

the balmain association



WHO NEEDS A COAL LOADER ??

president's report

RECONSTITUTION OF A BALMAIN COUNCIL

Taking the opportunity afforded by all parliaments being in recess, we were able to get coverage on page 2 of the Sydney Morning Herald on Tuesday 17th January, Channel Ten "Eye-Witness News-Hour", 2JJ, the "Leichhardt Inner Western" and the "Guardian", with good effect.

Alderman Nick Origlass, with his usual command of facts, ably handled 'talk-back' enquiries on 2BL's "City Extra" on Wednesday 18th January.

The movement to regain our own Municipal Council is "alive and well"!

NEW ZONING PLAN FOR ROSELLE-BALMAIN

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the new Leichhardt Plan will be on exhibition, or about to be. Our information is that (apart from sites already zoned otherwise), the whole pen.insula will be zoned Residential, with a maximum height of 10.2 metres (i.e. two stories - no flats!)

We have been most heartened by the way in which Paul Landa, the Minister for Planning and the Environment, his staff, and the Planning and Environment Commission have been responsive to our representations on behalf of residents of the area.

THE HERITAGE ACT (N.S.W.)

This far-sighted and progressive Act was finally passed by the Upper House when the Opposition woke up to the fact that some of their proposed amendments ran counter to the provisions of a previous Bill of their own (when they were in power).

It has been suggested to us that the Minister is keen to ensure that the proposed Heritage Council represents all sections of the community, and to that end the Balmain Association is taking the initiative in calling a meeting of representatives of all conservationist and environmental groups late in February.

REFERENDA AND REFORM

Because of the cost, we have been loth to suggest a referendum on the issue of Local Autonomy for Balmain. However, since the State Government is committed to a referendum for reform of the Legislative Council, the additional cost of having a

simultaneous referendum on the issue of a re-formed Balmain Council would be very little indeed.

We are therefore approaching State Cabinet to this end: in both cases the issue can be presented as bringing the election of responsible government closer to the people - "grass-roots democracy."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMICS

In many public utilities - water, sewerage, libraries, etc - economies of scale can be achieved by running the enterprises concerned on regional, State or even National level.

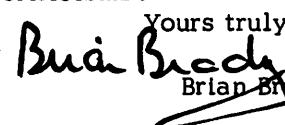
It is quite arguable that building inspections, health inspections, pollution control and many other areas which local councils police with the assistance of statutory authorities could also be more economically and efficiently managed by larger regional, or State, instrumentalities.

My personal opinion, and that of at least 4500 other petition signatories in Balmain and Rozelle, is that any economies achieved by amalgamation of Councils would be offset by many diseconomies of scale, and by making aldermen even more remote and inaccessible to those whom they purport to represent.

BALMAIN-ROZELLE

Air, noise and water pollution, oil and chemical storage "tank-farms", container terminals, the coal loader, and the traffic of container trucks in our narrow, congested streets provide enough work for twelve or fifteen dedicated part-time aldermen in our peninsula making local decisions on local issues, without having to be concerned with matters elsewhere - providing they are not interfered with by a predominance of aldermen representing "elsewhere".

As always, we want to hear from you and to keep in close contact with your views and criticisms.

Yours truly,

Brian Brady.

EAST BALMAIN FORESHORES PRESERVATION

Late last year we wrote to the Hon. Paul Landa, Minister for Planning and the Environment seeking his intervention to save the virgin foreshores at Duke Street (on Mort Bay), Weston Street (adjacent to Peacock Pt.) and Hosking Street (on Johnston's Bay) from flat "developers".

We are delighted to advise that the N.S.W. Government has bought the Weston Street property for posterity, and the letter we received from Mr Landa leaves little doubt that our views are being given weighty consideration.

YEEND STREET (BIRCHGROVE) FERRY SERVICE

Residents in the Morts Bay area will be pleased to learn that ferries are now calling at Yeend Street during the peak hour morning and afternoon services.

Stannard Bros run ferries leaving Yeend Street at 7.53 a.m. and 8.33 a.m. and Hegarty's run a ferry at 5.35 p.m. from No.6 Wharf, Circular Quay.

It has taken a long time to get this service running again and it is in commuter's interests to make it a permanent benefit.

PROPOSED SQUASH COURTS

The Association recently wrote to Leichhardt Council about future maintenance of the Squash Court site in Balmain and received the following reply:

"Property Known as Nos.338-340 Darling Street, Balmain.

Reference is made to your letter dated 30th November 1977, in respect of Council's development approval to erect on the above-mentioned property seven (7) squash courts and associated amenities and in particular condition No.11 of the approval requiring the developer and/or owner to enter into a Deed secured by a banker's bond in a penal sum of \$1,000 to ensure that the landscaping is maintained for a period of three (3) years.

Your concern that at the end of the three (3) year period referred to the developer and/or owner would be free to abandon or discontinue maintenance of the landscaped area is shared by Council. However on legal advice Council cannot enforce a period of more than three (3) years for maintenance.

Experience has shown, however, that if landscaping of development is properly carried out and maintained for three (3) years it becomes reasonably well established and is usually maintained following the expiration of the control period."



PLANTS LIKE COMPANY

It has been found that plants grow more happily in a group than alone. Even house plants together, on a stand or table, do better than plants in solitude, each one in a room on its own.

In the garden, plants grow better planted fairly thickly, provided the soil is well nourished. It appears now, that there is a chemical affinity between certain plants, and antagonism between others. Some seem to provide mutual assistance and grow better in one another's company.

Much investigation in these matters has been done in Germany and America in regard to vegetables. Some of the findings are as follows:

Potatoes grow well near broad beans or sweet corn, but do not get on well near pumpkins, or cabbages. Cabbage and its near relatives, are aided by nearby sage, rosemary or camomile and celery will assist in keeping away the white moth. Tomatoes also grow well near celery. Beans are happy near carrots, cauliflower and cabbage, but onions, leeks, or garlic are considered to inhibit their growth. Sweet corn does well near beans, or peas.

Peas like neighbours such as radishes, sweet corn, cucumbers and carrots. Cucumbers are happy to have sunflowers nearby. Chives also help cucumbers to combat mildew.

French marigolds (*Tagetes Patula*) are considered effective in combating soil nematodes, and are good to plant between rows of tomatoes, potatoes and beans if nematodes are suspected.

Nasturtiums are also helpful between vegetables particularly against mealy bug, or aphids on cabbages. Also nasturtiums are said to improve the flavour of radishes.

Parsley is beneficial to tomatoes and roses. Onions and celery like each other. Use borage near strawberries. Pine needles make a good acid mulch to keep strawberries healthy and clean.

It is said rats and mice keep away if catmint is planted near doorways, and that rabbits hate onions, so if they are bad down your end of town, just plant onions near that hole in the fence.

J. MURRAY
BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB.



The BTG Dimmer Board has finally given up the ghost and must be replaced. Our next fund raising activity for the Dimmer Board will be:-

A FASHION PARADE

Clothes designed by Yvonne Harvey of Darling St. Balmain and made in PENANG. The range of 60 outfits includes three piece tailored suits, long gowns, batik sundresses and other casual wear. Prices range from \$7 - \$30 - extremely reasonable. Larger sizes will be available by order.

SUNDAY 5th FEB. AT 2.30 p.m. IN THE HALL. ADMISSION OF \$2 INCLUDES DEVONSHIRE AFTERNOON TEA. SEND YOUR CHEQUE TO BOX 37 ROZELLE OR RING ANNETTE BUTTERFIELD ON 82:1487 FOR RESERVATIONS. TICKETS MAY BE COLLECTED AT THE DOOR.

For catering purposes we must know the number of people coming.

PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS, AUNTS, MUMS, etc.

NEXT PRODUCTION

Balmain Theatre Group's next production is Noel Coward's hilarious comedy "Blithe Spirit". Performance dates are March 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 17th, 18th at 8p.m. Advance bookings are available at \$3.25 per adult, \$1-50 children by writing to Box 37, ROZELLE and enclosing your cheque. Tickets will be mailed if requested or may be collected at the door on the night of the performance.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 8.00p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING ST., BALMAIN.

PEACOCK POINT RESERVE.

The Illoura Reserve at Peacock Point, Balmain designed by landscape architect Bruce MacKenzie has won the 1977 Civic Design Award from the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

In its citation for the Illoura Reserve, the jury said: "This conversion of land from derelict misuse to rehabilitated park is achieved by thoughtful site planning and design.

"The park, which improves with every year as the planting matures, reveals the designer's original intent for zones of activity integrated by a variety of attractive spaces.

"The practical man-made structures are sensitively designed and robust enough to have withstood the heavy use they received.

"The park, which represents a significant contribution to usable greenspace on the Balmain peninsula, blends well with its harbourside environs.

"Its intensive use reflects its wide communal acceptance."

CRICKET

The Balmain Association v. the Glebe Society cricket match to have been played on the Australia Day weekend was cancelled because of the bad weather. The match will now be played on Sunday, 19 February 1978 at Five Dock Park, play to start at 10-30 a.m.

Anyone wishing to play please phone Sim Hughes on 825111 for instant selection.

The Association Cricket Club is still playing in the Balmain/Drummoyne Cricket Association competition and half way through the second round are coming a very competitive third place. Practice is still being held each Thursday evening from 5-30 to 7-30 approx.

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

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

Membership Application Form

I/We
(Names in Full)

of
(Address)

wish to apply for membership of the Balmain Association.

We accept the fact that the Association does not endorse or support candidates for election to Local Government or Parliament, that it is politically non-partisan and endorse its aims of making the Balmain-Rozelle peninsula a better place to live and work in.

Signatures:
.....
.....

Annual Fees:	Single membership	\$2.00
	Family	\$4.00
	Pensioner/Junior	.20¢

(Optional) I/We are interested in the following:-

Environmental and/or Ecological Questions
Closer contact with Local Government bodies
Historical Society
Drama Group
Horticulture and Garden Walks
Architecture
Creation of more open space and Recreational Area
Child-care Centres