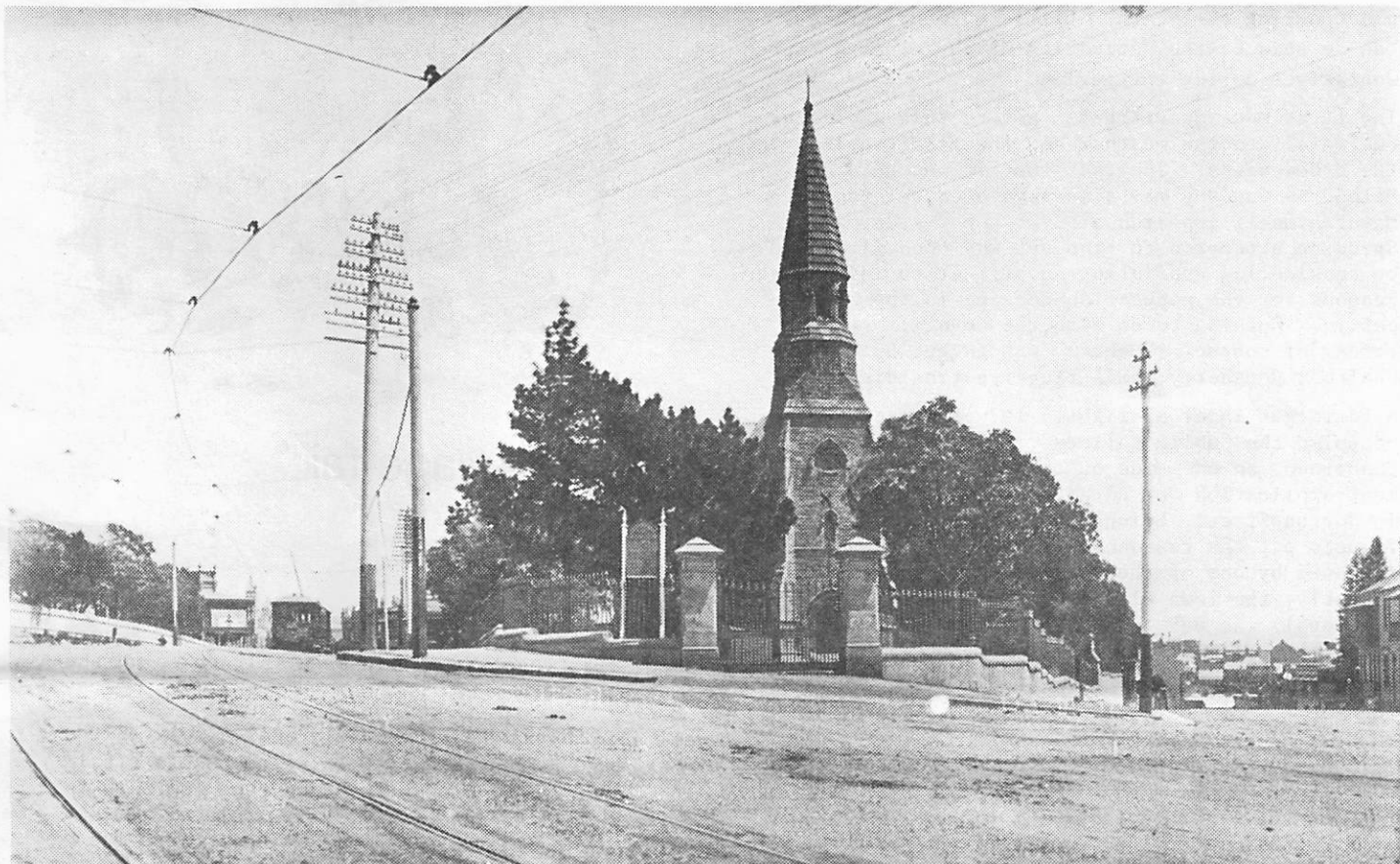


the balmain association



Congregational Church Balmain Circa 1900

BUY A SET OF UNIQUE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION GREETING CARDS

Did you like those impressive reproductions in recent News Sheets of old buildings in Balmain and Rozelle? The Association has printed four different all-purpose cards which are available in a set, complete with envelopes, at \$1.00 per set. Supplies will be available at the General Meeting on 8th December or can be ordered through the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 57, Balmain. 2041.

4 beaut cards for just \$1

council report

COUNCIL REPORT. NOVEMBER, 1976.

Two meetings of Leichhardt Municipal Council took place during the month. Little more of interest can be said of the activities of our elected representatives during the period.

The first meeting attracted a very thin audience, due mainly to the weather and the predictability of the proceedings. The fact that it was held on Melbourne Cup Day may also have been relevant; the Mayor himself appeared at 9.35 p.m. Alderman Spedding attempted to find out why Council should be considering appointing an officer to investigate reasons for the population decline in the Municipality. Nothing to do with the Council or the rates, of course. "Debate" was gagged by Acting Chairman Dougherty, bell-ringer extraordinaire.

A fortnight later a slightly larger number occupied the public gallery. They were mostly concerned, on one side or the other, with a development application for an after-hours medical service in Norton Street, Leichhardt. Local activist Jack Francis put the residents' case in his usual style, followed by one of the doctors concerned. Predictably, the Town Planner's recommendation (approval) was put to the meeting and "In favour, against, carried" rang round the chamber yet again.

"HALF A THOUSAND ACRES - BALMAIN".

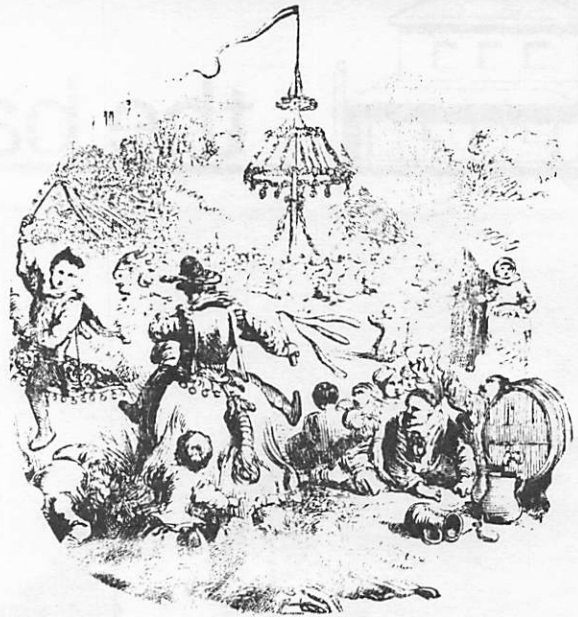
On Wednesday, 17th November, the Association gave a small reception for the press to officially launch our recent publication HALF A THOUSAND ACRES - BALMAIN.

Prof. Bernard Smith made a gracious speech recommending the book to the general public. Also present were the two authors, Peter Reynolds and Paul Flottmann, who autographed books and signed the numbered copies which are available for purchase.

The numbered copies (100) are on sale at \$25 each, except No. 1 which is being auctioned. Unnumbered copies are available from the Association at \$9.95 each (\$8.95 to members).

EXHIBITION OF WALL HANGINGS.

Dorothy McKay, a local artist, is displaying silk screen printed and embroidered wall hangings at the Balmain Gallery, Rowntree Street, Balmain. The Gallery is open on Saturdays and Sundays only from now until Christmas Eve.



'balmain village fair'

THE VILLAGE FAIR.

Although we had competition from the Boys' Club fete, an antique auction and Nicholson St. School fete, this year's function bade fair to being the best ever.

All afternoon John, fabulously geared, played the honky tonk piano and was working up to his final show when, about 5.30 p.m., down came the rain in earnest and washed out the fair. Some of the hardcore stallholders stayed, but patronage was poor, so even they packed up before time.

The raffle for the piano was drawn about 9.00 p.m. and the winning ticket was held by Mr. & Mrs. Burt of Balmain, who were delighted and have taken possession of the instrument.

Bids for No. 1 signed and numbered copy of our new book HALF A THOUSAND ACRES - BALMAIN had reached \$45.00 by the end of the evening.

The wet ending was a disappointment but, even so, the whole concept was a success. This success was due to Kerry Feldman, Veronica Hagarty and Hugh Crompton, who gave unselfishly of their time and energy, as did your Management Committee and other members. Our sincere thanks to these stalwarts.

The Treasurer, Richard Norman, had a busy day and is still working out our profit, which will be advised later.

POSTERS.

The Association wishes to thank Meher Handcrafts for the generous donation of large and small posters. These are available from the Watch House at the General Meeting. \$1.50 the large ones; 50c. the small.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT.

For the benefit of new members and our critics, let me explain the Association's Constitution. By the rules set out, we are expressly forbidden, as an Association, to favour one political party more than another. Members of the Association are free to take whatever action they please, purely as a private matter, but the Association as a whole may not promote any candidate's cause. The Association has never nominated candidates, endorsed candidates or supported candidates in any election.

In the past, before each election, we have provided a forum where all candidates may explain their platforms to a general meeting of members. As a rule, Australian Labor Party candidates choose to decline these invitations.

As a matter of interest, a survey of Association membership showed that 75% of members voted for the A.L.P. Yet A.L.P. branches have made two attempts to proscribe the Balmain Association, but these moves have been quashed by the A.L.P. Head Office because there were no grounds for such action.

In the structure of government, local government is the level at which the community has the greatest contact. Actions by councils have direct consequences on the lives of the residents in their municipality; therefore residents react quickly to those actions. If the council does not heed the wishes of the people they purport to represent, then those people are going to protest, irrespective of their political leanings.

The Balmain Association maintains its democratic right to criticise when criticism is justified.

Finally, it now seems probable that at the next council election voting will be compulsory. Many newcomers could find that they are not on the roll and thus will lose their right to vote. If you have any doubts whatever that your name may not be on the electoral roll, apply to the Town Clerk, Municipality of Leichhardt, P.O. Box 45, Leichhardt. 2040. to ensure that your name is included on the roll.

Margaret Dobson.

BALMAIN STREETS WIDENED.

Over the past couple of years the carriageway of many of Balmain's streets have been effectively widened by drivers parking various proportions of their cars, up to 100%, on the footpath.

This practice is inconvenient, illegal and dangerous and should be stopped. In many cases the whole of the footpath is blocked by cars and this forces all pedestrians onto the roadway. Meanwhile the roadway is being used by cars travelling at higher speeds and thereby the accident situation is greatly increased.

One resident who complained to the police about this nuisance in Louisa Road was told that the police really could not do anything about it.

NO NUDES IS GOOD NUDES.

It is good to see that resident action is thriving around Reef Beach and that the local member, Mr. Arblaster, is right behind the residents.

When other parts of Sydney have aircraft noises, expressways, container traffic and there exist whole communities of disadvantaged people, it is a pity that such overt energies are wasted on such a trivial matter.

It would indeed be refreshing for example to see Mr. Arblaster leading 200 Reef Beach residents on a campaign to improve the basic living amenity of the aborigines of Redfern.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS.

In 1884 Darling Street was a dusty thoroughfare and on a windy day the dust swirled around everything--into shops, destroying stock; into eyes and mouths, making existence out of doors a misery. On very bad days, a water cart was provided by Council, but this was not done every day because aldermen said that there would be complaints if one section of the borough was watered at the expense of the whole. Even though shopkeepers offered to pay extra rates, the aldermen were reluctant to provide a daily watercart along Darling Street. From "Balmain Observer", 1884.



watch these dates !!!

WATCH THESE DATES.

- Tues., Dec. 7 - Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00 p.m. Town Hall, Leichhardt. Attend if you can.
- Wed., Dec. 8 - Balmain Association General Meeting. 8.00 p.m. Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain.
- Sun., Dec. 12 - Balmain Association Christmas Barbecue. 4.30 p.m. 2 Numa St., Birchgrove. (See note this issue.)
- Tues., Dec. 21 - Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00 p.m. Town Hall, Leichhardt.
- Mon., Jan. 31 - Cricket Match. Contact Ralph Catts 2 0982, Ext. 9254 or at home 82 4350. Details later.
- Sat., March 5 - Masquerade Party. Details later.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS, make sure you purchase your copy of "Half a Thousand Acres" before our limited stocks run out.

new members

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. G. Bradley, 9/24 Nicholson St., Balmain E.
Mr. & Mrs. A. Dargan, 22 Cove St., Birchgrove.
Ms. V. Blythe, 22 Whiting St., Leichhardt.
Mr. & Mrs. G. Fenton, 4 William St., Balmain E.
Mrs. C.L. Bell, 123 Louisa Road, Birchgrove
Ms. J. Bachmann, 12 Charlotte St., Rozelle.
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Uther, 87 Elliott St., Balmain.
Mr. P. Rose, 32 Nelson St., Rozelle.
Dr. P.H. Curson, 34 Campbell St., Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. D.P. Millar, 74 Darling St., Balmain E.
University of N.S.W., P.O. Box 1, Kensington.

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

Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Nockolds, 10 Barr St., Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. T. Ward, 22 Reynolds St., Balmain
Mr. & Mrs. F.A. Moeller, 471 Darling St., Balmain
Mrs. H. Sweeney, 34 The Avenue, Balmain E.
Mr. & Mrs. P. Stewart, 9 Duke Place, Balmain E.

Welcome back to :

Mr. A. Watson, 3 James Lane, Balmain E.
Mrs. M. Feast, 35 Nicholson St., Balmain E.

christmas barbecue

Every year at this time, the Association holds its barbecue as an opportunity for members to get to know each other. Once again Nick Masterman has kindly let us use his waterfront land and entry may be made at the end of Numa Street, Birchgrove, down the stone steps to the waterfront. Casual dress is suggested. Bring your food, drink and friends. Barbecue fires will be lit. Also, handy men and women are welcome to prepare the ground, stack firewood, etc. on Sunday morning and to clear up afterwards. It would be unfair to leave the grounds untidy.

BALMAIN IN TIME

For those of you who have recently become members, we would like to draw your attention to the publication "Balmain in Time". This book, written by Peter Reynolds (co-author of "Half a Thousand Acres") and Robert Irving is a record of historic Balmain and some of its buildings. A brief history of the beginnings of Balmain is given and there are some 60 photographs and illustrations of buildings you will recognise, together with details of their construction and former occupants. The price of this soft-backed 40-page publication is only \$3.00 and can be obtained by forwarding your cheque to the Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041. Delivery in the Leichhardt Municipality is free.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND ... FRIENDS

WELCOME ... TEA and COFFEE PROVIDED