

# South Australian Home Builders' Club COLLECTION

## Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

South Australian Home Builders' Club

SERIES 284

### HISTORY

The South Australian Home Builders' Club was in existence from 1945-1965 in metropolitan Adelaide. The aim of the club was to assist people of limited means to build their own homes by cooperative effort. The Club's motto was *Non nobis solum* (Not for ourselves alone), and members built hundreds of houses in the suburbs of Adelaide.

The South Australian Home Builders' Club was a co-operative venture in which people not necessarily trained in building helped each other to construct their houses. Functioning between 1945 and 1965, during a period of post-war restrictions and shortages of both labour and materials this offered an economical option, with over 400 houses being built throughout Adelaide. The South Australian Home Builders' Club fulfilled an important role by not only providing a way for members to create homes during difficult times but also by providing a community based solution rather than one relying on government or institutional support.

Club members did not need to be builders by trade as they were taught building skills as they worked on site with their allocated team. The Club provided labour but the owner of the house supplied the materials. Equipment was available for hire from the Club. Members' labour was credited against their name and in return the Club allocated other members' labour. Before the foundation could be poured a member was expected to accumulate credit of 200 hours with a further 2000 hours required before the walls were begun. Once a member's house was completed any hours owing were then worked off until the debt was cleared. The design of the houses reflected the styles prevalent at the time, the materials available and the constraints placed upon building during the post war era. Houses were restricted to 12 squares.

The Club charged an annual subscription from which equipment was purchased and workers' compensation paid. The Club provided literature on all stages of building and from time to time speakers lectured on home building topics ranging from lighting to termites.

The Adelaide metropolitan area was divided into districts and each district met fortnightly. The district meetings dealt with the weekly running of the Club including allocation of labour. Members were assigned to different work teams and at each meeting teams were allotted certain houses to work on. The teams were aligned with a particular phase of the building process, these included foundations, brick making, bricklaying, carpentry, plastering, electrical, plumbing, wall tiling and terrazzo teams. A general committee meeting was also held fortnightly to deal with matters such as correspondence, labour disputes and equipment.

### SOURCES

Julie Collins, 'A Home of One's Own: South Australian Home Builders' Club 1945-1965, Houses in the City of Mitcham', 2002, unpublished report.

Christine Garnaut, 'Not for ourselves alone': Post-war Owner Building and the South Australian Home Builders' Club' in G. Lehmann and D. Nichols (eds) *The 21st Century City: Past - Present - Future, Proceedings of the Seventh Australasian Urban History/Planning History Conference*, Geelong, School of Architecture and Building, Deakin University, 2004, pp.188-201.

Donald Langmead, 'Will the Real Bill Ellenby please stand up?' *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, no 30, 2002, pp.67-80.

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South Australian Home Builders' Club, *How to build a good home cheaply*, undated pamphlet.

John Sweeny, 'They build for each other', *Australian Home Beautiful*, April 1950, pp. 15-18, 77.

### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The collection contains South Australian Home Builders' Club official records including minute books, labour records, correspondence files, as well as individual members' records such as copies of house plans, photographs, newspaper and magazine cuttings and ephemera.

### DONATION NOTE

The series was gathered during a research project by the University of South Australia.

Series S284/1-5, 7-26 were donated by Mr Alexander Matthew

Series S284/6 was donated by Mr Jim Mackinnon

Series S284/27-50 was donated by Mr Jim Phillips

Series S284/51-70 were donated by various SAHBC members as listed

### Series List

| Series     | Description  |
|------------|--|
| S284       | South Australian Home Builders' Club records including minute books, labour records, correspondence files and miscellaneous items. |
| S284/1     | Minute Books   |
| S284/1/1   | Committee 19/7/1951 – 6/10/1953  |
| S284/1/2   | Committee 20/11/1953 – 22/4/1955   |
| S284/1/3   | Committee 6/5/1955 – 2/7/1957  |
| S284/1/4   | Committee 16/7/1957 – 11/6/1959  |
| S284/1/5   | Committee 19/6/1959 – 13/7/1961  |
| S284/1/6   | General 2/11/1950 – 6/2/1958   |
| S284/1/7   | Combined Districts 21/8/1958 – 15/9/1960   |
| S284/1/8   | Index book of names and page nos. mentioned in Minute Books  |
| S284/2/1-2 | Correspondence files 1957-1962   |
| S284/3     | Correspondence files indexed 1960-1967   |
| S284/4     | SAHBC stationery   |
| S284/4/1   | Letterhead   |
| S284/4/2   | Reference for Ross Reed c.1960s  |
| S284/4/3   | Insurance renewal  |
| S284/4/4   | Blank workers compensation forms   |
| S284/4/5   | Draft of letter to a Mr Verrall n.d.   |
| S284/4/6   | Amendments to constitution 10 <sup>th</sup> May 1962   |
| S284/4/7   | Membership form and declaration  |
| S284/4/8   | Letter to AT Matthew from AW Cocks   |
| S284/4/9   | Overhead Hours sheet   |
| S284/4/10  | Special Time Voucher   |
| S284/4/11  | Amendment to constitution and rules  |
| S284/4/12  | Time sheets  |
| S284/4/13  | Preparations for Annual General Meeting  |
| S284/4/14  | Standard Procedures adopted by Committee Nov. 1954   |
| S284/5     | SAHBC Constitution and Rules   |
| S284/5/1   | Workmen's Compensation forms   |

