



the balmain association

ninth annual report

president's report

OUR AIMS AND THE MORT BAY TERMINAL

In the fourth Annual Report in 1969, Robert Irving spoke despondently of the construction of the Mort Bay container terminal. He spoke of the unanswered questions of land access to the terminal and the difficulties of the narrow streets, but the terminal was built.

Now, after only five years operation of the terminal, the Sydney Area Transportation Study has concluded that due to residents' objections and poor land access the ANL terminal at Mort Bay should be relocated elsewhere as soon as possible.

Admittedly this is only step one and that step two is for the terminal to actually be moved, but it should give all of us hope that by protesting, both individually and through such organisations as the Balmain Association we can achieve results. The process is not easy or short term, it is usually frustrating and depressing, nevertheless it does work. Only now are we reaping the benefits of the hard work done by the Association in its formative years.

NEW ACTIVITIES

It is pleasing to report that the past year has seen the Association move into two new areas of activity. For the first time we joined forces with other community groups and held joint functions and, also for the first time, attempts to improve the useage of the Watch House were fruitful.

In May this year the Association sponsored an appeal for the restoration of the Balmain Congregational Church. This was the first time the Association had put its name to a restoration appeal. As well as being a financial success the Association, the church and the whole of Balmain benefited from the co-operative atmosphere created by the appeal. In June, in partnership with the Balmain Theatre Group, we held a most successful barbeque and jazz day. And at the moment the Association is assisting the National Trust Junior Group with their house inspection of Balmain. These co-operative events, as well as broadening the base of the Association, indicate a maturing of the role of the Association in the community.

It is also most encouraging to see the way use of the Watch House has grown over the last twelve months, particularly its use by other organisations, both for meetings and social functions. This is an aspect that previous managements have worked towards and it will be carefully nurtured.

WATCH HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

I feel sure that the increased use of the Watch House is due, at least in part, to the building improvements made over the past twelve months. This year the kitchen annex was completed, the courtyard was paved, the privy reinstated and the adjoining triangle of land cleaned, shaped and turfed. Needless to say this work is not complete, but with the regular cleaning of the Watch House and the regular mowing of the grass, both of which have started, the Watch House will become more a focal point than ever.

NATIONAL ESTATE SUBMISSIONS

In the early part of 1974 the Association made two submissions to the Enquiry into the National Estate. One concerned the preservation of the Balmain Congregational Church and the other nominated those parcels of waterfront land which the Association felt should be preserved as part of the National Estate.

Ecclesiastical buildings will be considered by the Enquiry Committee during this coming year 1974-75, so as yet we have had no reply to the Congregational Church submission.

The second submission has however brought results. Along with Leichhardt Council, the Association has been advised that the area we considered as top priority, Simmons Point in East Balmain, will be purchased for the National Estate. This parcel of land is quite small and it is hoped that over the coming months some of the other areas we have nominated will also be secured in this way.

THE EAST BALMAIN STUDY

Another report the Association produced this year was a reply to the study proposing re-development of the East Balmain shores of Mort Bay. The study was carried out by a consortium of developers and submitted to the Association for comment.

The reply has just been completed, having involved the co-operative work of some twelve architects, townplanners and sociologists. The conclusion drawn was that while we acknowledge that part residential development is probably the most practical use for the site, the study is so lacking in detail, particularly sociological impact, that the Association can not support the "Study" per se.

FUND RAISING

On the fund raising side we had two outstanding successes, the Garden Walk and the Jazz Day. The weather was kind to us on both days but there was more to it than this. On both occasions we must have hit on the right combination because people came from everywhere. Over 400 people went on the Garden Walk and, including children, about the same number came to the Jazz Day.

Other events such as the Wine Bottling and the Christmas Barbeque, were not given the same publicity and so attracted smaller crowds. Nevertheless in their own way these events were equally successful.

Although attracting a good attendance and showing a good profit this year it was felt that the next Arts and Craft Sale should be restructured with a view to changing the style. A much bigger "fair" type production has been suggested.

MARGARET DOBSON

Before closing I want to give special thanks to Margaret Dobson for her invaluable assistance; first to me over the past twelve months and, more importantly, to the whole of the Association over the past five years. Margaret in her secretarial capacity has literally kept the Association running smoothly for that period. Her efficient and tireless dealing with far more than secretarial matters and her guiding influence on the management committee will be sadly missed.

CONCLUSION

There is a growing general awareness of the rights of residents to an improving quality of life and there is now an acceptance that resident groups have a legitimate right to be heard. More specifically, the co-operation between the Association and Leichhardt Council continues to grow and the Maritime Services Board, now under the control of the Minister for Works, is now slightly more accessible. These are all encouraging trends.

These are not the criteria of a few years ago, in fact roles in some cases have reversed. There is now a real danger of complacency, a danger of taking these changes for granted. As individuals it is easy to assume that the other person or group is looking after our rights. This is not so and it can never be

assumed. With the best of intentions, organisations, and this includes the Association, cannot make good decisions unless guided by positive feedback from those affected by the decision. In short we must all involve ourselves to a greater extent in what is going on around us in our street, our suburb and our country. The ground rules are changing all the time and next year will be just as demanding for the Association as was the first. We need people to do this work. How about you?

D. Porter

secretary's report

The past year has been successful in that a number of projects which have remained undone for a long time have been completed.

Twelve Management Committee meetings have been held during the year and attendance details are set out hereunder.

D. Porter (President)	12
R. Norman (Treasurer)	12
M. Dobson (Secretary)	12
M. Garder	11
R. Hooper	11
D. McDonald	11
R. Johnson	9
H. Oates	9
A. Rogers	7
D. Chesterman	3 (of 5) leave of absence from Dec.)
L. McKeon	5 (of 7) resigned March, 1974.
P. Toogood	2 (of 4) co-opted April, 1974.

The book "BALMAIN IN TIME" is still selling steadily and it is thought that this is due to the Congregational Church Appeal generating an interest in Balmain's history.

Our Membership Secretary, Thea Banks, has moved out of the area recently and will move to the Blue Mountains at the end of the year. She reluctantly has to give up her membership duties and we all thank her for the hours of work she has put in to keep the News Sheet distribution lists accurate and up-to-date.

I have been Secretary for the past 5 years and I feel that this is long enough, so I am not nominating again. I urge people to nominate for the position: It is not an unsurmountable barrier to have no knowledge of shorthand and typing. If the secretary has not access to typing capability, I am sure some arrangement could be made for the typing to be done.

Finally, I think members should be made aware of the hard work put into the Association's activities by the President, David Porter. He has sacrificed his leisure time unstintingly and very little would have been achieved without his drive and example.

Margaret Dobson

treasurer's report

This year has seen the expenditure of some of our accumulated funds towards the completion of projects on the Watch House. There is still further work to be done and we hope that the major programmes will have been completed by the end of the year. The excess of expenditure is a little inflated; firstly by paying the bills for Blackets Dinner the past year when the major part of the income was received the year before, and secondly by paying for 880 copies of "Houses of Balmain" which we have been selling for the past two years.

Two of our major sources of income will soon cease. We have only 154 copies of "houses of Balmain" left to sell, and sales of the book are slowly falling off. Some time in the next two years we will be financially backing the publication of Dr. Reynold's book on the Balmain Land Grant. This is anticipated to

deplete our funds quite considerably and we shall need to look at other avenues of revenue. We will need increased income to cover the increasing overheads due to inflation and increase in insurance rates. Some of this is being covered by asking groups who use the Watch House to make a donation towards the upkeep of the building. I hope some will come from increased social fund raising activities, where we must look to producing a larger set profit. It is pleasing to see that our membership is on the increase. I hope that this year will see the peak membership that we achieved in 1970-1971.

This year we have budgeted for a deficit, mainly due to allowance for publication of Dr. Reynold's book. We have also carried forward the grant to local schools for adventure playgrounds.

BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

July 1, 1974 - June 30, 1975

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>Regular Income</u>	\$	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	\$
Membership Fees	750	Watch House	300
Fund Raising	500	Library	100
Banking	200	News Sheet	300
Donations	50	Publicity	100
		Petty Cash	100
		Local RAG Groups	100
	1,500		1,000
<u>L. T. Fund Raising</u>		<u>L. T. Fund Raising</u>	
"Houses of Balmain"	150	Pub. "Land Grant"	2,000
"Balmain in Time"	200		
Christmas Cards	50		2,000
	400	<u>Capital Expenditure</u>	
		Watch House	200
		Watch House Park	900
		Adventure Playgrounds and Schools	400
	1,900		1,500
Excess Expenditure over income	2,600		
Total	\$4,500	Total	\$4,500

Total Funds as at July 1, 1974 \$4,416
 Excess Expenditure over Income 2,600
 Total Funds Projected to July 1, 1975 \$1,816

This year has been successful and has seen the virtual completion of a couple of long-standing projects - the major one being the kitchen annexe.

My very many thanks to all those with whom I have had the pleasure of working, especially to Margaret Dobson, who has so capably helped me in my job and to Thea Banks through whom the major problems of distribution and delivery of the News Sheet have been ironed out.

R. Norman

BALANCE SHEET
as at 30th June, 1974

	\$		\$
Accumulation Account	5,858	C.S.B. General Account	773
		C.T.B. Interest Bearing Deposit	500
Less:		C.S.B. Savings Investment A/c	1,633
Excess expenditure over income	1,442	Bk.NSW Savings Invest. A/c	1,030
		Bk.NSW Booklet Loan A/c	458
		Petty cash on hand	12
		Electricity Deposit	10
	<u>\$4,416</u>		<u>\$4,416</u>

Balmain in Time

Books on hand at 30/6/74 were 1,702 @ 24¢ each \$408.00

Houses of Balmain

Books on hand at 30/6/74 were 184 @ 40¢ each \$ 69.60

Membership

At 30/6/74 there were 386 adult members and 6 Juniors

projects and activities — reports

THE TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

A number of Town Planning sub-committees have been convened this year to work in particular problem areas and people have been co-opted as required to assist in these and other planning matters.

The following reports have been prepared:-

1. A submission to the Hope Inquiry into the National Estate containing information and recommendations with respect to future inclusion of the Harbour foreshore lands of Balmain in the National Estate. This has resulted in the promise of a grant of \$69,000 to the Council to purchase land at Simmons Point, and the likelihood of similar interest in the waterfront strip of the Southern foreshore of Mort Bay in the near future.
2. In response to the submission of the "East Balmain Study" prepared by planning consultants representing several landholders, a detailed report was prepared on the study and its principal component, the Mort Bay development. This study was one of the first schemes to be submitted by a developer to a resident body for appraisal and in this light it was received enthusiastically. However, while accepting that a mixture of residential and maritime development was probably a suitable use for the land, the Committee expressed strong reservations about the impact of such a large development on the peninsula.

3. In objecting to the Hosking Street development on the grounds of a totally unsatisfactory traffic situation, the Association commissioned the services of Sinclair Knight and Partners, Traffic Engineers to investigate the feasibility of extending Johnson Street to serve the area. The works were found to be quite possible but the developer considered construction costs to be an unwarranted burden. The outcome remains undecided following the Council's rejection of the development and it is likely the developer will appeal against this decision.

4. The submission to Leichhardt Council on Loyalty Square has been favourably received and currently an independent landscape architect has been engaged by the Council to prepare working drawings.

Current activities include:-

1. Investigating the closure of part of Macquarie Terrace to improve traffic flow and to develop the three existing islands into a larger more usable park area.
2. Planning of improvements to Curtis Road Playground.
3. Examination of the Sydney Urban Transportation Study and its effects on Balmain, particularly the proposed Harbour crossing, the removal of the Balmain Coal Loader and the proposed transfer of ANL Mort Bay Terminals to Botany Bay.

4. Review of the amended plans for the Weston Street development. Considerable modification of the original design including reduction in the number and size of dwellings and gross alteration in the architectural style has prompted the Council to recommend readvertising the scheme for further consideration.

5. The Association's representatives on the Council's Town Planning Committee are at present working on the establishment of conservation areas, preparation of the Statutory Planning Scheme and the setting up of the public exhibition of the proposed Leichhardt Plan. After the exhibition, the Association's Town Planning Committee will study the plan and its effects on the area in a report to be submitted to the Council.

We would like to thank all those involved in the various committee this year and as convenors of the committees we extend our thanks in particular to the Forward Planning Department of Leichhardt Council for their help and interest shown this year.

M. Garder
R. Johnson

WATCH HOUSE & LANDSCAPING REPORT

Watch House:

During the past 12 months several outstanding and necessary tasks have been carried out.

The paving of the courtyard and completion of the kitchen annexe have rendered the Watch House far more usable as a venue for community activities as well as for Association functions.

The roofing of the old privy plus the provision of a door has provided much needed storage space.

Much blood, sweat and tears has been expended on the adjacent triangle (Watch House Place?) The balance of the work is currently being completed by a landscape contractor, so the site should be available for the 1974 Arts and Crafts Sale and other sundry end-of-year summertime festivities.

Planting Activities:

Street planting - Goodsir Street, Rozelle, planted with Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Pink flowering Iron bark)

Balmain Public School, Gladstone Park - tree planting carried out under the auspices of Lindsay McKeon - 10 assorted trees installed complete with guards.

Birchgrove Public School - The Association tree planting programme incorporated with Arbor Day 1974 - 34 trees planted into holes prepared by landscape contractor - hopefully the P & C will provide tree guards. Many thanks to the green-fingered mums involved in the planting.

The street planting continues to be a worthwhile community contribution and it is anticipated that the Association will continue to plant at least one street per year.

It is suggested that in future years the Association could perhaps best continue its interest in the local schools by providing a tree (or trees) to each school for the Arbor Day planting ceremony, thus ensuring the involvement of the school.

H. Oates

FUND RAISING REPORT

This sub-committee has had a very active and highly successful year. There have been a number of activities which have been most enjoyable and have helped "fill the coffers".

The start of the fund-raising year was the Annual Arts & Crafts Sale, held in December. This was a financial success, but it has been decided to change the emphasis of the sale from home crafts, to give more variety in the stalls. The Christmas cards proved very popular, and they will be available again this year.

Again the Christmas Barbeque was held on the Masterman's waterfront and all who participated declared it a social success.

At the end of January the "budding Balmain Bradmans" donned their whites (!) and headed for Birchgrove Oval for a very pleasant day's cricket. Cheered on by ardent fans on "the hill" team Y narrowly defeated team X by a few runs. Unfortunately the planned match with the Glebe Society was cancelled because of inclement weather.

A change from the usual House Inspection was the Garden Walk held in early April. Our appreciation to the owners who allowed us to view their gardens; giving ideas and enthusiasm to many just starting their own. The beautiful day encouraged many to join us and all over Balmain little groups of people could be seen wandering from one house to the next, clutching their all important maps.

Later in April a Wine-Bottling Party was held at David & Jenny Porter's house. It was difficult to estimate the amount of wine bottled compared with that consumed, but all agreed that it had been a successful evening. There is still wine available to buy - contact Malcolm Garder 82 1686.

The last activity was the Jazz Afternoon which was organised jointly with the Balmain Theatre Group. Our thanks to Bill Haesler's Washboard Band for providing such excellent music; and to the Kendalls for the use of their large garden. It was a most enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

A summary of the fund raising and social activities held in the past year and the approximate profits made is given below:

Event or Activity	\$
Arts & Crafts Sale (Dec. 7 & 8)	250.
Christmas Cards (continuing)	45.
Christmas Barbecue (Dec. 15)	Social
Cricket Match (Jan 27)	Social
Balmain Garden Walk (Apr. 7)	400.
Wine-bottling Party (Apr. 27)	35.
Wine-bottling Sales (April - August)	200.
Garden Island Inspection (May 26)	Washout
Jazz Afternoon (June 30)	65.

D. McDonald

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

The Balmain Association, in conjunction with the Community Education Alliance circulated a questionnaire to all Primary Schools on the Peninsula, as well as St. Augustines, and the new Balmain High School, to assess the educational needs in the area.

The findings showed remedial reading to be the area of greatest need, particularly for specifically trained staff. School libraries are not well stocked and all schools would like more assistance in this area. After school activities; a Social worker for liaison between home and school; and staff facilities in general were all shown to be lacking in the area. A summary of the findings is with C.E.A.

Contact with Mrs. Bull, the Social Worker for Leichhardt Council has been made and she has been informed of the Association's activities in the community.

D. McDonald

HISTORY REPORT - 1974

History Group activities this year were still centred on the Balmain Land Grant. Notable events were:

1. Acquisition of the Gilchrist will from London (courtesy of Robert Irving).
2. Acquisition of the Whicker will from London (Bob Irving also).
3. Retaining fee paid to the Scots Ancestry Research Society for genealogical research into Balmain family.
4. Completion of first draft of Balmain Land Grant book - Half a Thousand Acres: A history of the Balmain Land Grant - 1788-1858.

Other important happenings include two important donations. Rita Wise has presented the Association with a copy of John Hunter's chart of Port Jackson of 1789 which conclusively delineates the location of Ross's Farm as being on the Balmain (East) Peninsula.

Robert Irving donated his collection of slides which cover various aspects of Balmain's history. These slides are frequently used as the basis for historical talks to other Societies by members of the History Group.

