



the balmain association



The Association's Annual Children's activity - the "Paint-in" will shortly be held at Gladstone Park on Saturday, November 8. Paints, brushes, paper, drinks, clean-up rags, etc. will be provided free - all YOU need do is supply the kids! Bring them along any time on Saturday morning between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. and join in the fun.

After the "Paint-in" why not pop into the Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the Balmain Public School, adjacent to the park. The exhibition will be opened on Thursday evening (November 6 at 7.30 p.m.) by Mr. Ken Reinhardt, Dean of the School of Art, Alexander Mackie College, and runs until Sunday afternoon. Works of art by established artists and craftsmen will be on sale.

As well as the work of professional artists, Mr. Allan Rigg, art adviser for the Central Metropolitan area has gathered together a children's exhibition of local arts and crafts which will also be on display. Both the "Paint-in" and the Arts and Crafts exhibition are part of a Community Project sponsored by the Balmain Public School; the festivities will be concluded with a free concert in Gladstone Park on the Sunday afternoon.

Exhibition times:	Thursday 6th November	7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
	Friday 7th November	12.00 noon - 7.30 p.m.
	Saturday 8th November	10.00 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.
	Sunday 9th November	12.00 noon - 5.30 p.m.

council report

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 7th OCTOBER, 1975

Leichhardt ratepayers are footing the bill for a high-priced public relations officer whose job it is to shield the aldermen from their electors.

So far, the only thing that Mr. Sinclair, the P.R.O. has been seen to be doing, is organising a series of "Meet their Friends" - whoops, sorry, "Meet the Public" invitation only functions for the aldermen.

Mayor Rodwell said in May that it was necessary to appoint Mr. Sinclair so that aldermen need not be bothered with queries from the press and from the public. Apparently the P.R.O. has done such a good job of keeping the aldermen out of touch with the people that he has earned an increase in salary. He is to receive an additional \$2,500, bringing his salary to \$12,500 plus a car and entertainment allowance of \$2,500. Not bad for a part-time position.

Aldermen Origlass and Spedding voted against the increase.

HORSES and CARTS

Not only can residents expect to see noisy, polluting trucks on the road in place of the horses and carts but also an increase in dirt and litter due to a reduction in service.

The cost of purchasing trucks is 40% higher than the figures quoted when Council made the decision to abandon the horses in favour of trucks. At the time it was pointed out by Aldermen Spedding and Origlass that the figures they were considering were hopelessly out of date. However, they went ahead regardless and now due to the higher cost Council is going to purchase only four trucks instead of the original seven (to replace seven horses) so we can anticipate a reduction in service by almost half.

The eight and a half thousand people who voted for the retention of the horses obviously knew what they were doing.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 21st OCTOBER, 1975

Alderman Nick Origlass (Balmain) stated that the current Council has spent \$180,000 on carpets and furnishings for their new administrative block, almost one third of the cost of the building itself.

How can Council justify this lavish expenditure whilst at the same time crying "poor" and insisting that they need high rise development in order to swell the council rates coffers?

POLICE PARKING

The New South Wales Police Traffic Department had requested that Council concur with a proposal to make three car parking spaces in Little Darling Street available to police cars only. Alderman Stan Hoy (Balmain) moved that Council agree and that the street be made no thoroughfare. The motion was carried.

Alderman Origlass asked whether Council shouldn't be favouring the residents parking needs rather than those of people working in the area and pointed out that the police already have 'Police Only' parking in Darling Street to the disadvantage of residents.

Alderman Spedding (Leichhardt) said that Council was establishing an undesirable precedent in allowing a government department to take over public parking space. He also mentioned that the State Government has a lot of money, much more than Local Government, and can surely assist its employees with their parking problems when it can afford to put expressways right across the municipality.

PLAYGROUND PROPOSAL REJECTED

Unfortunately residents do not receive the same co-operation that the Police Department gets.

Two petitions from Balmain residents were received requesting that Council consider approval of an adventure playground at the north-western end of Cove Street, on the grass verge owned by Council. The petitioners were prepared to do the work and provide the equipment themselves.

Alderman Dan Casey (Rozelle) moved that the petitions be received and noted and no further action be taken.

This is the standard response of the present Council to any request, however reasonable, from groups of residents. Mayor Rodwell is on record as saying that Council will not bow to any "pressure groups". The playground suggestion originated from an independent group of residents not associated with any resident action group. Perhaps Leichhardt Council regards any proposal which carries more than one signature as suspicious?

CATCH 22

Alderman Nick Origlass asked why the matter of the backyard factory in Clubb Street, Rozelle, was not on the business paper when there had been further developments and more letters had been received.

Alderman Dan Casey replied that the omission from the business paper could not be discussed as it was not on the business paper.

COUNCIL ADVERTISING

Since the last Council meeting Council had spent \$769.40 on advertising in "The Glebe" newspaper and nothing on advertising in any of the other local newspapers circulating in the area.

"The Glebe" consistently supports the actions of the present council.

CLIFTON STREET TOWN HOUSES

In the April newsheet we gave Council a plus mark for making it a condition of approval of this development that a right of way be provided to allow access between Clifton Street and Simmons Street.

Unfortunately, Ampol Realty, the developers, successfully appealed against this condition to the Local Government Appeals Tribunal.

If Council don't get you, then the Tribunal will!

FAMILY DAY CARE

The Australian Federal Government has made a grant available to Leichhardt Council for the implementation of a Family Day Care Scheme in this area.

Family Day Care provides care for children of working parents in individual homes as part of an organised program administered by a properly constituted body, such as a local council. It aims to provide a high standard of child care and a subsidy is available to parents who may be financially disadvantaged by the cost of child care. The scheme also aims to make it economically worthwhile to those people who are in a position to provide the care for the children.

It was disheartening, to say the least, to see aldermen discussing and voting on a subject that they had obviously not bothered to understand, despite several lengthy reports on the scheme during the year they have been in office.

Alderman Stan Hoy's questioning of the amount fixed for payment to the minders in comparison with the fee per child in institutionalised child care showed a total ignorance of the whole concept.

quotes of the month

Alderman Spedding on Family Day Care -

"If Council continues to support such things, we shall be contributing to the degradation of family life."

'balmain village fair'

As reported in the last issue, our Annual Village Fair is being held on Friday evening November 28, and all day Saturday November 29. So far the response has been fantastic and it looks like being even bigger and better than last year! However, we are still anxious to hear from anyone wishing to sell their wares or do their own thing. We only want a small commission (10%) and would like all stall holders to either be, or become, members of the Association. Stalls can be reserved by contacting Diana McDonald (82 4882), Narelle Hooper (827 2968) or Janine Oates (82 0576). We would also like to hear from anyone who could lend a hand in either prior organization or an hour or two on the day.

The Committee will be meeting again on November 11 at 8 pm at the Watch House. Anyone with an idea or just a helping hand would be most welcome.

miscellaneous

PLANTS NOT TO PLANT

Many plants are often thoughtlessly planted in gardens which become pests later on. Either they grow too big with damaging roots, or stop light and air, such as rubber trees, poplars and willows. Others have terrifying powers of reproduction, such as cestrum and mulberry. If you really must plant a mulberry, put it a long way from the house and clothes lines. Birds will visit daily and leave visiting cards for sure. Any neglected area around Balmain rapidly becomes infested with cestrum which has roots of iron to remove. Another garden escapee around here is aralia (also known as fatsia). Bamboo is extremely invasive and its territorial ambitions know no bounds. Roots have been known to come up 100 ft. away.

I was once shown "a pretty blue flower" and recognised it as Paterson's Curse, a European garden flower first seen despoiling pastures in Australia in 1896 in the next 8 years it had travelled a further 500 miles.

I suppose, by now, everyone knows not to plant privets or lantanas, though plenty are still seen around. A Balmain lady once told me "I like a touch of green". She opened a back door and showed an impenetrable thicket of lantana about 6 ft. high, even covering the clothes line. Another hazard is kikuyu grass planted for lawns.

The climbing fig looks lovely as a 4 in. plant in a nursery, but it is impossible to control or eradicate, and will travel for blocks. Pampas grass is another thing to avoid.

Sometimes people think they will fill a space quickly with large growing plants, but it can be a bad bargain. If you have a postage stamp-sized front garden and a handkerchief-sized back garden, think before planting trees and ascertain their ultimate height first. Otherwise, you may find you have grown a horrifying monster that shows every intention of fighting you for the house. Sometimes the best tree is a small-growing deciduous tree that lets in light and air in winter, and gives a feeling of cool shade in summer. If after all this you still decide to live dangerously, garden-wise, well, at least you were warned!

J. Murray - Balmain Garden Club.

watch these dates !!!

November 4, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m. and
November 18, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.

Leichhardt Council meetings, Town Hall,
Leichhardt. Find out what your elected
representatives are at!

November 6-9, Thursday to Sunday
Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Balmain
Primary School, Gladstone Park (see
front page for further details).

November 8, Saturday 9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Children's "Paint-in" at Gladstone Park.
(see front page)

November 8, Saturday 2.00 p.m.
Balmain Garden Club visits 96 Windsor St.,
Paddington. Speaker on Japanese Flower
Arrangement "Ikebana". All welcome.

November 11, Tuesday 8.00 p.m.
Association fund-raising meeting to
organise the Balmain Village Fair. Would
all those who indicated in the questionn-
aire a desire to help, please come along.

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

THE CASE OF THE MOVING RUBBISH BIN (a comedy of errors in 3 acts)

ACT 1

Scene 1: Association requests Council to
provide a rubbish bin to prevent litter in
Watchhouse park.

Scene 2: Enter rubbish bin dressed in
'shocking pink', sits down at 179 Darling
Street on footpath.

Scene 3: (crowd scene) "what a dreadful
colour", "... it's not really what we
wanted", "... we can't do much because it's
on the footpath".

ACT II (1 month later)

Scene 1: (enter clowns) Dig up rubbish
bin and relocate in the most unfavourable
position in the park, set in a block of
concrete 5 ft. in diameter.

Scene 2: (enter National Trust) Writes
letter to Association asking why there is a
rubbish bin in park, dressed in revolting
colour.

Scene 3: (enter Management Committee)
Writes letter to Council asking why rubbish
bin has been moved and requesting colour to
be altered to one more sympathetic to
surroundings.

ACT III (1 month later)

Scene 1: (enter clowns) Dig up 5 ft. con-
crete block, move rubbish bin, relocate on
footpath in old position, still dressed in
'shocking pink'.

Scene 2: (enter Management Committee -
loud guffaws) "We really do need a bin in
the park, but of the right colour and in
the right location. Perhaps we should write
again requesting Council to replace the bin
and 'reclothe' it".

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3 at 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING ST., BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

FRIENDS ALSO WELCOME

TEA and COFFEE PROVIDED