

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

Issue No. 33, 34 October, 1971.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BALMAIN
WAS SITUATED ON THE TRIANGULAR BLOCK
OF LAND BESIDE THE WATCH HOUSE.

STOP PRESS

THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING OF THE NEW COUNCIL.

The meeting was an unqualified success from the point of view of all of us who are concerned with the future environment in the Balmain peninsula. The whole tone of the meeting was directed towards public participation and co-operation with groups such as ours. The first Mayoral minute was a direction that Council Business Papers be placed in all the Town Halls before the meeting, that they be given to ourselves and the Glebe and Annandale Societies and that adequate copies would be available in the public gallery and that these may be taken away. This is extremely important

CONT'D...

as it will enable us to make comment and constructive suggestions to Council regarding particular issues before decisions are taken. Other important decisions were -- the Tilba Avenue marina proposal was condemned -- a public meeting will be convened by Council regarding opposition to express ways and we urge all people to attend.

After the meeting the people in the gallery enjoyed supper with the Mayor and the Aldermen.

As you can see, the change from the old Council is marvellous and we will be working extremely closely with the new Council over the next three years with every hope of major achievements in planning and environmental matters.

NEW HORIZONS.

At the last Management meeting, serious thought was given to the extension of the Association's area of concern. Quite a number of members feel that the Association should represent the interests of the whole of the Roselle Ward instead of a approximately half as at present. A group of members intend presenting their views to a Special General Meeting to be held later in the year regarding this matter.

Incidentally, the new area closely coincides with the old Balmain Municipality boundaries.

" The Board, you will appreciate, is an autonomous body created by statute with independent responsibilities in matter of this nature and since I am not in a position to intervene in the day to day administration of the Board there is no way I can be of further assistance in the matter.

signed R.W. Askin

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The defeat of the Council majority and the success of the independents as a result of the September Municipal elections is a welcome relief to many of the Leichhardt residents and particularly to Balmain/Rozelle residents whose amenity has long suffered at the hands of disinterested aldermen. The fact that we can now hear open debate in Council is a worthwhile result of the efforts of the few who fought so hard in the election campaign.

Once again too few recorded their votes and we can only say these residents now have the Council they deserve. The aldermen elected put up a good fight and we feel that each will now be keen to represent his ward and the interests of the Municipality fairly.

We look forward

We look forward to the burying of old differences and a new era of co-operation. The Association long a critic of the Council, is only too willing to provide its expertise regarding matters affecting the living amenity of the area.

The new Council cannot be expected to work wonders overnight. The affairs of the Council are conducted for the most part by the Council officers and it is to be hoped that they will co-operate in every regard with the new aldermen. Residents and ratepayers will, of course, be looking to the election promises and in particular to :

- *a lower rate in the dollar to compensate for recent property valuation increases.
- *a realistic look at planning and high rise development, particularly on the Balmain Peninsula, involving the residents' opinions and not just the interests of the developer;
- *traffic...a solution to the container traffic which will not penalize residents' rights;
- *parking...provision of Council parking areas without penalizing the commercial interests of the area.
- *immediate increase in library facilities in all wards;
- *public relations between Council and residents so that the resident is aware of the Council's activities;
- *street cleaning...an improvement on the present facilities.

RESTORATION OF TERRACE HOUSES

The following is a letter received by the Glebe Society and published in their bulletin No. 3 which will be of interest to terrace house owners.

The Town Clerk,
Leichhardt Municipal Council,

Dear Sir,

The NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects is concerned at the way in which the manner of restoration of many of the terraces in the Leichhardt Municipal area is fragmenting the present quality of uniform scale material and period character. Most terraces have been considered as an entity and not as individual units.

Unfortunately, at the present time some developments are taking place which break up the visual quality of the area. While it is difficult to deny individual owners the right to make changes to their houses to suit their own specific tastes, it seems desirable to ensure that the overall character is not destroyed. This may mean the preparation of broad recommendations which Council could suggest to terrace owners who propose making alterations accompanied by a publicity campaign directed towards a better understanding of the factors involved in maintaining visual and environmental coherence and quality.

Some of the changes which are being made are inconsistent with the period character of the buildings. An example is the use of textured bricks. Others are well meaning but misguided. One particular change which is taking place is not only visually inconsistent but also leads to the deterioration of the fabric of the building. This is the practice of stripping stucco from the face of the building to reveal the sandstock bricks underneath. Stucco is an integral part of the structure of these buildings and the walls stripped are, in many cases, porous and may allow the transmission of damp leading to deterioration of the wall and of interior plaster and paint. This has a consequent effect on the health of the occupants. The Chapter wishes to draw the attention of the Council to this problem and to suggest that some action should be taken.

We would be happy to provide advice on the matter, through the Historic Buildings Committee of the Chapter.

Yours faithfully,

H.B. Mortlock.

President

Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

A DIRTY SUBJECT

The following letter from the Premier of NSW has been received by the Association:

"I refer to your recent letter on behalf of the Balmain Association concerning the discharge of soot from the 'Discovery Bay'.

"This matter was raised with the Maritime Services Board and I am informed that the Board does not have any officers engaged exclusively in the control of smoke and soot emission from ships berthed in Sydney Harbour but policing within its jurisdiction is carried out by a number of the Boards officers whose duties require them regularly to be in the Boards area for the purpose of ensuring that all of the relevant regulations are being observed.

"Included in these officers are members of the Patrol Staff located throughout the commercial areas of the port and the Boards District Officers stationed at Sydney who investigate such occurrences following personal observation or on receipt of a complaint. These officers are available at any hour of the day but the number of personnel varies throughout the twenty four hour period from 13 to 15 and 31:

"In accordance with a recent re-arrangement of rostered hours of duty 31 men are available between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., 15 men between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. and 13 men between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. These officers may be contacted by phone as listed under shipping officers and Inspectors in the Boards entry in the telephone book.

However, should these field officers be away from their office a complaint can be lodged through the Boards communication service (20545) at all hours.

"To enable the Board to establish a prima facie case for breach of regulation 4 of the Port Authority - Smoke Control - regulations NSW, the following evidence would need to be forthcoming:

- (1) The exact time the soot was blown;
- (2) What actually was observed as evidence of this being done;
- (3) The period during which it was seen to be blown;
- (4) Some article with a sample of the soot seen to settle on it after it was observed being blown, e.g. a piece of cloth or paper, but the observer would have had to see the soot falling on it;
- (5) A chemist report that the soot was, in fact, soot; and
- (6) Identify the Master of the ship.

"The Boards regulations are based on a world wide standard for the detection of prohibited smoke emission from ships and the Ringlemann Chart, which has general application over seas, and shows differing degrees of blackness of smoke.

"Some people are under the impression that the regulations are breached whenever visible smoke is emitted from ships but it is pointed out by the Board that in cases where the Ringlemann standard shows a light coloured smoke, the indication is that the fuel has been completely consumed and consequently no breach is committed irrespective of the volume of the emission.

"It is felt that this is an aspect which may be confusing in certain circumstances but, as pointed out, the Boards standards are those applicable generally in other principle ports of the world.

The Association

As the membership of the Association grows it becomes increasingly difficult to continue services that were possible formerly. Two changes that will save time and effort are:-

(1) Receipts for membership.

These will no longer be delivered to all members but will be left in the receipt book and will be available at General Meetings, or posted to members requiring them, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

(2) President's report.

This will be available at the Annual General Meeting and from the Watch House on Saturday mornings.



DON'T FORGET THE

**COLONIAL
NIGHT**

30.10.'71

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

VICTORIA
14 PASHLEY ST.
BALMAIN

SALE OF CRAFTS.

The Balmain Watch House
179 Darling Street, Balmain.

Friday November 26th

7p.m. - 9.30p.m.

Saturday November 27th

10a.m. - 4p.m.

Bric -a- Brac action 2p.m.

WRITE THE ABOVE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

And if you can paint, sew, knit, make Batiks pottery, Crochet, weave, do screen prints, or make paper flowers, toys, puppets, wall hangings, posters or any other item that comes under the title of arts and crafts.....

contact Jeannette Stevenson 82 4255 after 12 midday.

open to all members of the Balmain Association.
No age limit. The only charge set by the Association is 10% commission on all sales.

For craft lovers, the sale offers an opportunity to buy for your home and get in some early Christmas shopping.

So, between now and November 26 - 27th....
save, save, Save, ready to spend at the crafts sale.

Wanted

A photographer, possibly one who does his own developing and printing, for publicity and Association functions. Also a graphic designer, commercial artist, copy writer. Please contact Jocelyn Morris 82 2565.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The Associations Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 12.8.1971, when the Executive and Management Committees for the coming year were elected.

Because there was only one nomination for each of the offices of President, Vice President, Hon Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, the nominees were elected unopposed. However, 12 people nominated for the management committee and the following is the result of the ballot :-

President: Bill Haesler

Vice President: Mrs Jocelyn Morris

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Margaret Dobson

Hon. Treasurer: Richard Norman

Management Committee:

Bob Beverley

David Chesterman

Alan Harding

Gerard Oosterman

Peter Reynolds

Andrew Soos

Mrs Elizabeth Tow

During the counting of votes, Prof. Robert Nielsen (an ex-Balmainite) gave an amusing and informative talk on the grounds he intends to cover in his Sydney Area transportation study.

IS YOUR NUMBER UP?

Spare a thought for your news sheet deliverer postman, paper boy and delivery men in general and provide a letterbox and house number. These marvellous people, although gifted with psychic powers, appreciate a visible sign nevertheless.

