



the balmain association

your new management committee

PRESIDENT

David Porter 66 Campbell Street, Balmain
827 1081

SECRETARY

Evelyn Walker 158 Evans Street, Rozelle
827 3695

TREASURER

Richard Norman 18 Gladstone Street, Balmain
31 3808 (work)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Malcolm Garder 60 Rowntree Street, Balmain
82 1686

Robert Hooper 74 Birchgrove Rd., Balmain
827 2968

Helene Lenehan 81 Rowntree Street, Balmain

James Loudon 32 Wharf Road, Birchgrove
827 2239

Diana McDonald 109 Darling Street, Balmain
82 4882

Ken Oates 26 Curtis Road, Balmain
82 0576

Shirley Reynolds 9 The Avenue, Balmain
82 3752

Frank Vowles 5 Gladstone Street, Balmain
827 2478

Generally, Management will form sub-committees to tackle specific tasks. Each sub-committee will be headed by one or two Management members who will be assisted by a group of Association members interested in that particular problem or field of endeavour. To this end, the Association will be distributing a questionnaire in the near future to ascertain the areas of interest of each member and those willing to assist their Management from time to time, in those areas when the need arises.

As decided early this year there will be no December General Meeting. However you are reminded that management meetings are open and if you have any queries do not hesitate to let Management know. Meetings are at 8 pm. at the Watch House on the first Thursday of each month or ring any of the Management members listed above.

council elections

Against the statewide trend, the ALP has been swept back into power in Leichhardt. All Open Council Candidates were defeated.

Lets have a short post-mortem. The numbers of those who bothered to vote was down from 28% in 1971 to a dismal 24% this year. The ALP didn't increase its vote and in a way it did not win the elections, rather it was the Independents who lost. All those people who fought so hard to bring in a new council in 1971 must have moved or else have short memories; this is the group that did not vote.

The local press was anything but fair. It is incredible that a gutter paper like the "Globe" could publish it's rubbish every week for three years and not be discounted in the minds of readers. It was apparent however, that readers, although not believing it, did not quite disbelieve it either. Not knowing whether the rubbish was right or wrong and being too apathetic to find out, many buried their heads in their sandetock bricks imagining that the elections didn't really concern them.

The other local papers just stood on the sidelines picking their collective noses. Rarely praising the open, positive initiatives that were being taken by council at almost every meeting, they chose to highlight the bickering of the council room backchat. They ignored the outside reports that the Leichhardt style of open participation in Council was the most advanced in Australia and in preference the editors trotted out their pet local council hobby horses which, as it happened, were never actually constructive.

Caucus now has the numbers to disregard completely the open council system which has been operating for the past three years. On the other hand the ALP pre-election publicity said that their candidates stood for "increased opportunities for residents to express their opinions". It will be interesting to see which way the new ALP aldermen jump and it will take only two or three council meetings to find out.

Three or four of the re-elected ALP aldermen have a dismal record for resident participation in decision making. Resident action or even resident comment is anathema to them. There are however five new ALP aldermen on the new council. This is enough to influence caucus positively (or negatively), so we can only wait and hold our breath for their first decisions.

But rather than hold your breath, come to the first business meeting of the new council and see for yourself. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15, and then every first and third Tuesday of each month at Leichhardt Town Hall at 8.30 pm.

P.S. At the meeting called last Tuesday to elect the mayor and subcommittees it was voted by the new council to do away with the town planning committee and community services committee. These happen to be the two committees on which resident participation had been most active.

projects and activities — reports

FERRIES - "... AND THEN THERE WAS NONE"

For a period of ten days last month, the complete demise of ferry services to the Balmain Peninsula (and to Greenwich and Hunters Hill) seemed imminent. The service to Mort Bay was cut out, peak-hour services cut to one morning and evening, with no service at all after 6.45 pm nor on Sundays. And all this only weeks after a 50% fare increase!

A sub-committee was formed as soon as the cut-backs were announced. A petition of 300 names was quickly collected and forwarded to Mr. Milton Morris, approaches were also made to two private ferry operators, Stannards and Hegarty's. This resulted in the application for and granting of a licence to operate one more morning and evening service (returning peak-hour services to their former glory!).

Despite this meagre victory, Balmain ferry travellers will have to continue to fight to maintain the present poor excuse for a ferry service. To this end, a random survey of Balmain residents is under way and the results will be used as the basis for a full submission to the Minister for Transport. Frank Vowles.

CHILDRENS LIBRARY

The Association's Childrens' Library at the Watch House has now been closed because of lack of support. Outstanding books can be returned to any Management member (see page 1). The Library will be reopened for the duration of the Christmas school holidays.

THANK YOU THEA BANKS

Thea Banks, one of the founder members of the Balmain Association 9 years ago, and a tireless worker for the Association ever since, is moving to a new house in the Blue Mountains. So she has just retired from her latest position in the Association, controlling distributor in charge of the membership register. The Management of the Association felt that Thea's departure should not pass unremarked and would like to express its heartfelt thanks to her. We wish her well in all that crisp mountain air and hope to see her at one of the Association's social functions from time to time.

'balmain village fair'

This year the Balmain Association's annual Sale of Work is to have a 'face-lift'. The name has been changed to Balmain Village Fair so that a greater variety of stalls can be incorporated.

The home crafts are still a very important part of the Fair so all you potters and weavers, sewers and painters keep working! We plan to have a more carnival-like atmosphere with colourful stalls and fun things to do.

Again there will be plants, old wares, bric-a-brac, etc., but add to that some new ideas and it should be a Fair with a difference.

The dates are Friday, 29th November from 6.00 pm to 9.30 pm and Saturday 30th November from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Anyone interested in selling or helping please phone Diana McDonald, 82 4882.

Chateau Watch House

With the approach of the 'Festive Season' we have restocked our 'cellars' with Chateau Watch House reds and whites.

The present rampant inflation leaves our prices unmoved; still \$5.00 per half dozen and \$9.00 per dozen (any combination of red or white).

So ring Malcolm Garder on 82 1686 to place your orders now for Christmas.

christmas cards



The Balmain Association is again selling its Christmas cards, the same two designs as last year in the same 5 colours. All cards have been left blank inside to allow you to add your own message.

They're still selling for 10¢ each and will be available at the 'Balmain Village Fair'. They can also be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain.

miscellaneous

DARLING STREET EXTENSION - COUNTERWEIGHT SCHEME

In 1903 the Transport Department wanted to improve the service for ferry/tram passengers at Darling Street wharf in East Balmain. The problem was; how to get trams down the steep hill to the wharf.

It took just seven months to come up with the finished solution/ a counterweight system. And this is how it worked:

To go down to the wharf from the Johnston Street intersection a tram would rest against a timber framed trolley at the top of the hill. The trolley was connected by a minute wire running over a pulley and down a subway under the track to a 10 ton counterweight at the bottom of the hill near the wharf.

As the tram and trolley moved down the hill the counterweight came up and so the rate of descent could be controlled. Likewise the tram came back up the hill using its own motors and the assistance given by the counterweight moving back down the hill. A large buffer stopped the counterweight, which would be travelling at about 7 m.p.h., at the bottom of the hill.

The use of counterweights in mine lifts was common at this time but this particular use was quite novel. After referring the problem to residents through the Balmain Council it was decided to adopt the counterweight system. This was in preference to a far more circuitous route involving extensive resumptions.

As a footnote; was this the last time transport authorities asked residents anything?

AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN

With the stimulus of the Australian Assistance Plan, groups of residents throughout the Leichhardt Municipality have begun contacting neighbours and holding public meetings to discuss ways in which they can be involved in planning and developing their own communities.

In Balmain/Rozelle, residents organised a "Community Involvement Night" on 22nd August in the Balmain Town Hall. Two hundred people discussed how the Australian Assistance Plan could be used on the peninsula. Since then residents have taken action on the issue of container trucks and are currently investigating setting up a community information and action centre to be run and used by Balmain/Rozelle residents. As a joint project with the Association, the group is at present surveying the needs of residents for ferries.

The Australian Assistance Plan is seen as one resource which can be used for involving local residents in determining what they want in their own neighbourhoods.

Delegates from the Balmain/Rozelle residents' working group attend the Inner City Regional Council for Social Development steering committee meetings. Set up in July this year, the committee has been funded to the tune of a \$20,000 seeding grant from the Social Welfare Commission to stimulate local community involvement and aid publicity and other organising needs of many groups right across the Region. The Region encompasses the municipalities of Sydney, South Sydney and Leichhardt.

The co-convenors of the Balmain/Rozelle group are Sandy Halley (827 3817), Nick Masterman (82 2708) and Tom Zubrycki. Convenors of the issue groups are; migrants - Eva Byrne (827 3062), containers - Cole Buchanan and Norma Tucker (82 3654), ferries - Gary Reid (827 3663).

The group meets regularly every fortnight. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 October at 8 pm at Balmain Town Hall. On the agenda is discussion on progress on ferry action.

WHITE BAY RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

The White Bay Residents Action Group, in association with Rozelle Activists, is mounting a campaign with three objectives:

1. The adoption of proposed measures to eliminate foul odours from the Lever and Kitchen plant.
2. The reduction of noise from the same factory (under new legislation shortly before Parliament).
3. The demolition of the 70 ft high shed on the Seatainer Terminal site flanking Grafton Street. This is an illegal structure and recent developments make this objective realistic.

Please contact your area convenor; Claude Marocco, Rozelle, 827 2863; Judith Scott, Wortley Street, 827 3438; Dennis Grafton, Vincent Street, 827 2793. We need help with survey-type action. Dennis Grafton.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

Judy Coxon will be producing "Shifting Heart" for performances on Friday 29th and Saturday November 30, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday December 4, 6 and 7, at 8.00 pm.

watch these dates !!!

October 9, Wednesday, 8.00 pm
Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee.

November 29, Friday, and November 30, Saturday
Balmain Village Fair (see note this issue for more details)

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

November 29, 30, December 4, 6 & 7, 8.00 pm.
The Balmain Theatre Group's production of "Shifting Heart" (more details next issue).

Mid-December, Saturday
The Association's Christmas barbecue (more details next issue)

February 12, 1975, Wednesday, 8.00 pm
Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain.

new members

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

Mr. James Bartrop
39 Grove Street, Birchgrove
Miss Bev. Bridges
5 Gladstone Street, Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. P. Brown
28 Rowntree Street, Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. K. Burton
7 Vincent Street, Balmain
Mr. Bruce Cunningham
3/10 Gow Street, Balmain
Mr. John Garrett
4 King Street, Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. P.T. Hynes
19/26 Grove Street, Birchgrove
Dr. & Mrs. R.W. Powell
22 Balmore Street, Rozelle
Mr. & Mrs. Elton Squires
30 Grafton Street, Balmain
Dr. Peter Stransky & Family
8 Little Edward Street, Balmain
Mrs. May Thomas
6/26 Pearson Street, Balmain East.
Mr. Frank Vowles
7 Gladstone Street, Balmain
Mr. Ralph Catts
12 Darling Street, Balmain

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

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

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

NOTE: NO DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING
