

COMING EVENTS

19th August A nostalgic GASLIGHT HAPPENING
will take place at
68 Campbell Street - 8 p.m.

For details see the Green Billboard Announcement.

REMEMBER - dress should be GASLIGHT period
check on your family photo-albums for bright ideas!

ADMISSION - \$1.50 per person - Payment at Door.

4th November - We will be 2 years old. Party details will
be announced later, BUT KEEP THE DATE FREE.

25th and 26th Preliminary notice of a SALE OF LOCALLY
November PRODUCED handicrafts in a variety of forms.

This will be held in the WATCH HOUSE and further infor-
mation will appear in the next NEWS SHEET in October.

Shop early for Xmas, perhaps?

CANBERRA CONFERENCE

A Combined National Trusts of Australia seminar will be held at Can-
berra weekend commencing 11th August. Subject - Historic Building
Preservation. The following Association members - Messrs. Jim Chanter,
Bob Irving and Bill Ottley - have signified their intentions to be present,
and we know that the occasion will be put to good use for the later bene-
fit of the Association.

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE

Most members will be aware of the concerted effort made recently,
through Press and Radio by the National Trust, The Balmain Association
and individual local residents, to avert the imminent demolition of
this fine old home for the purpose of erecting home units.

This happily resulted in a number of new enquiries being received by
the real estate agents and the Leichhardt Municipal Council, at its
meeting of 25th July, decided to defer for two weeks demolition orders,
in view of the present developer's statement that he is prepared to
wait another 8 weeks before commencing destruction.

ACQUISITION FOR THE WATCH HOUSE

Association Secretary, Toni Furness, was recently contacted by a
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls, who were in the process of moving from their
home at Guildford and who had a beautiful, large old cedar table, which
had originally started its life in Balmain many years ago. It had belonged
to Mr. Nicholls's grandfather, who was associated with the beginnings of
Mort's Dock, and, having no further use for it, Mrs. Nicholls felt that
its right place was back in Balmain, and wondered if the Association
would like to have it. This thoughtful gesture was most welcome. We
now have the table, and are most appreciative. Thank you, indeed,
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10th AUGUST - BALMAIN TOWN HALL
AT - 8 P.M. SHARP

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EVERY MEMBER ENDEAVOURS TO ATTEND
THIS MEETING. THIS IS VOTING NIGHT WHEN YOU CHOOSE
YOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING YEAR.

The following nominations for Management Committee, year 1967/8,
have been received. Seven to be elected.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Miss Thea Banks | Mrs. Sybil Masterman |
| Mr. Keith Campbell | Mrs. Jocelyn Morris |
| Mr. Jim Chanter | Mrs. Geraldine Nielssen |
| Mr. Jim Cunningham | Mrs. Rose Pickard |
| Mr. Rick Gruin | Mr. Graham Stevenson |
| Mr. Bill Haesler | Mr. Richard Waterfield |
| Mrs. Joyce Hawkins | |

Since no new candidates were proposed for the Executive, the following
office bearers are returned unopposed:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| President: | Dr. John Power |
| Vice Pres.: | Mr. Alan Harding |
| Treasurer: | Mr. John Mackenzie |
| Secretary: | Mrs. Toni Furness |

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

With the new subscription year about to commence (if you haven't
already renewed, please do this promptly), membership should very
shortly pass the 300 mark.

Your Publicity Sub-Committee suggests that every member should en-
deavour to enrol at least one new member for the Association during
the coming year, and for preference an "old" resident, who has lived
in the area all his or her life. Show them your News Sheets. Ask
them to come to the next General Meeting. Invite them to one of our
Fund Raising nights. WILL YOU TRY?

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

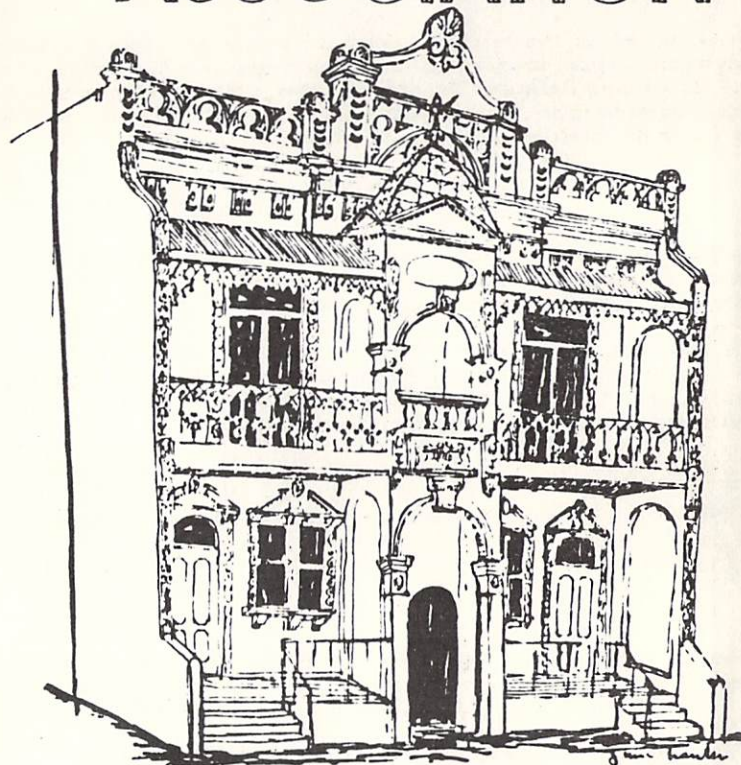
Anyone interested in the Association and/or intending New Members
can obtain details from the Secretary, Mrs. Toni Furness, by filling in
and mailing the form below.

