

COUNCIL REFERENDUM

For those members who were not at the last Association meeting on 9th February, we advise that it is the intention of the Leichhardt Council to conduct a Mail-Box Referendum in the Balmain Ward and that part of the Rozelle Ward falling North-East of Victoria Road asking residents to state a simple Yes or No to the question whether or not they support Council in their attitude towards the proposed use of Mort's Bay by Associated Steamships Pty. Limited for their steel container berths.

The results of this Poll will be presented to the Premier and the Minister for Local Government in an effort to get them to review their recent findings when Council's decision against the Development Application were overthrown at the Appeal heard by the State Planning Authority.

The Leichhardt Council has now had the ballot papers printed and is finalising collection details.

Therefore, all those members who signified, at our last Meeting, their willingness to assist in collecting these votes should stand by for early action. Collection instructions will be duly advised.

ALL ABOARD

Mostly - in fact this is the first time we have departed from the norm - the reporting in your News Sheet is done by the "oldies". This time, because we were able to include the younger fry in one of our social events, we thought we would report from their angle. This is what Bill Haesler's 11-year old Andrew thought about it.

We set off from Darling St. Wharf at 3 p.m. on Sunday ? of February on the salvage tug Captain Tom Fenwick. The trip took us around Mort's Bay into Iron Cove and passed the Dawn Frazer swimming pool. We turned at Iron Cove Bridge and came back past Schnapper and Cockatoo Islands. We then went up the Parramatta River under the Gladesville Bridge. When we were passing Iron Cove we saw a sailing race. We didn't stop at Darling St. Wharf but kept on going till we came to White Bay. Here we saw the cargo ship Norbulk being filled with wheat. I think it was a very enjoyable trip and it was a change to see Balmain from the water rather than from the land.

Apart from the fact that Andrew left us in White Bay (was sabotage afoot?), the sentiments he expressed in his last two lines are most probably the same as those of his elders who were with us that day.

FERRY SERVICES

Seeing a count of heads being taken by a deck hand on the last evening ferry from Circular Quay to Darling St. one night recently, one of your Committee members checked with Ald. Origlass to see whether there was any further movement towards improving the existing "service" as a result of the deputation which called on the Minister for Transport in November last.

Apparently no reply has been received as yet, and the local State Member, Mr. J. McMahon, has been asked to bring this to the early attention of the Minister.

FUND-RAISING SUB-COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee needs additional members urgently, especially those prepared to help with suppers, etc.

If you can help, please ring Richard Waterfield (82-2868) or Toni Furness (82-1552).

COMING EVENTS

APRIL FOOL PARTY - Saturday, 1ST APRIL - of course !

Come as foolishly as you like, and bring all your foolish friends, (with your own drinks - preferably still in the bottle) to

No. 2 TILBA AVENUE, Balmain.
From 8 p.m.

SUPPER will be provided, and you must expect the atmosphere to be pretty foolish

TICKETS (\$1.00) available from Richard Waterfield -

Tel. 82-2868 - evenings.

HISTORICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

At the last meeting, because of pressure of private matters, Bob Irving asked to be relieved of his duties as Recorder for the Historical Sub-Committee, to which the Committee was reluctantly forced to accede. Thanks were extended to Bob Chambers, who said he would "keep the seat warm" pro tem. Jocelyn McLeod is now the Minute Secretary.

Next meeting will be held at Sybil Masterman's - date to be advised.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

6th April **Balmain Townhall**
8 pm. SHARP

DETAILS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

To those interested and intending New Members, details of the Association can be obtained from Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Toni Furness, addressed as herebelow.

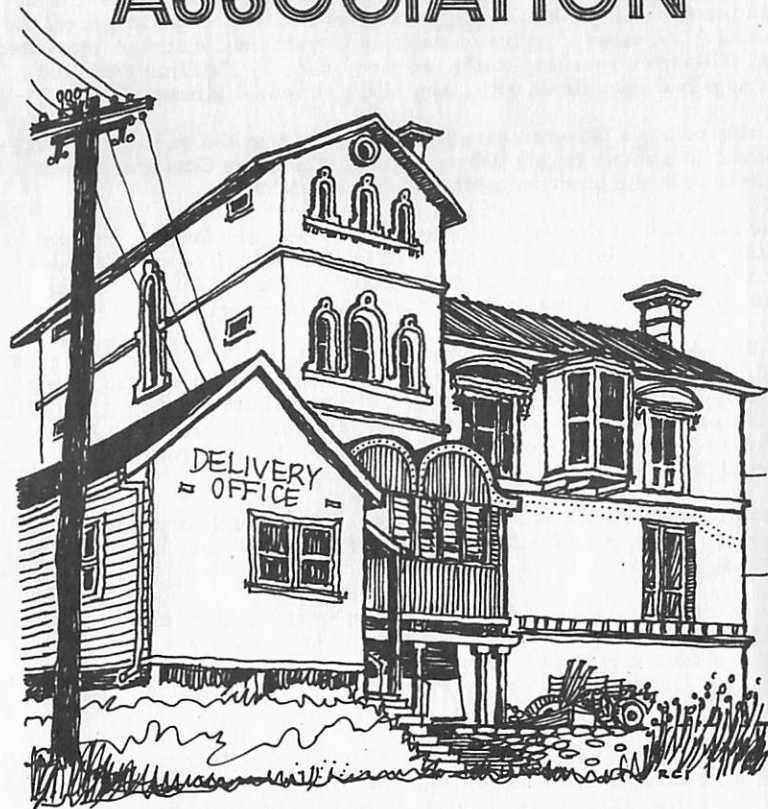
To the Hon. Sec., Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, BALMAIN.

I wish to join The Balmain Association, and enclose membership fee of \$1 (per member).

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

SEVENTH ISSUE • APRIL 1967

*Decaying elegance set beside Johnstone Bay,
- "Ewenton" once the massive sandstone
residence of Ewen Wallace Cameron. Its
grandeur will go, for it is soon to be demolish-
ed completely to make way for oil tanks.*

PROTEST AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Parliament itself provoked the Association's entry into the current disposition for demonstrations. On Tuesday, February 28, the Opposition launched a motion of urgency in Parliament to debate the introduction of container facilities into Balmain and the effect this would have on the people of Balmain.

The Deputy-Leader of the Opposition (Mr. P. D. Hills) moved the ill-fated motion which the Government never really allowed to get off the ground. A series of points of order by Government members prevented Mr. Hills from speaking to the motion, and, by the time these red herrings had been dealt with, Mr. Hill's time had almost run out.

At this point, a Government member moved that the question be put -- the tactical move to gag debate, and of course the Government was able to push the question aside without any debate.

The President of the Balmain Association, Dr. John Power, who was sitting in the public gallery at the time, was able to report these deplorable proceedings to the Rates Protest Meeting which the Association had called at the Balmain Town Hall that very night.

At the commencement of the Rates Meeting, Dr. Power outlined what had happened in Parliament that day, and later in the evening it was suggested that Balmain residents should immediately go to Parliament House before it rose for the night to protest against the shabby treatment the suburb had received. To quote Dr. Power's words "Today Balmain was spat upon by Parliament."

Some banners were hastily put together, and approximately 150 local residents drove in to Parliament to confront Members as they left the evening session.

It was a peaceful demonstration, but apparently had its effect. When called on, not a single Government member would come down to discuss the container question with the gathering, nor would the Minister for Local Government (Mr. P. Morton) receive a deputation from the group.

Later, Mr. Hills came down to speak to the group briefly, suggesting that the residents continue to bring pressure to bear on the Government and the various authorities in an endeavour to prevent the container industry from entering Balmain.

Further developments are reported elsewhere in this News Sheet.

RATES MEETING

This was held in the Balmain Town Hall on 28th February, organized by the Balmain Association for the residents of the Municipality to discuss recent rates increases. Aldermen for the Balmain Ward, Messrs. Lewis, Origlass and Wyner, were invited to share the platform, together with a spokesman for the Association in the person of Mr. R. Irving. Aldermen from other Wards were also asked to attend as observers.

