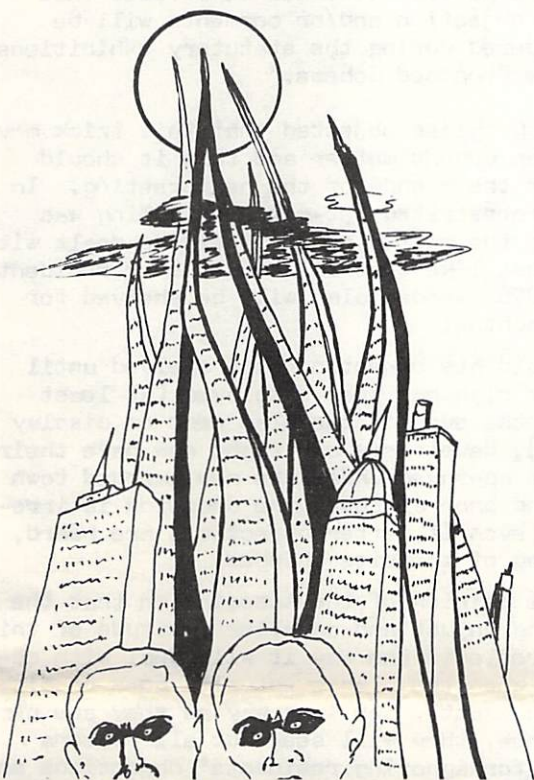


the balmain association



THE LEICHHARDT PLAN

There has been much speculation about what is happening to the Leichhardt Plan - and it can only be speculation as no one in The Planning and Environment Commission is going to 'let on' what is contained in any reports until a decision is made. Our own guess is that the Commission will ask Council a number of awkward questions which the Council will sit on for as long as they can.

The effects of the petition have nonetheless been quite dramatic, and the question of whether we conserve our environment or muck it with ill-considered redevelopment has become a real issue that the local newspapers and even politicians are showing an interest in. Maintaining this interest and broadening it is essential because it appears that our aldermen do not understand what it is all about.

The essential principles of the 1974 Plan which must be maintained in whatever comes out of the current brawl are:

1. The Leichhardt Planning Scheme must be based on a recognition of and respect for the social, economic, aesthetic and cultural value of what exists now in the Municipality. This does not mean that no changes should be permitted but it does mean that

piecemeal redevelopment, which is out of scale and character, must not be permitted to occur.

2. In those areas which could benefit from some redevelopment, detailed local 'action plans' should be prepared by the Council with the co-operation of residents in the affected area - before any codes which will encourage flats or any other kind of development are announced. This is not too expensive or impractical and has been carried out by many councils in Sydney. Relevant examples are the City of Sydney's North Newtown and South Paddington Plans.

These principles of the 1974 Plan are not expressions of elitist values. They are quite basic to the protection of the great majority of residents.

The Mayor has claimed in many recent articles that because the population of the Municipality is falling, redevelopment is necessary for the economic well-being of its residents. If he is serious, he should substantiate his case. To do so the Council should commission from urban economists a cost/benefit study which makes long term comparisons of the effects on rates per capita of present ratepayers of an increased population and a lower population. The actual quantity and impact of the development necessary to make any difference to the rate burden should be described; which sections of the community would be affected and in what way should also be described; and the extra expenditure by Council (over what is needed to maintain existing assets) that might be incurred because of an increased rate of redevelopment should be estimated.

In the context of the Mayor's arguments it is also worth noting that recent PEC population analyses indicate that the rate of population decline, which has been experienced in the inner suburbs of Sydney in recent years, is falling. In other words, fears that the population will continue to fall may be groundless.

In conclusion:

- The 1974 Plan was based on a strong expression from the people of Leichhardt that they did not wish to be disturbed by redevelopment of a major kind - which was again demonstrated by the recent petition.
- There is no evidence that, as claimed by Mayor Rodwell, a redevelopment policy will reduce the rate burden. If he continues to claim it would, he should substantiate his claim with proper studies (of the quality that produced the 1974 Plan).

council report

COUNCIL SETS NEW RECORD

Dan Casey, stand-in mayor for Les Rodwell at the May 18 Leichhardt Council meeting, has set a new speed record.

The May 18 meeting opened at 8.02 p.m. and all business had been rubberstamped by 9.17 p.m. One and a quarter hours is a new all-time municipal record for a Council meeting.

During the meeting only Aldermen Casey, Dougherty, Spedding and Origlass spoke. There was no contribution at all from Aldermen Hoy, Haffernan, Campbell, Pursehouse, Millard, Cawley or Wilson.

What a depressing comment on the level of involvement and interest in the running of our Municipality when seven out of eleven aldermen present, say nothing during a whole meeting!

OPEN COUNCIL 1976 STYLE

Residents are no longer allowed to speak before Council.

The Leichhardt Planning Forum recently made several requests, both verbal and written, for David Porter, the Association President, to address Council in order to outline the objections which residents had to the devastating 1976 proposed Town Plan. In effect he wanted to speak on behalf of the 16000 residents of Leichhardt Municipality who signed the petition objecting to the plan. The requests were refused - no reason, no discussion.

Another, different, example. Mrs. Brady and other residents of Emma Street, Leichhardt presented to Council a petition objecting to a nuisance caused by an industry in their street. In the letter accompanying the petition, Mrs. Brady asked permission to discuss the matter at Council. But this was not to be. At the meeting she showed great determination in trying to be heard above Casey's repeated shouts to sit down but in spite of following the correct procedures she too, and the other residents of Emma Street, were not allowed to speak.

From these two incidents, one representing more than 16000 residents, the other a local issue affecting only a small part of the Municipality, it is clear that this Council abhors even the thought of an open discussion with the people it pretends to represent.

quotes of the month

Casey to Origlass: "Ha, Ha! So you were trying to catch me with my duds down."

YET ANOTHER COUNCIL BAN

Right at the end of the May 3 meeting, Dan Casey put the following motion without notice;

"That any further objections and/or comments received on the Proposed 1976 Amended Leichhardt Planning Scheme be acknowledged and the people concerned be advised that their objection and/or comments will be considered during the statutory exhibitions of the Proposed Scheme."

Alderman Origlass objected that this trick move was not an urgent matter and that it should appear in the agenda of the next meeting. In a well orchestrated set-piece, a ruling was made that the matter could indeed be dealt with and so just like that all comments by residents on the 1976 amended plan will be shelved for several months.

While residents objections are shelved until after the plan has been displayed (at least three months even if the plan went on display tomorrow), developers can right now have their proposals approved under the new amended town plan. And once approved the decision is irreversible even if, after objections are heard, the zoning of the site changes.

It is the opinion of the Association that the prevailing unjust and cavalier attitude of this Council reflects the way it will deal with objections when the plan eventually goes on display. In exactly the same way as they are performing now, they will seek out all reasons possible for ignoring residents' objections so that their plan goes through untouched. In spite of such widespread opposition they have no intention of backing down and any apparent concessions to residents' wishes will be quite ambiguous.

DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST BALMAIN

1. Weston Street. Funds for the National Estate have all but evaporated under the Frazer government so it came as no great surprise that Council had been unsuccessful again this year in its attempt to have the Weston Street site bought by the National Estate and added to Peacock Park.

The developer has resubmitted his plans for this site (unchanged at 24 town houses etc) and Council has called for a model of the proposals to be submitted for examination before a decision is made.

2. 9-11 Clifton Street. This is a waterfront property at the northern end of the Balmain East peninsula. It is proposed to demolish the existing pair of large semis and build on the site seven town houses.

Residents have had talks with the developer and most of the initial objections have been overcome. Council has recommended approval of the proposals providing the Planning and Environment Commission has no objections.

BARGAIN BOOK SALE

at

**THE WATCH HOUSE
179 DARLING STREET
BALMAIN**

on

SATURDAY JUNE 5 at 2pm

**Large variety of children's
books 5^c 25^c 50^c \$1**

**Also
good quality & new books**



the balmain association

TENDERS FOR COUNCIL WORK

The Regulations of the Local Government Act say that Council is not required to call tenders or quotes for jobs which it estimates to cost less than \$8,000 - that's a high figure isn't it?

OPEN COUNCIL CASEY STYLE

At the May 18 meeting when Dan Casey acted as Mayor he opened the meeting and almost immediately welcomed the thirty or so residents in the gallery;

"If anyone in the gallery talks out of turn they will be asked to leave and if they don't I will be around with a summons for them the following morning."

This is the standard type of intimidation we have come to expect from Council these days. They are a group of men who have become far too arrogant and remote to be a benefit to the community.

They must be brought back to earth and the first opportunity to do this will be the September 1977 elections. We must right the wrong of '74 so that all residents once again have open access to their aldermen.

HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAVES MONEY

The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development, Senator Greenwood, recently announced that \$60,000 which had been set aside for 1975/76 Technical Assistance Grants had been axed as part of the Government's economy drive.

Technical Assistance Grants were established by Labour in 1973 to help resident and conservation groups prepare submissions which, in general, were a counterbalance to proposals by business, industry and developers. Two examples of the use of the Grants were; conservationists case against the woodchip industry and, the residents case against trucks from the ANL terminal in Mort Bay. The grants allowed groups to use technical resources which would otherwise be beyond their financial capacity.

Because business developers and industry see things in the light of profits accruing to them, the true cost to this community of their proposals often goes unrecorded. \$60,000 was a bargain basement price for the collection of this information. Because we do not assess the true overall cost doesn't mean that we don't pay in the long run.

These economics by Senator Greenwood are very shortsighted.

ferries

The three-month trial of the new peak period ferry service to Balmain finished on May 17. Patronage of the morning services has so far increased by 50 to 60 people a day while in the evening the increase has been about 15 to 30 people a day.

Increases of this size show that the new services are of value to Balmain residents and so the Association has written to the two private operators who run the services asking that they make the changes permanent.

The increased patronage remains however far below the full potential. One major reason for this, and certainly the most common complaint received about the services, has been the poor bus connections at McMahon's Point. They have been terrible, particularly in the evening. Most people no longer risk waiting for a bus that doesn't come, instead they travel by train via the City for the return journey in the evening.

In an effort to overcome this problem, Association representatives are to meet with the new Minister for Transport, Mr. Cox, within the next few days. Bus co-ordination and the printing of up-to-date timetables will be two specific topics which will be discussed.

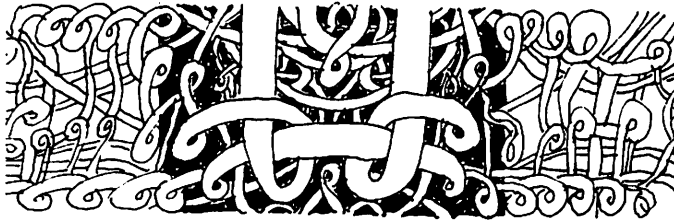
The new timetables are particularly relevant now that the evening services to Balmain and Hunters Hill have been restored and also because ferry services to Yeend Street wharf in Mort Bay are scheduled to recommence before the end of June.



PHOTOGRAPHING BALMAIN AND ROZELLE

Bob Entwistle, convenor of the Balmain High School media club has recently completed a mammoth project for the Association. He has just finished photographing all the stone houses and stone buildings plus all of the pubs and ex-pubs of Balmain and Rozelle. With help from the members of the media club he has been working on this task for the past twelve months.

There is a lot more to compiling a photographic record than just clicking the shutter as we all know, and even clicking the shutter is a skilled task! But Bob has done the lot, and has presented the Association with 300 excellent photographs. The Association is most grateful to have this valuable reference collection and once again extends its thanks to Bob for his tireless effort.



ART SHOW

One hundred drawings and paintings by Peter McRuvie will be on show at 8 White Street, Balmain on Sunday 6th June from 2 pm until 8 pm.

The exhibition ranges from still lifes of carrots to such topics as Corinthian Column Suffering from Acanthus Fever, The Washerwomen's Suicide and The Headmaster and the Cleaning Lady. In between there are Balmainscapes, watercolour landscapes, line drawings and lots of leaves, flowing garments, palaces, pipes, cupids, rabbits, faces, pubs and long noses. Something, perhaps, for everyone. Prices start at a very reasonable \$20 and stop at \$65. The Balmain Theatre Group will receive a commission on all sales.

Admission will be 50¢ and includes wine and cheese and a catalogue. Members and their friends will be free to wander around the house and garden (the house is listed by the National Trust).

NATIONAL TRUST CAMPAIGN FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES

The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) seeks your help in its campaign for new laws to protect historic buildings and sites in this State.

Such law has existed for many years in Western Europe, North America and other "developed" nations. In Australia, the Governments of Victoria and Western Australia have already legislated to protect our national heritage within their State boundaries.

As early as July 1973 The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) forwarded thoroughly researched proposals for legislation to the then Premier, Sir Robert Askin. In October 1973, one month before the last State elections, the Premier announced that his Government would establish a committee to advise the Government on the preservation of historic buildings and sites.

The Committee did not meet until early 1975, and the Government has not yet introduced any legislative measures.

Meanwhile, the demolition of historic buildings continues; the shameful neglect of historic buildings continues.

The National Trust is campaigning for the urgent introduction of legislation which provides for:

- (a) Compilation of an official list of historic buildings and sites in New South Wales;
- (b) Controls over the demolition of listed buildings;
- (c) Adequate fines for breaches of demolition regulations;
- (d) Financial assistance for owners of listed buildings.

You can help the National Trust in this campaign by writing to your local Member of the New South Wales Parliament, drawing his attention to the urgent need for legislation and the provisions which the legislation should include.

Authorised by
John Morris
Director
The National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.)

SOME FLOWERS FOR SPRING

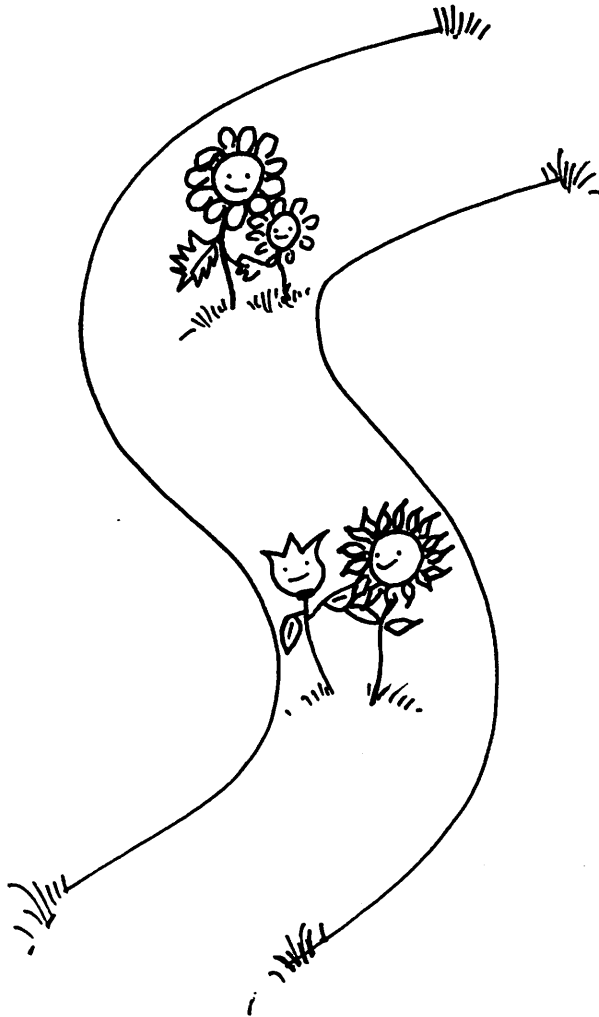
April is the last month to plant bulbs, corms and tubers that will flower in Spring.

There are many South African types that will give good results with minimum care.

Among these are Ixias, Sparaxis, Freesias, Watsonias, Tritonias, Babienas and Larchanalias for edgings; all are in many colours and not fussy about soil. If planted in a sunny spot, with good drainage, they will re-appear every year.

Fussy things such as Tulips, Hyacinths and Lilies of the Valley need better conditions, partial shade, old manure in the soil and some lime.

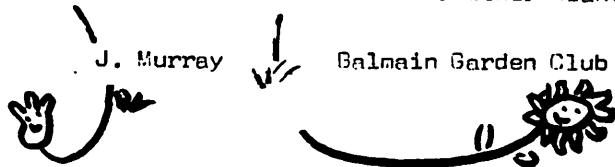
If, before planting, they are given four weeks in the crisp, in the bottom of the fridge, they may think they have had a cold winter, and flower better, but in the Sydney climate, they cannot be carried over our summer. Daffodils, too, often only flower one year, and need very good conditions to build up for another year. Jonquils give good results, and can be left for years.



Another old one that is good, with no trouble, is the Snowflake (*leucojum*); it flowers best in a large neglected clump, and is the earliest of the spring bulbs. Muscari (grape Hyacinth), are easy and make nice edgings (don't mistake the foliage for onion weed!).

Ranunculi and anemones only flower for one season, but are worth planting for their colour. They can be obtained as seedlings, if one has left things a bit late. Be sure to plant both these with points downwards.

All bulbs look best planted in irregular clumps, of three, or five, etc., and not in rows, but between other flowers. Do not cut off dying foliage, until quite dead, but when yellowing, can often be plaited and hidden under other plants.



