

SEASONAL GREETINGS

to all Members and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

The date - Saturday, 17th December.
The time - from 6.30 p.m. onwards

The place - The Mastermans' waterfront - 2 Numa Street

ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS most welcome (this is a free night's fun) and we hope there may be some prospective new members present also.

As we indicated in the October NEWS SHEET, please bring your own steaks and liquid refreshments. Driftwood fires provided!

BY SPECIAL REQUEST LOW HEELED SHOES FOR THE LADIES, please.

COCKATOO ISLAND DOCK INSPECTION

Permission has been received from the Mort's Dock & Engineering Co. for a small working party from the Historical sub-committee's members to visit the Island on Saturday, 3rd December, with a view to photographing, sketching, measuring and generally recording details of the general site with a view to compiling historical studies and determining the original purposes for which the various edifices were used.

A party of 10 will make the visit under a Dock guide and, as only the old wheat silos and the present machine shop are taboo, the resultant block of information should prove of very great value to the Association in its general aims for compiling a comprehensive historical record of the area.

It is understood that the Dock authorities are not averse to a larger party of Association members making a visit at a later date, and it is hoped that this will be arranged in due course.

VINTAGE CRICKET MATCH - for those who didn't go to watch the fun, scores were: "Paddo" 10 wks. for 97, Balmain 13 wks. for 92. Batting honours to Norman MacLeod with 30 runs, and prize to the snappiest period dresser in the person of Pat Irving.

MORE GRIST TO THE MILL! (Watch House restoration funds)
The Balmain Inspection Day resulted in a profit of \$435.
Ghosts and Beasties at the Hallowe'en Party contributed \$64.30

PLANS FOR 1967

It is hoped that early 1967 will see us over all the legal hurdles standing in the way of our occupying the Watch House.

To keep up the good work of fund raising for the necessary restorative work, the Fund-Raising sub-committee has a varied, tentative program of social activities lined up until June. The excellent support given already by Members and their friends is greatly appreciated and will, we are sure, continue.

The Publicity sub-committee has the nucleus of some wider Public Relations campaigns on its worksheet at present and intends going full steam ahead in the New Year.

Libraries

"People who have no books to read are in a little better position than those who cannot read..."

For

(Library Board of N.S.W.)

Leichhardt

At a time when Leichhardt Council is involved in a dispute over the proposed local siting of container berths, it is particularly ironic that the Council continues to maintain its opposition to the establishment of Public Library services in the Municipality.

If the two projects seem to have little in common, it should be borne in mind that the container scheme represents the advance guard of extensive automation on the Sydney industrial scene; that it specifically affects the stevedoring industry which has long drawn members from Balmain; and that, in general, industrial automation will have wide ramifications amongst non-professional residents of areas such as Leichhardt.

On November 3, Mr. R. A. Irish, Chairman of the Manufacturing Industries' Advisory Council, warning of the social problems to be faced as industry replaces men with machines, said "Leisure is a question to which civic fathers should pay much more attention. Potential users of playing areas, scholastic centres and libraries have more than doubled in the last 25 years."

Two days prior to this warning, Leichhardt Council rejected a request by the local Library Campaign Committee for the Council to adopt the Library Act (1939 as amended) of N.S.W. so that the discussion in future could be limited to the question of cost.

On two previous occasions Aldermen had expressed support in principle for a Library and it had been assumed that they would accept this opportunity of showing good faith on the proposal. However, the request was refused, although its approval would have committed the Council to nothing more binding than a formal recognition of the value of a Library scheme.

The general tenor of opposition comment in the Council is centred around the alleged lack of interest by local residents. On this occasion, Ald. Brady of Annandale, the chief opposition speaker on this subject, at least had the decency to show his surprise when Council was told that over 30 Leichhardt organizations had expressed support for Libraries. These 36 bodies, which include 23 school or P. & C. associations, hold the key to the next move in Leichhardt. They have been asked to report by November 30 on their willingness to participate in a virtual referendum on the library issue, to be conducted by the Committee at the beginning of the next school year.

It is planned to canvass every resident eligible to vote for an opinion on the desirability or otherwise of a local Library scheme. It is anticipated that, at the very least, sufficient support will be gathered to force Council to hold an official referendum. It is to be hoped that such a move will not prove necessary and that Leichhardt Council members will have demonstrated before then that they are NOT out of touch with the needs of this community.

- Terry Chapman, Publicity Officer
for the Committee

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION NEWS SHEET

FIFTH ISSUE - NOVEMBER 1966

An appeal against Leichhardt Council's rejection of the application to establish a steel and sea tainer terminal on the old Mort's Dock site is in progress. Illustration shows some of the streets and homes that will be vitally affected if the Appeal is successful.



MORT'S DOCK APPEAL

STOP PRESS! At the time of going to Press, the Appeal enquiry had continued for a further two days, during which the Council's Town Planner, Mr. Kenna, and two local residents, Mr. Rick Gruin and Mr. Peter Gregory, gave evidence.

The hearing of the Appeal by Associated Steamships Pty. Limited against Leichhardt Municipal Council's rejection of its application to establish a Steel and Seatainer Terminal on part of the Mort's Dock and Engineering Company's land at Mort Bay had, at the time of writing, completed its fourth day. To date, all witnesses have been presented by Associated Steamships; the Council's witnesses are not expected to be called before the end of the fifth day of the Appeal.

Mr. E. S. Chivers, who is hearing the Appeal on behalf of the State Planning Authority, has stressed on a number of occasions that he personally will not make the decision on the Appeal, but that the evidence will be passed over to the State Planning Authority for a decision. Consequently, it is difficult to determine, at this stage, whether the Appeal will be successful or not. However, a personal assessment of the trend is that the outlook for residents of the Mort Bay area is not quite as gloomy as before the Appeal commenced, when it appeared that the Appeal was bound to succeed in its entirety.

The Appeal has produced a fairly clear idea of the implications of the proposed development. Some of the highlights are:

- Approximately 5,000 residents will be directly affected (those in the Mort Bay area and those living on and around streets that truck traffic will use). Streets affected by truck traffic will be - Robert, Mullens, Montague, Mort, and parts of Rowntree, Cameron, Beattie and Curtis Road.
- Resumption of property and widening roads will definitely be required and, at present, because there are no "Main Roads" in Balmain apart from Victoria Road, these resumptions and road widenings will take place at the expense of those people who will be inconvenienced by the development - namely, the residents of Balmain.
- Operation on the site will be carried out 24 hours a day (except from about midday Saturday to 8 a.m. Sunday).
- Trucks will be leaving and arriving to the site at all hours - an estimated 500 trucks and 200 cars per week.
- Expansion of this type of operation along the edge of Mort Bay towards Colgate's factory is a possibility.
- Noise on the site itself will mainly arise from four wharf cranes, shipboard cranes, shifting of steel and seatainers in the open, sorting steel in the open, and repairing containers.
- In addition to the two seatainer ships, a number of modified conventional ships will use the wharf for steel loading and unloading. The wharf could be occupied by ships loading and unloading up to 24 hours per day for at least 6 days per week.
- Associated Steamships require a minimum area of 7 acres initially for their seatainer/steel facilities. However, if

MORT'S DOCK APPEAL - cont.

these functions were to be separated a smaller area would be required, and alternative sites, rejected because of their area, might have to be reconsidered.

Mr. Chivers's final remarks on the fourth day suggest that the Appeal might be successful only in part - that a seatainer terminal only might be situated in Mort Bay and the steel wharf might be situated elsewhere. -D.B.

MEETING WITH THE MARITIME SERVICES BOARD

President Brotherson, in declining our invitation to present the M.S.B.'s view at the Public Meeting on 27th September, invited the Association's executive to meet privately with the Board's Commissioners.

In spite of a selection of suitable dates suggested in our reply, it was not possible to arrange a meeting prior to the opening of the Mort's Dock Appeal which is currently being held at the Leichhardt Council Chambers.

Finally, in a reply to our offer of another set of dates, we received a letter from Mr. McDowell of the M.S.B. stating:

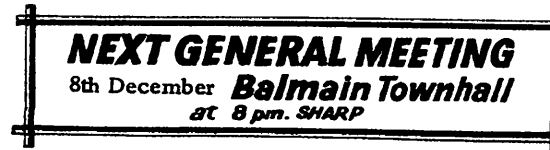
"In connection with the proposal that your Management Committee should meet the Board, I think you will appreciate the fact that, having regard to the enquiry which is now being held by Mr. Chivers, it would not be expedient for your Committee and members of the Board to meet at this stage."

Once the Appeal is concluded, we shall again attempt to arrange a meeting at the first opportunity.

2SM INTERVIEW WITH OUR PRESIDENT

Radio Station 2SM recently arranged for their News Editor, Des Mahon, to interview Dr. John Power for the programme "FACING FACTS". This interview was broadcast at midday Tuesday, 15th November and thanks to the cooperation of 2SM, we were able to obtain a copy of the taped interview which we hope to play to members at the next Public Meeting.

This interview was very successful in setting out the Association viewpoint on the problems connected with the proposed container cargo wharves.



After completion of general business, Association member, Mr. Elias Duek-Cohen, Lecturer in Town Planning, University of New South Wales, will give a talk and show slides on SYDNEY TOWNSCAPE, introducing some comparisons between Balmain and Paddington.

BALMAIN FERRY SERVICE

With all the other threats to ordinary citizens' rights that are looming up to dismay the residents of Balmain, the recent, sudden action by Nicholson Bros. Harbour Transport Pty. Ltd. to terminate their ferry service between Balmain and Circular Quay came as yet another blow to deprive the Peninsula of its aquatic characteristics.

Whilst the Government is to be commended for stepping in so smartly and organizing a substitute chartered ferry service, it must be commented that this is so limited in its present form that, by and large, the times at which the services operate cause no little inconvenience to those persons who still wish to use this pleasant means of transport to the City.

It is fair to hazard a guess that of the 600 previously estimated as regular travellers, at least 30% have found the timetable so constricting that they have switched to bus transport, so that, eventually, it could be that even this meagre "service" will disappear.

The report for 1964-65 of the Commissioner for Harbour Transport shows a loss of £19,815 on the Neutral Bay service and £16,662 on the Hunter's Hill service, and these losses are subsidised by the Government.

Further, Mr. Morris, Minister for Transport, said in Parliament on 26th October in reply to a representation from the local member, Mr. McMahon, about the forthcoming cancellation of Nicholson's services - "I regard any elimination of ferry services as a blow to the Government's plans to make popular the waterway of Sydney Harbour by the increased use of ferries."

May we suggest, then, Mr. Minister, that there would appear to be no valid reasons why Balmain should not share the same "privileges" as other Harbourside suburbs, and enjoy a regular, more conveniently timed service, which would call at ALL wharves in the area that the M.S.B. has not yet seen fit to close!

HARBOUR FORESHORE INSPECTION

The Fund Raising sub-committee is making plans for a half day's harbour trip around the Balmain peninsula.

More details later, but remember the date - Sunday, 12th February.

COUNCIL HOME UNITS DEVELOPMENT - BALMAIN EAST

Balmain East residents are following with interest the erection of the Leichhardt Council Home Units at the foot of Looke's Avenue.

It is understood that these units are a speculative venture aimed at encouraging private development and investment in the area, and that the Council intends erecting only one block.

Foundations for the first three-storey unit have been placed and work is almost completed on the associated road works.

Although not officially confirmed, we believe that the Council intends to restrict height and site area usage to ensure that the other residents will not have their harbour views built out.

With imagination, this CAN be done and it is hoped that ensuing developers will conscientiously retain the pleasant character of this area.