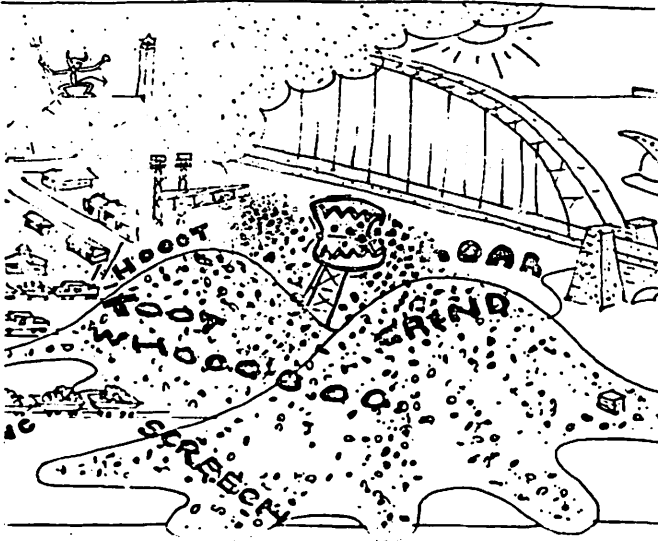


# the balmain association



## REPORT ON COAL LOADER MEETING.

About 200 people turned up to the Association's meeting on 22nd August to protest against the upgrading of the Balmain Coal Loader. Two State politicians addressed the meeting: Mr. R. Degen, the Member for Balmain, and Mr. D. Arblaster, the Opposition Shadow Minister for Public Works and Ports. Although invitations were sent to Aldermen Rodwell, Casey, Hoy and Heffernon, they did not acknowledge them nor did they attend. Only Alderman Origlass was present. (Remember this on 17th September.)

Mr. Degen was somewhat embarrassed and apologetic that the whole thing had to happen in his electorate. He explained that an outlet for the western coalfields was needed in N.S.W., otherwise the contracts would go to Queensland and revenue would be lost to N.S.W. An election promise had been made that a coal loader would not be built at Botany Bay and it was a Caucus and Cabinet decision that the Balmain loader would be upgraded to create employment.

Most of the technical questions about the coal loader were answered by Mr. Eric Worrell, a Public Servant and expert on coal handling facilities, brought to the meeting by Mr. Degen.

The meeting was "reassured" that the \$5M modernisation of White Bay was a stop-gap measure only. The expected life of the upgraded loader was from 5 to 7 years. Some other facts to come out were that the loader would be in operation 22 hours a day, presumably 7 days a week. Some vague attempt to minimise noise pollution would come about by the "circuit turnaround" of coal trucks. The stacks of coal would be sprayed with water, but

the coal trucks and loading operations would be untreated. Basically, it seems no extra steps will be taken to reduce pollution from the loader.

The Maritime Services Board and the Public Transport Commission are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to be submitted to the Pollution Control Authority. The Balmain Branch of the A.L.P. has arranged a deputation to meet the Minister on 13th September and the Noise Abatement Committee of Leichhardt Council was seeing the Minister on the 14th.

Alderman Arblaster said that Mr. Degen should not be blamed because he, too, had been "double-crossed" by the Premier. The original plans for Botany Bay had provided for a completely enclosed storage area, with a closed loop water system which recycled itself. Even the rainwater falling on the area would have been collected and passed to a settling pond before discharge into Botany Bay. None of these precautions is planned for Balmain.

He also said that the railway loop would have to cope with wheat and coal trains and the loading problems would be chaotic when both wheat and coal ships endeavoured to berth at the wharves.

His estimate of cost was \$300M and he said that, economically and environmentally, Balmain is not suitable.

The first question from a member of the audience was why Newcastle had not been chosen and why the completion of the Sandy Hollow railway link had not been investigated. But these were unsatisfactorily brushed aside by Mr. Worrell as being too costly.

## Resolution passed by meeting.

The following resolution, moved by Ald. Origlass and seconded by Brian Brady, was passed by the meeting with only two dissentients. The resolution will be passed on to the Government :-

"This meeting of Balmain residents strongly protests against the State Government's proposal to expand the Balmain coal loading facilities, because :

- (1) There is no way that the environment of Balmain - and of Sydney in general - can be protected from the effects of the proposed type of coal loading.
- (2) Local people who will be worst affected have never been consulted although this should be their right.
- (3) All previous investigations by governmental pollution control commissions have stated that coal loading at Balmain is environmentally undesirable.

THEFORE we call on the Government -

(a) to make available to concerned people in Balmain and elsewhere a comprehensive statement covering all aspects of the proposed action.

(b) ELFORE any funds are expended on the project, to conduct an independent Environmental Impact Study and to allow time for full public discussion."

"TO SEE OURSELVES . . . . ."

The night of the Coal Loader meeting proved very interesting as a mirror reflecting the public image of the Association. The majority of people were there seeking information to enable them to weigh the consequences of a development such as this close to their homes. But there were two elderly men, living in the past and filled with bitterness and intolerance, who declared that the Association's policy of being non-political was a sham. They maintained that the Association was a malignant anti-Labor force, with tentacles stretching from Wollongong to Newcastle and west to the Blue Mountains. One white-haired old man stormed: "Every time something happens, the Balmain Association calls a meeting: that's not being non-political!" The other old man harangued the meeting about the evils of the Association but when called to order and requested to sit down, he demanded his rights of free speech. However, when Alderman Origlass moved that a protest against the Coal Loader be forwarded to the Government, the white-haired man jumped to his feet and shouted: "You're not going to accept a motion from him! That's political!"

The Chairwoman was asked for her name and told that she and the Association would be "plastered" in the next issue of "The Glebe". She was also told that "they" had a list of Association members and dire things were hinted.

To refute the implication that the Association has a web of undercover members in far-flung places, it is put on record that, of the 500 members, only 40 live beyond the Balmain/Rozelle area. Most of these members are people who have either moved out of the area or whose parents and grandparents were part of Balmain's history and who wish to keep in touch with current happenings.

Do you feel sinister and political?



## your new management committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 10th August last and about 60 members attended.

Nominations were received for all positions except the Hon. Secretary and the following members were elected to the various positions. At its first meeting on the 24th August, the position of Secretary was filled by one of the Committee of Management.

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>President:</u>            | Brian Brady<br>41 Booth Street, Balmain.<br>82 5492                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <u>Vice President:</u>       | Margaret Dobson,<br>108 Louisa Rd., Balmain.<br>82 2774                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <u>Hon. Secretary:</u>       | Peter Pearson,<br>14 Moore St., Rozelle<br>82 4723                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <u>Hon. Treasurer:</u>       | Richard Norman,<br>18 Gladstone St., Balmain<br>(Work): 33 5251                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <u>Management Committee:</u> | Hugh Crompton,<br>47 Nelson St., Rozelle<br>827 3185<br><br>Sue Douglas,<br>18 Reynolds St., Balmain<br>82 5406<br><br>Kerry Feldman,<br>47 Palmer St., Balmain<br>827 2939<br><br>Veronica Hagarty,<br>4 Goodsir St., Rozelle<br>82 0378<br><br>Philippa Hughes,<br>103 Evans St., Rozelle<br>82 5111<br><br>Simeon Hughes<br>(as above)<br><br>Nick Masterman,<br>9 Numa St., Balmain<br>82 2708 |

### ADVISORY SERVICE FOR MEMBERS.

Members have been appealing to the Association for help and advice about Building Applications, appeals against neighbourhood building extensions, etc., approaches to the Council.

Would members with expertise in this area please volunteer to form a panel from whom advice can be sought to help their fellow-members. Ring Margaret Dobson 82 2774.

## council elections

The Association reminds all its members to vote at the Leichhardt Council Elections on Saturday, 17th September, as voting is now compulsory.

The following candidates are standing for election in the Wards covered by Association membership:

Balmain: S. Hoy (A.L.P.); D. Mansfield (Independent); T. Wyner (Ind.); N. Criglass (Ind.), J. Ellison (A.L.P.).

Rozelle: Brian Brady (Ind.); R. Heffernon (A.L.P.); E.F. Casey (A.L.P.); R. Trainer (Ind.)

### DARLING STREET BUSES.

Following the Association's letter concerning the diversion of the Darling Street buses around Gladstone Park, Mr. Peter Cox, Minister for Transport and Highways, has replied as follows :

"I am replying to your letter in which you expressed concern at any proposal to divert terminating buses at Gladstone Park via Booth, Darvall and Eaton Streets to the existing terminus in Darling Street.

"The Public Transport Commission has informed me that a request was in fact received from Balmain Hospital for such a diversion of terminating buses to be made. Also, that Leichhardt Council sought the Commission's views on this proposal.

"I am also informed that the suggested route is unsuitable for bus operation due to an excessive side grade at the Eaton Street/Darling Street intersection and that Council has been advised accordingly.

"I understand that at a recent discussion with Council's Works Committee, reference was made by several Aldermen to a large petition received protesting against the suggested diversion of buses via Booth, Darvall and Eaton Streets and it appeared that Council did not support the proposed diversion of buses.

"In the circumstances, the Commission's Area Manager has advised both Leichhardt Council and Balmain Hospital that any further consideration of the proposal has been deferred pending further advice from Council.

"In the meantime, I can assure you that your views on this subject (including the suggested extension of the buses concerned to Darling St. Wharf) have been carefully noted and will be kept in mind should the proposal be revived."

## projects and activities — reports



### balmain garden walk

Sunday, 25th September, 1977.

Gardens on the waterfront and on the border between Balmain & Rozelle.

Two sessions - 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  
1.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Morning and afternoon teas available.

Tickets - \$2.00 each.

Available from -

- . The Hon. Secretary,
- . Balmain Association,
- . P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041.

Enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope.

### balmain village fair

SATURDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 1977.

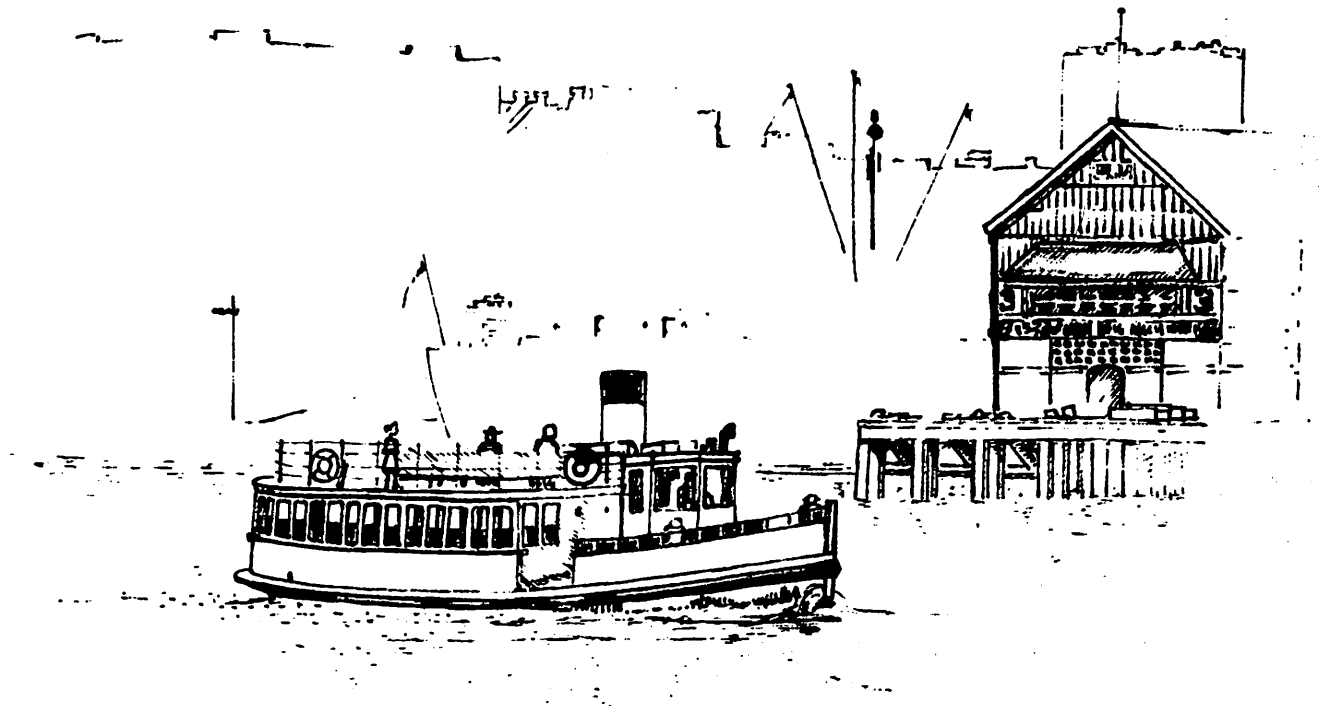
BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET,  
COMMENCING 11.00 A.M.  
CONCLUDING ?

Artists, craftsmen, handworkers of all kinds. An opportunity to sell your wares in a well-established function. To book space, ring : Hugh Crompton, 827 3185.

### miscellaneous

#### HISTORY GROUP ACTIVITY.

The History Group is preparing a book on the changing uses of the Balmain waterfront over the last 100 years. The Group is interested in obtaining old photos, plans; in fact any information about the waterfront. If you have or know anything that might be relevant, please contact Peter Reynolds 82 3752.



## watch these dates !!!

- 17/9/77 Local Government Elections. Voting compulsory.
- 25/9/77 BALMAIN GARDEN WALK. Tickets \$2.00 each. S.A.E. please. (Details this issue).
- 16/10/77 Glebe House Inspection. Tickets \$2.50 available from Association. S.A.E., please. Closing date 30/9/77.
- 5/11/77 BALMAIN VILLAGE FAIR. Balmain Watch House from 11.00 a.m. (Details this issue.)
- 4/12/77 ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS BARBECUE. Details later.

## next general meeting

GENERAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS . . . AT THE  
WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN.  
WEDNESDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1977, at 8.00 p.m.

## new members

Mr. P. Laddington  
 Miss S. Rutherford  
 Mr. & Mrs. D.L. Gough  
 Mrs. J. Porter  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Hancock  
 Mr. R Day & Ms. S. Roche  
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Yetton  
 Miss J. Granger  
 Mrs. M. Scribner  
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Foy  
 Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Fraser

## 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 |