

RATES MEETING.

The Minister for Local Government, in reply to our letter summarising the Rates Meeting held February 18, indicates that the Council had complied with the Act and advertised its estimates. The Council received \$29,600 in 1969 under the Government Assistance Fund and will receive a similar amount in 1970.

Mr. Morton also pointed out that the Council "as an independent body is responsible to its electors for the manner in which it exercises its functions" and that "the particular matters raised came within the Council's administration". He suggested that "pursuant to the Council's position as a representative public body responsible to its electors, the Association continue to bring to the notice of the Leichhardt Municipal Council any views it may have on the rating policy which the Council should adopt or on the Council's administration generally."

THE CHEMICAL TANKS AGAIN.

The news that 300,000 gallons of petrol are being stored in the Stephen Street complex owned by Terminals Ltd. came as quite a shock. The Council took out an injunction in the Supreme Court and the Association wrote to Terminals Ltd. and the Minister for Mines, Hon. Wal Fife.

Terminals replied that they are storing inflammable liquids in accordance with the requirements of the Mines Dept., but did not acknowledge that petrol was being stored.

Mr. Fife notified that the storage of petrol was in accordance with regulations, that petrol was no more dangerous than the other liquids stored and that the Company was storing petrol as it presumably had a client wishing to store that amount of petrol! The recent petrol strike revealed that XL had plenty of petrol at its Balmain depot!

Terminals Ltd. did not mention petrol when they made their application for storage in Balmain. Petrochemicals, because of their high cost, mean that stored quantities are small and the risks therefore somewhat less. We hate to think what an accident with 300,000 gallons of petrol would do.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 13th August, 1970.

Balmain Town Hall

8 P.M. SHARP

The following nominations have been received for the Association Management Committee for the year 1970/1971 :

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

Committee:

Keith Campbell	Peter Reynolds
Elizabeth Tow	Diana Rogers (Mrs.)
Robert Irving	Graham Stevenson
Jocelyn Morris (Mrs.)	Larry Lake

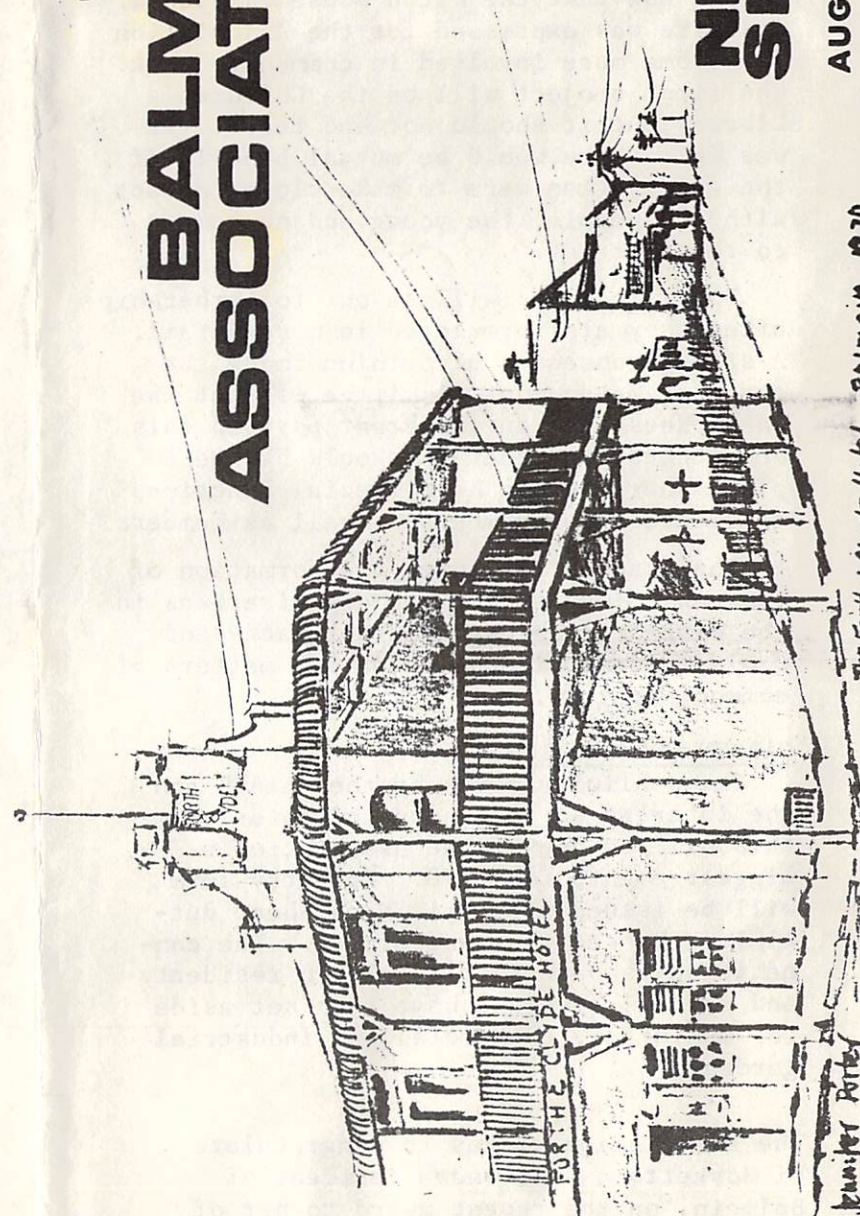
As the nominations exceed the number required it will be necessary to ballot for the 7 positions.

