

FUTURE COMPETITIONS

Because of the popularity of the Association's exhibitions ... the Photographic Competition last year, and the recent Children's Paint-In ... the officer in charge of display at the Commonwealth Savings Bank has asked what we intend to arrange next year. Your Publicity sub-committee, drunk with success, has come up with some mind-boggling suggestions and the Bank's man is looking at us with apprehension.

Perhaps members have more realistic ideas which we can use. One suggestion has been a children's short essay on early Balmain ... phantasy or fact. Ideally, the competition result should be something which can be displayed to the public.

RESTORATION OF OLD BUILDINGS

At the Annual General Meeting, Mr. Roy Olsson of W.A. Flick & Co. Pty. Ltd., has kindly arranged to screen some films made by his company showing the way in which they have been able to treat and restore a number of historic old buildings.

Members will recall that Mr. Olsson and his company generously donated a large amount of time, effort and material in cleaning the stonework of the Watch House and anyone who has seen the results cannot fail to be impressed with the quality of the work.

Mr. Olsson recently made a world tour for his company, investigating the latest methods used in overseas countries to restore and preserve historic buildings, and he is considered to be a leading expert in his field in Australia.

"HOUSES OF BALMAIN"

Over 100 copies of the recently published Horwitz book, "Houses of Balmain", have been sold by the Association, which has resulted in a profit of about \$67. A further 100 books have also been distributed and the proceeds from the sale of these should be received shortly. The book makes an excellent gift - Xmas? Overseas friends/relatives? Buy through the Association and increase our funds. Copies will again be available at the A.G.M. or may be obtained from -

Mrs. Jocelyne MacLeod, Mr. Bill Haesler,
37 Ballast Point Road, 5 Lookes Avenue,
Birchgrove. Tel. 82-4652 East Balmain. Tel. 82-3956

MEMBERSHIP FEES

PLEASE! may we again remind all members who have not paid, that subscriptions were due for renewal on 30th June last. At the time of going to press, less than 1/5th of our members have paid their renewals. Your cooperation in letting us have your subscriptions will save the Association time and money in sending out reminders.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1969

Balmain Town Hall

8 P.M. SHARP

The following nominations have been received for the Association Management Committee for the year 1969/70:

President: Bill Haesler
Vice-President: Robert Beverley
Secretary: Margaret Dobson (Mrs.)
Treasurer: John Mackenzie
Committee:

Thea Banks (Miss) Robert Irving
Tom Flower Louis Lodge
Alan Harding Peter Reynolds
Diana Rogers (Mrs.)

As the number of nominations received is equal to the number of Committee vacancies, it will not be necessary to take a vote, and the list of candidates need only be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

INSPECTION DAY TO PARRAMATTA

A well-organized and informative day touring around the restored, historic dwellings and buildings in Parramatta on 8th July last was not, unfortunately, well patronised. Only \$19 was collected (after paying admission fees, etc. to the National Trust and the Parramatta Historical Society) for the Association funds.

MEDIEVAL NIGHT - SATURDAY, 30TH AUGUST

Dress warmly in your medieval costume. Exotic prizes to be won for the best outfit. Revelry starts at 8 p.m. 2 Louisa Road. Mulled wine and chicken vitals will be served. Sorry, but the number must be limited to 100, so avoid disappointment and make sure you get your lucky entry ticket at the Annual General Meeting - or ring Jocelyne MacLeod - 82-4652. Tickets \$1.50 each.

OUR COVER - Acknowledgments to John Fairfax & Sons are made for the use of their Paint-In photo. We think it has caught the essence of artistic concentration.

If you are interested in joining the Balmain Association, write to
The Hon. Secretary,
The Balmain Association,
Box 57, Post Office, Balmain.. 2041

Membership fees - Ordinary member - \$1.00
Pensioner or child under 15 - 20c.



COUNCIL HEARINGS OF PLANNING SCHEME OBJECTIONS

After the turbulence of recent weeks, Leichhardt Council Chambers were comparatively quiet at the meeting of Council on Wednesday, 16th July, to commence hearing objections to the zoning of land under the new Planning Scheme. The public gallery was half empty at the beginning, but gradually filled up as the night progressed. An incipient bout of heckling was smartly suppressed by the Mayor and the hearings continued with only murmurings of disbelief from the gallery

The companies seeking re-zoning of certain lands on the Balmain peninsula and whose objections were heard on Wednesday evening are Monsanto Chemicals (Aust.) Ltd., Morrison & Sinclair Pty. Ltd., Stannard Bros. Pty. Ltd., Jubilee Engineering Co. Pty. Ltd., Max Cooper & Son, J. Fenwick & Co., Newbound & Co. Ltd. and a number of major oil companies. The proposals from all the companies except Monsanto (who objected to waterfront industrial classification being applied to portion of their land) dealt with the changing of the zoning of their particular occupancy to industrial classification in a residential area. All claimed that residential classification of the land would inhibit their expansion ... and we know what that means.

A Leichhardt alderman, who is well versed in waterfront activities, asked some very pertinent questions - including why Fenwick & Co., as shareholders in Sydney Slipway, should claim that their office in Balmain East was essential to their activities, when they could quite conveniently carry on their business from the Sydney Slipway's site.

