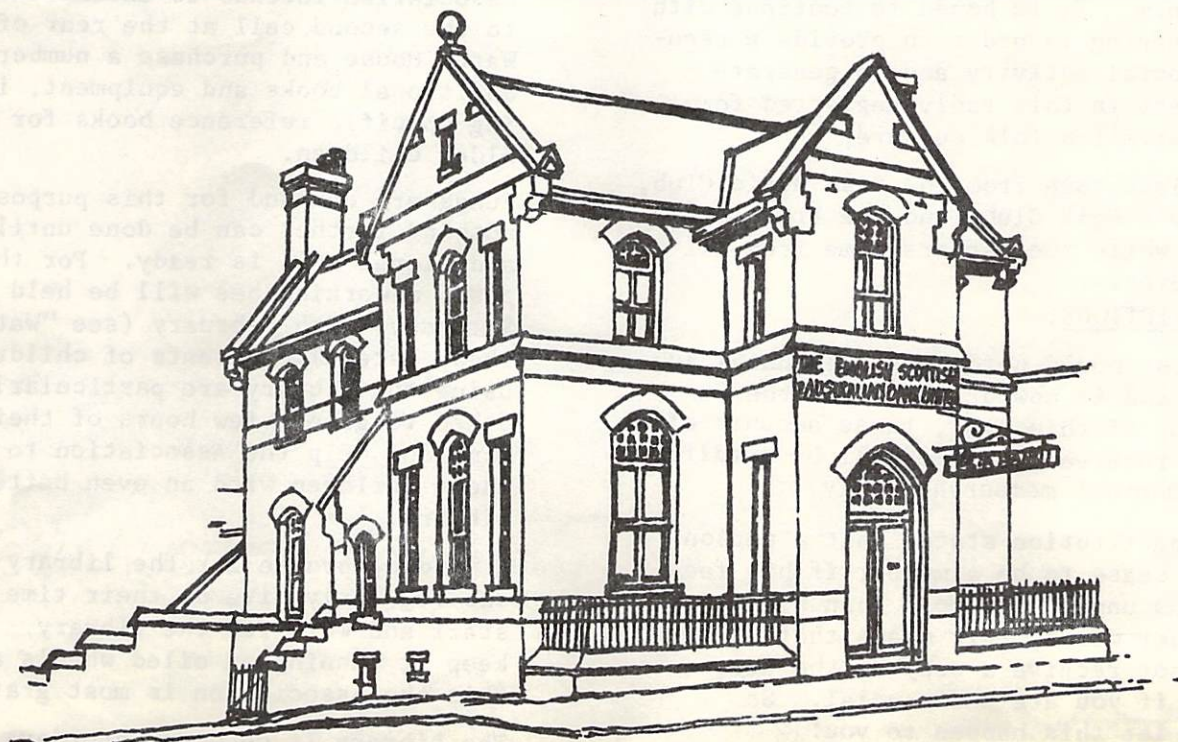


THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 57, Balmain.
N.S.W. 2041.

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'AN EMPTY BOX'

Very many Balmain residents watched with shock and horror as the demolishers recently dismembered the charming and historic E.S. & A. Bank on the corner of Mort and Darling Streets at the behest of the ANZ Banking Group. It has been replaced by a low box-like structure which does nothing to contribute to the character of Darling Street as did its predecessor.

The earlier bank, shown in Jenny Porter's sketch, had been classified by the National Trust and despite efforts by the Association and the Trust to save it, it fell in the name of "Progress". Whether future generations will call it progress is open to doubt.

It comes as a shock that banking institutions, which are leaders of the Aus-

tralian business community, should be so lacking in taste and perception. A particularly notable example is the demolition of the splendid Victorian building being demolished by the Bank of N.S.W. at the corner of King and George Streets in the city to make room for a glass box housing a computer.

One exception to this is the new branch recently opened by the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, near Loyalty Square, Darling Street, which shows what can be achieved by adapting an old building to modern banking. This Company, which is outstanding for the care it takes of its old buildings, deserves congratulation and support.

