

the balmain association

BALMAIN COAL LOADER

The Balmain Association welcomes the recent announcement of the proposed completion of a rail link between Ulan and Newcastle.

White Industries Ltd. and Mitsubishi Development Pty.Ltd. propose to construct a rail link between Ulan and Sandy Hollow and to upgrade the existing line between Sandy Hollow and Muswellbrook.

This rail link will provide a direct rail link between the vast Ulan coal deposits and Newcastle's Port Waratah coal loader, and may relieve the pressure on the Balmain coal loader. Ulan coal is now trucked to Gulgong and then railed to Balmain.

However, we still remain concerned about the "temporary upgrading" of the Balmain coal loader. Although the Wran-Is-Our-Man Government would have us believe that the upgrading of the loader is only to extend its life for a further 5-7 years, the State Opposition claim that the Balmain coal loader will remain at least until the turn of the century, to handle increased orders for Australian coal from energy-starved industrialized countries in the 1980's and 1990's.

This claim was made by Mr David Arblaster, MLA, Opposition Spokesman on Public Works and Ports, who was Guest Speaker at the Association's Annual General Meeting at Balmain Town Hall on August 23, 1978.

Up until the time they lost office, the State Liberal-Country Party Government proposed to build a coal loading facility at Botany Bay and to close the Balmain Coal Loader. The Wran Government scrapped this proposal and put forward an alternative of upgrading the Port Kembla coal loader along with a "temporary" upgrading of the Balmain loader. Mr Arblaster suggested that this was a purely political decision aimed at wooing voters in the sensitive swinging seats of Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale.

If the Balmain loader is upgraded, it will be the second such expansion in

two years. The capacity of the loader was increased from 1.8 to 2.4 million tonnes in 1976. The present proposal is to increase the capacity to between 4 and 5 million tonnes with the coal loading facility extending from Victoria Road to Grafton Street. The open, uncovered stockpile will be increased from 28,000 tonnes to 68,000 tonnes. The wharf area will be extended and the harbour bottom will be dredged to take 55,000 d.w.t. ships.

The proposed Botany Bay coal loader had an effective buffer zone of 2,500 metres to the nearest residence; in Balmain an equivalent buffer zone would take in all of Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Leichhardt, Annandale, Glebe, Pyrmont, Ultimo and that part of the city of Sydney west of George Street down to the Rocks. In Rozelle houses are a mere 50 metres from the present coal loader.

If the abandonment of the Botany Bay coal loader was the correct decision on environmental and economic grounds, then it follows that there is even less justification for further expansion of the Balmain loader situated as it is in the middle of an intensely developed residential area and with limited ship access.

The Balmain Association is concerned that there is no firm commitment to the ultimate removal of the coal loader from Balmain and any investment in upgrading will increase the likelihood of the coal loader remaining as a permanent wharf facility.

The Balmain Association demands that definite plans be formulated for the removal of the coal loader, to be implemented concurrent with the completion of the Ulan-Port Waratah rail link, and, that in the interim, high priority action be taken to reduce or eliminate entirely the filth and noise which the present coal loading facility spreads beyond its actual boundaries.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Eight new sub-committees have been formed under the control of the elected Management Committee. It is hoped that the sub-committees will attract people

of like interest, and involve more members in the workings of the Association. If you are interested in participating with any of the sub-committees described below, please contact the relevant sub-committee Convenor for further information.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Considers all matters affecting the environment of the Balmain area, and formulates policies to improve the living, working and recreational amenity of Balmain. This sub-committee considers the merits or otherwise of all proposed developments or redevelopments which affect the Balmain area.

CONVENOR: PETER McEWEN 8271461

COUNCIL INVIGILATION

Attends meetings of Leichhardt Council to provide accurate and reliable reports of Council meetings for the Association.

CONVENOR: JOHN ENGLE 2696403 (WORK)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

This most important group organizes and co-ordinates social functions, fund raising and the Associations activities to raise the money needed for restoration and maintenance of the Watch House and to finance the Association's activities.

CONVENOR: HUGH CROMPTON 8273185

Historical

Researches, compiles and records the history of the Balmain area. This sub-committee has published a history of Balmain and its houses entitled "BALMAIN IN TIME", a history of the Balmain land grant entitled "HALF A THOUSAND ACRES"; is a joint publisher of the "Leichhardt Historical Journal" with the Annandale Association and the Glebe Society; and is researching other publications.

CONVENOR: PETER REYNOLDS 823752

Watch House Preservation

Supervises and controls all use of the Watch House. Reports on and co-ordinates all repairs to, and maintenance of the Watch House. Makes recommendations on the furnishing and redecoration of the Watch House.

CONVENOR: SIMEON HUGHES 825111

Publications Editorial

Spreads the word about the Association's activities; organizes the printing and distribution of the Association's Newsletter, leaflets and other promotional or publicity material.

CONVENOR: PHILIPPA HUGHES 825111

Book Sales

Organizes the distribution and sales of the Association's various publications.

CONVENOR: MARGARET DOBSON 822774

MEMBERSHIP

Maintains the Association's membership records and organizes new membership campaigns.

CONVENOR: PETER PEARSON 824723

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

A Special General Meeting of the Balmain Association, held at Balmain Town Hall on August 23, 1978, has confirmed the following new annual subscription rates for membership of the Association:-

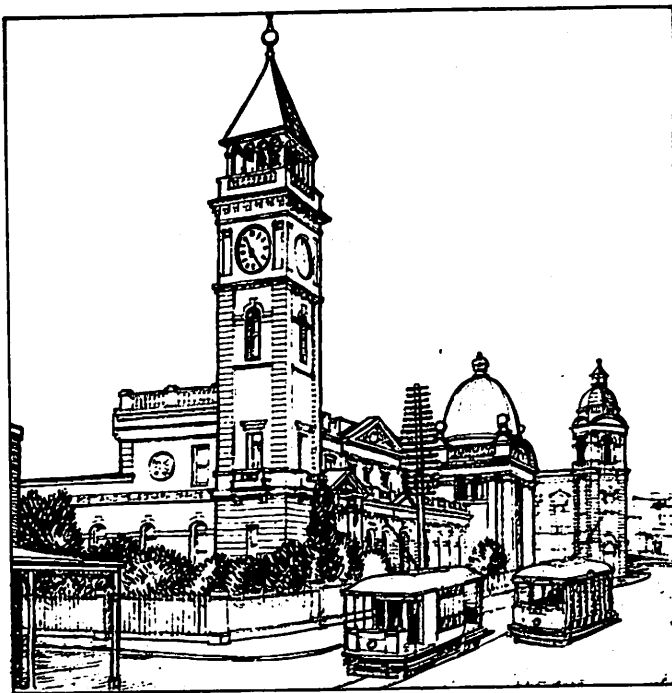
ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP	\$3.00
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP	\$5.00
MEMBER BODY OR ORGANIZATION	\$10.00
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (under 15 yrs.)	\$1.00
PENSIONER MEMBERSHIP (per household)	\$1.00

The abovementioned subscription rates include free delivery of the Association's Newsletter in Balmain and Rozelle. Elsewhere, postage is charged extra (\$2.00 p.a. within Australia).

The new subscription rates are now effective, but outstanding membership renewals will be accepted at the old rates up to and including November 30, 1978.

Any renewals despatched or received after November 30, 1978 will be subject to the new rates.
SO IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS OUTSTANDING, RENEW NOW!





A PYRAMID IN THE SKY?

On a wet and windy Sunday morning in October, the tide of Balmain's history turned again. A replica of the Post Office clock-tower roof was erected to transform the Balmain skyline to something like its former glory.

When the original roof was taken down in 1957, the Post Office authorities did not see any need to save the parts for later reconstruction. Instead, the finely-wrought timbers and slate roofing were sold to the highest bidder.

Undaunted, Elwyn Leighton Black, the Commonwealth Department of Construction's Historic Buildings Liaison Officer, made a search for the missing parts for he had the grand idea of incorporating them in a scheme to re-erect the tower roof.

After a prolonged search he was still only able to say, in May 1974:

Balmain Post Office has lost its tower roof and nobody knows where it is.

(Sun-Herald, 19 May 1974, p60)

Leighton Black's lament attracted the attention of a Hunter's Hill resident who had had the tower roof reconstructed as a gazebo in her garden. He inspected the remains but a combination of the timbers' deterioration and the new owner's terms of sale, forced him to seek an alternative.

By consulting the original Post Office tower drawings of the mid-1880s, Leighton Black was able to detail all the structural members, cladding and ornamental features to design a completely new roof.

His untimely death in November 1977 prevented him from seeing his vision become a reality. Other

willing hands, however, carried on his work and in July 1978 \$90,000 were allocated to paint and repair the Post Office and Courthouse buildings. \$12,000 of this sum had been set aside for the restoration of the tower roof.

On the wet and windy Sunday, 15 October 1978, the McKenzie building Co. hoisted the new tower roof, prefabricated in two sections, into position. The work began on schedule and as the crane hire was \$135 per hour, the contractors quite readily ignored the heavy downpour which swept across the peninsula.

The arcaded sub-structure, lifted first, almost disappeared into the clouds of rain but the weather eased to make the raising of the pyramid roof a little less dramatic. McKenzie's smooth organisation allowed history to be repeated in just under two hours.

This significant event occurred without public warning and without an audience to appreciate the transformation. There has been widespread comment and interest but few people have known the long interesting story behind our new-found landmark.

When the restoration is complete at the end of the year, the tower roof will have been sheeted with asbestos shingles and the supporting arches painted in harmony with the Post Office's new colour scheme. A copper ball and finial will be the final exciting touch to this high point on Balmain's skyline.

With the return of this small but highly significant piece of Balmain's architecture, it is hoped that the Commonwealth Architects will be permitted to use their imagination to solve the problem of the Telephone Exchange. This unlovely structure, built in the 1950s on the "egg-crate" principle, is in sharp contrast to the fine Victorian Post Office.

Vision and perseverance, like the late Elwyn Leighton Black's, are needed to minimise the discordant effect of the "egg-crate" thus allowing Balmain's impressive clock-tower to stand proud - new roof and all.

Peter Reynolds.

THE BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP.

The Balmain Theatre Group's final play for the year is 'The Drunkard' (or 'Down with Demon Drink'). The play is a 19th Century Temperance Melodrama, rearranged by Brian Burton from the original work by W. H. Smith and 'A Gentleman'.

The Play commences on Friday 17th November and will run for four weekends finishing on the 9th December. The opening night will be followed by a party at the Watch House.

Judy Coxon is arranging theatre parties for members of the Balmain Association and for parties of 20 or more the price of tickets will be \$2.50 each. Judy's number is 82.4577, so ring Judy if you are interested in forming a party to see the play.

DOWN MEMORY LAND
OR

A MUSICAL NOSTALGIA.

Currently appearing in "CRUSHED BY DESIRE", at the Music Hall Theatre Restaurant, Neutral Bay, are three very talented artists - Aleda Johnsen, who plays the orphaned Irish lass, David Gilchrist who plays the stalwart hero and Musical Director, Don Harvie, who provides the musical accompaniment.

Now, the trio have formed an ensemble group and established a varied repertoire of favourite songs, ranging from Music Hall to Musical Comedy.

The Campbell St. Presbyterian Hall will be the venue for their first appearance in Balmain, when a generously assorted program will provide plenty of nostalgia, singalongs, old favourites and love duets from the Sound of Music, "Land of Smiles", "Fiddler on the roof" and many other popular songs. Balmain resident Aleda Johnsen says, "We shall provide a first class afternoon for three generations in one programme, and for the children, there will be THUMPER the puppet".