The representative of a firm of town planners appearing for Stannard Bros., Fenwick & Co. and Cooper & Son was particularly affronted by the zoning of a foreshore protection area. Apparently, as one alderman pointed out, Balmain's foreshores were not entitled to be protected.

Touches of humour were introduced by Morrison & Sinclair claiming that their activities were inoffensive to surrounding residents because they had never complained to the company, and suggesting that Louisa Road be widened to carry industrial traffic; by Jubilee Engineering inferring they had been established in Louisa Rd. in their present capacity for 40 years; by Cooper & Son saying that the houses in The Avenue were so few and so old that it was ludicrous to zone the area as residential; and by the town planners' representative, after dropping the word "aesthetic" into his objection, being asked by an alderman whether he thought the Stannard Bros. site in Wharf Road could be considered aesthetic.

The hearings will continue in special meetings convened by Council on alternate Wednesday evenings, commencing at 8 p.m. Association members may possibly be interested in attending some of these. The objections will be reported only by the Leichhardt Town Planner and Council's decision will be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government and Highways for his consideration.

PAINT-IN AT BALMAIN - 28th June

Thank goodness it was fine, otherwise what a disaster it could have been. That ace organizer, John Mackenzie obviously had been up early collecting the odd things needed on a day like this - a hundredweight of butcher's paper, a huge coil of twine, knives, scissors, marking pencils, bits of stone for holding things down, clothes pegs Earlier, the paints had been ordered - 40 lb. in various colours. By 9 a.m. the girls were beginning to mix them up with the wallpaper glues, and finally the big "Paint-In" sign went up at the main entrance to Gladstone Park.

Already some of the local youngsters were on the scene "to help", which they did by lining up the 120-odd brushes, leaving dusty footprints on the prepared paper, and carting easels over from the nearby public school. Their numbers began to grow alarmingly as the time for the Paint-In to commence drew near (11 a.m.), giving rise to the suspicion that things were going to get quickly out of hand. But, no. Soon the park was alive with small figures hard at work, sitting, lying or standing up, the little cups of paint within easy reach.

The two and three year olds were having a quiet splash on the fringe of things, while the oldies of five, six, seven and eight settled down to more serious stuff.

As the paintings began to come off the assembly line, strings were strung up between the park trees as "drying racks". By midday, upwards of 300 children were swarming about in the park, but the organizers' fears of chaos never materialised. One group was busy keeping up the paint and brush supplies, another pinning up the still wet pictures, while others helped "supervise". Both press and television photographers "shot" the lines of multi-coloured paintings, and Miss Pat of ABC TV and David Paterson of ABC radio arrived to have a few words with the children. When it had all come to an inevitable and successful ending, it took two of us to carry the pile of 350 paintings over to the cars - and they were all beaut.

PRIZEWINNERS - Unfortunately, due to lack of space in this issue, the names of the winners will be held over till the next News Sheet.

The Association wishes to thank the following people who kindly donated prizes:

- Roger Degen, M.L.A. for Balmain
- William Collins (Aust.) Ltd.
- John Sands Pty. Ltd.
- Ponsford Newman & Benson Ltd.
- Fina School Requisites
- Horwitz Publications Pty. Ltd.

and the various Schools in the peninsula, whose Principals permitted the event to be publicised amongst their pupils.

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE PLAN

One of the most important recent objectives of the Balmain Association has been the formal submission to Leichhardt Municipal Council of the Association's booklet "Objections to the Leichhardt Planning Scheme".

The Council, by a narrow interpretation of the Local Government Act, decided not to receive our objections, ruling that an objector must have a pecuniary interest in the particular piece of land about which he wished to protest. We had presumed that any group or individual had the right to say about a planning scheme if the formalities of objecting had been observed. There are plenty of precedents for this, one being the Paddington Society's objections to Sydney's planning scheme. We appealed to the Minister for Local Government, who gave as his opinion that the Council could receive our objections if they chose to. We got the same opinion from the State Planning Authority and from other town planning experts. There appeared to be no real reason why the Balmain Association, representing more than 400 residents, could not be heard by Council along with the dozens of other people whose objections had been received.

Having thus failed in our formal submission, we met and informally discussed this (and several other community matters) with the Mayor and the Deputy-Mayor, who both seemed optimistic when we asked if the Council might change its mind about rejecting our comments on the Plan.

At the suggestion of the Mayor, we have again formally asked Leichhardt Council to reconsider our objections to the Planning Scheme, and allow the Association to present verbal comments in the series of Council hearings currently taking place. Although reported elsewhere to the contrary, no known decision has been made known by the Council at the time of writing (24th August, 1969).

FERRIES

A copy of a letter sent to Mr. Roger Degen, M.L.A., by the Minister for Transport has been forwarded to the Association. In essence, it sets out the adoption of certain proposals put to the Minister's representatives on 15th May last by Mr. Degen and local citizens, including a representative of the Association (refer News Sheet No. 20, June 1969). As from August 11, 1969 the prevailing timetable will be arranged as shown below, for departures from Darling St. wharf:

Present timetable	Proposed timetable
6.30 a.m.	6.30 a.m.
7.05 a.m.	7.00 a.m.
7.40 a.m.	7.30 a.m.
8.25 a.m.	8.15 a.m. **
8.30 a.m.	8.30 a.m.

A larger vessel with capacity for 150 persons will run on the 8.15 a.m. service, as from August 11.