The year ahead should see the Land Grant Book finally ready for publication, an event which should provide general readers and researchers with a rich source of reference material not to mention an interesting story.

Peter Reynolds.

miscellaneous

Mr M.C. Dobson, (sic) 3 July 1974
The Hon. Secretary,
The Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57,
BALMAIN NSW 2041

Dear Mr. Dobson,

Thank you for your letter of 19 June 1974 addressed to the Committee of Inquiry on the National Estate relating to the present position of your Submissions of June 1973 and July 1974. The Committee of Inquiry has now presented its Report to the Government and copies will be available to the public after being tabled in Parliament.

The situation with regards your submission for preservation of foreshore areas of the Balmain Peninsula is that \$69,000 was allocated in the 1973/74 National Estate Program, to the Leichhardt Municipal Council to acquire land at Simmons Point. National Estate grants made are subject to agreement with the State Government and negotiations to this end are proceeding.

Your request to the Committee for financial assistance to preserve St. Andrews Congregational Church was not successful but this Department will consider the application within the 1974/75 program. I shall let you know the outcome as soon as possible. Should you wish to update any of the information, my Department will be happy to consider it.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

(R.B. LANSDOWN)

Secretary Department of Urban and Regional Development

BALMAIN AFTERNOON - Sunday, August 11

The National Trust Junior Group is arranging a House Inspection in Balmain on Sunday, Aug. 11. The afternoon will conclude with the traditional wine party at the Watch House from 5.00 p.m. Tickets are Members \$2.50; non-Members \$3.00 and will be available at the Watch House from 1.00 p.m. Further details from Graeme Blomfield, 827 2825 evenings

BOUQUET FOR COUNCIL

Eight weeks ago residents of East Balmain signed a petition to stop the demolition of the timber wharf at the end of Simmons Street on Mort Bay. The Association presented the petition, along with a supportive statement at the next Council meeting.

Council immediately supported the proposals and called for a site inspection. But at this stage, even with Council support, the chances of saving the wharf looked slim. Demolition had started and no less than nine organisations had to come to an agreement before the wharf could be saved, and one of the key organisations was the Maritime Services Board!

A page would be needed to outline the manoeuvrings that followed but in summary Council, largely through the work of the Town Planner, Mr. Kenna, has secured the wharf for public use. The lease of the wharf will be at \$8.00 a week for twenty years and Council is seeking a grant from the Federal Government for the immediate repair of the wharf. Some of the Sydney Harbour Maritime Museum ships will be moored there, probably on a rotating basis.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1974

The September Council elections are of great importance to Balmain and Rozelle. The Association is concerned that the enlightened policies introduced by the Council elected in 1971 are continued.

It is vital that members listen to what the candidates are saying and VOTE.

B.L.F.'s REQUEST FOR FUNDS

The Builders' Labourers' Federation has circulated resident action groups asking for donations to be applied to legal expenses incurred in connection with charges under the Summary Offences Act in confrontations under the "green bans". At the last General Meeting, members were asked whether this Association should make a contribution and, if so how much. After much discussion, it was moved that the request be put to the Annual General Meeting on August 14 for a direction.

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

As a matter of interest, the Glebe Society has donated £100 and the Annandale Association \$20, after seeking assurance that the money will be used only in the way set out in the Federation's letter.

watch these dates!!!

August 11, Sunday, 1.00 p.m.

The National Trust Junior Group's Balmain House Inspection afternoon (see note this issue for details).

August 14, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.

Balmain Association ANNUAL General Meeting Lower Town Hall, Balmain.

Election of Management for 1974/75 - nominations will be taken from the floor. Members are requested to come to this meeting and participate.

November, 1974

The Association's Annual Arts and Crafts Sale. More details next News Sheet.

new members

The Association is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr. Peter Bridges

8 Glade Street, Rozelle

Mr. Bruce Phegan

16 Grafton Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. John Arbib

79 Louise Road, Brighgrove

Dr. Yvonne Holbecke

82 Glassop Street, Balmain

Bob Smith

33 Llewellyn Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. P.J. Michelson

9 Broderick Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. G. Blomfield

35 Smith Street, Balmain

Mr. G.R. Wilson

14/8 Lookes Avenue, Balmain East

Mark Hewitt

5 Johnston Street, Balmain

Madeline Winch

36 Merton Street, Rozelle

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1974/75

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED.