

BEECROFT-CHELTHENHAM CIVIC TRUST

Some little time ago, Association secretary, Toni Furness, was contacted by the President of the above Civic Trust which has similar aims to our own in the Beecroft-Cheltenham area. They expressed sympathy with us in our waterfront problems and were kind enough to send the following letter to The Premier of N.S.W. substantiating their support for our actions.

"Dear Mr. Askin,

The committee, and subsequently members at the Annual General Meeting of this Trust, unanimously agreed to support The Balmain Association in its objections to the inroads into the life of the people of Balmain, which will result from the proposed Balmain Port Plan.

We understand that you have advised The Balmain Association that "due regard will be had to any problems which may be involved for nearby urban areas."

It would appear that if the proposal of your Government, through its instrumentalities, the Maritime Services Board and the State Planning Authority, is carried out, the only way in which the problem of the Balmain urban area can be resolved is by an exodus of the present residents from the area.

Is it not possible for your Government to break new ground by considering the wishes of residents in their struggles for protection against private and Government developments, which continually threaten the peace of so many people of the Sydney metropolitan area?

Yours sincerely,
sgd. W. H. Matthews
PRESIDENT. "

A warm vote of thanks to the people of Beecroft and Cheltenham for their spontaneous action !

BALMAIN BOOK IS ON THE WAY

Work has begun in earnest on the book to be published by the Association dealing with the historic and architectural charms of the Balmain peninsula.

The sub-committee editing the book has now settled in outline the contents and it has at its disposal a magnificent set of photographs taken by Douglass Baglin, showing scores of the most choice buildings in the area.

The task of writing all the material is going to be a long one. Right now the most pressing need is for historical information from which to prepare the articles.

Any member possessing such information, either about the buildings themselves or about any historic figures which can be woven into the text, is asked to advise the Historical Committee without delay.

This is URGENT as work has already commenced.

COMING EVENTS

A TALK ON ANTIQUES

Saturday, 24th June - 68 Campbell Street (down on the waterfront) - From 2p.m. to 5p.m.

The well-known Sydney authority on antiques, Mr. Stanley Lipscombe, has very kindly agreed to be the Guest Speaker at our next fund-raising event, when he will give a general talk on this subject.

The audience may bring small articles about which they would like some information but only one item per person please ! And please don't be disappointed if your particular objet d'art cannot be dealt with in the time available.

TICKETS - \$1.00 each - will be available at the

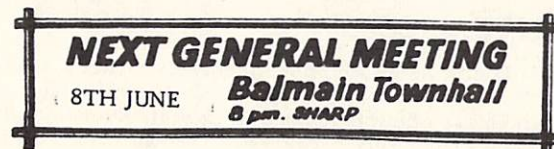
next General Meeting or from Richard Waterfield
by telephoning 82-2868 evenings.

AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE SERVED.

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MINUTE SECRETARY

Your Management Committee recently exercised its prerogative to coopt a new member to this Committee in the person of Mrs. Jocelyn McLeod, who will act as Minute Secretary for the remainder of the current year, to give much needed assistance to our hard working Hon. Sec. Toni Furness.



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.

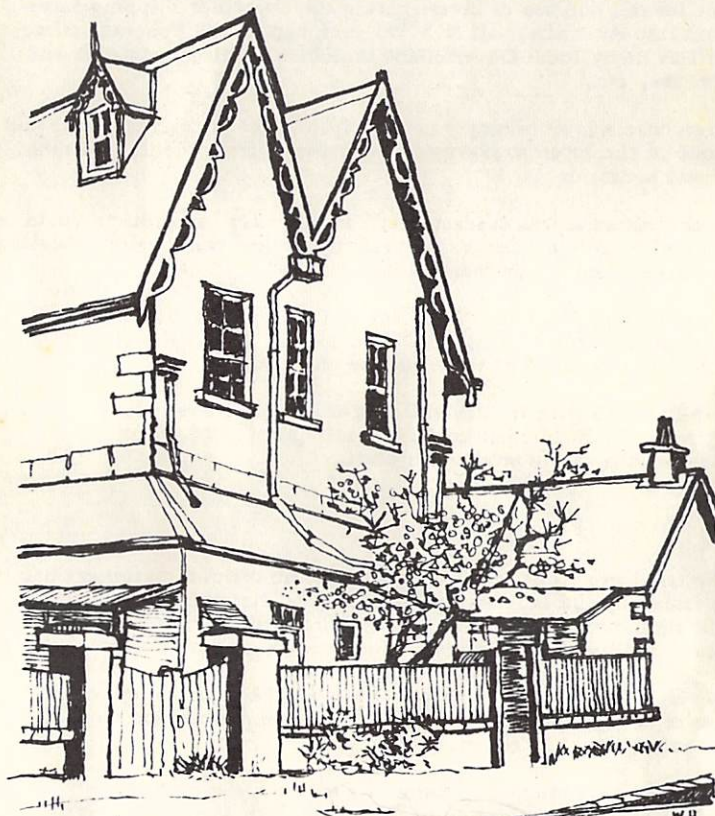
To the Hon. Sec., Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, BALMAIN.

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

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

EIGHTH ISSUE - JUNE 1967

This fine old residence in Ballast Point Road, known locally as "Clifton Villa", still retains much of its original late 1800's charm.

CONTAINER BOOKLET

Since the last Association General Meeting, when members indicated their approval for printing a quantity of these brochures, 250 were produced and approximately 50 were mailed off, under individual covering letters, within the next two weeks to Federal and State Ministers and M.H.R.s (including Prime Minister Holt and Premier Askin); Senator Henty, who was to convene the Senate Select Committee for the purpose of investigating the container shipping introduction into Australia; all N.S.W. members of the Federal Senate; as well as many local Government members, instrumentalities and authorities, etc.

The response was surprisingly prompt from most of the recipients and the tone of the interest expressed, especially from the Senate ranks, was most heartening.

From the outset it was evident that The Balmain Association would be invited to give evidence and present its viewpoints before the Select Committee when it commenced its hearings.

These will take place in all States, and the Sydney discussions will take place between 31st May and 2nd June. The Association's President has been asked to be present on 1st June.

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED that this brochure is still available at 50c per copy. A sell-out will offset at least 60% of the production costs.

At the time this News Sheet went to press no official statement had been issued by the Leichhardt Council as to the outcome of its recent mail-box referendum to gauge the support accorded them by Balmain/Rozelle residents in the recent container berth Appeals.

However, it is reliably understood that, of the votes returned, in excess of 92% of the voters overwhelmingly supported the Council in the stand they had taken.

It is further understood that Council will bring the matter for attention at its next meeting on Tuesday, 30th May, and, presumably, that they will indicate what further action will then be taken.

OIL STORAGES IN BALMAIN

No doubt most members will have read in the morning Press letters of strong protest, written by the Association's President and Treasurer respectively, against oil and chemical storage and inadequate fire protection in that closely populated area on the occasion of the recent Ampol fire.

To date, there does not appear to be any official clarification as to what action Esso intends taking in the Johnson's Bay area.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

These will fall due on 1st July and all members are kindly asked to renew promptly.

FERRY SERVICES

Subsequent to the initial meeting of the consortium consisting of the Councils of the Concord, Drummoyne, Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove and Leichhardt Municipalities, when the question of improved and renewed ferry services on the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers was discussed and a representation made to the Minister for Transport, a second such meeting was convened on 3rd April at the Drummoyne Council Chambers.

As a result of a request that we be represented, four members of The Balmain Association attended, namely Miss Banks, Messrs. Cunningham, Haesler and Waterfield. The meeting decided that these people could be accepted only as observers, not as actual delegates, and that any suggestions or recommendations for improvements to existing ferry services should be channelled through the Municipality's aldermen (in this case, Messrs. Origlass and Wyner).

A resolution was passed that further representations should be made to the Minister, and that he be invited to make a physical survey of the areas involved.

NOTE - the amended timetable for the Balmain ferried just introduced - minute as the benefit is - appears to be the first step in the right direction of restoring a more adequate service. Sydney Harbour Ferries Pty. Ltd. advised that this was as a result of a survey taken by the Sydney Harbour Trust, and based on turnstyle movement.

The axiom would therefore appear to be
if you want a restored ferry service, urge more people
to use the existing one.

COUNCIL HOUSING PROJECT

Most people will now be aware of the completion date (said to be November, 1967) and prices for the Home Units now being constructed by the Leichhardt Municipal Council in Brett Avenue. These details have been extensively publicised in recent copies of THE LINK.

However, one of two other points remain of interest to residents and, upon enquiry, a Council official advised that the old factory buildings now occupying the immediate waterfront will be pulled down and the area levelled off; it was rumoured that there was to be a tower construction incorporated in the design - Council says this is not so; and will there be any additional blocks built later? Council says it has not decided upon this point yet.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that our SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Thursday, 10th August, and that nominations for the Management Committee must be received by the Hon. Secretary no later than 27th July.

Nomination forms will be available at the General Meeting on 8th June or may be obtained from the Secretary:

Toni Furness. 35 Wharf Road, Birchgrove. Tel. 82-1552.

BLASTING OPERATIONS

Enquiries made to Citra Australia, with regard to blasting operations which will be necessary for preliminary work for the proposed White Bay container berth site, elicited the advice that, whilst tenders had been invited, none had yet been finalised.

According to an insurance officer of considerable experience, in general principle, any contractors undertaking blasting work of such a nature would automatically cover themselves against any possible damage claims by taking out a Public Risk insurance policy. Claims lodged for damage to dwellings, etc. would, logically, be assessed on the basis of condition of premises at the time the blasting commenced.

As a precaution against extensive claims over and above legitimate damage incurred as a result of blasting, it is usual for contractors to take general photographs of the area or premises involved.

If/Once blasting actually commences, residents in the White Bay area might find it expedient to take a series of photographs of their homes, both inside and outside and from a number of angles, as additional protection should they have the misfortune to need to make a claim for damage.

At the same time, of course, a discussion with their own insurance company on the problems involved would obviously be to their advantage.

SECOND HAND ROSE ! or The Bring and Buy

There can be no doubt about it ! The Balmain Association members their friends and the general public alike sure are suckers for JUNK ! But what a lovely time everyone had shelling out so cheerfully for someone else's cast-offs.

Our computers worked out that there were some 1,000-odd transaction which resulted in a nett gain to our coffers of \$140.81c.

Sincere thanks to all those who assisted, to the tea and coffee makers and to those who merely brought and bought.

Incidentally, this function was an Historic First. Our first-ever function in the Watch House. Let's hope that the success of this one augurs well for the future !

THAT OPERA HOUSE

Congratulations to Elias Duek-Cohen on the publication of his book "Utzon and the Sydney Opera House". The book was suitably launched with champagne on board the ferry PROMOTE (aptly chosen at 0615 hours on Saturday, 20th May. Several members of the Association were among the party of 50 which braved the chilly dawn to salute the Opera House and the book at sunrise.

Copies of "Utzon and the Sydney Opera House" will be available for sale at our next General Meeting. (The bookshops have it, too, of course.)