



December, 1978.
Issue No. 92.

the balmain association

BALMAIN ICE WORKS LAND

Leichhardt Council is pressing ahead with its proposal to develop the old Balmain ice works site as a 50-space carpark.

In a letter to the Association the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Landa, advised that the land in question is zoned Living Area under the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme in which zone the establishment of a carpark is a permissible use.

However, under the draft Interim Development Order and Planning Scheme for Leichhardt Municipality the land is proposed to be zoned Residential (b4) and in this zone carparks are a prohibited use. Mr Landa advised that Leichhardt Council is required to have regard to the provisions of its draft scheme in determining any application for development of the old ice works site.

The Balmain Association does not consider this site to be suitable for use as a carpark and suggests that it should be developed as a public park or reserve. Access to the site as a carpark would likely be via both Beattie and Llewellyn Streets. Because of present congestion in Beattie Street, an entrance or exit there would constitute a traffic hazard. The residents of Llewellyn Street oppose any plans for development of the site as a carpark because of the potential nuisance the carpark would create. A residents petition has been forwarded to Council.

In view of the fact that Leichhardt Council appears to be ready to ignore the provisions of its own draft Planning Scheme we can only say that Council's proposals represent an act of hypocrisy in the extreme. If Council intends to persist with its proposal in blatant disregard of its own Planning Scheme and in the face of mounting protests from the local residents, it may be necessary to appeal to Mr Landa to introduce a special Interim Development Order to protect the site.

THE FORKED TONGUE.

The Association receives copies of selected media statements made by the Minister for Planning & Environment and the following are some extracts :

Residential Uses for Commercial Buildings.

"The N.S.W. Government is establishing a Task Force to report on ways of converting under-utilised commercial buildings in the inner city for residential uses. As a result of over development and inadequate planning during the 1960's, there is a surplus of commercial zonings and a shortage of residential accommodation."

The Government could set an example by providing residential accommodation in "Ningana", 105 Annandale St., Annandale, a State/Federal Government-owned, ex-migrant hostel which it is rumoured will be sold by the governments because they have no further use for it.

State Planning Ministers Conference.

In addition to the State Planning Ministers, the N.Z. Minister for Planning and a planning consultant to the Alberta (Canada) Dept. of Municipal Affairs attended. The Minister for Planning & Environment hosted the meeting.

The Minister's prior announcement stated :-

"The planning process was continually evolving as the community became more aware of its potential benefits and was given greater opportunity to express its needs and aspirations. This was reflected in N.S.W. where emphasis was now being given to environmental protection, resource distribution and public participation in both legislation and planning practice."

This news should be passed on to Leichhardt Council, whose Council Planner is "heavily committed" to preparing the latest Leichhardt Town Plan (how many is that?). Only one of these plans has been prepared with public participation and that was the one recommended by the Independent Council--Leichhardt's brief excursion into democratic government.

Parramatta River Improvement.

New initiatives to improve the Parramatta River and its environs to facilitate their enjoyment by the community were submitted to the N.S.W. Government on Sept. 11.

The initiatives were aimed at increasing the amount of foreshore land available for recreation, providing greater public access to the river, promoting use of the river for pleasure and transport and overall improvement of the river environment.

The proposals called for the continued purchase of available land adjoining the river for public open space reserves. "Foreshore land is a valuable resource which must be used in the best interests of the community", said Mr. McIlwaine, Member for Fuller. The State Government was urged to continue its program of acquiring important areas.

Mr. Landa welcomed the initiatives to improve the river and its environs and indicated his particular interest in promoting public access to the river for fishing, boating and passive recreation. He said he would re-examine policies relating to the Parramatta River in the light of the proposals put before him.



**ASSOCIATION OF
RESIDENT
GROUPS AND
ORGANISATIONS**

41 Booth St, Balmain.2041.
Ph: 82 5492 ; 31 3142

"A.R.G.O." is a loose coalition of 25 resident groups throughout the metropolitan area — extending as far out as Bronte, Kogarah, Penrith, Galston, Castlecrag and Mosman.

Two main thrusts have been made since the Association of Resident Groups and Organisations was formed earlier this year:—

- (1) An effort to obtain commitments from all major political parties that the ultimate decision on any Council Amalgamation/ Secession would rest with residents of areas involved.
- (2) A formal submission to the Heritage Council on 23rd August to have vacant foreshore land at Weston St, Duke St, Hosking St and Glebe Point placed under Conservation Order.

