

An Irregular publication for the members of the Town Planning Research Group
(not for general publication or republication.)

Note to Readers: This issue has reverted to an earlier form to remind you that "Irregular" is intended for exchange of news and views and we want yours, too. It need not be a long analytical article: short bits of news or pieces of your mind would be welcome.

THIS ISSUE : BITS AND PIECES.

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1/30/0

Florence Nightingale and the Community.

Those planners who are more "aware" than others, have recently been calling for "breaking down the barrier between disciplines, "between sociology and planning for one example.

From the most unexpected quarter this message arises strong and clear for those with ears to listen. Take, for example ---

"The First International Domiciliary Congress held in Melbourne in February '70. These few quotes are taken from the notes of one of the participants at the Congress. The full printed report of the Congress has not yet been published.

The Future.

1. "There should be a team of professionals, with every profession indispensable, and all professions developed to their fullest capacity." Dr. Lucille Brown Ph. D.
2. "There is a demand for participation in planning medical services, our health is so important that we cannot leave it only to the Doctors." Dr. Leona Baumgartner U. S. A.
3. "There is a need for neighbourhood health centres as local focal points, which can be used by all members of the community." Miss. Eva Reese R. N. M. A., USA
4. "We need to establish truly family-centred community health services so that patients are treated as part of the family and as part of the community." Miss. Patricia Slater B. Sc. M. A. Dip. Ed. F. C. N. A. (Australia)

The Present.

1. "In the present type of training for nurses there is little educational motive, the system is authoritarian, paternalistic, and takes place in a benevolent hierarchy which stimulates conformity and stifles creativity, this results in low morale of nurses." Miss B. M. Deakin B. A. Dip. Ed. M. A. C. E. F. C. N. A. (Melbourne)
2. "It is often difficult to communicate with medical practitioners." Miss Mary Evans F. C. N. A. Q. M. (Eng) H. V. (Eng) M. R. S. H. (Melbourne)
3. "The Infant Welfare Centres are sometimes criticised by doctors who do not know what goes on at the Centres." Dr. E. Wilmot M. B. B. S. M. D. C. H. M. M. P. H. M. F. A. C. M. A. B. Sc. Dip. Diet.
4. "Hospitals have many years to live down if they are to develop successful preventative health services." Dr. Hetzel M. D. F. R. C. P. M. R. C. P. (Monash)

Architecture, Town Planning, Environment and Health.

1. "Modern Hospitals are a triumph to the architect, but what of the person who is ill?" Prof. Andrews, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Monash.
2. "For Good Health we need urban planning on a human scale." Dr. G. L. Christie Consultant Psychiatrist, Commonwealth Social Services.

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3. "We could live in cities of splendour, hot canyons of pollution and neuroses." Prof. Saint Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Queensland University.

Politicians and Health.

1. "Are all the certificates necessary for nursing? Main need of the patient is tender loving care, or T.L.C." Mr. J. Gorton Prime Minister of Australia.

2 /70/ 0

A Correction from CR. PAUL RITTER.

The Editor has received from Cr. Paul Ritter of Perth, the following correction to remarks made about his planning methods, comparing and contrasting them with planning methods proposed in "People and Planning." (see ref. 5/28/9 Appendix Irreg. 28, p. 6.

Dear Sir.

Re Irregular No. 28.

Thank you for dealing with my work. How ever I must correct one point you make. I quote:

".....Ritter does not seem to includethe idea of deliberately presenting planning choices to the public....he was working within a rigid framework of a Metropolitan Regional Plan under an unco-operative if not hostile Authority that silently allowed its planning principles to be overridden by a State Government that was narrowly autocratic on Planning issues e. g. the ring freeway."

The facts are; I was working for a Local Authority - one of 27 within the region. There was lots of good co-operation - for example the very advanced and decisive parking policy was helped very much by the Region Authority. The frame-work was not rigid; but our staff facilities were so lean they could not fill the frame-work provided! Hence the lack of alternatives!

And to illustrate the amount of give and take it should be said with regard to the freeway, that all ideas put forward in the plan in 1965 that I put to City, Region Authority, and Government have now been followed, contrary to the Main Roads and their consultants' intentions as already passed even by the city by 1965!

Again recently the City's influence in the Railway sinking project and in the cultural centre, both State concerns and degree of co-operation, bely your description. All is not perfect or working as it should, but the picture you give does not describe the situation since 1965 when I was in office.

Needless to say as Councillor I now have just as close a view of things in front and behind the scene. I still believe that the degree of actual co-operation in Perth is quite outstanding by world standards - although it could be endlessly improved and that is what many of us are doing.

Thank you for your interest.

Yours faithfully,

Cr. Paul Ritter

Director Planned Environment and Educreation Research .

Something Wrong and Something Right.

Asked to comment "Alpha" the writer of the article in "Irregular" no 28. said:...

"Thank you Cr. Ritter, for the corrections. There was something wrong in my speculation as to why you did not advance the concept of alternatives as a planning method. Although this idea seemed to be well within the general spirit of your stress on "lay participation."

"But there was something right in my guess too, apparently! You do seem to presentation of alternatives, given sufficient staff."

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A Comment from the Dandenongs.

The thoughtful material for "Irregular No. 29" on "The Blue Dandenongs" came from two residents. Comment has arrived from a third, to whom "Irregular" was sent:

"Congratulations on your brochure about the Dandenongs, and its general salvation there."

"I do like the idea of the alternative western scenic road from "(Ferntree)" Gully to Montrose but I do not think the present widening will spoil any of the beauties -- a road widening and judicious clearing can often bring new vistas. Perrins Creek Road is one example - one can now see all along the lovely creek bed with its flora - which were invisible before - also some of the clearing done in haste and fear by the Rhododendron Society in the extension of its garden has opened up some new vistas.