There is without doubt a need for some change in banking facilities as methods advance. We should, however, question the right of the banks to use our money to destroy old buildings of real merit when alternative sites are almost invariably available.

BALMAIN IN TIME.

Nearly 2000 copies of this interesting booklet have been sold to date. These booklets make welcome gifts. Give a copy of BALMAIN IN TIME instead of chocolates and help your friends to keep the calories down! Available at \$1.75 a single copy or 4 copies for \$6.00.

CRAFT SALE.

The Association's Craft Sale, which was held at the Watch House on 26th and 27th November, was tremendously successful. Hundreds of buyers thronged the Watch House and the Association profited by \$272.00. Our thanks to all who helped and particularly to Jeannette Stevenson who did a sterling job as organiser.

BALMAIN NOTES.

Traditional Australian Dancing.

For the past 4 months the N.S.W. Folk Federation has been conducting traditional Australian and British dancing at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell St., Balmain, on the third Saturday afternoon in each month. The dance commences at approximately 3 p.m. and continues until 5.30 p.m. It is hoped to continue with the dancing in order to provide a regular social activity and to generate interest in this sadly neglected form of Australian folk culture.

Musicians come from the Bush Music Club, Sydney's Folk Clubs and the Irish community, while the dancers come from all over Sydney.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Members should note that the annual subscription is now \$2.00. From the beginning of this year, those amounts of \$1.00 received to date will be credited as 6 months' membership only.

The Constitution states that a person shall cease to be a member if his fee remains unpaid for more than 8 weeks. In other words, this means that you will not receive a copy of the News Sheet if you are unfinancial. So don't let this happen to you!

Balmain Theatre Group.

The group is currently rehearsing its next production "Arsenic and Old Lace" and hopes to present it at the Campbell Street Presbyterian Hall on Fri. 7th, Sat. 8th, Wed. 12th, Fri. 14th and Sat. 15th April, 1972.

HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

The Leichhardt Historical Journal contains some fascinating material about the early days of the area, including the history of the wedge-shaped lot adjoining the Watch House -- it is 50c. and is well worth buying.

The next edition is expected to be on sale about June, 1972.

Anyone interested in contributing or wishing to buy a copy should contact Peter Reynolds - 82 3752.

EXPRESSWAY OPPOSITION.

At the next General Meeting of the Association on Thursday, 10th February, representatives of Council's Anti-Expressway Committee will address the meeting on the subject. General discussion will follow and the Association's policy regarding this important issue will be established, now that our new boundaries take in the whole of Rozelle, which will be affected by the expressway.

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

The Association's Children's Library at the Watch House is going from strength to strength. 148 children are now members and a large number of these are using the library regularly. Approximately 2/3rds of these are youngsters under 6, but to answer an increasing interest in the 6 to 12 age group, the Association intends to extend the library to the second cell at the rear of the Watch House and purchase a number of additional books and equipment, including specific reference books for these older children.

Funds are on hand for this purpose, but nothing further can be done until the additional cell is ready. For this purpose, a working bee will be held on Saturday, 12th February (see "Watch These Dates"). Parents of children using the library are particularly asked to give a few hours of their time and help the Association to provide their children with an even better library.

A word of praise for the library workers who regularly give up their time to staff and work for the library. They keep it running on oiled wheels and for this the Association is most grateful.

The Library is open on Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and on Wednesday afternoon after school. Another weekday afternoon is planned for the future.

Any enquiries to Gerard Oosterman - 82 2092.

COMMUNITY SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE.

As mentioned in the previous report, two students from the University of N.S.W. School of Social Work will be undertaking a survey of welfare facilities and social needs in the Balmain/Rozelle Peninsula over the next 8 weeks. This is part of the students' field work training and will therefore be in the nature of a pilot study but it should be interesting to see what new light they can throw upon our area. They will be coming to the Council meetings and to the General Meeting of the Association in February and if they have any comments or questions they would like to ask, we would suggest that they have a little time at the Meeting. They will be furnishing a written report at the end of their time. In the meantime, the Community Service Sub-committee would welcome new members. We hope to have a meeting in two to three weeks with the students and if anyone is interested, would they please contact Elizabeth Tow - at home 82 4577 or at work 82 0266.

HISTORY GROUP ACTIVITIES - 1972.

There was a heartening response to our appeal for readers of the Sydney Morning Herald from 1855 to 1860. Those engaged in this vital research are :

Gladys Chanter; Mary Ferguson; Pamela Hynd; Kay Janssen; David Dibden and Les Henley.

Although this work force is producing qualitative research, the burden is heavy. Considering that it can take up to two hours to search one day's news and advertisements, it is obvious that more readers are necessary to reduce the work load. Therefore, the plea for more hands is repeated.

Another important allied task is further research into the history of the Presbyterian/Congregational Church on the Peninsula. The Presbyterian Church Library has generously opened its archives to the Group and Rita Wise has this task in hand. It is hoped to produce an article on this subject for the second edition of the Leichhardt Historical Journal which is scheduled for mid-1972.

Throughout the coming year, as in 1970-71, the definition of the Balmain Land Grant will continue. A great deal of the basic research has been accomplished but there are many gaps yet to be closed. The Group is currently striving to reconcile the Grant boundary with the boundary of the former Balmain Municipal Council. Although this goal is not yet achieved, we have established that they were not collinear. Rita Wise, John Engle and Peter Reynolds are engaged in this task. We will endeavour to use this research for the basis of a definitive history of the Balmain Land Grant which the Group will submit to Management Committee for consideration for publication.

Anyone interested, please contact Peter Reynolds - 82 3752.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

The Christmas Barbecue was held in Dick Waterfield's magical waterfront garden on 18th December. It was highly successful and enjoyable and the Association thanks Dick most sincerely for his generosity in lending us his waterfront.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

We welcome our new Membership Secretary, Thea Banks, a stalwart worker and well-known member of the Association since its beginning. Thea will look after the membership lists and if you have any enquiries, please ring her at 82 4771.

BALMAIN HOEDOWN.

On Saturday, 19th February, at 8.30 p.m. the heroes of the wild west will ride again. The scene will be 37a Ballast Point Road. (See "Watch These Dates".) Round up your buddies and come along.

WATCH THESE DATES.

Saturday, 29th January, 1972, from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. at Gladstone Park, Balmain Children's Paint-in. All children welcome; materials provided by the Association.

Monday, 7th February, at 8.00 p.m. at the Watch House and on 1st Monday of every month. Meeting of the History Group.

Thursday, 10th February, at 8.00 p.m. Association General Meeting, Balmain Lower Town Hall. Speakers for Anti-Expressway Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council. Refreshments served.

Saturday, 12th February, at 10.00 a.m. Library Working Bee to clean and prepare for painting the new library cell at the Watch House. Bring your own paint scraper. All are asked to help, particularly parents of children using the library. There are also plenty of extra jobs to be done at the Watch House. Organiser: Bill Haesler - 82 3956.

Saturday, 19th February, at 8.30 p.m. Country and Western Party at 37a Ballast Point Road, Birchgrove. Pay \$1.00 to the Sheriff on the spot. Bring your own liquor--food on the house. Western gear. Leave guns, spurs and horses outside.

Thursday, 13th April, at 8.00 p.m. Association General Meeting, Balmain Lower Town Hall. Refreshments served.

THE ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION.

At a Special Meeting held at the Balmain Town Hall on Thursday, 2nd December, 1971, four changes to the Constitution were carried by the members present.

1. Now that the Watch House is our permanent "home", the registered address of the Association has been changed to The Watch House, 179 Darling Street. P.O. Box 57 will still be used as a postal address.

2. Because of our decision to extend the Association's boundaries to cover the Rozelle Ward, this has had to be written into the Constitution.

3. With rising costs of postage, materials, etc., it was reluctantly decided to increase the annual subscription to \$2.00 for members. Pensioners and juniors will still pay 20c.

4. Our Committee felt that subscriptions could be more efficiently handled if the due date for subscriptions fell on the anniversary of the initial payment made when new members join the Association, i.e. if you join on 15th February, 1972, your subscriptions will be due on the 15th February each year. All previous memberships fall due on 1st July.

PLANNING THE MUNICIPALITY.

The Leichhardt Council has honoured its promise to consult the people on the planning process and for the last few months the Association has had 3 representatives on the Council's planning sub-committee, David Chesterman, Robert Beverley and Bill Haesler.

The remainder of the sub-committee consists of members of the Glebe Society, The Annandale Association, the Mayor, the Town Clerk, the Council's Town Planner and the independent Aldermen. To date the sub-committee has produced draft interim codes for Residential Flat buildings, House-let-in-lodgings and Group Dwellings.

These codes have been recommended for adoption by Council at its meeting on Tuesday, 18th January. The next step is much more involved and requires some intensive local study of the Balmain peninsula by members of the Association's Architectural and Town Planning Sub-committee in order to recommend to the Council planning committee the building types and population densities best suited to the various environmental areas.

Similar studies will be made by the Glebe Society and Annandale Association for their own areas. After six years of effort, it is very satisfying to have the Association's views seriously considered by Council.

WATCH HOUSE RESTORATION.

Although the Watch House was officially opened in April, 1970, not all the restoration work and renovation was completed and in the last 12 months some defects have become evident.

In an effort to complete the work on the Watch House, we intend holding regular working bees as well as employing tradesmen for the more exacting tasks.

The following are the major items still outstanding:

Kitchen annexe.	Stormwater drainage.
Landscaping.	Additional Library cell.
Repair of gutters and downpipes.	Painting of some rooms.
Completion of stairs.	Repair of ground floor.
Repainting of Charge Room.	Furniture of the 1800's.
Re-roofing of privy.	Completion of rear gate.
Repair of stone-work	Repair of chimney.
Fitting of locks to doors.	Completion of light fittings.

Members who can help by attending working bees or with specialist assistance are asked to contact Bill Haesler - 82 3956.

PLANTING IN THE BALMAIN AREA.

This edition, we are printing the first of a series of garden notes prepared by Neil Oates, who is a landscape architect and has given much of his time to arranging and carrying out tree planting for the Association.

Melaleucas. Melaleuca means black and white; a reference to the contrasting whitish trunk and dark foliage. Usually they are referred to as "paper-barks"; some are called "honey-myrtles" and the term "tea-tree" is sometimes incorrectly used. They are a typically Australian group of plants.

Broad-leaved Paper Bark. Melaleuca quinquenervia. A small tree (20 ft.-30 ft.) which was planted in Curtis Road in the spring of 1970. A small grove has been planted at the Edward Street entrance to Peacock Point Park. It is especially suited to exposed harbourside situations and will tolerate very wet soils. With a shapely crown of dark green leaves, it is a fine shade tree which can be considered for courtyard planting. It flowers in Summer with dense creamy-white blossoms. A pink flowering form is also available.

Bracelet Honey-Myrtle. Melaleuca armillaris. A shrub and occasionally a small tree 15 ft. high. A good stand of these at Peacock Point is between the upper level path and the pole retaining wall. It grows well in shallow sandy soils in exposed situations. The Peacock Point stand is a good example of screen planting.

Red Flowering Paper Bark. Melaleuca hypericifolia. A small spreading shrub which can occasionally reach 10 ft. It has small oval shaped leaves and dark red bottlebrush-like flowers. It is suitable for wet soils in rocky situations. At Peacock Point they have been planted near the rock shelves to the west of the grassed ramp. Planting at Peacock Point was done in early Spring 1970.

MEMBERSHIP FORM.

I wish to open/renew my membership with the Balmain Association and enclose \$ * subscription.

Name

Address

.

* Subscription: Full membership \$2.00
Pensioner 20c.
Junior 20c.

Send to:
The Hon. Treasurer, The Balmain
Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain.
N.S.W. 2041.