



the balmain association

council report



LEIGHARDT COUNCIL MEETING - 17th May 1977

This writer begs the reader's indulgence, this being a report of his first ever attendance at an 'ordinary' meeting of Council. It is with regret that a pen was the only tool taken, as film and sound equipment would have produced a worthy entry for the current 23rd Sydney Film Festival which would have been allegorical of last Last Supper.

Most of the business was conducted at a brisk pace; the following paragraphs relate to contentious issues; namely those which Council would have passed without debate had not Ald. Origlass intervened to explain to the gallery the significance of the forthcoming "aye" vote by Council.

By far the most significant debate(monolog) arose from Council action relating to activity on waterfront industrial zoned land. Item 3145 of the Consultant Town Planner's (Arthur Kenna) Report. Council is proceeding with prosecution against three companies working in Sim's Building at the corner of Short and Bay Streets. Until three years ago Sim's Metal used the building for shipyard metal fabrications. One of the three companies facing Council action conducts identical work. The other two are involved in fibreglass boat construction. All three require water access. Council claim that their use is illegitimate under the zoning by-laws and is acting forthwith.

It was pointed out that Council were being somewhat inconsistent in its approach to the use of industrial zoned waterfront. The use of such land in Glebe by Fletcher's to store containers was cited as a case in point.

The debate, i.e. Ald. Origlass protestations, moved on to an untabled item concerning the change in products issuing from a factory at 5 St. Andrews St. Electrical switchgear is the current product its manufacture being a noisy process, aroused much invecting from the gallery who had come expecting Council to announce prosecution, they were disappointed. The Association has also lodged a formal statement to the Council in this regard which was alluded to by the Mayor (Ald. Rodwell).

All in all the above comments show a certain selectivity on the part of the Council on the policing of zoning by-laws. The sample group is not sufficiently large to show any co-relation between large and small business operations and hopefully we shall not have to watch on until any well defined trends appear. Roll on September.

More spirited talk arose over the matter of a new turning route for the buses at Curtis Rd.-Darling St. intersection. The P.T.C. had proposed that the bus turn via McDonald St. and Curtis Rd. Both topology and residents consider this unwise. Equally unwise is a turning route past the hospital, school and chapel. Thus, as Ald. Origlass pointed out, a trial run of running right to the end of Darling St. and turning at the wharf seemed logical. Not you would think a terribly serious point, however more ominous was that Ald. Hoy introduced a motion of censure on Ald. Origlass for having the timidity to circulate on the hospital, school route warning them of the impending residents' decision by the P.T.C.

(It appears to me that to be an Alderman requires a constitution based on cast iron and araldite.)

The proprietors of the Balmain Volunteer came under some attack for not carrying some of Council's conditions in respect to the operation of the business. It appears that only one person can sing at any one time, not two. However the whole issue reduced again to one of noise from a compressor.

Noise seems to recur in so many matters and speaking only for mechanical noise, it is a function simply of bad design and in some cases inefficiency. It would be accurate to say that the presence of mechanical noise reduced to one of economics and whether one is prepared to pay more for good design.

PETITION TO RECONSTITUTE A BALMAIN COUNCIL.

The Government Boundaries Commission is at present deliberating on the feasibility of amalgamating municipalities, hopefully to make them more efficient. On the initiative of Alderman Origlass, the Balmain/Rozelle area has been letter-boxed, calling on residents to petition the Minister for Local Government to reconstitute the Balmain Council based on the original land grant of 550 acres to Dr. William Balmain.

Two meetings were held at the Balmain Town Hall on 2nd and 9th May at which the wording of a petition was agreed upon. The petition has now been printed and helpers are covering the area getting signatures.

Figures have been assembled showing that the estimated total revenue for the Balmain/Rozelle area, based on last year's figures for Leichhardt would be in the vicinity of \$3.3 million. Expenditure, also based on last year's figures and allowing for all foreseen contingencies, is estimated to be \$2.4 million.

It would seem therefore that the proposition is financially viable. Dividing the area into about 5 wards would mean that residents would be in close contact with their aldermen and the aldermen would have personal knowledge of events within their own wards.

The Association has offered to help to get signatures for the petition and has put aside \$100 to pay for printing costs and ongoing expenses of the campaign.

If your area has not been covered and you are willing to take a petition around, ring Margaret Dobson (82 2774 after 6.00 p.m.) for a supply of forms.

BALMAIN LIBRARY.

Mayor Rodwell proudly announced recently that a Balmain branch library was to be opened in the Balmain Town Hall. \$70,000 had been allocated for the purpose.

So far so good. God knows Balmain/Rozelle needs a library, the most accessible one at present is the City of Sydney library in York Street.

But wait a minute. The Mayor continues: "It is expected that the work will start in the near future"—not really a watertight commitment, is it? Especially when it is remembered that a Council election is only four months away and also when it is remembered that EVERY ruling Council for the past four elections has promised a library for Balmain.

Don't be fooled: there will not be a Balmain library. At least, not for a long time yet.

Incidentally, the Association feels that a few converted rooms in the Town Hall will not be an effective library at all—merely a flag waving exercise. A much larger regional library nearer to Victoria Road would be accessible to a much

larger number of people and be of greater benefit to all Balmain/Rozelle/Lilyfield residents.

(P.S. Three years ago the Association drafted a report on what we saw as the function of a local library. If anyone is interested in bringing this report up to date and submitting it to Council, please contact Margaret Dobson - 82 2774.)

IT'S ELECTION YEAR!

Like a triennial spring; the roads are being resurfaced; gutters are being repaired; even trees are being planted; the produce store in Rozelle is being renovated as pensioners meeting rooms; a Balmain library is being promised and even the rates didn't go up this year. It's election year!! Next we'll have photos of Casey and Rodwell kissing babies in "The Day".

PROPOSED BUS DIVERSION AROUND GLADSTONE PARK.

The Public Transport Commission has suggested that the buses terminating at Gladstone Park, instead of turning at Curtis Road, should detour along Booth St., into Darvall and Eaton Sts. Imagine the noise and dirt that will cause, not to mention the traffic problem.

The Association has written, protesting against the proposal and suggesting that all buses continue on to Darling St. Wharf where they can turn and provide a better service for the people of Balmain East.

WESTSIDE CENTRE INFORMATION SERVICE.

The Centre has received a grant of \$10,000 from the State Government to establish an Information Service at the Wayside Centre at 3 Montague St., Balmain. This Centre will co-ordinate the various services available to people in need and will serve as a referral service for those people in our area who need help, comfort and care. Anyone wishing to become involved in this humane venture, please contact Ron Page, 82 0531, 82 0533.

HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE?



The Association has been fortunate in obtaining copies of old maps of Balmain in the 1880's. Each map shows details of buildings, outhouses, wells, etc., together with house names and names of owners/occupiers. If you want a map of the area in which your house is located, send \$2.00 to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041. This price includes free delivery in Balmain/Rozelle.

PLANT A ROSE THIS WINTER.

Although roses bought in tins can be planted out all the year around, the main planting is of bare root plants from late May to August, with June and July as peak months. At these times roses are as dormant as they ever will be, in this climate.

If possible the spot selected should be in full sun and certainly not less than half day's sunlight. Should be in an open position, as moving air is essential to help prevent fungus diseases such as Black Spot and particularly mildew. If spot is windy, it may be advisable to put in one or two stakes at planting, as if plant is not secure at roots and twists in the wind, it may not survive.

Do not be put off by hearing people say roses cannot be grown near the sea. My own experience is that if plant is securely tied to stakes and fed adequately, it will do well.

Ideally, the place selected should be prepared some 6 or 8 weeks previously by digging over an area about 2 or 3 feet square (not round) and about one foot deep. Mix in some cow manure or compost and moistened peat moss or sprinkling of blood and bone, another of dolomite and also a teaspoon of Epsom Salts. (No artificial fertilisers to be added at this stage.)

When selecting rose plant, take care it is a fresh one, with no signs of shrivelling of green bark, as this frequently occurs, in the centrally-heated chain stores if the plant has been there for a few days. If the bark is showing signs of drying out, the plant will never make good.

Before planting, place roots in water for a couple of hours. Never leave roots exposed to air. Take in the bucket to the planting site. Dig out the patch of ground and make a small firm mound in the centre. (Plants have usually been pruned before packing, but sometimes damaged roots need trimming.) Place the plant's roots over the centre mound, well spread out, and cover with some soil.

Put in stakes if it appears necessary. Water well and firm down soil. Top up with the rest of the soil and water well. See that graft is at soil level or a little below and not way above it as soil will sink a little.

Keep soil slightly damp, not soggy. Two months later it may have a light sprinkling of fertiliser (high in super and potash) and repeat about every six weeks until March and then let go dormant gradually until the following August, when fertilising should be commenced again. Mulch with cow manure in the summer and cut all dead flower heads off to keep the rose flowering. A well-planted and nourished rose should live and flower well for many years.

Some varieties well worth planting are :-

- (Dark red) - Mr. Lincoln, Oklahoma, Papa Meilland, Roundelay, Josephine Bruce, Alec's Red.
- (Vermillion) Super Star, Fragrant Cloud, Command Performance.
- (Pink) - Tiffany, Peter Frankenfelf, Helen Traubel, Pink Parfait.
- (Yellow) - Peace, Diamond Jubilee, Old Timer.
- (White) - Virgo, Iceberg, Message.

- J. Murray.

CRICKET CLUB FORMED



The Balmain Association Cricket Club was officially formed at a meeting held recently at the Watch House. The Club decided to give social cricket a miss and go straight onto the big time. Those present decided to play on a regular basis and vet their skills in the Balmain/Drummoyne competition. The Club needs more players so anybody interested should ring either Ralph Catts (82 4350) or John Garret (827 2992) . . . ex-test players desperately needed! Net practice will start either Saturday 30th or Sunday 31st July depending on availability of nets . . . details in the next newsletter.

wine bottling and barbecue.

To raise money to buy the kit, the Club is holding a wine bottling-cum-barbecue open to all comers at the Watch House on 17th July around noon. An attempt will be made to bottle these wines:

- . white - Brown Brothers Northern Victoria; a light, dry Burgundy style wine suitable for current drinking.
- . red - McLaren Vale dry red suitable for current drinking. May improve with bottle age.

Orders for wine can be placed now with Ralph Catts (H: 82 4350; W 20982-x9254) or Sim Hughes (82 5111). The wine is selling for a \$1 a bottle (you supply the bottle); \$1.20 (we supply the bottle) or \$2.75 (you supply the flagon). Anybody wishing to come to the barbecue should bring their own steak plus \$2.00 to cover salad and wine; children welcome (no charge).

watch these dates !!!

- June 7 Leichhardt Council Meeting 8.00 p.m.
Town Hall, Leichhardt.
- June 8 Balmain Association General Meeting.
Watch House, 179 Darling St. 8.00 p.m.
- June 21 Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00 p.m.
- June 24 Sophie's Greek Restaurant Night.
7.00 p.m. \$6.00 each. B.Y.O.G.
(See coupon and details this issue.)
- July 5 Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00 p.m.
- July 13 Balmain Association Management meet-
ing. 8.00 p.m.
- July 19 Leichhardt Council Meeting. 8.00 p.m.
- Sept. 25 Association Garden Walk. (Helpers
wanted.)
- Nov. 5 Balmain Village Fair. (Helpers and
participants wanted.)
- Dec. 4 Association Christmas Barbecue.

restaurant night



THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

DINNER AT SOPHIE'S GREEK RESTAURANT,

386 DARLING ST., BALMAIN

(opp. King Street)

FRIDAY, 24TH JUNE, 1977 AT 7.00 P.M.

COME AND JOIN OTHER MEMBERS AT DINNER. FRIENDS
ALSO WELCOME. B.Y.O.G.

Further details: Kerry Feldman - W. 772 1655
H. 827 2939

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

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR.

Words and music by Peter Dodds McCormick, first
performed in Sydney as a "patriotic song" in 1878.

"Australia's sons let us rejoice,
For we are young and free.
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,
Our home is girt by sea.
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts,
Of beauty rich and rare.
In hist'ry's page let every stage
Advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains, then let us sing
Advance Australia fair.

When gallant Cook from Albion sailed
To trace wide oceans o'er,
True British courage bore him on,
Till he landed on our shore.
Then here he raised Old England's flag,
The standard of the brave,
With all her faults, we love her still,
Britannia rules the wave.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia fair!

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross,
We'll toil with hearts and hands
To make our youthful Commonwealth
Renowned of all the lands.
For loyal sons beyond the seas,
We've boundless plains to share
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing
Advance Australia fair!

Stirring stuff!

Please send me tickets

at \$6.00 each. Enclosed is \$

for Dinner at Sophie's, 24th June, 1977.

NAME

Address

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SEND TO: The Hon. Treasurer,
Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57, Balmain. 2041.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 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