



the balmain association

council report

THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE BREAKS NEW GROUND FOR THE ASSOCIATION by establishing the Newsletter on a monthly basis. We feel that the current Council has such a potential to make bad decisions that it is important for you, the resident to be informed of Council proceedings as soon as possible. Consequently each Newsletter will now carry reports of the last month's meetings unlike the previous bimonthly system where four meetings were reported.



The Mayor, Alderman Rodwell, replied that he knew nothing of it.

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman Casey, said that "trains that go over the harbour bridge make more noise".

It is hard to see the connection - nobody lives on the Harbour Bridge!

Below are reports on the June 3rd and June 17th meetings. The latter meeting also broke new ground for the Council by establishing an all-time low in dignity of proceedings. Many unbelievable vituperative remarks were addressed to the gallery and we can only suggest that you attend Council meetings yourself if you wish to see how your elected representatives behave. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Leichhardt Council Chambers, Norton Street.

PROPOSALS FOR A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SYSTEM

Mr. Kenna, Council's Consultant Town Planner reported on the "Proposals for a New Environmental Planning System for N.S.W." (the Blue Book), released this month by the Minister for Planning and Environment.

One of the proposals made in the Blue Book is the right of third parties to appeal against development applications.

Mr. Kenna said in his report "the right of appeal by third parties has been canvassed for a number of years and is favoured."

Alderman Stan Hoy (Balmain) amended that to "with the proviso that the appeal not be proceeded with unless Council considers that there is substance in the appeal."

As appeals would be against Council decisions it is incredible that they should also be the judge and jury as to whether an appeal should proceed.

Such a situation could only be described as farcical.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 17th JUNE, 1975

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Alderman Casey moved that Council's new P.R.O., Mr. Sinclair, be granted an additional \$26.00 p.w. "out of pocket expenses". The motion was passed 11-1.

As residents have neither seen nor heard from Mr. Sinclair since his appointment, and as he is receiving \$10,000 p.a., plus transport and secretarial services, it is hard to see what out of pocket expenses (at ratepayers' expense) he can be incurring.

A.N.L. NOISE

Alderman Nick Origlass (Balmain) asked what Council was doing in response to complaints of noise at night from refrigerated containers at Mort Bay, and whether A.N.L. was being pressed to comply with promises previously made to muffle the noise.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

After 3 months of delays Council finally made a decision on the proposal to establish a Women's Need Committee as their contribution to International Women's Year. The decision was to file the request and forget it.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 3rd JUNE, 1975

Women's Electoral Lobby, who made the original request had been told that Council would be considering a report from the Community Social Worker after she had consulted with the Children's Services Worker.

When received, the report strongly urged Council to set up a Women's Committee, stating that "the Municipality would benefit in many ways by action on Council's part to establish such a committee".

No reasons were given for their action but the last word came from Alderman Casey, who said "I am very sympathetic to women. I'm married to one. I like them."

The women in the Public Gallery were not amused.

ACCESS TO COUNCIL PAPERS

Leichhardt Council has said that they "favour public participation and involvement in the true and full sense".

In the State Planning and Environment Commissions' Blue Book it is stated - "It is fundamental to public involvement that information be readily available".

A letter was received from the N.S.W. Environment Centre advising that the centre was established as an Open Community Resource Centre concerned with environmental issues, and aimed at granting free access to public documents emanating from all levels of government. The Centre requested Council to forward copies of its Committee Papers, Council Meeting Agendas and Development Applications. Council refused.

MAD-HATTERS TEA PARTY

The meeting concluded with a diatribe from Mr. Freney of the Communist Party. From the Public Gallery he accused the Labour Aldermen of being DLPers, Bill Dougherty of being a Liberal and the Council of being corrupt. A shouting match with a local loyalist ensued and Mayor Rodwell after a few minutes' enjoyment of the spectacle, closed the meeting.

Freney promised that the next meeting would be celebrated as a "Mad-Hatters Tea Party"; Mayor Rodwell said they would be welcome.

NOISE

On 23rd May, Leichhardt Council received a petition signed by nineteen Balmain residents objecting to the generation of excessive noise and traffic by BETTY BLOKK-BUSTER FOLLIES at the Balmain Bijou. Never let it be said that Alderman Stan Hoy does not support local residents - at the June 3 meeting he strongly backed these petitioners, assuring that such nuisances would be rectified.

Hmm! - makes one wonder what happened to the numerous petitions signed by thousands of Balmain residents about noise and traffic problems created by container trucking.

QUICK MEETINGS

Do many residents recall the long hours of Council meetings when people came first and Council business was so much that meetings extended into the small hours of the morning? It seems our new super-efficient Council can handle the same business in 60-120 minutes per fortnight. The proceedings are quite bewildering and matters fly along only with occasional stoppages by Nick Origlass. Much of Council business is not covered by the Gallery Papers.

BIRCHGROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On the sunny side, Birchgrove Community School has at last gained approval from both the Council and the Department of Education to use the buildings at 6 Rose Street, Birchgrove.

VACANT EXPRESSWAY LAND

Subject to several obvious conditions, the D.M.R. has agreed to allow the Annandale Association to landscape and maintain vacant land awaiting expressway construction in Trafalgar Street. Leichhardt Council was requested by the D.M.R. to accept formal control of the land. Council refused.

One reason given was that "the local association might oppose the construction of the freeway and Council may find itself exercising a responsibility which attracts disputation".

projects and activities — reports

CONTAINERS

A small public meeting in the Balmain Town Hall endorsed a draft of the report to be presented to Mr. Jones, Minister for Transport. It was resolved that copies of the report would be available for interested persons; contact Sandy Halley, 12 Duke Street, Balmain, if you are interested.

Roger Harrison reported that his survey into alternatives estimated that \$2 million per year needs to be spent for 5 years up until 1980 in order to bring 75% relief to truck traffic. Part of this money would be spent on construction of a crane to load "roll-on, roll-off" cargo onto barges.

He pointed out that at the present time, 25% of containers could be redirected and 25% could be barged. This could be done during 1975/76.

The A.N.L. is preparing its own costs on such a proposal and it will be extremely interesting to compare the two reports.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MEETING

The Public Transport meeting mentioned at the last Association General Meeting has been postponed from Monday 7th July to Monday 21st July at 8.00 p.m. - Lower Town Hall, Balmain.

A report on Ferry Services will be presented and speakers will also explain the various issues concerning Rail and Bus transport, so if you are a commuter, please attend.

If the ferry report receives endorsement at the meeting, it will be presented to Mr. Fife, Minister of Transport on Wednesday, 23rd July.

JAZZ AFTERNOON AND BARBECUE

After unsuccessfully trying to negotiate three separate venues for the planned Jazz Afternoon and Barbecue, we have reluctantly decided to postpone the event until later in the year. Apologies to all those who were looking forward to what has in the past proved to be a very enjoyable day.

restaurant night

As promised last issue, the Association has arranged another night at "The Gables" restaurant, at the corner of Rowntree and Cameron Streets - on Sunday, July 13 at 7.00 p.m. "The Gables" has now been open for nearly two months and the extremely favourable reports we've received made us even more determined to try again. Tickets are \$6.00 each and bookings can be made through Narelle Hooper on 827 2968 or Jocelyne MacLeod on 82 4652.

Please note that drinks are not provided or sold so please bring your own.

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 are on sale at the Rama Gallery, diagonally opposite Balmain Town Hall, and at all Association meetings and functions until the 10th A.G.M.

watch these dates !!!

July 1, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m. and
July 15, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meetings
If you can spare the time, please attend.

July 12, Saturday, 10.00 a.m.
Watch House clean-up - all welcome.

July 13, Sunday, 7.00 p.m.
Association Restaurant Night at "The
Gables", cnr. Rowntree and Cameron
Streets, Balmain. (see note this
issue).

July 21, Monday, 8.00 p.m.
Public Meeting on Ferry Services, Lower
Town Hall, Balmain.

August 10, Saturday
Balmain Association 10th Anniversary
celebration at the Watch House (full
details next issue).

August 13, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Association 10th Annual General Meeting
in Lower Town Hall, Balmain.
Election of Management for 1975/76 -
members are requested to come along and
participate.

NOTE: Nomination forms are available
from Evelyn Walker, 158 Evans Street,
Rozelle - Ph. 827 3695, or at the next
Management meeting at the Watch House
on July 2, 1975. Nominations close
August 6, 1975.

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

miscellaneous

YOU CAN BANK ON THE WALES!

The Bank of New South Wales has donated \$100
to the Association to celebrate the Bank's
100 years of business in Balmain. The Assoc-
iation's President, David Porter recently
accepted the money which will be used for
local historical investigation. Thank you,
Wales!

WATCH HOUSE CLEAN-UP

A Working Bee will be held to now clean up
and plant the back garden of the Watch House
on Saturday 12th July - all willing hands
welcome, commencing 10.00 a.m.

EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER

The Association is carrying out a drive to
increase its membership. Current membership
is around 330 but we would like to double
this number in the next year. The more
members we can attract then the greater will
be our voice and influence in the community.
When you have finished with this Newsletter,
why not hand it to a neighbour, friend or
acquaintance and tell him/her why you belong
to the Balmain Association. If every member
succeeds in this then our goal will be
realised in a very short time.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1975 - 8.00 p.m.

LOWER TOWN HALL, BALMAIN

10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1975/76

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND
FRIENDS ALSO WELCOME - TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED.