

## OBJECTING TO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSERS (Contin.)

will have no right of appeal to the Court against such a decision, but at least they will have the opportunity of putting their views before council beforehand.

In view of these new developments and the fact that the rate of flat and home unit proposals may be stepped up, the Association would be interested to know of any members' objections. If assistance is required in the framing of a submission, members are welcome to contact Bob Beverley at 82.5279 or Bill Haesler at 82.3956.

## WATCH HOUSE OFFICIAL OPENING.

Since the inception of the Balmain Association the great goal has been the restoration of the historic Watch House and after many years of hard work and generous assistance, the great day is almost with us.

Sunday, April 12, 1970 (Cook Bi-Centenary Year) will see the Hon. T.L. Lewis, M.L.A., officially open the Watch House.

On this day, when the bunting is flying and speeches abound, our thoughts will be with those members who so generously gave of their time and talents to complete what has been a great achievement.

In money it has represented some \$2,500.00 which came from the many and various fund-raising activities and annual membership subscriptions.

For those members who have visited the Watch House recently the changes must seem dramatic. The next two months will see even more improvements. Painting, floor coverings, cell doors, lighting, kitchen fitments, fencing and landscaping will be completed for the opening day.

Of course, this can only be achieved if members assist with voluntary labour and your help — even for a few hours — is needed and appreciated.

Full details of the opening will be given to all members shortly.

**COVER PHOTO:** The typical Balmain scene was captured by Association member, Robert Beverley, Snr., who generously donated the print.

## BALMAIN BOOKLET.

To commemorate the opening of the Watch House, three publications will shortly be available. They are "Historic Homes and Buildings of Balmain", "The Balmain Watch House" (its history and restoration), and "Walking Tours of Balmain" (an annotated map).

The Association believes that the sale of these publications will not only supplement restoration funds but will also generate more interest in the historic and residential aspects of Balmain.

## RATES — AGAIN!

The effect of the recent rates increase imposed by the Leichhardt Municipal Council (30% up on last year) puts us once again among the top ratepayers per acre in the State.

We are not pleased and believe that most ratepayers in the Balmain Ward will be similarly incensed when rate notices are received early in February.

Preliminary discussions have shown that Glebe and Annandale are not so perturbed and we wonder if, once again, the poor sister, Balmain, will be the sufferer when the money for municipal improvements is apportioned.

We will, given sufficient support, hold a public meeting late in February to discuss the new increase in the rate; the reasons; the effect on Balmain; and what action we believe should be adopted to alleviate the problem of the already over-taxed Balmain ratepayer.

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Balmain Town Hall

8pm sharp

Thursday 12 February 1970

Following the General Meeting, the film "BALMAIN" will be shown. If you missed it the first time, here is a chance to see a documentary film sympathetic to Balmain's problems, made and financed by local people.

# THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



## NEWS SHEET

No 24 February '70

## BALMAIN INSPECTION DAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 8.

Following the last function of this kind, which was highly successful, the Association has arranged another inspection of interesting houses in Balmain.

The houses are kindly being opened to us by:—

Mr. & Mrs. R. Wright - 72 Campbell St., Balmain  
Mr. & Mrs. L. Clinch - 7 Phoebe St., Balmain  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Anderson - 143 Darling St., Balmain  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Birtles - 32 Louisa Rd., Birchgrove  
Messrs. Foy & Gurner - 19 Ballast Point Road,  
Birchgrove.

Tickets (\$1.00 each) may be obtained from Mrs. N. MacLeod, 37 Ballast Point Rd., Birchgrove (telephone 82.4652). Funds raised will go to the Watch House Committee. Children under the age of 12 will not be admitted.

Don't forget . . . . . make a diary note . . . . . *Sunday, March 8.* We hope to see this function well supported by members and their guests from inside and outside the district.

Inspection commences at 11 a.m. and the houses will be closed at 4 p.m.

## THE YOUNGEST HOUSE-HUNTER?

What does an eight-year-old spend a Christmas gift of \$2 on? Here's what young Kim Fisher of Gipps St. did with the \$2 note her grandmother gave her. After spending the best part of a morning looking through the Balmain shops, she reappeared at home with the book "HOUSES OF BALMAIN". Of course she knew many of the houses by sight, but since then she has spent much of her time cajoling friends, relatives and anyone else interested into taking tours of the district on house spotting tours.

Which reminds us — the Association still has copies of "HOUSES OF BALMAIN" for sale, and as you know each sale means a small profit for the Association. Some copies will be available at the next meeting.

## DRAMA GROUP'S NEW PRODUCTIONS

The Association's Drama Group, newly named "The Watch House Theatre", is now in production with three plays. These are ZOO STORY by Edward Albee, THE STRANGER by Strindberg and PLAY by Samuel Beckett.

The plays are to be produced on four nights during the week commencing *MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23*, at St. Mary's Hall, Adolphus St., Balmain. Watch for further publicity, including dates and times.

## MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS.

In spite of our warning in the last News Sheet that non-financial members will not receive any more News Sheets, we have still had renewals from only about half of last year's members. We will have a list of non-financial members at the General Meeting and it would help us if you would look through this and chase up any friends who are lagging. With new members accounting for 101, the total now stands at 351 financial members.

## WANTED — A TIDY MIND.

The Association has a large and ever-growing collection of Press clippings and we urgently need a volunteer to sort these out and stick them in a scrap book. Would anyone willing to help please contact John Mackenzie at the General Meeting or 'phone 31.2341 during office hours.

## CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE.

Once again Mrs. Sybil Masterman opened up her wonderful waterfront grounds for the Association's Christmas barbeque. The weather treated us in style and the Masterman grillers coped with upwards of 100 hungry patrons. This year we had entertainment from the Drama Group who presented a Mummers play.

The Mummers routines date back to medieval times, finally being recorded in the 15th or 16th century and performed by groups of touring players. Audience

participation has always been a feature, as it was in Balmain that night. Anyway, thanks to the players, and to the Association's guests who helped make the night its usual success.

## OBJECTING TO DEVELOPMENT PROPOSERS.

Any member who is concerned about a proposed development near his property but who feels he is unable to do anything about it should take heart from two recent events. In the first of these, an Association member wrote to the Minister for Local Government protesting against a proposal to build flats on a site on the waterfront side of Wharf Road. The area is existing Residential A (zoned for houses), but is proposed as Residential B (permitting flats) in the Leichhardt Planning Scheme. Local residents have lodged formal objections to the proposed re-zoning. The Association member's point was that the developer should not be allowed to anticipate approval of the proposed re-zoning, especially since objections had been lodged.

The Minister replied that he could not do anything about that particular case, but that he would suspend all further development until the Plan was gazetted. He did say, however, that this was abnormal procedure and was being done only because finalisation of the Plan was imminent. We understand that ratepayers in other municipalities have had similar success recently.

The second event was the subsequent publication of a news item that State Cabinet will give property owners a general right of objection to home unit and flat proposals. Under this proposed legislation, councils will have to advertise home unit and flat proposals and give property owners 14 days to object. If a council disapproves a development and the developer appeals to the Land and Valuation Court against the council's decision, property owners who object to the proposed development will have a right to appear at the Court hearing. This is a right that property owners do not at present possess. Should council approve a development, property owners

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