Incidentally, Aleda Johnsen's husband is Ron Graham, playing a leading role in the much renowned play "THE CLUB" and previously he was watched on Channel 2 in the serialised "CERTAIN WOMEN".

The date for the Music Hall afternoon is: Sunday 5 November 2.30 p.m.

Programme: \$3, pensioners: \$2, children: \$1.

The Campbell Street Church and Hall are classified by National Trust. Inquiries: Andrew Soos:82-1170.

THE LEONINE CONSORT IS BALMAIN BASED

The Leonine Consort for many years acclaimed as Australia's finest Chamber Choir, has recently reformed as a fully professional ensemble under its former conductor, Balmain resident Charles Colman.

The Consort regards the Campbell St. Presbyterian Hall as its home, where its regular rehearsals and workshops take place.

The Leonine Consort next public concert in Balmain will be held at the Campbell St. Presbyterian Church (a building already appreciated by a growing number of vocal and instrumental artists for its excellent acoustics and aesthetic atmosphere) on Sunday, 10 December at 5 p.m.

The programme is designed for the whole family, so that parents and children and grandparents can all join in the singing of popular carols from many countries, carols from the Middle Ages and to enjoy Christmas music of great composers from Bach to the present day.

Inquiries: Andrew Soos, 82-1170.

VILLAGE FAIR?

Although a date has not been set for a Village Fair this year there has been several indications from previous stall holders that they are again keen to proceed with the Fair

With St Andrews operating every Saturday and many other arts and craft markets throughout the area it is now impossible to compete with the overhead expenses of previous years.

However it has been suggested that we go back to the original idea of a sale of work from those involved in arts and crafts within the Association.

At this stage it is envisaged as being held on a Friday night within the Watch House probably in late November or early December.

Would those interested please contact Hugh Crompton on 82.73185 so as to ascertain the number of stall holders and if the quantity and quality of produce will enable us to continue towards an exhibition in December.

garden island inspection

A conducted tour of Garden Island has been arranged for Sunday 4 November at 10.00a.m. finishing at 12.30 p.m.

The itinerary covers the Captain Cook Graving Dock, the historic Victorian era dockyard buildings, the dockyard Church, the site of the Japanese Midget Submarine attack, site of the first garden in the Colony. Initials of the crew of HMS Sirius of 1788, the Garden Island Battery of 1796, ancient cannons, and many other artificats of historic interest.

An inspection of a ship may be possible depending upon Naval schedules on the day.

Admission will be \$2.00 per person 50c a child \$4.00 a family, the entire proceeds are for the Association Watch House maintenance fund.

The number of places is limited and allocation is on a first-in basis so please book early.

Booking and any further information, please ring Hugh Crompton on 827.3185.



the balmain association

179 darling street balmain

postal: po box 57 balmain 2041

NOVEMBER 1978

HUNTER VALLEY WINES from ROTHBURY ESTATE VINEYARDS

The Rothbury wines receive consistently good reviews in the Australian "Wine and Spirit Buying Guide", and in a recent International wine tasting in France organized by the British publishers of "The Good Wine Guide" the Rothbury Whites received praise as "technically the best wines".

The Rothbury wines are now available through the Balmain Association. The prices INCLUDE FREIGHT for delivery to your door, and represent excellent value for such high quality wines.

Orders can be made for wines in dozen lots, including any assortment of bottles to make up a dozen. If you don't want a dozen for yourself, make up an order with your friends and neighbours.

