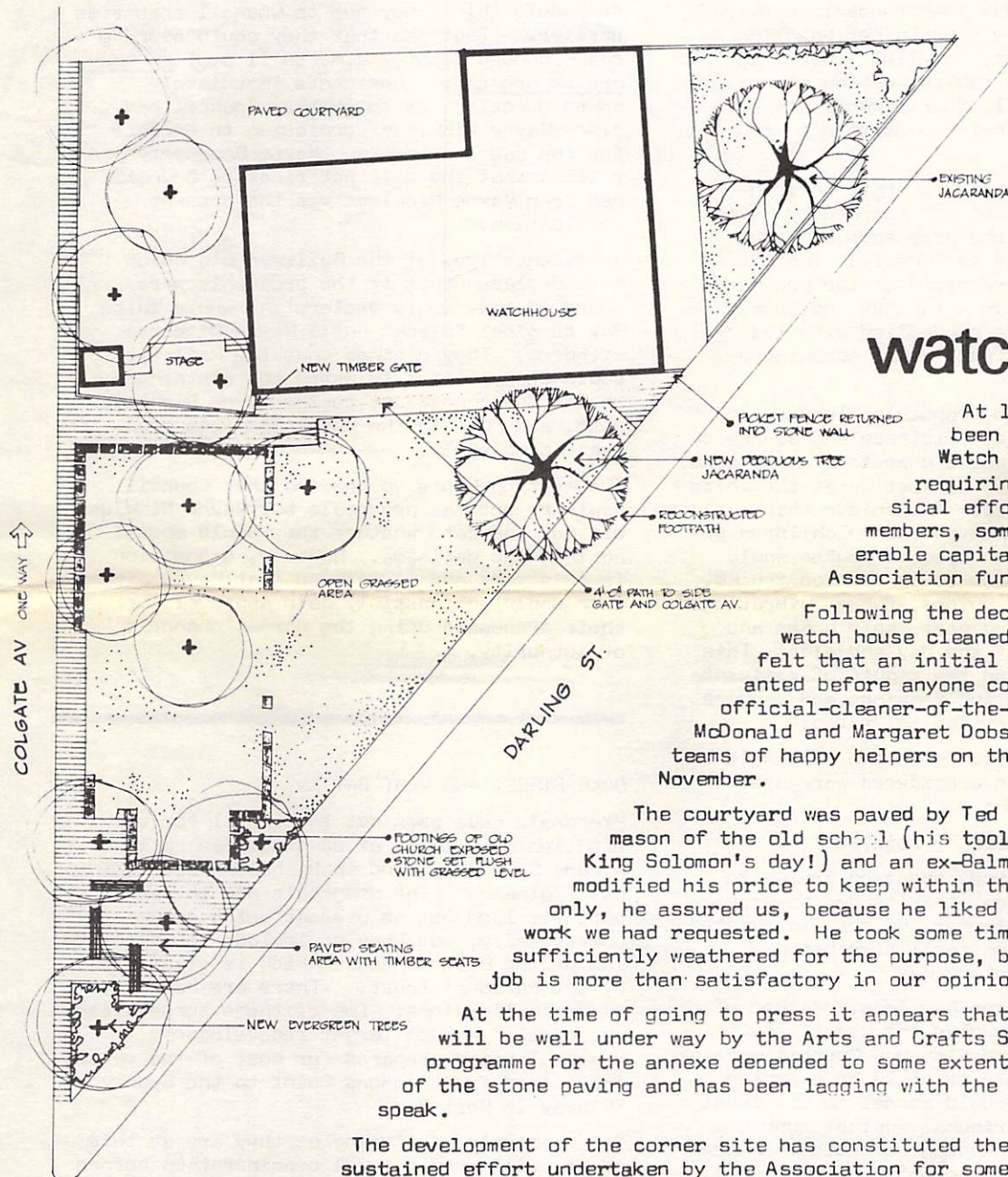


the balmain association

the watch house



At last further work has been carried out at the Watch house, some of it requiring considerable physical effort from Association members, some requiring considerable capital expenditure from Association funds.

Following the decision to have the watch house cleaned regularly, it was felt that an initial clean-up was warranted before anyone could be appointed as official-cleaner-of-the-Watch house. Diana McDonald and Margaret Dobson duly organised teams of happy helpers on the weekend of 17-18 November.

The courtyard was paved by Ted Motley, a stonemason of the old school (his tools were modern in King Solomon's day!) and an ex-Balmain resident. Ted modified his price to keep within the budget limit, but only, he assured us, because he liked doing the quality work we had requested. He took some time to locate stone sufficiently weathered for the purpose, but the completed job is more than satisfactory in our opinion.

At the time of going to press it appears that the kitchen annexe will be well under way by the Arts and Crafts Sale. The building programme for the annexe depended to some extent upon the progress of the stone paving and has been lagging with the flagging, so to speak.

The development of the corner site has constituted the most ambitious sustained effort undertaken by the Association for some time.

The archaeological excavations on the triangle established the size and layout of the old church. Most of the sandstone footings have been retained and where the odd corner stone is missing, stone from the site has been positioned to delineate the full dimensions.

A new pathway linking Colgate Avenue and Darling Street alongside the Watch house wall will, in the future, give access to the rear yard. Generally, the space is an open grassed area, incorporating the old footings flush with the grassed surface. At the point of the triangle facing Darling Street, provision has been made for a group of three seats in a small paved area. A line of informally placed trees extends from this small seating area back within the Watch house yard.

projects and activities — reports

MAYNE NICKLESS AND GORDON STREET

Residents of Rozelle, Lilyfield and Balmain have rejected outright the proposals by Mayne Nickless Ltd. to site a container handling yard in Gordon Street, Rozelle. Over 300 residents attended a public meeting several weeks ago and about 1,700 residents signed a petition to record their opposition to the proposals.

The Association studied the Draft Environmental Impact Statement put forward by Mayne Nickless concerning the proposals and submitted comments on it to Council. The Association opposed the proposals on the grounds that the objectives were limited and short term and could not be reconciled with the permanent adverse effects which acceptance would create.

The objectives of the proposals, leaving aside "increasing the efficiency and diversity of Mayne Nickless", boils down to a short term partial relief of road congestion at the White Bay container terminal. To achieve this limited goal, residents and schoolchildren on and near the proposed tortuous routes would have to suffer at least 80 thirty-ton trucks, with their attendant noises, fumes, vibrations and dangers, trundling past their homes and schools every hour of the day and night. This increased attrition on the rights of residents to be able to escape the tensions and dangers of heavy traffic cannot be tolerated.

There are two alternatives to the proposals which the Association considered warranted further investigation:

- a) Move the containers by rail, or
- b) Divert the resources spent on trying to relieve congestion at White Bay towards speeding up the larger and more integrated container handling facilities being constructed at Botany Bay.

Unfortunately for Mayne Nickless, neither of these alternatives involve the use of their Gordon Street site and although Council may reject their proposals it could be expected that Mayne Nickless would appeal to the Local Government Appeals Tribunal against such a rejection. If this happens we would then see whether the State Government's Environmental Impact Policy is of any value since the Mayne Nickless proposals are an ideal example of a case that should be rejected on environmental grounds.

Stop Press!!

At the recent site inspection by Council at Easton Park, residents again showed their unanimous opposition to the proposals.

The Mayne Nickless representatives could only reiterate their amendment to the original proposals which they put to Council some time earlier. That was that they could operate the proposed depot 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. as they are at present. Residents immediately asked questions as to whether Council had given Mayne Nickless permission to operate for the past two years. Mayor Dougherty replied that the only notification Council had from Mayne Nickless was the present application.

Representatives of the Railwaymen's Union then declared that if the proposals were approved they would declare the whole White Bay terminal "black" until Mayne Nickless withdrew. They claimed that the Railways could be organised to carry the containers to Chullora, not just to the Mayne Nickless site, and obviate the Mayne Nickless proposals completely.

The meeting broke up knowing that Council would reject the proposals but Mayne Nickless did not indicate whether they would appeal against the decision. However, opposition is so strong and widespread that Mayne Nickless could not possibly gain approval for their proposals using the normal channels of authority.

