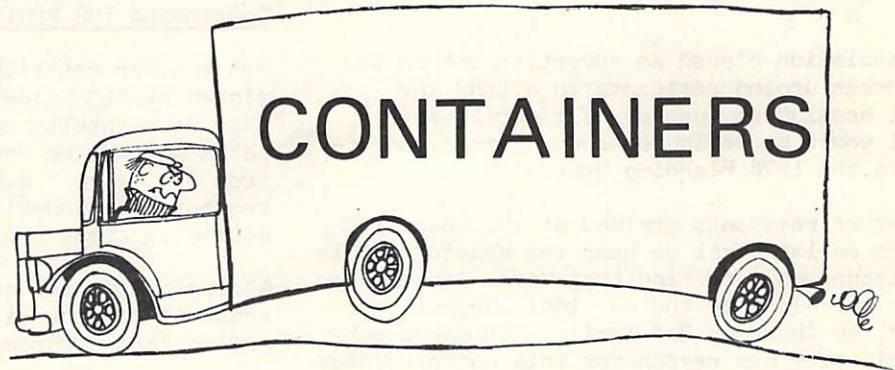


the balmain association

Since the April News Sheet the residents' Container Committee has brought the study of the effect which the container trucks using the Mort Bay terminal have on Balmain's residents to the final draft stage. The sub-committees working on the survey and Vince Murphy, the project coordinator, have finished their work and the final report will be published within the next few weeks.

Parallel to the environmental study, the work on estimating the costs of the alternatives to the trucks (barging and redirecting ships) is also at the final draft stage. But let's clarify that. These cost estimates are being done by residents. They are to be used as guidelines to help interpret the reply for the same estimates promised by Mr. Jones, Australian Minister for Transport, when he met residents back in February. After three months we still have no reply from ANL or Mr. Jones about their estimates, and that is interesting.

After three months ANL have not come forward with information which was and still is fundamental to their long-held argument that the alternatives are not feasible and are uneconomic. The implications are that either ANL staff did not know what they were talking about while they were rubbishing residents' proposals (and are now finding out) or else the reason for the delay is that it is a deliberate tactic; part of a "perhaps - if - we - close - our - eyes - those - nasty - residents - will - go - away" attitude.



But this time it is different, residents have never had a case more thoroughly documented (we have had contributions from seven consultants) nor more widely supported. Our support includes the media, every channel, every paper, all maritime unions, the Department of Urban and Regional Development and the Department of Environment.

In particular, the Department of Environment has replied positively to the Association's application for funds to research the truck/resident conflict. \$3,300 has been allocated for the project and this has enabled the study to be completed without gaps. It is the first such grant made to Balmain residents and considerably strengthens our hand vis-a-vis ANL.

The next step is to wrinkle from Mr. Jones his promised cost estimate contribution, after that there will be a meeting with Mr. Uren and Dr. Cass in addition to Mr. Jones. This will be the moment of truth and will be reported in the next News Sheet.

As a postscript; it's an ill wind . . . , the present recession has caused a 20 to 30% drop in container traffic and although not solving the problem and although it may only be temporary, the effect in Mort Street and other affected streets is therapeutic.

council report

LEIGHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 3, 1975

THE MEETING THAT WASN'T or APRIL FOOL, RESIDENTS

The Association placed an advertisement in the local press urging residents to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday, 1st April, when Council would be voting on controversial amendments to the 1974 Planning Scheme.

A number of residents arrived at the Council Chambers on 1st April to hear the debate on this vital issue, only to find that Mayor Rodwell had changed the night of the meeting! Council met instead, on Thursday 3rd April. The Mayor subsequently gave his reason for this unprecedented action as being that he "was not expecting a quorum".

The onus is surely on aldermen to do their job and attend meetings. Cancellation of Council meetings cannot be justified merely because some aldermen are not prepared to attend them.

Cynics might wonder whether the change of date was because certain aldermen prefer to make major decisions as secretly as possible.

1974 PLANNING SCHEME

Council's Town Planner, Mr. Kenna, had prepared a number of alterations to the Plan for Council's consideration. Briefly, these changes allowing higher density, high-rise development, are less stringent regarding controls on development and industrial nuisance and seem little concerned with preserving waterfront land.

Mr. Kenna's report on these changes was not available to the public gallery, ostensibly "because of typographical errors". Amendments were proposed and passed without residents knowing what they were. In answer to requests from the gallery for enlightenment the Mayor said that time did not permit Council to let residents know what was being changed.

The end of the debate and the end of the thinking and effort behind the 1974 Plan came with a motion from Alderman Dougherty, seconded by Alderman Stan Hoy (Balmain) "that Council amends and alters as shown on the Plan now furnished" (the one the public did not see). The motion was carried 11-1, Alderman Nick Origlass being the only dissenter.

Continuing THE MORT ST. SAGA

Yet another petition was received by Council, signed by 463 Balmain residents, stating that they were totally opposed to the opening of the gates around the Mort Bay Container Terminal from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and reaffirming their request that Council take the appropriate action to close the gates permanently.

Alderman Origlass proposed that Council act according to the wishes of the residents. His motion lapsed through want of a seconder.

The second Balmain alderman, Stan Hoy, had nothing to say.

LEIGHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 15, 1975

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

From behind the closed doors of Council's Staff Committee meetings, the following statements have emerged:

March 4 - The Mayor denied that Council was going to appoint a P.R.O. and that a Mr. Sinclair was to get the job.

March 18 - Council announced they would be appointing a P.R.O.

April 15 - A Mr. Sinclair was appointed P.R.O. at a salary of \$10,000 p.a.

There are some unusual aspects concerning the method of selection:

1. The position was not advertised.
2. Only Mr. Sinclair was considered for the job.
3. Terms of employment, salary and conditions were set out in a letter from Mr. Sinclair to Council, not from Council to Mr. Sinclair which would seem more appropriate.

NO RECORD ON OPPOSITION

Alderman Stan Hoy (Balmain) proposed that only motions seconded and adopted by Council be included in Council minutes.

A report on this matter was called for from the Town Clerk who stated that "motions and amendments moved but not seconded form a part of the proceedings of a Council meeting" and should therefore be recorded.

In a most unusual move Council overruled the Town Clerk and adopted Alderman Hoy's proposal.

In Leichhardt, Council consistently votes in an 11-1 bloc. Alderman Origlass (independent) is invariably unable to find a seconder for any of his proposals. Now that no unseconded motions will be recorded it will appear that all decisions have been unanimous.

It seems that the majority of Leichhardt's aldermen are so afraid of contrary opinions that they can countenance no written record of opposition.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 6, 1975

ZONING - BUSINESS or PEOPLE?

Any question of changes in zoning should be decided by the views of the people in the neighbourhood affected. Unfortunately, this is not so in Leichhardt.

On 15th April a petition of 105 signatures requested that a section of Leichhardt be rezoned from residential to commercial. It was established that only one signature was that of a genuine resident of the area. Even so, Leichhardt businessman and alderman, Bill Dougherty, spoke eloquently in favour of the commercial rezoning, saying that a number of non-conforming businesses are being hindered in their efforts to develop. He further urged Council to immediately take this action.

On 6th May, another petition was presented, this one signed by 181 genuine long-term residents (one of whom has lived there for 71 years) stating that they wanted their neighbourhood to remain residential.

Mr. J. Francis, a resident of 22 years standing, attempted to address Council but was shouted down by Rozelle alderman, Danny Casey - "Another bloody resident, I don't want to listen to this fellow".

The outcome: Council will give the "bogus" petition consideration during its present examination of the Planning Scheme, but will not consider the genuine petition until after the plan is exhibited.

DISCRIMINATION -

Against Political Organisations

Council resolved that "they refuse the use of public halls under its control to the Communist Party, auxiliary organisations, agents and like bodies".

One wonders just what Council would define as "an agent or like body".

This ban is the first discriminating against political organisations and threatens the democratic right of all organisations to hold meetings in public halls. No other Council in Sydney has such a ban.

Against Women

Council is employing delaying tactics in relation to a request from Women's Electoral Lobby that they establish a Women's Needs Committee as their contribution to International Women's Year.

Council received a letter from W.E.L. on 13th March. It came before them on 3rd April but was deferred pending a report from the Community Social Worker. The report was presented on 20th May.

On a motion from Alderman Hoy, the matter has been deferred for a further report from the Social Worker and Children's Services Worker.

As two months have already elapsed, perhaps International Women's Year will be over before the aldermen are forced to decide, thus being saved the trouble.

projects and activities — reports

MANAGEMENT SHUFFLES

It was most unfortunate to have to accept Malcolm Garder's resignation from the Management Committee in April. Malcolm recently started the Town Planning course at Sydney University and something had to be sacrificed - it was management. However, he is active on the Leichhardt Planning Forum so his community services will not be entirely lost to Balmain.

It is, on the other hand, pleasing to report that we have recently been successful in co-opting three members onto management, bringing us up to full strength once again. We welcome back Roger Johnson who has at last got on top of his Master's thesis and finds himself with some spare time, and to Pauline Shelley who is already active in reporting on Council Meetings and to David McCann who is already active in News Sheet production and distribution. In fact this News Sheet is mainly David and Dianne McCann's effort.

MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

The response to our Membership Questionnaire has been nothing short of phenomenal. Over 50 members replied and almost without exception, more than one area of interest was indicated on each reply.

Most of the members offering help have been contacted already, but if you haven't, it is probably because our programme in your area is not organised yet. This excellent response has been a shot in the arm and it has and will enable us to take on additional projects, projects which we should be tackling but which until now have lacked resources.

The Questionnaires are now being sent to all new members.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS in LEICHHARDT

The first official notification of any significant development proposed for Leichhardt Municipality is placed in the "Herald". Look in the "Herald" every Tuesday in the classifieds under "Public Notices". The sooner you know what other people are planning for your area the better - don't you think?

RESTAURANT NIGHT

The Association's planned night out at the new "Gables" restaurant unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last moment - bad weather and an electricians' strike forced "The Gables" to delay their official opening.

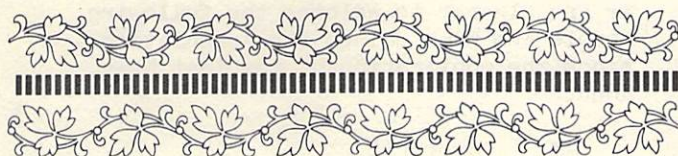
The Association hopes to lessen the disappointment of those who had made bookings, by organising another night out in the near future.

WATCH HOUSE WORKING BEE

A big thank you to those who helped with the hard yakka at the working bee on the Watch House park. The end result was a neat park area - hopefully a conscientious effort will keep it that way.

Another working bee will be organised in July to continue the effort into the back yard of the Watch House and help would be appreciated for this project.

Thank you to the Engineers Department of the L.M.C. for placing the litter bin in the corner of the park. This will help to keep the area tidy.



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.



PHOTOGRAPHING BALMAIN/ROZELLE

A project is underway to photograph Balmain and Rozelle, in order to collect a static record of these suburbs in 1975. The first stage is a joint Balmain Association/Balmain High School effort to photograph the houses and streets which are in the path of the north western expressway. The expressway will wipe out most of that part of Rozelle west of Victoria Road so this recording work is very important.

Mr. Entwistle, science master at the high school has his media club on the job now and we hope to be expanding the scope of the project to cover the rest of Rozelle and Balmain shortly.

jazz afternoon and barbecue

At present, we're having trouble settling on a venue and a date for the jazz afternoon. We hope to announce all details by poster and circulars in mid-June.

miscellaneous

RAFFLE - NORMAN LINDSAY PRINT

Out of our new members, Penny Ferguson has generously donated to the Association a numbered Norman Lindsay lithographic print for fund-raising purposes. The Association intends to raffle this print in conjunction with the 10th Anniversary Celebrations, with the draw being made at the 10th Annual General Meeting on August 13, 1975.

Tickets are 50c each or 5 for \$2.00 and will be on sale shortly at the Rama Gallery, diagonally opposite Balmain Town Hall, and at all Association meetings and functions until the 10th A.G.M.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

The Balmain Theatre Group is at present rehearsing its third production of the year - "Ghosts", a play by Henrik Ibsen. Rehearsals are progressing well, and producer Shirley Shepherd is confident of a successful play. Dates of performances are as follows:

Friday 20th, Saturday 21st June
Thurs. 26th, Fri. 27th and Sat. 28th June
Saturday 5th July.

The Opening Night Performance will be followed by supper at the Watch House.

watch these dates !!!

June 3, Tuesday, 8:00 am

June 17, Tuesday, 8:00 pm.

Leichhardt Council Meetings

If you can spare the time, please attend

June 4, Wednesday, 8:00 pm.

Association combined Management/General Meeting at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain (see note this issue).

Late June - early July, Sunday

Jazz afternoon and barbecue (see note this issue).

August 10, Saturday

Balmain Association 10th Anniversary Celebration (more details next issue).

August 13, Wednesday, 8:00 pm

Association 10th Annual General Meeting in Lower Town Hall, Balmain.
Election of Management for 1975/76 - members are requested to come along and participate in the nominations and voting.

Late September, Sunday

Balmain Garden Walk - 75 (see note this issue).

general meetings

Attendance at recent General Meetings has been dwindling, so it was decided at the last General Meeting to experiment by holding the next meeting in conjunction with the June Management Meeting at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, at 8.00 p.m. on June 4, 1975. If the experiment proves successful, future General Meetings will also be held at the Watch House - details will appear in the News Sheet as usual.

The Annual General Meeting (in August), however, will still be held in the Balmain Town Hall.

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

new members

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

Mr. T. Avernell

2 Theodore Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. I.J.W. Bissett,

47 Darling Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. G. Blunt

20 Rowntree Street, Balmain

Ms. M.J. Broadbent

28 Church Street, Balmain

Mr. H.L. Cavill

120 Restwell Street, Bankstown

Mr. & Mrs. I.L. Fincham

51 Curtis Road, Balmain

Dr. & Mrs. A.G. Gray-Weale

6 Harris Street, Balmain

Andrew Harris & Hilary Kramer

15 Perrett Street, Balmain

Mr. C.G. Lay & Mrs. E.M. Leary-Lay

14 Pearson Street, Balmain East

Mr. & Mrs. G. McCarter

30 High Street, Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. P. Mulhall

4 Harris Street, Balmain

Ms. Jessica Murray

8 Waterview Street, Balmain

Ms. R. Williams

34 Birchgrove Road, Balmain

Mr. Lachlan Wilson

c/- 60 Beattie Street, Balmain

J.W. Young & S.L. Hall

18 Thames Street, Balmain

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 8:00 PM

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET

TEA AND COFFEE PROVIDED

NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WELCOME.