ORDER FORM

(prices include freight)

	<u>Price per</u> <u>dozen</u>	<u>Price per</u> <u>bottle</u>	
1977 Indiv. Paddock Wood Mat. White	\$41.50	\$3.50	\$ _____
1975 Indiv. Paddock Red (Rothbury)	\$39.50	\$3.50	\$ _____
1978 Rothbury Vineyard White	\$35.00	\$2.95	\$ _____
1978 Homestead Hill White	\$35.00	\$2.95	\$ _____
1976 Rothbury Vineyard Red	\$32.00	\$2.70	\$ _____
1976 Brokenback Vineyard Red	\$32.00	\$2.70	\$ _____
1978 Rothbury Estate Semillon	\$26.00	\$2.20	\$ _____
1976 Rothbury Estate Cabernet	\$26.00	\$2.20	\$ _____
1976 Rothbury Estate Hermitage	\$26.00	\$2.20	\$ _____
1978 Brickman White	\$20.00	\$1.70	\$ _____
1978 Brickman Rose	\$20.00	1.70	\$ _____
Boxhill Dry Red (six flagons)	\$17.00		\$ _____
Boxhill Rose (six flagons)	\$17.00		\$ _____

Cheque Enclosed for Total \$ _____

Deliver To: Name: _____
Address: _____

ORDERS including payment should be forwarded to:

The Hon. Secretary, -
The Balmain Association
P.O. Box 57,
BALMAIN N.S.W. 2041

your new management committee

At the Annual General Meeting held at the Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday, 23 August 1978 the following were elected to the 1978/79 Management Committee.

PRESIDENT Brian Brady, 41 Booth Street, Balmain,
Home 82.5492 Work: 31.3142

VICE PRESIDENT: Margaret Dobson, 108 Louisa Rd.
Home: 82.2774 Work: 230.5635

HON SECRETARY: Peter Pearson, 14 Moore St., Rozelle
Home: 82.4723 Work: 827.2133

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Janet Brett, 32 Darling St. E. Balmain
Home: 827.3945

Hugh Crompton, 47 Nelson St. Rozelle
Home: 827.3185 Work: 231.4699

John Engle, 16 Simmons St. E Balmain
Work: 269.6403

Sue Douglas, 18 Reynolds St. Balmain
Home: 82.5406

Philippa Hughes, 103 Evans St. Rozelle
Home: 82.5111

Peter McEwen, 33 Nicholson St., E. Balmain
Home: 827.1416 Work: 232.0315

Rita Wise, 4 Turner St. Balmain
Home: 82.1702.

president's report

SAVING THE HARBOUR FORESHORES.

Despite the Hon. Paul Landa's often-expressed concern for the people of the deprived inner-city suburbs (he lives in Vaucluse!) he has chosen not to use his powers under his Heritage Act to preserve vacant foreshore land on our Western side of the Harbour Bridge for family "open-space", which would benefit people in Pyrmont, Glebe, Annandale, Leichhardt, Lilyfield, Rozelle and Balmain.

Between Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Iron Cove Bridge, there is about 22 Km (nearly 14 miles) of Harbour foreshores, of which only 1.2 Km - or 3/4 of a mile - is accessible public open space.

When pressed to justify his Vaucluse "elist" attitude, Mr Landa's office callously replied "how many extra votes can we get out of Balmain?"

At last Leichhardt Council meeting (30 October) the development of Hosking Street foreshore site was approved. Landa misled "Sun" reporter Alan Tate in stating that he could not have stopped it under his Heritage Act powers - some of this may have "hit the fan" in the media before this Newsletter reaches you.

THE MINISTER'S POWERS UNDER HERITAGE ACT .

These are quite clear, under Section 136 and following back to S.25 and Section 26 (1) (b) and 26(3).

Landa's Vaucluse attitude to Balmain in further exemplified by his approval of a boat marina in Nicholson Street; one may wonder whether he would have the nerve to say that this would be of benefit of local residents, or the people of the inner-urban western areas he has expressed most concern about in his publicity releases?

WRONG PARTY?

Mr Landa's values seem to suggest that, like John Gordon, he joined the wrong political party - and we in the inner-urban suburbs will be the losers.

Brian Brady

4-SHORES COMMITTEE

A number of the Balmain Association Management Committee members comprise part of the newly formed 4-Shores Committee. This Committee forms people from Annandale, Balmain, Glebe and Pyrmont who are campaigning for a Sydney Harbour National Park situated between the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Iron Cove Bridge. Of the 21.7 km of foreshore land between these two bridges only 1.1 km is public open space. This foreshore area services some of the most densely populated areas in Sydney including Leichhardt, Newtown, Marrickville and Ashfield.

THREE SITES IN DANGER!

In Balmain the Committee is concerned with the immediate future of three development sites these are;

The 'Canefields' situated at Duke Street. This site was recently passed in at auction for \$230,000 with negotiations continuing with several interested parties. The 'Canefields' have been approved for a 17 block subdivision and all but a narrow strip of land will be lost to the public if the development takes place.

Weston Street Site on land adjoining Peacock Point Park which due to its popularity is already proving inadequate to cater for both local residents and visitors from outside Balmain. This land has been approved for subdivision and if action is not taken by Leichhardt Council and the State Government to acquire it the land will be lost to the people forever.

Hoskins Street Site is the only remaining possible public access to White Bay. It has been approved for 26 town house sites

and it appears that development will commence almost immediately.

AIMS OF THE COMMITTEE

The 4 Shores Committee envisages these three sites forming the nucleus of waterfront walkways linking large public areas on the Balmain waterfront. It might be noted that all land proposed by the Committee to be acquired for public access is owned by private speculators for the purpose of large scale gains. None of the land provides local employment by industries nor is any low cost housing projects proposed on the sites by the State Government.

PUBLIC MEETING

On Sunday 17 September, the 4 Shores Committee held a public meeting at Peacock Point Park to publicise the campaign to gain public access to the waterfront. The meeting was addressed by Federal Labor Party Member Mr. Tom Uren together with local Federal Member for Sydney, Mr Les McMahon, State Member for Balmain Mr. Roger Deagan, Liberal Member for Hawkesbury Mr Kevin Rozzoli and members of the 4-Shore Committee. Over 300 people heard expressions of support for the concept of waterfront access for the public by the abovementioned Parliamentarians however no definite promises were made.

It is very important to the campaign that all members of the Balmain Association support action to acquire this land as once it is built upon it will be lost to the public forever.

BALMAIN ICE WORKS LAND

Leichhardt Council advised the Association on 18.8.78 that the Council resolved on 6.6.78 to purchase the land known as the Balmain Ice Works at 17-19 Beattie Street Balmain for use for off-street parking. The Council further advised the design of access egress movement of traffic to, from and within the area has not yet been considered.

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Following representations made by the Association and local residents, the Minister for Lands, Mr. Crabtree advised that part of the land owned by the Education Department in Balmain being land between Union and Little Nicholson Street is to be established as a reserve for childrens playground and community purposes. The land will be declared Crown Land and control will rest in Leichhardt Council.

However the future use of adjoining land owned by the Education Department between Little Nicholson Street and Datchett Street is still being considered. The Association will continue to press for this land to be dedicated to the public.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ON NICHOLSON ST MARINA

Mr Paul Landa, Minister for Planning and Environment wrote to the Balmain Association on 26.6.78 regarding the Nicholson Street Marina. In his letter Mr Landa stated that the development was subject to conditions to protect the environment of the area. One of these conditions was to prohibit the hiring of boats which were to be dry-stacked on the land because insufficient parking space had been provided.

Eleven days later the Planning and Environment Commission approved boat hiring from the proposed Nicholson Street Marina. The speed at which the condition prohibiting boat hiring was reversed is truly amazing, considering the fact that Leichhardt Council and the Planning and Environment Commission have taken up to two years to approve residential buildings nearby. Maybe the developer has more "luck" than residents with these two bodies.

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.

*For subscription rates see p.2 of Newsheet.