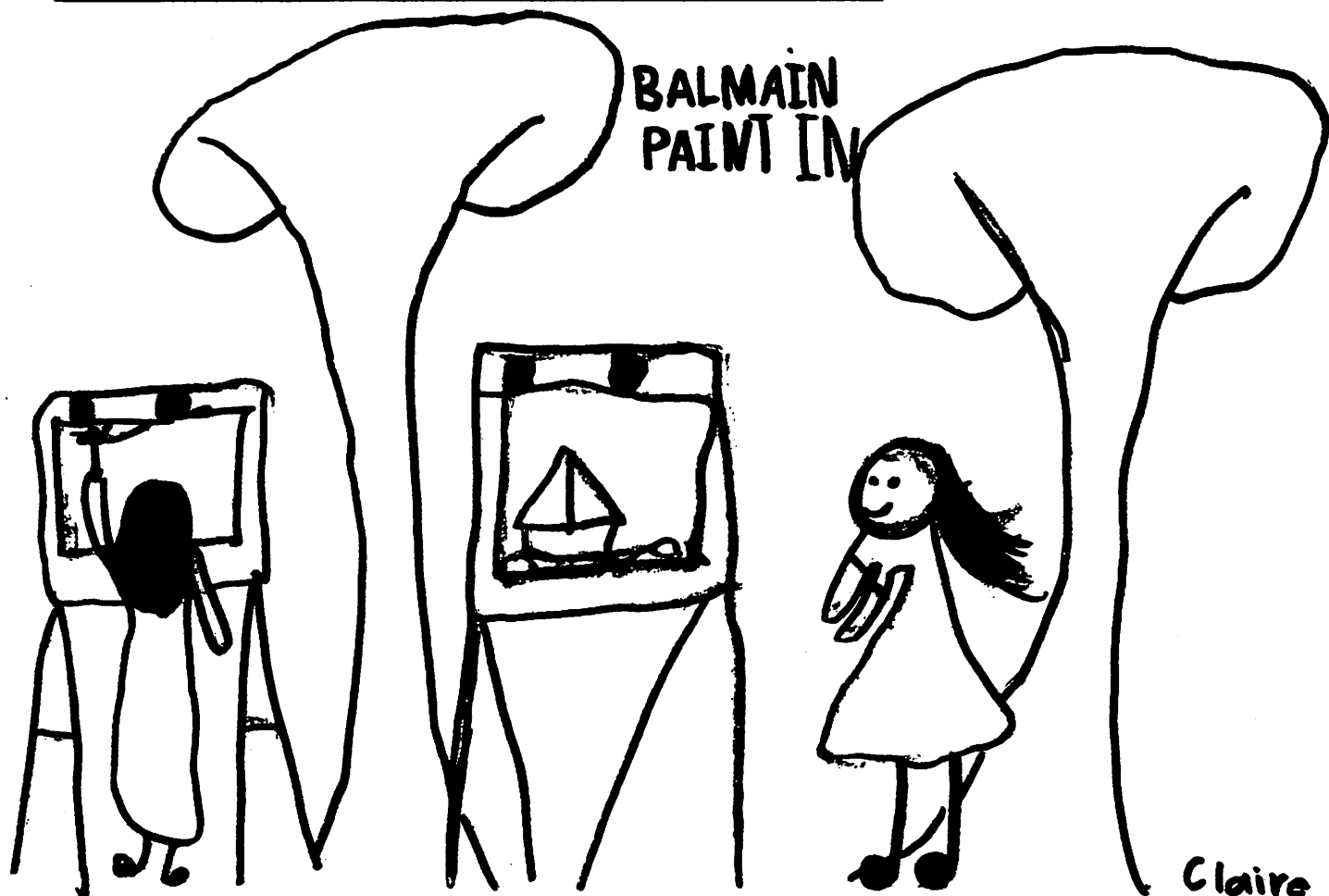


THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

Issue 43 APRIL 1973



Paintin mummy take me to the Paint in
I'll meet my friends there. I'll skip
all the way. I'll paint a girl in front
of a house. I will jump all the way back
saturday morning 12th may gladstone
park darling st Balmain

THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

During February the Management Committee held a special meeting at the Watch House to discuss the future role of the Association in the community. Dr. John Power, the first President of the Association, Ald. Philip Bray, Deputy Mayor of Leichhardt, Rev. Andrew Soos of the Presbyterian Church, Balmain, and Elizabeth Tow, social worker from Broughton Hall, were invited to the meeting and all took an active part in the discussion.

