



the balmain association

president's report

East Balmain Foreshores

At the time of writing (23 July) this issue was still unresolved, our latest shots having been to urge Minister Landa to make a Conservation Order under the Heritage Act, which would not involve any expenditure of money, but would prohibit not only development, but the removal of any vegetation. The Act includes under the heading of "environmental heritage" any place of "natural or aesthetic significance" and we believe that the foreshores of Sydney Harbour qualify under both headings. We were given a sympathetic hearing on Caroline Jones' "City Extra" on 20th July. Previous coverage by Channel Ten, the Sydney Morning Herald, and nearly a full page in "The Sun" by Anne Dupree have been most helpful.

"A.R.G.O." (Association of Resident Groups and Organisations)

The *raison d'être* for A.R.G.O was the fear of further amalgamation of Councils without popular consent, but your Association's wider-ranging theme that "any community with a sense of identity should have the right to decide by poll whether to have its own council or to join with other communities to form a Council" was adopted as the principal tenet.

This has enabled the issue of the right of communities to secede from Councils to be raised in a much broader context, with Balmain serving as a cogent example.

A.R.G.O already includes twenty resident groups, from places as far apart as Penrith, Galston, Mosman, Bronte, and Kogarah, and its early days yet.

Balmain "Glass-House" & Town Hall Precinct

The saving of this was a heartening achievement in that it showed that residents are not powerless. However the beautification scheme, proposed by Planning and Environment Commission architects (but for which Mayor Rodwell incorrectly claimed credit) has yet to be seen.

White Bay Coal-Loader

The position appears to be a "stand-off", with the State Government and the colliery-owners each saying the other should pay for the "up-grading".

LEIGHARDT COUNCIL'S PIDDLING "POCKET PARKS"

Newcomers to the area may have been easily misled by a recent article in the "Herald", which referred to "excellent things" the Council was doing for

Balmain. Not only was one (so-called "Balmain Plaza") over in Lilyfield (Rodwell's ward!) and not in Balmain at all, but all the other parks of any significance were initiated not by the Council, but by various State and Federal authorities, which then passed them (and funds) over to the Council to either complete or maintain. The S.M.H. was "snowed" by Leichhardt Council!

Yours sincerely,

Brian Brady

Brian Brady
President.

BALMAIN EAST MARINA PROPOSAL

The Association wrote to Paul Landa, the Minister for Planning and Environment, on 8th May regarding the lack of public participation and generally secretive nature of the contentious plan to site a large commercial marina in the Nicholson Street-Simmons Street area of East Balmain.

Below is part of the reply by Mr Landa.

"Among other things, the conditions require the provision of adequate off-street parking to serve the development and restrict both pedestrian and vehicular access to the northern end of Nicholson Street. A further condition prohibits the hiring of boats which were proposed to be dry-stacked on the land because it is considered that insufficient parking space has been provided to cope with the increased patronage which such a facility would engender. However, boat hiring is considered to be a legitimate function of a marina and should the developer be in a position in the future to provide sufficient parking space to meet the anticipated demand, this question of permitting the dry stacking of boats on the site might be reconsidered.

So far as the question of public participation is concerned, the report of the Council's Town Planner was available at the Council Chambers for the information of interested parties as were the plans of the proposed development. Moreover, the matter was the subject of wide press publicity and, in fact, attracted a substantial volume of public comment which was closely considered both by the Council and my administration prior to any decision being made.

Matters of Concern

Mr. Landa's reply, rather than allay fears held by the Association and residents regarding the proposed marina, has raised a number of matters of concern.

One of the principal matters is that of public participation and access to information regarding this huge development.

It appears that the proposal was approved by the Planning and Environment Commission on 27.7.1977 yet one year later, residents of the area have still not been advised by the P.E.C. or Leichhardt Council.

The first generally available information was via a leaflet distributed in the affected area by an independant Balmain Alderman in March 1978. This presumably led to the "wide press publicity" and "substantial volume of public comment" that was "closely considered" by Council and the P.E.C. some 8 months after approval had been given.

Lack of Information

Coupled with the "quiet approval" is Leichhardt Council's reluctance, even now to make details of the proposal available to interested residents including those adjoining the marina site.

The Association would like full details, including plans and documents and a list of "the 18 conditions" freely available together with a statement from the P.E.C. as to how these conditions are to be enforced once the development is completed and in operation.

Disturbing Aspects of the Plan

It has been advised by some of the few people who have seen the plan that two disturbing aspects are immediately evident; one being that although nearly one hundred car parking spaces are shown on the plan, covering virtually every square inch of open space of the 1-14 acre site, many would appear to be unusable in the day-to-day operations of the marina. In fact some of the car parking spaces are shown on land initially to be dedicated by the developers to the public for the extension of Simmons Point Reserve.

The likely outcome of this would be that the surrounding streets including possibly Nicholson, Simmons, Clifton, Brett, Lyallmore and Stokes Avenue while already strained to capacity, would have to take the inevitable overflow of cars from the marina, to say nothing of the huge increase in traffic movements especially in the Nicholson Street School area.

The other disturbing aspect is that it appears virtually no landscaping is provided in this large site together with no dedication of land to the public for public recreation. This is compounded by the fact that the public has now lost access to the existing wharf previously leased by the Council for the use of the residents of Balmain.

Immediate Action Needed by the P.E.C.

Taken overall, it is considered that rather than the marina providing a desirable amenity for the locality that, as it is so totally out of scale with the surrounding area it can only prove to be another planning disaster foisted on the long suffering Balmain people to such, a request is to be made by the Association to the P.E.C. asking that the scheme be recast in a reduced form to one more in sympathy with the surrounding environment.

projects and activities — reports

History Group Display.

The Associations History Group recently presented a display of historical photographs and maps, together with a stall for book sales and membership inquiries at the Rozelle Festival. Following widespread interest in the display from all sections of the community, it is proposed to set up a permanent display for use in the Balmain area a Banks, Schools, outdoor activities, etc. People interest in helping with this project, along with people with a general interest in history in Balmain-Rozelle area are invited to the next History Group meeting to be held on Monday 7 August at 8.30 p.m in the Watchhouse at 179 Darling Street.

STREET NAME STUDY

Wells Street

Wells Street, running between Waterview and Campbell Streets, has been misnamed. The error has come about from the slurring of the two words, WELL STREET.

In 1861, there was no easy access between Darling Street (East Balmain) and Morts Dock and consequently, the Balmain Council voted to construct a new road.

The new thoroughfare, to connect Waterview and Campbell Streets, passed through James Yeend's property, "Inglefield House". Although Mr. Yeend received £100 for the strip of land, the road's construction threatened to deprive him of a very necessary amenity, his water supply.

As the new road passed over Yeend's well, he was effectively prevented from manually drawing water from it. The Council, however, agreed to pipe the water to Yeend's property on the other side of the new road, thus maintaining his water supply.

From this action, the new road came to be known as Well Street.

TROUTON STREET

The construction of Well Street in 1861 provided a much needed link between Darling Street (down St John Street and around into Caroline Street) and a street then called Trongate Street.

For reasons unknown, after 1861, Trongate Street was alternatively called New John Street, both names appearing on maps of the day.

In 1881, however, Balmain Council voted to change New John Street to Trouton Street in honour of one of Balmain's leading identities.

Captain Frederick Trouton, a master mariner and manager of the Australian Steam Navigation Company, "lived in a fine house" in Looker's Avenue and his service to the community was recognised by naming Trouton Street after him.

general meetings

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting has been convened for 7.30 pm on Wednesday August 23, 1978, (prior to the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which is to begin at 8.00 pm.), in the Meeting Room, Balmain Town Hall (side Entrance), to discuss the matter of Membership subscription rates.

Unfortunately, inflation has not bypassed the Association. Confronted with increasing maintenance costs for the Watch House and increased postal charges, together with a decrease in revenue from fund raising activities and book sales, the Management Committee is compelled to seek additional financial help from its members.

The present Management Committee will recommend the following new rates for consideration at the Special General Meeting:

Ordinary Membership	\$4.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Member body or Organisation	\$10.00
Student Membership (under 15 yrs.)	\$1.00
Pensioner Membership (per household)	\$1.00

In addition, where Newsletters are posted to members, it has been suggested that postal charges be added to the membership fee based on the cost of postage of 10 Newsletters at the current postal rate. In most cases this will mean an extra \$2.00 per year for postage of 10 Newsletters at 20¢ each.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AUGUST 23, 1978

The Associations Annual General Meeting will be held in the Meeting Room, Balmain Town Hall, on Wednesday August 23, 1978 at 8.00 p.m., following the Special General Meeting (see Notice of S.G.M. elsewhere in this Issue).

