

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION Publicity cont.

Our major activity since the last general meeting has been organizing the ground work for the forthcoming Photographic Competition.

As previously reported to you verbally, the Head Office of the Commonwealth Savings Bank in Martin Place has agreed to display the accepted entries in the main Banking Chamber from 8th to 29th April next, over the Easter holiday period, when the Exhibition will be on view to many thousands of the Bank's customers.

To supplement the Competition display, well-known Sydney and Balmain resident photographer, Mr. Hal Wise, will be doing a pictorial project on Balmain and its People which will point up human interest and residential activities, and we hope also to cooperate with the Historical sub-committee to produce for display some panels of historic data and photographs.

The Competition opens 1st December and entries must be in by 29th February.

Full details and entry forms will be available at the General Meeting on 7th December ... or they may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to

"PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION",
BOX 57 P.O., BALMAIN.

REMEMBER ... THIS COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, THEIR FRIENDS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

THE SUBJECT MATTER, HOWEVER, MUST HAVE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED IN BALMAIN, AND THE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY THE ENTRANT.

Photographs may be submitted in colour or monochrome and the Judging Panel comprises six of Sydney's top rankers in their respective judging fields.

SILVER and BRONZE Medallions will be awarded in the various Sections and a major TROPHY presented for the outstanding entry of the Competition.

Every member is asked to publicise this event and encourage as many people as possible to enter.

The whole aim of the Competition is to get people to come into the area and to get to know it as other than just a place for container berths, storage depots and obnoxious, industrial activities.

There will also be a showing of the colour transparencies in the Balmain Town Hall on the nights of April 30, and May 1 and 2.

Further publicity will appear in photographic magazines, suburban and daily Press and we will endeavour to get T.V. coverage, too, later when the time is ripe.

A lot of hard work has already gone into this project and will continue to go into it right up till the date when the last entries are packed up and despatched off back to owners, so we do look forward to the usual wonderful support we always get from members and their friends.

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NOEL, Noel Your Management Committee extends to all
* Association members sincere good wishes for a
****MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

COMING EVENTS

What has now become known as THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

16th Dec

will again be held at 2 Numa Street, Long Nose Point
8 p.m. till the fires burn cold!!!

Once more we sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. L. Masterman for letting us use their extensive waterfront area, and all members are reminded that there is NO CHARGE for this night's outing and that they may bring the whole family and as many friends as they wish.

A REMINDER ALSO to bring your own steaks, snags, etc. and liquid refreshments - as well as some currency for the

RAFFLE TICKETS

which will be sold during the evening. Be seeing you there!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Association Christmas Cards will again be available at the next General Meeting. Early supplies ran low and we had to get some more printed.

Four local edifices have been drawn by Mrs. Lorraine Power, over four different colour washes and the cards have been done up in packs of 8 for \$1. They are almost too good to mail away.

Idea **** why not buy a set for framing ??????

NEXT GENERAL MEETING
7TH DEC. . **BALMAIN TOWN HALL**
AT 8 PM - SHARP

After the general business of the Meeting, members will be addressed by Dr. Fabian Bryant of the Ryde Psychiatric Hospital on the subject of
COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRY

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. _____

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TRANSPORT SERVICES . INCIDENTALLY DID YOU KNOW
THAT THE HUNTER'S HILL FERRY NOW CALLS AT DARL
STREET WHARF . DO YOU BELONG TO A SUB COMMITTEE
YOU SHOULD . COMING EVENTS . A NOSTALGIC GASLI
HAPPENING . \$TH NOVEMBER WE WILL BE TWO YEARS C
KEEP THE DATE FREE . A SALE OF LOCALLY PRODUCED
HANDICRAFTS IN A VARIETY OF FORMS . CANBERRA C
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THE WATCH HOUSE . ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING . IT
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THIS MEETING . IT IS VOTING NIGHT WHEN YOU CHOC
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NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE . APPLICATION FOR MEMBERS
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CHRISTMAS CARDS . THOSE OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS
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PADDOCK . THE
PREMIER
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THANK
CIVIC
WESTS
EXPOSITION . EXPLORING OUR FORESHORES . CAPTAIN
TOM FENWICK . APRIL FOOL PARTY . HISTORICAL SUB
COMMITTEE . CONTAINER BOOKLET . OIL STORAGES I

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

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.

