

the balmain association

OH DEAR! OH DEAR! OH DEAR!.

A "local rag" distributed within this parish has come out in print saying that your Association has "gone political"; has "announced" it has "endorsed" its President as a Local Government candidate and has provided "money and booth workers" for non-Labor candidates. What a load of old codswallop!

Because you are members and are of various political persuasions, you have a right to be assured that your Association has never paid money to any political party, nor has it ever endorsed a candidate for any election--local government, State or Federal. In fact, the Constitution at Clause 11 states that an elected member of Council or Government may not hold office on the Management Committee.

Just before the recent local government elections, the Association decided to ask all 9 candidates standing for the Balmain and Rozelle Wards 3 questions of great importance to residents, i.e. their views on the coal loader, high rise development and open council meetings--and then to distribute their answers for public information. The 5 Independents gladly provided their answers. However, the only response from the Labor candidates was a hectoring telephone call from Jack Degen, Campaign Director, who threatened to "press down" on the Association--i.e. have it proscribed--for being political and anti-Labor.

It has been stated before that actions taken by the Council immediately affect the residents' way of life and Aldermen must expect instant reactions. The only way the residents can express their dissatisfaction is at the poll. There should be no party politics in local government, only an improvement in the calibre of elected representatives.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION IS ALL ABOUT.

In view of recent remarks branding the Association as political (see this issue), it might be as well to remind members of the stated aims of the Association as set out in its Constitution. Clause 5 says :-

"5. **AIMS.** The aims of the Association shall be to aid :-

- (a) in the maintenance of all features of Balmain having beauty, architectural and/or historical value unless a proven necessity requires their removal;
- (b) In the preservation of existing open spaces and in the increase of open space for the health and enjoyment of the community in general;

(c) In the encouragement of high architectural standards when new buildings are constructed and when existing buildings are being altered;

(d) In preventing the disfigurement of premises, streets and open places by ugly signs, advertisements, notices, poles, wires and unseemly structures;

(e) In protecting the residents from air pollution, noise and other nuisances detrimental to the quiet enjoyment of their homes;

(f) In protecting and adding to the amenities of Balmain;

(g) In ensuring the safety and convenience of pedestrians and vehicles using the streets;

(h) In encouraging the development of cultural activities; for example, the establishing of a library and arts and crafts centre;

(i) In compiling and recording the history of the area and the establishing of a permanent collection of items of historical interest;

(j) In seeking the co-operation of the residents, existing industries and others concerned in the realisation of the abovementioned aims."

The Constitution is presently being re-drafted, so let us have your ideas about any changes you would like to see made.

THE LATEST ON THE COAL LOADER.

The President has received a letter from the Deputy Premier, Mr. L.J. Ferguson, dated 19th September, advising as follows :-

"The Premier has asked me to reply to your letter of 24th August, 1977, regarding the Balmain (White Bay) Coal Loader.

The works which are to be put in hand to upgrade and improve the existing facilities were explained to you at your meeting on 22nd August. As soon as details have been finalised, an environmental impact statement will be submitted to the State Pollution Control Commission and public submissions will be invited.

The advertisement inviting submissions will also give information as to where copies of the statement will be available for inspection and the time given for submissions to be prepared."

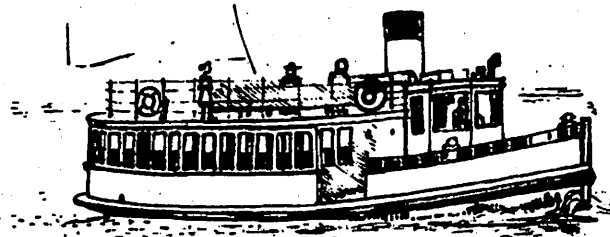
SAVE THE GLASS HOUSE!

You know the glass house between the Balmain Town Hall and the Police Station? Well, a notice appeared in the S.M.H. on election day calling for tenders to demolish the glass house. The plants were removed on Tuesday, 20th, and the Mayor seems intent on speeding ahead with the demolition even though the composition of the new Council had not been decided.

The Council's plan is to dig up the lawn and asphalt the area for a small car park.

Remember the little garden at the corner of Montague and Darling Streets on which the P.M.G. built that monstrosity of a telephone exchange? Once again the landscaping of this architecturally historic group of public buildings is being threatened without consultation with residents and this time with bitumen and yellow lines instead of grass and flowers.

A petition for the retention of the glass-house and lawns will be available for signing outside Woolworths on Saturday morning. Let's hope the new Council will take notice of popular demand and abandon the scheme which is being implemented with indecent haste during the interregnum.



BALMAIN-McMAHON'S POINT FERRY SERVICES.

