

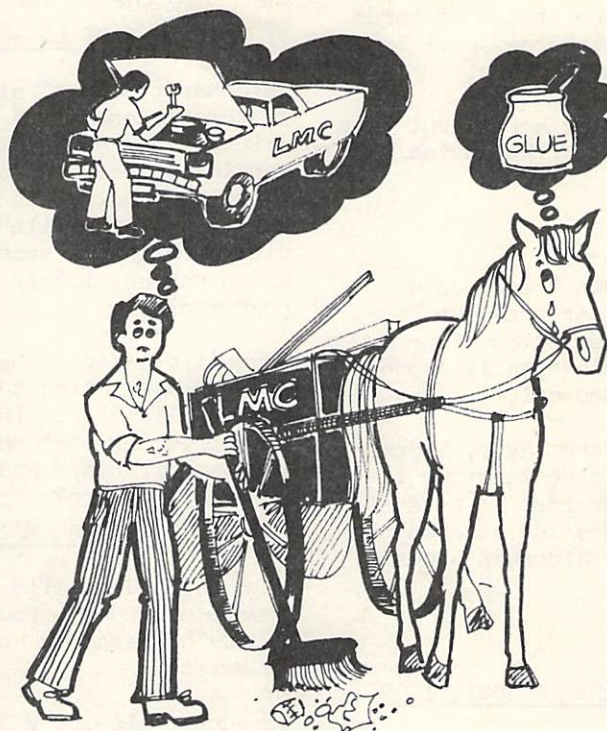
the balmain association

council report

HORSES

You are all no doubt aware of the impending demise of the L.M.C. horse and cart. With rates soaring, any genuine attempt to provide economic means of street cleaning would probably be welcomed by most people. However, Council's decision to replace the "horse and cart" with Holden trucks has been based upon 1973 estimates of the cost of trucks and 1975 estimates of the cost of hiring horses! Such an unbelievable basic error means that actual capital outlay for the trucks would be 60% higher than Council's budget figure. To this must be added current figures for repairs, maintenance, petrol (and this has just risen as a result of the Federal budget), registration, etc., so that it is very likely that the current system of street cleaning is the most economical.

Also not realised by Council is the possibility that three men may be required for the truck system (one as full-time driver) as against two on the horse and cart - the horse being the driver! At the Council meeting on August 5th, Aldermen Spedding and Origlass called for an independent enquiry by Council's auditors but this motion was defeated in favour of Alderman Hoy's (Balmain) motion that three months' notice be given of the intention to terminate the horse and carts service and replace it with trucks. Mayor Rodwell refused to allow a show of hands on the vote.



and CARTS

Since the August 5th meeting a public rally on the horse and carts issue has been held and this has demonstrated overwhelming support in favour of retaining the horses, even if they did cost a little more than trucks - and this is hotly disputed. With the current world-wide energy crisis there are moves afoot everywhere to utilise renewable energy sources and minimise pollution; L.M.C. in a small way could contribute to such a policy by retaining the major form of transport from a past era - a transporting means which even today has great flexibility for many applications.

So far thousands of signatures have been obtained on a petition organised by Alderman Spedding. This petition will be presented to Council at the next meeting on September 2nd (8.00 p.m.) at the Leichhardt Council Chambers in Norton Street, Leichhardt. Tenders for the Holden truck cleaning system are expected to be read at this meeting.

The current Council has shown little regard for the views of the residents and there is every likelihood that the petition will be ridiculed; we cannot afford to let this happen. Consequently, the Association requests every member to make a supreme effort to attend the September 2nd meeting in order to show the Councillors that we are fed up with yet another off-hand, ill-informed and irresponsible decision.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 5th AUGUST, 1975

BICYCLES

Not only is Leichhardt Council opposed to horses and carts but also to bicycles.

A letter was received from Drummoyne Council asking that Leichhardt join with them in a joint submission for a grant to provide finance for a bicycle and jogging track along the foreshores linking Lilyfield Road at Hawthorne Canal bridge and Victoria Road at Iron Cove bridge.

Alderman Hoy moved that Council agree, but that the word "bicycle" be deleted. The motion was carried, 11-1.

ATTACK ON TOWN CLERK

Leichhardt Municipality's Town Clerk, John Regan, who was appointed by the previous Council, has been coming under attack from a local newspaper which enthusiastically supports the actions of the current Council.

Alderman Origlass said that the Mayor, Alderman Rodwell, should make a public declaration in support of the Town Clerk in order to dissociate Council from the unwarranted snide attacks of this particular newspaper. Alderman Rodwell declined to do so.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING 19th AUGUST, 1975

LEGAL ACTION

Leichhardt Council is spending ratepayers' money on possible legal actions against residents and aldermen who have expressed their disapproval of Council's actions in various ways.

A couple of months ago it was decided to seek legal advice as to whether a member of the public gallery could be sued for describing Leichhardt Council as "corrupt". At the August 19th meeting two further actions are being pursued:-

a) Council's solicitor is being instructed to advise whether Council can take action against another resident who, on being provoked, referred to Leichhardt businessman and alderman, Bill Dougherty, by his "nickname" (-- Bill), a name which is widely used throughout Leichhardt Municipality. The farcical and hypocritical nature of this decision is demonstrated by the revelation that it was Alderman Casey (not Dougherty) who moved that this action be taken.

One only has to read our "quotes of the month" (see below) to realise that Alderman Casey often lays himself open to similar possible actions; actions which no reasonable person would pursue because of their trivial nature.

b) Advice is being sought from the local Government Department as to what action can be taken against Alderman Origlass for driving a horse and cart on Sunday 17th August as part of the "Save the Horses" demonstration.

"THE LEICHHARDT LOCAL"

Leichhardt Council aldermen appear frightened at the prospect of a new local newspaper which actually has a reporter present at Council meetings. This is so particularly of Alderman Casey who stated his opposition very clearly - he said "I'm hostile". The newspaper was discussed in the secret staff committee meeting which has absolutely nothing to do with newspapers!

Council decided to hand deliver a letter to the newspaper relating to the matter of a development application. The letter was indeed delivered the next day - by two people. Hasn't the Council heard about the postal service Australia offers?

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Leichhardt Council's invisible P.R.O. has now been employed for four months - and still nobody has seen or heard him. We wonder, does he exist?

We wonder also, why \$10,000 per annum plus \$26 per week expenses is being wasted in this manner.

RECORDING OF MINUTES

Council received a letter from the State Minister for Local Government replying to their request for guidance on recording of Council proceedings, in particular whether motions or amendments not seconded (usually proposed by Alderman Origlass) should be recorded in the minutes. The Minister stated that it was usual practice to minute "all motions and amendments including those not seconded". Motions not passed **nor seconded and** referred to in the minutes by a number only should be recorded by annexing the relevant business paper to the minutes. If Council wished to dispute this generally accepted procedure then a legal interpretation of Rule No. 112 of the Legislative Assembly would be necessary.

Council decided to "receive and note" which can hardly be considered as taking the Minister's advice. Apparently Council will continue to record only part of the proceedings, giving the impression of little or no dissention in Council meetings.

quotes of the month

In response to a request from the Health Commission of N.S.W. for permission to set up a Community Health Centre in Balmain, which would provide general welfare services, counselling and psychiatric assessment and treatment, Alderman Casey said, "First we have to find out whether they (the patients) use soap and water like normal people do".

In answer to the head petitioner of a petition of 314 signatures protesting against the changes to the 1973 Outline Plan, Alderman Casey said, "Did that fellow have a tub before he came?"

Regrettably, this type of offensive remark is typical of the level of "debate" on serious matters before Council.

TOWN PLANNING MATTERS

Little activity in the Town Planning Department has been in evidence over the past few months. Leichhardt residents may be interested, however, in these recent decisions by Council:

(i) Simmons Point Wharf, Balmain

Efforts by the Balmain Association, Aldermen Origlass and Wyner and the Town Planning staff of the previous Council were successful last year in preventing complete demolition of the wharf at Simmons Point. The Sydney Cove Waterfront Museum has used this area for the mooring of the old steamer "John Oxley" and wishes to continue to do so. Discussions are underway with the Museum and the M.S.B., but it appears that Balmain Alderman, Stan Hoy, would prefer complete demolition of the wharf and replacement with a smaller construction suitable for pleasure craft.

(ii) Parkes Development

Fresh from their success in Hosking Street, Balmain, Parkes Development Co. have gained approval for sub-division of land on Blackwattle Bay. The express purpose of the sub-division is to commence residential development of the area. Leichhardt Council, in granting approval, shows complete disregard for the fact that the land is reserved as future open space under the 1974 Leichhardt Outline Plan. Perhaps it is a preview of what is yet to come!

(iii) Recording Studio

Ideas of preservation and rehabilitation in Globe are not only thwarted by the new budget, but suffer under our current Council as well. A cottage in Globe Point Road is to be demolished to allow erection of a three-storey recording studio for Col Joye Holdings. Notable is the applicant's desire to provide off-street parking - he offers to buy the cottage opposite and demolish it for parking space.

your new management committee

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday 13 August 1975, the following were elected to the 1975/76 Management Committee:

	Home	Work
<u>President</u> - David Porter 66 Campbell St., Balmain	827 1081/20515	
<u>Vice-President</u> - David McCann 10 Ford St., Balmain		660 9411
<u>Secretary</u> - Evelyn Walker 158 Evans St., Rozelle	827 3695/660 8583	
<u>Treasurer</u> - Richard Norman 18 Gladstone St., Balmain		31 4927
<u>Management Committee</u> -		
Sandy Halley, 33 Duke St., Balmain		
Robert Hooper, 74 Birchgrove Rd., Balmain	827 2968	
Roger Johnson, 12 Paul St., Balmain	827 1797	
Diana McDonald, 109 Darling St., Balmain	82 4882	
Ken Oates, 26 Curtis Rd., Balmain	82 0576	
Pauline Shelley, 62 Gipps St., Birchgrove	827 3905	
Lee White, 101 Birchgrove Rd., Balmain	827 2718	

FROM THE TIGER'S LAIR

If You Can Read
And write you
Can Town Plan....
And Even if you
Can't — you Can.



From *Housing Action National Newsletter*, April, 1975.

Mayor Rodwell last week through a local rag informed us what local groups have done to his town planning scheme.

Apparently local resident groups and even misguided residents have been delaying the proclamation of a new Town Planning Scheme by forwarding petitions to Council and the N.S.W. Planning and Environment Commission.

What the Mayor did not tell us was that these petitioners asked Council to proceed with the 1974 Scheme prepared by the previous Council involving extensive resident participation and close liaison with the S.P.E.C.

The Mayor's main problem is that the S.P.E.C. refused the demands of the new Council to return the 1974 Scheme.

However they did agree to hold up examination of the scheme until Council forwarded reasons for its change. The Council in 12 months still has not put forward reasonable reasons for its change so there it lies.

Another apparent problem with local groups according to the Mayor is that they do not have the expertise of the Council's extremely well-trained staff of Ordinance 4 Planners. Ordinance 4 Planners have completed a part-time Local Government Course.

One local resident group, the Leichhardt Planning Forum has within its membership, University qualified Town Planners, Architects, Lawyers and Engineers.

The Mayor also stated that these local groups lack persons skilled in economic planning, such as developers. It seems that Council is very keen on developers at the moment, particularly those who build high-rise units.

The Mayor should be well aware that there are many people active in local groups whose employment entails economic planning. In addition to the Architects, Engineers and Planners mentioned previously the Planning Forum has members who are Development Consultants, Builders, Property Valuers, Real Estate Agents and most importantly residents.

Part of Council's problem is of course that they sacked their two most qualified planners shortly after coming to office. Penny Pike and Johnathon Falk were both University Town Planning Graduates and had both worked at the S.P.E.C. before being employed at Council.

It is time Mayor Rodwell stopped spilling out all this garbage and got on with having the 1974 plan prescribed.

projects and activities — reports

CHILDREN'S PAINT-IN

A children's paint-in will be held on Saturday, November 8th at Gladstone Park, Balmain from 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon as part of a community project being conducted by the Balmain primary school. All paints, buckets, easels, paper, etc. will be provided — all that is needed are the children.

The paint-in, organised by the Association, will be part of an exhibition of works by children and professionals of our community. If you would like to exhibit (and sell) any of your arts and crafts or those of your children, ring 82 1054 for further details.

JAIL HOUSE ROCK

The 10th Anniversary celebrations at the Watch House were judged by all "prisoners" to be a tremendous success. A big thank you to all those involved in the organising and particularly to Peter Compagnoni for his excellent cooking of the lambs. We were a little disappointed at the attendance (about 100) but a small profit has been made and this will help with our activities in the coming year. The elusive Hock, Lime and Lemon bottles (courtesy of Michael Fraser) were raffled again only to be won by David Porter who promptly redonated them to the Association.

NORMAN LINDSAY RAFFLE

Our very successful raffle for a 1934 limited edition print "Benevolence" was drawn at the A.G.M. on August 13th by Alderman Nick Origlass. The winning ticket was No. 400, Brian McDonald, 109 Darling Street, Balmain. Congratulations, Brian!

Once again, we would like to thank Penny Ferguson for donating the print and Julie Daley of Rama Galleries for donating a period frame. The success of this raffle has meant a flying start towards our fund raising goal for '75/76.

miscellaneous

"THE LEICHHARDT LOCAL"

The Association at its A.G.M. on August 13th declared its support for the new community newspaper, "The Leichhardt Local" by unanimously deciding to take up \$200 worth of shares in the new co-operative venture. So far subscriptions from the Balmain area have been rather poor and we urge all those with a little spare money to think seriously about supporting this very worthwhile newspaper. Contact the Inner-Sydney Media Co-operative at 112 Glebe Point Road - 660 6304 for further information.

A SHADED GARDEN

Recently the Balmain Garden Club visited the E.G. Waterhouse Camellia Garden, at Kareena Ave., Caringbah. This wonderful garden is only 5 years old, and created by Sutherland Council on a most unpromising site - steeply sloping, light sandy soil and full of stones. It is now a National Asset, open to the public at no charge, and everyone is well advised to see it.

Folks with a rather shady garden, might feel inclined to emulate this garden in a small way, as camellias once established, are very hardy, as can be seen from the specimens 70-80 years old in very neglected gardens, in the inner Sydney suburbs, still flowering well.

Best position to plant is facing S.E., if possible. Main requirements are acid soil and some shade, though a few varieties such as Emperor of Russia, and Great Eastern do pretty well in full sun; there are others needing full shade, but most will do with part shade. Sydney coastal soils tend to be acid, so if no lime or building rubble has been placed there, should be suitable. Build up the soil with cow manure and peat moss. Be sure to thoroughly wet the peat moss in buckets of water before putting in the soil, or mulching. Avoid artificial manures if possible, and use Blood and Bone. This has become scarce and one nurseryman stated he thought it was all going into dog biscuits, because more people in Sydney kept dogs than have gardens! So probably you will have to substitute cotton-seed meal. Compost can be used, if it contains no lime, which would be unusual.

In addition to the plants listed above, there are many more, suitable for shady areas. A couple of lovely small trees (about 10-12 ft.) are the Golden Sambucus, and the Pittosporum Tenuifolium. Small and medium shrubs that will take shade, are abelia, ardesia, abutilon, choisya, gordonia, justicia, keeria, plactranthus, fuschsia, nandina, viburnum, opulus and Japanese maples (about 6 ft. and less), and of course, hydrangeas.

Many perennials are suitable: aquilegia, astilbe, campanulas, alpine and perennial phlox, Japanese anemones, hedychium, liriope, and bulbous types such as polygonatum and lilliums. Ground covers: heeria, variegated ivies (such as goldheart and glacier), and variegated vinca, and viola hederacea (the last two inclined to take over, so be ruthless when required). From seed: balsams of all kinds, begonias tall, and small for edgings, foxgloves and primulas, and forget-me-nots. All these last ones are real treasures as one only has to buy the seed once, because when the flowering has finished, just throw the seed pods round about, and they will appear again next season, so one has them forever!

J. Murray
Balmain Garden Club

watch these dates !!!

September 1-5, Monday to Friday
Children's Theatre Workshop at the
Presbyterian Hall, Campbell Street,
Balmain. (see August issue for
further details)

September 2, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m. and
September 16, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meetings
(see front page for further details)

September 3, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Association Management Committee
Meeting at Watch House.

Mid-September
Balmain Theatre Group's next production
"Come Back Little Sheba" (see August
issue for further details).

September 28, Sunday, 11.00a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Annandale Garden Walk, starting at
335 Annandale Street, where tickets
can be obtained. \$1 per family, 50 cents
single, 20 cents pensioners. Afternoon
tea available 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.; plants
for sale. Everyone welcome.

October 1, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Association General Meeting at Watch
House.

November 6-8, Thursday-Saturday.
Art exhibition at Balmain Primary School
(see note this issue).

November 8, Saturday, 9.30a.m. - 12.00 noon.
Children's "Paint-in" at Gladstone Park.
(see note this issue)

November 28-29, Friday-Saturday.
Balmain Village Fair (see note this issue).

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

INNER CITY RESIDENT GROUP RESEARCH

Ian MacGregor of Macquarie University is current-
ly researching Inner City resident groups as part
of a post graduate degree in Urban Studies. All
Association members will shortly be receiving a
reply paid questionnaire and we ask you to spend
a little of your time in helping this research.
All returns will be anonymous and confidential
and several copies of the final report will be
handed to the Association.

BALMAIN VILLAGE FAIR

The annual village fair is approaching again -
remember the dates, November 28th and 29th! Now
is the time to start preparing your handicrafts
(weaving, potting, sewing, etc.) for sale at the
fair. Anyone can have a stall on a small
commission basis so contact Diana McDonald
(82 4882), Narelle Hooper (827 2968) or Janine
Oates (82 0576) if you are interested or have
any ideas for making the fair even more success-
ful than last year.

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, OCTOBER 1, 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING ST., BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

FRIENDS ALSO WELCOME - TEA and COFFEE provided.