"The growth of mountain ash and of most trees up here can be quite overawing.

I am much in favour of selective removal of some trees.

(Editor:-- Any more ideas?)

4/30/0

Carlton Isn't as Cute as Captain Cook's Cottage.

"The Age" correspondent John Hamilton and a screamingly funny but menacing article in "The Age" Saturday Review 14/2/1970. On American Tourists.

"I bought a Koala for \$7 on Green Island --- when you wind it up it plays Waltzing Matilda. Reckon I can get another one like it?" asked one tourist. The party of 15 on a "packaged" tour of the South Pacific " at \$80 per day has one day to see Melbourne.

"An extensive sightseeing tour today showing us all of Melbourne's points of interest, including the Shrine of Remembrance, Fitzroy Gardens and Captain Cook's Cottage." says their travel schedule.

"Everyone," according to Mr. Hamilton, "thinks the cottage is really cute."

They were whisked back to the Southern Cross Hotel precisely on schedule at 12.30 p.m.

Boy, oh, boy! What a shame they couldn't have had lunch in that licenced restaurant in the Botanic Gardens! This could almost be jammed into the schedule, its so close to the Southern Cross! What a wonderful thing to have the Tullamarine Freeway! It must add 60 minutes or so of extra time in Melbourne, and when they build the ring-freeway, you'll be able to travel from the tarmac to almost Bourke Street.

And when the jumbo jets start up, instead of having a party of 15, why we will be able to host 150 per plane, and if we get to the stage of 2 or 3 planes a day, well we'll just need another Captain Cook's Cottage, say, in the Exhibition Gardens.

Couldn't we produce something a bit more novel than a music-box Koala? What about kangaroos that throw boomerangs?

Tail Note. The Melbourne Chamber of Commerce "civic Affairs" Committee actively campaigned for the Tullamarine airport and its new "Civic Affairs Division" to deal with the problems of Inner Area Redevelopment were sponsored by Ansett, Dunlop, Jennings, Mobil Oil, and a few banks - - and they want more parking right in the Central Business District which they point out is (among other things,) Melbourne's "major tourist facility." It is surrounded though by "a half a dozen suburbs largely in a state of decay." Tut, tut!

There's no doubt about it! Carlton isn't as cute as Captain Cook's Cottage. Now there's an idea for a real entrepreneur like Jennings! Couldn't he be given the job of pulling down Carlton and putting up Captain Cook Cottages? That extra 100 yrs. - older look: Note the line. Come to Melbourne to see England!

Tail note 2. Mr. Manson, Victoria's first "Tourist Minister" flung a Cocktail party on February 19th to make an occasion of the State Ministry of Tourism with \$1.6 million to start with. (Herald 19/2/70) Watch it!

5/30/0.

A Rave. by "Raven"

The R. M. I. T. magazine "Archetype" was launched in November 1969.

This glossy publication has about thirty articles by lecturers and students, some mainly philosophical, others mainly dealing with practice. There are articles which

5/30/0 cont. make the reader feel as if participating in dialogue, several stretch the imagination to embrace a utopian yet possible future; and at times the browser unwittingly becomes involved in attempting to solve some of the apatial and sociological problems that are posed.

One gem from this first issue of "Archetype" is about P. U. R. L. and we reprint a paragraph from this article. This idea of Purl aptly lives up to its phonetic counterpart Here is the quote.

"obviously schools such as the R. M. I. T. could, and should participate in such vitally important and interesting movements (as The Carlton Association and the Urban Action Committee. ed.) How, ?

"Enter one Purl or People's Urban Renewal Laboratory, -after. all we have a Building Science Laboratory don't ideas need testing, ? The various bodies interested in urban renewal, now springing up in Melbourne would readily provide the response-loading and, simultaneously the feed-back information now so desperately needed by students."

As a scheme such as P. U. R. L. would no doubt help to knit the community fabric. It is this type of unity that will needle the conservatives. We look forward to the future when the R. M. I. T., students and staff cotton on to Purl.

6/30/0. Full Turn of the "Federal Aid " Wheel

In 1950 the Communists began the idea of Federal financed assistance for various State and local authorities, and have been in full cry ever since.

From 1960 or so the Labor Party began to espouse the same cause, and by 1970 was comprehensively committed to the concept. For example "Whitlam On Urban Growth " states: "It is high time the Commonwealth accepted a proper share of the financial responsibilities for urban renewal and developement in all its forms."

(Victorian Fabian Society Pamphlet 19 page 14)

Latest straw-in -the -wind however is the attitude of many Liberals. The Liberal majority of the M. M. B. W. has for years blocked any proposal by the Labor minority to oppose rate increases to meet the costs of water and sewerage extentions. The Labor Commissioners have said that these should be regarded as work of national developement, properly financed by Federal Government grants.

1970 however has seen a change and the M. M. B. W. including the Liberal majority is now demanding Federal grants for water and sewerage. The Wheel is nearly a turn. In addition to giving it the last big push, planners and sociologists (if they want to be in advance of needs and not lagging behind) need to have plans on what to spend Federal money on.

7/30/0 Sources for Housing Commission Controversy.

1. " The Slum Clearence and Urban Renewal Activities of the New South Wales and Victorian Housing Commissions. " by Mr. M. A. Jones. Research Scholar in Urban Research Unit (Research School of Social Sciences) Australian National University Paper delivered on 5/12/1969.

2. " Life and Metropolitan Location. " a comparitive study of three Public Housing Developments in Sydney with particular reference to their Metropolitan Location. " by Barbara Finch. An Ian Buchan Fell Research Project, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney. Published in May 1968.