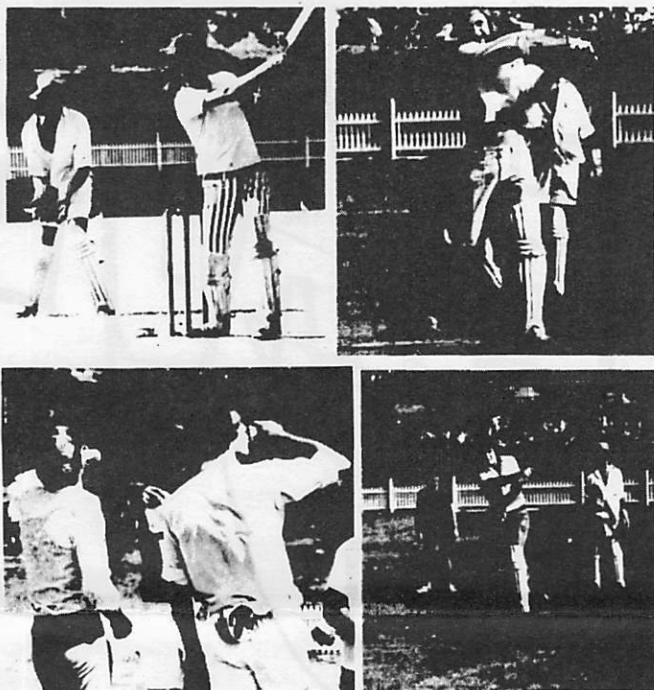


the balmain association

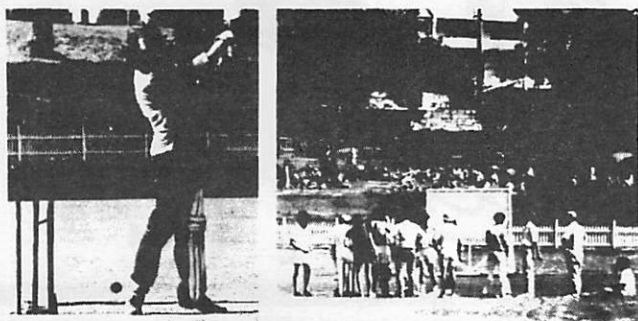
cricket day



The cricket match between the Glebe Society and our Association was played in perfect weather at the Birchgrove Oval on Australia Day. The Glebe Society were first in to bat and completed their innings by lunchtime.

There was a bit of give and take about the composition of the opposing teams of 15 players each and the Association was rather chagrined that our Treasurer, Richard Norman, scored 7 runs for the Glebe side, enabling them to win by 4 runs.

The real hero of the day was Ralph Catts, who did all the organising single-handed right up until the time he stepped onto a plane for China. On the actual day of the match, he came straight from Mascot to help our side along.



Local government boundaries

Members may know that the N.S.W. Government has authorised an examination of Local Government boundaries within the County of Cumberland (Metropolitan area).

At the General Meeting held at the Watch House on February 9, Associate Professor Ruth Atkins talked to about 20 members on her opinions on the worth of this inquiry.

She considered that "bigger" was not necessarily "better" because a larger area would entail more activity on the Council's part and thus more staff would be needed to cope with the extra work. Also, staff already employed by the engulfed municipalities would have to be retained. Effective orderly planning is not the natural consequence of a change in boundaries and it would seem that the current dissatisfaction/frustrations with Leichhardt Council would indeed be greater from Balmain's point of view, if placed under an even larger council "umbrella".

The point was made that the present system requires each council to be self-sufficient in the employment of experts and machinery. This is wasteful when a common pool of, say, street cleaning machinery could be used by a number of adjoining councils, so that economies of scale could be achieved. This type of economy is currently achieved with the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority. Also, when technical services are required, e.g. town planners, engineers, etc., consultants could be called in to advise. This would mean that smaller numbers would be employed by councils, whilst maintaining efficiency.

It was felt that State and Commonwealth Government departments should consult more with local government so that an integrated plan for the whole of the metropolitan area can be worked out instead of development piecemeal (as seems to currently occur).

