

the balmain association



The illustration shown is from the Half a Thousand Acres: Balmain, a History of the Land Grant jacket design by Harry A. Stephens, Lecturer in Architecture, University of N.S.W. The book, by Peter Reynolds & Paul Flottmann, is now being printed for the Association and contains 165 pages & 24 illustrations.

president's report 1975-1976

It has been a good year for the Association. Interest in our activities has been rising steadily over the past eighteen months and membership is now around the 500 mark, the highest ever.

I am sure the reason for this growth is largely due to the broad range of activities in which the Association has been engaged; opposition to Weston Street and Hoskin Street developments, children's paint-in, the Village

Fair, ferry services, Mort Bay container terminal, the history group, "Clontarf" and so on. But in addition it is recognised that the present council has had a unifying effect on the community, there is opposition to its arrogant performances and this must have also helped increase our membership.

The Town Plan

The affairs of council have dominated activities in Balmain over the past twelve months in particular their efforts to steamroller through a destructive and ill-conceived town plan.

We all acknowledge the need for a new town plan. But disregarding the 1974 plan in preference to the bastardised plan thrown up by the present aldermen, (with the complete exclusion of residents to participate) has been too much. Three times council has had to put its plan to the Planning and Environment Commission before it was accepted and resident opposition has never been more unified - a petition opposing the second plan collected 16,000 names in only three weeks.

When the new draft Town Plan goes on display it is in every resident's interest to examine it closely. Lodge an objection if you have queries or doubts about its effect on you or your area. This will be your last chance. If the last gazetted plan is any guide we will have to live with this new plan for the next twenty-five years.

The News Sheet

The News Sheet has completed its first year on a monthly edition basis. This doubles the amount of work required, but with co-editors we have somehow managed to meet the dead-lines. David McCann, Bob Hooper and Richard Kent produced the News Sheet last year, Diane McCann and Narelle Hooper did the typing and Jenny Burton organised the distribution. About fifteen members did the legwork of distribution, so in total more than twenty people are needed to get each News Sheet out. However, the effort does produce results.

The News Sheet is our most effective method of communication, not only have members commented on this, but it is evidenced by the regular extraction of articles by the local papers and occasionally the national press.

My thanks, and I'm sure those of all other members, go to the team who create and deliver the News Sheet, this is the key to the success of the Association at the moment.

Ferries

In the past twelve months the Balmain ferry service has improved significantly. The Association was responsible for the negotiations with the ferry operators which resulted in the commencement of a new service connecting Balmain and North Sydney and an improvement in the service to Mort Bay. These improvements were started on a trial basis in February 1976 and although passenger response has not been as good as originally projected, taken overall, the new services are an improvement on the old and they are now operating on a permanent basis. Other improvements have been the re-introduction of the evening ferries, the reduction in fares and the imminent reopening of Yeend Street wharf in Mort Bay.

The Watch House

The Watch House has continued to be used as a community facility. As well as being used for most of the Association's meetings, Rotaract meet each second Tuesday, the Balmain Garden Club, the Leichhardt Planning Forum and the History Sub-committee each meet one night each month and the Balmain Theatre Group and several other groups use it occasionally. In spite of heavy wear and tear and the theft of a beautiful Georgian wall clock, management has encouraged the use of the Watch House as a community service. I hope this attitude continues to be developed.

While on the topic of use of the Watch House, I must record the fate of the Children's Library. Opened in the Watch House on 19th December 1970, at a time when local school libraries were virtually non-existent, the library operated successfully for two years. From 1973 on however, school libraries improved out of sight and patronage of the Watch House library dropped away. The library closed about twelve months ago and since that time there has been no pressure to have it reopened. To prevent the books decaying through lack of use it was decided to sell them. This has been done.

Fund Raising

1976 has been a bumper year for the fund raising group. Led by Diana McDonald, this group has made \$2,100 for the Association, more than double our previous best.

The principal contributors were the Village Fair and the Garden Walk. But there were other smaller but equally enjoyable events throughout the year; Jail House Rock, the Cricket Days, the Christmas Barbeque and last months Pawan's Restaurant.

But the Village Fair stood out; the colour, the atmosphere and the number and variety of stalls all contributed to making this a marvellous social event.

All events need organising, but the Fair is a huge task. The sub-committee which organised the Fair for the past three years is standing down, but we have had good fortune,

a new group has come forward. They have already made their mark; this year's fair will go on into Saturday night, November 20. Keep it in mind.

In summary our fund raising and social events were:-

Lindsay raffle	\$ 201
Jail House Rock	92
Village Fair	549
Garden Walk	718
Christmas Barbeque	Social
Cricket Matches	Social
Children's Paint-in	Social
Book Sale	382
Michael Lodge raffle	122
Pawans restaurant	36
10th Anniversary Dinner	Social
Total	\$2,100

Management Meeting Attendance

Twelve management meetings were held during the year and the following attendances were recorded:

Member	Meetings Attended	Possible Attendances	
David Porter	12	12	
David McCann	11	12	
Richard Norman	11	12	
Evelyn Walker	8	12	Leave of absence 3
Diana McDonald	9	12	
Ken Oates	8	12	
Margaret Dobson	8	9	Co-opted during year
Bob Hooper	6	7	Resigned during year
Roger Johnson	5	7	- " -
Sandy Halley	3	6	- " -
Pauline Shelley	2	4	- " -
Richard Kent	3	5	Co-opted during year

The New President

The management team over the past three years has had its ups and downs. I believe that it could not and should not be any other way for as soon as the Association stops moving and changing, it is history. Yet this flexibility has been balanced by the efficient management abilities of Richard Norman, Evelyn Walker and Margaret Dobson. The combination of these forces has given the Association the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and it is this which has brought the Association into its twelfth year in such a strong position.

I am standing down this year and I want to thank sincerely all members of management for helping me these past three years. The Association has given me a lot, I only hope that my effort has returned to the Association something near the satisfaction and enjoyment I have taken out.

I wish the new President every success.

David Porter.

treasurer's report

The past year has seen a rise in the activity of the Association within the community and this has led to an increase of membership. For a while we had over 500 members, though the number has fallen recently and I ask all those who are due to renew that they do so soon.

We have completed a very successful Ferry Report and Container Report (in association with BRAG) and were successful in obtaining a grant from the Australian Government for the container report.

Fund-raising has been very active and many thanks to all those who put many hard hours into organizing the events. The outcome has been good for the Association all round and we have managed to have a surplus of income this year that will enable the Association to have funds to carry on its business

as usual when the majority of our reserves will be depleted by printing our new publication "Half A Thousand Acres". The Commonwealth Trading Bank has approved a loan of \$3,000 towards the printing of the book which has to be paid back over a three-year period.

Overall the Association is riding high again, having a few years back been in the position where it was seriously considered whether it should keep going. We have a few projects coming, one of which is an unemployment committee and in November the annual Village Fair.

My thanks once again to all those I have worked with and I thank those in advance who will be looking after the financial side while I am away and regret that I will be unable to give this report personally. My special thanks to David Porter, under whose guidance the Association is again to the forefront in many community battles.

30th June, 1976

Richard Norman.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	\$.		\$.
Membership	928	Petty Cash	144
Bank Interest	316	Hire P.O. Box	15
Commonwealth Grant-Container	3,300	Donations.	
Donations:		St. Andrews Congregational Church	60
Watch House	90	N.S.W. Environment Centre	25
Trailer Tours	8	Watch House.	
M. Garder	250	Public Risk Insurance	10
F. Fricke	330	Fire Insurance	48
Royal Aust. Historical Society	50	Pest Control	30
Teachers' Balmain Walk	33	Electrical Repairs	40
Miscellaneous	14	Electricity	22
Fund Raising.		Miscellaneous	14
Gables Restaurant	324	Subscriptions.	
Lindsay Raffle	228	Save Public Transport Committee	5
Jail House Rock	309	Royal Aust. Historical Society	17
Jail House Rock Raffle	22	National Trust, N.S.W.	10
Wine Sales	9	Fund Raising.	
10th Anniversary Dinner	380	Gables Restaurant	270
Village Fair	828	Lindsay Raffle	27
Garden Walk	842	Jail House Rock	239
Book Auction & Stall	403	10th Anniversary Dinner	524
M. Lodge Raffle	148	Village Fair	279
Publications.		Garden Walk	124
Balmain in Time	508	Book Auction & Stall	21
Ferry Report	6	M. Lodge Raffle	26
Christmas Cards	13	Community Services.	
Miscellaneous.		Govt. Grant Mort Bay Containers (Note A)	3,806
Cricket Day	13	Ferry Report	483
Glebe Book	3	Drop-in Centre, Rozelle	23
Miscellaneous	9	High Rise Protest	27
	25	Balmain Anti-Container Group	74
		Children's Paint-in	93
		Phoenix Kindergarten - Turf	48
		Photography - Balmain for Nat. Trust	38
		Publications.	
		News Sheet - Printing	644
		News Sheet - Postage	111
		Research - HALF A THOUSAND ACRES	219
		Miscellaneous.	
		Hire Cricket Ground	70
		Stationery	41
		Annual General Meeting	15
		R.A.H.S. Conference	30
		Paper Cups	67
		Advertising Balmain Festival	35
		Hire Night Safe Facilities	22
		Combined Meeting (Glebe & Annandale)	16
		Miscellaneous	40
			286
			7,802
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,562
			\$9,364
	\$9,364		

