

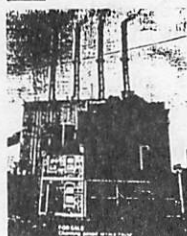
NEWS SHEET

104

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

BALMAIN EAST GARDEN WALK: 10am-3.30pm SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

PYRMONT WHITE BAY LUNG CANCER AND US

G.T. Stevens

Pymont power station was essentially shut down in 1975 and placed on emergency reserve and White Bay was placed on emergency reserve in 1972. Each winter each station is prepared for emergency use but generally has not been required. Pymont has been, since November 1979, operating during the week. The reason given have been the lack of hydro capacity due to the drought, breakdowns, and maintenance of other plant. Because of a coming 'crisis' (date not known but thought to be around 1984) caused by the introduction of the new aluminium smelters in the Hunter Valley without sufficient electricity production being available, both Pymont and White Bay are being considered for regular operation for at least two years.

These stations will burn over 2000 tonnes of coal each day in the centre of the city. Each day, the stations will

release to Sydney's atmosphere about 20 tonnes of sulphur dioxide (a poisonous acid gas), about 20 tonnes of oxides of nitrogen (the poisonous precursors of photochemical smog), about 15 tonnes of fine particulate ash (a lung cancer hazard) and a range of poisonous metals such as lead and uranium and carcinogens such as benzopyrene in lesser amounts.

Such an operation would have serious environmental effects. It would seem that the Government should seek alternatives to power generation in the centre of Sydney. One alternative would be to improve the utilisation of the massive power plants on the coal fields, another would be to quickly build a modern small peak-load plant in a remote location.

In an effort to encourage the adoption of these alternatives, the following resolution, moved by Geoff Stevens and seconded by Malcolm Garder was passed unanimously at the AGM on 20th August.

"That because the air pollution from the old coal-fired power stations at Pymont and White Bay seriously degrades the environment of Balmain and presents a serious health risk to the residents, the Balmain Association calls on the NSW Government to immediately and permanently close down both these stations."

The terms of this resolution were conveyed to the Premier, the Ministers for Energy, Planning and Environment, and Health and also to the local press.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 August 1980

Twenty-five members of the Association attended the Annual General Meeting to elect a new Management Committee to carry out the day-by-day business during the next 12 months. The results are:

Peter Reynolds
Vacant
Margaret Dobson
Peter Bell
Richard Norman
Rod Linklater

President:
Vice President:
Hon. Secretary:
Hon. Treasurer:
Management Committee:

Two motions were proposed by members:

1. By Mr. Magnus: "That a life membership of \$50 be created". This was defeated on a show of hands.
2. By Geoff Stevens, seconded by Malcolm Garder:
"That, because the air pollution from the old coal-fired power stations at Pymont and White Bay seriously degrades the environment of Balmain and present a serious health risk to the residents, the Balmain Association

calls on the New South Wales Government to immediately and permanently close down both these stations."
Carried unanimously.

The lack of nominations was very disappointing and members are urged to take an active part in the running of the Association by proposing themselves to fill the vacant positions on the Management Committee. If you have a gripe about the way matters are handled here is your opportunity to shape them more to your liking.

Our New Management Committee

The new Management Committee consists of the members noted above plus Gladys Chanter who has been co-opted. Richard Norman is now Vice-president.

Peter Bell, Richard Norman and Rod Linklater have formed a task force to prepare a balance sheet for 1979/80.

Peter Reynolds is the News Sheet editor - any enquiries or articles to be printed or distribution problems, phone: 827.3560.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE



BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

Jessica Murray

Garden tasks now due

Perhaps, for a long time, you have been intending to fix up that grotty backyard, to clean it up and "plant a few things". Well, now is the ideal time, with the weather good for working out-of-doors and plants growing strongly after their winter rest. Remember not to plant too much 'big stuff' in proportion to area available. I once saw a tiny yard little bigger than an average lounge room planted with six of those mournful-looking Casuarinas set out like the six of spades on playing card. Also remember that curving lines look best in gardens, though sometimes straight ones are unavoidable. Nature never plants in rigid rows and all plants, from seedlings to trees, look best in groups and not in straight lines.

SEEDS: Many types can go in now. If very fine, mix the seeds with sand before planting. Depth in the soil approximately 1½ times diameter of seed. Spray gently with water and keep damp. If "not good with seeds" (in other words, "not careful enough") may be better to buy seedlings to plant out.

CUTTINGS: Best started before weather gets hot. Put in pots first and keep in shady place to begin. Tip cuttings 4-5 inches are the easiest to root quickly.

BULBS: Look around for the summer and autumn flowering types, such as lilliums, sprekelias, callas, zephyranthes, etc. Chain stores often have these. Put a little sand under each bulb when planting.

