



the balmain association



THE BALMAIN COAL LOADER.

Last month the Premier of N.S.W., Mr. Neville Wran, made a surprise announcement that the Government had decided to abandon the Botany Bay scheme and would build a coal loader at Port Kembla, provide a rail link and upgrade the existing Balmain coal loader.

This announcement came without warning to residents and coal owners alike. While Balmain residents congratulate the Botany Bay protest group, they cannot help but feel dismayed by the prospect of a coal dump in the heart of the city.

Very little information is available; but it would seem that the Lithgow coal-owners are being invited to finance the Balmain scheme as an outlet for their coal. There are rumours that, apart from upgrading the present installation, the operation is to be considerably expanded by the demolition of White Bay Power Station, which has not been in use for several years.

Suggestions have been made that the Harbour will be dredged to accommodate ships of 70,000 dwt., but it would appear that this would not be economical and ships nearly twice this size would be needed to be a paying proposition.

Mr. Wran stated on T.V. that the Balmain scheme would not worsen the environment--rather would it be improved.

The Association invited Mr. Wran to attend a public meeting on a date convenient to him, to explain to the residents how an operation at least twice as large as the present facility, operating 24 hours a day, with moving engines and trucks and with coal being conveyed direct into ships' holds, would be an improvement on the present operation. However, this letter was not received in the Premier's office, so we have written again, setting the date for an evening in the week commencing 18th July.

Contact has been made with people living in Glebe, whose life was made miserable by the noise of hooters, engines and coal rumbling down the chute, not to mention coal dust, when the Balmain loader was working at capacity. Imagine a 24-hour operation at twice the size!

ST. ANDREW STREET, BALMAIN

On 13 February 1977 a Petition signed by thirteen residents of St. Andrew Street, Balmain was forwarded to the Council of the Municipality of Leichhardt concerning alleged nuisances arising out of activities at 5 St. Andrew Street, Balmain. It was not until the 3rd May 1977 that the Council resolved to inform the owner of the premises that among other things the hours set down by Council in its development approval of 21st July 1976 must be strictly observed as well as other conditions and in particular those relating to off-street loading, unloading and parking and that the Council took a serious view of the Company not observing the conditions under which it granted the use of the subject premises for manufacturing of components for switchboards which constituted a breach of the Town Planning provisions for which it was liable for prosecution and that if there is any recurrence the Council would be obliged to take action accordingly.

Residents advise that the breaches of conditions referred to are still taking place and that Council has knowledge of such breaches of conditions but is neglecting to take action in accordance with their resolution of 3rd May 1977. The residents have now requested the Attorney General, Mr. Walker, to intervene on their behalf and so instruct the Council to enforce their conditions.

In relation to this matter the Balmain Association has made representations on behalf of the residents to the Leichhardt Council, the Ombudsman, Roger Degen MLA, Harry Jensen MLA Minister for Local Government, The Premier, David Landa MLA, Minister for Planning & Environment, and has sought publicity for the residents' cause through local newspapers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 10TH AUGUST, 1977.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on 10th August next and all executive and general management committee positions will become vacant and open for nominations from the general membership.

Nominations should be lodged a week before the Annual General Meeting (i.e. before 3rd August) and forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

Members should recognise the fact that the Association cannot function without a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee of Management. General membership should actively become involved in the running of the Association. If members want to protect their environment, they should be prepared to give a little of their time to work towards this end.

A LETTER FROM A MEMBER.

Secretary, 17th June, 1977.
Balmain Association.

I am writing to strongly object to the action of the Association, as reported in the last Newsletter, in supporting proposals to inundate East Balmain residents with buses.

The present number of buses running to the Darling St. Wharf Terminus is so great that during peak hours most 401 buses terminate at Nicholson St.-- which is a far worse turning point than Gladstone Park. During these times there are already too many buses to be accommodated at the terminus.

Of course, we could resume Thornton Park and turn it into a parking lot--is that what the Association has in mind?

Your paternalistic attitude toward the interests of East Balmain residents (to wit--'provide a better service', etc.) is not appreciated. We have an adequate bus service already and people in the street have talked about having the 401 service terminated in Balmain.

I would be interested to learn by what mandate the Association assumes to take a stand on the issue of bus routes. It seems a curious coincidence that it takes up this issue in support of an ill-considered campaign by a sitting Alderman out to retain his seat. If the Association is interested in making a significant contribution, I would request that the Association review its present stand.

It appears to me that the only area in Balmain that could be developed to be a bus terminus is the "fallow" industrial land opposite the Bowling Club in Darling Street. I would suggest that if the Association is convinced that the Gladstone Park terminus should be changed then it should press for the resumption of this industrial land. I request the Association to reverse its policy on buses running to Darling Street Wharf.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) Ralph Catts.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

Balmain Theatre Group's next production is "The Slaughter of St. Teresa's Day", an Australian play by well known playwright Peter Kenna. It is the story of an incident in the life of a character based on one of Sydney's best known underworld queens, Tilly Devine.

By coincidence, it was discovered after choosing the play, that the author lives in Balmain and in fact, was also born here. Many members may know him better through a more recent play he has written "A Hard God", which was one of the most successful productions at the old Nimrod theatre and starred Gloria Dawn. She also acted in a stage version of "Slaughter".

Peter Kenna has been a great encouragement to us in this production and is coming to see it - so we hope members will follow his example!

Opening night is Friday 29th July and will be followed by a party at the Watch House. Subsequent performances are Saturday 30th July and Fridays and Saturdays 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th & 20th August. The play begins at 8.00 p.m. and supper is available.

Bookings for the play and the opening night party at Gray's Bookshop 10 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday (82 5613), 268 Darling St., Balmain. Tickets also on sale at door. Adults \$2.50 Children & Pensioners, \$1.00. If you wish to attend party after opening night you must book in advance.

P.S. The play is on at the Presbyterian Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain and guess what? It is now heated - so no more freezing patrons.

HALF A THOUSAND ACRES

The Balmain Association publication "Half A Thousand Acres" by Peter Reynolds and Paul Flottman is still available to members at the special price of \$8.95. This hard backed book traces the mystery and intrigue surrounding the granting of the Balmain land to William Balmain, and the subsequent sale for only 5 shillings to John Lilcrest. Please forward your cheque to P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041; freedelivery in the Leichhardt Municipality.

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.

THE MERCEDES-BENZ BUS.

In the June, 1977 Newsletter of the Save Public Transport Committee, a report on the new bus appears:

"The first of the P.T.C.'s Mercedes buses went into service on 16th May. The Mercedes 0-305 engine/chassis has been in use in Europe since 1969 and won awards for design in the early '70s.

The Sydney built body has tinted windows, more vertical grab rails, and a bell cord running down the centre of the windows which is more accessible to seated passengers. The bus is very quiet. BUT -

Ventilation is liable to be unsatisfactory on hot wet days, as windows and roof hatches will be closed to keep out rain and the bus has no front grilles as do existing vehicles. The spring operated catches which hold the windows shut are badly designed and require far too much force to release. The front platform has no space for luggage. The bell cords are naturally less convenient for standing passengers.

One of the most distressing features of bus travel in Sydney is poor ventilation for standing passengers in peak hour rain. There will be no fresh air for standees in the new bus.

Keep on trying"

The bus will have seating accommodation for 42 and room for 27 standing.

VILLAGE FAIR

It is now only four months to the next Balmain Village Fair in November and you are invited and encouraged to (a) join the committee to organise the Fair and (b) commence work on an art, craft or other idea, stunt or performance for display, sale or presentation at the Fair.

Please contact Hugh Crompton (Work: 699 4121 or Home: 827 3185), if you are able to assist in any manner.

PETITION FOR A BALMAIN COUNCIL

After some long hours in trying recent weather volunteers have collected in excess of 400 signatures for the Petition for a Balmain Council. It is anticipated that the petitions will be personally presented to Mr. Jensen, Minister for Local Government. A number of people who have participated in the collection of the signatures for the petition are prepared to put the case to the Boundary Commission for a separate Balmain Council. This issue will remain important until town planning and other matters affecting the amenity of the area are placed in the hands of the persons affected.

CANCELLED.

Sophie's Restaurant Night.

24th June, 1977.

Requiescat in pace ---
from lack of support

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).

new members

We wish to welcome the following new members:

- Mr. W.H. Robinson
38 Goodsir St., Rozelle.
- Mr. & Mrs. M.J. Devitt
91 Elliott St., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. M. Smith
18 National St., Rozelle.
- Mr. & Mrs. P. Latimer
39 Beattie St., Balmain.
- M/s S.H. Park
170 Darling St., Balmain.
- Mr. S.R. Fraser
27 Duke St., Balmain.
- Mrs. M. Moran
20 Mort St., Balmain.
- Mr. & Mrs. & Miss Baker
20 The Avenue, Balmain.
- Ken Hiley & family
43A Crescent St., Rozelle.
- Mr. Mrs. P.E. Concannon
7 Campbell 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

BOOK REVIEW

"Falling Apart": The rise and decline of urban civilisation. Elaine Morgan. (Souvenir, London, 1976, 272 pages. £UK3.60 ISBN 0 285 62234 X.)

The received wisdom of the twenties failed to imagine future world overpopulation. That of the sixties failed to imagine possible exhaustion of world energy reserve. Yet both of these problems have come within a generation or two to circumscribe drastically the future of man. Now a new and equally unforeseen trend is emerging, with equal potential for shaping the future of human society: the 'decoagulation' of giant cities.

In 1961 an EIT townplanner proclaimed the feasibility (and therefore inevitability) of cities of 25 or even 50 million by the end of the century. He claimed that economic productive capacity is 'infinite', and that the only limitation on the growth of cities would be 'an inadequate supply of traffic'. Our tragedy has been the power and influence exerted by such gurus of 'growth' and 'development' in happy ignorance of the basic laws of matter and energy. (A US economist faced with an objection that his forecasts contravened the second law of thermodynamics replied "Congress must repeal the law"). Only now is the absurdity of their fantasies becoming generally appreciated.

Elaine Morgan, author of the widely praised "Decent of Woman", has written another best-seller. In "Falling Apart" she considers the past, present, and future of cities, the first analysis - she claims - by an 'outsider'. Her conclusion is that the traditional relationship - reciprocal, if often unequal - between a city and its hinterland is being replaced by a competitive relationship - for land space, energy, water, capital, etc. But since the proportion of humanity living in cities has now passed the halfway mark, early breakdown of such parasitic bodies is a possibility. She notes that in the most advanced countries a spontaneous shrinkage of big-city populations has already begun.

An extremely readable book, its final chapters on the 'economics and politics of exodus' are essential reading for anyone expecting to be still alive after 1984.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 8.00 p.m.

LOWER TOWN HALL, DARLING ST., BALMAIN

ALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS ARE VACANT