



Issue 46
October 1973

the balmain association

your new management committee

PRESIDENT

David Porter 66 Campbell Street, Balmain
827 1081

SECRETARY

Margaret Dobson 108 Louisa Road, Balmain
82 2774

TREASURER

Richard Norman 18 Gladstone Street, Balmain
328 6184 (Work)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Chesterman 13 Phoebe Street, Balmain
82 3776
Town Planning Sub-committee

Malcolm Garder 18 Ann Street, Balmain
821686
Town Planning Sub-committee

Robert Hooper 28 Cove Street, Birchgrove
827 2968
News Sheet Editor
Activities & Fund-Raising
Sub-committee.

Roger Johnson 12 Paul Street, Balmain
827 1797
Community Services Sub-
committee (Recycling Study)
Watch House Projects Manage-
ment

Diana McDonald 74 Birchgrove Road, Balmain
82 4882
Community Services and
Activities & Fund-Raising
Sub-committees

Lindsay McKeon 33 Glassop Street, Balmain
82 1560
Community Services and
Activities & Fund-Raising
Sub-committees

Helen Oates 41 Wharf Road, Balmain
82 5376
Town Planning Sub-Committee
Tree Planting Sub-committee
Watch House Projects

Alan Rogers 7 Smith Street, Balmain
Tree Planting Sub-committee
Industrial Pollution

sub-committee activities

TOWN PLANNING:

Leichhardt Municipal Council - liaison
on Outline Plan
Watch House Kitchen Annex
Loyalty Square Project
Fitzroy Avenue Development

FUND RAISING:

Arts and Crafts Sale (December)
Balmain Garden Inspection (March 1974)
Assorted social events (see future
News Sheets)

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Adventure Playgrounds
Recycling Pilot Study
P & C Joint Submissions for Federal
Government Grants

WATCH HOUSE MANAGEMENT:

Kitchen Annex
Watch House Park

TREE PLANTING:

Goodsir Street
Watch House Park
Co-ordination with Leichhardt Council's
Tree Planting Campaign

HISTORICAL GROUP:

The History Group meets at the Watch House on the first Monday of each month. Peter Reynolds has been conducting walks around Balmain for the Parramatta Historical Society and St. Patrick's Social Club, Waverley. Paul Flottman and Peter Reynolds had hoped to complete the writing of the draft of the history of the Balmain Land Grant by the end of September, but new information has delayed finalisation. In this connection, Bob Irving has obtained and donated to the Association copies of the Gilchrist and Whicker wills registered in Britain. Sales of the booklet BALMAIN IN TIME are maintaining a steady flow — over 300 copies have been sold during the past 12 months.

LIBRARY GROUP

Watch House Children's Library
Council Library Project

If you would like to help in any of these activities, please contact one of the management members concerned.

projects and activities — reports

FITZROY AVENUE DEVELOPMENT

You may have noticed that the Council managed to successfully revoke the approval granted by the State Planning Authority to Parkes Development for the site between Fitzroy Avenue and the Harbour. The Association played some part in achieving this.

The letter written by the Association to the Council on this matter was printed in the last News Sheet. In this letter the Association drew the Council's attention to the fact that as the State Planning Authority rejected an appeal in May 1970, and since then no new application has been submitted to Council, it would appear "that the Authority does not have the legal right to approve this development", and "that Council should immediately seek advice from a Barrister experienced in Local Government Planning legislation to substantiate its basis for further action".

The Council placed the matter in the hands of its Solicitor and the residents of Fitzroy Avenue obtained an opinion from an eminent Barrister. The Council's case was upheld in the Equity Court.

This means that Parkes Development will now resubmit a Development Application to the Council which will be dealt with in accordance with present planning policies, which will require lower density and lower buildings.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

An approach was made to Mrs. Bull, the Leichhardt Council Social Worker by the Association to discuss matters of mutual interest.

The Association wished to see how it could co-operate with Mrs. Bull and the Council, in achieving anything which benefits the community.

A wide range of subjects was discussed, including: Child care, with reference to the new centre to be opened at Balmain Town Hall; the role of play groups.

The need for a pensioner centre which is well known, with the possibility of some interaction with younger groups, e.g. part-time baby sitting.

The problems faced by children whose parents both work and the need for after school activities; the role of the Creative Leisure Centre; adventure playgrounds.

Libraries; the need to extend the Library Service in this Municipality with particular reference to the Balmain/Rozelle area; the role of the Association Children's Library at the Watch House.

GOODSIR STREET TREE PLANTING Saturday, 22nd September

Despite a series of minor crises, the 72/73 tree planting operation was performed on schedule. The labourers included local extras as well as the usual star studded cast.

Resident action at the scene was immediate, colourful and varied, ranging from derision to hospitality - a tray of mugs with a pot of brewed coffee was not to be sniffed at, nor was the tea - such gestures provide ample reward for the sweat, blood and tears.

By the end of the afternoon it became apparent that we had not laboured in vain - some residents even accepted trees for their own gardens.

All in all, the venture must be considered a success from a dog's point of view.

A BALMAIN/ROZELLE LIBRARY - WHEN?

The Association recently held a library meeting with the expressed purpose of plotting a course for the establishment of a full library service in Balmain/Rozelle and to start the action required to achieve this goal.

Three actions were agreed upon.

First it was decided to write to Council asking them their plans for library services in our area. Libraries for the Municipality was one of the policies put forward by the present Council when running for office two years ago, but we have heard little about libraries since then in Lilyfield, Rozelle and Balmain.

The second approach taken was to write to the Libraries Association of Australia complimenting them on their recent survey into library facilities for migrants and asking them if they were planning a similar survey into the library services available in inner city areas. It would be fortuitous if the Municipality of Leichhardt was chosen as a study area.

A third, more general but more far-reaching action, was to collect data on each government organisation which has library interests. It has been mooted that capital expenditure grants for libraries may become available at Federal and/or State levels and we would endeavour to take full advantage of these if and when they materialised.

This was our first such library meeting and we would like more members. Our children's library is bursting at the seams and with a Labour Government in power and elections at State and local levels coming up, the next twelve months should see plenty of action with such political footfalls as libraries. Ring David Porter on 827 1081 for details of the next meeting.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Saturday, 6th October is the start of weekly story reading for children at 11.00 a.m. and all children are welcome.

The Library at the Watch House is open each Saturday morning from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon and Wednesday afternoon, after school, 4.00 p.m. for general borrowing. There are books for children of all ages, so come and join.

LEICHHARDT HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Issue No. 4 of the Journal is now available from Margaret Dobson (phone 82 2774) and Peter Reynolds (82 3752) at 50¢ per copy. The issue contains articles on the Balmain Presbyterian Church "dig" and John Lamb Lyon of Long Nose Point. Other articles include "The Glebe Presbyterian Church" (its architecture and history), "Relics of John Young", "My Granny, the Abbess", and Bob Irving's review of Judith and Frank Leary's - Colonial Heritage - Historic Buildings of New South Wales.

'forth and clyde'

By 1857 Mort's Dock had been in operation for two years. In July of that year, the Sydney Morning Herald announced that a new "hotel of stone" was opened for business. The new hostelry, the announcement continued, contained a salubrious bar, parlour, back parlour, large saloon, rear kitchen, a "good underground cellar" and four upstairs rooms with a verandah commanding a "view of the bay".

From 1857 onward the new hotel, the Forth and Clyde and Mort's Dock, the "largest dry dock south of the line", existed side by side until the destruction of the Dock in the mid-1960's. For more than one hundred years, the Forth and Clyde overlooked the hurly-burly activities of the Dock and its waterfront environs.

As well as providing liquid refreshment for thirsty dockers, the Forth and Clyde became the social centre of the Mort Bay area. It accommodated political meetings, housed social and sporting clubs and was the very epitome of the Balmain hotel tradition that "every Balmain pub was more like a club than a pub".

Like its great neighbour, Mort's Dock, the Forth and Clyde is no more, its license having been transferred to drier pastures. But the building lives on and, with Council approval, will be retained on its corner site. It is to become a suite of professional offices, a function sympathetic to its scale and character.

As in the case of the Balmain Volunteer and Blacket's, approval of such a sympathetic non-conforming use for the old Forth and Clyde would save a Balmain building of great socio-historical significance.

bob beverley

Bob Beverley was President of the Association for the year 1972/1973 and during this time was responsible for a major redirecting of the Association's aims and goals.

