

COMING EVENTS

SALE OF WORK ... Balmain is noted for its underground industries. November 16 and 17 is the time when they can come into the open ... for the Association's Sale of Work at the Watch House.

Any Association member who turns out home-made, saleable goods is welcome to put up a stall (it's just like Paddy's Markets), with 10% of the sale price going to the Association. Last year's effort was a great success, when the Association made more than \$100 in commission. Can we beat this in November?

ANOTHER BALMAIN INSPECTION DAY

In response to repeated requests for another Inspection Day, after the first one we held in June, 1966, the Association has arranged for another group of interesting houses in the area to be open to members, friends and interested public on Sunday, 13th October. Homes on the list include-

- 10 Ewenton Street (Shannon Grove - National Trust
Classification "C") (Mr. & Mrs. Tom Flower)
- 5 James Lane (Mr. Doug Salier)
- 1 William Street (Mr. and Mrs. Dick)
- 11 Vincent Street (Mr. and Mrs. Len Barton)
- 11a Grafton Street (Mr. and Mrs. John Morris)
- 45 Grove Street (Mr. and Mrs. Errol Pickard)
- 49 Grove Street (Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mantell)

The Watch House will also be open again, providing a good opportunity for visitors to view the restoration progress made to date by our hardworking Watch House sub-committee. Coffee will be on sale here all day.

Inspection times between 10.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Tickets are \$1.00 each and not too many of the 500 we had printed are left, so make haste and contact Richard Waterfield (82-2868) if you still wish to enjoy this day's outing ... or else bring your money to the Meeting on 10th October. Sorry, children under 12 NOT admitted to the houses.

ARCHEOLOGISTS AT PLAY

While excavating for the proposed chemical tanks in Donnelly Street, workmen unearthed what appeared to be ancient human remains. The appropriate people at the University of Sydney were notified and the company agreed to suspend work for up to a month while investigations and diggings took place, to establish whether the skeletons were of aboriginal origin.

Archeologists (including some local Association members) spent the week-end excavating and collecting the numerous skull fragments, teeth and bones, only to find that they belonged to sheep! In some past day, the local butcher had apparently used the land to dump his rubbish.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription renewals, which fell due on 1st July last, are coming in very slowly. Our paid-up membership stands at 155, of which 51 are new members. This means that some 250 members have not renewed their subscriptions. Each year the Association spends a great deal of time and money trying to round up missing subscriptions, so please check and make sure that you have renewed your membership.

NEW MEMBERS

The only way that The Balmain Association can have a strong voice in the future of Balmain is by increasing its membership. During 1968-69, we want every member to encourage another local resident to join the Association. The funds from the membership fees will help in the restoration of the Watch House and the increased membership will add weight to the Association's efforts to ensure that Balmain remains a good living area.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with articles 20 and 25 of our constitution, the Secretary has received a letter signed by 12 members requesting that a Special General Meeting be called to amend the rules of the constitution so that pensioners and children under 15 years may become members of the Association for an annual subscription of twenty cents (20c). This Special General Meeting will be held immediately prior to the next General Meeting on Thursday, 10th October, when this resolution will be put before the members of this Association.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall

OCTOBER 10 - 8 P.M. SHARP

DETAILS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

To those interested and intending New Members, details of the Association can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Lillian Anderson. Just complete and mail the request form below.

To the Hon. Sec., Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, Balmain. 2041

