



THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 57, 1
Balmain.
N.S.W. 2041.

Issue No. 37 APRIL, 1972.

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE.

A new and exciting era is opening for planning in this Municipality. The new Leichhardt Town Plan promises to be unique in Australia in that it will be based on a wide-ranging series of studies and a far-reaching and comprehensive approach.

The first step in planning the "new Leichhardt" was the adoption by the Council of an interim building code. Its object is to ensure that in areas in which it was permitted, flat development would not change the existing scale and character.

The Council then instructed its Planning Committee to prepare an "Outline Plan for Balmain" to deal with broad policies concerning all aspects of the future of the Municipality.

The new planning objectives adopted by the Council are :-

1. Improve residential amenity by conserving the natural and man-made assets of the Municipality (i.e. buildings, views, waterfront, etc.) by encouraging suitable development and curbing industrial and other environmental nuisances.

2. Retain and encourage the diversity of people and activities characteristic of the Municipality and which offer opportunities for employment, shopping and leisure.

3. Develop the community facilities required effectively to meet social needs; these include health, child welfare, libraries, pensioner assistance, parks, playgrounds, etc.

4. Improve the movement of traffic and transport within and serving the Municipality, consistent with environment, aims and present needs.

The Leichhardt Town Plan will be based on submissions to be made to the Council by the Balmain and Annandale Associations, Glebe Society and 80 Sydney University students from the Architecture and Town Planning Departments, who will carry out research under the direction of experts within their Faculties.

A planner representing the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital community health study is a member of the Council Planning Committee and health and social needs will be researched.

Balmain is particularly fortunate in having the work of Mr. John Devenish, whose Master of Town and Country Planning thesis is extremely detailed and, together with the State Planning Authority's Balmain Study, forms a very useful basis for the Balmain Planning Study.

It is also hoped to involve local school children in the planning study through the I.N.S.P.E.C.T. programme, which will encourage the schools to do surveys and projects in the area, thus interesting both children and parents.

Over the following months research and enquiries will be carried out for the purpose of the planning study.

Architects and planners in the municipality will be contacted and any other person interested in helping should contact David Chesterman - 82 3776.

BALMAIN IN TIME.

The Association's history of Balmain is still selling well and copies are obtainable for \$1.75 per copy or \$6.00 for 4 copies from Mrs. Margaret Dobson (82 2774) and Mrs. Jocelyn Morris (82 2565).



PLANTING IN THE BALMAIN AREA.

THE EUCALYPTS.

Without doubt the best known of all Australian species. The name is derived from two Greek words meaning "well covered", a reference to the lid which seals the flower capsule before it is thrown off.

Eucalypts generally pass through easily recognised stages of growth. A few develop from a single stem which quickly becomes a trunk. The vast majority, however, produce a number of shoots which persist for a series of growth stages until one begins to dominate the others. The sapling stage is reached when a distinct clean trunk is noticeable and the lower branches are being shed. The next developing stage is characterised by the development of the main trunk. The mature stage is reached when persistent branches determine the shape of the crown.

As the growth rate of most eucalypts is quite fast, it is often sufficient to plant what are known as "tube seedlings". These are plants in their first season of growth which are grown from seed and contained in a metal cylinder about 6" long and 1" diameter.

The list given below are a few species very suited to Balmain conditions. All are particularly suited to areas where rock is very close to the surface and the soil is very poor. This is often the case along the ridge top and in old quarry areas along the foreshore.

Bangalay or Southern Mahogany (Eucalyptus botriodes). In good conditions this can develop into a large tree 50'-80' high. With a dense crown of leaves it is well suited as a shade tree and for street tree planting.

Scribbly Gum (Eucalyptus haemastoma). A small white barked tree with its characteristic "scribbles" on the trunk. These are made by the larvae of insects eating their way back and forth below the bark.

nicholii).

Small Leaved Peppermint (Eucalyptus / A small to medium height tree 25'-35' which has a dense grown of small blue grey leaves. It has already found favour in Balmain as a courtyard tree.

Red Bloodwood (Eucalyptus gummifera). Similar to the Bangalay, this can develop to a large tree with a dense crown of leaves. In late summer it produces a mass of creamy yellow flowers in cluster forms. Closely related to the Yellow Bloodwood (Eucalyptus eximia), a smaller tree with a more spreading habit.

Willow Gum (Eucalyptus scopana.) A small tree 20'-30' with narrow yellow-green leaves and graceful drooping foliage. It is well suited for courtyard planting.

HISTORY GROUP.

The Mayor of Leichhardt, Alderman N. Origlass, has approved the Association's request to research the official records of the now defunct Balmain Municipal Council. This task involves countless visits to Balmain Town Hall where the early Minute and Rate Books are housed. The immediate discovery is that such a project will test all but the most ardent researchers for the documents are stored in conditions that are not the least conducive to the meticulous investigation which their contents deserve.

These documents are a veritable mine of information for anyone working in this field and for that reason they should be in a research library where safe storage and reading and copying facilities are normally available. This the Town Hall cannot provide.

It has long been a plea of the History Group that this vital primary source material be acquired by the Library of New South Wales for addition to the Mitchell Collection. This worthwhile step would ensure that Association members and, more importantly, all researchers are given access to this material in normal Library hours which far exceed the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. official Municipal hours.

The very time-consuming nature of our task, when combined with the important aspects of longevity and accessibility, makes it imperative that these documents be transferred to the Mitchell Library. A precedent for this step already exists since the records of the former Glebe Council (now incorporated in the Municipality of Leichhardt) have for some time been lodged in that Library.

The Convenor of the Group is Peter Reynolds (82 3752) who welcomes anyone interested in helping with research.

The next meeting of the History Group will be at the Watch House on Monday, 10th April, at 8.00 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICES.

The Community Services Sub-committee is looking in more detail at possible locations for a child-minding centre as well as studying all the other factors involved. The next meeting will be held at the Watch House at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 6th April. Anyone who would like to come along--especially anyone with any ideas--would be very welcome.

THE WATCH HOUSE.

The Watch House will be open for inspection on the first Saturday of every month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

LEICHHARDT HISTORICAL JOURNAL.

The current edition of this extremely interesting journal of local history, published by the Association in conjunction with the Annandale Association and the Glebe Society, is available at 50c. per copy from Mrs. Margaret Dobson (82 2774) and Peter Reynolds (82 3752).

The next edition is in preparation and the deadline for articles is the end of April. If you have something to contribute, contact Peter Reynolds.

LIBRARY ACCOMMODATION.

The increasing membership of the Children's Library has brought about the necessity for increasing the space used, as we cannot accommodate very much more book stock. As a result, several working bees have been arranged on Saturday mornings to scrape paint from the rear cell walls and ceiling. In spite of the efforts of the handful of people who have attended these working bees, there is still about half of the area left to be scraped and cleaned down. It is my contention that a large number of keen people could complete the task in a very short time, whereas, at our present rate it will take "the faithful few" months to finish the cell. I am therefore appealing to the parents of those children who will use the Library to assist us in cleaning the cell for library use. The cell will be unlocked and access available every Saturday at 10.00 a.m. Please help us to increase the Children's Library facilities. The "old faithfuls" need not apply! We need them (and other members) for other tasks associated with the Watch House restoration. Additional details if required, ring Bill Haesler - 82 3956.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

The Association's Children's Library at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, is open from 9.30 to 12 noon on Saturdays and after school on Wednesdays. All children are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP.

Membership currently stands at 446, i.e. 245 renewals and 201 new members. There are 168 children registered at the library and 26 junior members.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription has recently been increased from \$1.00 to \$2.00. A number of recent renewals have been accompanied by \$1.00 only. In these cases membership will be renewed only until 30th June, 1972. All other new memberships and renewals will be for 12 months from the date of payment of the subscription.

EXPRESSWAY OPPOSITION.

The Association decided at its General Meeting on 10th February to support the Leichhardt Council Anti-Expressway Campaign Committee in its efforts to have the plans for the city's expressways revised.

Speakers from the Committee outlined its objections to the present plans for expressways converging on the heart of Sydney and suggested an alternative plan for stopping them at a distance of approximately 5 miles from the city centre and establishing an efficient rapid transit system to improve the movement of people into the city, without the problems that accompany a large influx of vehicles.

Following a Public Meeting at the Leichhardt Town Hall on 27th October last year, the Committee asked leave to send a deputation to the Premier. The request was referred to Mr. Morton, the Minister for Local Government, but as yet the Minister has not agreed to see the deputation.

A similar stalemate seems to have been reached with the Department of Main Roads which has not answered a letter from Leichhardt Council written early in December, 1971.

In the meantime, the campaign continues to gather support from an increasing number of experts.

POLLUTION.

The Association has been fortunate enough to obtain copies of a leaflet put out by the Dept. of Envi entitled "Who to Call".

This is a comprehensive list of telephone numbers and addresses for complaints about all manner of pollution. We have not sufficient copies to distribute with the News Sheet, but they will be available at meetings and from the Watch House on Saturday mornings.

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.

WATCH THESE DATES.

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

Saturday, 6th May, at 8.30. Wine and
Cheese Night at the Watch House, 179
Darling Street, Balmain. Wine and
food supplied. Tickets \$1.50 are
available from :-

Mrs. Victoria Joannou Mrs. Sylvia
14 Pashley St., Robertson
Balmain. 82 5172. 30 Thames Street,
Balmain. 82 5650.

Mrs. Jess Haesler,
5 Lookes Avenue,
Balmain East. 82 3956.

Thursday, 8th June, at 8.00. Association
General Meeting Balmain Lower Town Hall.
Refreshments served.

Sat.-Sun., 17-18th June. Ski weekend at
Smiggins Holes (see Fund Raising.)
Enquiries to Mrs. Victoria Joannou
82 5172.

Saturday, 24th June. Family Picnic at
Lane Cove National Park.

Saturday, 22nd July, at 8.30. Social
Function. (Further details will be
given in the next News Sheet.)

Sunday, 29th October. Tentative date
for inspection of houses in Balmain.

BALMAIN NOTES.

Play Group.

A very successful Children's Playgroup
has been operating at St. John's Hall,
Birchgrove, for some time. Sessions are
on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.30 a.m.
to 11.30 a.m. All mothers are invited to
bring their children with them--ages are
from nil to five years.

Mothers stay with their children and help
to organise their play. It is a great
chance for the children to play with
other children, paint, dough and equip-
ment that is not always convenient or
available at home.

An added bonus is that mothers can meet
other mums in the area. This is a boon
to people who are newcomers or are "tied
up" at home with a young family.

A donation of 30c. per family is charged
per session to buy equipment with an
annual membership fee of \$1.00 for those
wishing to join. Rosemary Roebuck
(82 4338) can give any further infor-
mation required.

Balmain Theatre Group.

The group's current production "Arsenic
and Old Lace" is to be presented at the
Campbell Street Presbyterian Hall on
Fri., 7th; Sat., 8th; Wed. 12th; Fri. 14th;
Sat. 15th April, 1972. Tickets are \$1.00.
Pensioners and children 50c. Tea and
coffee will be served. Enquiries for
bookings 82 4686 or 82 5624.

"The Volunteer"

A very welcome addition to the Balmain
scene is our first wine bar-restaurant
"The Volunteer". It is in the old
stone post office at Queens Place (off
Darling Street) and has been acclaimed
for both its good food and atmosphere.
It takes the name from the old hotel
which stands not far away in Darling
Street, the favourite watering place
of the Balmain Volunteer Fire Brigade
in the 1890's.

Creative Leisure Movement.

The Birchgrove Creative Leisure Centre
is situated at 29a Ballast Point Road.
It is open every afternoon after
school (3.30 to 5.30 p.m.) for all
children of school age to come and "do
their own thing" with paints, clay and
a variety of different activities.

There is a pre-school children's play-
group every morning.

A number of groups and classes are held
one of which is a "Keep Fit" class from
6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. It is
a very good workout given by a well
qualified teacher and there are vacancies
for new members. The fee is \$1.00.

Another group with vacancies is the Adult
painting and sketching group. Anyone
interested please phone Mrs. Epstein
82 4850.

A Creative Leisure Centre Auxilliary has
been formed and anyone interested is in-
vited to join or just to give a hand--
whether skilled or unskilled--at the
Centre. Information from Mrs. Robyn
Jones 82 2727.

FUND RAISING.

The Fund Raising Group is planning a
series of social functions over the next
few months.

The next will be a Wine and Cheese Night
at the Watch House--all food and drink
will be provided and the tickets will be
\$1.50 each -- see "Watch These Dates".

Organisation of a house inspection (ten-
tative date Sunday, 29th October) has
also been commenced.

An interesting new departure is the ski
weekend planned for 17-18th June at
Smiggins Holes. Travel is by air, leav-
ing Sydney at 5 a.m. Saturday and re-
turning on Sunday afternoon. It will be
action and fun-packed, with the price of
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