A lot of the camaraderie and spontaneity that threw the Association together had been dissipated after many of the initial battles against bureaucracies had been won and lost. After his election as President few envied Bob his task. But twelve months later the change had been made.

The Association is now a much broader based organisation and has far greater influence with other bodies than ever before. The Association's work is more rational, more systematic and less emotional than before, it is more businesslike and it is getting results. Two good examples of the way the Association works are the Municipal Outline Plan and the recent resident action against a totally unsympathetic development in Fitzroy Avenue. In both cases the Association, and Bob in particular, contributed significantly with expertise and plain hard work and helped co-ordinate actions that resulted in success. This is how Bob guided the Association.

For these reasons, and there are many other examples, the Association will have cause to thank Bob Beverley for many years to come and I am sure we all wish him every success as he starts his new career and life in Canberra.

arts and crafts sale

Do you have some handicrafts to offer for sale - something original, useful, humorous - if so join us for the Arts and Crafts Sale at the Watch House on Friday, 7th December from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. and Saturday, 8th December from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



If you wish to participate, contact Diana McDonald, telephone 82 4882, as she is organising the stalls for selling handicrafts and old wares.

miscellaneous

"FUTURE SHOCK"

Man is finding it increasingly difficult to come to terms with the accelerating way in which things material, social and spiritual are changing all around him. For example, we are told that people no longer have time for the written word, audiovisual impact is the way to communicate. Can we adapt to these changes? What will be the final outcome?

In his book "Future Shock", Alvin Toffler examines some of the more far reaching aspects of these changes, but agreement with his conclusions is far from unanimous.

The Association has secured the film of "Future Shock" and will be showing it at the next General Meeting, so come along and make up your own mind on this controversial subject.

Next General Meeting, 8 p.m. Balmain Town Hall, Lower Hall, Thursday, 11th October.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

The Balmain Theatre Group is performing a comedy for children, "Pirates at the Barn" by the Australian playwright, Eleanor Witcombe. The play is set in Sirius Cove, Mosman, and the Old Barn (built 1836), around which the action takes place, is still standing. The play is about gold which was pirated from a government ship in Hobart and brought to Mosman's Bay and there is a persisting legend of buried treasure still waiting to be discovered.

Performances will be given on November 30, December 1, 2 and 7,8,9, with matinees (at 2.00 p.m.) on Sundays December 2 and 9. (For details contact Wendy Farrell, 82 5624).

The Balmain Association has proposed to purchase a number of tickets from the Theatre Group and will run a competition for children (to be advertised in the "Link" and "Tiger" newspapers), the prizewinners getting a ticket to the play.

membership form

I wish to open/renew my membership with the Balmain Association and enclose \$.....* subscription.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Telephone.....

Send to:

The Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041.

*Subscription rates: Single membership \$2.00
 Family \$4.00
 Pensioner / Junior \$0.20

watch these dates !!!

October 3, Monday, 8.00 p.m. and first Monday each month.

Balmain History Group monthly meeting at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain.

October 11, Thursday, 8.00 p.m.

Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee and a film "Future Shock". (See note this issue).

November 30 to December 9

The Balmain Theatre Group's production of "Pirates at the Barn". (See note this issue for more details)

December 7, Friday & December 8, Saturday

The Annual Arts and Crafts Sale. (See note this issue for more details)

January 27, 1974 (Australia Day weekend)

The Association's Annual Cricket Match

March, 1974

Balmain Garden Inspection - more details next issue.

new members

We are pleased to welcome the following people who have joined the Association since the publication of the last News Sheet:

Mrs. F.C. Johnson

187 Rowntree Street, Balmain

Mrs. P.F. Smith

11a Edward Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Hancock

65 Birchgrove Road, Balmain

Peter Cairis

14 Vincent Street, Balmain

Mrs. H. Thomas

28 Church Street, Balmain

Katherine Coorey

203 Beattie Street, Rozelle.

Bruce Palmer

36 Curtis Road, Balmain

next general meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

PLUS ALVIN TOFFLER'S CONTROVERSIAL
FILM: "FUTURE SHOCK".

TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED
NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS
WELCOME.