

COMING EVENTS

4th November - It's our birthday and we will be two years old!
The party will be held at
18 William Street (waterfront with Aerogard)
Time - 8 p.m.
Admission - \$1.00 per person
B.O.G. (bring own grog) AND AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU CAN!
Dick Waterfield - 82-2868 (evenings).

25th & 26th November - HOME CRAFTS SALE -
Location THE WATCH HOUSE - both days.
Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Hand-made pottery, art, sculpture, toys, jewellery, etc., the work of members, will be on sale.

If any Member would like to display or sell his/her own work on these days, please contact

Mrs. Sybil Masterman - 82-2708

16th December - The Annual Xmas Party - Barbecue will be held again at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Masterman on the waterfront. KEEP THIS DATE FREE.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING
19TH OCT. BALMAIN TOWN HALL
AT 8 PM - SHARP**

A short talk will be given at the Meeting by Mr. Bob Irving on the National Trust Seminar held at Canberra in August.

DICKSON PRIMER SITE

It is noted that this site, which was previously proposed for the ESSO storage tank re-location, is now up for auction on 19th November. A wary eye should, however, be kept on any future Development Application to the Council for usage.

RAY FITZPATRICK QUARRIES PTY. LTD.

This company advised the L.M.C. on 23/8/67 that it has decided to withdraw its application seeking permission to develop 31 Terry St., Rozelle for the purpose of erecting unloading bins for bituminous concrete and ready-mixed concrete plants, as its negotiations with the M.S.B. have revealed that the water depth surrounding the site is inadequate and that consideration is being given to other sites in the Municipality. This is another Development Application that could rear its ugly head on some other waterfront site on the peninsula.

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE (your cover illustration)

Although we believed its days were numbered, miraculously this fine old residence still stands. The development company is said to have raised the price to \$29,000 and one potential buyer is endeavouring to find the cash. We certainly hope he can! No recent mention of it has been made in Council meetings.

FARE-THEE-WELL, Pilcher's Paddock

If you haven't been down Pilcher's Paddock way of late, don't bother; for what was once a tousled, semi-public park now has become a gaping quarry of broken sandstone and sandy coloured earth. In comes Progress, M.S.B.-style, and down come the trees and out goes the grassy patch where many of us stood only a few short weeks ago to protest against the blasting for the White Bay container wharves.

Rippers and bulldozers roar and spit, and underwater blasts rumble and reverberate. Now the horde of Brambles trucks have ceased to career through the suburb with such maniac abandon, leaving dollops of soft top soil in their wake, mutilating kerbs and leaving great potholes in sadly subsiding road surfaces. Now they are getting at the hard stuff - the guts of Pilcher's Paddock - and dumping it into the bay down by Stephen Street, filling for the caisson beds.

March, 1968 is the deadline. Pilcher's should then be quite erased, and mechanical forms will handle container trade, where once we hoped we, and our children, could watch the ships go by.

Vale, Pilcher's - yon erstwhile noble sward!

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.

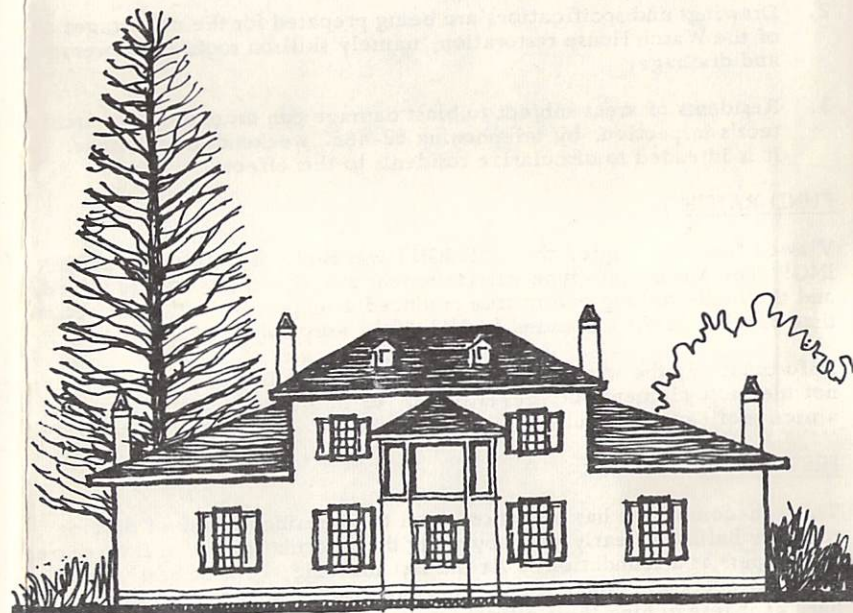
.....
To the Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, BALMAIN.

- . 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

TENTH ISSUE • OCTOBER 1967

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE :

The street front as it was in the 1840's seen from the Parramatta River shows a simple yet unusual home of a gentleman of Macquarie's time. Built about 1814, with additions in 1827 and improvements about 1845, it is substantially still the same, except for extensions on this side.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHITECTURE & TOWN PLANNING

1. The sub-committee is proceeding to develop broad proposals for the desirable development of Balmain, so as to have positive suggestions if the opportunity becomes available to discuss with the State Government, and to have a background of information when the Town Plan is exhibited.
2. Drawings and specifications are being prepared for the next stages of the Watch House restoration, namely skillion roofs and sewerage and drainage.
3. Residents of areas subject to blast damage can arrange for an architect's inspection, by telephoning 82-4882 weekends or evenings. It is intended to circularize residents to this effect.

FUND RAISING

Viewed from any angle, the GASLIGHT was really a WOW of a HAPPENING! The Music Hall-type entertainment was especially well received, and the hard-working committee produced a supper that was even better than usual. Profit amounted to \$113.60, a very tidy sum, indeed.

Unfortunately, the weather on the OPERA HOUSE INSPECTION DAY was not the most clement but, nevertheless, 69 hardy souls went along, and a nice profit of \$63 resulted.

HISTORICAL

This sub-committee has embarked upon the formidable task of piecing together Balmain's early years by using the information taken from current newspapers as a foundation. At the last meeting, 14 members volunteered to co-operate. Since then, others have come forward and are now hard at it researching their allotted year and unearthing all manner of interesting information.

LIBRARY

As you already know, this sub-committee is currently campaigning for a Library service in the Balmain Ward of the Municipality, whilst simultaneously working with the "Libraries for Leichhardt" Committee.

An Education Week display arranged in the Darling St. window of Mr. E. Camp, electrical contractor, attracted much attention.

Two books were donated to the Birchgrove School Library and a very neat little note of thanks was received from Margaret Gibson, the School Captain.

During the recent school holidays, the committee organized a daily story reading time, at the West Side Centre, for children in the area. Books were kindly loaned by the City of Sydney Public Library and the response by the children more than justified the venture.

The Association will continue to aim for a Library service in the area, but the support of all residents is necessary in order to convince the Municipal Council of this long overdue essential.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

PUBLICITY

With a view to generating keener public interest in Balmain, the following plans are afoot:

1. The public exhibition of selected extracts from each issue of the NEWS SHEET at various local focal points, such as Banks, estate agents, newsagents, sympathetic shopkeepers, etc., and a suitable type of mount for this purpose is now being produced.
2. The photographic competition proposed earlier is now being organized and will take the form of a metropolitan-wide event, open to all, including Balmain residents and Association members. Full particulars and conditions will be ready by the time the next NEWS SHEET is distributed, and the closing date for entries will be around Easter, 1968. Both local and city display of all entries and winning exhibits respectively is being arranged.
3. The Australian Home Journal has agreed to do an illustrated article on "small garden" features in the area for future publication, which should further sympathetically present Balmain to a wider public.

TRANSPORT SERVICES

Improved Ferry Service for Balmain: Further to earlier submissions from the Association, via the channels of this sub-committee, it was very gratifying to receive a letter from the Minister for Transport indicating that an improved Ferry Service would be provided to the Darling St. Wharf at Balmain East.