DUKE STREET AND MORT BAY

Proposals have been put to Council for the erection of a total of 84 dwellings on land around Duke Place and in Nicholson Street in East Balmain. The proposals are in large part for land not at present being used commercially, but they do include the demolition of one Blacket House which is classified by the National Trust. There are however, wider implications: Two of these three sites are part of a much larger redevelopment proposal being prepared for most of the waterfront land from Simmons Point to the Sydney Slipway in Mort Bay.

The proposals, confusing as they are at this stage, will need careful consideration before firm conclusions are reached and the Association urges all members, and residents of East Balmain in particular, to familiarise themselves with the situation. There will be a public meeting near the sites in the near future. This will be publicised and all affected residents are urged to attend and participate. If you can help in any way, ring Roger Johnson on 827 1797.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Birchgrove Primary School

Howard Smith Industries and the Leichhardt Council have agreed to make a substantial area of land behind Birchgrove School available as a playground.

The land consists of the unmade 'dead end' of Gow Street and part of the vacant land formerly the Balmain Colliery, now owned by Howard Smiths. The new playground will add approximately 120' to the depth of the school's existing play areas.

The Council have undertaken to carry out the required site works and Howard Smiths have generously offered to provide the fencing and labour and materials to build play equipment. Teachers at the school and the P & C are enthusiastic about the idea and it is their intention that the playground should have the character of an 'adventure playground'.

Members of the Association prepared some preliminary ideas for the site and will be assisting further by developing a framework within which the school, the Council, Howard Smiths and the children can work.

Gladstone Park Primary School

At a recent meeting of the P & C, Nils Warren was invited to explain the nature of adventure playgrounds and some of their advantages. (Mr. Warren, an architect, is President of the East Balmain Primary School P & C Association and has been involved in the development of the adventure playground there). He stressed that such playgrounds should not be entirely planned by adults or conform to a set pattern. He suggested that playgrounds develop according to the needs and desires of the children and parents of the particular school.

The Balmain Association has agreed to provide and plant an assortment of native trees, and will give continuing moral and technical assistance (and the odd helping hand) as the playground develops.

We also hope to provide similar assistance to the Rozelle Primary School and St. Augustine's School in the near future.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

In early October we started weekly story reading for children at 11.00 a.m. Saturdays; 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 in.

HOSKINS STREET DEVELOPMENT

The proposed siting by Parkes Developments Pty. Ltd. of 30 townhouses on the Bailey and Jorgenson waterfront site (bounded by Hoskins, Johnston and Union Streets, East Balmain), has aroused considerable resident opposition.

At the recent site inspection, representatives from Parkes Developments, fresh from their setback at Fitzroy Avenue, did little to enhance their reputation amongst the residents of the East End. Although indicating that compromise was possible, no suggestions were forthcoming from the Architect or Developer as to what they had in mind.

The residents were unanimous in their support for dedication of foreshore land for public use (suggested by Mr. Kenna, the Town Planner), alternative traffic access through the Maritime Services Board road, restoration of the old stone cottage on the site and redesign of the project to provide "see through" perspectives of the water from the street and a more aesthetically pleasing appearance of the buildings.

The Balmain Association submitted a "Declaration of Environmental Factors" to the Town Planner and this, together with the above factors, are to be discussed by the Developer and the Town Planner before the matter comes again before the Council. Residents will have the opportunity at this council meeting to discuss any modifications which may be submitted. The outcome, particularly with reference to the intolerable traffic situation acceptance of the proposal would create, is still clouded and active resident participation is still essential.

HISTORY GROUP DOINGS

On Sunday, October 7, Hal and Rita Wise, Gladys Chanter, John Engle and Margaret Dobson met at Darling Street Wharf and started their project of locating, recording and photographing the old pubs in the area. On Sunday October 14, Rita, Gladys and John took a group of about 40 people on a walk around Birchgrove. Peter Reynolds is still involved in writing about the Balmain Land Grant. Remember: the History Group meets at the Watch House at 8.00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Perhaps you are interested in researching the history of your house -- come along to the meetings and the Group will give you hints on how to go about this.

EXECUTIVE LIAISON

The Management Committees of the Balmain Association, the Annandale Association and the Glebe Society met at the Watch House recently to discuss mutual problems, their various strengths and weaknesses, possible combined actions and generally to improve communications.

air pollution

First the good news!

There was an average drop of about 42% in the amount of insoluble particulate matter falling on Leichhardt Municipality during 1972, compared with 1971. There was also an average drop of about 18% in the smoke intensity over the same period. These figures are encouraging and indicate in general terms that the industries in the Municipality are becoming cleaner or moving out.

And now the bad news!

Automobile pollution in Sydney:

(a) Carbon Monoxide

The safe level of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere, as set down by the World Health Organisation, is an 8-hour average of 9 parts per million (ppm), and this level is not to be exceeded more than once a year.

In Sydney, this level is exceeded on more than 90 days per year, with an annual maximum 8-hour average of 49 ppm.

(b) Photochemical Oxidants

The World Health Organisation recommends, as a long-term goal, that oxidant levels should not exceed 0.06 ppm average for one hour.

In Sydney this level is exceeded on at least 30 days per year with an annual maximum one-hour average of 0.24 ppm - four times the W.H.O. recommendation.

Motor vehicle pollution in Sydney is still uncontrolled and motor vehicle urban mileage is doubling every 12 to 15 years. Substantial controls are needed to hold pollution counts at even their current levels!

Oh, Sydney, what a heartbreak old town you are!

References: 1 Leichhardt Municipal Council - Health Administration Service Annual Report, 1972.

2 "The War Against Exhaust Pollution" R.W. Bilger, Current Affairs Bulletin Vol. 49, No.11 p.349, April 1973.

miscellaneous

ANTI-EXPRESSWAY NEWS

Despite heavy rain about 100 people attended the anti-expressway rally held at National Street, Rozelle, on November 10.

Public participation against the construction of the North Western Distributor at this stage is vital. The concrete pylons for the North Western are currently being constructed in Darling Harbour Goods Yard. In addition, our Premier has pledged, as part of his election policy, the completion of the North Western as far as Glebe within the next three years.

A meeting will be held at 10.00 a.m., Saturday, December 15, at Foley Park, Glebe - followed by a march to Darling Harbour Goods Yard.

Anti-expressway car stickers and badges are available from Graham Robertson - 827 2398.

REMEDIAL READING CLINIC

Christine Blunden and Mark Pearson have set up a remedial reading clinic at 1 Johnston Street, East Balmain, providing tuition for children who have reading problems. Children attend 2 half-hour sessions per week, after school. Fees payable every 4 weeks in advance - \$12. (\$1.50 per session.) Further details may be obtained from the Clinic. Telephone 82 3411.

WOULDN'T IT BE LUVERLY!

Browsing through the Paddington Society October News Bulletin Balmain residents can wistfully note that the Public Transport Commission intended to lease railway land at Rushcutters Bay for business or commercial purposes, but decided not to do this but instead to offer the land to Woollahra Council for "public recreation and beautification purposes". And that the Paddington Ward had three collections of garbage a week, although the Council now plans to reduce this to two. However, the Ward Alderman suggests that people should take up a petition to express their dissatisfaction. And streets have been closed to traffic in South Paddington where the City Council intends to create landscaped precincts. In the meantime, the City Council intends to shift some potted trees into these areas. (Leftovers from the Opera House and Waratah commitments).

A VOTE OF THANKS

"The President,
The Balmain Association,
C/- Mr. I.E. Beverley,
70 Elliot Street,
BALMAIN. N.S.W. 2041

Dear Sir,

Re: Parkes Development (Sydney)
Pty. Limited re Fitzroy
Avenue, Balmain

You are undoubtedly aware that Leichhardt Council was successful with its application to the Equity Court against Parkes Development (Sydney) Pty. Limited, the State Planning Authority and The Minister for Local Government. There is now therefore some hope that a proper and attractive development will end up on the subject site.

It is obvious that the success of the action taken by Council and indeed the fact of action being taken was in no small way due to the initiative and drive of the Balmain Association. On behalf of the residents of Fitzroy Avenue, Balmain I would like to sincerely thank the Association and in particular yourself and Mr. Chesterman for your efforts in assisting in this result being brought about.

Yours truly,
(Signed)
Kerry Wright

26 Fitzroy Avenue,
BALMAIN NSW 2041

17th September, 1973."

christmas barbecue

Christmas is almost upon us again, so its time for our Christmas Barbecue! Once again its being held at 2 Numa Street, Long Nose Point - an idyllic harbourside setting with lots of room for the kids to run and play.