An up-to-date report on these will be presented at the Balmain Association meeting on 13th December.

Brian Brady.
President, A.R.G.O.

GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 13TH

BIG ISSUES AT STAKE

COAL LOADER ENVIRONMENT REPORT

LEICHHARDT TOWN PLAN

DRAFT OUT

HARBOUR FORESHORES

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

NEW THREATS

EAST BALMAIN PLAY GROUP.

Your Association has written to the Minister for Education in support of the retention of portion of the vacant land between Union Street and Little Nicholson Street for use by the East Balmain Play Group.

" Play Groups " involve parents in the communal education of their children from their earliest years and are an important trend away from creches, professional child-minding, and the concept of the mother being " house-bound " with small children.

president's report

Dear Fellow-Members;

As "fill-in" Editor -
until we form an Editorial
Sub-Committee - I have found
the task so daunting that
I am not at all surprised
that Phillippa Hughes gave
the job away after many
years work at the thankless
task.

Many issues are in a
state of flux, and current
news will be heard at the
General Meeting on Dec 13th.

XMAS PARTY at Peacock
Point Park (Illoura Reserve)
5pm till dusk Sunday 17th
December. As there are no
barbeque facilities, we
have called it a b.y.o.
"Bird + Bottle".

Hope to see you there

Brian Brody

GARDEN ISLAND INSPECTION.

On Sunday, 5th November, 4 members of the Association and about 15 other Sydney residents went on a conducted tour of Garden Island. The circular tour commenced at the gates at the foot of Wylde St., past the floating dock, the great Captain Cook dry dock, around the original buildings on the Island, back to the starting point.

When the Captain Cook Dock was built, Garden Is. was linked to the mainland at Potts Point. It is the Navy Department's intention to close off the "business side" of their activities and allow the public to visit the Island by ferry.

The Island gets its name from the garden dug by the sailors of HMS "Sirius" in 1788, intended to grow vegetables to supply naval vessels visiting Port Jackson.

The Barracks and old Sail Loft were built in 1887 from plans drawn up by the Admiralty in 1796 during the Napoleonic wars. Half of the upper floor is now a flag factory and the Garden Island flags are made for countries all over the world, including the new nations of Africa. On the other side of the top floor is the Naval Chapel, with its stained glass windows and pews and panelling made from the timber of Navy ships. The ground floor of the Sail Loft building is the rigging shed, which is still in use.

On the right-hand side of the Chapel is a wooden gallery where the naval prisoners sat during the church services. The gallery was enclosed by wire-netting--not to keep the prisoners from escaping, but to prevent them from hurling hymn-books at the Admiral and the officers in the pews below. The sailors were treated very harshly for their crimes. The usual sentence was 90 days and one punishment was to carry a heavy shell around a small exercise yard until the prisoner dropped from exhaustion.

The colonnaded Barracks next door is the only example of a 3-storey barrack building in Australia. It housed 239 men on the two lower floors, with a hospital on the top floor. In case of fire, the patients were expected to escape by a rope ladder let down from the balcony. Outside is Consuela, 103 years old ship's figure-head from HMS "Sealark".

Between the Barracks and the kitchens are two pits dug into the rock and connected to the sea by tunnels. These were used to store perishables and the constant temperature remains at 50°F.

The handsome Stores building was built in 1893 and is a fine example of Victorian industrial architecture. Near here, on a night in 1942, a Japanese midget submarine slipped through the boom across the Harbour in the wake of a Manly ferry, circled Pinchgut, returned to Bradley's Head and fired a torpedo at USS "Chicago" moored at a buoy. The torpedo passed under "Chicago", ran into the shallows on Garden Island and exploded, tearing out the bottom of HMAS "Kuttatbul" and killing 19 sleeping men.

The path leads uphill past the signal station, tennis courts built in 1880, a sunken fuel tank built in 1915 to hold Diesel fuel and on to the lawns sloping down to the water with flower beds skirting them and the glorious views of the Harbour ahead. Picnic facilities are available and this will be the spot where the public will land from ferries when the arrangements are completed to open Garden Island to the public.

WATCH HOUSE RESTORATION.