NEWS SHEET
ELEVENTH ISSUE - DECEMBER 1967

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE

Those of you, who - believing that what little we have left of that which the National Trust calls "our National heritage" should be preserved at all costs - have been waiting with held breath to learn what will be the final fate of Birchgrove House, will be keenly disappointed to know that, by the time this News Sheet is distributed, the wreckers will have commenced their obliteration and another link in our all-too-short chain of early history will have crumbled to the dust.

New facts only recently uncovered by Association member, Mr. Bob Irving, reveal an earlier history, both of land grant and building, than had hitherto been known.

This information was naturally submitted to the National Trust who were immediately considering the question of "upgrading" the building from "C" classification (interesting and worthy of preservation) to "B" classification (important and necessary to preserve).

It was with regard to the "C" classification that the State Planning Authority and the Council were previously skirmishing around the responsibility of acting.

The old building has changed hands again in the last three weeks (presumably at a profit) and the new owner will proceed with demolition and the erection of home units, using the same Development Application as originally approved by the Council. Vandalism commenced a few hours after the remaining tenant vacated.

A very well documented and researched file was presented to Council in yet another last ditch stand by Mr. Irving, in time for consideration before its meeting of 28th November. And yet the one executive of the Council most vitally concerned, namely the Town Planner, said in open Council that he had not seen the submission. Most of the Aldermen acknowledged that they had received a copy. So, at whose door can this "oversight" be laid?

The pertinent question still remains: why did the Council do no research on this, the oldest and most historic building in the whole of the municipality, and one of the earliest buildings still standing in Australia?

At an early stage in these last negotiations, and before granting the Development Application, why did the Council not, as a very least step, defer consideration of any Development Application (say for 12 months) that threatened such a significant building, in order to allow preservationists to marshal their resources, research to be completed and economic feasibility to be studied?

THAT MYTHICAL DRAFT TOWN PLAN

It would appear that this has now been approved by the Minister for Local Government and the State Planning Authority, and is ready to go on exhibition.

When asked by Alderman Origlass at the Council Meeting of 28th November whether this was likely before Christmas, the Town Planner said ... "No - most unlikely." Taking into consideration the usual Christmas holiday Council recess, it likely will be that we will not see it exhibited until January/February, 1968.

DICKSON PRIMER SITE

This was the site on which ESSO was previously seeking to erect a tank farm. Although offered at auction this month, no sale was made. The Town Planner was asked whether Council could give consideration to

rezoning this land. In 1963 it had been zoned for industrial use and it was under this classification that it was recently offered for sale. As no one was interested, Council felt that it should have a very strong case to present to the State Planning Authority for reclassification.

TERMINALS PTY. LTD. ... TANK FARM

No doubt most of you have read the Council notice recently in the local Press outlining their opposition to the renewed application made by this company for the installation of a depot for the bulk storage of chemicals, flammable liquids, fish oils, vegetable oils, molasses and etc., and inviting residents to lodge their protests against such an undertaking.

The Association's President has written a forceful letter to both The Link and The Observer pointing out to all residents the urgency of the need for them to make their protests to the Council and to attend the Council Meeting on 12th December when the Application will be dealt with.

This is something you and all people can do to help tell as many as you can, and come along in solid numbers to the Council Meeting.

YOUR COVER

We make no apologies for printing the SENNACHERIB verse once again in the News Sheet. You will remember that it appeared in the first issue of the year in February last, when the fight for Pilcher's Paddock and Mort Bay was still being waged.

