

CIVIC DESIGN SOCIETY

This body, connected with the University of New South Wales, and of which Mr. E. Duek-Cohen (Association member) is President, is now in the process of coordinating a number of responsible organizations into a spearhead to attack this city's unheeding attitude towards general civic ugliness.

Whilst the betterment of this condition cannot be attempted without some technical planning, overseas statistics show that the best results are achieved when the public, as well, recognises its own obligations.

The Civic Design Society invited The Balmain Association to join in these endeavours, and we have since become affiliated with them.

VISIT TO COCKATOO ISLAND

Saturday, 3rd Dec., 11 members of the Historical Sub-Committee spent the day documenting the historical relics of Cockatoo Island.

With the sanction of the Naval authorities and Vickers Ltd., and the enthusiastic help of their Liaison Officer, Mr. Keith Payne, the party sketched, photographed and measured up the remaining historic buildings on this famous island. The work was made much easier by the cheerful cooperation of the supervising bodies and access given to early documents and drawings of the original installations. A mass of information was recorded and should add much to our written history of the island.

Photographs and slides taken on the day will be presented at a forthcoming Historical Sub-Committee meeting, and it is still hoped that a conducted tour for Association members may be arranged at an early date.

Special thanks to the Deputy Plant Engineer on the island and his wife, who treated the work party to morning tea. - W.J.H.

WEST-SIDE CENTRE CATERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

The restoration of the dignified and historic homes of the Balmain peninsula is no longer news. Many of our members have been doing it for years! Yet one of the latest ventures very definitely IS news, since it has been undertaken by the Methodist Church to provide a centre for those in need and since it concerns the fine, old mansion erected by architect Edmund Blacket, after the death of his wife in 1869.

The exact date of the building is unknown, but it was probably about 1870, Blacket having paid £200 for the land in September, 1860. He lived there with his children until his death in Feb. 1883.

"West-Side Centre", as the building is now known, stands in Darling Street, opposite the Town Hall. It has been thoroughly and sympathetically renovated and its role is now that of a Community Centre.

By day, it is a place where the older folk can gather, to read, play cards or draughts, watch television, or just sit and chat. Low-cost light lunches are planned for the near future.

At night, it is available for youth activities 7 nights a week. There is a gleaming milk bar, a T.V. room and a billiards room. Only one rule applies - no liquor allowed on the premises. - G.B.

PROGRESS - or the passing toll!

This verse was sent anonymously to the Association and we feel it is so good that twice we have tried to have it included in "Column 8" in the Sydney Morning Herald. The Herald, however, is not sympathetic to our views on the rape of Balmain by the Maritime Services Board.

Would the author of the verse please come forward, so that we can congratulate him or her

SENNACHERIB - AND BALMAIN

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold,
But the Maritime crept with the gait of a crab,
In trappings of grey, and of dun, and of drab.
Where little streets wandered, where people could pause
On corners to gaze at green waters, the claws
Of the crab grabbed its prey, then let it be known
That century memories, and century stone,
And time dropping slow, and everything kind,
And everything Yesterday, now was behind.
Forward, containers, perish the rest,
Pull down the houses, and hurry it, lest
The ghosts of old manners, old graces, old ways
Write Stop to the trespass of paddocks and bays.

-oo0oo-

EXPLORING OUR FORESHORES WHILE THEY LAST?

On SUNDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY

the salvage vessel CAPTAIN TOM FENWICH will carry members and their friends on a cruise round Balmain and nearby harbour foreshores. There will be two trips:

Morning - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Afternoon - 1.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Tickets may be obtained from RICHARD WATERFIELD -

Ring 82-2868 (evenings, please)

and will also be available at the General Meeting on 9th February.

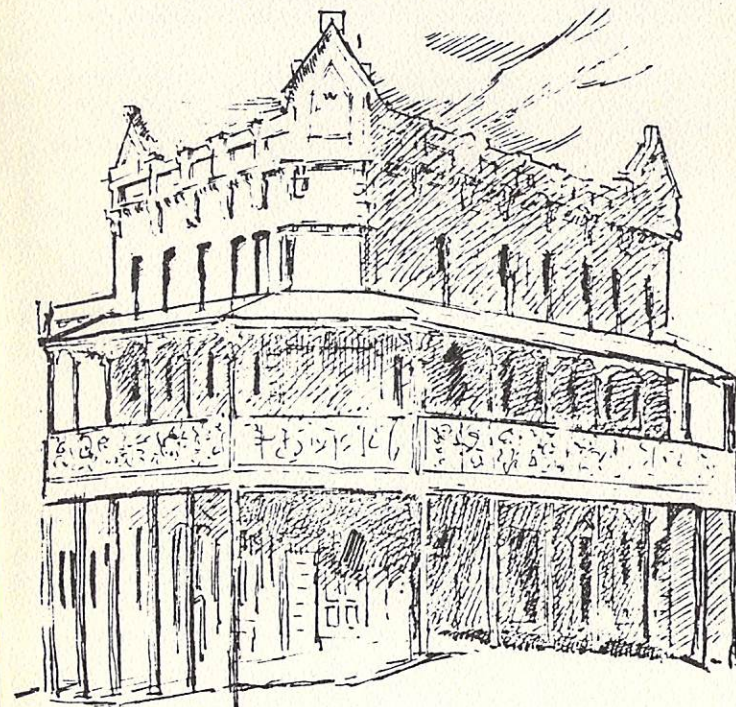
ADULTS - \$1.00
CHILDREN - 50c.

Proceeds, as usual, will aid the Watch House and it is hoped that everyone will bring as many friends as possible and help make the voyages a success both socially and financially.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

9th February **Balmain Townhall**
at 8 pm. SHARP

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

SIXTH ISSUE • FEBRUARY 1967

The Exchange Hotel is a product of the boom years of the 1880's and was opened for business in 1886 by Henry Cohen. The tall wooden footpath posts with fern pattern iron balcony panels are impressive and made part of a BBC architectural TV program last year. The Hotel's fate is uncertain.

M.S.B. CALLS OFF BALMAIN TALKS

Members will remember that the President of the Maritime Services Board, Mr. W. H. Brotherson, was invited to speak at the protest meeting which The Balmain Association sponsored last September. Mr. Brotherson declined the invitation, but offered to receive privately the executive of the Association to discuss plans for Balmain's waterfront. The Association endeavoured to arrange such a meeting, but without success. Ultimately, the Appeal being under way, the M.S.B. took the opportunity to back out of its obligations. The following letter, dated 12th December, was received by the Association's Secretary:

""In connection with my letter of 14th November, 1966, and following our telephone conversation on 9th December, 1966, I have to inform you that the Board has given further consideration to the question whether it can now, with propriety, meet your Association regarding certain waterfront development at Balmain.

As indicated in my abovementioned letter, the suggestion that your Association meet the Board was made without the knowledge that the matter would be the subject of an official inquiry. Having been dealt with on this level, the Board considers that the Council of the Municipality of Leichhardt, representing the interests of the citizens of the Municipality, ventilated the views of the people and that any further traversing of these aspects would appear to be unnecessary.

In the circumstances, I am directed to inform you that, having regard to the events which have taken place, the Board regrets that it is unable to take any action to arrange a meeting with your Association.

Yours faithfully,
(signed) D. A. McDowell
Secretary ""

THE PREMIER REPLIES

A letter dated 3rd January, 1967 was received from The Premier of N.S.W., which reads:

""Dear Dr. Power,

I refer to your representations on behalf of The Balmain Association conveying the terms of a resolution carried at a public meeting relating to the proposed development of the Balmain foreshore.

You will recall that due to unforeseen circumstances a meeting between the Maritime Services Board and your Association arranged for 27th October, 1966, did not take place. In this regard, the Board has informed me that before a meeting could be arranged for a further date it became aware that an official inquiry was to be held by Mr. Chivers of the State Planning Authority relative to the application by Associated Steamships Pty. Ltd. to develop a terminal in Mort's Bay.

The earlier arrangements for the Board to meet the Association had been made without the knowledge that the matter would be the subject of an official inquiry. When this happened the Board deemed it inappropriate that it should enter into discussion with the Association relative to matters likely to be traversed at the inquiry. I understand that at the official inquiry the Council of the Municipality of Leichhardt, representing the interests of the citizens of the Municipality, ventilated the views of the people.

THE PREMIER REPLIES - cont.

""In view of the developments since the Public meeting on 26th September, 1966, it would seem that the demand for a public inquiry into the Maritime Services Board's proposed Port Plan in the Balmain area has, in fact, been met.

I might mention that the general question of port development and containerisation is of special interest to the Government at the present time and you may be interested to know that this subject has already been referred for special consideration by a Government Sub-Committee. While the necessity for development of suitable facilities for shipping is the prime concern of this Committee, you may be assured that due regard will be had to any problems which may be involved for nearby urban areas.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. ASKIN
Premier & Treasurer ""

MORT'S DOCK APPEAL A WIN FOR INDUSTRY?

The decision of the State Planning Authority to allow Associated Steamships Pty. Ltd. to establish a container terminal on the Mort's Dock site at this stage appears to be a win for industry over the interests of the residents of the Balmain peninsula.

The Authority, in its judgment, has applied restrictions which could possibly make steel handling on the site an uneconomic proposition.

The decision allows the establishment of a shipping terminal comprising a wharf, buildings, and other installations needed for loading and unloading cargoes, whether in containers or otherwise, "but not including the provision or use of any portion of the site as a steel yard or the installation of plant or machinery specifically designed only for the handling of steel."

In view of the fact that the Development Application was mainly for a steel discharge-delivery berth, the above decision is ambiguous and the Leichhardt Council is urgently seeking clarification of this point.

WE FIGHT ON...

The Balmain Association INTENDS TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT against this development which could ultimately destroy the suburb as a living area, and the Management Committee is considering several plans of attack, which will be outlined at the next General Meeting on 9th February.

These moves - IF THEY ARE TO MEET WITH SUCCESS - will need the active support of ALL members, and a capacity attendance at the Meeting is essential.

ESSO APPEAL

Following Leichhardt Council's rejection of a Development Application by ESSO to reestablish their storage facilities on the Dickson Primer property in Ewerton Street, as a result of the M.S.B. activities in White Bay where they were formerly located, this company also lodged an appeal. This was heard by Mr. F. J. O'Neill of the State Planning

ESSO APPEAL - cont.

Authority in the Leichhardt Council Chambers during the period immediately prior to Christmas.

The result of this appeal is not yet known, but the Association officially supported the Council's decision to refuse the permit to ESSO and also protested to Mr. O'Neill against the timing of the hearing, which, to say the least, gave no consideration for Seasonal demands which may have made it impossible for numbers of people, who could be affected by the Authority's decision, to attend.

THANKS WHERE THANKS ARE DUE

Only those who regularly have attended meetings of Leichhardt Council would fully appreciate the lengths to which the Council has taken up the cudgels on behalf of residents in the current container controversy.

Instigated by the Balmain Ward aldermen, the Council embarked on expensive legal proceedings, so that all sides of the local picture could be fully presented.

The Balmain Association is grateful for their effort on behalf of residents.

FERRY SERVICES

Strong representations are being made to try and improve the very inadequate, "stop-gap" ferry service at present in operation.

A Ferry Services Committee representing the Municipalities of Leichhardt, Drummoyne, Ashfield, Concord and Hunter's Hill has been formed to discuss the extension of ferry services in Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River.

Leichhardt Council appointed 2 delegates to attend the first meeting which was held on 30th November, when it was decided that a deputation from the Committee should meet the Minister of Transport and submit an overall plan for the areas concerned.

On 6th December, the Minister of Transport received at Parliament House a delegation, comprising as follows:

Mr. E. Bassett	- Town Clerk, Leichhardt Municipal Council
Ald. N. Origlass	- Leichhardt Municipal Council
Ald. I. Wyner	- Leichhardt Municipal Council
Captain Collins	- Maritime Services Board
Mr. D. Henderson	- Sec., Firemen & Deck Hands' Union
Mr. E. Clark	- Nicholson Bros.
Mr. J. McMahon	- M.L.A. for Balmain
Mr. R. Coady	- M.L.A. for Drummoyne
Mr. A. R. Sloss	- M.L.A. for King

The Minister for Transport was given details of the proposals to extend the ferry services and promised to carry out further investigations after conferring with Local Members.

In the meantime, the Balmain Association has written to the Drummoyne Council (as convenors of the Committee) suggesting that, in addition to utilising existing wharves, the Elliott Street wharf should be reopened.

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COMING EVENTS

April	- April Fools' Day Revel
May	- Bring & Buy Party (save all that unwanted bric-a-brac and Auntie's hideous presents - and swap them for the same!)
June	- Talk on Antiques by Stanley Lipscombe