



THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

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

Issue No. 41

NOVEMBER, 1972

Architects Philip Cox and Clive Lucas, in an excellent lecture "Restoring Victorian Houses" at Glebe Town Hall on November 8, stressed the importance of the "good manners" of restoration when living in tightly settled areas. It is not good manners, for instance, to paint your dwelling shocking pink when the other five in the terrace are gleaming white.

And it isn't good manners to surround yours with a wall that clashes violently with the exterior treatment of the others. Of course good manners need not be a stifling of personal taste.

Rather they are a bridling of individual license; a recognition of the idea that it is desirable to create a harmonious framework for the enjoyment and peace of everyone.

Unfortunately, environmental good manners is something that Australians notoriously lack. Ask any solicitor who deals with home unit disputes.

Our devotion to the notion of a red brick bung for everyone hasn't conditioned us to the difficulties of getting along with "common wall" neighbours, and, indeed, a "blow you Jack" attitude has become somewhat of an Aussie tradition.

Particularly when we are motoring.

Not that we motor gently anymore, we drive like blazes in some overpowered monster and care little about what it does to the lives of everyone who lives in cities.

Consider what the Society for Social Responsibility in Science has to say about motor vehicle air pollution. Consider it and act on it and perhaps we'll be able to see the bridge from Darling Street on more days of the year.

Quote. "On the Road", from the S.S.R.C. publication, "What can I do?"

1. Motor vehicles are the biggest source of air pollution. The main pollutants are carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons

and oxides of nitrogen. Legal limits on exhaust and crankcase emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from new cars will take effect throughout Australia in 1975. There are a number of ways individuals can help cut down motor vehicle pollution in cities and towns now.

(a) Don't let your car idle unnecessarily. Idling cars are great polluters. Switch off your engine when caught in a traffic jam.

(b) Avoid excessive use of the choke, hard acceleration and unnecessary revving of the engine.

(c) Consider the pollution factor as well as size and style when buying cars. Ask for details of the amount and kinds of pollutants emitted by models you are considering. The salesman probably won't have the answers, but if enough people ask, the message will filter through that the public considers pollution important.

(d) Maintain your vehicle's engine in good condition. Out-of-tune cars are worse polluters than well-tuned ones.

(e) Most new vehicles have crankcase emission control devices (known as PCV valves) fitted as standard equipment. If your car hasn't one, check with your garage to see if one can be fitted. Before buying a new car check that it has a PCV valve system.

(f) Leave your car at home when you can. Better still, consider the possibility of living without one. Use public transport, walk, bicycle. Organize car pools with friends. Pollution per occupant is much less from a full car than from one with all passenger seats empty.

2. Carry a litter bag in your car. Don't throw things out of windows, except into roadside bins.

3. Don't let your motor vehicle make unnecessary noise. Exhaust and horn attachments that raise noise output are anti-social.

VACANT LAND NEXT TO WATCH HOUSE.

The National Trust of Australia has now asked the Association whether it will be prepared to lease the triangular block of land at the corner of Colgate Avenue and Darling Street and the Association has accepted.

Members may recall that it is intended to landscape the block as a public park, but before this is done, the History Group will excavate the site. The land was the site of the old Presbyterian Church and we intend to search for its stone foundations. Further, with the assistance of an archaeologist from Sydney University, we wish to carefully examine the surrounding soils for any artifacts, bottles or remains that might have accumulated over the years.

It is important to this activity that the proposed bulldozing by Council be postponed until we have recorded our "finds".

To preserve this piece of Balmain's history as a permanent reminder, it would be fitting for the foundation walls, if intact, to be incorporated in the proposed landscaping scheme for this corner block.

We will commence our "dig" on 2nd December, 1972, at 9.00 a.m., and invite all diggers to come armed with shovels and mattocks. Further enquiries may be made to either 82 3752 or 82 4269.

BE IN IT, MATE:

The first social event of the New Year (1973) will be a grand occasion to commemorate Australia Day - or words to that effect.

It's a "Bazza Mackenzie" Party at Jeannette Stevenson's home, 21 William Street, Balmain, on Saturday, January 27th at 8 pm.

Wear a broad brimmed hat or a crown of gladioli or just come as your own sweet self. Whichever way it is don't forget \$1.00 for the admission and your own supply of icy cold choobes - Fosters, of course.

IS IT CRICKET ?

It may not be cricket, but it's the best we can do and it's on at Birchgrove Oval on Sunday, February 18, 1973. Teams are now being made up and selection is automatic for the first 22 volunteers.

Ring David Porter on 827 1081 now and book your place.

A nominal selection fee of \$1.00 is all it costs, and spectators, family, friends and

children are all free.

If cricket is not your game don't be put off. Come along just the same, see the fun and picnic at the oval.

Make up a party or just come along to meet new people, but either way don't forget the esky and the icy tubes.

GENERAL MEETING

Next general meeting is December 7th, and will feature a film "A future for the past".

At the Balmain Lower Town Hall at 8 p.m. and the management committee would particularly like to see a good attendance of new members as well as old.

The committee is moving to streamline the workings of the Association, to provide opportunities for everyone to express their interests, and this can be helped along by greater member participation.

Lower Town Hall, Thursday, December 7th.

XMAS PARTY

This is the final social event for '72, and with daylight saving and some organised fine weather, it should be a beauty. The barbecue starts at 6.30 p.m. at 2 Numa Street, Birchgrove on December 16th. Bring your own food, grog and musical instrument (particularly if you play it). Turn left at the end of Louisa Road to find Numa Street and remember the date and time - Saturday, December 16, 6.30 p.m.

SALE OF WORK

This is another of our big fund raising functions for the year and full details are in our back page ad.

DR COBDEN PARKES:

The Association wrote to Dr Cobden Parkes, a grandson of Sir Henry Parkes and one of Balmain's most distinguished sons, on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The following reply has been received.

"Dear Mr Haesler,

I was delighted to receive your letter and I appreciated the reference to my association with Balmain.

Indeed I am just learning about the work of your Association and trust it is not too late for you to regain much of the character that

existed at the peak of the suburb's development.

I assume your task is more than the retention of old buildings here and there, but rather to make the lovely inner area more livable in an environment created for the people and for which Sydney could be grateful."

Signed, Cobden Parkes.

NATURAL GAS:

"Blow, blow thou winter wind, "
Art so unkind ————— "

I hope that was Shakespeare, 'cos I'm giving him the credit; but whether you cook or heat with natural gas you'll be anxious to know just where it's going to be stored and through whose backyard the pipeline cometh.

The Association is pressing A.G.L. hard for details with an astonishing lack of success.

If you, gentle reader, happen to be a major shareholder, we could use your help. In the meantime management has referred the correspondence to Leichhardt Municipal Council and the S.P.A.

HISTORICAL:

The second issue of the Leichhardt Historical Journal has been published, and it is available from the Association at 50c per copy.

TREE PLANTING:

Leichhardt Council has received so many applications for trees to be planted in streets that the funds for this activity are exhausted. If petitions are submitted, people should state (and be prepared to) that they will plant the trees and erect guards around them.

The Association has at least 20 plane trees available (no charge) for membership planting.

REORGANISATION:

Management has streamlined the executive workings of the Association, hopefully in the best interests of all.

President, Secretary and Treasurer still form (as in any organisation) the supreme triumvirate.

But four subcommittees have now been formed.

Fund raising, publicity and member relations will be headed automatically by the vice president. In this case, Peter McRorie aided by Jeannette Stevenson and David Porter.

Town Planning is headed by Pres. Bob Beverley, with David Chesterman, Neil Oates and Alan Rogers.

Community Services will employ the talents of Vern Reid and Sue Ballinger.

Historical, undoubtedly to be under the guidance of Peter Reynolds, has not yet been finalised.

It is hoped that the grouping of Association functions in this manner (and these groupings are flexible) will cut down the "per person" load of work as it has existed in the past and make for more efficiency generally.

BALMAIN-ROZELLE PENSIONERS

The B-R Pensioners Centre is now to be established in the old R.S.L. Hall, by courtesy of the R.S.L.

Balmain Leagues Club are providing furniture and money.

Many members of the Balmain Association are helping individually in the establishment of this centre, but the Association as a body is short of funds for this project as much as it would like to assist.

However, we are able to help by providing the B-R pensioners with facilities for a stall at the Craft Sale (see back page) at the Watch House, November 24-25.

The book, "Houses of Balmain" will be on sale on this day for \$1.00 instead of \$2.50. This is a saving of \$1.50, and copies can be obtained now at \$1.00 from treasurer Richard Norman - 824577.

HOUSE INSPECTION, 1972

Sunday, 29th October looked as if it might be a complete disaster with Balmain awash from the heaviest rain this year.

But President Bob Beverley produced a roll of heavy polythene, the people who had offered their houses screwed up their courage, and by the time the sun began to shine in the early afternoon it was obvious that the day had been a success, albeit a damp one. And once again the Association's most sincere thanks to those who opened their homes in these appalling conditions.

(cont.)

A special thanks to the ladies of the church who went to a lot of trouble to present morning and afternoon tea. It is a shame that their efforts were frustrated by the weather.

At the Watch House

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

"A Future for the Past"