On 2nd October this came into operation. Basically, it involves the diversion of the off-peak-hour ferries on the Hunter's Hill service, which now call at Darling St., thereby providing an hourly service up till 11.30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, and up till 6.30 p.m. Sundays. The present peak hour services to Darling/Thames/Yeend Sts. remain unchanged. Whilst this represents a breakthrough for some Balmain residents, we realise that those people adjacent to Thames and Yeend St. wharves are no better off. It is intended to campaign for the same off-peak services for these areas also.

We notice that the ferry personnel are counting Balmain passengers on all trips and therefore URGE EVERYONE TO USE THE SERVICE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO ENSURE ITS RETENTION.

Combined Ferry Services Committee (Municipal) Although unable to secure representation on this combined Committee, we know that a recent deputation from it to the Minister for Transport was sympathetically received and that consideration is being given to suitable wharf sites, type of ferries and extent of services, with particular application to the Parramatta River areas. Leichhardt aldermen also queried the possibility of Council taking over and running a service, and the Minister indicated that he would consider subsidising a transport company in the area. It is understood also that the L.M.C. is to produce 2,000 dodgers for letterbox publicity, particularly in the Balmain East area.

USING THE FERRIES TO CAPACITY WOULD BE THE BEST ARGUMENT FOR EXPANSION OF SERVICES.

MORT BAY - S.P.A. APPEAL AFTERMATH

Mr. Kevin Stewart, M.L.A. for Canterbury and one of Balmain's few protagonists in the State House, recently launched another attack on the evidence given at last November's S.P.A. enquiry into interstate container proposals for Mort Bay. He devoted the full 40 minutes of his Address-in-Reply speech to this subject, in which he reiterated the conflicting evidence introduced into the enquiry by the M.S.B. with regard to the essential nature and locations of berths, and he commented on the fact that now, almost a year later, and with just over a year to go to the stated deadline of October, 1968, still not a sod had been turned nor any surveys done to develop Mort Bay. Associated Steamships in fact had pulled out and a fresh application had been made by Seatainers Ltd. His contention was, therefore, that the companies involved had lost interest in Mort Bay once space for an interstate terminal had been found at White Bay, and that all the arguments on which the appeal had been based were, at best, very speciously presented.

To anyone who has followed the devious happenings surrounding the Balmain container berth developments, the calm in Mort Bay at the present time may only be that which precedes yet another storm.

A.N.L. BERTH- MORT BAY

Maunsell & Partners, Civil Engineers, have submitted proposals for work of a preparatory nature for the No. 2 ANL berth in Mort Bay, approval for which was given by Council on 21/3/67. At the completion of this first contract, the M.S.B. will commence dredging the bay, after which the construction of the berth will be carried out under a second contract.

OUR WATCH HOUSE

The Minister for Lands has now approved the draft plan of the Lease, which has been forwarded on to the National Trust.

A working bee, under the direction of Association Trustee, Alan Harding, went at it with a will on Saturday, 23rd September, when the interior was stripped of damaged and unwanted materials, preparatory to the restoration work that can now at long last commence, and the outhouses and grounds were given a much needed cleanup.

At the present time, it looks possible that we could aim at "going into residence" around about next Easter.

Incidentally, we want to thank Mr. Peter Gregory for donating a fire jack for the kitchen another welcome and atmospheric acquisition.

CHANNEL 7 PROTEST FILMS

The Association was pleased to receive for its future archives two films from T.V. station Channel 7, which covered the recent protest meeting on Pilcher's Paddock, as well as their interviews with several residents whose homes had been affected by the early blasts. These will be given a screening when a suitable occasion arises.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - The Association's very own!

These will be available this year we hope in time for posting overseas if wished. They will be in colour, with a selection of 4 designs. Local scenes, of course. Further details at the General Meeting.

THOSE OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS ??????????

The Hon. Sec. is longing to get started on a new card index for members - so please hurry along those overdue subs. for 1967/68. Just your dollar and a slip of paper with name, address and telephone number, if any, is all that's needed. No real effort involved!