The Council Aldermen outlined the functions of Council and the principles by which the rates are struck. Mr. Irving produced figures to show that the rates for Leichhardt were equal on a per-acre basis to

RATES MEETING - continued
those of Woollahra and in excess of Hunter's Hill. The rates for the Balmain Ward in particular were higher than those for Woollahra which includes such select suburbs as Darling Point and Vaucluse and are 1/3 higher than the rates in the Hunter's Hill Municipality.

A rowdy question time followed, during which a resolution was passed to the following effect:

THAT THIS PUBLIC MEETING REQUEST THE COUNCIL TO APPLY TO THE VALUER-GENERAL FOR A REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THE VALUE OF THE LAND IN THE LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WAS MADE AND TO REVALUE THE WHOLE OF THE MUNICIPALITY SO AS TO ALLOW THE COUNCIL TO STRIKE A RATE WHICH IS EQUITABLE TO ALL WARDS.

At this stage in the proceedings, the Association President, Dr. John Power, outlined events which had occurred in Parliament that day and, after discussion, the meeting adjourned by public vote so that a demonstration could be staged at Parliament House forthwith.

However, to keep faith with those residents for whom the rates question is still an urgent matter, the Association agreed to hold another meeting and, at the time of going to Press, this second gathering had been arranged for Wednesday, 22nd March, 8 p.m., Balmain Town Hall. (Printing deadline will not permit a report of this meeting to appear in this issue.)

The Resolution set out above was immediately forwarded to the Leichhardt Town Clerk for action and enquiry by Ald. Origlass of the Town Clerk at Council Meeting on 21st March ascertained that no reply had been received from the Valuer-General as yet.

BALMAIN ASSN. STILL TRYING

Not having received any sort of satisfactory replies from any of the various authoritative bodies and persons to whom the Association has been directing its campaign for the alleviation of the container problem, it was decided that it would avail itself of the resumption of State Parliament to try and get some degree of reasoned discussion at Parliamentary level on the M.S.B. plans for Balmain.

Having first endeavoured to meet the Premier, who appears to remain equally shy of contact as does Mr. Brotherson, a two-fronted attempt was made to see both representatives of the Government and also members of the Opposition and get questions asked in the House.

It was thought that back-benchers in the Government party might bring this about, but, as it turned out, the Opposition took the matter up, and the Deputy-Leader, Mr. P. D. Hills, gave notice of his intention to discuss "the inadequacy and ineffectual scope of the recently announced Government planning to meet the needs of overseas and interstate containerization, steel and other shipping."

According to Hansard, Mr. Hills was allowed to speak on his motion for exactly 9 minutes before the gag was applied. Put to the vote, the motion was negatived.

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During evening peak-hour traffic on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February, Association members handed out 10,000 leaflets, containing a petition on traffic congestion, to motorists at the Victoria Rd. traffic lights near White Bay Power House.

The leaflet contained the following points:

THIS ALREADY IS ONE OF SYDNEY'S WORST TRAFFIC BOTTLENECKS
WORSE IS COMING!
WHEN CONTAINERS COME TO BALMAIN, THIS WILL MEAN ...

- MORE THAN 3,000 TRUCKS A WEEK
- 40 ft. LONG
- ALL HOURS OF THE DAY
- NO ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

WE, the residents of Balmain, don't want this industry with its heavy traffic and noise!

YOU, who pass through here every day, don't want more traffic, a worse bottleneck!

PLEASE SEND THIS PROTEST TO

The Rt. Hon. R. W. Askin, Premier of N.S.W.,
119 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

I protect against the major traffic chaos which will immediately follow the introduction of the container industry into Balmain.

Name:
Address:

Handing out the leaflets was extremely easy, because traffic was banked up for about a mile and this made our leaflet very topical for the "captive audience". In fact, a number of motorists on the second day said they had already sent their petitions to the Premier, and wished us luck.

THE PREMIER has not made any public comment on the petitions he has received.

BALMAIN ASSN. STILL TRYING - cont. from centre page

Subsequently, questions were asked in the House, and the Leader of the Opposition called for a select committee to look into the whole matter, but this was refused. It is understood that there has also been some dissatisfaction expressed in the Liberal Party ranks at the raw deal Balmain is receiving.

Finally, Association President Power was able to interview the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Morton, who, whilst polite, was still not prepared to discuss the M.S.B. decisions.