

the balmain association

planning in leichhardt

Attempt to Recall Plan

Members of the Association are no doubt aware of the recent moves of the Council with regard to planning. These have included a request to the State Planning Authority (now the State Planning and Environment Commission) to return the recently prepared Planning Scheme. Shortly after this was resolved The Balmain Association, The Glebe Society and The Annandale Association sent the following letter to Mr. Nigel Ashton, the Chairman of the Authority. It is not yet known what the outcome will be.

"The Chairman,
The State Planning Authority,
302 Castlereagh Street,
SYDNEY N.S.W. 2000.

Dear Mr. Ashton,

The Proposed New Planning Scheme for the Municipality of Leichhardt - 1974

At a recent meeting of the Leichhardt Council the Town Planner recommended that the Council should request the State Planning Authority to return the proposed New Planning Scheme before it is considered by the Authority in order to enable the New Council to examine it. This does not appear to be a justifiable request for the following reasons:

1. Five of the twelve aldermen were members of the previous Council and have had copies of this New Scheme since July 1974. They have also had copies of the OUTLINE PLAN upon which it is based, for over one year. All five of them, including the Mayor, were ex officio members of the Planning Committee, received its minutes and reports and were able to attend its meetings throughout the last three years. This Planning Committee was responsible for preparing the OUTLINE PLAN and the New Scheme.

The seven in-coming aldermen, if they were interested in what is proposed in the OUTLINE PLAN and the New Scheme, have had every opportunity to be completely familiar with its contents, as every meeting of the Town Planning Committee has been open to the public. There have also been a large number of public meetings and exhibitions over the last three years, covering every aspect of the OUTLINE PLAN and the New Scheme.

200 copies of the New Scheme and explanatory material have been printed and have been widely publicised and exhibited. Copies of the OUTLINE PLAN and the documents of the New Scheme can readily be made available to all the present aldermen.

2. The preparation of the OUTLINE PLAN and the new Scheme was based upon a widespread programme of community consultation. It was prepared in close co-operation with officers of the State Planning Authority and other Government Departments. It was widely publicised in the course of its preparation and has already received recognition as a sound Scheme from the public and from the planning profession.

3. The Leichhardt Town Planner was in charge of the preparation of the OUTLINE PLAN and the New Scheme and should be competent to explain it to the present Council - if further explanation is necessary.

4. We understand that it is normal practise and legally possible for a Council to object to all, or any part, of a Planning Scheme for its municipality, after it has been certified, and that this is the correct course of action which the Leichhardt Council should take if it disagrees with aspects of the New Scheme.

It is our view therefore that it is only sensible that the State Planning Authority and the Minister should be allowed by the Council to continue to examine, amend and certify the New Scheme. To do otherwise will result in a considerable waste of resources and it is worth noting that the Council has just dismissed its two most highly qualified planners. To withdraw the Scheme now will only cause confusion in the minds of the public and will weaken the Council's ability to combat undesirable development, such as high rise flats along the foreshores and to conserve the character of the municipality.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
Betty Mason,
Hon. Secretary, Annandale Association.

(Signed)
Malcolm Garder
Convenor, Town Planning Committee,
Balmain Association.

(Signed)
Bernard Smith,
President, The Glebe Society."

Dismissal of Qualified Planning Staff

The first move of the newly elected council (opposed only by Ald. N. Origlass) was to dismiss the only two fully qualified town-planners on the Council's staff - Penny Pike and Jonathon Falk. Penny Pike has been concerned with the preparation of the Outline Plan the Statutory Plan and detail Action Plans, and Jonathon Falk has been involved with development control.

The complex problem of managing change in today's cities requires considerable knowledge and skill. This is being recognised by more and more Councils in the Sydney Area. In 1967, 28 suburban Councils employed a total of 9 planners with university degrees in planning (Colman 1968). In 1973 the same 28 Councils employed 42 planners with university degrees in planning (Jackson Teece Chesterman Willis 1973). The recent survey also revealed that many Councils have staff who are currently studying planning, and that many Councils are at present trying to employ qualified planners.

The Planning Committee Discontinued

Members of the Town Planning Committee, which included Aldermen and representatives from many organizations in Leichhardt, have been informed that the Council does not wish to continue this committee.

As well, the Social Welfare, Anti-expressway and Tree Planting Committees were abolished.

It is worthwhile briefly discussing the kind of things which these unique committees were concerned with.

It must be realized that Municipal planning does not just mean controlling development. It is a process for assisting the Aldermen:

- . to improve municipal management and reduce the costs of running the municipality by ensuring that money is spent in accordance with sound priorities;
- . to improve the environment and quality of life and to discover and meet the needs of all sections of the community;
- . to ensure that the areas of greatest need are given the highest priority.

This sort of planning process is concerned with such matters as:

- . obtaining open space and playgrounds;
- . the co-ordination, development and delivery of social, welfare and health services;
- . assisting in the provision of low income and aged persons housing;
- . broadening educational opportunities;

- . eliminating dangerous and noisy through traffic in residential streets;
- . conservation of townscape and buildings.
- . providing facilities for keeping children off the streets.
- . providing for the care of the very young and the aged.

It is worth noting that many of these things can be achieved by drawing attention to needs, by attracting grants and by influencing the policies of the many government bodies which affect the municipality, which include, The Maritime Services Board, The Department of Education, The Department of Main Roads, The Health Commission, etc.

Solutions to these kinds of problems are not easy to find and they require a wide range of expertise which the Council frequently cannot afford to employ. Knowledge and experience, however, are often available within the community if people are involved. It is through the initiative and work of the concerned citizens and local associations in Leichhardt working as members of the above-mentioned committees that:

- . many historic buildings have been listed and classified by the National Trust;
- . National Estate funds have been offered to purchase waterfront land;
- . destructive expressways have been effectively opposed;
- . Arts Council grants have been provided for playgrounds;
- . sound development control policies have been adopted;
- . policies for the conservation of the municipality's many fine buildings and its foreshore have been adopted;
- . a number of important activities in social welfare areas have been commenced;
- . liaison with State Education Authorities has begun to open up the schools for wider community use;
- . many trees have been planted.

The town planning committee, with the assistance of a great number of people in the municipality, has assembled a large quantity of information about the municipality and developed many strategies for solving its problems. It is hoped that its ideas will be published in this News Sheet and elsewhere during the coming months.

STOP PRESS: It has been learned that the State Planning Authority has declined to return the Planning Scheme to Leichhardt Council.

projects and activities — reports

FERRY SERVICE

Since the last News Sheet, the quest for a more reasonable ferry service has continued unabated.

Twenty Association members and supporters have carried out an in-depth survey of transport usage by residents in the peninsula area, east of Victoria Road. The survey was conducted under the direction of Ralph Catts and involved approximately 150 households, taken at random.

Information was sought on residents' transport needs - both to the city and to North Sydney so that the potential for ferry services could be assessed. The mammoth task of correlating the results is now nearing completion and a detailed report will soon be issued to members and the media.

The Association will also be using the report as a basis for detailed submissions to the Ministers responsible.

christmas barbecue

This year we're changing the venue for our Christmas Barbecue from Long Nose Point to Balmain East, but still keeping it close to the waterfront at 13 Simmons Street.

The Association extends an invitation to all members and their friends for Saturday, December 14, from 4.00 p.m. onwards. Children are welcome but we feel that parents should be warned that young children will require a certain amount of supervision as the barbecue area is flanked on one side by a precipitous bank. This will be roped-off but at this stage cannot be adequately "Child-proofed".

Bring your own food and drinks - fireplaces and wood will be provided.

As Simmons Street is narrow and a dead-end, cars should be parked in Nicholson Street.

P.S. We need volunteers with an hour or two to spare on Saturday, December 7, to help clean up the area and set up for the following weekend. Please contact Ken Gates on 82 0576.

Chateau Watch House

Contrary to our boasts last issue that "the present rampant inflation leaves our prices unmoved", another and recent price rise has left us no alternative but to "follow the pack". "Chateau Watch House" will now cost \$5.50 per half-dozen or \$10.00 per dozen. If you need supplies for Christmas, ring Malcolm Garder now on 82 1686.

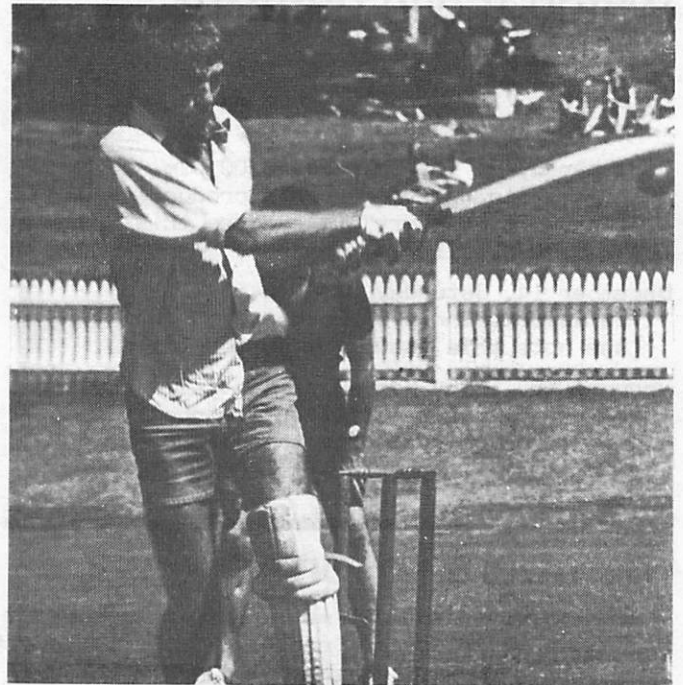
christmas cards



The Balmain Association is again selling its Christmas cards, the same two designs as last year in the same 5 colours. All cards have been left blank inside to allow you to add your own message.

They're still selling for 10¢ each and will be available at the 'Balmain Village Fair'. They can also be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain.

cricket day



The Association's annual cricket match will be held again on Sunday, January 26, 1975 (Australia Day weekend), hitting off at 10.00 a.m.

Bring your children, friends and refreshments (liquid and otherwise) for lunch and tea.

For automatic selection, phone Malcolm Garder on 20933, Ext. 289 (or 82 1686 a.h.) - a nominal fee of \$1.00 will be charged for players.

HAPPENINGS IN GLEBE

The Anti Urban Radial Expressway Committee is planning a fund-raising venture in the form of a barbecue to be held on Sunday, December 15, at 2.00 p.m. So come along and bring your own food and refreshments. All kids are welcome. The venue will be the Glebe Child Care Co-op, Mount Vernon Street, Glebe, and a portion of the proceeds will go to that worth cause. An entry fee of \$2.00, or donation, will be gratefully accepted.

The Committee is also planning a permanent petition to be painted on the affected roadway in Glebe and it is hoped that this will also take place on Sunday December 15. However, more definite details will be announced soon. Among the signatories will be the Minister for Urban & Regional Development, Mr. Tom Uren, and the Leader of the State Opposition, Mr. Neville Wran.

For further details please contact Pauline Shelley on 827 2831.

watch these dates !!!

- November 29, Friday and 30, Saturday
"Balmain Village Fair" (see notes this issue for more details).
- December 6, 7, 11, 13 & 14, 8.00 p.m.
The Balmain Theatre Group's production of "The Shifting Heart" (see notes this issue for more details).
- December 14, Saturday, 4.00 p.m.
The Association's Christmas Barbecur (see note this issue for more details).
- January 26, 1975, Sunday of Australia Day weekend. The Association's Annual Cricket Match (see note this issue for more details).

membership form

I wish to open/renew my membership with the Balmain Association and enclose \$.....* subscription.

Name.....
Address.....
.....Telephone.....

Send to:
The Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041.

*Subscription rates: Single membership \$2.00
 Family \$4.00
 Pensioner / Junior \$0.20

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

The Balmain Theatre Group's next production is an Australian drama, "The Shifting Heart", by Richard Beynon. The play is set in an inner city suburb and concerns the problems of an Italian migrant family settling in this country. The theme is a universal one of lack of understanding between different races and cultural groups, and should be of great interest.

Performances will be given at 8.00 p.m. on December 6 (Fri), 7 (Sat), 11 (Wed), 13 (Fri) and 14 (Sat), at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain. Tickets are \$2.00 adults, \$1.00 school students and 0.75¢ for pensioners; bookings and enquiries, 82 1512 A.M. 358 4252.

Opening night will be followed by an Italian supper at the Watch House.

new members

We are pleased to welcome the following people who have joined the Association since the publication of the last News Sheet:

- Dr. & Mrs. A. Black
3 Thames Street, Balmain
- Mr. Antony Harvey
14 Cove Street, Birchgrove
- Mr. Harry Lutz,
107 Louisa Road, Birchgrove
- Mr. G.A. Sim
11a Edward Street, Balmain
- Mr. & Mrs. A. Stephens
157 Darling Street, Balmain
- Jenny Thompson,
14 Cove Street, Birchgrove
- S. McD. Thornton,
13 Moore Street, Rozelle
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Wasiliev,
53 Darling Street, Balmain

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1975, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED
NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS
WELCOME.

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH (EXCEPT DECEMBER)