GARDEN Results

Judging of the entries for the Garden Competition took place on Sunday September 26. The results were as follows:

PRIVATE GARDENS (a) Over 600 sq.ft.

Winner - Mrs. H.C. Barry
449 Darling St., Balmain.

Highly Commended -

Mrs. Susan Ballinger
20 Nicholson St., Balmain East, and
Misses Y. West & J. Brand,
27 Stephen St., Balmain East,

were highly commended.

COURTYARDS

Winner - W.F. & H. Sickenberg,
6 Fawcett St., Balmain East.

MINI GARDENS

Winner - W.F. & H. Sickenberg.

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL

Some of these were seen by the judges but none was considered of sufficient merit to justify an award.

HOME UNIT GARDENS

Two Gardens (No 3 and No 5 Gallimore Avenue Balmain) were entered. The judges did not award a prize but considered that the gardens showed potential and a very worthwhile interest on the part of the unit owners. They looked at other home units and were of the opinion that these two unit gardens were undoubtedly the most pleasant in the area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Winner - Mrs. K.F. Harding
14 Paul St., Balmain East.

Ferneries, Laneways, Easements, etc.

The judges were Mr. Gordon Sykes and Miss Helen Evans, both experienced land - scape architects. Mr. Sykes judged the competition last year when it was a great success with more

than 70 entries, and a number of extremely promising gardens.

This year the number of entries was considerably less and Mr. Sykes commented that he was disappointed that some of the gardens that had shown promise last year were not entered this year.

The judges were particularly impressed with Mr and Mrs Sickenberg's garden which won prizes for both front and back gardens.

Although the response was not very encouraging the judges felt that it would be well worthwhile to hold another competition in approximately 18 months time..at the end of summer 1973, which would allow for two seasons growth.

This would be particularly useful to those whose gardens are in the early stages and we hope for a much more wholehearted response when the competition is next run.

Unfortunately, the postal strike may have delayed the receipt of some entries. If this is so, we greatly regret any inconvenience caused to garden owners.

Our most sincere thanks to Gordon Sykes, and Helen Evans who did a marvellous job and gave helpful advice to garden owners who were present during judging.



WATCH THESE DATES

Saturday October 9th

At 10 00 a.m. Working bee at the Watch House to clean and prepare the remaining cell for use by the childrens library.

Organizer Bill Haesler 82 3956

Saturday October 9th

Tree planting Rosebery/Beattie street.

Organizer Bob Beverley 82 5279.

Thursday October 14th

At 8 00 p. m. Association General Meeting Lower Town Hall Balmain. No speaker will be arranged and it is anticipated that members will meet each other over a cup of tea or coffee following the meeting.

Saturday October 21st

At 10 a.m. Working bee at the Watch House

Organiser Bill Haesler.

Saturday October 30th

At 8 30 p.m. Colonial Night at the Watch House. Dress of the Wild Colonial Days.

Organizer Victoria Joannou 82 5172.

Friday/Saturday November 26 - 27th

Handcraft Sale at the Watch House.

Thursday December 2nd

At 8 p.m. Association General Meeting, Lower Town Hall Balmain, refreshments served.

Bridge Lessons

Mrs. Denise Soos, an experienced bridge player is giving lessons for both beginners and players who wish to improve their game. This is a great opportunity to meet other bridge players in the area. Those interested please ring Mrs. Soos 82 1170.

COLONIAL NIGHT

On Saturday October 30th, at 8.30p.m. at the Watch House, the clank of convict chains will be heard and the spirit of the wild colonial days will be abroad once more. Ticket of leave (\$1.50) includes victuals, solid and liquid.. post bail to Mrs Victoria Joannou , 14 Pashley street Balmain, 82 5172.

Learn To Swim

Here is an opportunity for your children to learn to swim. The Balmain Amateur Swimming Association has invited membership from the Association for the season October 1971 to April 1972. The Swimming Association will accept juniors between the ages of 5 and 16 years. Annual membership is \$2.00 and the season starts on Saturday October 9th. Any of our members wishing to take part should be at the Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool at 9.15 a.m. each Saturday. Further information can be obtained from John Saunders (82 1436).

Balmain Theatre Group

The Group's current production of " Billy Liar" is being presented in the Campbell street Presbyterian Hall, Balmain, on Friday and Saturday 8-9th and 15-16th October at 8.00 p.m. Admission \$1.00; pensioners 50c. Enquiries and bookings 82 3819.

This comedy centres on the character of Billy and the complications which evolve from his fantasy life, built up as an escape from his cliché ridden background.

Membership

All subscriptions were due on July 1st 1971. You will find a pink membership slip enclosed... if you have not already done so, please complete it and pay your subscription as this is the last copy of the news sheet to be delivered to unfinancial members.