

170 Short

WATCH HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE cont.

A Schutching Party has been arranged for 10.30 A.M. on Saturday, 24th February, for the purpose of removing the layers of old paint from the Watch House walls.

There will be a Lord-High Schutchor in attendance (said to be an expert in this field) ready to pass on his knowledge to all those novice schutchors, who are a little too-timid at present to make an onslaught on their own paint-plastered walls! He will let you practice on the Watch House walls, and then you can go home and wield an expert schutch on your own. Where possible, please bring own tools.

Usage for the various rooms and sections of the Watch House has now been decided upon as follows:-

- * The Charge Room on the ground floor, together with one or two of the cells at the rear, are to be restored as a Police Station Charge Room of the period.
- * The cell-block at the rear to be developed as a Children's Library and as a place for class activities.
- * The main room upstairs to be used as a Meeting Room and Art Gallery, and one small room has been allocated for the storage of archive and historical items and material.
- * It is also proposed to provide catering facilities on the Ground Floor, and a place where information, arts and crafts items, booklets and other objects can be displayed to the public.

STOP PRESS *** Channel 9 are currently making a scene in the Watch House for a documentary on THUNDERBOLT for their Project 68 series.

PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE

We have Photographic Competition Jitters! We have no means of knowing how many entries we will finally receive, and we just can't bear to think of that vast space in the Commonwealth Bank all empty and foolish. Will you all please help to make sure of the success of this Competition? Even if you have only a box Brownie, please send in at least one entry.

We ask you also to pass on to someone you know the special leaflet with this NEWS SHEET ... if they can't use it, tell them to pass it on too!

Incidentally, the two Xmas Party raffles resulted in approx. \$52 towards the costs of the Competition. Especial thanks to HELENA RUBINSTEIN for donating some of their popular beauty aids for one of the prizes.

VERY GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS also must go to HANIMEX Pty. Limited, who have most kindly donated one of their famous projectors (retails at approx. \$75), which will be used as the Balmain Trophy for the best entry in the Competition.

BALMAIN (Christmas) CARDS

The sale of the Association Christmas Cards was most successful. The complete packs of 8 were all sold, but because of printing technicalities, we find that we have some small quantities of St. Mary's, the Watch House and Birchgrove House. These will be available at the next General Meeting or from the Secretary at the cost of 10 cents each until they are sold out. Since they made no specific mention of the festive season, there is no reason why they couldn't be used for any occasion that calls for a card greeting. Incidentally, profits on this effort to date total over

AN ANNOUNCEMENT - of a very Special Kind.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION
requests the Pleasure of the Company of its Members
(with-a-bottle-and-no-presents-please-and-eats-provided)
to
A RECEPTION
to Celebrate the Wedding of our
Honoured Secretary, Toni Furness, & Treasured Treasurer, John Mackenzie

at 18 William Street,
Balmain East.
Friday, 8th March
5 - 8 p.m.

R.S.V.P. Leisa Evans
31 - 2342
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

25th February - INSPECTION TOUR OF COCKATOO ISLAND

The management of Cockatoo Docks & Engineering Co. Pty. Ltd. have given permission for a party to land on the Island on Sunday, 25th February, and have also most generously provided the boat for transport.

As the maximum number permitted in the party is 100, it will be a case of "first come, first served". So do be early and avoid disappointment. \$1.00 will be collected as you go aboard, and this will also cover the cost of light refreshments.

The boat will leave COVE STREET WHARF at 1.30 p.m. sharp, returning about 5 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE NO CAMERAS ALLOWED.

By order of the Docks Management.

KEEP THE FOLLOWING DATES FREE

6th APRIL SMORGASBORD SUPPER
19th MAY INSPECTION OF WINDSOR
(full day by car)
Further details later.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

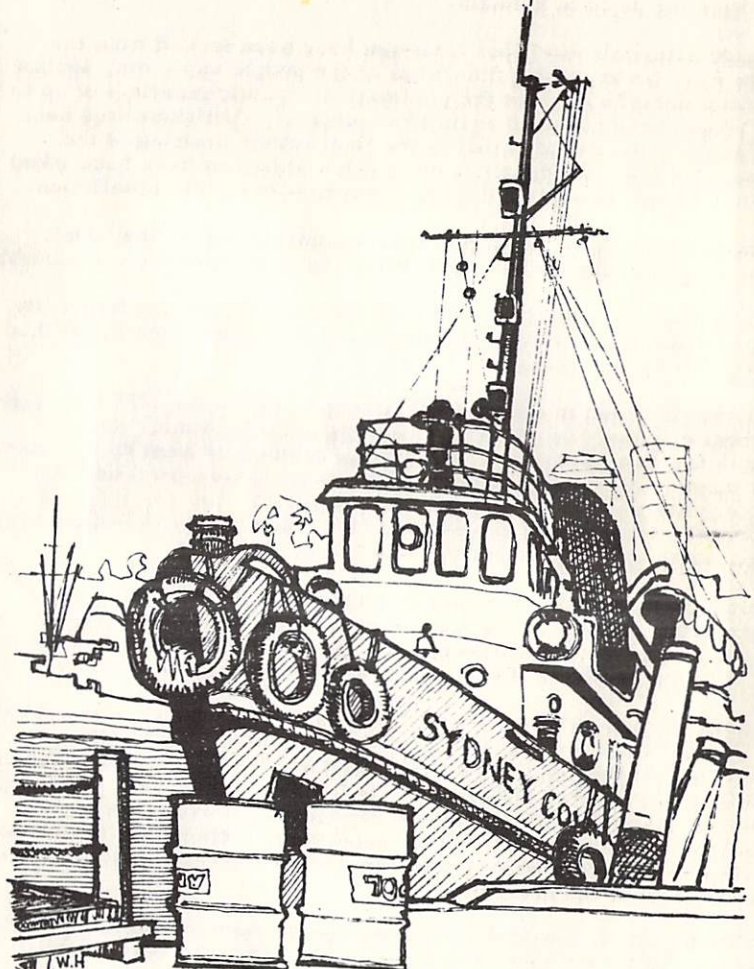
Anyone interested in the Association and/or intending New Members may obtain details from the Secretary, by filling in and mailing the form below.

The Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, BALMAIN. 2041

- * 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: _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



Typical scene at Darling St. wharf.

NEWS SHEET

TWELTH ISSUE: FEB. 1968

BALMAIN MOVES AGAINST CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS!

This was especially prepared by The Balmain Association in the public interest and submitted for publication to the four local newspapers in the Municipality of Leichhardt, viz. - THE LINK, THE BALMAIN OBSERVER, WESTGATE NEWS and THE WEST SYDNEY INDEPENDENT.

Balmain is in a ferment over Leichhardt Municipal Council's decision to allow Swift & Co. Limited to install a liquid chemical bulk storage and handling depot in Balmain.

Already Balmain's two Labor aldermen have been sacked from the Labor Party for expressing the wishes of the people and voting against a caucus decision to allow the application: public meetings of up to 350 people have protested against the proposal; petitions have been prepared; police were called to the final stormy meeting of the Council for 1967 and Rozelle's three Labor aldermen have been asked by their branch to explain their decision to vote for the installation.

Balmain people have shown that they are unanimous - they don't want dangerous chemicals stored within the boundaries of their suburb!

Recent history has demonstrated that accidents happen too frequently, despite reassurances from such agencies as the Mines Department that it couldn't happen here.

Naphtha (included in this proposal) was the cause of the 1965 New York Harbour disaster; Swift & Co.'s storage in Collingwood (Victoria) caught fire last December; chemicals accidentally went up in Bankstown last month, when several people were admitted to hospital and the hospital itself had to be prepared for evacuation; and early this year Townsville Harbour had to be sealed off because of fumes leaking from petrol tanks after a heavy fall of rain!

Some authorities say the chance of a chemical explosion blowing Balmain off the face of the map (or even fumes insidiously overcoming nearby residents) is a million to one; even these odds are too short for the Balmain people in the face of the "accidents" listed above.

Leichhardt Council's decision to allow the application remains a puzzle. At Council's last meeting of 1967, on December 12, four aldermen spoke against the application (Ald. Origlass, Wyner, Lewis and Turner) and only one for it (Ald. Casey of the Rozelle Ward). Yet when the vote was taken the Labor aldermen representing Rozelle, Annandale, Lilyfield and Leichhardt Wards mustered seven votes for the application against six. The overflowing gallery became incensed and demonstrated very vocally at the decision.

For their pains in speaking and voting against their colleagues, Aldermen Origlass and Wyner have since been expelled from the Labor Party.

Because such a move became an obvious possibility, the Balmain branch of the Labor Party called a public meeting on December 20 in order to rally support for the action of the two aldermen. Despite the fact that this was pre-Christmas week, 350 local residents attended.

This meeting passed a number of resolutions, which:

- * Commended the stand of the aldermen for opposing an undesirable industry and "expressing the will of the people."

- cont. in next column

BALMAIN MOVES AGAINST CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS - cont.

- * Called upon the Minister for Local Government to examine Council's decision.
- * Called for the names of the aldermen who supported the installation of the chemical storage tanks to be published in the Press.
- * Called upon Swift & Co. to justify its action in attempting to install a hazardous and obnoxious industry in the heart of a residential community.
- * Called upon Leichhardt Council to review its decision.

Leichhardt Council has every opportunity of carrying out the final resolution. Before the last meeting of the Council closed, an Independent, Ald. H. Turner, moved a rescission motion which is to be presented to the next meeting.

Because of this, The Balmain Association has asked all Balmain residents to attend this meeting (Leichhardt Town Hall, 8 p.m. February 6) to hear the motion debated and to demonstrate clearly that Council's electors DO NOT want an obnoxious and dangerous industry centred in a tightly packed area of homes, schools, churches and a hospital.

Join your fellow residents there to express your opposition to this move PERSONALLY; otherwise it may be too late!

--end Article.

EARLY DISTRIBUTION OF THIS ISSUE OF THE "NEWS SHEET"

This edition of the NEWS SHEET is coming to you a week earlier than would be normal, because it brings with it

**** A PERSONAL REQUEST TO YOU ****

and as many of your neighbours and Balmain residents as you can prevail upon, to make sure

YOU GO TO THE LEICHHARDT TOWN HALL, 6TH FEB.

and let the aldermen have a very clear idea of our feelings in this matter of the proposed tank farm installation.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall

15th. FEB. 8pm. Sharp

Please also make every effort to be at our own General Meeting on 15th February. There will be much to discuss, including a Public Meeting convened by the Association to be held in

THE BALMAIN TOWN HALL - 8 P.M. - MONDAY, 19TH FEB.

which the 3 contending candidates for the Balmain seat in the State elections will be invited to address before they go to the polls on 24th.

Association President, Dr. John Power, has also written inviting the Premier, Mr. Askin, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Renshaw, to attend, or to send a representative who should be able to speak with authority on their behalf on the many questions that will be asked.

ARCHITECTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This sub-committee is working in conjunction with the newly formed Watch House Sub-Committee, in the preparation of working drawings and details. A comprehensive measure-up has been completed, which shall form the basis for calling tenders for various building works, in order of priority.

So as to be prepared for the forthcoming Town Plan proposals which should be on display from the L.M.C. in early March, a survey of existing conditions in Balmain has been instituted. Survey teams have been allotted areas on which they will report about desirable environment improvements, recommended zoning changes, buildings and streetscapes which should be preserved, proposals for waterfront access, road traffic restrictions, parking, etc.

The information thus gathered will provide a reservoir of local knowledge for the preparation of objections to the plan and the submission of counter proposals, if such are warranted.

At the same time, a list of buildings will be recorded, which are considered worthy of further study, with the object of submitting a list to the National Trust of those which are believed to be worthy of classification.

HISTORICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The next meeting of this sub-committee is scheduled for Wednesday, 21st February, 8 p.m., Balmain Town Hall.

The newspaper reading program continues and, for those who have already offered their services, index cards are now available and may be obtained at the Association's next General Meeting on 15th Feb. or else on 21st Feb. from Mr. Bob Chambers.

A FEW "FIRSTS" - with acknowledgments to the Historical group.

- * The first BALMAIN COUNCIL MEETING took place in 1861 and our historians believe that the site was the loft of Capt. Rowntree's stone store, which still stands at the bottom of Stack Street.
- * The first Bowling Club in the City of Sydney was formed in 1882 and was located in DARLING STREET, BALMAIN.
- * The first LABOR PARTY MEETING IN AUSTRALIA took place in Balmain in 1891.
- * The first ROLLER SKATING RINK in N.S.W. was established in the old School of Arts Building on the site of the Dickson, Primer establishment, Darling & Ewinton Streets.

WATCH HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE

Satisfactory agreement has now been reached regarding the Lease with the Minister for Lands. This having been achieved, work on the restoration can now be commenced in earnest.

A Restoration Sub-Committee has been formed; tenders are open for the renewal of the front verandah and kitchen roofs; also for the renewal of the slate roof over the cell-block at the rear.

The historically-minded will be pleased to learn that stone from the recently demolished Birchgrove House has been purchased to be used in the general restoration work.

- cont. overleaf