South Australian Home Builders’ Club

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
South Australian Home Builders’ Club COLLECTION
Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

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

**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**

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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
S284/32 Copies of SAHBC pamphlet ‘How to build a good home cheaply’
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