

ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS CARDS :

Don't rush into town to buy your Christmas cards - they are available here in Balmain from your Association. A completely new set of Balmain scenes, again drawn by Lorraine Power. They come in packs of 8 cards in 4 colours for only \$1. They may be purchased from the newly opened Handicrafts Shop opposite the Town Hall at 371b Darling Street, or from Richard Waterfield, 'phone 82-2868. This year they are specially designed so that you may put in your own Christmas message, and they are also good for using throughout the year as "Thank You" notes, party invitations, etc. etc.

Don't forget that all profit from these goes to the Watch House restoration funds.

WORK CONTINUES AT THE WATCH HOUSE :

Mainly through the efforts of Association member, Mr. Arthur Ellis, the Watch House now has a water supply and - importantly - sewerage connections. There is much relief and thankful acclaim at this last development and an impressive opening ceremony was held in the presence of the assembled workers, when Mrs. Pat McCauley had the honour of launching the restored system.

The Library cell has been cleaned out, walls and ceiling have been cleaned and sealed. Bob Blood, because of shift work, was able to spend some days painting this room, and shelving will soon be installed.

At the going to Press of this News Sheet, tenders were being invited for the connection of electricity to the building. With power available, progress will be much easier. To date, we have been fortunate in obtaining power from very good neighbours of the Watch House, who live in Colgate Avenue.

Stage II of the electrical work will be tendered for shortly when details of the type of lighting to be used in the Art Gallery Room and suitable fittings have been selected.

During the preparation for the sale of work just held on November 16 and 17, temporary repairs were made to the flooring near the staircase. Where the boards were taken up, two mysteries were revealed.

Beneath the stairs and in the foundations is a large stone platform resembling a hearth. There is no sign of this having been completed or being continued through the floor, or of a chimney. This substantiates the suspicion that the Watch House kitchen was an afterthought - a skillion addition that was added after the work on the main building was underway, but before it was completed.

The other find was a portion of a policeman's boot - the upper had a large circular hole cut out of it, and it was obvious that this early minion of the law had a tremendous bunion. Alas, indeed, his lot was not a happy one !!

Next year's work plan - One of the first jobs scheduled for the New Year is to get all the old paint off the front of the building so that the new floor boards can be put down for the verandah. So all you experienced scutchers, please get ready!

END OF YEAR REVELS :

The annual Association Christmas Barbeque will once again be held at the Masterman's waterfront, 2 Numa Street, Brichgrove, on

SATURDAY, December 14, commencing 6.30 p.m.

Dress is casual and it is requested that ladies wear low heeled shoes, please. Fires will be provided (subject to fire ban restrictions at the time) and participants are asked to bring their own steaks and liquid refreshments.

The evening is a free one and is open to all Association members. Make sure your current subscription has been paid and join us in making the night a great success.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall

5th. DEC. 8pm sharp

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS :

Our membership is steadily increasing and we now have a total of 329 financial members. This figure includes 75 new members, but there are still 88 members who have not renewed.

This News Sheet will be the last one sent to members who have not paid their annual subscription, so please check and make sure that you have paid your subscription, which was due on July 1, last, and give the Association the benefit of your support.

A Special General Meeting was held prior to our last General Meeting and a motion was passed unanimously that the subscription for pensioners of any class and children under 15 be 20¢ per year.

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 herebelow.

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 \$1.00 (ordinary member)
20¢ (pensioner or child under 15)

* I would like to receive details about the Association.

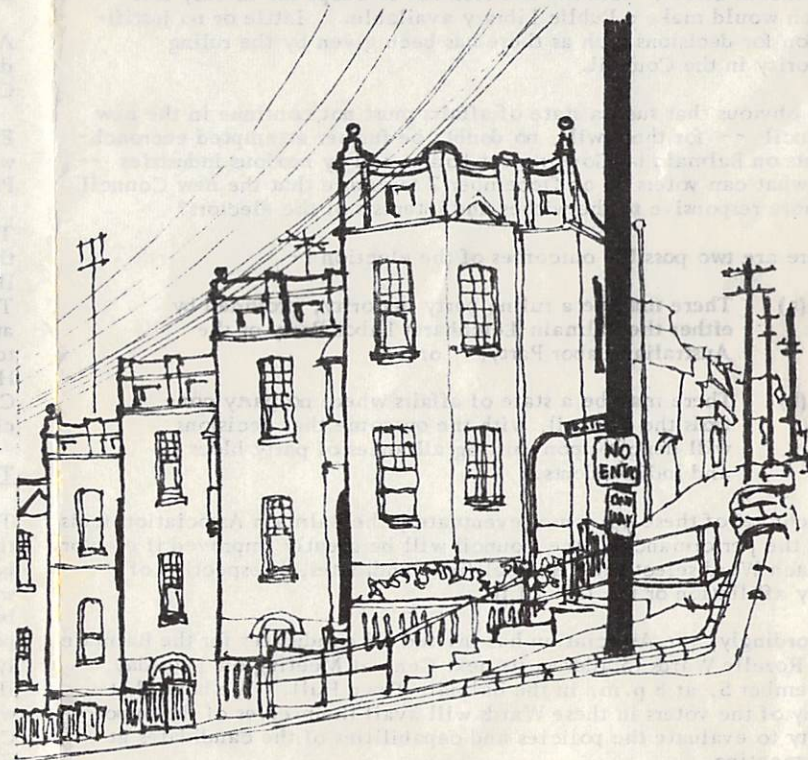
(Cross out whatever not applicable.)

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

'Ph. No. _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

SEVENTEENTH ISSUE
DECEMBER 1968

EDITORIAL :

The excellent news coverage of the Balmain scene appearing in THE LINK newspaper makes the reporting of such items in this News Sheet unnecessary. It has been decided to concentrate on items of interest within the Association which, we feel, members are likely to take an interest in. The Association will, of course, indicate its policies regarding local issues from time to time and urges all members to take an interest in the local scene to ensure that Balmain's residential amenity is not overrun by hasty, indiscriminate developments.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS :

In the last year, the performance of the Leichhardt Municipal Council has left a great deal to be desired. Many decisions that have vitally affected the future of Balmain have been imposed upon Balmain by the Council. Three important ones have been - the development of Mort's Dock as a container site; the chemical tank installation in Vincent Street; and the decision not to adopt the Library Act which would make a Public Library available. Little or no justification for decisions such as these has been given by the ruling majority in the Council.

It is obvious that such a state of affairs must not continue in the new Council -- for there will, no doubt, be further attempted encroachments on Balmain by Government bodies and by noxious industries -- but what can voters do on December 7 to ensure that the new Council is more responsive to the wishes and interests of the electors?

There are two possible outcomes of the election :-

- (a) There may be a ruling party majority, provided by either the Balmain-Leichhardt Labor Party or the Australian Labor Party, or
- (b) There may be a state of affairs where no party controls the Council, with the outcome that decisions will depend upon shifting alliances of party blocs and Independents.

Whichever of these outcomes eventuates, the Balmain Association feels that the performance of the Council will be greatly improved if electors in each Ward select the best qualified candidates, irrespective of party affiliation or the lack of it.

Accordingly, the Association has invited all candidates for the Balmain and Rozelle Wards to address its next General Meeting on Thursday, December 5, at 8 p.m. in the Balmain Town Hall. We hope that many of the voters in these Wards will avail themselves of the opportunity to evaluate the policies and capabilities of the candidates at this meeting.

The Association feels that it can best promote the cause of efficient and responsible Government in the Municipality, not by endorsing candidates, but rather by offering electors the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the wide range of candidates before voting.

HONORARY SECRETARY :

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of our newly appointed Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Lillian Anderson.

We are pleased, however, that the position has now been taken by Mrs. Ethel May. Mrs. May has been a resident of Balmain East for about 22 years and her knowledge of Balmain and long standing interest in the area will be of benefit to the Association.

BALMAIN HOMES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC :

Over 500 tickets were sold for our own Balmain Inspection Day on October 13, when the "tourists", mostly from outside the area, saw over seven private homes and the Watch House. Fine weather helped make the day an especially memorable one, and many favourable comments were heard about the organization of the Day, the comprehensive notes provided, and the homes themselves.

A profit of \$557.74, including \$10.37 in donations, was made from the day, and that doesn't include the income from sales of the Association's Christmas cards and coffee at the Watch House.

Excellent advance publicity helped swell the attendance. Included were mentions in the Herald, by Gwen Plumb on radio, and David Paterson of Channel 10, for which we are grateful.

This was one of four inspections of Balmain since the coming of Spring, the others having been made by the Royal Australian Historical Society, Illawarra Historical Society and the Junior Group of the National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.). The last of these, on September 22, was attended by about 150 young members of the Trust. An interesting tour was arranged, incorporating the Post Office, Court House, Watch House, Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church and St. Mary's Church, as well as four private homes. It concluded with a wine and cheese party on the lawn of the home of one of our members.

THE WATCH HOUSE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY :

The Library cell has been cleaned out and, thanks to the efforts of the Watch House sub-committee, painted. Our little collection of books is still growing and we would like to thank all those members who have contributed. Several generous members have bought new books for the Library and these are particularly appreciated. It is not possible to acknowledge all donations here, but we would particularly like to thank Dr. John Power, who has donated a splendid new illustrated Junior Encyclopaedia set, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chambers, who have promised to buy us each year the winning book in the Children's Book Council "Book of the Year" award. PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT MORE BOOKS ARE NEEDED!

CONVERSAZIONE :

The Conersazione held at "Shannon Grove" on Saturday, October 26 was a success. Eight older residents talked non-stop for two hours, and the recorders ran out of tape. We look forward, with pleasure, to the next afternoon of this type.

THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY CAMPAIGN :

The Libraries for Leichhardt Committee, which our Association supports wholeheartedly, has questioned every candidate standing for election to Council next month on policy in regard to a Municipal Library service. It is heartening to read in the local papers and in the election campaign material being distributed around the district that virtually every candidate has declared himself in favour of establishing a Library service. The more sceptical among us (and in this Municipality who can afford not to be sceptical?) are a little alarmed at the rather vague terms which surround these promises. It is also surprising to read that some aldermen who only last month voted against adopting the Libraries Act are now in favour of doing just that, according to their policy announcements. At our next General Meeting we may perhaps have a chance to pin the candidates down to some definite statements.

HISTORICAL SUB-COMMITTEE :

The Historical Sub-Committee met on November 19 when the main item on the agenda was the programme for 1969. It was decided to alternate "Business" and "Activity" meetings each month from January to November. "Activity" meetings will take the form of talks on various aspects of history, E.G., architectural, police, military and the like. Members also indicated their desire to make one day visits to other areas of historic interest and dates will be arranged during the year. The next meeting will be a "Business" one on Tuesday, January 14, 1969, at the home of Mr. E. Letts, 20 Clifton Lane, Balmain East.

SALE OF WORK :

This year's sale of work and handicrafts, held at the Watch House on November 16 and 17, again proved a great success and produced a net profit of \$191.78 for the Association.

The very varied selection of items on sale which ranged from porcelain to pumpkin plants, gave members and friends a perfect opportunity to solve a number of Christmas present problems.

Saturday proved to be the busiest and most popular day with the hot, sunny weather on Sunday turning potential customers to the beaches.

We would like to thank all the stall holders who helped to make this sale so popular. The Watch House stand which was stocked with items donated by the Harding family, Thea Banks, Mrs. Norman and Hilton Taylor, brought a very satisfying 100% return for the Watch House funds.

The Watch House also gained two fine wooden plant tubs, which were donated by Samantha Lucas of "Finders Keepers" in Darling Street.

In any language, the spirit of Christmas is the same and THE MERRIEST OF CHRISTMAS

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION wishes ALL ITS MEMBERS good wishes for 1969 *****

*VROLIJK KERSTMIS
*JOYEUX NOEL *BUON NATALE
*FROHE WEIHNACHTEN *PASCUA de NAVIDAD