

the balmain association

council report

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 4, 1975

1. Council approved the development application by Ampol Realty Pty Ltd for the erection of 7 town houses at No 8 Clifton Street, East Balmain.

One of the conditions of the approval was that a right of way be provided to allow access between Clifton Street and Simmons Street. A plus mark for Council.

2. In considering what action to take on a letter from Mr G. Johnson of Mort Street (asking that the council-erected gates to the ANL Mort Bay terminal be left open all the time) Ald. Hoy put forward the motion that council delay a decision until receipt of a report from the council engineer.

Keeping in mind that council already has before it a petition from 890 residents asking that steps be taken to have the gates closed permanently, the crowd of residents in the gallery were astounded at such a weak decision from Ald. Hoy. Why after all this time council needed a report to tell it of the relief from traffic given by the gates to residents for at least the twelve night hours and Sundays was beyond comprehension.

Nevertheless the motion of inaction was passed by what appeared to be 11 to 1, Ald. Origlass being the one against.

Postscript: At the following Council Meeting, the Council Engineer's report was tabled, stating that the gate closures were performing a worthwhile task and should be retained. Fortunately, Council accepted the Engineer's recommendation.

3. The best quote award for the meeting goes to Ald. Casey:

"As you know I never have been in favour of public participation in any council matters".

We are sorry to say that Casey's track record backs this up 100%. But compare this statement to one by Sir John Fuller, State Minister for Planning and Environment, when talking recently about the booklet from his department "Towards a New Planning System for N.S.W.":

"The residents and the community will be involved in planning right from its earliest stages".

4. The council before the present one rejected Parkes Development's proposals for 26 town houses in Hosking Street, East Balmain. The application was rejected on the grounds that the extra traffic which would be created in William Street, St Marys Street and Pearson Street would make the already excessive traffic unbearable. What's more, Parkes refused to contribute anything towards an alternative which would overcome this traffic problem.

And so the matter rested, or at least until the new council was elected. Within weeks Parkes had the same development application resubmitted and as fast as was legally possible (a site inspection and one resident allowed to speak against the development) it was given the council seal of approval with only Ald. Origlass speaking in opposition.

This action should be compared with the election promises of Ald. Hoy:

"A team who stand for maintaining and improving (the) residential character of Balmain".

The association wonders how the people of William Street, St Marys Street and Pearson Street consider that this Parkes development will improve the residential character of their streets.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 18, 1975

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

At the Council meeting on March 4th, Balmain Alderman, Nick Origlass, asked Mayor Rodwell if there was any substance in the rumour that Council intended appointing a Public Relations Officer, and that a Mr. Sinclair was to be appointed to the position. The Mayor denied any knowledge of such an appointment.

At the next meeting of Council on 18th March it was announced that Council was going to appoint a Public Relations Officer.

Following this announcement, there are a number of questions which residents and rate-payers might feel justified in asking:

1. Last October Council gave financial difficulties as one of the reasons for dismissing qualified Town Planning Officers. How can they now justify an expensive and cosmetic type appointment such as this.
2. Residents expect their elected local government representatives to be available to them. If the aldermen are doing their job in this regard a Public Relations Officer is unnecessary. If they are not, why not?
3. If "Mr. Sinclair", whoever he may be, is appointed to the position, was the position created for the person?

WHITE BAY RESIDENT ACTION GROUP

A petition had been presented to Council on 26/11/74 from the White Bay Resident Action Group demanding that Council serve a demolition order on the Maritime Services Board's 70-foot high shed on the Seatainer Terminals' site of White Bay.

The petition pointed out that the structure was illegally erected in the first place as no planning approval had been sought from Leichhardt Council and that it now serves no useful purpose since the stuffing depot was established in Rozelle Bay. Consideration of the petition was deferred until reports from Council Officers were prepared. These were presented at the meeting on 18th March.

None of the petitioners were present to address Council or to hear the "debate". Presumably, the White Bay residents had not been notified that the matter was on the agenda that night. It seems unlikely that 156 residents were concerned enough to send a petition to Council and yet none were interested in hearing the outcome.

Deputy Mayor, Alderman Danny Casey, moved that Council accept the Town Planner's recommendation "that the only course of action that could be taken would be to endeavour to restrict the performance of operations on the site to tolerable limits as far as the residential amenity is concerned." Hardly what the residents were asking for!

THE TOWN PLANNER'S REPORT ON THE 1974

PLANNING SCHEME - 18 MARCH 1975

Following the State Planning Authority's refusal to return the 1974 Planning Scheme to the Council, the Council's Planner was again instructed to report on it. His report appeared on the Council's Business Paper on Tuesday 18 March.

The Planner (Mr. Kenna) has recommended to Council, without stating why or consulting anyone, that they alter the Outline Plan, or policy statement, of the previous 'Independent' Council in the following ways:

1. To allow higher density and high rise development over much of the municipality without any adequate or detailed examination of how this might happen, or how it should be controlled.
2. To remove the commitment of Council to positive action to examine the problems of the municipality and act to resolve them.
3. To be less demanding on developers in respect of dedication of waterfront land and in relation to waterfront set-backs.
4. To relax industrial nuisance standards.
5. In general, to allow 'more discretion' to the Council and its insufficiently qualified officers in all parts of the planning and development control process.

The report has been presented in a thoroughly confusing manner. Even if the reader understands planning in general and The Leichhardt Outline Plan in particular, it still requires considerable time and cross-referencing to fully understand what is meant by it.

It is a long report, but close examination of it reveals that it is mostly 'nit-picking'. Thirty-five points are made in it. Five of these represent the significant alterations listed above, nine are concerned with removing the Council's further commitment to planning and the remaining twenty appear to be included to make the report seem longer and more weighty.

Alderman Origlass's motion (which lapsed for want of a seconder), deals constructively with each point in the Planner's report and will be on the next meeting's Business Paper. At this meeting (on the 3rd April) the Council will no doubt resolve to forward the report to the Planning and Environment Commission as their next attempt to gain 'discretionary' control of development in the municipality.

It was curious to note that the Council's report to the Maritime Services Board on waterfront zoning suggested that "any further industrial or commercial development should not be allowed between the eastern end of Illoura Reserve (Peacock Point) to the eastern boundary of White Street, Balmain." It seems curious that Council's recommendation does not include the Tilba Avenue Marina Development owned by Mr. J.H. Stride, when so many other waterfront industrial properties in the peninsula are affected.

LETTER FROM MR. TOM UREN TO LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

Parliament House,
CANBERRA.
13 February 1975

The Town Clerk,
Council of the Municipality of
Leichhardt,
Town Hall,
107 Norton Street,
LEICHHARDT. N.S.W. 2040.

Dear Mr. Ragen,

Thank you for your letters of 18 October and 7 November 1974 concerning the former Church of England lands at Glebe, which were recently purchased by the Australian Government.

Some of the questions you raise were discussed when I met Council on October 18, particularly those relating to the press conference on October 9 and the meeting which Mr. Johnson and I had with residents of the Estate on 18 October.

As you are no doubt aware, the Australian Government decision to purchase the Glebe Estate was in no small measure due to the representations made by Council during 1973. Following these and other representations, my Department engaged consultants to carry out a feasibility study, and before recommending the purchase, undertook a cost/benefit analysis to compare various alternative courses of action, including that of comprehensive redevelopment. I regret that Council did not see fit to be better informed before seeking a cessation of work in order to have these studies carried out and before quoting meaningless and misleading figures relating to costs and rents.

I am also dismayed that Council has so little appreciation of the historic character of the municipality as to suggest that demolition and rebuilding would on any score be preferable to the rehabilitation of the Estate.

It also disappoints me to note that Council has decided, without consultation with the Australian Government, not to go ahead with its predecessors proposal to rehabilitate its properties in Westmoreland and Derwent Streets and to build additional dwellings there. I would have expected that, with a majority of Labour Party aldermen, Council's willingness to be an active partner in the Glebe projects would have been greater, not less, than that of its predecessor, particularly as it is receiving \$205,000 from the Australian Government through the Grants Commission in this financial year.

Reluctantly, I will ask my colleague, the Minister for Services and Property, to have his Department enter into negotiations regarding the possible purchase of these properties.

I cannot urge too strongly on Council the need for consultation on this important project before and not after decisions are taken and public statements made. Officers staffing the Glebe Project Office will be glad to make themselves available for consultation whenever the Council so wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(signed: Tom Uren)



leichhardt planning forum

THE INNER SUBURBS — "TOWARDS A NEW PLANNING SYSTEM"

CONFERENCE: SATURDAY 5 APRIL 1975 — BALMAIN TOWN HALL, 10am to 5pm

The Leichhardt Planning Forum, in conjunction with the Civic Design Society of the University of New South Wales, is holding a one-day conference to discuss the New Planning System proposed by the Minister for Planning and Environment as it will affect and meet the needs of the inner suburbs of Sydney.

The issues being discussed are of general local importance!

Admission is free and the public is being encouraged to attend.

Further enquiries may be made during office hours to:

Betty Mason	6603468
David Chesterman	2902722
Penelope Pike	462012



projects and activities — reports

CONTAINERS

Meeting with Jones and subsequent events

The residents' "Committee for the Elimination of Container Trucking to Mort Bay" met with Mr. Jones, the Federal Minister for Transport, on Friday, February 21. Mr. Jones came to the meeting with one proposal; ANL would be moving out of Mort Bay to Botany Bay as soon as practicable. Just when the move would take place depended, however, on many things; the move was unlikely to start before 1978 and certainly the bulk of the business would not be out until 1980. There was no provision made for relief from trucks for residents of Balmain during the intervening five years or so.

This was a letdown as the need for relief is urgent. The remainder of the meeting was taken up in developing this aspect. The outcome of the meeting was a three point programme:

1. Residents were to submit to the Department of Transport their proposals for alternatives to trucks.
2. The Department of Transport would have these proposals costed and a copy of the reply would be sent to the residents' committee.
3. Following this costing, Mr. Jones would meet again with residents. In addition Mr. Uren (Dept. of Urban and Regional Development) and Dr. Cass (Dept. of Environment and Conservation) would be invited to attend this meeting, the purpose of which would be to agree to an allocation of the costs associated with the alternatives to trucks.

Since this meeting the Committee has sent an outline of the proposals to Mr. Jones (point 1). While waiting for the reply and for use as a guideline in interpreting the reply a sub-committee has been set up to cost the alternatives independently of Mr. Jones.

Parallel to this work, and as a counter to the costs which will inevitably be involved by the introduction of alternatives to the trucks, the residents' committee is documenting all aspects of the environmental damage caused by the trucks. This will include an analysis of the effects of noise, vibration, air pollution, damage to houses, house valuations and fear of injury and death.

Some of these aspects are beyond the resources of the committee and the services of outside consultants are required. To this end the committee (through the Association since it is one of the co-groups of the committee and is fully constituted and carries audited accounts) applied for, and was given, a grant from D.E.C. to help in this survey. D.U.R.D. has also promised financial assistance.

Sub-committees have been formed and the committee has set a target for the end of April for completion of the survey. The role of co-ordinator for this survey was considered a full-time one and within the past few days Vince Murphy, a qualified Town Planner with experience of resident action in Woolloomooloo and Fitzroy in Melbourne, has been appointed. He is charged with collecting information from the sub-committees, collating it and producing the final report while at all times being responsible to the residents' committee. If you can contribute any information or spare time, Vince Murphy can be contacted on 82 5133.

HISTORY GROUP

Peter Reynolds is polishing up the final draft of his research on the Balmain Land Grant. A submission has been made to the Literary Board of the Australian Council for the Arts seeking a grant to help defray publishing costs of the book.

Hal Wise took his wife, Rita, John and Helen Engle and Margaret Dobson on a cruise around the foreshores of Balmain to pinpoint interesting photographic shots for a book they are planning to produce. The Balmain waterfront is unique and the Group thought it should be pictorially recorded, with a text by Peter Reynolds, as a follow on to "Balmain in Time".

The Group had considered publishing a book on Balmain hotels and a lot of information and photographs were collected. However, no colour could be introduced into the story - apparently Balmain has no pub ghosts, no sensational events: just "sly grog" convictions, petty theft, political rallies from the balconies and the holding of club meetings on the premises.

TREE PLANTING

The following notice appeared in "The Glebe" on March 13:

LEIGHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TREE PLANTING

To assist Council in formulating its policy towards Tree Planting in the Municipality, residents are invited to submit their comments and suggestions regarding the planting of trees in their surrounding area and in particular in their own street.

Council would also be pleased to receive advice of any problems that may have been experienced by residents in relation to existing trees in the streets.

All comments should be in writing and addressed to the undersigned.

**J. RAGEN,
TOWN CLERK.**

Town Hall,
107 Norton Street,
Leichhardt. N.S.W.

6th February, 1975

This would seem to indicate that Council is at least thinking about the planting. But two letters from the Balmain Association to the Council in November requesting permission to plant trees in the Rozelle end of Evans Street fell on deaf ears (see last News Sheet). We urge all members to write to Council, supporting tree planting, in the hope of persuading it to take a more positive approach than it has to date.

WATCH HOUSE WORKING BEE

A working bee has been organised for Saturday, April 12, to clean up the Watch House surrounds, construct gates between the back yard and the park, and do general maintenance work.

Anyone who can swing a hammer or pull weeds is urged to come along and help. (Ring Ken Oates on 82 0576 for more information.)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Charles H. Kent & Associates
343 Darling Street, Balmain.

"I have examined the books and vouchers of the Balmain Association and, in my opinion, the above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet show a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30th June, 1974. Numbers and Valuations of Publications on hand as at 30th June, 1974 have not been verified but have been accepted at figures furnished by Treasurer.

Dated at Balmain this Eleventh day of November, 1974.

(Signed)

Charles H. Kent, A.S.T.C.: F.A.S.A.
Registered under the Public
Accountants Registration Act,
1945, as amended.

HISTORICAL ITEMS

When the Association first came into existence and the Watch House was being restored, many people gave items of historical worth to be incorporated into the finished building. Because the Watch House was not secure, members took the items home for safe keeping and, because the members of the Management Committee have changed and very few of the original members remain in the area, we have lost track of the articles. One such item was a brass doorknocker for the front door. Someone is looking after that for us but we don't know who! Would members hunt through their storage areas for any such relics of the past which would be suitable for the History Group's display which will be assembled when sufficient items of historical value have been collected.

restaurant night

The Association has arranged a night out at the new restaurant, "The Gables", at the corner of Rowntree and Cameron Streets on Sunday, 27 April at 7.00 p.m.

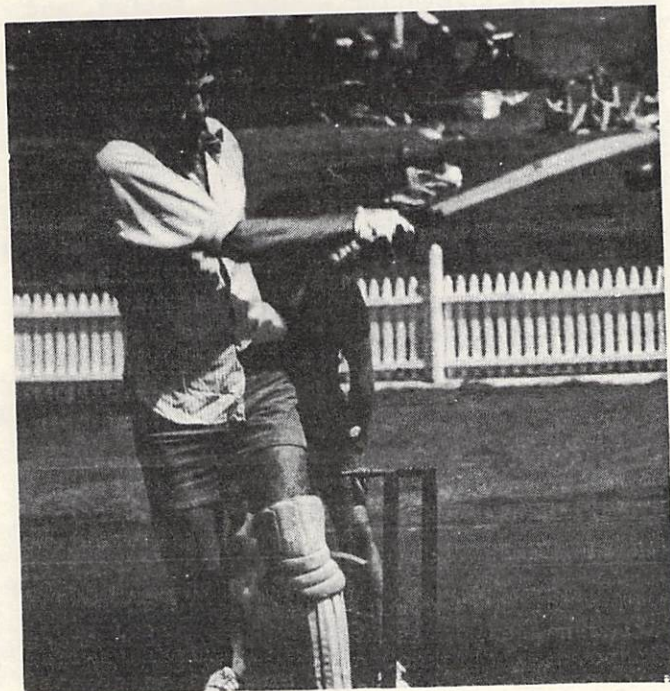
Tickets are \$6.00 each and include entree, main course, dessert and coffee. Drinks are not sold or provided so please bring your own.

Numbers are limited so ring now for bookings: Narelle Hooper, 827 2968 or Jocelyne MacLeod, 82 4652.

balmain garden walk - 75

Following an extremely successful garden walk last year, a sub-committee comprising Margaret Dobson, Ken Oates and Les Henley has been formed to organise a Spring garden walk to take place in September this year.

Any members or friends who would like to exhibit their garden or courtyard (or know of a neighbour's which may be of interest) are requested to contact Ken Oates on 82 0576. We would also like to hear from anyone interested in helping with the preparations, or on the day.



cricket day

The Association once again challenged the Glebe Society to a cricket match, held at Birchgrove Oval on Sunday, March 22, in perfect weather.

Unfortunately, Balmain was "narrowly" beaten, 95 to 59, but players and spectators alike thoroughly enjoyed the outing. Top performers were Ken Oates (16 runs), Erol Pickard (4 for 28) and Vern Reid (3 for 10).

miscellaneous

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

1. Auction Sale

The Balmain Theatre Group is organising an auction sale in the Watch House on Saturday, 26th April at 2.00 p.m. Here is a splendid opportunity to get rid of all your saleable items: bric-a-brac, household goods, furniture, furnishings, etc., and even get MONEY for it.

The BTG takes 20% but you may put a reserve price on the more valuable goods. Of course, we accept donations too.

Bring your goods direct to the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, from 10.00 a.m. on Saturday morning and come and watch their talented auctioneers at work. Bring your friends too. They are serving wine and/or snacks to on-lookers (20c).

Enquiries: Pam Tinkham 439 1933 (bus.),
82 3009 (A.H.).

2. "Balmain Revue - 1975"

Anyone interested in joining the Balmain Theatre Group to put on a revue at the end of this year, please ring 82 4577 (day) or 82 5431 (A.H.) as soon as possible.

WINE-TASTING & AUCTION OF RARE VINTAGE WINES

On Sunday, 20 April at 8.00 p.m., Andrew Soos is having a wine-tasting party at 11 Campbell Street, Balmain, with the proceeds going towards the renovations of the Presbyterian Church and Hall.

The evening will include a discussion on judging of wine by Peter Perbanth, international cellar master, with full audience participation in the selection and appreciation of at least 6 different kinds of wine. There will also be an auction of rare vintage wines by a professional auctioneer. The cost of the program will be \$5.00 per person and dress will be semi-formal. For further information, ring Andrew Soos, 82 1170.

MONTHLY CAMPBELL ST. MARKETS

Date: Saturday, 12 April 1975.

Time: 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Venue: The Hall and church gardens at Campbell St., Balmain.

On sale: Victorian bric-a-brac, candles, batiks, brassware, jewellery, pottery, plants, etc.

Hire a table, sell and make your own profit. Proceeds towards the renovation of the Presbyterian Church and Hall.

Enquiries: Eila Carisbrook, 827 1420
Wendy Farrel, 82 5624
Andrew Soos, 82 1170

watch these dates !!!

- April 5, Saturday, 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
Balmain Town Hall.
The Leichhardt Planning Forum's conference
"The Inner Suburbs - Towards a New Planning System". (For details, see this issue).
- April 9, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Association General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain. Followed by tea and coffee.
- April 9, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
NSW Environment Centre, 263B The Broadway, Broadway. Inner Sydney Community Action Exchange (I.S.C.A.E.) meeting, "Using Local Media" - for details, ring 660 0960. "This is a program designed and managed by inner-city people to increase their self-help ability to deal with local problems".
- April 12, Saturday morning
Balmain Association - Watch House working bee (see this issue).
- April 12, Saturday, 10.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.
Monthly Campbell Street Markets at the Presbyterian Church hall and gardens, Campbell Street, Balmain (for details, see this issue).
- April 15, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meeting (normally held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month). If you can spare the time, please attend.
- April 16, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
I.S.C.A.E. meeting - "Funding" (see above for details).
- April 20, Sunday, 8.00 p.m.
Wine-tasting party and wine auction at 11 Campbell Street, Balmain, in aid of Presbyterian Church and hall renovations (for details, see this issue).

- April 23, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
I.S.C.A.E. meeting - "Direct Action, and the Police" (see above for details).
- April 26, Saturday, 2.00 p.m.
Balmain Theatre Group's Auction Sale at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain (see notes this issue).
- April 27, Sunday, 7.00 p.m.
Association Restaurant Night at "The Gables", cnr. Rowntree and Cameron Streets, Balmain (see note, this issue).
- April 30, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
I.S.C.A.E. meeting - "Research into Companies" (see above for details).
- May 6, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
May 20, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meetings.
- June 11, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Association General Meeting.
- Late June
Jazz afternoon and bar-b-cue (more details next issue).
- Early August
Balmain Association 10th Anniversary Celebration (more details, next issue).
- Late September
Balmain Garden Walk - 75 (see note this issue).

new members

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

- Mr. L.B. Bellini
Box 30, Boundary Bend, Victoria
- Mr. & Mrs. D.J. McCann
10 Ford Street, Balmain
- Mrs. P. Shelley
20 Smith Street, Rozelle
- Mr. C. Symons
45 Curtis Road, 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, APRIL 9, 8.00 P.M.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

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