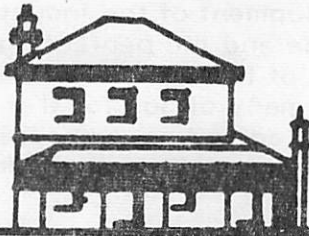


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THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

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

Issue No. 40

OCTOBER, 1972

Once again Balmain has lured the film makers with a unique combination of old world charm and water views.

The home of Frank and Carol Olivier has been chosen as the setting for a new ABC TV series to be shown shortly, "A Certain Woman". In Paul Street, East Balmain, the Olivier's stone and lace cottage enjoys magnificent water views.

The view from the junction of Johnston and Paul Streets was the inspiration for George Lawrence's painting "The Blue Gate". The original hangs in a senior executive office on the top floor of the A.M.P. building. It's worth having a look at if you can bluff your way in.

Students of Balmain's changing architecture will be interested in a comparison of Paul Street at present with George Lawrence's presentation.

The right-hand side of the street now features a fine example of red brick medium rise post war Australian flats.

The result of the election at the Annual General Meeting is probably well known by now. But if you missed it, here is the official list.

President:	Bob Beverley
Vice President:	Peter McRorie
Treasurer:	Richard Norman
Committee:	Jeannette Stevenson, Alan Rogers, David Porter, Vicki Joan- nou, David Chester- man, Julie Dibden, Neil Oates.

It is with a great deal of pleasure (and no small measure of relief) that we are able to announce that Margaret Dobson has agreed to carry on as secretary.

Overheard on the ferry approaching Darling Street Wharf:

"What a lovely little park!"

"Yes. I bet the developers weep tears of blood when they see land being wasted like that."

The Department of Education has written asking for the loan of any photographs of schools, school activities, school furniture, pupils, teachers and so on up to 1940. These will be copied and returned and treated with the greatest care as the department is aware that they cannot be replaced. It is intended to enlarge the department's photographic record of schools.

All photographs should be addressed to:

Mr J. Fletcher,
Historical Research Officer,
Division of Planning,
Department of Education,
G.P.O. Box 33,
SYDNEY NSW 2001.

And don't forget, of course, to clearly indicate who is sending them so that they can be returned. Further information can be obtained by ringing 20549, extension 686.

The restoration of the "Lion Tea House" building for the real estate firm of James Lister Pty. Ltd., should prove one of the most interesting redevelopments this year. Bill Turner is the architect for the project that involves restoring the building to its original conception but with more modern plumbing.

Pam McRorie (Modena Pty. Ltd.) is responsible for the decor.

The builders are Johnston & Ives, from Newport.

The management committee has set itself the task of considering the future role of the Association. Should it continue along the present formal lines, or should it become more involved in community service.

Of course this is a matter for every member to consider, and members' views will be welcomed by management when the matter comes up for general discussion. There is no point in altering our style merely for the sake of a change, but we are all interested in any form of improvement if it is possible to make it.

Plans for landscaping the Watch House grounds are well in hand. Not so well advanced is the raising of \$2,700 to do it. This price includes sandstone paving, and drops to \$1,200 if the sandstone is left out. Management decided that

- (i) Approval be sought from the National Trust to commence work on the land,
- (ii) proposed plan be shown at next General Meeting on October 12,
- (iii) Leichhardt Municipal Council be approached for assistance,
- (iv) Neil Oates prepare a re-adjusted estimate of cost on the basis of Council assistance and voluntary labour; this estimate to be broken into two parts - one for the block and one for the Watch House grounds;
- (v) Arthur Ellis be approached about laying the water service,
- (vi) History group start looking for church foundations.

Come along to the next general meeting on October 12 and see the plans for this project. Successful completion of this job is a must for the Association.

Take a peek under the bed or wherever else you store those boxes of long forgotten books. The library sub-committee is after children's books suitable for the 2 to 12 year old age group. You can donate a few new ones, of course, if you so desire.

The following article by H. B. (Jo) Gullett, former Australian Ambassador and Liberal M. P. appeared recently in the Sunday Telegraph.

The sentiments are undeniably sound, the proposal is exciting. It seems well worth our support.

150 years ago men were building fine houses, churches and public buildings in this country. They were making splendid furniture, there were potteries and iron foundries; you could order a good suit of clothes, a set of wrought-iron gates, a splendid carriage, a butter churn, a solid ocean going boat - all made in Australia.

FESTIVAL TOO

With the development of the industrial revolution in Europe and the perfecting of the cheapest form of transport ever known - the windjammer - many of our local industries withered and died and so, unhappily, did many of the centres where they were produced.

The work forces which produced them were dispersed, the very skills themselves barely survived.

Worse than that, the swamping of Australia with mass-produced, cheaply imported goods made us forget the solid and simple artifacts of our grandfathers.

When I was a boy in suburban Melbourne there was hardly anything to remind us that this was Australia. All the things in the houses I knew came from abroad.

Our local timbers were despised and wasted in favor of the imported. One seldom saw an Australian tree or shrub in the garden. Blackbirds and English thrushes were encouraged to nest around our houses.

When I went to stay with my farming relatives and later on when we went to live near Queanbeyan ourselves, it was like moving into another country and back into another age. Here the horse was still king, the saddle, the sulky, the hand-wrought gun, the solid hand-made tools and iron pots - these were the things that were valued.

What has happened to it all and where do you go to see it today? Where do the children go now to see re-created for them the conditions under which our people - their people - lived 100, soon 200 years ago?

If you are born English there are tens of thousands of houses and buildings where you may go and see the past. It is the same all over Europe, in Turkey, in Iran, India and North America. What have we got? Well not quite nothing. Thanks to the labors of a devoted few we have Vacluse House, Elizabeth Farm, Como and others.

But we lack a museum on a grand scale designed solely to show our past in visual form.

So let us make a beginning and let us make it in Canberra. I put forward two ideas.

In the course of its acquisition of all the freehold land in the A.C.T., the Commonwealth Government should set aside at least one old homestead as a focal point for such an establishment. The house selected

should be 19th century, the larger the better.

Such a house should be furnished and equipped right down to the kitchen with the contemporary furniture and artifacts. The curtains and the blinds, the carpets should be right.

The wardrobes should have contemporary clothes, and the dressing rooms equipped down to the last shaving brush, card case and front stud.

If there are not stables, coach house, forges, dairies, cattle and sheep yards already on the site then these should be carefully moved and re-erected from other properties. Again they should be equipped with the appropriate machinery - bullock wagons, harness, horse-drawn vehicles, churns and so on.

Adjacent to the main house also, if they do not already exist, should be moved shepherd's huts, log cabins, old-style men's huts with their tiered bunks - all furnished in an appropriate way.

Not only should they all be on display but they should be operable and at certain seasons operated.

There should be a team of bullocks, a Cobb & Co coach, if you like, people in period clothing.

Of course, it will cost a lot of money but if we put it off for 10 years it will cost many millions, if indeed it will then be possible to assemble the materials at all.

Having announced its clear intention to proceed with this project, the Government should immediately appeal for relics on a nation-wide scale. This, after all, is to be our Australian National Museum.

I emphasise that the need is urgent. Every day crates of old bottles, cast-iron lace, old bed-steads, are being shipped out to the United States.

Not long ago I saw an American at a sale buy a beautiful old sulky, and a South African a historic piece of Australian silver. Good luck to them but we are fools not to preserve our own share.

DEVELOPMENT.

The Ministry for the Arts and Environment is collecting works of art from the whole Pacific area. Excellent work. But it hardly vies in importance with the necessity of preserving our own heritage.

The second proposal I make is that we should have an annual historic festival in Canberra. Let's have the lot. A holiday, a big procession, Cobb and Co., mounted troopers, the Rum Corps marching in their scarlet, bullock wagons, buggies, horsemen, floats - the full treatment. This would be a tremendous tourist attraction and those who would obviously benefit from it financially could reasonably be expected to sponsor some of the exhibits.

We have a brand new ministry and some very capable men running it. Why can't they give us something new - something Australian?





SALE OF WORK

This is another of our big fund raisers, and a wonderful chance to pick up the unusual, the original, the amusing and the economical items that we usually have to spend days finding.

It's on at the Watch House on Friday, November 24, from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 25.

Contact Jeannette Stevenson on 82 4255 if you want to participate as she is organising the stalls now for selling handcrafts and old wares.

That's Jeannette Stevenson on 82 4255 after 7.30 p.m., please.

HOUSE INSPECTION

This is one of our big fund raising events for the year, and six properties have been selected plus the Balmain Volunteer and the Watch House.

Tickets are \$2.00 and will be available at the general meeting on October 12, or send stamped addressed envelope (and \$2.00) to Secretary, Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041.

The date is Sunday, October 29.

Get organised for it NOW.



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.