Now, at year's end, Mort Bay is licking its wounds, not yet quite knowing from which angle or from which adversary it will suffer its next attack, but Pilcher's Paddock is sadly vanquished.

The background to the verse is provided by the headlines to our activities over the past year and, whilst the general tone may make militant reading and the overall outcome has not been a happy one, perhaps we can console ourselves with the fact that we indeed have had the courage of our convictions, and hope that our efforts can produce more fruitful results during the year 1968.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

FUND RAISING

4th November Put two Balmainians (Balmainiacs?) together with a bottle of wine and they'll talk till midnight. Put 132 together with the necessary ingredients and they'll talk till 4 in the morning. Add waterfront garden, fairy lights, big, black freighters sliding by and stamping on the terrace (not the freighters, silly, but the Balmainiacs!) and you have OUR SECOND BIRTHDAY PARTY. A great success with over \$100 in the bank.

25th and 26th November Gala days at the Watch House for potters, painters, carvers, dyers, old wares dealers, etc. which drew interested supporters from all over Sydney, as well as from Balmain.

Eager shoppers spent \$836 in total. 10% of this went to the Association, and another \$44.80 was spent at the coffee stall and on bottles of "Emotion" perfume generously-donated by Helena Rubenstein. With the coffee, some were lucky enough to get a slice .. before it ran out .. of the luscious cheese or apple cake which was also very kindly donated by Bill and Magda Gesche. The grand total profit for the weekend was \$128.40.

PLANS FOR 1968 are still in the embryo stage, but more details will appear in the next News Sheet.

HISTORICAL

At its last meeting held earlier in the month, discussion centred around the method of recording and collating the information obtained from the columns of early Sydney newspapers now being systematically read by committee members, and it was finally decided that a card system would be the most simple and practical.

An increasing number of members are now actively reading and recording any mention of the Balmain district as it appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald. (So far, the years 1840 to 1856 are being read. Prior and subsequent years are as yet unallotted.) This should prove a sound basis ultimately for compiling a history of Balmain.

The committee is anxious to ascertain when the first boat building yard was established along the foreshores of Balmain .. or, better still, when the first boat was built in the area. Perhaps a chance conversation with some old identity or family may bring this to light.

Incidentally, the data already compiled by the committee is available to any member of the Association, and members of the Historical committee will be glad to help locate whatever information is required.

LIBRARY

The petition containing over 4,000 signatures collected by the Committee for the Establishment of Public Libraries in the Leichhardt Municipality was presented to Council early in November.

As a result, Mr. Smith, Principal of Ibrox Park High School and Vice-President of the above committee, was invited to put the case for libraries before the Council.

Mr. Smith gave a splendid, reasoned argument and Aldermen seemed very interested and asked many questions. It was not difficult, however, to detect a not-too-subtle hostility to the whole idea.

As an immediate follow-up to this, our sub-committee presented its report to Council in time for its next meeting, held on 28th November.

This report, written in conjunction with the Architectural sub-committee, aimed at convincing the Council that an adequate library service could be provided by adapting and equipping existing buildings. A copy was presented to each Alderman.

Ald. Lewis, at the Council Meeting on 28th November, spoke earnestly in support of our findings. However, the other Aldermen take the line that asking rate payers for even a fraction of a cent in the dollar over and above current rates could not be countenanced without a referendum, which they felt was not warranted. Therefore conveniently taking shelter behind this weak subterfuge, the Council moved that this sub-committee's report merely be "received and noted".

PUBLICITY

Australian Home Journal Article Photographs of gardens belonging to several Association members have now been taken by the Home Journal and we are informed by the Editor that these and a covering article will appear early in the New Year.

Local Display of the News Sheet Time has been a rather short commodity with most of this committee's members just lately, but it is planned that the display of selected portions of the News Sheet in various suitable locations will commence as early as possible in the New Year.

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