

LESSONS LEARNED *from the*

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Glebe Justice Centre is proud to present Dr Richard Hutch as he shares his lessons learned from working with Martin Luther King Jr and the impact of citizens standing up for their rights.

Venturing into the “deep south” of the United States as a civil rights worker in the summer of 1965 was life-changing for Richard Hutch, then a New York college boy.

Dr Hutch, now an honorary research Associate Professor at The University of Queensland, volunteered as a 19-year-old to assist African Americans to register to vote.

He will share the story of that summer at a public lecture on Nov 4th, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War.

The Summer Community Organisation and Political Education (SCOPE) project – sponsored by Martin Luther King Jr – was a voter-registration civil rights initiative that helped bring about passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

It has been described as the single most effective piece of civil rights legislation ever passed by the US Congress.



Dr Hutch joined 70 volunteers from across America in a civil rights worker training program at an “all-negro college” in Atlanta, Georgia. It was here that he met Martin Luther King Jr.

“He shook my hand, remembered my name and personally thanked me for becoming part of the movement – a moment I will never forget.

After training in the philosophy and techniques of non-violence and mobilising communities for action, Dr Hutch was transported to various counties before a three-month post in Barbour County, Alabama.

It was here that he and his fellow comrades experienced violence firsthand and were met with much resistance towards their cause, including some being shot at and beaten.

“That summer, and the death of Martin Luther King Jr three years later changed my life profoundly,” Dr Hutch said.



GLEBE JUSTICE CENTRE

7:30PM Wednesday 4 November 2015

Glebe Justice Centre - 37-47 St Johns Road, Glebe
suggested donation \$10