After reaching agreement that the essential aim of the Association as originally constituted was still valid, that is, to protect and improve the physical and social environment of the peninsula, a larger number of suggestions for future specific actions were discussed. Some of these are listed below for your consideration and comment.

- Press for action to revitalise existing parks so that they better fulfill the community's needs.
- Be vociferous about traffic problems, particularly industrial traffic.
- Take particular action to assist pensioners in simple tasks that are difficult for them, e.g. tree lopping, grass cutting, etc.
- Take the lead in organising methods of achieving efficient recycling of waste and monitoring and controlling all types of pollution.
- Actively support the Balmain Hospital in its fund-raising activities.
- Assist local P. & C. Associations to improve school playground facilities, tree planting, adventure playgrounds, etc.
- Consider establishing a Community Centre in an existing building such as the "Working Men's Institute" in Darling St. This could perhaps be initiated with Council or Government assistance and run on a loose arrangement with other community groups.

This last proposal would be a significant departure from the Association's previous activities. However, the Community need is undoubtedly there and we would like to hear member's reactions to the proposal.

The discussion was most stimulating but it was only the start. Further discussions are planned and we would like your comments on any aspect of the Association's role in the community that you feel needs pursuing. Make these comments by attending General Meetings and voicing your views or by writing to the Association. The Management Committee has the quaint idea that membership of the Association should involve more than attending the odd social function.

OPEN UP THE PAPER BARRAGE.

The protest letter is still one of the most effective weapons the individual has with which to pierce the bureaucratic defences, so don't be frightened to use it. A steady stream of sensible and critical letters that demand careful replies has a very powerful softening up effect on those insular authorities that appear so impregnable.

Having decided to write (and the reason for writing may range from an expressway destroying a suburb to a bus not running to schedule) make sure that your letter is in fact effective.

Don't make it a painstaking letter spreading over several pages. Don't give the history of the area and don't describe how much damage you think their action will cause and how upset you and your neighbours are. All that this type of letter does is take a long time to compose and take a long time to read and results in a dismissive reply something like: "Thank you for your correspondence of April 20th. Your comments have been noted." Still, it does get the urge to do something off your chest.

A far more effective approach, however, is to write the type of letter which, in its turn, requires a painstaking reply. Outline your complaint in a sentence or two and then go on to ask specific searching questions. Ask the reason why such and such was done or not done or is proposed to be done, etc., be specific about the information you want. In addition, wherever possible, make your questions contentious by backing them up with quotes and data from other authorities which support your view (or better still, from the authority you are attacking). Questions like these require thoughtful answers.

If the project is a big one, say an impending expressway, then pool your reply with your neighbours', you may be surprised at the discrepancies in the replies. Follow this up with further letters and seek help from other supportive organisations; you may well be on the way towards a major victory.

NEWS SHEET DELIVERY.

If you have any queries about the delivery of your News Sheet then contact David Porter on 827 1081 and he will straighten it out for you. On the other hand, don't forget to advise the Secretary when you change your address as this is the only way we can maintain continuity of delivery of your News Sheet.

CLOTHING BOX.

Sister Johns has said that she is always in need of children's and babies' clothes for socially deprived families. Local gifts are more readily accepted than those from anonymous bodies such as the Smith Family. We therefore appeal for washed and mended clothing--if you have any that your children have outgrown, please contact Vernon Reid 82 4695 or Sue Ballinger 827 1489.

ANY SUGGESTIONS.

The Community Services Sub-committee is at present making an inventory of "community services" bodies in Balmain and Rozelle, to determine needs in the community as yet unfulfilled. If any Balmain Association member has any suggestion as to how we could fill such gaps, please call Vernon Reid 82 4695 or Sue Ballinger 827 1489

NEXT
GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY
APRIL 12TH, 1973
at 8 p.m.
LOWER TOWN HALL
BALMAIN

HISTORY GROUP.

Another of our active sub-committees is the one headed by Peter Reynolds. Ideas and plans are flowing out. Painstaking research by Rita Wise has disclosed all but about 30 of the original sales of land on the Balmain Peninsula from the Gilchrist Trust. A book on the Balmain Land Grant is being written and will come before the Management Committee for a decision on publication. More publications are contemplated--one on "Streets of Balmain", another on Mort's Dock and the one that will be the most popular when researched, "Pubs of Balmain".

PUBLICATIONS.

Appearing simultaneously but very late are Issues 2 (July, 1972) and 3 (December, 1972) of the Leichhardt Historical Journal. Journal No. 2 contains items of interest on Glebe such as the history, architecture and furniture of the doomed but important "Lyndhurst" and also a very informative article on the antecedents of Annandale. Journal No. 3 inclines toward Balmain with articles on the Balmain Cemetery, Callan Park Mental Hospital, the Balmain Watch House, Edward Hunt of Hampton Villa, as well as Harold Park Race Track and R.H. Reuss of Glebe. Journal No. 4 will appear in the middle of 1973 and we hope to include an article on the history of the Presbyterian Church in Balmain.

Copies of the Journal are obtainable at 50c. from Peter Reynolds, 82 3752, or by annual subscription of \$1.30 (two issues plus postage) to Max Solling, 17 Avona Avenue, Glebe, 2037.

The Glebe Society has just published a monograph entitled "An Alternative to Urban Expressways" which may be obtained from the Society, P.O. Box 100, Glebe, 2037, for 75c. including postage.

The "Architectural Science Review" recently published a review of the Association's publication "Balmain in Time", in which it was stated that this booklet "is restrained, factual and well-researched. By restoring the good old buildings, and replacing those of little significance or beyond repair, Balmain could become one of the best of our inner suburbs". Copies are still available and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041, at a cost of \$1.75 including postage.

The National Trust of Aust. (N.S.W.) has issued a REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS in N.S.W. as at 31st December, 1972. Copies of this Register may be obtained from the National Trust, 123 Clarence Street, Sydney, 2000, at a cost of \$2.00 per copy.

WALK IN BALMAIN.

Members of the M.W.S. & D. Board's Engineering Branch and their friends arranged a walk around the East End of Balmain, under the capable guidance of Peter Reynolds. Arrangements have been made with the Balmain-Rozelle Old Age Pensioners Association for them to cater for refreshments at this type of function. The money raised by them will go towards setting up the community centre they are planning. The day was warm and the walkers returned to the Watch House grateful for their afternoon tea. The Association sold books totalling \$25.25 and the walkers donated \$12.25 to the Association.

CRICKET MATCH AT BIRCHGROVE OVAL.

The Balmain Association came second when they played the Glebe Society cricket at Birchgrove Oval on Sunday, 11th March.

The Glebe Society won the toss and batted first for a very tidy 162. After lunch and refreshments the Association knocked up an extremely creditable, but not quite enough, 128 runs. John Gynon was our top scorer, Bob Beverley our best bowler and Guy Kendall our star all rounder taking two good catches, clean bowling one of the openers and scoring an unbeaten 14.

Next season we will have a Balmain v. Birchgrove game, this has been tentatively arranged for Birchgrove Oval on the Sunday of the Anniversary Day weekend in January.

NATURAL GAS INQUIRY.

Upon hearing that this Inquiry was to be held, the Association submitted copies of correspondence between it and the Minister for Mines and the Australian Gas Light Co. and asked that the route of the pipeline once it entered the metropolitan area of Sydney be made public. Subsequently the Association was invited to give verbal evidence to the Inquiry. However, it was later discovered that the terms of reference did not include investigations beyond the edge of the metropolitan area, so evidence we might give would not be relevant. However, a spokesman for the Inquiry agreed that our queries may be relevant in the future and that the Association should keep in touch.

OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BALMAIN.

Findings of the recent "dig" for the old Presbyterian Church on the allotment next to the Watch House can be seen by the exposed foundations which on close inspection (before the grass hides all again) shows the church to have been a simple rectangular building with tower. Despite the existence of the architect's design drawings of the church, subsequent photographs and survey drawings had to be examined to relate the uncovered stonework with the original design. After much measuring on site and comparison of drawings and photographs, it became apparent that the building was not built as designed.

The existence of the old church will be commemorated in the new landscaped recreation area planned for the site. Old foundation walls are to be utilised as retaining walls and some stone footings will appear as paving stones. A conveniently situated plaque, showing the name and date of the church, would preserve this link with Balmain's past.

WATCH THESE DATES

March 30 to April 7 Balmain
Theatre Group production of
"East Lynne" at the Presbyterian
Church Hall, Campbell Street.
See note this Issue for actual
dates.

April 12, Thursday at 8 p.m. Assoc-
iation General Meeting in Lower
Town Hall, Balmain.

April 18, Wednesday at 8 p.m.
Activities Sub-Committee meeting
at David Porter's, 66 Campbell
Street. You are invited.

May 12, Saturday morning. Children's
Paint-In at Gladstone Park.
Helpers please ring Trish O'Rourke
at 82 3221, now.

Late May, Balmain Town Hall.
Discussion of alternative
opportunities for problems
raised during the public area
meetings of Leichhardt Council's
Town Planning Group. Watch the
local press for details.

June 7, Thursday at 6.30 p.m.
Wine Tasting Evening at McWilliams
Wines' Cask Room, Bulwara Road,
Pyrmont. See the insert in this
Issue.

June 14, Thursday at 8 p.m. Assoc-
iation General Meeting in Lower
Town Hall, Balmain.

March 1974, Garden Inspection,
so start plann(t)ing now.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON TREE PLANTING.

The Council Tree Planting Committee is still
processing street tree planting petitions and
by far the greater proportion of these are
originating from Balmain. Streets recently
surveyed by the Committee include :-

Broderick St.,
Elliott St. (between Darling and Terry
Streets),
Macquarie Terrace.

As there now appears to be a widening time
gap between the street survey and the
actual planting operation, the Council
Committee is encouraging local partici-
pation at the planting stage and it is
hoped that this will speed up the whole
process.

For people preparing a petition, this is a
point to consider, as no doubt Council would
favour those petitions offering assistance.

Also worth considering are petitions to
Council requesting planting in parks,
playgrounds and undefined open space.
Some of these areas are being brought to
the notice of Council by the Association,
but there are many small areas more in the
eye of local residents that should not be
overlooked.

The Association itself intends to continue
with its own planting projects and is co-
operating with Birchgrove School in an
effort to enhance the playground areas.
More about this in later News Sheets.

NORMAN LINDSAY GALLERY.

The National Trust's Norman Lindsay Gallery
and Museum, 128 Chapman Parade, Springwood,
is now open for inspection. The hours are
Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays
from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Charges: Trust
members free. Adults: \$1. Children 20c.

DON'T MISS "EAST LYNNE".

Members are urged not to miss "East Lynne
(or Lady Isobel's Shame)", the current
production by the Balmain Theatre Group.
It is the modern adaptation of a wellknown
Victorian melodrama. You are encouraged
to laugh, cry, boo, hiss or cheer. If you
are the sentimental type, bring a box of
tissues!

"East Lynne", produced by Ann Roy, should
maintain the high standard set by our
local theatre group in its earlier pro-
ductions--"Out of the Crocodile", "Billy
Liar", "Arsenic and Old Lace",
"Harlequinade" and "Ten Little Niggers".

Performances are taking place at 8.00 p.m.
on Friday, March 30; Saturday, March 31;
Wednesday, April 4; Friday, April 6; and
Saturday, April 7. Venue is the Presby-
terian Church Hall, Campbell Street, and
bookings may be made by 'phoning 82 4686,
82 4823 and (business hours only) 82 1567.

MEMBERSHIP FORM.

I wish to open/renew my membership
with the Balmain Association and en-
close \$ _____ * 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.