

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

Issue 44 June 1973

"GLENDENNING".

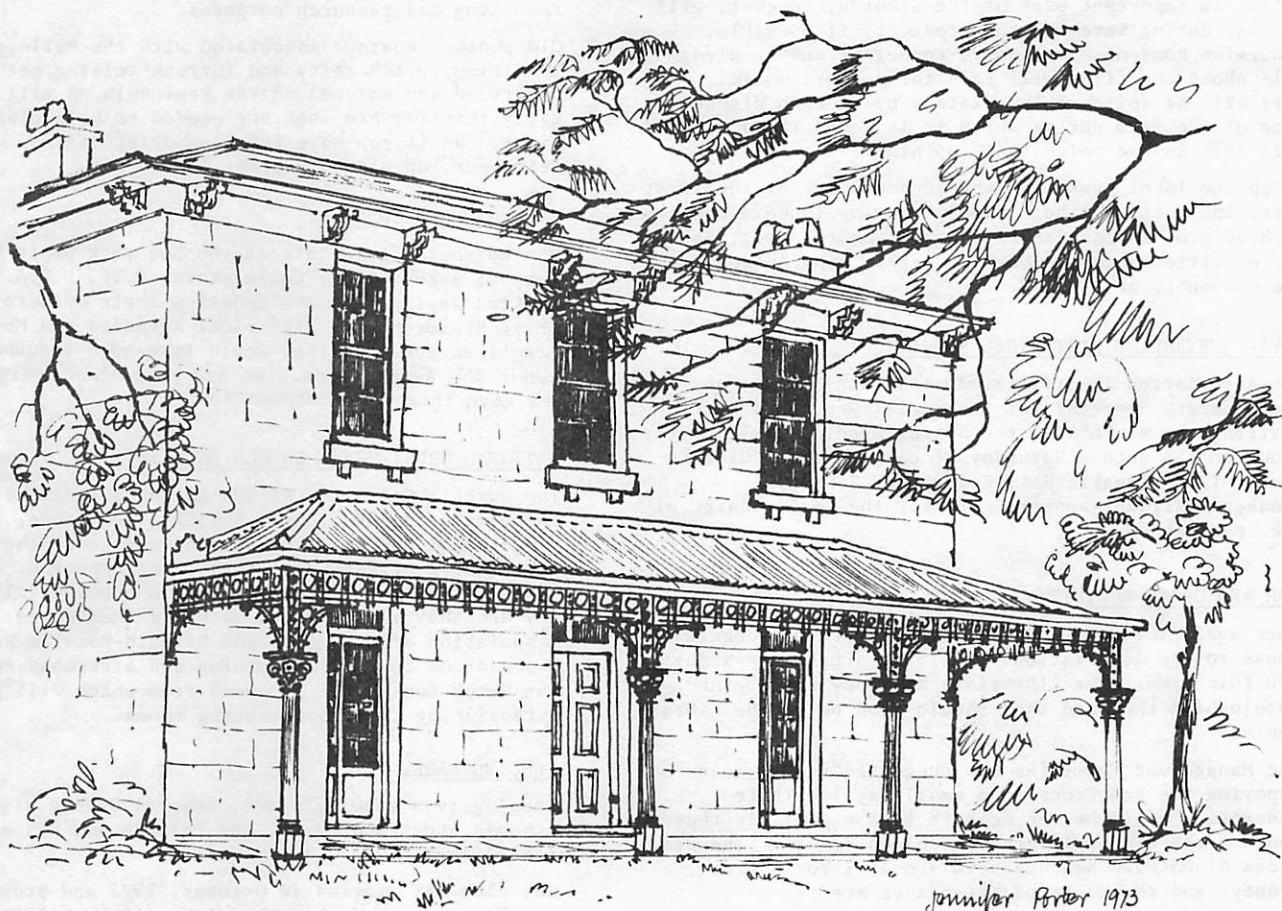
This week 393 Darling Street will open as a restaurant.

Formally called "Glendenning", the building began its life in 1870 as a "... new and smaller house ..." for the eminent church architect, Edmund Thomas Blacket. His wife, Sarah, had died during 1869 and their home in Glebe had become too large for the newly widowed architect.

Blacket's move to Balmain, however, did not leave him long in the dignified "Georgian" residence. By 1875 he had vacated it for a house that later became the nucleus of Balmain Hospital.

The vacated residence changed hands several times until 1880 when it became Brussels College, a ladies school operated by Mr. H.A. Foott. Seven years later the college became "Balmain Academy" under the worthy J.H. Morrison and in 1888 it was renamed St. David's College. During the following year the property was acquired by a Land and Estate Agent, J.H. Wise, who named it "Glendenning", a name that has endured until the present day.

Following the example of his predecessors, Mr. Wise did not remain long in "Glendenning", for in 1893 it passed to Dr. Joseph Bott, the first of a long line



of medical practitioners to occupy the house. It was in this capacity, "the doctor's house", that "Glendenning" became so well known to the residents of Balmain.

Miss Annie Wise, daughter of J.H. Wise, says: "When Dr. Bott bought the home from my Father he asked permission to keep the old name as it was so well known in those days--Father's Mother's name was Glendenning and (it) has always been the name of our home."

The later history of "Glendenning" became more concerned with Balmain's social welfare. During the 1960's it was purchased by the Methodist Church. Operating as the "West Side Centre", it achieved a measure of success but economics forced its closure

and the church disposed of the property on the open market.

After representations (including one from the Balmain Association) when it was learned that "Glendenning" would be torn down to make way for another dreary block of flats, the heartening news came that the house would be preserved. Although its site is zoned residential, Leichhardt Municipal Council recognised its historical and architectural significance and permitted the new owner to conduct a "non-conforming use" of the building.

"Glendenning" the house has been saved. It is a pity, however, that "Glendenning" the name, one that has been a part of Balmain for 84 years, cannot also be preserved; the new restaurant shall be called "Blacket's". P.R.

PAINT-IN.

The combination of paints, perfect weather, a park and about 400 kids made this year's Paint-In in Gladstone Park more successful than ever before. It was non-stop entertainment for all concerned and magnificent masterpieces were turned out and hung to dry like so many home made banknotes. The winning formula, as it has been for the past five years, was that the children were free to paint anything and in any way they pleased.

The Association would particularly like to thank Trish O'Rourke, Gunter Keller and David Porter for their time and effort organising the event, and to thank Bowater Paper, Mrs. Dillon of Gladstone Park School, Rev. Andrew Soos, Andrew Baker and Coca-Cola Bottlers for their supply and use of materials which helped make the Paint-In so successful.

BALMAIN FILM SOCIETY.

The Balmain Film Society is reborn! But this time there is a difference. Selected films, such as contemporary Australian films, old classics, or films of family interest, are to be shown at the Campbell Street Church Hall. An important part of the evening, however, will be that during interval the producer, if possible, otherwise someone else who is competent and knowledgeable about the film, will talk for a short while. This will be followed immediately by an open discussion of the film during which it is hoped the audience will join in and voice their opinions.

Watch the local press for the announcement of the first screening; it will be a Sunday evening (once a month) at 8.00 p.m. in the Campbell Street Church Hall, Balmain. For enquiries about membership, etc., ring Andrew Soos, the convenor, at 82 1170.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Association is affiliated with this Society and the Honorary Secretary of the Social Group has written inviting our members to the Social Evenings held by the Group on the second Saturday of each month at History House, 133 Macquarie St., Sydney, at 8.00 p.m. Speakers--slides--supper. All for the small charge of 30c. per person.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Once again the Red Cross Library Service has donated books to the Association's Children's Library--about 400 this time. The Librarians are busy sorting and cataloguing them and they should soon be on the Library shelves.

The Management Committee has suggested that a means of repaying the Red Cross in a small way for their generosity would be for members (and especially those who use the Library) to become blood donors. The Red Cross Blood Bank headquarters are at 1 York Street, Sydney, and the hours of attendance are :-

Mon., Tuesday	-	8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday	-	1.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Thurs., Friday	-	8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Saturday	-	8.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

P.S.

Would donors of children's clothing please deliver their donations to either Sue Ballinger, 20 Nicholson St. East Balmain (827 1489) or Vern Reid, 29 Thomas St. Birchgrove (82 4695) and not to the Baby Health Centre, Rozelle because of lack of storage space. Either Sue Ballinger or Vern Reid will pick up any donations if delivery is too inconvenient.

"CITY".

The redevelopment of cities in ways which will not destroy their character is the essential theme of "City", a new film to be shown at the next Association General Meeting.

Several European cities are looked at and the ways in which redevelopment has been encouraged are examined; one city has provided peripheral garaging and an efficient transport service to the business area, another has provided multi-level traffic free shopping and yet another brought housing back to the centre.

See this important 25 minute film at the next General Meeting, Thursday, June 14, at the Balmain Town Hall.

HALLOWE'EN.

Andrew Soos is planning a Hallowe'en night in the form of a community happening this coming October 31. He is calling for local residents who have personal experiences of Hallowe'en nights held in Balmain in years gone by to contact him on 82 1170 now for recording and research purposes.

Old photos, customs associated with the Hallowe'en tradition, witchcrafts and fortune-telling methods practised and enjoyed on the Peninsula up till the early thirties are what are needed to help plan the night. So if you have these memories or know your neighbour, do please contact Andrew now.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.

The Editorial Associate of the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y., U.S.A., has written saying they are updating their Guide to Historic Preservation, Historical Agencies and Museum Practices and that they would like more information about the Association. We are more than delighted to give them this information.