During the Annual General Meeting a short film about the "Barrier Reef" will be shown.

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.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



**NEWS
SHEET**

AUGUST No 27

The Clyde Hotel Balmain 1970

Balmain Port

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMUNITY.

A special meeting of Management Committee was held on May 21 last to discuss the Balmain Association's future role in the community. We felt such an appraisal to be needed now that the Watch House is opened. A desire was expressed for the Association to become more involved in community work. The first project will be the Children's Library but it should not end there. It was felt there would be mutual benefit if the Association were to make close contact with old people, the young and newcomers to the district.

Specific ideas will be put to membership after they are formulated in more detail. A strong consensus of opinion among the outgoing Management Committee is that the Watch House has an important part in this development and that it should become a place where we can hold special functions to interest non-members as well as members.

The Association notes the formation of two new community service organisations in the district--Jaycees and Rotaract--and would welcome discussion on any matters of common interest.

GARDEN COMPETITION.

The publicity given by the "Link" and the interest so far shown indicates that this will be one of the Association's biggest events for 1970. An entry form will be issued with this News Sheet outlining the sections and prizes. The competition is open to all Balmain residents and special sections have been set aside for municipal, commercial and industrial gardens.

The Association wishes to congratulate Vi Boykett, a well-known resident of Balmain, on the recent award to her of the British Empire Medal.

DOES ANYONE CARE?

Two recent incidents involving the amenity of Louisa Road residents brought the following replies.

1. From the Maritime Services Board:
"...the smoke emission you referred to was reported to the officer responsible and prompt action taken accordingly. Furthermore, it is advised that there is no objection to the use of a hose to clean the deck of a vessel, providing the wastewater discharging to the harbour is free from oil and other wastes. In this instance, it appears that some oil may have discharged with the wastewater as there is oil present in the sample retained by you. Although further investigations were made it was not possible to prove, conclusively, that this oil did come from the "Yanderra" and could not have come from any other source."

2. From the Federal Minister for Shipping, Hon. Ian Sinclair, regarding the 2-week repairs to the A.N.L. vessel "Lake Sorell" by Storey & Keers in May and the inconvenience suffered by residents who forwarded a petition. "You may be assured that I fully appreciate the problems of the local residents, but the predominant factors are integrally concerned with the economic functioning of a business enterprise. It is for this reason that, while I would like to be in a position to offer some practical assistance to your constituents, I think you will appreciate it is not possible for me to do so in the circumstances."

BALMAIN PLANNING REPORT.

Association member, Architect John Devenish, is preparing a planning thesis on Balmain and has promised the results to the Association. The research involves a social survey and the assistance of members in distributing questionnaires would be greatly appreciated by John Devenish who can be contacted at 82 5308.

PENALTIES IN MILLIONS.

Penalties for contempt of Balmain's warnings against wrong container terminal siting may be counted in hundreds of millions, making the \$15 penalty for allegedly throwing stones at White Bay seem rather trifling.

International trade suffers along with Balmain residents.... It takes longer to get cargo by C-ships than by conventional ships, so chaotic are harbour terminals and inland depots.

Shippers are beginning to order that their cargoes should not be containerised. The container consortia of shipowners promised freights, time, damage, pilfering would all be cut. Instead, a 12% freight rise is demanded by the C-ships consortia, deliveries are slow and unreliable, insurance claims and premiums have increased and container thefts are increasing.

The price-shaken wool industry can't afford higher freights. The Australian Wool Board is studying plans for conventional ship transport, under contract charters, outside the Conference Lines or cartel.

If the container consortia lose wool--40% of OCL and ACT cargoes--then bankruptcy looms for those who rashly put all eggs in the container basket and flouted Balmain residents' interest.

The investment at stake in containerisation of Australian overseas trade is about 500 million dollars.

Shipowners, Maritime Services Board and Leichhardt Council all bear heavy responsibility for rushing into an enterprise not properly researched and tested.

COVER DRAWING is by Association member Jennifer Porter.