetings, with the results being mainly reported through the Bulletin. There are not many opportunities for the Committee to discuss their plans directly with members, nor for members to express their opinions to the Committee (although the phone numbers of committee members are published in the Bulletin, and any resident is invited to ring). Several of the functions provide opportunities for chats with the committee members and for a relaxed way of hearing opinions and suggestions. The Xmas and birthday parties are roughly six months apart, while the monthly coffee mornings and drinks at the Rowing Club are intended to be a chance for members to raise issues, as well as being pleasant social occasions. Committee members are always present.

Thirdly, in any one year, a lot of our members are new. The membership of the Society has been increasing rather quickly lately, but even in years when the total remained static, that total meant that about 10% of the members had left Glebe but had been replaced by new members. The range of social activities is seen as providing opportunities for new members to take a more active role in Society activities, if they want to. Also, at least once a year, a welcome to new members is held, often in conjunction with a coffee morning or one of the regular parties. Special letters are sent to the new members, inviting them to attend, with no charge if it is a function that needs payment. A fair bit of Society funds has been expended on such free invitations in the past, even though the basic policy on social activities is that they should break even. This seems to have been a sensible move, as such functions have been useful ways of drawing people into a more active role in the Society.

Finally, the Glebe Society tries to act as an umbrella organisation over a range of activities. If Glebe residents or Society members want to have a tennis club, play reading, craft workshop, theatre party or bridge night, the Society is happy to help. Why not? The Society, in its basic aims, wants 'to promote the general well-being of the residents and ensure that the Glebe remains a pleasant place to live'. The Society can provide free advertising through the Bulletin, can help with organisation and can often provide a bit of money for basic needs. The Society knows who to contact on the Council if that is needed, or can help out with contacts with other organisations - the Society gets a lot of correspondence from other organisations keen to recruit people.

Frequent activities :

a. Coffee mornings : Were started in 1971 and have continued regularly for 9 years. They are usually held on the first Saturday or Sunday of each month, from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30, in one of the members' homes. Arrangements are made as simple as possible, both for the host members and those attending. One of the Society's members acts as organiser and takes all the necessary equipment round to the house. The hosts have only to supply the venue and the hot water.

The original idea was to provide an informal, friendly place to drop in after Saturday morning shopping, and a chance to meet some people in the local community. In mid-1978 one member held a wine, coffee and craft meeting on Sunday morning, which was so successful, that we now have several

on Sunday each year. Everyone is welcome to drop in, without any prior notice, and to meet other Society members. There is a small charge (50c - \$1, depending on whether coffee, or coffee and wine, is served). Anyone willing to lend their house for the morning can ring Nan Waterford on 660-6906.

b. Drinks at the Rowing Club : The Rowing Club, at the end of Ferry Road, has very pleasant views over the Bay, especially at sunset. The Society had not really been aware of the attractions of the Club until a successful welcome to new members there in 1977. From May 1978, we started a monthly meeting for a social drink and for members to meet the Committee, to raise any complaints and issues. These are held on Monday evenings, as these do not interfere with the Club's own activities. The Society and the Club are on good terms, particularly as our historian Max Solling is working on a history on sport in Glebe, started as part of the Club's centenary celebrations. Anyone can attend - you are signed in by a Committee member and you pay for your own drinks. It is also possible to become a social member of the Club so as to gain regular access to its facilities. It is one of the few places which gives a fine appreciation of Glebe as a foreshore suburb.

c. The Monday Group : Usually meets on the second Monday afternoon of each month for tea and discussion, at 2.30 p.m. in the homes of members. It began meeting in 1974 as the 'Crochet Group' and has been involved in community welfare, particularly in making blankets for Elsie. It has widened its original interest in crafts into becoming also a discussion group, and a group which makes outings to exhibitions and garden displays. It is open to any member of the Society - any enquiries to 660-3694.

d. History : History activities have been run for years through the efforts and energy of Max Solling, whose knowledge of Glebe history is exhaustive. His two major current projects are the history of sport which is now nearing completion, and his plans for an oral history of Glebe between the wars. Anyone wishing to be involved in the latter can ring Max on 660-1160. The more social side of the history interests has been made up of Max's most successful talks at AGMs, the history walks he has organised, and the two lecture series on local history held in June-July, 1977 and 1979.

e. Gardening : Gardening activities were run successfully by Theo Ahlston until early 1977, since which time he has continued to keep us in touch with the Garden Club of Australia and other gardening activities. Displays, visits and slide nights have been organised in the past. After a lull of three years, things are looking brighter since Jan and Neil MacIndoe have offered to reactivate the Gardening Subcommittee. Anyone interested can ring them on 660-0208.

f. Other activities : Many other activities have been tried, some of them fairly regular, others petering out quickly. Theatre parties, play readings, and the annual cricket grudge match with Balmain maintain a fitful existence, while the wine bottlings are a regular success. The formerly annual ferry trip has become too expensive. Two concerts organised by Heather Stewart (Gerald Hendrie and George Dreyfus) were much enjoyed. But proposals for a cycling group, bridge playing and a tennis group didn't get off the ground. The bi-annual house and garden inspection (next due in 1981) has always been a major success.

My own feeling is that a residents action group can get along without the social activities if need be, but that they have played a very useful role keeping the Society together in the past. New members are urged to drop into any of these activities to get to know the other members, to offer or to get advice. And if anyone wants to start another

activity, one-off or regular, the Society is very happy to act as a sponsor - just ring one of the committee members.

David Reeve

GROUND COVER

Why do people think they must have a lawn? An atavistic longing for that 'green and pleasant land', perhaps? Or just another failure to adapt to present circumstances.

Even in our inner city suburbs it seems a garden is not the real thing without grass.

Certainly, a pocket of green is cool and soothing to the eye, and a good foil for colourful flowers, but it doesn't have to be made of grass. The fine grasses such as bent, used for lawns in the cool moist climate of the old countries, cannot withstand heat and dryness so that coarser, tougher grasses, such as couch and buffalo are used. These are invasive and too vigorous. How often do we see ugly trails of these creepers penetrating shrubs and hedges, hanging through fences and protruding across pathways.

Some gardeners persist with fine grasses, believing that all they have to do to have a nice lawn is to water. Frequently, in my walks around Glebe Point, I see a small torrent of Australia's most precious commodity rushing across the footpath from a little front-garden where the sprinkler is going full blast, leaching the nutrients from a sad sodden soil which just manages to support a few sickly blades of grass.

When we moved to Glebe, five years ago, we left the lawn-mower behind. No, we didn't blanket front and back yards with concrete - a sign of defect or laziness or lack of imagination, unhappily too often seen. There are other ways of pleasantly covering the ground, either with living plants or inanimate materials, which effectively reduce maintenance.

Between the house and the carport, we found natural rock outcropping. We scraped away the soil to expose two rock ledges, and extended this area by laying gravel interspersed with sandstone slabs. The secret of success when using gravel is not to put black polythene underneath, but firstly, to remove all weeds, then make a thick layer of gravel (about 3 - 4 ins.) which will inhibit further weed growth, without interference with drainage.

The main part of the garden was planted with trees and shrubs and the soil covered with pine-bark - again, a good thick layer which not only deters weeds but acts as a mulch, i.e. prevents drying-out and therefore less watering is required.

Now that things have grown and stabilized, all fallen leaves are allowed to lie in the garden - those tidied up from gravel and verandah are added to make a continuous natural mulch. Stepping-stones of sawn tree-trunks, or weathered stone set in the mulch make attractive paths through the garden.

Next time, I shall describe suitable plants for living ground-cover.

Sally Nelson

Mr. Clive Lucas, the Architect in charge of the restoration of "Lyndhurst" has asked the Society to conduct another working-bee at Lyndhurst, with the aim of clearing another cellar room.

The last bee saw a complete cellar room emptied of rubbish and the flagging stones exposed. The work is quite strenuous, but very fulfilling. We would like about two dozen willing hands. The equipment needed is : gloves, buckets and spades (as many as possible), strong shoes or boots.

Last time I had to ring to gather the numbers, and we gathered about 20 people. But to save my time and telephone bill, please ring me this time. I am sure that we can gather 5% of our membership for such an event. PLEASE support the Society's efforts on behalf of the Heritage Council's plan to restore Lyndhurst to its full glory. Glebe needs a "grand house" and you can play a part in this aim.

The time is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, 4th May. Ring me at 692-0071 if you are able to help on this Sunday morning.

John Hoddinott

WINE BOTTLING

A successful wine bottling was held on the 29th March with a total of 550 bottles of red and white, being filled. There are a few bottles of Saltram's red wine remaining which are available at \$1.00 a bottle. Ring Tony Larkum, 660-7030.

JOINT LEICHHARDT RESIDENT ACTION GROUPS MEETING.

Members of the Glebe, Annandale and Leichhardt Associations met on 1st April to discuss matters of mutual interest. The main points on the agenda were:-

1. The Town Plan and the operation of I.D.O.27.
2. The alienation of public parks in the Municipality.
3. The unacceptably high traffic flow in many streets in the Municipality.

Useful discussions were held on all these points and it was decided to make several approaches to Council and State Ministers. However, many important decisions were held over to the next meeting which will be held at 8 p.m. on 29th April, at the Balmain Watch House. All are welcome.

Tony Larkum

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Tony Larkum	660 7030
Immediate Past Pres.	Eric Sandblom	660 6593
Senior Vice President:	Peter Stanbury	660 1848
Junior Vice President:	David Reeve	660 2207
Secretary:	John Hoddinott	692 0071
Treasurer:	Mike Reynolds	692 0790
Committee:	Betty Wright	660 1875
	Bill Nelson	660 0038
	Rosemary Wilkinson	660 4531
	Kemp Fowler	660 5258
	John Buckingham	660 7780
	Paul Coupe	692 0716
Editor - Bulletin	Merlyn Larcombe	660 0491

Sunday, 11th May, 11 a.m.

Coffee Morning at Kio Jennings, 43 Avona Avenue.

Monday Group, Monday, 12th May

Propose to visit a Floral Art Workshop at the Environment Centre, 399 Pitt St., Sydney - for final details ring 660-3694.

They enjoyed a very pleasant outing to Swain's Nursery at Dural, thanks to Sally Nelson and Veeka Rose.

Sunday, 27th April - Blackwattle Park Working Bee and Barbecue

In spite of the dry weather a good proportion of the trees and shrubs planted beside Blackwattle Bay have survived.

Bring some tools (digging and cutting) and a modicum of energy to the waterfront between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and then stay on for a barbecue lunch. We'll have a fire under the barbecue plate for you to sizzle your steak and sausages.

Monday, 12 May, 6 p.m.

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

Thursday, 29th May - The Garden Club of Australia

A harbour cruise has been arranged, leaving No. 2 Jetty, Circular Quay, at 10 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m. A stop for a picnic lunch will be made at Watson's Bay. Tickets \$3 may be obtained by ringing 660-1083.

Saturday, 17th May - 5 - 7 p.m. Jack Glatzer

A Soiree - at Mark Higgins' Showroom, 72 Glebe Point Road, - Phone - 660-1969.

A special opportunity for Glebe residents to hear this International Violinist, who will be performing for one week only at the Sydney Opera House and other musical centres.

A special recital of unique virtuoso violin masterworks - Bach, Locatelli and Paganini on a 1728 Guarnerius del Jesu.

Tickets on sale at door - \$5 - drinks served, or phone Heather Stewart for enquiries and reservations 660-0847.

ESSAY COMPETITION

We are offering a prize for The Best Written Anecdote on Glebe's Past.

The script should not exceed 150 words and should be sent to the Editor, at 14 Texteth Road, not later than 11th July, 1980.

Prize - Choice of either book - Ian Evans' "Restoring Old Houses"; or Bernard Smith's "The Architectural character of Glebe".

Judges - Max Solling, Tony Larkum, Mike Reynolds, Merle Larcombe.

The winner's anecdote will be read at the Annual General Meeting in August.