NATIONAL TRUST "WALK IN OLD BALMAIN".

The Women's Committee of the National Trust held a walk in Balmain on Anzac Day. The Lion Tea House, the Congregational Church, the Balmain Volunteer, the Watch House and 2 private dwellings were inspected. About 400 visitors came into the area on a beautifully sunny day and they all appeared to enjoy themselves. The Association arranged for the Balmain-Rozelle Pensioners Association to provide morning and afternoon teas at the Watch House, the proceeds from which will go towards establishing their own meeting rooms.

FENCING CLUB.

Fencing is a growing sport, several Sydney high schools are teaching it, and Balmain now has a fully established club.

The club was started in October, 1972 and progress has been so rapid that the club will be holding its first exhibition on Saturday, June 17, from 12 noon till 7.00 p.m. at the Campbell Street Church Hall, Balmain. You are invited to watch, there is no admission charge and tea and coffee will be available.

The club meets every Monday evening from 7.30 till 10.00 in the Church Hall and beginner, intermediate and advanced classes are held for both sexes in the age range 8 to early 50's. Master of the club is Tex Clark, fencing master at Sydney University and expert tuition is available in all three traditional weapons: sabre, epee and foils in both French and Italian styles. Tuition is \$1.00 for adults each night and 70c. for children; new members are, of course, most welcome.

RECYCLE.

"The problem of pollution will not disappear. What may disappear is the opportunity to find a solution to it that is cheap, rational and humane. If we wait too long we shall be overtaken by events, for no matter how long it takes there will be a solution even if it is a total ravaging of the earth. All the sanguine hopes of the world will not prevent nature from taking its catastrophic revenge on our indecision. There is time--but barely time--to escape that threat."

No, that was not Paul Ehrlich or Milo Dunphy speaking; it was an excerpt from the report tabled in 1970 by the Senate Select Committee on water pollution.

The Association Management is at present investigating ways in which, at the local community level, positive and effective action may be taken on at least one front, the problem of recycling waste solid materials.

Following the results of the Lane Cove pilot recycling trial (read at the last General Meeting), we have asked the organisers of that trial to talk at our next Management meeting as a first step to setting up a similar trial in Balmain. Recycling will eventually involve the co-operation of local residents, Council, local industries and other bodies and we are calling now for members who would like to get in at the start of this work. If you do, then contact Roger Johnson on 827 1797.

WATCH HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS.

Kitchen Annex. A simple design for the kitchen annex has been agreed upon but, with just about every builder in Sydney working a 25-hour day, getting someone to do the job within the next six months is proving difficult. Two builders have promised to quote for the job by the end of May and progress will be reported at the next General Meeting.

Courtyard Paving. We had hoped to use split sandstone kerbing for the paving of the outside yard but unfortunately our negotiations with Council were fruitless. Council uses the sandstone kerbing it generates (when replacing sandstone with concrete kerbing) for retaining walls, repairing other sandstone kerbs and so on. We have therefore to rethink about paving and some other form will probably be used, brick perhaps. Can you help with ideas, materials or labour? If so, please contact Alan Rogers on 82 1170.

TREE PLANTING PROJECT, 1973.

In previous years the Association has undertaken small tree planting projects of its own. The opinion has been expressed that, regardless of the increased activity of the Council in the area of street tree planting, the Association should continue with a 1973 project. A number of localities have been suggested and the Association would welcome comment from its members. A recent open space study highlighted Rozelle (bounded by Reynolds and Robert Streets and Lilyfield Road) as being badly deprived of open space. Perhaps one or two of the small parks within this zone could be considered for the 1973 project.

While discussion is proceeding along these lines, it has been decided that the Beattie St. playground (planted 1971) should receive more attention with a programme of replacement.

Worthy of comment are the trees planted in Curtis Road in 1970. These paper barks have been extremely successful and some might deservedly be now called trees. Very recently the Council undertook to plant the remainder of the street with trees of the same species. It appears that the initiative taken by the Association in 1970 has paid off.

THAT BLOCK OF LAND.

The "archaeological dig" is on again! John Clegg (of 24 Waterview St., Balmain) says he can finish the site on 4 weekends with 10 willing helpers. So bring your trowel, whisk and bucket at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, 17th June to the corner of Colgate Avenue and Darling St. and try your hand at unearthing "finds". This will be your last chance, because plans for landscaping the ground are approaching finality and the area will be made into a public park.

NEXT

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 14, 8 pm

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

PLUS THE OUTSTANDING

FILM; "CITY"

WINE TASTING.

Ticket sales for the Wine Tasting evening set for Thursday, June 7th, have been heavy. The maximum attendance of 65, set by McWilliam's, was passed two weeks before the night!

Unfortunately, the tasting was held after going to press but we shall report on the evening in the next News Sheet and if it is as good as it promises, then we will hold another one some time next year.

DONATION TO CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Once again the Association has to acknowledge with deep gratitude a gift of \$500 towards the Children's Library in memory of Kate Magarey who was killed in an accident in May, 1972. Dr. and Mrs. Magarey of Adelaide very thoughtfully made this gift from the estate. Members will remember that a previous generous gift was spent on buying books for the Library and this present sum will be partly used to make the library cell more comfortable and to buy some furniture. It will also be used to buy a suitably inscribed set of encyclopaedias for the children's use.

WATCH HOUSE PARK.

The Association has recently approached Leichhardt Council to assist in repairs and reconstruction of the footpath adjoining the Watch House and the proposed park. At the same time it is hoped Council will give serious consideration to additional street lighting in this area.

In the meantime, a development plan for the park is being prepared by the Association. This will incorporate the foundations of the old church and a small plaque will be located somewhere within the area outlining the history of the church.

The final development plan has to be submitted to the National Trust for approval before work begins.

WATCH THESE DATES

June 7, Thursday at 6.30 pm. Wine Tasting Evening at M^cWilliam's Wines Cask Room, Bulwara Road, Pyrmont.

June 9, Saturday at 8.00 pm. R.A.H.S. Social Evening. See note this issue.

June 14, Thursday at 8.00 pm. Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee and a film, "City", see note this issue.

June 17, Saturday at 9.30 am. Archeological Dig on the block next to the Watchhouse. See note this issue.

June 17, Saturday 12 noon till 7.00 pm. Fencing Exhibition at the Campbell Street Church Hall. See note this issue.

July 2, Monday at 8.00 pm (and 1st. Monday in each month). Balmain History Group monthly meeting at the Watchhouse, 179 Darling Street, Balmain. This will be a combined meeting as the Glebe History Group will be visiting, there is of course an open invitation for you to attend.

July 11, Wednesday at 7.00 pm. Dinner at "Blacket's Restaurant". See historical note on front page and ticket application form on the green insert.

August 9, Thursday at 8.00 pm. Association Annual General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Elections for all management positions.

Before Christmas. Sale of Work. Details later but now is the time to start making for the stalls.

March 1974. Balmain Garden Inspection.

I.C.E.A.

The Inner City Education Alliance continues to grow. It has recently made an important submission to the Interim Schools Commission and we urge Association members to write to support this submission. the correct address is;

The Executive Secretary, Mr J. Wilson,
The Interim Committee of the Schools Commission,
c/- The Reserve Bank,
London Circuit,
Canberra, A.C.T.

I.C.E.A. is working desperately to improve the educational conditions in the inner suburban schools, if you want further information contact the convenor Mr Van Davy at 8 Macquarie Terrace, Balmain. This is urgent.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

The Association has earmarked \$50 for each of the four schools on the peninsula for the establishment of adventure playgrounds or for landscaping. This is not, however, a straight out grant from the Association, we are taking an active part, along with the P&C and teachers, in the design and construction of the playgrounds.

Nicholson Street and Rozelle schools are planning adventure playgrounds while Birchgrove has started a tree planting scheme. Only Gladstone Park school has yet to indicate its involvement.

The plans for Nicholson Street are the most advanced and it is hoped the final details can be hammered out at the next meeting between P&C, school staff and the Association scheduled for early June.

IN PLACE OF POISONS

The gardener who does not wish to risk poisoning the birds and bees he has coaxed back to his garden, or to risk building up a danger dose of any of the cumulative poisons in his children's body-fat, has no need to gamble whether modern pesticides are dangerous or not. He can change over to safer and often cheaper methods, which may be more trouble, but they stop pollution at his garden gate.

In this and succeeding Newssheets we will be running a series of articles on the substitute but safe pesticides.

Home-made Pesticides; Nicotine.

The cheapest powerful pesticide is nicotine, which is now difficult to buy, but is easily made by boiling 4 oz. of non-filter-tip cigarettes (or 8 oz. of filter-tips) in a gallon of water for half an hour. Strain the clear brown liquid through a nylon stocking and it will keep several weeks in a stoppered bottle. Dilute with four parts of water to one of nicotine stock solution for an anti-caterpillar spray or for anything hard to kill.

Do not spray it on anything you are going to eat within a fortnight, so the rain can wash it off, and label any ready boiled solution "POISON". Nicotine breaks down quickly in the soil, unlike D.D.T. and other organo-chlorine compounds which are permanent pollutants.

Pesticides for Aphides.

Cut up 3 lb. of rhubarb leaves, boil for half an hour in three quarts of water and strain. When cool dissolve 1 oz. of soapflakes in a quart of water, mix the two and use as a general spray for any aphids. Soap and water alone is also very effective - repeat spray twice at three day intervals.

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