Prof. Atkins also commented on municipal finances. She stated that the Department of Local Government has inspectors constantly making reports on local government finances and it was desirable that this information, both good and bad, should be published in a general bulletin for the information of citizens.

The Association intends making a submission to the Commission along these lines and the views of interested members are sought for inclusion.

THE BALMAIN
ASSOCIATION

MASQUERADE BALL

BALMAIN TOWN HALL
MARCH 5

Tickets: \$7 each

BY
OG

SNAIL'S BAY DOLPHINS.

The Deputy Premier, Mr. L.J. Ferguson, has now replied to our letter :-

"I refer again to your letter of 10th December, 1976, regarding the action of the Maritime Services Board in leasing one of the dolphins in Snails Bay, Balmain, to a local ship repair yard for the berthing of large ships requiring repair.

The Maritime Services Board informs me that, early last year, it received a submission from the Australian Ship Repairers' Group seeking discussions on problems being experienced by the industry in this State.

Following a detailed study of the matters raised by the Group, the Board advised that, while it could not make available a long-shore berth in the Port of Sydney for the purpose of ship repair activities, it was prepared to offer the Group a lease of the No. 1 dolphin berth, Snails Bay, on a common user basis for this purpose. The Board recognised, however, that a dolphin berth would not be as satisfactory for the needs of the industry as would a long-shore berth, and indicated that the Group's request would be kept in mind should such a facility become available in the future.

I understand that the Australian Ship Repairers' Group subsequently accepted in principle the Board's offer of the lease of the dolphin berth, but has not pursued the matter as it apparently wishes to continue to negotiate for a long-shore facility. In fact, in a recent submission made to me, it has indeed proposed that wharves Nos. 23, 24 and 25 Pyrmont be utilised for the purpose of ship repair work. However, the Board has indicated that these berths are used to a high degree by ships in the overseas trade and that this situation is expected to remain in the foreseeable future.

The Board is aware that numerous representations have been made in recent years concerning noise emanating from ship repair activity in the Balmain area. While it is considered vital that such facilities continue to be available as a service to commercial shipping utilising the Port of Sydney, the Board recognises that it is equally important that noise from ship repair operations be kept within acceptable levels and, for this reason, will continue to ensure that noise conditions in the

existing and any future leases for this purpose are adhered to, and that controls are maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Management of Waters and Waterside Lands Regulations - N.S.W.

In an important maritime city such as Sydney it is essential that repair facilities be provided for the many ships, both of domestic and overseas origin, which regularly call at the Port. Therefore, with a view to assisting in this direction, the Board has offered the lease of the dolphin berth at Snails Bay as it is currently the only area available in the Port that can be utilised for such purpose. You may also be interested to know that I recently received a petition signed by some 600 persons supporting the continuance of the ship repair industry in the Balmain area.

The question of traffic and parking problems in the streets is of course not a matter which comes within the area of my responsibility and would be more appropriately directed to the New South Wales Police Department."

I wonder where those 600 petitioners live?

DRAFT 1976 PLANNING SCHEME.

The N.S.W. Planning & Environment Commission has again written to the Association regarding the Scheme :-

"I refer to my letter of 10th December, 1976 concerning the draft 1976 Planning Scheme prepared by the Leichhardt Municipal Council.

2. It is regretted that the Commission's letter outlined only the situation that existed prior to 2nd September, 1976. The delay in posting this letter resulted in the information provided being outdated.

3. The Commission received a letter from the Council dated 13th September, 1976 which confirmed its agreement with the Commission in respect of the draft 1976 Leichhardt Planning Scheme. This Scheme is to be presented to the Minister for Planning and Environment for certification.

4. It was also agreed that the question of whether or not the proposed freeways should be included in the Scheme was one for the Minister to determine having regard to the Government's policy."

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

MASQUERADE BALL.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, AT 8.00 P.M.

BALMAIN TOWN HALL.

COME AND JOIN IN THE EVENING OF DANCING AND MYSTERY;
UNMASKING AT MIDNIGHT. SUPPER PROVIDED. B.Y.O.G.
INDIVIDUAL AND TABLE BOOKINGS FROM :

DIANA McDONALD - 82 4882

JANINE OATES - 82 0576

N.B. There are costume-hiring companies in Sydney.

Please send me tickets
at \$7.00 each. Enclosed is
\$ for Masquerade
Ball, 5th March, 1977.
NAME
ADDRESS
SEND TO:
Mrs. D. McDonald
2 Tilba Avenue,
BALMAIN. N.S.W. 2041.

watch these dates !!!

- Feb. 22 - Save Public Transport Committee.
Every Tuesday, Gt. Southern Hotel
lounge, 723 George St. 5.30 p.m.
- Mar. 1 - Leichhardt Council meeting. 8.00
Town Hall, Leichhardt.
- Mar. 5 - Masquerade Ball. Balmain Town Hall.
8.00 p.m. (See note this issue.)
- Mar. 9 - Balmain Association Management Com-
mittee meeting. Watch House. 8.00.
- Mar. 11 - Balmain Theatre Group. Opening night
"LOVERS" at 8.00 p.m. and First Night
Party at the Watch House.
- Mar. 15 - Leichhardt Council meeting. 8.00.
- Apl. 5 - Leichhardt Council meeting. 8.00.
- Apl. 13 - Balmain Association General Meeting.
8.00 p.m. Watch House. All members
please attend.
- Apl. 19 - Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00.
- May, '77 - Tennis Day. Details later.
- June, '77 Curry dinner. do.
- Sept. '77 Garden Walk. do.
- Nov. '77 Village Fair. do.
- Dec. '77 Christmas Barbecue. do.

GREETING CARDS

An attractive set of four greeting cards with photographs of Balmain at the turn of the century is now available from the Association. The scenes depicted have appeared in recent newsletters (see the front page of this issue) and include the Congregational Church (Darling St. and Curtis Rd.), the Working Men's Institute, Loyalty Square and the Rozelle Post Office (no longer standing).

The cards are available for \$1.00 from the Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041. Free delivery in Leichhardt area, 20 cents postage elsewhere.

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

new members

The Association welcomes the following members:

Dept. of Environment, Housing & Community
Development, Canberra. A.C.T.

Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Hughes,
103 Evans St., Rozelle.

W. Alott,
19 Donnelly St., Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. K. Mayne,
104 Glassop St., Balmain

Mrs. B. Armstrong,
5 Davis Ave., Epping

Ms. L. Williams,
6/39 Church St., Balmain.

Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Peach,
45 Cove St., Birchgrove

Mr. & Mrs. E.W. & Miss S. Edgerton,
43 Darling St., Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. A.W. Lewis,
8 King St., Balmain

Mr. K.S. Garland,
25/16 Hosking St., Balmain

Mr. & Mrs. L.A. Houchin,
40/8 Nicholson St., Balmain East

Ms. M. Law,
3 Bradford St., Balmain.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP.

The next production will be "LOVERS" by Brian Friel and will be directed by David Ives. The story is a comedy-drama set in Ireland and takes the form of 2 separate plays--the first is called "Winners" and is about a young couple; the second is "Losers" and is about a middle-aged couple. Production will be over three weekends, and is scheduled to commence at 8.00 p.m. The opening night will be on 11th March and an opening night party will be held at the Watch House. Other performances will be on Saturday, March 12; Sunday, March 13; Friday, March 18; Saturday, March 19; Sunday, March 20; Friday, March 25; and Saturday, March 26. Tickets are available from Brays Books and Rudolf Steiner Books, both in Darling Street, and will cost \$2.50 each. First night performance and party will be \$4.00 or \$1.50 for supper only. Watch local newspapers for further details.

next general meeting

NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 8.00 P.M.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET,
BALMAIN.

MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND TO MAKE
THEMSELVES FAMILIAR WITH THE
RUNNING OF THE ASSOCIATION.
FRIENDS WELCOME