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

- I wish to join The Balmain Association, for which I enclose
Membership Fee of \$1.
- I would like to receive details about the Association.
(Cross out whichever not applicable.)

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone No. _____

THE
BALMAIN
ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

NINTH ISSUE • AUGUST 1967

A delightful terrace pair in Glassop Street,
Birchgrove. This ornate "Wedding Cake" style
is unique and lends itself admirably to restor-
ation, emphasising its elegance and charm.

BLASTING IN THE WHITE BAY AREA

Worst fears have now been realised, and preparatory blasting has commenced for the container terminals at White Bay.

Despite the fact that an M.S.B. Public Relations Officer appeared on the site and did make preliminary explanations to some of the residents in the area, the first blasting operation made underwater on 13th July still came as a rude shock, and when it became apparent after subsequent explosions, that damage was indeed being noted in homes over a much wider area than in the immediate vicinity of the operations, residents had just cause to become alarmed.

Initial concern on the part of householders was ascertaining the responsible body against whom to make claims for damages. On the advice of the M.S.B.'s Public Relations Department, this problem now seems to have settled down to this: - All enquiries about insurance in connection with the White Bay blasting should be directed to

The Manager, Citra Australia Ltd.,
Box 39, Post Office, ANNANDALE. 2038

The Leichhardt Council stated at its meeting of 25th July that Citra's subcontractors, Brambles Industrial Services Ltd., have taken out a Public Risk Policy with an indemnity amount of \$1m.

It is, however, highly desirable that residents take individual steps to have the present condition of their dwellings reliably recorded in some manner. For example, inspection by an insurance assessor, as a precautionary measure against possible blast damage.

PROTEST ACTIONS

On 19th July, the Association sent the following reply-paid telegram for the personal attention of the Premier of N.S.W.:
URGENT ACTION REQUIRED RE CONTROL OF BLASTING IN WHITE BAY AND IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY FOR DAMAGE REIMBURSEMENT TO AFFECTED PROPERTIES
When no reply had been received by 3 p.m. on 20th July, the same message was repeated to Mr. Askin and on 21st July he replied:
TELEGRAM ACKNOWLEDGED MATTER BEING INVESTIGATED

He followed this up on 24th July with another telegram stating:
APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN STOP SUGGEST CONTRACTOR BE APPROACHED SHOULD ANY DAMAGE OCCUR SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT COMPENSATION ... Askin

The Association then wrote to Citra, asking them to state their intentions in the matter of indemnity. At time of going to Press, no reply received.

PILCHER'S PADDOCK DEMO.

Concurrently, the residents on the White Bay side of the peninsula quickly rallied and staged a spontaneous demonstration on Pilcher's Paddock, Saturday afternoon, 22nd July, when some 250 people heard Aldermen Ortlas and Wyner, and Mr. Bolger, Federal Counsellor of the Water-side Workers' Federation, condemn once more the container berth plans which the M.S.B. was bent on introducing. Ald. Wyner stated that the

Council would have the power to impose certain conditions for blasting on land, and that this angle would be dealt with at the next Council meeting ... as it was on 25th July.

At the end of the meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Bob Irving, a resolution was passed to protest once more to the Premier, by means of a telegram, and about 60 people felt sufficiently incensed to proceed by cars, together with placards and banners, to stage an orderly demonstration outside the residence of the M.S.B. President, Mr. W. H. Brotherhood. Although the fish did not take the bait, and the gathering was eventually dispersed by the police, it was felt that the action gave point to the demonstration.

