

the balmain association

expressways !!! it's time for positive action !

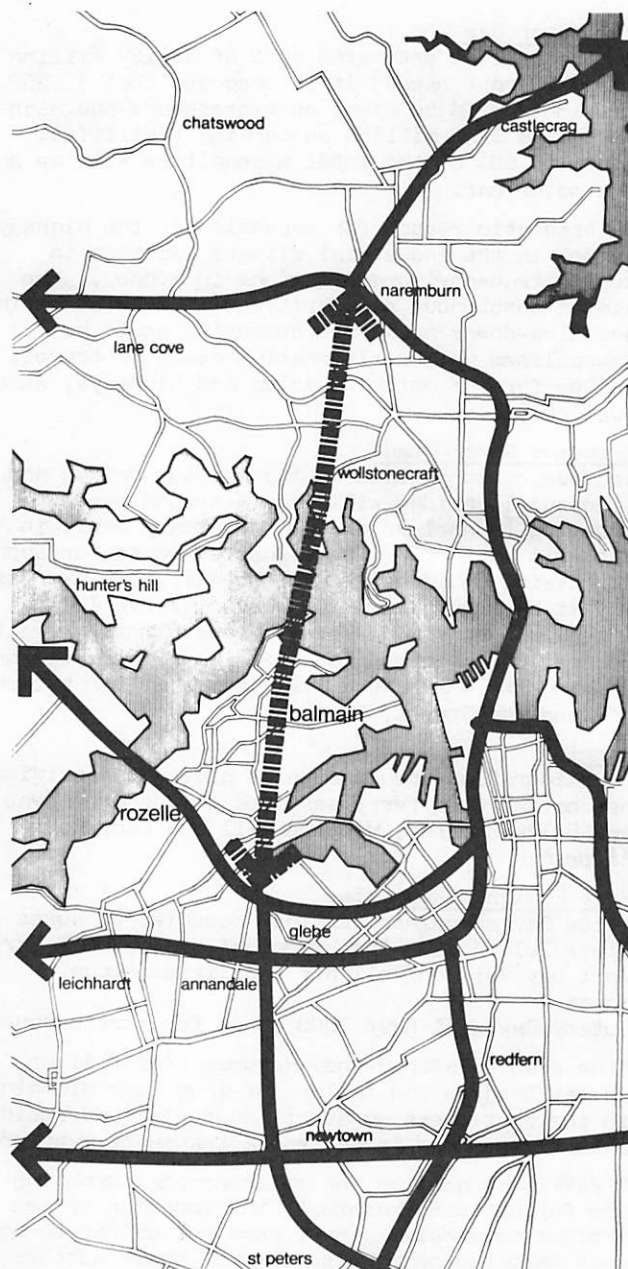
The Sydney Area Transportation Study (SATS), released on May 21, 1974, by the NSW Government is, from local and metropolitan points of view, an unqualified disaster in terms of the impact of the proposed expressways on both the natural and the urban environment.

The inner-city areas of Balmain-Rozelle, Glebe, Annandale, Newtown, St. Peters on the south side of the Harbour and Castlecrag, Naremburn, St. Leonards and Wollstonecraft on the north side, will be decimated by the proposed expressways. The SATS report states that the previous 'radial' concept has been dropped in favour of a 'new' 'grid' system; but even a cursory glance shows that 80% of the proposed network (in the inner 10-mile radius of the city) is virtually the same as the network that the Department of Main Roads has been developing over the past 25 years.

Sydney today is too large for its centre, and is already suffering the pressures of centralised overgrowth, inhibiting for many the possibility of achieving a reasonable quality of life and causing many to suffer. Perhaps the main criticism that can be levelled at the SATS proposal is that its expressway network aggravates, rather than alleviates, this situation and, in the process, destroys the inherent quality of the inner-city areas.

Large urban systems in themselves are not necessarily the cause of this suffering or the poor quality of life. A properly structured grid system of transportation, with greater emphasis on public transport modes than proposed in SATS, is needed; one which will encourage the growth of a second metropolitan centre, to counter-balance the existing city centre, and one which will encourage the formation of a structured network of city sub-centres, each providing a local focus for employment, commerce, education and entertainment.

This is a large-scale problem which concerns not only those living in the inner-city areas, but every resident of Sydney. Resident action groups will need to co-ordinate their efforts with all other interested groups and particularly with groups already established, such as the "Urban Transportation Study Group", in order to maximise the voice of protest and to bring together the professional expertise required to develop sensible and viable alternatives.



Would people interested in becoming involved, at any level, please contact Robert Hooper, 827 2968 or David Porter, 827 1081.

projects and activities — reports

S.A.T.S. - RANDOM EXTRACTS

Here are some random extracts taken from the Summary of the recently released Sydney Area Transportation Study. They are, at this stage, without comment.

The Motor Car

Out of a total estimated cost of \$4,159 million (at 1970 cost rates) it is proposed that \$2,252 million should be spent on expressways and highways plus \$229 million on parking facilities. That is, 60% of the total expenditure will be on the motor car.

"A pragmatic reason for expansion of the highway system is the industrial climate existing in public transport organisations in Sydney. The almost monotonous regularity of industrial strikes and slow-downs means the community could be immobilised unless alternative means of travel, in the form of motor vehicles and highways, were available."

Proposed Major Road

Increasing congestion on the harbour bridge and Gladesville bridge will make a second harbour crossing (tunnel or bridge) necessary early in the next century. The suggested route for such a crossing would be; leave the Warringah Expressway at Naremburn then south over Berrys Island, Greenwich, Long Nose Point, Grove Street, Loyalty Square, Smith Street and White Bay Power Station joining the North West Distributor at the bottom of Johnston Street, Annandale.

Ferries

"Consideration should also be given to providing new or improved ferry services to the Drummoyne and Balmain areas, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove River."

Port Freight Facilities

White Bay container terminal occupies 23 acres
Glebe Island container terminal occupies 22 acres
Mort Bay Roll on/Roll off facilities occupy 8 acres
Botany Bay will have 1500 acres for port purposes.

"The problem with Sydney Harbour (for freight operations) is the failure of long term planning in the port areas adjacent industrial and residential areas and in the total transport system".

"Traffic congestion and environmental problems are further constraints to the location of sea freight terminals. There does not appear to be much that can be done to both of these matters in the Port of Sydney. For Botany Bay however, the situation is different."

"Ro/Ro terminals. These terminals develop large volumes of truck trips into and out of the port area".

"Container terminals. These terminals generate large volumes of truck trips which can have a detrimental effect on local access".

Mort Bay Recommendation

Because of the conflict of transport needs and the needs of local residents; "It is recommended that the Ro/Ro terminal at Mort Bay be transferred to some other area in the general cargo section of the Port of Sydney". It should be phased out between 1974 and 1980 and the estimated cost would be \$5 million.

Balmain Coal Loader Recommendation

It is recommended that the Balmain coal loading facilities be phased out between 1981 and 1985 and relocated at Botany Bay or Port Kembla. Estimated cost \$30 million.

Resident Action Groups

"Action Group participation is a legitimate activity in a democratic society. Such groups should have the opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process, but ideally such participation should be in collaboration with the local council."

YEEND STREET WHARF

A few weeks ago Sydney Harbour Ferries threatened to discontinue the twice daily ferry service to Mort Bay because of falling patronage. S.H.F. appear blind to the fact that patronage is falling because in the last eighteen months they have cut out one of the evening ferries and Yeend Street Wharf has been declared unsafe and has been closed.

Be that as it may, Yeend Street wharf is still closed and negotiations between Council, A.N.L. and the M.S.B. about its repair have been pigeonholed as "too hard".

We are appealing to all residents in the Birchgrove and Mort Bay area to write to Council expressing concern that some nine months have passed since the wharf was closed and that unless it is reopened the whole Mort Bay service would cease. Obviously if Council does not get a prod it will rightly assume that the repair of the wharf is not warranted.

Meanwhile, the Balmain Association has written to Mr. Morris, Minister for Transport, asking for the opportunity to put its views on the present ferry service to the Balmain peninsula. If you are interested in helping to prepare such a submission, please ring David Porter on 827-1081 now.

THE MORT BAY DEVELOPMENT

Following the public meeting at Balmain Town Hall several months ago, Jackson Teece Chesterman and Willis, Architects and Planners, have submitted to Leichhardt Council a study of the Balmain peninsula, east of Cooper and Ewenton Streets. The aim of the study is to gain approval in principle of low-medium density residential redevelopment of the Mort Bay sites from Sydney Slipways to Simmons Point.

The style of development envisaged in the study is of the 'stepped' type, following the land contours, up to 3 floors high with parking under and density from 60-80 persons per acre. This will permit about 198 dwellings accommodating some 700 people.

The traffic problem, a major concern of most residents, has been investigated by traffic engineers and surveyors, and a detailed report is included in the study. Access to the sites will be by two routes only - Nicholson Street and Cooper Street region. The summary, in the report, states that the expected increase of three hundred and eighty vehicles from the Mort Bay sites "will not cause inconvenience or adverse effects".

Approximately 12% of the site area is to be dedicated as public open space, mostly along the waterfront as a strip at least 9 metres wide, with larger areas at Simmons Point, and on Darling Street, near Cooper Street. Public access to the waterfront is to be provided from roadways adjacent to the site. Marine facilities in the form of a public marina, launching ramp and moorings for tugs are planned for the western end of the site.

In view of the impact such a large development must have on the Balmain peninsula, the Association, with the assistance of Architects, landscape Architects and Social Workers, is currently examining the contents of the study, and a report is expected to be completed in the next 2 - 3 weeks.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH RESTORATION APPEAL

The procession and service launching the Congregational Church Restoration Appeal was a marvellous success. It received excellent publicity on television, radio and in the national papers as well as repeated publicity and support from the local papers.

The publicity and interest generated by the appeal as well as benefiting the Church and the Balmain Association, also helped promote Balmain as a suburb where the community works together, and this is to be encouraged.

Members of the Congregational Church did all the organising; the publicity, the procession, the ecumenical service and the door-knock appeal. At the date of writing, nearly \$3,000 has been received and hopes are high for big contributions from business houses and industry.

About \$10,000 is needed to secure the future of this beautiful church so if you have not already done so, please send your donation to "Church Restoration Appeal", P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041, now.

HOSKING STREET DEVELOPMENT

At its may 21 meeting, Leichhardt Council rejected Parkes' application to build 26 town houses in Hosking Street, East Balmain.

Council rejected the application on the grounds that no assistance was offered by Parkes to help overcome the congestion and dangers the increased traffic would cause.

While acknowledging the concessions Parkes made to requests concerning waterfront access, views, etc. Council rightly claimed this did not obviate the need for better and safer traffic access. It is expected that Parkes will appeal to the Lands Tribunal.

It would be a simple solution if Parkes could be held responsible for solving the problem but historically this is not so. A solution, regardless of the actual physical route, probably lies in assistance and contribution coming from all levels; the Federal and State governments, Council, Parkes and the residents themselves.

KARMEL REPORT ON EDUCATION

The Balmain Association, in conjunction with Community Education Alliance, decided to try to assess the educational needs in the Balmain area, following the release of the Karmel Report and the resultant availability of Government funds for schools.

A questionnaire was circulated to the Principals of all Primary Schools on the Peninsula, as well as St. Augustines, and the new Balmain High School. Five replies were received, after an initial lack of response.

Here is a summary of the findings:

- . Remedial reading is the area of greatest need. Only one school has a remedial teacher although she is not specifically trained. The other schools all state they would like at least one every day.

- . School libraries are the next area of need. All schools agreed that their libraries were not well stocked; three did not have librarians.

- . Most schools would like a Social Worker to assist in liason between home and school, and all schools would like more administrative ancillary staff.

- . There are no after school activities available although one school has plans to provide them.

- . Other specific needs mentioned by individual schools are: Special craft rooms; more playground space; a trained nurse and clinic; better staffroom facilities, and groundsmen.

A summary of the questionnaire results, together with recommendations, is now with C.E.A.

LITTER

Litter consists of those things for which people have no further use; that is, it is refuse. But it is a special kind of refuse as almost all of it is generated by people away from their home or work place.

Components of litter are generally small in both weight and volume and because of its heterogeneous nature and its random distribution mechanical or large scale collection is difficult.

Most litter is collected by hand, therefore the cost is directly related to the number of items, not the weight or volume. Cost of collection of each item averages about 8 cents to 30 cents and the total annual expenditure on litter collection in Australia has been estimated to be over \$30M; most of this being borne by local authorities.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. REYNOLDS

Peter Reynolds, convenor of the Balmain Association History Group, has just completed a rather busy month. On April 30, he received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Architecture (which was duly celebrated) and, several weeks later, was awarded the University of NSW's 1974 Alumni Award for his services to the Balmain Peninsula, particularly for his efforts in documenting its history.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Peter for this double achievement.



Chateau Watch House

Dry Red* White*

*strike out as necessary

Of the 45 dozen bottles of red and white wine bottled at the recent Association wine bottling party only 3 dozen remain. Fortunately we have been able to obtain further stocks of both the red and white and so the Chateau Watch House cellars are full once again.

For home deliveries of these very drinkable wines ring Mal Garder on 82 1686. Prices at \$5.00 per half dozen and \$9.00 per dozen (any combination of red or white) do not reflect the recent excise increases but we advise you to put your order in soon.

miscellaneous

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

Balmain Theatre Group's current production is 'Tom Jones' - a bawdy eighteenth century comedy - opening Friday, June 14 at 8 pm at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain. Opening night special is a 'Pies and Ale' supper to follow the performance at the Watch House. Admission is \$1.50 for adults (\$2.50 opening night & supper) 75¢ pensioners and children. Performance nights June 8, 14, 15, 19, 21 and 22. Bookings 827 2769 (day), 660 0248 (after hours)

BALMAIN FILM SOCIETY

A small group of Balmain film freaks have revived the Balmain Film Society and the first screening is set for Sunday, June 9, at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain.

The first programme will be "Interviews with My Lai Veterans" directed by Joseph Strick, followed by "Traffic" with Jacques Tati and Maria Kimberley.

Membership is \$2.50 a quarter for fortnightly screenings and new members may join at the door. Screenings start at 8.00 p.m.

For further information contact: Allan Moul, Vice-president, Balmain Film Society, 8 Wharf Road, Birchgrove. Tel: 827 1606.

BIRCHGROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Birchgrove Community School started on Monday, May 27, for pre-school, infants and primary. The aims of the school are to provide a varied curriculum, part of which would include languages, singing, folk dancing, gardening, local excursions, community service, etc. and yet meeting the NSW Department of Education's Syllabus. Enquiries and enrolments can be made at 29A Ballast Point Road, Birchgrove between 10 a.m. - 12 noon weekdays or on 82-2727.

BIRCHGROVE COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Birchgrove Community Playgroup at 29A Ballast Point Road is open from 10 am - 12 noon Mon. - Fri., providing a variety of activities for the young members of the community from sandplay to candlemaking - all welcome.

jazz afternoon and barbecue



On Sunday, June 30, the Balmain Association and the Balmain Theatre Group are joining forces to provide you with a great day's entertainment. Bill Haesler's Washboard Band will be there with their special sound and there'll be plenty of fireplaces and wood for your barbecue lunch.

So come along to Guy & Eve Kendall's, at 48 Waterview Street, Balmain, from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, with your steak and grog (salads provided) and \$1.00 each (kids free) and have a fun day.

watch these dates !!!

June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 19, 21 and 22; 8.00 pm
Balmain Theatre Group's production of 'Tom Jones' (see notes this issue for more details)

June 9, Sunday, 8.00 p.m.
Balmain Film Society's first screening (see note this issue for more details)

June 12, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Balmain Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee.

June 30, Sunday, 11.00 a.m.
Jazz Afternoon and barbecue (see note this issue for more details)

August 14, Wednesday, 8.00 pm
Balmain Association ANNUAL General Meeting, Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Election of Management for 1974/75 - nominations for all positions can be sent to the Hon. Secretary (see membership form below) or presented on the night. So please come to this meeting and participate.

new members

We are pleased to welcome to the Association the following new members:

Miss Janette Rush
173 Beattie Street, Balmain
Mr. Peter Jollie and Family
6 Adolphus Street, Balmain
Mrs. M. Rogerson
5 Johnston Street, Balmain East.
Mr. M. Doonan
7 Simmons Street, Balmain
Susan McUie
42 College Street, Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. C. Marsh
122 Mallett Street, Camperdown
M/s Janne Marsh
10 Jane Street, Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. P. Pearson
14 Moore Street, Rozelle
Miss Dorothy McKay
3/27 Union Street, Balmain East
Lorraine Yudaeff
6 Moore Street, Rozelle
Graham & Marika Robinson
42 Moore Street, Rozelle
Period Roofing
1 Little Darling Street, Balmain
A.G. Smith
43 Elliott Street, Balmain

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

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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
