

WHO TO CONTACT

A reminder that the Maritime Services Board has a Duty Officer (tel. 2-0545) who, in the past, has been helpful in response to telephoned requests, in trying to curb ships "clearing their pipes" over Balmain. The Department of Health also want to hear from anyone in our area spotting sources of air pollution. The contact there is Mr. Kevin Dixon, Area Engineer (tel. 27-8541, Extn. 28).

MEDIEVAL NIGHT

A moat, completewith drawbridge, portcullis and, of course, Excalibur rising from the lake, made a perfect entrance for the Medieval Party held at the Hampton's house. Rumour had it that Lady Godiva was arriving but we can only assume that she was arrested by the Vice Squad as she rode her hobby horse down Darling Street!

If the party lacked some of the friendly atmosphere usually found at a Balmain Association gathering, the blame rests not with the Fundraising Sub-committee who worked hard to ensure everyone had a good time; our members were very thinly spread - in fact, more visitors were there than Balmain residents. We realise that some people may want to buy unlimited numbers of tickets on the night and that by setting a limit of 100 for this party we may have deterred some members. But we did have tickets for sale six weeks before the party and it is impossible to provide chicken and wine at parties unless we have some idea of the number of people we are catering for.

Profit was \$59.31, which was extremely good, seeing that only 68 people attended.

INSPECTION DAY

We were hoping to hold another Inspection Day this spring, but have found that all the "new" houses we had hoped to show are not yet ready. However, we should be able to arrange an interesting selection for viewing during the first half of 1970, preferably in the early part of the year so as to give a boost to the Watch House Restoration Fund.

NEXT FUNCTIONS

A report on the next Association functions, including the Christmas party, will be given in the December issue of the News Sheet.

COVER - The cover sketch by Robert Irving is of St. Mary's Church of England in Darling Street, designed by Edmund Blacket when he was 26 years old, the church was completed in 1846.

HOUSING

The recent report prepared by the Architectural Sub-committee on residential development on the Balmain peninsula pointed out the need for a realistic look at the problems of the present system of housing development.

We must recognise that a lot of new building will take place in the next few years in this area and, judging by most of the efforts to date, much of it will be environmentally and aesthetically bad. The reason for this can be found in the lack of understanding by Municipal authorities of the problem and its application to inner suburban areas. This is not peculiar to our Council, but is common to the whole of Sydney.

Planners are becoming increasingly aware of the need for new bylaws to control new types of development and the State Planning Authority has provided some initiative in recent planning scheme ordinances. We believe, however, that by the time the recommendations filter down to local government level it will be too late. Unless the people controlling Balmain are made aware of the problem and given some way of finding a solution, the area will become another sprawl of uncoordinated flats and housing.

The Architectural Sub-committee is now working on a further report which we hope will show how the various housing types can be combined to give Balmain a distinctive character by preserving what is good and replacing what is bad with harmonious housing types, suited to the geography of the peninsula.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall

Thursday,

OCTOBER 9 -

8pm sharp

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in the Association and/or intending New Members may obtain details from the Hon. Sec. by filling in and mailing this form.

.....
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.

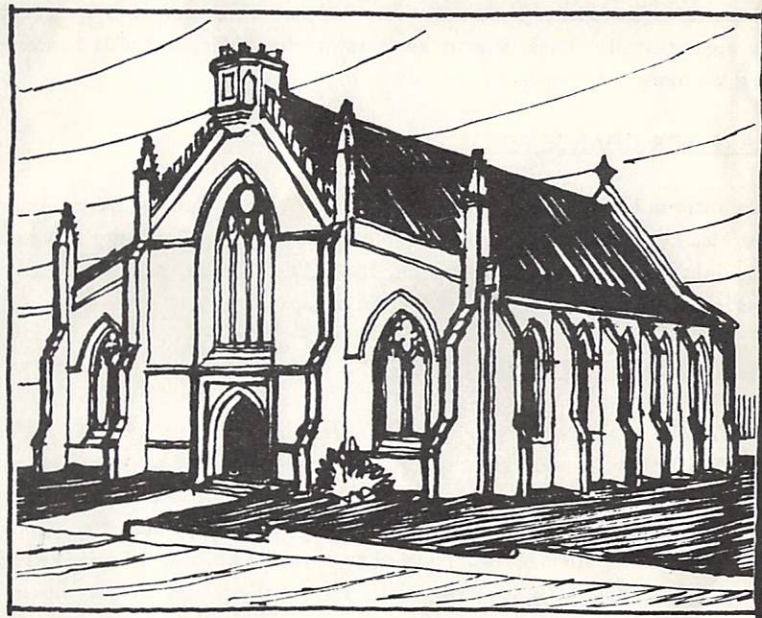
(Cross out whatever not applicable.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph.No. _____

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



NEWS SHEET

OCTOBER No 22

ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND - DARLING ST, BALMAIN.

WORK ON THE WATCH HOUSE INTENSIFIES

The Association's biggest single project to date - the restoration of the Watch House - is demanding a more intensive effort from our membership, with the official opening now scheduled for April 1970. Visit it next time it is open and you will see how much there is still to be done. There are not many weeks left and everyone is asked to help, even if only in a small way. None of the individual tasks is too arduous, and they can even be fun. You are again urged to give your name to a member of the Management Committee for weekend help.

The regular working bees are continuing at the Watch House every second Saturday, the next being on October, then October 18, and so on. There have been three working bees on Sundays as well, and these have brought to light some new helpers whose services are greatly appreciated. These Sunday sessions are irregular, but will be coming up more frequently now.

LAMP FOR CHARGE ROOM

An antique lamp has been provided for the Watch House Charge Room by Mr. Len Barton, a member of the Association. The lamp is a hanging one, originally using kerosene, has a large shade, and is of the period when the Charge Room was in use.

WATCH THE WATCH HOUSE

During the school holidays, the newly repaired upstairs windows facing up Darling Street were smashed by vandals. Apparently, this was done by older children, as large bricks and stones were found on the floor. One stone pierced the glass, broke some glazing bars and hit the opposite wall. The matter was reported to Balmain Police, who promised they would especially look out when passing the building. Members are asked also to keep watch on the Watch House.

WE THINK THAT WE SHALL NEVER SEE ...

The Association recently forwarded to the Leichhardt Municipal Council a report regarding landscaping and planting of trees in parts of Balmain. The following reply has been received: "Council's Special Parks and Playing Areas Committee has now given consideration to the matter and I am directed to advise that Council's finances preclude the carrying out of these works in the current financial year. Council also directed that your Association be thanked for its interest." Judging from press reports on the state of the Council's finances, we wonder what other activities are going to be either precluded, or else financed out of higher rates.

LIBRARIES

As a result of the recent activities by the Council showing an interest in setting up libraries in the Leichhardt Municipality, the Association was considering up-dating and re-submitting its earlier proposals for Council's consideration to convert older type homes into branch libraries. However, in view of the "Council's finances preclude" message received in connection with landscaping and trees, we doubt that we shall see libraries opened this year or next either.

We will wait until we hear something official, keeping in touch through our membership of the Library for Leichhardt Committee. Our delegate, Terry Chapman, reported after a recent meeting of this Committee that the Mayor had advised Council was considering buying a house in Marion Street, Leichhardt, to accommodate the Baby Health Centre on the ground floor, and the first municipal branch library on the upper floor. Members of the Committee felt on hearing this that they had achieved their purpose and should disband. However, Mr. Chapman moved, and the motion was carried, that until the first branch was a reality the Committee should go into recess only.

BLACKED OUT

This is preaching to the converted, but ... we express the view that Balmain people should not have to put up with soot being pumped out by container ships berthed at the new White Bay terminal, culminating in the "blacking out" of part of the peninsula on September 16.

The facts are reported as follows: the brand new Australian "Endeavour" belonging to the Commonwealth Government-owned Australian National Line, and on its maiden voyage to Australia, cleared its exhaust system for a time period reported to be close to one hour. The black oily ash blew westward and poured through doorways and windows. Some residents spent half a day scrubbing, trying to return things to normal. One of our members who had just emerged from a shower had to dive back in again to "decarbonise".

This is not the first offensive nuisance from White Bay. Combined with the stench of diesel fumes, which made the outside air virtually unbreathable the next night, the visit of the Australian "Endeavour" was a memorable one for Balmainites.

The Association is doing its bit to draw the problem to the attention of the authorities, but we feel the Commonwealth and State Governments, through our local Members, should be asked to help put a stop to these practices, and the Maritime Services Board and the L.M.C. should also use their good offices to prevent a recurrence. Experience has shown that these bodies are disinclined to act except under pressure and it would help if any of our members affected by the recent "blackout" would take a personal initiative in ventilating the matter with the authorities.

BARBECUE

An unofficial barbecue luncheon was held recently at Mrs. Sybil Masterman's home, 2 Numa Street, at which the Association's Management Committee had the opportunity of informally discussing problems with the Committees of the Glebe Society and the proposed Annandale Association.

DRAMA GROUP DEBUT

On October 4 the Balmain Association Drama Group is presenting its first public performance with an evening of Australian plays and folk songs at St. Mary's Hall, Adolphus Street. The whole evening, including a cup of coffee at interval, is being presented for only 60¢ per person, and this may be considered a tribute to the traditional ingenuity of Balmain folk, in improvising costumes and props out of leftovers and odd bits and pieces. For the record, the premier, entitled "OUT AND OUT", comprises plays by Cathrine Shepherd ("Delphiniums") and Colin Ballantine ("The Ice Cream Cart"), together with folksongs organized by Mike Flannagan.

MEMBERSHIP

Our financial members now number 171 and as this figure includes 22 junior members and 42 new members, it means that only 107 renewals have come to hand. This is very disappointing, since it indicates that over threequarters of our last year's members have not renewed. Subscriptions fell due on July 1 and if you have not yet paid up, PLEASE let us have your money as soon as possible.

BOOKLET FOR VISITORS

The Management Committee has been conscious for some time of the lack of a factual historical booklet on Balmain that can be sold in the district and to the many groups that come on visits. A number of other historic areas have such booklets available and they are assured of a steady sale. The Horwitz publication, "The Houses of Balmain", although it contains a certain amount of historical material, does not fulfil the specific purpose that the Committee has in mind.

The Historical Sub-committee is already partly along the way with text and photographs of buildings of interest, and plans have been in hand for some time for a street-by-street survey by the Historical and Architectural Sub-committees combined. It is proposed that the Publicity Sub-committee should also become involved with the object of producing a joint effort in time for the Watch House official opening in 1970.

In conjunction with this, it is suggested that visiting groups would be interested if maps were available of the area, outlining walking tours. If necessary, these can be produced independently of the proposed booklet.