A visit to Balmain by the National Trust Junior Group on November 19, including an inspection of the Watch House, provided the stimulus for the History Group to do something about restoring the inside of the building.

John Engel spent hours on that horrible job of scraping down and patching the meeting-room walls; Peter Reynolds painted them and arranged for prints of old Balmain to be framed and hung; Rita Wise, Gladys Chanter, Toni Mayo and Margaret Dobson cleaned up the carpet, the furniture and the floors. The upstairs room now looks marvellous.

The only thing they were unable to do was cut the grass outside!

Members are invited to meetings to see the result of all this effort. All the workers ask is that care be taken to see that the backs of chairs do not knock against the walls and damage the paint and plaster.

TREASURERS REPORT

The past year has been relatively quiet, financially, for the Association. Membership has kept at the same levels as last year, although we have had a large influx of new members towards the end of the year and there was a drop in the renewal rate. We hope that during the next few months our membership records will be put on computer. This should lead to a better distribution service, and those people who do not renew immediately will not be receiving second reminder notices. Distribution lists will be automatically kept up to date and issued by the computer just before each Newsletter is due to be delivered.

Fund Raising has been quiet. The Garden Walk made its usual healthy profit. It was disappointing to see the Village Fair raise only half what it normally does, due to a hundred percent increase in costs. It is time we looked at our fund raising events as most involve a lot of hard work for a small return in profit. Again, attendance by members has been very poor. Many thanks to all those who were involved and worked hard on fund raising.

This has been my last year as Treasurer. My thanks to all those with whom I have worked. I wish the new Treasurer the very best for the future and hope that he gets the co-operation that I have had over the years.

Richard Norman
Hon. Treasurer
18 Gladstone Street
Balmain.

INCOME

Membership		1026
Watch House Maintenance		
Donations		95
<u>Donations</u>	Trailer Tours	18
	R.A.H.S.	50
	MISC.	8
		76
Bank Int.		245
<u>Fund Raising</u>		
Garden Walk '77		307
Caddies Place Restaurant		
night		530
Village Fair Raffle		37
Village Fair		885
Jazz B-B-Q '78		271
Wine Tasting and Sales		668
Glebe Society House		
Inspection		42
<u>Publications</u>		2740
Balmain In Time		578
Half a Thousand Acres		854
Old Street Maps		100
Container Report		10
Cards '74		13
Cards '76		16
Gilchrist Settlement Map		17
Houses of Balmain		4
Sales of Childrens Books		1592
Donations Newsletter Postage		20
		24
		\$5818

EXPENDITURE

Petty Cash		86	
Newsletter: Print.	513		
Post.	105	618	
Donations:Leichhardt Historical	\$100		
Journal			
Rozelle Public School Centenary			
Booklet	250	350	
Watch House:Insurance	\$96		
Electricity	26		
Maintenance	67		
Water Meter	38		
Pest Control	105	332	
Fund Raising:Garden			
Walk '77	52		
Caddies Place Restaurant			
Night	500		
Village Fair	671		
Jazz B-B-Q '78	218		
Wine Tasting & Sales	612		
Glebe Society House			
Inspection	42	2095	
Publications:Half a			
Thousand Acres	30		
Old Street Maps	45		
Gilchrist Settlement Map	35	110	
Subscriptions ACF	26		
RAHS	18		
National Trust	10	54	
Community Services:			
Coal Loader	139		
Ferry Time Tables	33		
East End Project	35	207	
Misc.Night Safe	20		
Membership	101		
General Meetings	38		
Council Broadsheet	119		
RAHS Conference	30		
Filing System	38		
Christmas B.B.Q.	26		
Misc.	78	450	
		\$4302	
Excess of income over Expenditure		1516	
		\$5818	

I have audited the books, vouchers and records of the Balmain Association for the year ended 30th June 1978. In my opinion these items have been correctly maintained and the figures shown in the published Income and Expenditure Account and the Accumulation Account accurately reflect the financial position of the Association at the date mentioned, subject to minor amendment to Accumulation Account and values of books on hand as discussed with the Treasurer. The Treasurer's certificate as to number of books publications etc. in his custody has been accepted as correct.

