

GARDEN COMPETITION.

Following a discussion with Mr. Les Worrell, Editor of the Link, the Association has agreed to sponsor a garden competition this year.

The Association has been considering holding such a contest for some years and agree with the Editor of the Link that it would help increase civic pride in our district.

Details of the competition will be published shortly. At this stage the message is. . . let's start getting our garden displays ready, whether they consist of humble window boxes or a full-scale garden.

A number of classes will be competed for including not only private gardens of various sizes and types but also commercial, industrial and public gardens. Kerbside tidiness will also be taken into account.

We anticipate that judging will take place around November, so there's no time like the present to start preparing.

INSPECTIONS.

On April 21 a party of 48 ladies from Wahroonga made a tour of Balmain under the guidance of Peter Reynolds who pointed out various buildings of interest, supplied historical background and answered numerous questions.

On May 3 the Association was host to a small group of senior students from the Ryde Horticultural College and their lecturer, Mr. Tom Parramore.

The morning was taken up by a seminar on "Architecture in the Community", with five architect members of the Association joining in.

In the afternoon the group made a tour of some significant developments in building and landscaping around Balmain.

FERRY SERVICES.

The Association has received a long letter from the Minister for Transport regretting that he is unable to amend or extend the Balmain peak hour service, because of the financial outlay involved. His advisers do not agree with us that patronage has increased sufficiently to justify an additional ferry at 8.00 a.m.

We cannot agree with the Minister and at risk of appearing insistent, have again asked him to provide an announced trial run for 3 months to test local reaction. We await--not too optimistically--his reply.

MEMBERSHIP.

With the end of the financial year fast approaching, our membership stands at 402 including 125 new members. Any new members joining the Association will automatically be financial until June 30, 1971, so let's encourage our friends to join now. Even though it is early, may we remind you that subscriptions fall due on July 1, 1970, and we would be happy to receive your renewals as soon as possible.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING Balmain Town Hall

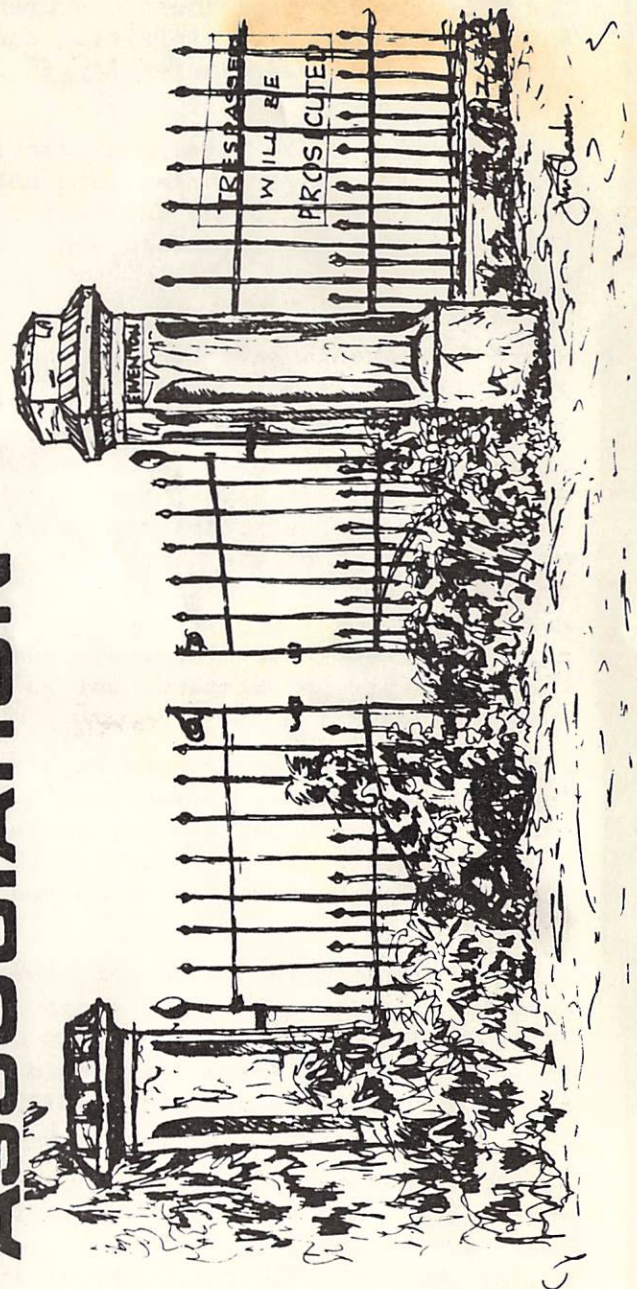
8 pm SHARP + 11 JUNE 1970

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.

**NEWS
SHEET**
No. Twenty Six

**THE
BALMAIN
ASSOCIATION**



CONTAINERS: ONLY THE START.

The Maritime Services Board-Conference Shipping Lines mistake in siting container terminals on Balmain Peninsula can lead to either:-

. The massacring of Balmain by cutting into residential areas, resuming more waterfront homes and filling in the bay in front of Grafton Street for more road and terminal space; or

. Shifting the terminals to Botany Bay where they should have been in the first place.

The Chullora-Villawood-Balmain integration of depots and terminals is working, but at enormous cost. Transport bottlenecks are intensifying. Containers are being stacked up to five high on the waterfront. If the one on the bottom is wanted first, it's awkward. (A U.S. expert expressed surprise at this system: U.S. terminals have space, containers are not stacked, but go quickly away on wheels.)

. Containers must be in good repair, but they suffer damage. It soon won't be enough to bring a boilermaker and his mate to bash containers into shape; repairs shops with presses will be required at terminals.

. Containers emptied of cement, chemical powders and other soiling cargoes are now being washed, with detergents and solvents, at the end of the White Bay terminal. There are no proper waste-disposal facilities. More pollution goes into the harbour.

All this adds up to mounting demand for more space. The container consortia have their eye on the small bay at the eastern end of the White Bay terminal. A third and fourth C-terminal in the area are being talked of in shipping circles.

Some Balmain residents may comfort themselves with the thought that although the effects of containerisation aren't pleasant, they can live with them. However, there's worse to come.

Terminal facilities are steadily approaching saturation point. Yet the U.S. West and East Coast C-ships, the Continental consortia's new fleet and some C-ships from Asia haven't even started.

Space galore is available at the logical site: the shores of Botany Bay. Why keep hacking away at Balmain?

WATCH HOUSE OPENING.

"We must learn from the past, by preserving our historic buildings and our parks and wildlife. I am sure this generation and future generations will respect us for it." So said the Minister for Lands, Mr. Tom Lewis, as he officially opened the Watch House on April 12.

For so long the Watch House had been a focal point of the Balmain Association's activities, that to many of the workers who had scraped paint, renewed woodwork and patched floors the big moment had an unreal quality.

The Minister spoke to a packed front garden and a crowd of 300 that spilled out on to Darling Street.

To add colour to the occasion, as President Bill Haesler opened proceedings the strains of "High Society" came wafting down Darling Street, as Major Muddle and his Mud Marchers jazz band appeared--to the crowd's delight. Later Cedric Flower from the National Trust donated a Georgian clock to the Watch House "as we know only too well the sweat, blood and tears that can go into this effort--as well as the satisfaction."

Typically for Balmain Association events, the speeches were kept short and the building thrown open for inspection by the people of Balmain.

THE COUNCIL AT IT AGAIN.

Over recent weeks the Leichhardt Council have managed to surprise us and at the same time run true to form.

The news that 300,000 gallons of petrol is being stored at the Terminals Pty. Limited depot in Stephen Street, Balmain, brought swift action from the Council who have informed the Association that an injunction has been taken out in the Supreme Court to discontinue the storage.

The Association has written to the Minister for Mines asking why and how such storage is possible after the intense opposition of the Balmain residents and the assurances given by the Company at the time.

The Council at another rowdy meeting gave approval to John Fletcher Pty. Ltd. to use a large shed in Church Street for storage associated with the A.N.L. terminal in spite of its own intention to amend the Planning Scheme to re-zone the area Residential. Ald. Casey presented the views of the "majority" by stating that "it would only be another case of a non-conforming use in the Balmain area." (Ald. Casey's own welding works in Rozelle is another example.)

In spite of the subsequent strong recommendation against the approval made by the S.P.A., Council seem intent on proceeding and have referred the matter to their Solicitor for legal advice.

It would seem that Council is determined to ruin its own Planning Scheme before the Minister's official approval is given.