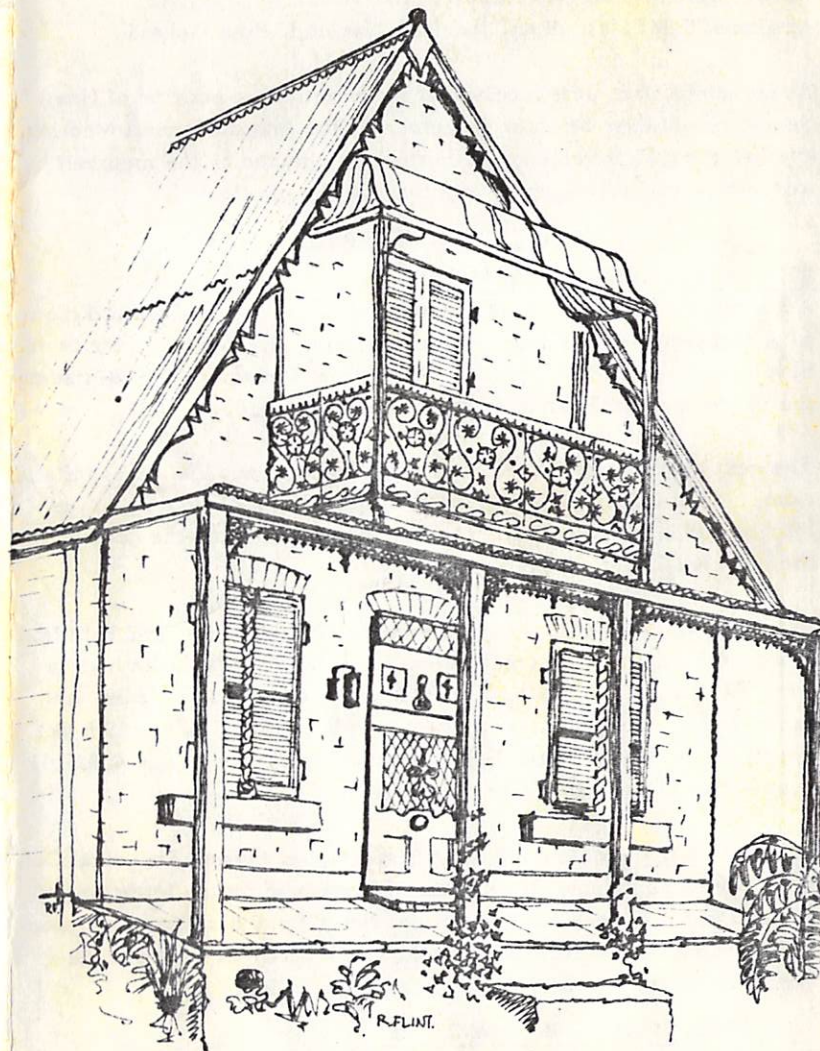
- . I wish to join The Balmain Association (\$1 membership fee enclosed herewith)
- . I wish to receive further particulars about the Association.
(strike out whichever not applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

'Phone No. _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

SIXTEENTH ISSUE
OCTOBER, 1968

ANNUAL ELECTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Office Bearers elected at the Third Annual General Meeting, held on 15th August, 1968 were -

President	Robert Irving
Vice-President	John Power
Treasurer	John Mackenzie

Management Committee

Messrs. Tom Flower, Bill Haesler, Alan Harding
Mesdames Sybil Masterman, Jocelyne Macleod, Rose Pickard

As no nominations were received at the time for the position of Hon. Secretary and there being no volunteers at the Annual General Meeting, the incoming Management Committee, as directed by the members at the Meeting, subsequently appointed to the position

MRS. LILLIAN ANDERSON

THE WATCH HOUSE IS TAKING SHAPE

Activities at the Watch House continue as the year progresses and the results of the regular working bees are becoming more evident. Most windows have been reglazed and repaired, the Charge Room has been painted and the inside door jambs are being repaired or replaced.

The next major items will be sewerage, drainage and electrical installations. Work will also continue on the replacement of flooring to the kitchen and lobby and a start is to be made in preparing the cells for the proposed Children's Library.

All of this work is being carried out by the "Faithful Few" and help from other members would be appreciated, even if it is only for an hour or two. Generally, work starts at 9.30 a.m. and finishes at 5 p.m. and occurs EVERY fortnight. The next working bee will be held on 5th Oct. Tradesmen would be particularly appreciated, but there is work for all, irrespective of age, ability or sex.

Mr. Harry Millan, of the School of Photography, Sydney Technical College is providing colour slides of the Watch House for the forthcoming R.A.H.S. Conference (see "Historical Notes") and has also taken photographs of the current restoration work, as an historical record of the Watch House and a possible basis for a future booklet.

ARCHITECTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This committee is at present liaising with the Historical Committee to complete a list of buildings in the Balmain area worthy of preservation.

We consider such a list to be of value to both the National Trust and the Council, as Balmain and its connection with early Sydney has many unique and historical buildings which may otherwise be overlooked and destroyed in the present development boom.

THE COUNCIL AT WORK

In spite of the efforts of Balmain ward aldermen, the problems of our district continue to receive scant recognition at Leichhardt Council Meetings. Recently the Council has:

- * Approved the application for a 300 ft. R. W. Miller wharf jutting into Snail's Bay.
- * Refused to sign the Libraries Act, so cutting us off from the Government's subsidy of 30 cents a person, and ending the possibility of local public libraries for the time being at least.
- * refused to authorise the issue of a stopwork order on the private contractors on the White Bay container "shed", although Council's solicitors said it could be done. The idea was to force the M.S.B. to come into the open about its plans for the site.
- * Passed up the chance to quiz the A.N.L. about the differences between the way the Morts Bay terminal is being used, and the way the A.N.L. SAID it would be used. The arrangement was "sold" on the basis of passenger, not cargo traffic, with a beautification programme for the site thrown in, but the emphasis has been on cargo, and no beautification. Instead, Council contented itself with a general protest about Sunday work at the terminal

It is hoped that some of the "majority" aldermen who have been silent on this and other contentious issues will state their positions should they be standing again for election at the forthcoming campaign.

FUTURE WHARF DEVELOPMENT AT PEACOCK POINT?

The vacant land at Peacock Point, south of the Darling St. Ferry Wharf, is staying with the M.S.B. after all. It was offered to Council for lease as a public reserve but, in the final analysis, the M.S.B. wanted the right to resume the land on only 6 month's notice. Council refused to accept this condition, particularly as it considered that many thousands of dollars would need to be spent on a retaining wall and other maintenance.

OBJECTIONS TO THE LEICHHARDT PLANNING SCHEME

The objections to the Local Planning Scheme which have been under consideration since June this year are still being processed. Nearly 1000 individual objections were received and because of overlap require closer investigation, according to the Council.

As yet, the Association has received no indication of the Council's attitude to the objection booklet submitted and it is disturbing that development in the Municipality is proceeding apparently without the protection of the Plan in areas subject to objections by residents.

If the present rate of development and obnoxious intrusion continues the proposed Plan will be a bigger farce than it already appears to be.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Members of the sub-committee have organized an "Historical Convezazione" when about 15 Balmain people who can remember Balmain in the late 1890s and 1900s will tell us of past scenes and personalities. Mr. & Mrs. Flower have made their home available for this Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, October 26.

The sub-committee's pictorial records have been on display again - three times at the Watch House, when the Association organized tours of Balmain by outside Societies, and once at Nicholson St. Public School during Education Week. On each occasion the display provoked a great deal of interest and discussion.

The R.A.H.S. conference this year concerns the restoration of buildings. The conference will be held on October 18 to 20th, and two Association representatives will attend. Our representatives have been invited to talk about the Watch House and the restoration work going on there. Some colour slides of the Watch House also will be shown.

A report of the conference will be given to the sub-committee's next meeting, to be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. F. Field, Commonwealth Bank, 651 Darling St., Rozelle (entrance Merton St.). On October 22.

THE LOCAL PRESS - ACTION AT LAST?

"The Link" newspaper's latest interest in the local scene is refreshing and its coverage of recent Council decisions is welcomed as residents must be made aware of the way Balmain is being given away to unsympathetic industrialists.

The power of the press is often quoted, and it is hoped that the present campaign will have the desired effect on the forthcoming Council elections.

It is disturbing that the opposition newspaper continues to ignore important local issues.

BITES OF SPRING

Spring came in with a bang at the Magillicuddy's on August 30 when the wine flowed and the music swung. Takings for the night were \$46, which goes to the Watch House restoration fund. Our thanks on this occasion go to Richard and Gerry for lending us their home for the night.

YOUR COVER

Those of you who viewed our recent Photographic Competition will remember seeing a camera-eye view of this brick and iron lace Balmain house, with its attractive, small balcony. Now you see a pen and ink sketch of it, which, we think you will agree, also catches the charm of the period.