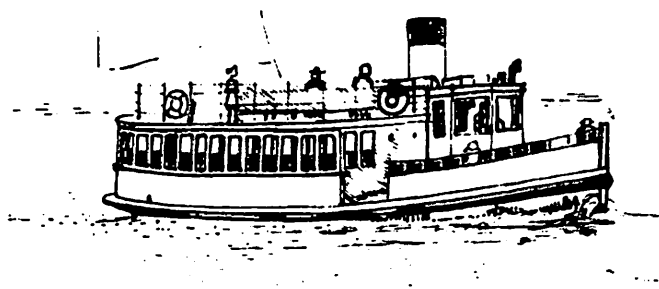


the balmain association

ferries



The new ferry services which the Association has been negotiating between the Public Transport Commission and the private operators, Stannard's and Hegarty's Ferries, will start BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY.

The PTC is tight-lipped about its contribution to the new services (they are in a monopolistic position and can veto any proposals if it considers they clash with their services) but it seems that the bulk of the new services will fall to the private operators.

The new services will connect Balmain to the North Sydney business centre by a morning and evening peak period coordinated ferry/bus service. In addition, Mort Bay, now served by one morning and one evening run to Thames Street wharf, will now get two or three calls each peak period.

Fares on the new services will be 30c. Compare this with 45c by bus to the City from East Balmain and 35c from Gladstone Park. The time to travel to North Sydney business centre from East Balmain will be 14 minutes and from Mort Bay 21 minutes, even the hallowed car cannot do that!

At a time when public transport is being eroded by both fare increases and cuts in services and the car continues to be pushed as the answer to all transport problems we hope that all Association members (and their friends) will reconsider ferries. If at all possible try the new services and be surprised at the advantages of ferry travel.

or cars



After all, Sydney has one of the finest harbours in the world capable of sustaining a public water transport system second to none, at a cost considerably less than that of the proposed freeway network. The noise, the rush, the bustle, the foul air of inner Sydney worsens day by day; the morning and evening rush-hour to and from work has lengthened to 2 or 3 hours causing increased travel times. Even off-peak traffic flow is significantly slower as more and more vehicles cram the roads.

In the words of Moss Cass, ex-Federal Minister for the environment (Habitat vol.2, No. 3): "Every car with one passenger that roars off down the freeway has removed forever a certain amount of steel, glass and petroleum from the world's stock. It burns fuel which can never be recovered. It poisons air. It creates unwelcome noise, adds to congestion, and mars the visual horizon. And it feeds industries which repeat this effect a hundred times over. Of a car's major components, steel fouls the air and water at the stages of extraction and manufacture, tyres litter the countryside at the end of their consumption cycle, and no-one is sure of the ultimate influence of plastics, which persist in non-biodegradable form or burn as acrid gases.

Freeways mar the urban environment and divide communities, destroy old established townscapes - usually low cost housing - and cut swathes through open space and all too scarce parklands, while older and poorer suburban access roads deteriorate yearly. And everywhere, springing up like poisonous toadstools, are car parks, petrol stations, used car yards, panel beaters, and spare parts suppliers.

from the tiger's lair

RATES

Of the thirty-eight shires and municipalities in and around Sydney, Leichhardt has the dubious honour of paying the third highest rates.

For example, for a UCV of say \$10,000 rates are:

\$ 84 in Hunters Hill
\$125 in Lane Cove
\$ 90 in Ku-ring-gai
\$ 90 in Mosman
and \$199 in Leichhardt

Growth centres like Campbelltown and Sutherland have heavy demands on new roads and municipal services yet for a comparative UCV of \$10,000 the rates in these areas are only \$170 and \$138.

Where does our money go? Last year Council made loud noises saying that the 45% increase in rates then was necessary largely in order to repay the \$500,000 loan raised by the previous Council. We now know (LINK 4.9.75) that this year the debt is in fact budgeted to rise to \$600,000 and the rates will rise a further 18%. When compounded our rates have made a record breaking 71% jump in the seventeen months since this present Council took office.

After taking into account the effects of inflation this Council over the past twelve months has spent \$1,000,000 more than the previous Council. It is budgeting to do the same again this year. Have you noticed any improvement in the services being offered by Council recently?

PARTICIPATION

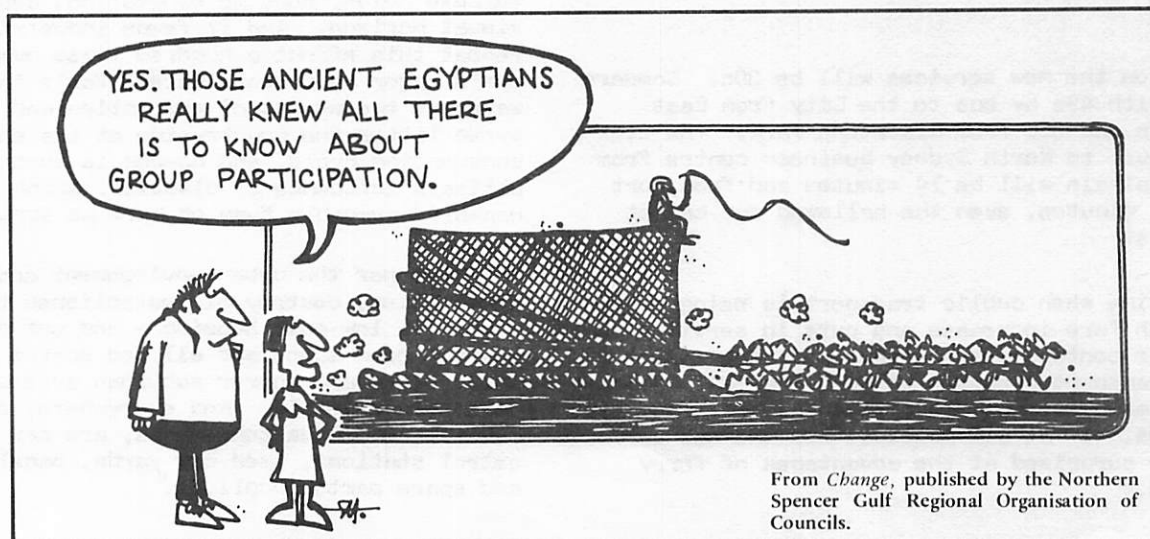
The Association

Now that Association membership is approaching 500 we feel that more people may like to contribute their ideas on the role the Balmain Association should be playing in the community. This can of course be done by attending general meetings or even joining the Management committee (there is currently one vacancy). However, for those of you who don't (or can't) attend meetings we shall be starting a "letters-to-the-editor" section in the newsheet where you can express your views on any topic relative to the Balmain-Rozelle peninsula. We are always short of "feature" articles so if you have a bent for these or wish to write a letter, send all correspondence to the editor, Balmain Association Newsletter, P.O. Box 57, Balmain NSW 2041.

Council Matters

Public participation should not be a substitute for decision-making, but an advisory process, which helps to provide decision-makers with a solid basis for their choice. Some may see public participation as the solution to all problems, others (like Leichhardt Council) say it leaves government wide open to minority pressure groups by exposing aldermen to their electorate! However, it has been shown time and again that unless government decisions - local, state and federal - are soundly based on community preferences they are likely to founder.

As for minority pressure groups like the Association, every level of government has always been exposed to these; but it is far better for them to act overtly, so that their actions are open to public scrutiny, than to have them operating behind closed doors.



From *Change*, published by the Northern Spencer Gulf Regional Organisation of Councils.

NEW PLAN FOR TOWN HALLS

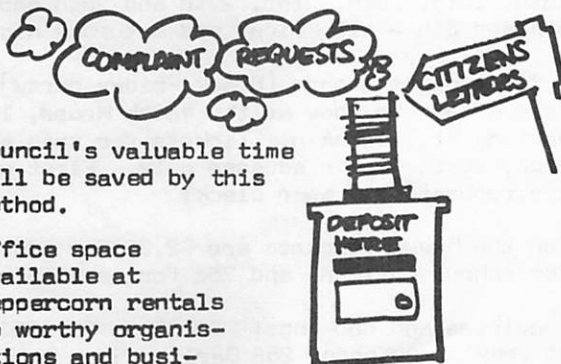
A. Reliable Source has informed us that Council's plans for revitalising the Town Halls include the following far-sighted projects.

Mr. Source, an experienced observer of local government affairs, says that the concept is so advanced that it should radicalise the thinking of all other councils, who are expected to follow suit.

The plans are rumoured to include:



- * A sound-proof barrier between the Council Chambers and the public gallery so that Council meetings will not be disturbed by noisy interjections. An added advantage will be that the residents will not be able to hear the aldermen either.
- * An incinerator at the entrance to each town hall for residents to deposit their letters, petitions, etc. An innovative feature is that the incinerator will play a recorded message, saying "received and noted". It is expected that a considerable amount of



Council's valuable time will be saved by this method.

- * Office space available at peppercorn rentals to worthy organisations and businesses. It is understood that

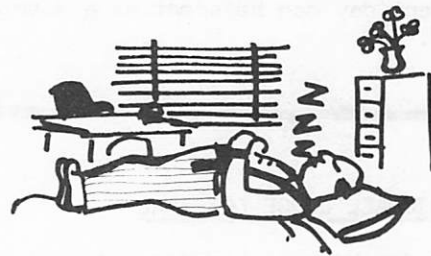
applications from SOTO (Stamp Out Trees Organisation) and Perk's Development have already been received and are being favourably considered.

- * Removal of all women's toilet facilities. This is part of an overall scheme to keep women in the home where they belong.



- * Bulletproof residences for the aldermen. A well known local welding works is expected to be commissioned to provide iron curtains to keep the communists out.

- * Extra office space for retired staff members who have given loyal service. These offices will feature beds so that elderly ex-staff members can work on a consultative basis and still have their afternoon nap. It is hoped that this move will obviate the need to replace retiring staff.



Mr. Source claims that these are only a few of the features expected to be included in the re-vamping of the Town Halls.

It is anticipated that a press statement will soon be released, pointing out that these changes are entirely in keeping with the way this modern, progressive council is being run and should greatly add to its efficiency.

balmain garden walk - 76

Our annual garden walk is planned for Sunday, April 11 commencing at 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Two circuits will be available - one based on Birchgrove and one on Balmain. Margaret Dobson, Les Henley and Ken Oates are currently drawing up the route and would like to hear from anyone who has a garden or courtyard worth exhibiting. Gardens in the Glassop St.- Grove St. area would be particularly welcome; please phone Margaret (82 2774) if you are interested or know of a suitable neighbour's garden.

If you want to help on the day, Ken Oates would like to hear from you - telephone 82 0576.

cricket day

The annual intra-association cricket match was held on 18th January at Birchgrove Oval. Due to a prior booking we were unable to play on 25th January as indicated in the last newsletter, but were given the 18th as a substitute. The match turned out to be a double "cock-up" as the London Hotel 'B' team also turned up to play. However, the day was not lost as we selected a "thirteen" from the association to play the London Pub crowd. Final result was a convincing win by us 80 runs to 55.

The next (and last) match of the season will be a challenge to the Glebe Society - even though they always beat us! The most probable date for the event is Sunday 29th February commencing at 10.00 a.m., so if you want to play, ring Malcolm Garder on 82 1686 to reserve a place and to confirm the date. Even if you don't play cricket come anyway as a pleasant day can be spent as a spectator on the "hill".

RAFFLE - MICHAEL LODGE ORIGINAL

The raffle for Michael Lodge's original water colour of the Watch House has been drawn. The winning ticket was No. 482, Mr. B. Bidwell of Gipps St., Balmain.

Once again we would like to thank Wendy Stapleton and Vicki Sutton of the Balmain Gallery for commissioning the painting and donating it to the Association. The raffle has contributed \$120 towards our funds.

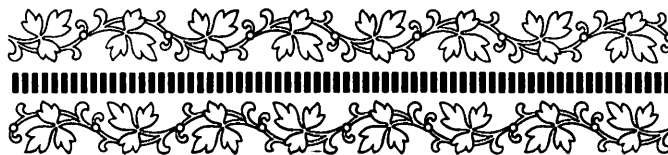
AT HOME

For some time now there has been growing concern at the lack of opportunity for members to meet informally, particularly new members and members with young families who may have problems with child minding.

Neil and Helen Oates have suggested that members, both old and new, will find them at home from noon on Saturday 7th February for a smorgasbord lunch - the Oates will provide the venue, the Association will provide the coffee, the members will provide the company plus their own smorgasbord.

So when Saturday morning's shopping is done, why not bring your bread, cheese, children, etc. and eat in the glorious company of other members at 8 Ford Street, Balmain.

(The possibility of a repeat performance of this great experiment depends on you).



BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

Balmain Theatre Group, now 5 years old, presents its first Revue, "Theatre of the Cream", an original production, opening on Friday February 13th at 8.00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain.

For a new experience come and see it on February 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th and March 5th and 6th - all Friday and Saturday nights.

A first night supper (Black Friday party) will be held after the show at the Watch House, 179 Darling St., Balmain. Tickets for this are \$1.50 each, available in advance only. First nighters are requested to wear black!

For the Revue, tickets are \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for school children and 75c for pensioners.

Enquiries and bookings: 82 1512, 82 5204 A.H. and at Gray's bookshop, 268 Darling St., Balmain.

community column

From time to time in this column we shall feature items relating to community services. In this issue Brian Medway, Assistant Minister at the Westside Centre (Montague St., Balmain) discusses the role of this non-denominational Community Centre created by the Balmain Methodist Mission.

THE WESTSIDE STORY

That the activities of the Methodist Church in Balmain differ from the more traditional "church image" is denoted in the title, 'Mission' rather than 'Church'. While it is true that all the more usual activities of a church, e.g. Sunday Services of worship, prayer meetings, young people's groups, specific pastoral counselling, marriages, funerals, etc, are carried out, the NSW Methodist Conference have agreed that the work in Balmain and Rozelle should take on a broader aspect and draw on the resources of a wider area than its own circuit boundaries. Donations of money, food, clothing and furniture, along with people from other churches giving their time and talents in a voluntary capacity make possible a more comprehensive attempt to respond to the needs of the community than would have been possible under normal circumstances. The majority of our activities are described below:

Direct Welfare Assistance

We often find that people who have been laid off from their jobs, deserted wives and husbands, large families existing on basic wage incomes, etc., need immediate relief from crises which is not possible through the various Government agencies. We are able to assist people in applying for benefits due to them, as well as providing limited financial help, provision of food and clothing to meet their need. We often find our role as speaking out on behalf of folk from the community who find themselves victims of inefficiency and complacency on the part of Government and other authority groups.

Migrant Welfare

The Mission has the full time services of a qualified social worker whose specific field is migrants and migrant problems. Mr. Saad is, himself an Egyptian and studied for his degree in Social Work in Cairo. He has an office in the Mission building and works from there.

Pensioner's Lunches

We are fortunate in having a group of ladies who work a roster system to cook for pensioners each day, Monday to Friday. They provide a hot two course meal for 40c which is served in the dining room at the rear of the Mission building from approx. 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Opportunity Shop

This shop which is situated on the Llewellyn St. side of the building really serves two purposes. People from all over the state send us their second hand clothes. These are sorted and stored in the shop and are distributed free where there is a need. Otherwise these clothes are sold for a nominal price (e.g. 30c a pair of shoes, 40c a dress, \$1.50 for a suit). But the price is also varied to meet the people's ability to pay. This money then goes to provide the welfare services mentioned above. The shop is also staffed by voluntary workers and is open from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and up to 12.00 noon on Saturday.

Counselling and Referral

There are two full time ministers and a full time welfare officer who are experienced in marriage, family and general counselling. People undergoing crises, and emotional stress are assisted within the limits of our qualifications and where necessary, are referred to the required agencies. We have a close working relationship with most of the welfare and social service agencies.

Young People's Work

Most of our Youth work is conducted at our Rozelle property (cnr. Denison and Darling Sts.) and involves weekly programmes as well as camps and other weekend outings. There are also after school activities in one of the rooms at the Balmain centre (which has been specially set up for young people and 'done up' by them). Free lessons are given in guitar and other instruments along with less structured activities.

While the structured activities of the Mission have been mentioned, the people who belong to it feel strongly that they are working toward the same objectives by being involved in various groups in the community who are concerned with specific issues, e.g. education, environment, etc.

ROZELLE PRIMARY SCHOOL VACATION CENTRE

Together with Balmain Rotoract, the Association sponsored a vacation play centre at the Rozelle Primary School from January 5-23. The centre was well attended and offered a place to ride skateboards, supervised games, a full length film each Wednesday, and a barbeque lunch for 30c. This was the first joint venture with Balmain Rotoract - hopefully the forerunner of more frequent co-operative ventures in establishing community activities.

watch these dates !!!

February 3, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m. and

February 17, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.

Leichhardt Council Meetings, Town Hall,
Norton St., Leichhardt. A free evening of
entertainment!

February 4, Wednesday 8.00 p.m.

Association General Meeting at Watch House.

February 7, Saturday, from noon on

Bring your own smorgasbord to Neil and Helen
Oates' at 8 Ford St., Balmain (see note this
issue).

February 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 and March 5, 6.

Balmain Theatre Group Revue "Theatre of the
Cream" (see note this issue).

February 29, Sunday, 10.00 a.m.

Balmain Association vs. Glebe Society Annual
Cricket Match at Birchgrove oval. All welcome
bring your own refreshments (see note this
issue).

April 11, Sunday 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

Balmain Garden Walk (see note this issue).

new members

We wish to welcome the following new members to
the Association:

Ms Rowena & Ester Hackett
21 Bradford St., Balmain.

Mr. Bill Mori
32 Beattie St., Balmain.

Mr. James Anderson
58 Palace St., Petersham, 2049.

M. Asher
48 Louisa Rd., Birchgrove.

Ms M. Avent
F2/189 Darling St., Balmain.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Blackwood
9/10 Gow St., Birchgrove.

Ms E. McDowall
15 Slade St., Rozelle.

Ms M.R. Secombe
3/47 Wharf Rd., Birchgrove.

Mr. & Mrs. L. Calandra
15 St. Andrew St., Balmain.

Mr. S. Clements
18 Stephen St., Balmain.

Mr. & Mrs. D.J. McDermott
65 College St., Balmain.

M. Annix
31 Penkivil St., Bundi.

Mr. J. O'Farrell
43 Glassop St., Balmain.

K. Salvat
79 Grove St., Balmain.

Ms A. Spinner
8 Moore St., Rozelle.

Ms B. Weynton
61 Nelson St., Rozelle.

Mr. & Mrs. A. Wilson
6 Birchgrove Rd., Balmain.

Ms. K.C. Bennetts
34 Merton St., Rozelle.

Lambert and family
52 Rowntree St., Balmain.

Mr. R. Kattie
3 Cross St., Rozelle.

Mr. P.R. Holderness & Mr. I. Robinson
19 Mansfield St., Rozelle.

Ms A.K. Hawker
48 Wilton Tce., Yeronga, Qld. 4104.

membership form

I wish to open/renew my membership with the
Balmain Association and enclose 3.....*
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, FEBRUARY 4, 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING ST., BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

FRIENDS ALSO WELCOME

TEA and COFFEE PROVIDED