

Stephen Street Wharf

Some time ago this wharf was closed to the public. Maritime Services Board have asked Leichhardt Municipal Council to demolish same. Council has objected and M.S.B. reply awaited.

For some months Maritime Services Board have been dumping large quantities of piles at this location for disposal by burning off. Residents take a poor view of smoke filled houses, particularly in the hot weather. Protest has been made to the Council, who have given the matter to a Smoke Abatement Panel, with no result to date. Berthing of tankers nearby add to concern.

Morts Dock

Noted on the application was the proposed hours of work- seven days weekly, with the exception of Noon Saturday to 8.a.m. Sunday. We feel that whether you live in Cameron, Thames Short, Mort or Rowntree, indeed all parts of Balmain, if you want balanced development in our suburb, the roads safe and quiet, a chance to relax weekends, you will continue to collect signatures for the petition against the proposed use of Mort's Dock for the handling of Steel Shipments.

VINTAGE CRICKET MATCH

Since we had to postpone this match at the end of the season, will those interested in playing The Paddington Society in the Spring please contact Graham Stevenson, or Thea Banks at the next General Meeting 23rd June.

Honorary Secretary,
The Balmain Association,
Box 57 P.O.Balmain. N.S.W.

I wish to join The Balmain Association,
and enclose the Annual Fee of \$1.00.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

BALMAIN'S EARLY YEARS

Old photographs, news cuttings or relics of the past are wanted. Members are asked to dig out of their attics, cellars and old trunks, any of the above items to make an appropriate display of Balmain's past to help publicise the Association.

Mr. Jack Zuber has kindly offered us his show window for the display. The present arrangements are for material to be handed in to Reg. Window at Mr. Zuber's office, where they will be stored until the display is prepared at a date to be fixed. *****

* COMING EVENTS

July 2 - "ROOF-RAISING-PARTY"

A Night On The Tiles

* Admittance \$1.00

In aid of Watchhouse Roof Repairs. *

August 6 - "CIDER REVEL"

* With British Travel Film Festival

Admittance \$1.00

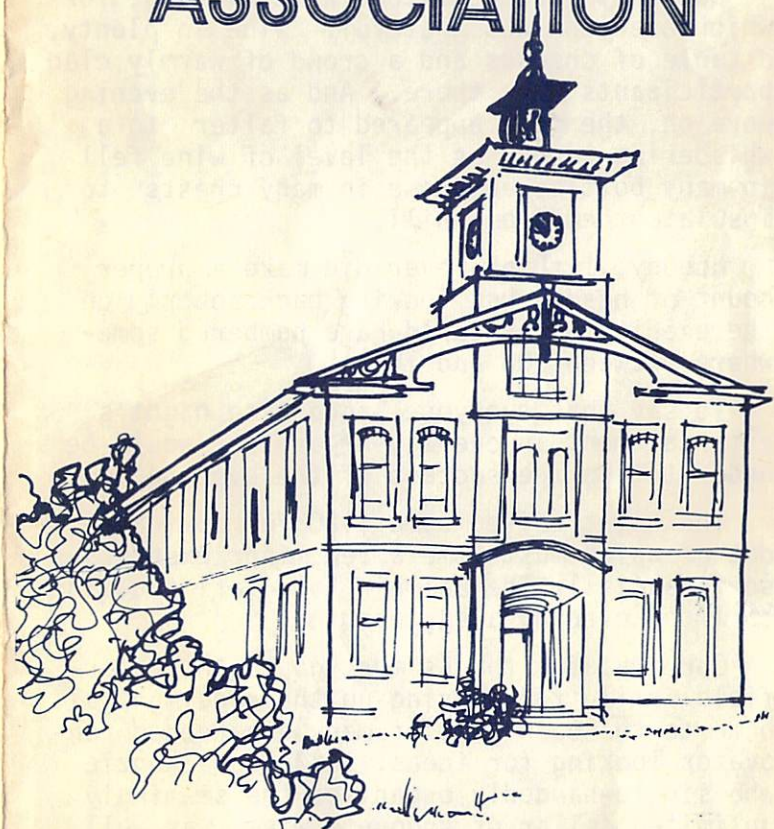
Cider, Mead, & Merrydown Wines. *

Tickets for both these events will be on sale at the next General Meeting. ALSO keep a sharp eye for kinky objects, art nouveau bits and 1920 JUNK etc. for the forthcoming "BRING & BUY" evening listed for September.

HELP AGAIN !!

Through no fault of its own, the Publicity Committee numbers have dwindled in the past couple of months. Anyone who feels that he (or she) can't quite find a niche in one of the other committees would be most welcome at the next meeting, June 9th, 8.p.m. at the home of Miss Thea Banks, 11 Bridge Street, Balmain. Phone enquiries 82-4771.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

SECOND ISSUE JUNE 1966

A last link with T.S.Mort was this office building which stood for some 80 years on the south side of the dock. The clock tower was a landmark to many and its passing ends another chapter in Balmain's history.

Wine, Cheese & Aerogard Evening

With a 30-knot southerly gale whistling in across the bay, the mosquitoes failed to join us at the "Wine, Cheese & Aerogard" night at Dick Waterfield's place on April 20.

But only the mosquitoes were missing, for which everyone was grateful. Wine in plenty, a table of cheeses and a crowd of warmly clad participants were there. And as the evening wore on, the gale appeared to falter to a whispering zephyr as the level of wine fell in many bottles and rose in many chests to insulate them from chill.

Nobody, I think, ever did make a proper count of heads, but looking back soberly on the evening, they could have numbered somewhere between 100 and 120.

To say that everyone had a nice night's entertainment in one way or another would be understating the success of the evening.

The night raised some \$120 for our cause, out of which must come a few minor expenses, so financially The Balmain Association could call the evening a success too.

Our grateful thanks must go to the Waterfield family for opening up their delightful home to the open gaze of many a hardened renovator looking for ideas; to John Mackenzie who single-handedly organised the seemingly unlimited cellar of Angove's wines, as well as the P.D.S. cheese people; and other members of the Fund Raising Committee. Also thanks to the Folksinger who competed bravely against the odds of the wind and a rowdy record player.

Perhaps the evening was too cheap. Perhaps we could have raised more. But as one of our early ventures, the success of the evening has given the organisers many new ideas for future fund raising.

Historical Sub-Committee

The Historical sub-committee is our strongest. April 28 meeting brought together 22 members to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Winter in Louisa Rd., when Mr. Bill Ottley was elected Chairman. Mr. Ottley is also bibliographer and archivist of the sub-committee.

Bob Irving who acted as Chairman of the earlier meetings was appointed Recorder. Members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Irving's thorough and active work as Chairman in past months.

At this meeting members discussed the possibility of a visit to Cockatoo Island. Alderman I. Wyner agreed to make inquiries to see if this could be arranged.

Subsequently the Island management indicated that formal approval might be forthcoming for a party drawn from the Historical Committee to make a preliminary visit to the Island. Formal arrangements are being made.

Our First Publication

The Historical sub-committee is already working on the early details of a brochure to outline some of the early history of Balmain. A small group from the committee met recently to work out the broad outline of the booklet and to make a preliminary selection of material for publication.

IMPORTANT

A Special General Meeting will be held preceding the General Meeting, to amend the Constitution to incorporate appointment of Trustees for THE WATCHHOUSE.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
June 23RD Balmain Townhall
at 8 pm. SHARP

Fare-Thee-Well Morts Dock

By the time this news sheet reaches Members the historically and architecturally interesting buildings on the Mort's Dock site will have fallen before the bulldozers.

Unfortunately the demolition of these fine buildings had been planned before any of the Balmain Association's members learned anything about it. The tragedy of this event of course is that the last remaining traces of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, one of Australia's pioneer industrialists who was so closely identified with Balmain, will have disappeared from the area.

Some of our members were able to salvage a few relics from the office block, (Clocktower Building)- Bob Irving & Graham Bennett seized the opportunity to take a series of photographs both inside and out, showing details of interest.

Maritime Services Board has leased the site to Associated Steamships Pty.Ltd. for the handling of steel shipments.

This Association has protested against the use of Mort's Dock on a number of grounds, the principal ones being noise, traffic chaos and loss of residential amenities.

A Petition has been presented to Council, with approximately 800 signatures recorded. At a Council meeting 17th inst., Associated Steamships' application was objected to. We understand the Association will be notified in due course.

HELP!

Any number of glass drinking vessels for our future fund raising do's. If you have any spares, please bring to next General Meeting.