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- S284/5/2 Constitution and Rules (c.1955)
- S284/5/3 Brochure for SAHBC
- S284/5/4 Petty Cash voucher book
- S284/5/5 Wright Type Sheds brochure
- S284/5/6 Miscellaneous documents
- S284/5/7 Miscellaneous documents
- S284/5/8 List of "Last equipment sale to members"
- S284/5/9 Blank agenda
- S284/5/10 Blank bond agreements
- S284/5/11 Blank bond agreements
- S284/5/12 Memorandum of mortgage
- S284/5/13 Completed bond agreement forms
- S284/5/14 Constitution and Rules (14 August 1958)
- S284/5/15 Indexed book of Lists of Bonds and Mortgages
- S284/5/16 Constitution and Rules (14 Aug 1958)
- S284/5/17 Club Seal (rubber stamp)
- S284/6 Labour Records
- S284/7 Blank labour forms
- S284/8 Index book
- S284/9 Records and forms
- S284/10 Labour Records to 1949
- S284/11 Labour Records to 1965
- S284/12 Labour Records 1949-1950
- S284/13 Labour Records 1949
- S284/14 Labour Records 1950
- S284/15 Labour Records 1954
- S284/16 In folder marked "Northern Districts Labour forms, N1-N340, End of 1957".  
1954-1957
- S284/16 In folder marked "Labour forms from 1-7-57 to 31-6-58, N428 to N507"
- S284/17 Labour forms 1953-1954
- S284/18 In folder marked "Labour Forms pre-group scheme & No Numbers & (A)  
Series Old Type". Labour record summaries 1950-51, 1953 and 1954
- S284/19 Special Time Vouchers 1956-58
- S284/20 Special Time Vouchers 1950-1956
- S284/21/1-4 In folder marked "Labour forms entered" 1960s
- S284/22 In folder marked "Southern area Labour Forms 1-7-1957, G1 to G138"
- S284/23 Labour Records 1959
- S284/24 In folder marked "Southern area Labour Forms 1958-59 Entered"
- S284/25 In folder marked "Southern area Labour Forms 1-7-56 to 1-7-57, F443 –  
F634"
- S284/26 In folder marked "Southern area Labour Forms, F1 – 442, End of 1956 year"
- S284/27 Photo album of Jim Phillips showing construction of house
- S284/28 Photo of SAHBC members taken at Frank Brandon's residence by The  
Herald Sun, no date
- S284/29 Copy of the Building Act 1949 with pages marked by Jim Phillips
- S284/30 Note pad containing list of SAHBC members and addresses compiled by Jim  
Phillips see also S284/31
- S284/31 Street Directory showing locations of SAHBC houses compiled by Jim  
Phillips see also S284/31

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- S284/32 Copies of SAHBC pamphlet 'How to build a good home cheaply'  
S284/33 Magazine article: 'It's fine outdoors – and in', The Australian Home Beautiful, December 1950, pp. 26-29. Featuring the McKee house, Tusmore, SA, by architect J.L. Brune, on which the Jim Phillips house was based.
- S284/34/1-9 Application forms for permits from South Australian Building materials Office and also from City of Enfield
- S284/35/1-3 Assorted brochures on home loans
- S284/36/1-4 Assorted brochures on building materials
- S284/37/1-2 Brochure 'Concrete floors for domestic buildings'
- S284/38 Brochure 'Concrete improvements around the house'
- S284/39/1-13 'Notes on the Science of building' by the Commonwealth Experimental Building Station, Department of Works and Housing
- S284/40/1-7 'The Builder', 7 various issues 1950-1953
- S284/41 Notebook with sketches and notes relating to Jim Phillips house and SAHBC
- S284/42 Notebook with sketches and notes relating to Jim Phillips house and SAHBC
- S284/43 Folder containing lists of members, records, audits, constitution and rules of SAHBC
- S284/44 SAHBC Constitution and Rules
- S284/45 Pamphlet for new members SAHBC
- S284/46 SAHBC Notes on Home Building
- S284/47 Brochures and pamphlets relating to building materials c.1950s
- S284/48 Notes re SAHBC and Jim Phillips
- S284/49 In envelope marked 'Garage' receipts and sketches regarding garage of Jim Phillips
- S284/50 Various sketches, notes, brochures, meeting minutes regarding Jim Phillips house and SAHBC
- S284/51 Ken Elliot, records and copies of records
- S284/52 Sandy Matthew, records and copies of records
- S284/53 Colin Edwards, records and copies of records
- S284/54 Les Long, records and copies of records
- S284/55 Ross Reed, records and copies of records
- S284/56 A.R. Dorman, records and copies of records
- S284/57 Eric Brandon, records and copies of records
- S284/58 Jack Fuss, records and copies of records
- S284/59 Alison Painter, daughter of Bill Dakin, records and copies of records
- S284/60 George Bidmeade, records and copies of records
- S284/61 Mavis Hobba, daughter of William Ellenby, records and copies of records
- S284/62 Frank Law, records and copies of records
- S284/63 Colin Delaine, records and copies of records
- S284/64 V. Avaliotis, records and copies of records
- S284/65 R. Daly, records and copies of records
- S284/66 Murray Brooks, records and copies of records
- S284/67 Kevin White, records and copies of records
- S284/68 Jim MacKinnon, records and copies of records
- S284/69 Stanley Lockwood, records and copies of records
- S284/70 B.P. Oldman, records and copies of records
- S284/71 Kevin and Irene Regan, records and copies of records