The Balmain-McMahon's Point ferry service, which has been running since February last year, is to be discontinued. Hegarty's Ferries said that patronage of this service had not improved from the time the service was first started and the loss could no longer be sustained. Hegarty's intend to revert to the pre-February, 1976 position and re-schedule a service at 5.05 p.m. from Circular Quay to Darling Street and at 5.35 p.m. to Darling Street and Thames Street. To give the cross harbour service a final period of re-assessment, the 5.35 p.m. service from Circular Quay will call into McMahon's Point to pick up passengers for Balmain. The amended services will come into operation on about 15th August.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The results have not yet been announced and time does not allow us to give a detailed summary. However, we hope to give this in the next News Sheet.

ENERGY CRISIS AND NUCLEAR POWER

A talk on the energy crisis and nuclear power will be given by Denis Sams of the Nuclear Power Study Group of Sydney University on Tuesday, 11 October at 7.30 pm. The talk is to be held in the the Balmain Community Health Centre, Darling St. Balmain (between Woolworths and Brays Book Shop.) All welcome—admission free. A group of local residents is organising the talk.

NEWS!

If something happens in your street; if you hear rumours which affect Balmain and Rozelle; if you have complaints and you think these should be spread to other members, ring Margaret Dobson on 82 2774 after 6.00 p.m.

COMMUNICATION.

The last issue of the News Sheet gave a list of all Management Committee members, together with their addresses and telephone numbers. Do not hesitate to contact any one of them should the occasion arise.

As Management Committee members change from year to year, a permanent telephone number cannot be given for the Association, so it is up to members to keep September's issue of the News Sheet ready for reference.

CRICKET CLUB'S FIRST MATCH - OUTRIGHT VICTORY.

The Association Cricket Club (re-named BACCHUS) had an outright victory in its first match in the Balmain/Drummoyne competition against RSL 2—a bunch of energetic youths.

Ralph Catts had a strong first innings of 58 and a solid 46 not out in the second innings. Barry Moore took six wickets for eight runs in the first innings and finished with eight wickets for 46 runs. Brian McDonald's run-saving dives in the covers earned him a lead in the fielding competition.

Cricket practice will be resuming soon—probably on Thursday nights. Details next issue.

A social game is being organised verses Plato's Curse Eleven on 13 November - venue to be announced. Regular BACCHUS players will stand down to allow Association Members keen to ~~enjoy~~ play, vet their skills. Please phone Simeon Hughes on 825111 for instant selection before 6 November.

DON'T FORGET THIS YEAR'S VILLAGE FAIR.

The Association's Village Fair is approaching soon—remember the date—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5. Now is the time to start preparing your handicrafts—weaving, potting, sewing, etc.—for sale at the Fair. Anyone can have a stall on a small fee (\$10 a stall plus 10% commission). Contact Hugh Crompton (work 231 4699 or home 827 3185) if you are interested or are willing to help in any way.

ESTABLISHING A NATIVE GARDEN TO ATTRACT BIRDS.

Incorporating in your garden plants which specifically attract birds which in turn will keep the insects in check and their activities and songs will give unending pleasure. In order to attract birds it is necessary to grow the right type of plants, generally those which have open flowers, collectively known as the honey flora. Members of the honeyeater family and the nectar eating parrots flock to these plants but in addition a great variety of insectivorous birds will come to feed on the insects attracted to the blossoms and foliage.

A native garden is not a formal garden but should look as much like natural bush as possible. The plants grow well when grouped to form thickets and the birds feel more at home in the shelter and safety thereby afforded. When purchasing select a range of plants having sufficient variety in their flowering seasons to make food producing blossoms available at any-time during the year. All natives are scented to some degree, many flowers exuding the delicious honey sweetness of nectar while the foliage offers a variety of spicy aromas which may vary according to the weather and the time of day or night.

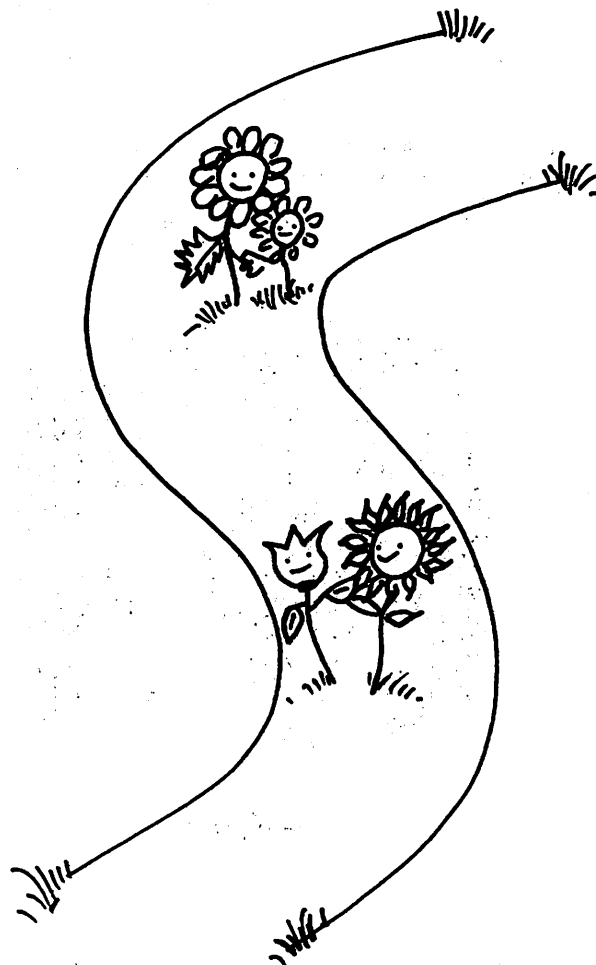
Some native trees and shrubs suitable for small gardens are.....Eucalyptus Leucoxydon Rosea (to 20') rose flowers, yellow gum, autumn-winter blooms, E. Caesia (to 15') rose-pink flowers winter spring, E. Grossa (6-15'), medium sized white flowers most of year, E. Preissana (8') Bell Fruit Mallee, large yellow flowers, decorative nuts, July to November.

Banksias are well worth growing just for the twisted, gnarled shape but for small gardens Banksia Caleyi (6') yellow to brick red brushes December-January does not like wet feet, B. Robur (4-6') likes water, flowers yellow to deep green to black.

Melaleuca Hypericifolia (10') red flowers most of year if kept well watered, M. Incana (6') graceful weeping habit, cream bottle brushes September- November, suitable for tub planting, M. Thymifolia (3') mauve claw shaped flowers November-December in wet conditions. One of this species grows to only (1') but forms a dense mat that covers many square feet and is crowned with bright flowers. Calistemon Viminalis (15') red attractive weeping foliage, flowers throughout the year, C. Pinefolius (4') pale green flowers in spring.

Hakea Undulata (6') masses of scented cream flowers during late winter. Grevillea Banksii (8-15') masses of large red spikes through most of the year, G. Punicea (5') deep red truly spider like flowers through winter-spring. Prostrate species G. Laurifolia dark red flowers and G. Trinervis deep red flowers during spring-summer.

Calothamnus Villosus (5') scarlet flowers so profusely that weeping foliage is almost hidden in summer, C. Quadrifidus (8') deep red stiff pine like foliage. The varieties I have named here are only a few of those available and the book Australian Native Gardens and Birds by Barbara Salter, Hamlyn Pocket Guides offers a great deal more information.



1977 GARDEN WALK.

Sunday, 25th September, dawned overcast, but fine, and the Garden Walk was ON! Disappointingly, less than 200 people turned up, but those who did seemed to enjoy themselves.

The generous people who opened up their gardens and courtyards did wonderful work to make their grounds ready for the day and all the visitors highly praised everything.

The Drama Group provided delicious morning and afternoon teas in a lovely garden setting and made a big contribution to the success of the day. Some people just turned up for the afternoon tea!

Thanks to all the people who contributed their time to make another Garden Walk swing along without hitches.

restaurant night



RESTAURANT NIGHT OUT.

The Association is arranging a dinner at Caddies Restaurant on Tuesday, 11th October. Caddies will provide a fixed 3-course menu (\$10 a head) and there will be a selection of good wines available for those who wish to imbibe. The Association has booked out the whole restaurant for the night (it seats 60). So come along and join other members for dinner. Friends also welcome.

Dinner starts at 8.00 p.m. Pre-dinner drinks will be available from the Bar from 7.30 p.m. Please finalise bookings before 3rd October through Hugh Crompton, 47 Nelson St., Rozelle (82 3185) or Veronica Hagarty, 4 Goodsir St., Rozelle (82 5406).

Raffle tickets will be sold on the night (20¢ a ticket). The prize: a package of Revlon cosmetics (for a female winner) or a man's Oronot wallet (for a male winner). Caddies is at 51 Palmer Street, Balmain.

watch these dates!!!

- Sat. 8/10/77. 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Balmain Garden Club Street Sale of plants: outside Commonwealth Bank, Darling St. Moderate prices.
- Sun. 9/10/77. 1.00 to 5.00 p.m. Annandale Association Garden Day. Tickets on sale on the day at 24 View Street, Annandale. Enquiries 660 3468.
- Tues. 11/10/77. Talk on energy crisis and nuclear power. Details this Issue
- Tues. 11/10/77. 7.30 p.m. for drinks. Caddies Restaurant night. Details this issue.
- Sun. 16/10/77. Glebe Society House Inspection.
- Sat. 5/11/77. Balmain Village Fair. Watch House, 179 Darling St. from 11.00 a.m. Helpers and participants wanted.
- Sun. 4/12/77. Association Christmas Barbecue.

next general meeting

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN.

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 1977, AT 8.00 p.m.

new members

Mrs. F. Wenke
Mr. & Mrs. C. Kennedy
Mr. F. Paislo
Mr. N. Rees
Ms. C.M. Hebborn
Ms. R. Lance
Ms. A. Collier
Dr. & Mrs. G.T. Mackintosh
Mr. M. Wilson
L.N. Baker
S. Moait
J. Paine
B.J. Palmer
C.W. Palmer
M. Hagarty
Ms. P.A. Ryan
Mrs. M. Stoney
Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Terry



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