We extend a special invitation to all new members and all friends.

Bring your own food and drinks - fireplaces and wood are provided.

Remember Saturday, December 15, 5.00 p.m. onwards.

garden inspection

The Balmain Association is planning an inspection of some of the interesting gardens in the Balmain-Rozelle area, to be held on Sunday, April 7, 1974.

All members (and friends) who have or anticipate having a garden or courtyard area that they would like to exhibit are asked to get cracking in readiness.

Incidentally, by "garden" we don't mean just the traditional garden, but any external living area in which planting makes a significant contribution to the visual effect.

We would like to emphasize that this is NOT a competition and that entry into houses will be avoided unless necessary for access.

Further details and contacts for registration will be given next News Sheet.

christmas cards



Hot off the press! The Balmain Association has two new card designs, reflecting the character of the peninsula, and printed in 5 colours; and they're selling at the incredibly low price of 10¢ each (yes - envelopes included!).

We've printed all cards without a greeting inside, so, as well as making wonderful Christmas Cards, they're ideal for birthdays, mothers' days, fathers' days - in fact, any occasion throughout the year!

Also, this year you can give your friends or relatives one year's complimentary membership in The Balmain Association by purchasing separately for \$2.00 each, gift membership vouchers. These are designed to be inserted in your cards, but can be sent separately.

Cards and gift membership vouchers are available at the Arts and Crafts Sale, December 7 and 8, or from the Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain.

BURGLARIES

It must seem to the thief that Balmain residents are wealthy, because there has been an increasing number of housebreakings in the area during recent months. The police say that structural alterations to houses attracts the burglar's attention, then he just waits his opportunity. Occupants should take all the suitable precautions, i.e. satisfactory locks, alert neighbours of absences, cancel milk and paper deliveries when absent, for there is nothing so heartbreaking as to see treasured possessions handled roughly and to lose the more valuable ones.

watch these dates !!!

November 30, December 1, 2 and 7,8,9 with
2 p.m. matinees on Sundays, December
2 and 9:

The Balmain Theatre Group's production
of "Pirates at the Barn". (For details
contact Wendy Farrell, 82 5624)

December 7, Friday and December 8, Saturday
The Annual Arts and Crafts Sale (See
special insert this issue for more
details)

December 13, Thursday, 8.00 p.m.
Association General Meeting in Lower
Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and
coffee.

December 15, Saturday
The Association's Christmas Barbecue
(see note this issue for more details).

January 27, 1974, Sunday of Australia Day
weekend.
The Association's Annual Cricket Match
(See note this issue for more details).

April 7, 1974, Sunday
Balmain Garden Inspection (see note
this issue for more details).

May, 1974
Inspection of Garden Island (more details
next issue).

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

CRICKET DAY

The Association's cricket season will get off
to a vigorous start at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday
January 27, 1974, at Birchgrove Oval with the
North of Darling Street Vs. South of Darling
Street clash. That Sunday is the Sunday of
the Australia Day weekend.

Bring your children, friends and refreshments
(liquid and other) for lunch and tea.

For automatic selection phone Malcolm Garder
on 82 1686 or 20933 Ext. 289; a nominal fee
of \$1 will be charged for players.

new members

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

Mrs. Norma Hayman

12 Grafton Street, Balmain

Diana Russell

22 Louisa Road, Birchgrove.

Mr. & Mrs. Redom

19 Edwards Street, Balmain.

Joan Buxall

5 Vernon Street, Balmain.

I. Rabong

5/2 Clifton Street, Balmain.

M/s J. Durie

292 Old Canterbury Rd. Summer Hill.

Mr. & Mrs. Thornton

13 Moore Street, Balmain.

Mr. P.J. Hay

29 Mansfield Street, Rozelle.

Mr. P. Carter

1 Giles Avenue, Greenwich.

Mr. I.F. McDonald

25/16 Hosking Street, Balmain.

Miss I. Darning

8 Paul Street, Balmain East.

Wayne & Anita Mortimer

4 Fitzroy Avenue, Balmain.

Dallas Gresham

10 Duke Street, Balmain.

Anne Farah

10 Duke Street, Balmain.

next general meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED

NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS
WELCOME.