

the balmain association

ST. ANDREWS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BALMAIN

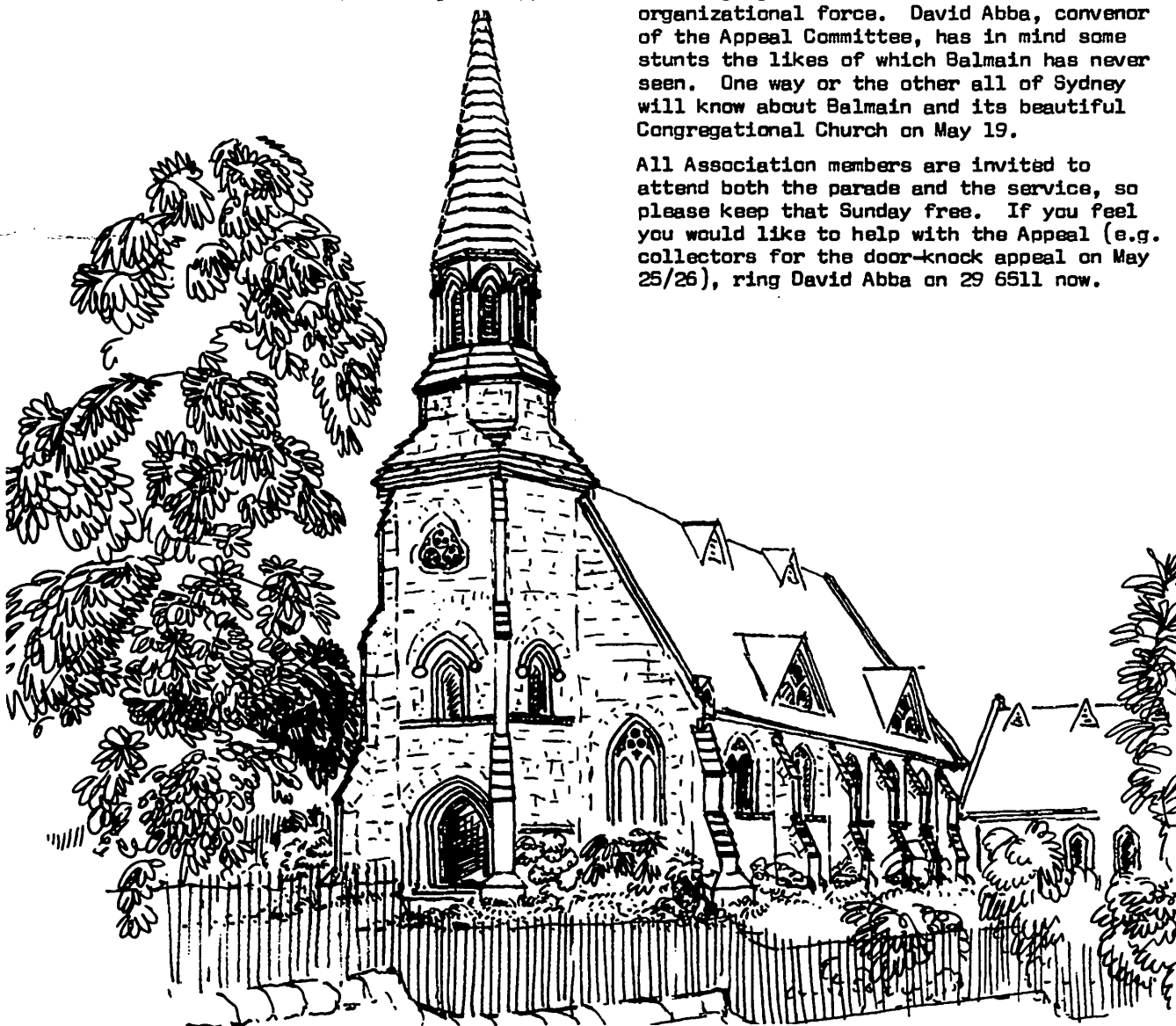
On May 19, the Balmain Congregational Church will be 121 years old, and the Balmain Association - Congregational Church Restoration Appeal will be launched. The opening will be marked by a huge procession from the Town Hall to the Church where a special ecumenical service will be held. The church will be packed to capacity and the pageant broadcast and televised.

Built at the time of the establishment of Mort's Dock, the church has witnessed the generation and degeneration of a vast waterfront industry, and in more recent times, the regeneration of Balmain as a residential area.

The church has become an important focus in the local townscape, both because of its inherent beauty and grace and because of its obvious links with Balmain's historical past. Unfortunately, time has not been kind to the church or its hall; stone fabric is fretting, timber is rotting and slates slipping from the roof. It is to arrest this continuing decay and imminent loss of an important part of Balmain's heritage, that an appeal is being launched.

The Balmain Association is sponsoring the Appeal and the Congregational Church is providing the organizational force. David Abba, convenor of the Appeal Committee, has in mind some stunts the likes of which Balmain has never seen. One way or the other all of Sydney will know about Balmain and its beautiful Congregational Church on May 19.

All Association members are invited to attend both the parade and the service, so please keep that Sunday free. If you feel you would like to help with the Appeal (e.g. collectors for the door-knock appeal on May 25/26), ring David Abba on 29 6511 now.



projects and activities — reports

MAYNE NICKLESS CONTAINER DEPOT, ROZELLE

Following the fiasco of last year when Mayne Nickless applied to Council to establish a 24 hour container depot on Railway Land at Rozelle we were all left wondering why they had been allowed to establish themselves to the extent they had in the first place.

The Association followed this up by writing to the Minister for Transport asking for an explanation. Part of the Minister's reply was "that the Company is at present occupying the land on a monthly tenancy basis; that a long term lease has not been executed". A short term lease of course does not exempt Mayne Nickless from obtaining approval from Council to operate. However, the letter continues; "prerequisite negotiations to a lease of that nature (ie long-term) are under way with Leichhardt Municipal Council."

The negotiations referred to are the areas Council rejected last year but the rumour still persists that Mayne Nickless will appeal against the decision. Does any Association member know any more than this?

PETITIONERS FOR THE BARNETT REPORT SUBMISSION

As reported in the national press, the special meeting of the Local Government Association held early in March in order to discuss the recommendations of the Barnett Committee investigating local government organisation overwhelmingly rejected thereport. It is felt that this could well have been the death knell for the report in spite of limited support for the report by the Shires Association.

The Association worked hard to have its petition and submission, opposing the report, in to Council before the dead-line. Petitioners had to work to a very tight time schedule as well as communicate to residents conceptional rather than material ideas.

Nevertheless, 520 names were collected in a short time and our submission made the dead-line. Thanks go to those fifteen or so Association members who did all the leg-work collecting the petition.

PRIVY ROOF

"Its an ill wind etc."

Seeing that the frame had gone up over the Watch House privy, but that after two months no roof had materialised, Robert Irving came to the rescue. Representing the National Trust's "Old Sydney Town", Robert Irving has offered the Association sufficient she-oak shingles to finish the job. These were accepted with thanks.

TREE PLANTING IN MOORE STREET, ROZELLE

Following the Association's recent tree-planting effort in Goodsir Street, residents of adjoining Moore Street petitioned Council for trees in their street.

Council planted the southern end of Moore Street with Claret Ash but the end running into Goodsir Street was planted by residents themselves using the same type of tree as that in Goodsir Street; red-flowering ironbark.

The Association supplied the trees, Council dug the holes and the organising and actual planting (and future tendering) was done by the residents of Moore Street. Margaret Thornton was the Association's most active member in this respect.

With the establishment of the small park nearby in Goodsir Street (commencement has been budgeted for this year by Council) there will be more than fifty trees in a compact area where only eight months ago there was none.

wine - bottling party

Good news! The "Chateau Watch House" label lives again!

On Saturday, April 27, we're having a wine-bottling party at which we'll be bottling a red (a blend of Shiraz, Grenache and Mataro grapes) and a white (a blend of Reisling and Semillon) under the Chateau Watch House label.

So come along to 66 Campbell Street, Balmain around 8 pm and join in the fun. Admission is \$2.00 each and includes wine and nibbles. The fruits of our labours will be selling for 85¢ per bottle or \$9.00 per dozen - so - "bring your money with you!" Hic! oops.



garden island inspection

On Sunday, May 26, The Balmain Association is conducting a family day at Garden Island Naval Base.

Although known mainly for its warships, Garden Island has a remarkable collection of Colonial buildings (many classified by the National Trust), ships of all shapes and sizes and an impressive variety of memorabilia such as old cannons, anchors, ships figure-heads etc. As well as a general walking tour, we hope to inspect several of the older buildings and perhaps two of the larger warships.

Several members of the Association work at Garden Island and will act as guides so we expect to be able to split into smaller more manageable groups.

For lunch we'll be having a barbecue in an area on the island which has some of the finest views of Sydney - and also includes a playground for the kids. Bring your own everything to eat and drink (fireplaces and wood provided).

We'll be meeting at 'Harry's Cafe de Wheels' outside the Garden Island Entrance, at the Northern end of Cowper Wharf Road (down past the Woolloomooloo Wharfs) at 10.30 am. Please be punctual as it may be difficult to find the group once it has entered the Main Gates.

Tickets are \$1.00 for adults, children free. For reservations please contact Alan Rogers - 359 3246 (office hours), Margaret Dobson - 82 2774 (a.h.) David Porter - 827 1081 (a.h.) or Narelle Hooper - 827 2968 (a.h.).

miscellaneous

A VOTE OF THANKS

16 Mort Street,
BALMAIN.

27th February, 1974.

Mr. D. Porter,
President,
The Balmain Association,
66 Campbell Street,
BALMAIN. 2041

Dear Mr. Porter,

I sincerely appreciate the support given to the residents of Mort Street and myself in particular in our recent petition to keep our gates closed at night.

Thanking you and the other members of the Balmain Association who attended the meeting at the Leichhardt Council Chambers on the 26th inst.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Norma Tucker.

'AUNTY JACK'

The fund raising sub-committee burst into life last month and came up with a programme of events that stretch from now till the end of the year.

There are no less than three great turns coming up in the next two months; the Garden Walk, the Wine Bottling Party and an Inspection of Garden Island.

They are all completely different so we want to see you and your friends at all of them.

"OK, me little luvverlies? 'Cos if you don't I'll rip ya bloody arms off!" DP.

NEWS SHEET DISTRIBUTION

Our thanks to Tricia O'Rourke and Peter Robertson for their help in delivering the News Sheet over the past several years and welcome to Mary Neidham and Jim Loudan as regular distributors. DP.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

If you haven't yet seen "A Man for All Seasons" the latest play by the Balmain Theatre Group, then hurry up. Last nights are April 3, 5 & 6. The whole presentation is superb and the standard is professional, so do not miss it. Its on at the Balmain Presbyterian Church, 8 pm. Admission \$1.50, Children and Pensioners 75¢.

Meanwhile auditions are under way for the second production "TOM JONES". Opening night June 7th. If you wish to participate or be involved in any way, please call the Secretary on 82 5624.

AUCTION SALE AND BARBECUE

On Saturday April 27th at 2pm at 110 Short Street, Balmain, the Balmain Theatre Group is holding an Auction Sale and Barbecue. Bring your goods to 110 Short Street anytime on 27th from 9 am to 2 pm. Any items valued at over \$5. may be sold and 20% of the selling price only donated to the Theatre Group. Otherwise donations of goods valued at less than \$5. will be appreciated as this is a fund-raising effort. Barbecue from 5 pm. B.Y.O.B. meat and extras. Inquiries: 82 5624 & 82 4577.

WATCH FOR THE GREEN VAN!

An Association member recently thought she heard a rustling in her front courtyard and opened the door to investigate. There was a man making off out the gate with her prized potted gardenia. The enraged owner chased him along the street, where he fumbled to open the doors of a parked green van. Seeing that he wasn't going to succeed, he flung the pot-plant away and leapt into the van and drove off. Although the pot broke, the plant was rescued to live in a more secluded part of the garden.

This story must have a socio-economic meaning!

THE ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION and the National Trust have arranged an inspection of 3 or 4 houses, including the interior of "The Abbey", on Sunday, 7th April, commencing at 2 pm. Tickets cost \$2.50 each and include a descriptive pamphlet and a wine party at the end of the inspection. Available from Alan Roberts, 'phone 46 3939.

DID YOU KNOW? Council does not allow cartons, plastic bags, etc. to be used for household garbage. This is a most sensible rule in view of the mess that rain, wind, cats and dogs can make of such containers overnight.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW? Council plans no restriction on the number of standard garbage bins used by single family dwellings. The maximum permitted size of bin is 2 cubic feet (about 19" high and 16" diameter or about 6 bucketfuls). You can put out half a dozen such bins full of rubbish if you like! Incidentally, now that we have compacter type garbage trucks, the best way to dispose of broken glass is straight into a standard bin, don't even bother to wrap it.

watch these dates !!!

April 7, Sunday, 10.30 a.m.

Balmain Garden Walk (see separate insert this issue).

April 10, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee.

April 16, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.

Fund-raising Sub-committee meeting at 74 Birchgrove Road, Balmain. You are invited.

April 27, Saturday, 2.00 pm

Balmain Theatre Group Auction Sale & Barbecue. (see item this issue)

April 27, Saturday, 8.00 p.m.

Association's Wine Bottling Party (see item this 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

May 19-25, Sunday to Saturday
Balmain Congregational Church Restoration Appeal Week (for details see page 1)

May 26, Sunday, 10.30 a.m.

Garden Island Inspection and Barbecue (See item this issue)

June 12, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee.

June 30, Sunday, 11.00 a.m.

Jazz Afternoon & Barbecue lunch - a combined fund-raising activity with the Balmain Theatre Group - more details next issue.

Mid-July

Night out at a Restaurant (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. M. Gliddon,
16 St. Marys St., Balmain East.

Mrs. J. Bouwman,
81 Curtis Road, Balmain.

Mrs. Norma Tucker
16 Mort Street, Balmain.

Mr. I.G. Bulcock
80 Darling Street, Balmain.

Mr. Michael Clohesy
16 Terry Street, Balmain.

Mr. R.H. Walmsley
47 Nelson Street, Balmain.

Mr. H.L. Crompton
47 Nelson Street, Balmain.

Mr. J.B. Shannon
Box 5300 G.P.O., Sydney.

Lachlan Wilson,
35 Wharf Road, Birchgrove.

Brian McDonald,
74 Birchgrove Road, Balmain

John Guinan,
60 Pashley Street, Balmain.

Phillip Gilmour
60 Pashley Street, Balmain.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

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

PLEASE NOTE!

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD ON THE
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH