

SMOKE NUISANCE AT WHITE BAY

The Association has written officially to the MSB about a third incident in which soot and smoke have been discharged from a container ship at White Bay. Our letter asked for an urgent investigation by the Board and an assurance to residents that there will be no further illegal discharge from the container ships. The MSB's reply said: "The Board has received complaints from other sources regarding the emission of smoke etc. from ships berthed at the container terminal at Balmain. These complaints have been investigated and dealt with and appropriate letters addressed to the local Member of Parliament and Municipal Council as the elected representatives of the people of Balmain. The matter raised by you Association has been dealt with in this way and it is suggested that you direct your enquiry to the person and body mentioned as they have already acted in the matter for the people they represent."

Coincidentally with this exchange of letters, a body called the Institute of Materials Handling conferred a special award on the MSB for the way it pushed through the container terminal against its many opponents. The Institute's citation praised the "forceful" way in which the MSB rode over its opposition. The Association and the people of Balmain regrettably are in a position to endorse that comment by the Institute; however, it would seem that the MSB has a tremendous advantage over any group or individuals opposing its actions, as it seems to be able to act just as it pleases. Nor are explanations to those directly affected necessary, judging by the unhelpful rejoinder to our letter.

ASSOCIATION MEMBER JOINS COMMITTEES OF TWO IMPORTANT GROUPS

Association member Brian McDonald, an architect and town planner, has recently been appointed to the Historic Buildings committee of the National Trust of NSW. and the committee of the Civic Design Society.

The Historic Buildings committee of the National Trust is an active one and is primarily concerned with seeking out and reporting on buildings considered worthy of preservation.

Mr. McDonald has recently returned from overseas where he studied public participation in the planning process, a subject about which The Balmain Association is keenly aware.

BALMAIN FILM

Members may recall the recent film made by a team of young Balmain film makers towards the end of last year. The film puts on record the amount of harm being done by the establishment of the container wharf complexes in the area and features several of the Association committee. The Association has purchased a copy of this film, which will be shown to members at a forthcoming function to be announced.

HISTORIC HORSE TROUGH

The Association's request for information from the Leichhardt Council regarding removal of the old horse trough from the Rowntree St. end of Macquarie Terrace has revealed that the timbers of the trough had deteriorated badly and that the trough was no longer being used for the purpose intended.

The Council has decided to offer the trough to the Association and, after suitable restoration, permission will be sought to have the trough reerected in an appropriate location.

THE ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION

The formation of the Annandale Association recently was another step towards a unification within the Leichhardt Municipality of the civic groups movement.

Balmain Association members are well aware of the need for a stronger voice in municipal affairs and with the formation of this new group it is hoped that more notice will be taken of the views of residents by Leichhardt Council.

The inaugural meeting held at the Annandale Council Chambers on November 4 was addressed by Mr. Robert Irving, whose fiery speech was well received. Many Balmain Association members attended, as did Ald. Brady, Smith and Origlass. Other representatives from the National Trust, The Paddington Society and the Wollstonecraft body spoke and offered support.

Ald. Brady moved an amendment to the adoption of a clause in the new Association's constitution making it a non-party political organization. Ald. Brady wanted the new Association to be "non political". The amendment was lost and Ald. Brady gave this as his reason for not being able to join the Association.

The Balmain Association welcomes the new Annandale Association and looks forward to a close cooperation with it.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall 8pm sharp

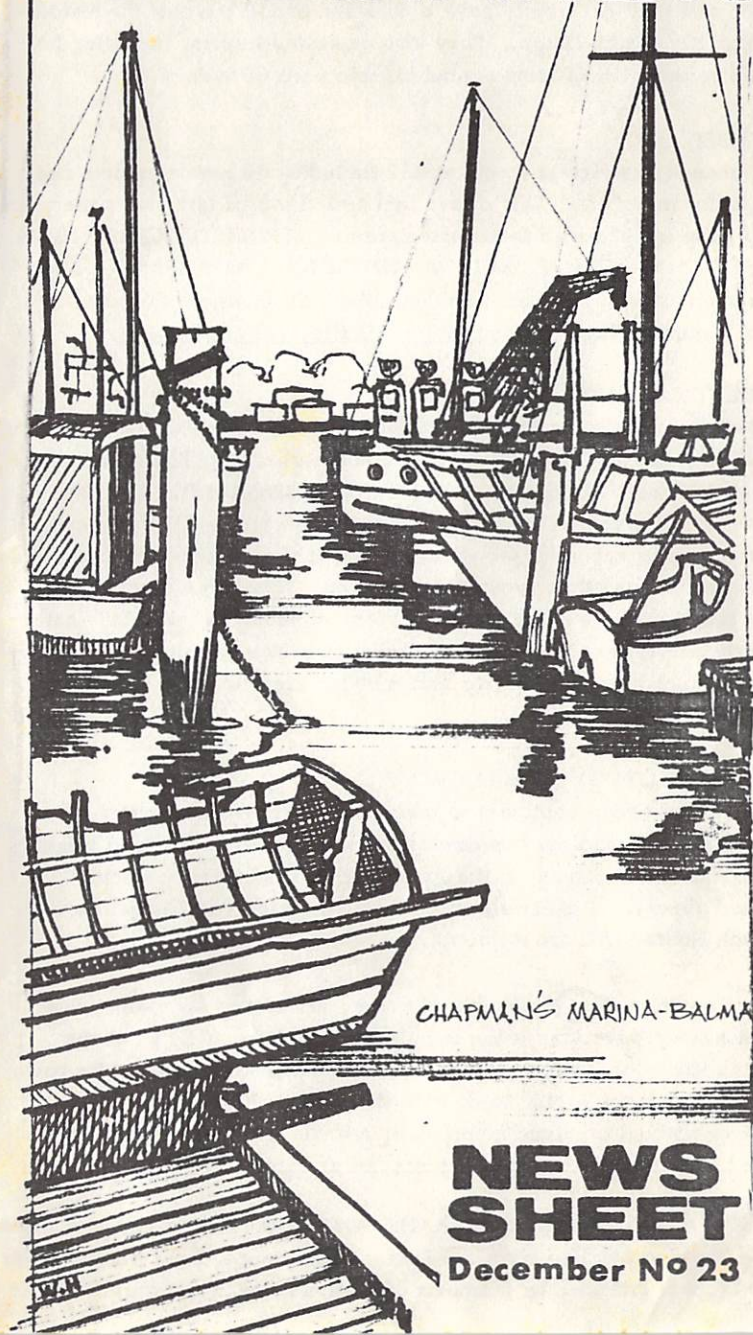
THURSDAY --- 4TH DECEMBER

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP to The Balmain Association should be addressed to

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

Subscription - Ordinary membership - \$1.00
Pensioners or children under 15 - 20¢

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



CHAPMAN'S MARINA-BALMAIN

**NEWS
SHEET**
December No 23

HISTORICAL TOUR AND HOUSE INSPECTIONS

Forty-eight Canterbury and District people and 29 members of the Youth Hostels Association recently made an all day tour of Balmain, swelling our funds by \$77.

Trailer Tours, who brought the Canterbury visitors, joined our Association and very generously gave a donation of \$10 towards the restoration of the Watch House. They also expressed interest in adding Balmain to their list of tours around historic parts of Sydney.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership at present stands at 232 including 64 new members and 22 junior members. This means that two-thirds of last year's members still have not renewed their subscriptions. **THIS IS THE LAST NEWS SHEET THAT WILL BE SENT TO UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS.** A slip has been attached to each member's News Sheet where the subscription is outstanding. Please return this slip with your money.

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

Mrs. Sybil Masterman has again made available her delightful waterfront area for the Association's Christmas barbecue. The address: 2 Numa Street, Birchgrove (as the end of Louisa Road). The date: Saturday, December 13, from 6.30 p.m. onwards. All members and intending members are welcome but as the waterfront is unfenced the party is not suited to younger children. No charge is made for this function and we like to see as many members as possible, including the newer ones. You have to bring your own grilling meat, other food, wine, beer, and eating and drinking utensils - the means for cooking will be provided.

NEW PROJECTS BY DRAMA GROUP

The Drama Group continues to meet fortnightly with a variety of interesting play readings and discussions. There are plans for a bright informal entertainment at the Association's Christmas barbecue (noted above). Rehearsals will be held on prior Tuesdays at the Watch House. All are welcome.

Guy Ropert, a film producer and writer, associated for many years with stage productions at the Independent Theatre, will be at the Watch House on Tuesday, December 2, to conduct auditions for two productions he is hoping to do with the group. All our members, with or without previous experience, are welcome, if you are interested. Bring a short piece of prose, or an extract of poetry or drama.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AT RAHS CONFERENCE

The Royal Australian Historical Society conference, held from October 17-19, was attended by members of the Historical Sub-committee re-

presenting the Association.

The opening address by Mr. Justice R. Else Mitchell traced the history of the Colony from the early days. His reference to subsequent pollution of land, air and water was an indictment of our stewardship. Other speakers were Mr. E. W. Dunlop (on some problems in organization and display of local historical museums in Australia), Miss Suzanne Mourrot (care and housing of pictures), Mr. K. Swan (preservation, location and presentation of photography) and Miss D. Agnew (the arrangement of period rooms). Sunday was spent on inspections of the Garrison Church, Rocks Historical Gallery, and Paddington area.

SPECIAL INSERT WITH THIS ISSUE

We are indebted to Management Committee and Historical Sub-Committee member, Peter Reynolds, for the historical item inserted in this News Sheet; others of the same type are planned.

THE WATCH HOUSE

Mr. Wal Kokot, an Association member, worked for several days to complete the laying of the verandah floor. Members will now be able to enter the Watch House without fear of broken limbs.

The owner of the adjoining land has accepted the suggestion that the Association keep the area cleared. Watch House workers have already cut the grass, making an impressive improvement to the outside aspect.

With the official opening scheduled for April, we are getting desperate for helpers. Will you please give a hand? Working bees are being held on Saturdays and Sundays and on some week nights. Even a couple of hours would help. Please give your name to a Management Committee member or to Sybil Masterman at 82 2708.

BALMAIN MADE

The potters, weavers, tie-dyers, toymakers, painters and junk collectors of Balmain will have their night and day of the year on Friday night, December 5, and Saturday, December 6. As usual, the Association's sale of work will be held at the Watch House, from 6.30 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

If the previous years' efforts are repeated an ample supply of goodies will be on sale, especially for Christmas presents, plus the Association's own Christmas cards. Coffee and biscuits will be available.

GROWTH OF WHITE BAY

Recently local Member, Mr. Roger Degen, asked Premier Askin in Parliament how much the White Bay container wharf had grown since it was first planned, and what future extensions were planned.

Mr. Askin's answer: "At the time of inviting tenders for the construction of the proposed container berths at White Bay the wharf faceline was shown on the Board's plans as being 1840 ft. in length. However, as a result of further investigation into the requirements of vessels to be accommodated at these berths and during the intervening months between the calling of tenders and the actual awarding of a contract for the work, the overall length was increased to 2200 ft. Subsequent to awarding the contract, further consideration was given to the requirements of shipping and the need to provide future wharf construction and arrangements were then made with the Board's contractor to extend the wharf's frontage by 50 ft., making a total length of 2250 ft. ... The Board's plans for the area provide for a later extension of No. 4 berth by approx. 866 ft. in a westerly direction to a junction with the prolongation of the existing NO. 1 berth, Balmain, and this new berth will be known as No. 3 Balmain. No extension of the eastern berths is contemplated at this time."

It always pays to plan ahead! Since Premier Askin gave his answer, the MSB has announced that it will start work on a new container installation at Glebe Island just as soon as White Bay is finished. Perhaps this development will ease the pressure for more land grabs on the Balmain peninsula.

FERRIES

In spite of assurances that a larger ferry would be made available for the Balmain peak hour run, patrons are still forced to crowd on to a 120 person boat each morning.

Roger Degen, M.L.A., has again raised the subject of ferries in Parliament but it seems that no one is interested, except the people using them. By comparison with other ferry services, the Balmain run loses less annually, yet we receive less than token recognition from the ferry companies. Balmain's increased population demands a bigger and better ferry service.

The Association will continue to fight for a better service, but suggests that members and residents also take up this campaign by writing to the Minister for Transport and Sydney Harbour Ferries demanding some action on the overdue promise of better ferry services.

FEDERAL ELECTIONS

After an informative and entertaining General Meeting on October 9, when four of the Federal Election candidates, M/s. Robertson (Lib.), Origglass (Ind.), Lewis (Pensioner Power) and Channel (Ind. Extraordinary) addressed the Association regarding their policies, we were treated with the almost predictable result that the Labor Party candidate, Mr. Jim Cope, had won the seat of Sydney which includes the Balmain peninsula. We offer congratulations and look forward to his efforts on behalf of his new constituents in the Balmain area.