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE - Container Berths

Most members now know that our booklet on Containerisation for Balmain was well regarded by the majority of the Senate Select Committee investigating this subject and that Assn. President Dr. Power, was invited to give evidence at the hearing in Sydney recently. Arising from this, it is worth noting that Mr. P. D. Hills, Dep.-Leader of the State Opposition advised Dr. Power that he would like to have contact with our Architectural & Town Planning Committee at a later date, should he be returned to the Ministry. (He was previously the Minister for Local Govt.)

A CURIOUS ABOUT-TURN

At a recent seminar in Sydney, the M.S.B. President read a Paper on (of all things!) "Container Facilities in the Port of Sydney". After all the protestations made by the Board at the Appeal heard by the S.P.A. last November, when it was most vigorously denied that THERE WAS ANY OTHER OR ALTERNATIVE SITE to that selected at White Bay for the major container berths for the port of Sydney, Mr. Brotherhood told his listeners (inter alia) that
"Having arrived at the volume of cargo likely to be handled, it is necessary to determine the possible capacity of a container facility. ... With two terminals now in course of construction at White Bay, two further facilities would need to be provided."

Later in his paper, he says that the question of "demonition of old wharves in selected areas of the port and their replacement by reclamation could readily produce flat land of substantial proportions within the existing and well established Sydney Port area. This suggestion has been investigated by the Board's technical staff and as a result it has been confirmed that a flat area of 19 acres could be created in this way at Darling Harbour North and at Glebe Island, thereby caring for the two further container facilities which could become involved in the future. In fact, a further area of reclamation in Pyrmont would also provide an area approximating 19 acres if later required."

WELL, MR. BROTHERSON, WERE THESE FINDINGS DELIBERATELY WITHHELD AT THE APPEAL LAST YEAR, OR IS THE QUALITY OF THE BOARD'S TECHNICAL STAFF SO INEPT THAT IT WAS NOT CAPABLE OF MAKING A PROPER INVESTIGATION AT THE OUTSET?

The Association has officially lodged yet another protest with the M.S.B. STOP PRESS: Our Premier replied to the protest lodged as a result of the Pilcher's Paddock demo. With a telegram couched in precisely the same words as his reply to the Association's protest. NO RISK OF BRAIN FAG THERE !!

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Architectural: Resignation of Mr. Errol Pickard as Chairman accepted with regret. Mr. Jim Chanter welcomed in his place.

Resolved that the earlier "rough" booklet produced giving suggestions for development & improvement of the area would now be worked on further, so that its contents could be used for publicity purposes.

Fund Raising: Reports a profit of \$69 for the Antique Attempt on. A note of thanks was sent to Mr. Stanley Lipscombe for most interesting address. Historical: This committee hosted a visit to Balmain by the Parramatta and a general tour of the area took place.

The meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 22nd Aug. will now take place in the Town Hall in all probability. Group members will be advised. Librarians: This sub-committee is under way & campaigning for a library service for the Balmain Ward, as distinct from the combined committee endeavouring to crack the L.M.C.'s abortive attitude.

They have already organized a Children's Painting Competition with the cooperation of the school authorities in the Balmain area in conjunction with Education Week. Suitable prizes are being awarded by The Balmain Association, who will also provide various posters and banners drawing attention to the lack of and need for a Library in the district.

Publicity: A special meeting was held to discuss a PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN for Balmain. Amongst suggestions covered were: Annual Awards for the best restored home, garden competitions, city-wide amateur photographic competition, with Balmain the model; a general widening of our relationship with other local organizations for mutual benefit of the peninsula. The photographic competition will get first priority and you will be hearing more about this at an early date.

Transport Services: Mr. Bill Haesler proposed that a sub-committee be formed to look into all aspects of local transport, with particular reference to restoration of an adequate ferry service. A group met and subsequently an Association letter was sent to the Minister for Transport dealing with the ferry problem. The Minister was reminded of his promise in Nov. 1966 for an "early" investigation into improvement of the curtailed tra service, calling at Yeend and Thames St. wharves before departing at, say, 6.10 or 6.15 p.m. would encourage people to use the ferries more, rather than the buses. The Minister, in his reply, said: "As a matter of fact I have had quite a number of representations on this subject since the Nicholson Bros. service was suspended and I have again asked the Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Transport Board to examine the possibility of making some improvements in the present arrangement."

This will, of course, be followed up strongly by the sub-committee. INCIDENTALLY ... Did you know that the Hunter's Hill ferry now calls at DARLING ST. WHARF at 11.15a.m. for the Quay and the 2.30pm Hunter's Hill ferry from the Quay calls back at Darling St. Also, the last departure from the Quay at 5.50 p.m. now calls at Thames and Yeend St. Wharves, instead of finishing at Darling St. Wharf. *****

DO YOU BELONG TO A SUB-COMMITTEE? You should ! This is your Association, and the sub-committees are the motors that keep it running.