MANAGEMENT MOVEMENTS

It is with regret that we announce the loss of two Management members this month - Bob Hooper and Roger Johnson.

Bob Hooper has been responsible for publicity and News Sheet production for the last 3 years. The excellent standard achieved by the Association's Newsletter has been due to Bob's tireless effort as editor. Most of the poster and pamphlets you have received in the last 3 years have also been the result of Bob's work. Thanks Bob and we hope you can still find time to do the odd piece of art work for us!

Roger Johnson is leaving shortly for two years post-graduate study in veterinary clinical surgery at Ontario State University, Canada. Roger has been active in the Association for 3 years also - in the areas of Council reports, Watch House projects and particularly watch-dc for the proposed Weston Street Town House Development. We wish Roger every success in Canada over the next two years.

One bright spot for Management is that Richard Kent, a new Association member with abilities in graphic design and publicity, has joined Management to share the load of News Sheet production - we welcome him with open arms!

There are still three Management vacancies, particularly for someone interested in fund raising, Council reporting or Watch House restoration. Do you know somebody, particular a newly joined member, who might be interested? If so please get in touch with any management member or David Porter 827 1081.

BOUQUETS

This month we have reorganised our News Sheet distribution areas and would like to thank Celia Black, Roger Johnson and Richard Waterfield, who are no longer able to continue delivering. A special thanks to Richard Waterfield, an original Association member who ran the Fund Raising Sub-committee for several years and also held a Christmas barbeque and two house inspections at his place.

A big welcome to the following new area distributors:

Vic & Pam Duncombe	(Elkington Park area)
Veronica Hagarty	(Rozelle)
Mary-Rose Lynch	(East Balmain)
Jennifer Matkovich	(Campbell St. area)
Caroline Fricke	(Ballast Pt. Road area)

watch these dates!!!

- June 1, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m. and
June 15, Tuesday, 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meetings, Town Hall,
Norton Street, Leichhardt.
- June 2, Wednesday, 8.00 p.m.
Assn. General Meeting at Watch House.
- June 5, Saturday, 2.00 p.m.
Sale of children's books at the
Watch House.
- June 6, Sunday, 2.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Paintings by Peter McRuvie on show at
8 White St., Balmain. Admission 50 ¢
includes wine & cheese plus catalogue.
(see note this issue).
- July 10, Saturday, from noon on
Bring your own Smorgasbord to Jenny &
Vern Reid's at 30 Gipp St., Balmain.
- July 23 to August 7, 8.00 p.m.
Balmain Theatre Group's production of
"Wind in the Branches of the Sassafras
Tree".
- July - Publication of "Half a Thousand Acres"
Peter Reynolds' and Paul Flottman's latest
book on the history of Balmain.

new members

The Association welcomes the following new members:

- Mr. T. Wilson
2/5 Pearson St.,
Balmain East.
- Mr. C. Turner
33 Bradford St., Balmain.
- M. Oliver & A. King
38 Fitzroy Ave., Balmain.
- Mrs. R. McLucas
6N Block K,
Elliot St., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. L.G. London
186 Short St., Balmain.
- M/s K. Feldman
47 Palmer St., Balmain.

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

- Tim Lenehan
58 Rowntree St., Balmain.
- M/s M. Lewis
121 Curtis Rd., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. R. Reeves
115 Curtis Rd., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. J. Thompson
6 Campbell St., Balmain.
- Veronica Hagarty
4 Goodsir St., Rozelle.
- Dr. & Mrs. R. Hyde
24 Palmer St., Balmain.
- Mrs. E.J. Manwaring
15/26 East Parade, Eastwood.
- M/s J. Parsons
82 Church St., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. J.H. Wootten
18 Pearson St., Balmain.
- M/s C. Gibson
68 Campbell St., Balmain.
- Mrs. Isberg
79 Curtis Rd., Balmain.
- Mrs. K. McAuley
1/27 Church St., Balmain.
- Mrs. E. McMahon
11 Mort St., Balmain.
- Mrs. C. Pickering
11 Short St., Balmain.
- Mrs. H. Webster
27 Springside St., Rozelle.
- Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Trimble
91 Mansfield St., Rozelle.
- Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Parker
25 Darling St., Balmain East.
- M/s B. Phillips
27 Harris St., Rozelle.
- Mr. & Mrs. G. Whale
40 Thomas St., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. W.D. Evans
99 Rowntree Street, Balmain.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING ST., BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND

FRIENDS WELCOME

TEA and COFFEE PROVIDED.