Note A. - The following disbursements were made :-

Vibration Report	\$400
Residential Effect of Containers	600
Co-ordinator/Planner	1,000
Acoustical Report	730
Administration, Typing and Collating of Reports	1,079
	<u>\$3,809</u>

BALANCE SHEET.

	\$.		\$.
Accumulating Account as at 1.7.1975	4,436	General A/c. - C.S.B	1,193
Excess of income over expenditure	1,562	Interest Bearing Deposit - Cth. Trading Bank	500
Balmain Theatre Group Bond	100	Savings Investment A/c - Cth. Savings Bank	2,020
		Savings Investment A/c. - Bank of N.S.W.	1,213
		Savings A/c. - N.S.W.	854
		Electricity Deposit	10
		100 x \$2 shares - Leichhardt Local	200
		Petty Cash	8
		I.B.D. C.T.B. Bond	100
	<u>\$6,098</u>		<u>\$6,098</u>
Membership as at 30/6/1976	491 Adult		
	4 Junior		
	<u>495</u>		

Balmain in Time.

Books on hand as at 30/6/1976 - 1,009 @ 24c. each - \$242.16.

HISTORY GROUP REPORT

The Group's most important task in the year just concluded was the final preparation of the manuscript and illustrations for "Half a Thousand Acres" for the printer. Proof-reading and checking of the printer's work also has been a major task.

Newspaper reading continued and the Group's index card collection is growing.

Balmain Family Tree research has been carried on and much of interest has come to light. The Tree of 155 names from 1713 to 1974 has been charted and only awaits title block and addition of recent information to make it complete. A family history of Australians whose surname is Balmain will be compiled from this information.

Regrettably, the group has been unable to make a start on "The Balmain Waterfront" book although a strip-photograph of the waterfront from White Bay around to Iron Cove Bridge has been taken.

Once again, I have the pleasant task of thanking the stalwarts of the Group for their continuous support and encouragement; Gladys Chanter, John Engle, Margaret Dobson and Rita Wise. I should like to express my gratitude to Hal Wise for his assistance with photographic work through the past year.

Peter Reynolds.

council report

Council meetings of 6th and 20th July.

During these two meetings hardly a constructive word was heard from the aldermen, save for Alderman Origlass (Balmain). Main interest of the gallery now centres on whether or not Council Labour Caucus can crash through business in record time.

Council continues to use the cloak of office to silence its critics.

One incident involved the questionable use of standing orders to silence Ald. Origlass who was opposing Council approval of a Development Application. The Town Planner recommended disapproval. Not until during right of reply did Ald. Casey (Rozelle) introduce previously undisclosed reasons. Ald. Origlass was refused further comment.

The second involved the 'secreting', within the Health and Building Report of a petition from Balmain residents of Rowntree Street. This petition objected to a renovation that blocked views. Residents objected that Council failed to inform people, other than adjoining property owners. Not until the conclusion of the meeting was it discovered that the petition was received. Council then refused to discuss the petition as the Health and Building report had been adopted in total and, therefore, business was concluded.

Council, contrary to the practise of the previous council of first seeking resident opinion and making a stand on issues on behalf of residents, adopted a procedure of asking public authorities and utilities first for their opinions. Council then usually adopts these opinions as the way in which Council should respond. Powers which Council could use in residents' interests are forfeited.

Waterfront Developments

Area bounded by Cooper St., Darling St. and The Avenue.

With a National Estate Grant not forthcoming on this site for open space, the D.A. for town houses and marina is being pressed again. A change in zoning to allow this development is likely. However, in order that it may proceed it is believed that the Council Town Planner is going to call for the widening of Cooper Street.

Edward Street, Balmain

Once again residents sought a works inspection on a new plan for a vacant site opposite Peacock Point Park. Council refused a further inspection with Ald. Hoy pressing for approval of the application.

Annual General Meeting

Lower Town Hall, Balmain

Wednesday, August 11, at 8 pm

Election of Management 1976/77

Nominations will be taken from the floor for any positions for which prior nominations have not been received. All members are requested to come and vote. Wine and cheese provided.

new members

The Association would like to welcome the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Books
13 Beach Street, Gladesville
Jennifer Deveney
1 Wisbeach Street, Balmain
W.D. & P.A. Evans
99 Rowntree Street, Balmain
Mr. H. Knutzelius
68 Campbell Street, Balmain
Jim, Carol and Rachel Oliver
10 Waterview Street, Balmain
Alan Rodd
12 Spring Street, Balmain
St. Augustine's School,
Eaton Street, Balmain

Ms. P. Studd
125 Beattie Street, Balmain
A.G. & R.N. Tinlin
41 Wortley Street, Balmain
Wayne and Anita Mortimer
41 Cove Street, Birchgrove
Mr. & Mrs. G. Howard
16 Llewellyn Street, Balmain
M.P. and B.A. Hooker,
151 Beattie Street, Balmain
Mrs. J. Nielssen
44 Church Street, 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

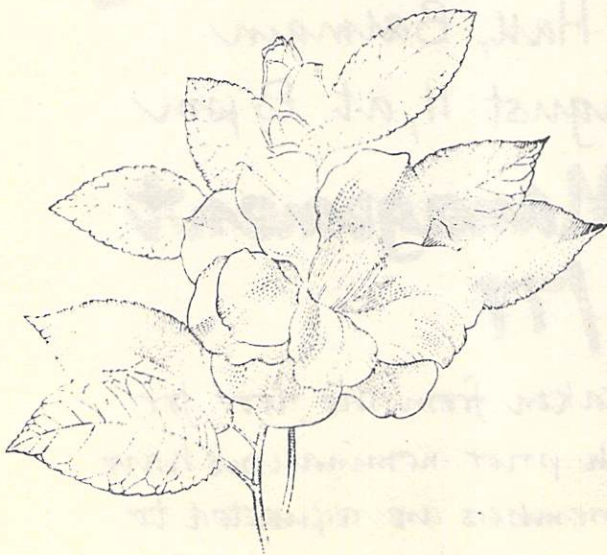
watch these dates!!!

August 3, Tuesday, 8.00 pm and
August 17, Tuesday, 8.00 pm
Leichhardt Council Meetings
If you can spare the time, please attend.

August 11, Wednesday, 8.00 pm
Balmain Association ANNUAL General Meeting
Lower Town Hall, Balmain.
Election of Management for 1976/77
Please attend, wine & cheese provided!

August 21, Saturday
Balmain Garden Club. Trip to Lisgar
Garden, Hornsby. Please assemble
10 Waterview Street, Balmain, at 1 p.m.
Enquiries: 82 2812

November 20, Saturday
Balmain Village Fair
Watch for more details in later issues.



PLANT A CAMELLIA

Camellias originated in China, in an elevated and cool environment, with even rainfall throughout the year, so for really good results similar conditions are required. However, many varieties can stand a wide range of climate. We can grow more varieties here than in Queensland, and the further south here, the better they become. But even in South Australia, with its dry hot climate and limestone soil, they are grown also, though mainly in containers with acid soil specially prepared.

The Camellias were imported into Europe in 1792 in an endeavour to start tea growing; the Chinese who were to supply the plants sent the ornamental cousins of the tea plant. Whether this was by accident or design, is not known. Among the plants sent was the variety Alba Plena, which is still widely grown and shown as an example of a classical white formal camellia. However, one hesitates to recommend it as a home garden variety, as unless the aspect is exactly right, there is frequently trouble with the buds failing to open.

Camellias were introduced to Australia in 1831 by the MacArthurs and those plants are still growing. Actually camellias are extremely long-lived, and in Japan specimens are said to be up to 1,000 years old.

For our summers filtered sunlight from higher trees is ideal, also required is acid soil with no lime, but plenty of compost, damp peat moss, cow manure and leaf mould. Mulching is needed in the summer with liberal watering. When planting out, see it is not put in any deeper than it was in the container. Very little pruning is needed; remove any dead wood and if shaping is needed, do it after flowering is finished. If the plant is carrying too many buds, it can be disbudded with a careful sideways twist. Only allow young plants (under three feet) a couple of flowers, just to see the type. It is an idea to attend some camellia flower shows to get an idea of the range available.

Just a word of caution! After gazing spell-bound at such examples of perfection as Sawada's Dream, the Silver Chalice and Chang's Temple, do not rush off and buy without a chat to the stewards of the Show who are always helpful with information on what varieties are likely to do best in the home garden.

Some varieties of Camellias to grow in almost complete shade include Debutante, Fimbriata, Gauntletti and Shiro Chan. For half day sun and remainder shade, try Guilio Nuccio, Iwans or Elegans. Some types can stand practically full sun; among these are Edith Linton, Emperor of Russia, Great Eastern and Moshio.

You might like to try one in a wooden tub. Some suitable for this are Polar Bear, Nancy Bird and the Czar.

J. Murray.



So much for the good news. Now comes the qualifications. There is no such thing as precedence in these cases. This means that in theory a new plan could be submitted and considered without objectors being able to site this decision as a precedent for rejection. Those who would like to see Peacock Point Park extended along the Weston Street frontage can hope again - but unless some way can be found to raise the money to buy the site, developers will try again.

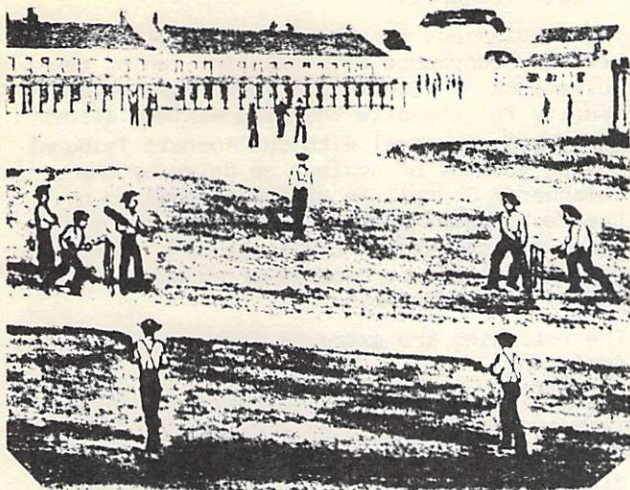
LAUGH WITH THE "LINK"

In their front page story on the '76 Town Plan, the "Link" reports, 28-7-76:-

"Strong residential support will give them (Council) an edge (over the Minister, Harry Jensen) in at least one issue - that of population density.

With enough support the population density could be raised from the compromise 1:1 ratio to the Council's recommended 1:4."

What a joke! After the Planning and Environment Commission and 16,000 Leichhardt residents told Council what it thought of its lousy "rip-it-down-and-built-home-units" town plan Les Rodwell has the gall to hope that residents will urge for an increase in density. The pressure has been too much Les, chuck it in!



ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

The Association is considering forming a cricket team to play in a suitable local competition. Any member interested in transferring from another club or taking up the game again on a semi-regular basis is asked to contact Ralph Gatts 20982 Xtn 9254 or at home on 82 4350.

BALMAIN ROZELLE UNEMPLOYMENT CENTRE

Have you ever been unemployed? I have not so I didn't know a lot about unemployment until I attended a Workshop in Unemployment. The Workshop included half a dozen unemployed people and it stimulated me to join a group aiming to help unemployed people - to fill the gaps left by help from schools, employers and the Commonwealth Employment Service. There are many ways possible but our group believes that an "Unemployment Centre" is required.

The Balmain Rozelle Unemployment Centre will comprise a series of local groups of unemployed people coming together for training, counselling and just meeting. Each group will control its own density, perhaps including casual work and social functions in its programme. If funds can be obtained, a social worker will be employed so as to help each group find its feet.

We plan to make a start with a group for the young people of Balmain and Rozelle. We intend to provide a meeting place at Balmain Town Hall for these people to come to, one which we hope will appeal to them and in which they will structure the things that happen.

We would like to hear now from people interested in helping the group. Obviously social workers, psychologists and personnel officers would be most helpful, but there will be voluntary roles for people in many other areas. A few examples are publicity, operating video equipment and "good listeners". Ring 827 1081.

Ian Sadler

for the "Balmain Rozelle Unemployment Centre"

CASUAL JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

The Westside Centre is starting a group for unemployed people in the Balmain-Rozelle area. The aim of the group is to build the unemployed people up so as to help them over the period until they get their next job. One of the ways of doing this is for those without jobs to have a series of casual jobs. This will help them socially, financially and in the employment officers' eyes without hindering them from attending the C.E.S. interviews etc.

Can you help by providing suitable casual jobs? Members of the group can mow lawns, clear rubbish, babysit, distribute leaflets, carry out small household repairs, etc. etc. Can they do that job you've been meaning to do for your wife/husband for several weeks, but never quite get around to doing?

If you have a job, telephone 827 1081 and the group will arrange for someone to do it as soon as possible.

Waterfront Industrial

If recent decisions by Council are any guide the Municipality faces the threat of waterfront industrial land being turned to general industrial use.

With demand for waterfront access falling due to a decline in shipping and allied industries, and the unlikelihood of this land being rezoned for residential use or acquisition by the National Estate, a number of Development Applications have been accepted in questionable circumstances.

Curiously, one application, with a petition in favour and actually occasionally building boats, was refused. At the same time, another application to build cupboards and door knobs was approved, because a previous Ships Engineering Industry probably built ships cupboards and door knobs! They probably kept goldfish too!

A.N.L. Container Noise

A.N.L. has been directed by Council to fit effective noise suppressors to refrigerated container units, but no strict period of implementation or maintenance or inspection program were prescribed. Ald. Origlass called on Council to insist that ships berthing in Mort Bay be connected to shore power to reduce noise nuisance. Council declined to adopt this.

"Clontarf"

The National Trust informed Council that offers of assistance for restoration of "Clontarf" have been received. Proposals for a private company to be involved in restoration at no cost to Council or the National Trust were also outlined, but are not yet to fruition. The company cannot complete details for up to 8 weeks. The Trust therefore sought a further 3 months to organise restoration. Council referred this to its architects for consideration.

Council Special Meeting

Leichhardt Council, at its normal 20th July meeting announced a special meeting to draft and adopt a new submission to the Planning and Environment Commission. The meeting took place behind closed doors on Tuesday 27th July. Attempts to keep residents outside resulted in residents forcing the Town Hall doors and then the chambers doors to gain entry. Council adjourned the meeting and left. Residents occupied the chambers in an orderly fashion with Ald. Origlass outlining what he knew of the new scheme.

The following morning Council resumed after detectives and police kept residents outside. After a 5 minute statement and a 10 minute opposition stand by Ald. Origlass, the plan was adopted.

And in this disgusting manner the development of the whole of the Leichhardt Municipality for the next twenty years may have been decided.

As far as can be ascertained, the present situation is that Council has been beaten down on its excessive population density figures and these are now much closer to the 1974 plan figures. Although anomalies still exist, this should stop the excesses which were inevitable if the original densities were approved.

However, the retention of the waterfront industrial zoning in Mort Bay, White Bay and Glebe and the inclusion of the expressways on the new plan are depressing reminders of the god-like powers of the MSB and the DMR. These issues are far from dead and will need to be fought at every step.

WESTON STREET

Developers Down - but not out.

The application to erect 24 home units and town houses on the Weston Street site in East Balmain has failed after the Development Company lost an appeal before the Local Govt. Appeals Tribunal.

The development company submitted plans which were in accordance with existing zoning requirements and involved a lower development density for the site than the maximum allowed. It lodged an appeal with the Appeals Tribunal on the grounds of neglect or delay by the Leichhardt Council in giving a decision on the development application. However, the hearing proceeded on the basis of a rejection of the application because of objections lodged by local residents.

The following are extracts from the Tribunal's decision.

"though the development in terms of density is below that said to be acceptable in the 'Balmain Study' this merely points up the difficulty often encountered in development control plans in that they fail to cater for specific development problems."

"the Board is of the opinion that the density of development in Weston Street should be related to the capacity of the existing street system in the immediate locality and in this respect, the design and density as proposed is excessive."