W.H. McCarthy
Honorary Auditor

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT

Accumulation A/c. as at 1/7/77	4157
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	1516
	\$5673
LESS	
Bond - Balmain Theatre Group	100
100 x \$2 shares	
Leichhardt Local (Note 1)	200
	\$5373
General A /c. C.S.B.	1081
Book Publishing A/c. C.S.B.	149
S.I.A. C.S.B.	4100
Electricity Deposit	10
Petty Cash	33
	\$5373

MEMBERSHIP AS AT 30/6/78

FULL	506
JUNIORS	2
	508

NOTE 1.

We have tried to contact the Solicitors acting for the Leichhardt Local without success. It has been agreed that this amount be written off the Association's Books.

HALF A THOUSAND ACRES

Sales were disappointing this year and fell off noticeably towards the end of the year. We still need to sell \$2097 worth of books to recover the original printing costs.

BALMAIN IN TIME

Balmain in Time still sells strongly - especially through our local outlet, Brays Books. This publication should be sold out in two years time.

CARDS 74

Both sets of cards have been very poor sellers since they were printed. I advise for the future that we should not embark on any further printing of these items.

CARE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS.

The African Violet (correct name Saint Paulia) was discovered in East Africa about 1890 and since then many varieties have been developed and it has become a popular house plant. In our climate it needs a temperature between 60°-85° F.

SITUATION: This is of paramount importance and is usually the determining factor when a complete amateur at growing them has outstanding success and astonishes everyone.

Select the warmest spot in the house. Must have very good lighting but not direct sunlight on them. If the light is insufficient, the plant will not make flower buds. There are special fluorescent light tubes, such as Gro-Lux, that can be used for 15 hours daily, at a height of 15 inches above the plants, but these are not essential.

The best African Violets I have ever seen were grown in a sun-room enclosed with glass louvres which were never opened and which faced north, with a light nylon curtain filtering the sunlight and the tables set back a little on winter nights.

No draughts, another important factor for success.

HUMIDITY: Is needed. Fill saucers with pebbles and fill with water and keep pots on top of these, making sure base is above the water. If insufficient humidity, the flower buds dry up and fall off.

SOIL: Must be loose and well-drained. Best to buy the special potting mix containing leaf mould, peat moss, sand and lime.

RE-POTTING: At least once a year. Three to four inch pots are sufficiently large.

WATERING: Over-watering is one cause of failure. Use luke warm water and avoid wetting the crown of the plant.

INSECTS AND DISEASES: Cyclamen mite and mealy bug are the commonest pests and attack under the leaves. Spray with Malathion or Bugeta. Diseases are usually stem rot and powdery mildew (same as the type that forms on clothing in cupboards). Dust with sulphur or spray with Benlate or Karathane.

FERTILISERS: Only give weak solutions. Fish emulsion for preference. If overdone with fertilisers, the plant may go yellow.

PROPAGATION: May be done with a leaf with a small portion of stem attached. Firm into soil and keep moist in a sheltered spot indoors until new leaves show up. Also, another successful method is to put a leaf and stem into an opaque jar of the type used to sell cream and fill up with water, the stem being put through a hole made in the tinfoil cap. In a few weeks there should be plenty of roots in the jar and the plant is ready to pot up.

J. Murray.
Balmain Garden Club.

EMERGENCY SERVICES PLAN - LEICHHARDT.

An Emergency Services Plan is in existence in the Leichhardt area and Alderman Bill Dougherty is the co-ordinator.

There are a number of potentially dangerous areas in Balmain/Rozelle and plans have been formulated to cope with any emergency. Council employees have been trained to handle such emergencies and the necessary equipment is located at the Council Works Depot at Balmain. Already requests have been received from residents whose homes have been unroofed in the early hours of the morning. In any emergency, the police should be contacted in the first instance. Ald. Dougherty can be contacted, where necessary, at 73 4622.

FOUND.

Over a period of months, several keys have been left at the Watch House. The owners can collect them whenever the building is open. Ring Margaret Dobson 82 2774.

MEMBERSHIP FORM.

I wish to open/renew my membership with the Balmain Association and enclose \$ * subscription.

Name

Address

. Telephone

Send to :

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

* Subscription rates:

Ordinary Membership	\$3.00
Household membership	5.00
Member body or organization	10.00
Student members (under 15 yrs.)	1.00
Pensioner membership	1.00
(per household).	

NEXT GENERAL MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1978.

The Watch House, 179 Darling St., Balmain at 8.00.