



Issue No.84
December, 1977

the balmain association

Christmas....

.....HIMBUG!

Its just a big
ripoff.

Not like those
beaut ones when
I was a kid.



The family and friends
and neighbours and just
about everyone used to
get together and
celebrate.

Nothing like that now!

Except for,... maybe,...
...why yes!!!!



THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION
CHRISTMAS B.B.Q. !!!!

Its on Sunday December 11th,
It starts at about 4.30 p.m.,

Its at 7 NUMA ST., BIRCHGROVE.
(Thats Nick Mastermans house)
Theres a fireplace and timber
is provided but its B.Y.O.
everything else.

And the kids will be happy
because Santa will be there

And old fashioned prices
-its FREE.

Gee, its going to be
just great!!



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE OF THE CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE
HAS CHANGED TO SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER.

council report

The new term of office of the present Council appeared to start with the hope that Aldermen and residents would be able to work together in an amicable fashion. But the meeting on 15th November showed that the facade is crumbling.

The first incident was that of a ratepayer in another Ward who was objecting to a development on the land next to his residence where a substantial house had been demolished and permission to use the land as an open parking area was being sought. However, the developer wanted to erect a 20 ft. wall on the street frontage and an 8 ft. wall at the rear which, with a land rise of 9 ft. would have meant a 17' rise. The ratepayer's legal spokesman politely requested permission to speak against the building of these walls and the Mayor told him he should have made an appointment to speak at Council meetings and Ald. Casey then moved that the question be put and the Labor majority voted for the development to proceed.

The second incident concerned the long-standing complaints of noisy industry by residents of St. Andrew's Street. Ald. Origlass stated that a petition had been sent by the residents (and a receipt held) to Council 6 weeks before but there was no mention of the petition on the business paper. At first it was denied that a petition had been received and then it was admitted that "a letter with some signatures" had been received and had been handed to the Council's solicitors and there the matter rested. It appears that Council received another solicitor's letter accusing the residents of paranoid behaviour and harassing tactics against Mr. Sliteris, "a manufacturer of switchboard components". These seem to consist of large steel cabinets and girders and the use of $\frac{1}{2}$ " steel. The Council's attitude is that the residents are very naughty and could get themselves into trouble. When the residents signed a reply to this solicitor's letter, documenting the many abuses of the Noise Pollution Act by Sliteris, their reply was handed to the Council's solicitors! Who does Council represent? What legal action do they plan to take and against whom?

Generally, Council's decisions were quite inconsistent. A man in Young Street was refused permission for a development for the very reasons which the St. Andrew's St. residents are complaining--noise, lack of onsite parking, etc.

The Council asked the Public Transport Commission that consideration be given to the extension on a full-time basis of ferry services to Thames Street and Yeend Street, Balmain, wharves. The Commission replied that it does not have the resources to service the wharves. However, the proposal will receive consideration in a current review of the inner Harbour ferry services. Council will make a fresh approach to the Commission, seeking provision of ferry services to both these wharves.

The Mayor announced that the Council meetings during December would be held on 6th and 13th and that the meeting after the Christmas break would be held on 17th January.

Below is the text of the letter from Mr Landa, State Minister for Planning and Environment in reply to our letters regarding the destruction of the Balmain Green House.

Dear Mr. Brady,

I am writing in response to your representations of 7th October 1977 on behalf of the Balmain Association, concerning Leichhardt Municipal Council's proposals to develop the historic precinct between the Balmain Town Hall and the Police Station.

As you are aware, I was also most concerned at the Council's development proposals for this area and accordingly held discussions with the Mayor Alderman L. Rodwell and other representatives from Leichhardt Council about the effect of the planned development proposals on this historic precinct.

As a result of these discussions the Council has agreed not to proceed with their current plans and instead re-appraise the whole proposal to provide for the retention of glass house.

I am sure that the latest proposal will meet with the satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

PAULA LANDA.
Minister for Planning and Environment.

PUBLICITY -- AT HOME AND AWAY.

Shirley Stackhouse in Woman's Day (21/11/77) gave the Association's Garden Walk great coverage with a 2-page spread of photographs of the gardens opened for inspection. She also mentioned our publication "HALF A THOUSAND ACRES" and several orders have resulted from this mention.

Members are reminded that this well produced book is available at the discount price of \$8.95. Why not give several as Christmas gifts ???

Also available are cards and envelopes in sets of 4 pictures of Balmain buildings taken in 1900. Cost \$1.00 a set and available from the Association at P.O. Box 57, Balmain. 2041.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP: NEXT PRODUCTION

As you can see from the enclosed leaflet, Balmain Theatre Group is shortly presenting three one act plays as their next attraction.

Although the three are comedies the similarity ends there as each play has its own flavour.

"THE VACANCY" by Phillip Witts, is the first performance of a new play by the Group's own up-and-coming playwright.....a humorous look at our employment problem.....

"DOCK BRIEF" by John Mortimer, is a classic one-actor being performed by two of the Group's most experienced actors.....a gently funny play about an unsuccessful criminal and the equally unsuccessful lawyer defending him.....

"THE ROY MURPHY SHOW" by Alex Buzo, well known Australian author, is a riotous send-up of your favourite T.V. sports show.

ANTIQUE ROSES AS SHRUBS.

Before you plant another rather dull shrub consider an old type of shrub rose. These are always perfumed, and much more disease resistant than modern hybrids and need little spraying and also practically no pruning. I met someone who got so interested in these, that he dug up an old tennis court and planted fifty!

These are some of the available types:-

THE GALlicas: these are extremely ancient. Were known to the Medes and Persians are almost thornless, with arching canes. This was the Apolothecary's rose. An interesting variety is the striped "Rosamundi" named for the Fayre Rosamund, girl friend of Henry the Second, and who was poisoned, it was said by the order of the Queen. Another ancient one is "Tuscany" (a deep velvety-maroon). Some others are "Belle de Crecy", (cerise) Chas. de Mille (purple) and Camieux another striped one.

THE ALBAS: an ancient group well known in Roman times. Originated from crossing Damask roses with the wild Canina dog roses. Good varieties include Alba Maxima a white double, and Maiden's Blush and Celeste are two beautiful pinks.

THE DAMASKS: originally from Asia Minor and known in Europe for several thousand years. An original Damask is Kazanlik (6ft by 5 ft) semi-double pink still grown as the main source of altar of roses.

The best white is probably Mdme. Hardy (1832) a flat double. A couple of good pinks are Ispahan and Omar Khayyam. The latter was grown from seeds taken from a rose on his grave in 1893.

All these types of old roses only flower in Spring.

THE BOURBONS: these are probably the best-liked by the moderns, as are re-current flowering from Spring to Autumn. They resulted from an accidental hybrid between an old Roman damask and an old China rose, on the island of Bourbon in 1817. The seedling was sent to France and many more developed. Some good varieties are souvenir de la Malmaison (get the climbing type, if possible), Varigata di Bologna, with stripes of white and purple grows 8 feet and good for fences or tripods. La Reine Victoria is pink and globular in form. A good climber is Zephyrin Dronhin (1868) grows 15 feet no thorns deep pink and flowering continuously.

THE RUGOSAS: originally from North China Japan and Korea. Are re-current flowering, perfumed and single and double. Varieties include Parfum d'la Hay, Roserie de la Hay (double crimson) and Scabrosa (single mauve).

Of course there are many types of species roses and their hybrids, mostly singles and suitable for different purposes, such as growing on banks, or scrambling up trees.

The sources of obtaining these antique roses are rather limited. Rumseys at Dural have some in pots for planting out, most of the year. The best time to see them in flower is November.

Hemphills at Dural also have some in pots about October and November. The main grower in Australia is Mr. Ross, Sturt Road, Bedford Park, in South Australia. He has a large range and sends them all over Australia, as bare root plants in May. His catalogue is probably about 50 cents now.

Sometimes cuttings from old type roses can be obtained from old cemeteries. When at Armidale, I was informed that the Gallica "Anais Segales" (1837) was growing in an old cemetery at Wialla.

If one can get cuttings, March and April, are the best months. Take an end piece about 9 ins. long from stems that have flowered, if possible. Cut off old flower, and all leaves except the top two, and put in a trench in a shady spot about 8 ins. deep, with 3 ins. of coarse sand in the bottom of the trench. Dip the bottom end of the cutting in rooting powder, if available. Plant firmly, with only the top leaves above soil. Water well and keep just damp. If it does take do not move until the winter of the next year.

Good hunting!

J. Murray.

new members

Mrs. G. MacGillycuddy
Mr & Mrs. L. Wilson
Mr. R. D. Quiddington
M/s C. Friend
M/s E. Russell
Mr. G. Diinis
Mr. & Mrs. J. Booth
Mr. A. Horder
Miss J. A. Kitto
Mr. M. Ashby
Mr. W. J. Carpenter
Mr. I. Cleland
M/s K. Carville
Mr. J. Evans
Dr. & Mrs. Jan Jennings
Mr. & Mrs. F. Leys
Mr. & Mrs. G. Mayo.
Mr. & Mrs J. Munro
Mr. R. Moorcroft
Mr. B. Moore
Mrs M. Saunders
Mr. J. Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Lione
Mr. & Mrs. R. Lloyd
Mr. & Mrs R L Parker
M/s P. Southern
Mr. G. J. Wiffen

We welcome back
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Watters
Mrs. M. Needham
Mrs. R. S. Needham.

CRICKET

Unfortunately the Balmain Association team was 'done' rather badly by Plato's Eleven last month, however we have another social game being organised for the Sunday of the Australia Day week-end against our old rivals the Glebe Society in which we hope to show our true superiority. Practice is held every Thursday evening from 5.30p.m. - 7.30p.m. at a cost of 50¢ each to cover hire of matts, at Balmain High School nets, Terry Street, Balmain.

christmas barbecue

Come along to the Association Christmas barbecue this year. Bring your own food and grog. Wood and fireplace available. Members, friends and kids welcome.

DATE: 11 December 1977
PLACE: 7 Numa Street, Balmain
TIME: 4.30 p.m.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 8.00p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN

NEIL OATES.

It is with extreme regret that we report the death of one of the Association's most active members of recent years, Neil Oates. Neil suffered several severe heart attacks and died in St. Vincents Hospital on Wednesday November 16. He was 38 years old.

Neil will be remembered by 1968-1974 Association members for the work he did, together with his wife Helen, landscaping the park next to the Watchhouse. Neil also organised the Association tree plantings; Curtis Road, Goodsir Street and Roseberry Street, come immediately to mind.

A Landscape architect by profession Neil was a man who loved trees and nature, and his passing will be a loss, not only to Balmain people, but to all those throughout New South Wales who share these interests. For Neil's work encompassed the landscaping of many schools and government buildings, he helped in the revitalising of Taronga Park Zoo and in the establishment of Dubbo Zoo and recently he won the Lions Design Award for the landscaping of the forecourt to the Central Criminal Court in Liverpool Street.

Neil will be remembered and thanked for this work for many years to come.

We wish to pass to Helen, and daughter Emily, our deepest sympathy for their tragic loss.

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