Entrance to the Meeting Room is via the door at the side of the Town Hall, next to the Glass House.

All Executive and general Management Committee positions will become vacant and open for nominations from financial members of the Association who are not elected members of a Local Government body or of the State or Commonwealth Parliaments.

The Association cannot function without a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee of Management. Nominations for any of the 11 positions of Management may be received at any time prior to the election at the Annual General Meeting, and must be accompanied by the consent of the nominee. Nominations for any position of Management will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

Richard Norman, our Treasurer of several years standing, has indicated that he will NOT be re-nominating for the position of Treasurer. Further, Richard has indicated that other commitments will prevent him from taking any active part in Management affairs after the end of August.

SO, IF THERE IS A POTENTIAL TREASURER OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, PLEASE NOMINATE!!

FORMATION OF COMMITTEES

As indicated in the June Newsletter, we are proposing to convene specialist committees to involve more members in the workings of the Association, and to make the running of the Association more efficient. In this regard it has been proposed that a number of such committees be formed on the night of the Annual General Meeting.

The recent questionnaire indicated that most members are interested in (or concerned about) environmental issues, Town Planning and closer contact with local Government. Further, many members indicated an interest in reports on Council meetings and the need for local area watchdogs.

Members should recognise that the 11 members of Management cannot physically carry out all the required or desired functions of the Association without help from the general membership of the Association. Members of Management are, after all, only mortal beings, and are not in a position to work for the Association on a full-time basis; In these times when life isn't meant to be easy, we all have to devote some time to winning our daily bread.

If members really want to protect their environment, they should be prepared to give a little of their time to work towards this end.

All members should think about what contribution (other than financial) they can make to the Association. But don't stop there; After you've thought about it, come along to the Annual General Meeting and offer your active support.

QUESTIONNAIRES

To date, there has been about a 25% response from members to the questionnaire issued with the June Newsletter; the balance are eagerly awaited. Please return your questionnaire as soon as possible.

Most replies have come from new or recent members. We call on "the Old Guard" to return their questionnaires as completely new membership records are being prepared based on the information contained therein. Don't rest on your laurels; the present Management is not necessarily familiar with past achievements or reputations.

The questionnaire will form an important basis for the proposed formation of Committees to assist Management. It is through the information contained in the questionnaires that organizers of functions and activities are able to call on the resources and help of the Association. Any offers of assistance, even if only for an hour or two, can be of great value if utilized at the best of time e.g. Watch House maintenance, acting as supervisors on garden walks, or Newsletter distribution.

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY (PETER PEARSON) P.O. Box 57 BALMAIN, or Phone 824 723 (home) 827 2133 (work).

COMPUTERIZED MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

One very important offer of help resulting from the recent questionnaire came from a member who has computer facilities at his disposal, and who has offered to maintain our membership and Newsletter distribution records on computer. We expect that the new, more efficient system will be in operation by the end of August. More details will be available in the near future, possibly in the next Newsletter.

We would like to ask all members to give some serious thought as to the

possible ways in which they can make a positive contribution to the Association.

NEW CONSTITUTION

The new Constitution of The Balmain Association has now received the approval of the Minister for Services, and is now effective. The Constitution, as approved by the Minister, is the same as that published in the March Newsletter except for item 20 which now reads:-

20. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION. This constitution may be amended at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose. Provided that the Minister of the Crown for the time being administering the Charitable Collections Act, 1934, as amended, shall be notified of the amendment and shall not be effective unless the Minister has signified his approval to such amendment being made.

Copies of the new Constitution are being printed and will be distributed to all members in the near future.

DISTRIBUTOR'S PARTY

There is one group of members to whom we are all indebted and that is the group of faithful members who produce and deliver our Newsletter. Apart from contributor's to the Newsletter, there are about twenty people needed to produce and distribute each Newsletter. They represent our most important line of communication with the bulk of our members and the Management Committee is deeply grateful to them all.

To show our appreciation we have arranged a party for the distributors, - past, present and potential; that includes anybody who is interested in either Newsletter production or distribution.

This will be a chance to meet the new Management Committee, to find out about the new computerized distribution list, and to air any problems experienced in distribution of the Newsletter.

THE DATE:- SUNDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1978

THE TIME:- 2:30 pm.

THE PLACE:- 41 Booth St. BALMAIN

THE HOST:- Brian Brady

TEA, COFFEE, WINE & CHEESE PROVIDED.

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION STALL

Following the success of the Association's stall at the recent Rozelle Festival, we hope to organize a stall, prior to the Annual General Meeting, at the Balmain Bazaar on Saturday August 19, 1978. The Balmain Bazaar operates every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the grounds of St. Andrews Congregational Church, Darling St, Balmain.

The aims of the Associations stall will be to provide information about the Association's activities, provide displays on Balmain's (and Rozelle's) history, and to sell books and other items for fund raising.

If you can help in any way, contact Philippa Hughes on 825 111.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT LAND IN DATCHETT AND UNION STREET, BALMAIN

The Association has been advised that the Department of Education is considering asking the Minister for Lands to appropriate the Department's land in Union Street in terms of Section 25A of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913, whereby the subject land could be set aside for community use.

The Department's land in Datchett Street had been offered to the Housing Commission for the development of flats. However, following protests from local residents and the Balmain Association, the offer was rejected. Its future use is still being examined. The Association has written to the Minister for Lands suggesting that the land in Datchett Street also be set aside for community use, and to be maintained by Leichhardt Council.

BALMAIN ICE-WORKS SITE, LLEWELLYN STREET

Leichhardt Council is reportedly considering converting the old Balmain Ice-works site at the end of Llewellyn Street into a carpark with possible entrances in both Llewellyn Street and Beattie Street.

The Association is not in favour of this proposal because of the potential nuisance to residents from cars entering and leaving the carpark via Llewellyn Street, which is at present a pleasant, quiet tree-lined street.

The Association has written to the

Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Landa, suggesting that the Ice-works site be rezoned for residential use.

BALMAIN SQUASH COURTS

Last year the Association wrote to Leichhardt Council expressing concern at the removal of all trees and shrubs on the site which was to be developed for new squash courts. We were told not to worry as the approval for the development of the site included a requirement for landscaping, in accordance with a plan prepared by a qualified landscape architect.

The Councils' standards for landscaping can now be seen - if you look close enough!

The Association does not question the need for squash courts in the area. But it does question the choice of the site, the extent of overdevelopment of the present site, and it deplores the fact that an architectural style has been chosen which does not blend in with its surrounds.

NEW TOWN PLAN AND INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDER

In April this year, Ald. Nick Origlass was invited to speak at an Association general meeting on the question of the new Town Planning Scheme and the Interim Development Order to be introduced at the same time.

Ald. Origlass suggested that we should object to the proposed introduction of the Planning Scheme and I.D.O. because of the threat of undesirable development during the period of the I.D.O. whilst objections to the Planning Scheme are being heard.

When this was put to Mr Landa and to the Planning and Environment Commission for comment, we received the following replies.

(1) Mr Landa replied that the I.D.O. would generally limit development to that permissible under the exhibited planning scheme, but he stressed that the I.D.O. would be appropriately altered from time to time in accordance with the determination of the objections to the exhibited scheme. Ultimately, the final zonings to be applied to lands in the area would be a matter for his determination, as Minister, in the light of the objections lodged and the relevant planning issues.

(2) The P.E.C. Chairman, Mr R.B. Smyth, replied that objection to the I.D.O. at this stage (i.e. before gazettal of the Order) would delay the following benefits which the Order is intended to achieve.

- the replacement of the broad zonings and wide planning powers under the present County of Cumberland Planning Scheme e.g. under existing control shops, commercial premises, light industry and other such uses are permissible in residential area; and
- the implementation of urgent amendments to the Order as a result of determination of objections to the planning scheme.

The P.E.C. denied that undesirable development would go ahead for the duration of the I.D.O. whilst objections were being heard, and suggested that for the above reasons it would protect the residents' interests more fully than under the existing controls.

MANAGEMENT MEETING ATTENDANCES

Fifteen Management meetings were held during the year and the following attendances were recorded:

BRIAN BRADY	14
MARGARET DOBSON	12
PETER PEARSON	15
RICHARD NORMAN	11
HUGH CROMPTON	9
SUE DOUGLAS	11
KERRY FELDMAN	12
VERONICA HAGARTY	12
PHILIPPA HUGHES	10
SIMEON HUGHES	10
NICK MASTERMAN	5

CHARITY'S NIGHT OUT

Graham and Pam of "Charity's" in Beattie Street gave us a treat on Sunday June 25th for our fund raising dinner. After sampling four entrees - a great way to run through the menu without appearing glutinous - we went onto the main course a choice of seven main dishes - served with beautiful vegetables and that famous "Charity's" Greek salad. We were all raving about the main course and wondering if we could fit in the dessert, until we realised what was available. Those who hadn't ordered the Peach Torte soon did after seeing it. This was followed by endless cups of coffee and much talk. Champagne was raffled and won by Julie and Tony Ware of Reynolds Street, much to the delight of their table and its near empty bottles.

A very big thank you to "Charity's" for spoiling us so much and a big recommendation to those of you who haven't been since it became a total eat-in restaurant - get there. Also a big thank you to those who supported the night of fund raising which raised in excess of \$40.

GARDENING

KEEP YOUR AZALEAS HAPPY

Certain conditions are required for healthy and happy azaleas.

Position - Morning sun and afternoon shade is best. Often do well in the filtered shade of tall trees. If tips of foliage become burnt, it shows a cooler position is needed.

Soil - acid, same as for camellias. It is hopeless trying to grow azaleas where there has been a lot of old rubble or lime. Add peat moss (damp) and leaf mould to help increase acidity. If leaves are pale, probably soil not acid enough, and resulting in deficiency of iron. Iron chelates are easily obtainable for correction of this.

Planting - When putting out new plants have the hole six inches wider than the container of the bought plant, and plant no deeper than it previously was. Mulch around with damp peat moss, pack down firmly and water in.

Ready-mixed lime-free composts are available for the repotting of azalea plants in containers, but be sure to check if the compost is stated to be lime-free or not. Do not buy tall woody plants in small containers. These are often root-bound, and never make good plants, and have a way of dying suddenly. Also never put plants where they may receive reflected heat from walls or concrete.

Feeding - Special packaged foods for azaleas and camellias are available at reasonable cost, and the rule is little and often. Give every three weeks after flowering is over, and always water well in. Blood and bone can be used, but never poultry manure. Do not fertilise in winter as may cause much new growth of leaves and so lessen the flower display in spring.

Pruning - Not needed as a regular thing, though many singles make lanky runaway growth that needs tidying up. A light clipping all over after spring flowering, is quite a good idea, as it removes the dead flowers and prevents seed setting which takes away energy needed for the new growth that will be commencing.

Ailments - Petal blight is a fungus disease that has become widespread in Sydney in recent years, and first shows as transparent flecks in the flowers. As the spores drop around sometimes small toadstools are seen. These must be picked out and burnt; also burn any fallen flowers. Spray with Benlate every two weeks as a preventive.

Lace bugs frequently attack underneath leaves which develop a grey colour. Use malathion, or cabaryl for these. For red spider and other mites, use kelthane or a sulphur puffer.

J. Murray
Balmain Garden Club.

ROZELLE PUBLIC SCHOOL'S CENTENARY

The first 100 years of the School's life in its surrounding community is recorded in Rozelle Public School: 1878 - 1978, A Centenary Celebration by Peter Reynolds. Published by the School's P & C Association, the 24 page booklet is available at the school for \$2.00.

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC SITES GROUP

On Tuesday, 1 August, in the Meeting Room of History House at 6.15 p.m., Dr. Peter Reynolds will speak on "Ten minutes pull from Sydney": Balmain's waterfront, its origins and every-changing formation. From as early as 1788, when present day Balmain East was the site of Lieutenant-Governor Ross's "garden", until 1978 the Balmain waterfront has seen a plethora of changes. Within that 190 years, row-boats, steam ferries and, more recently, huge container ships have touched upon Balmain's 8½ miles of sea walls, sandy beaches and tidal swamps. What were some of these changes and how did they affect the fabric of daily life in Balmain?

Admission FREE! 133 Macquarie Street.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Room, Balmain Town Hall

Wednesday, August 23 at 8pm.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT

All members are requested to come and vote.

NOMINATION FORM.

I, of
. wish to nominate for the position of :-

- * President
- * Vice President
- * Hon. Secretary
- * Hon. Treasurer
- * Committee of Management

* Cross out as desired.

(Signed)

Date

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