PERENNIALS: These are ideal to form main permanent plantings. Not easy to get. Some are sold in packets at chain stores at times. You may have to beg a root or two from other people. Good old timers are shasta daisies (several types), perennial asters, perennial Phlox, aquilegias, violets and carnations, rudbeckias, campanulas, Japanese anemone, etc., including many types of chrysanthemum. All these need lifting in clumps every 2-3 years and re-planting of the outside new roots and discarding of the old centres.

OUTDOOR POTS: Re-pot now if necessary. Keep a little off the ground if possible to keep out slaters, ants and earthworms, which are all damaging to plants in pots. Fertilise now.

INDOOR POTS: Re-pot one size larger if have grown much in bought potting mix. Garden soil seldom satisfactory for pot plants. Fertilise every few weeks. Keep damp but do not over-water. Indoor plants look best and do best if grouped together and not spread out singly through the house.

SHRUBS: Now is good time for planting out. Don't overlook the smaller shrubs such as marguerite daisy bushes, lavenders and the blue daisy. Buy shrubs as small plants rather than large - less shock in transplanting and not so likely to be root-bound. Prune established shrubs immediately after flowering finished.

CAMELLIAS AND AZELEAS: Tidy up after flowering finishes, remove any dead wood and flower bases. Give a feed of blood and bone or the special camellia fertiliser. Mulch with cow manure. Use iron chelates if leaves are yellow.

CITRUS: Plant out carefully from containers and do not plant deeper than in container. Keep grass and weeds away from trunk. Mandarins do well in this area (but not Washington navels near the sea). Established plants can be given a feed of sulphate of ammonia or special citrus fertiliser.

LAWNS: Good time to plant. Dig over ground and remove weeds. Add compost, lime and peat if available. Rake over and leave to settle a few days. Rake over and broadcast seeds and water lightly every day. Set first mowing high until roots are strong. For bald patches in established lawns, scratch in seeds and top dress with sand. Remove all weeds.

GARDENIAS: Fertilise with blood and bone or camellia fertiliser. Remove dead flower bases. Sprinkle around Epsom Salts if looking yellow. If this is not sufficient, use iron chelates.

ROSES: Established plants may have special rose food every 4-6 weeks until next March. Cow manure with a sprinkling of superphosphate is helpful. Slay-afe in aerosol can be useful for aphids but needs doing every few days in spring and autumn. Spray with a complete spray for both insects and fungus diseases every 2-3 weeks. Can use "Garden Dr.", "Rose-Glo" or Hortico's Complete spray. Add a little Aquasol or Thrive to all sprays for an extra lift. Avoid overhead watering on roses, also water early in day if possible. Roses grown in containers can be planted out all the year around.

FERNS: Re-pot in loose peaty mix. No lime or fertiliser. Weak fish emulsion later.

WATTLES: Prune after flowering. Look for borers and their deposits of webby sawdust outside. Poke wire into holes to try and destroy the grub. Squirt in methylated spirits and seal hole with soap.

HIBISCUS: Prune evergreen types fairly strongly in spring. Fertilise for summer flowers.

POINSETTIAS: After flowering, cut each cane right back to 1-2 nodes to get new wood for next year's flowers. For cuttings, use pieces 12 ins. long, after drying out for a few hours.

IRISES: Give superphosphate and lime to improve flowering.

ORCHIDS: Cut off old flower spikes close to base of stems and put pots in position of half sun daily to help next year's spikes. Divide and re-pot only if very crowded. Fertilise with Aquasol, Zest or Thrive every 3 weeks.

WEEDS: These will be growing very strongly now, so keep at them as they are hosts to pests and diseases as well as taking nourishment. Hand weeding is best, though some can be cut off, below top of soil, with a hoe. Avoid weedicides if possible.



Uncovering Our Past

Peter Reynolds



The Working Men's Institute

We were asked recently if there were any truth in the rumour that the Balmain Association had bought the Working Men's Institute!

We were stunned at the idea but it prompted a few thoughts about this imposing building in Darling Street near the Squash Courts - especially now that there is a Development Application before Council to turn it into shops.

The Working Men's Institute appears in the National Trust Register of Historic Buildings and is featured in Historic Places of Australia, Vol. 2 in the chapter about Balmain by Robert Irving.

Research now being carried out by Graham Brooks at the University of New South Wales shows that the land occupied by the Institute was first purchased by Sir William Montague Manning (NSW's first Attorney-General) in 1854 and then sold to R.J. Paling, a Melbourne pianoforte importer, in 1874. He sold it to the Trustees of the School of Arts in 1883.

Schools of Arts and Mechanics Institutes originated in Britain to improve the education of working men and instruct them in their various trades. Later their aim broadened and the Institutes became popular places of adult education and relaxation.

George Birbeck formed a class in Glasgow in 1800 for journeymen mechanics. He organized the first Institute in London in 1824. In Sydney the first Mechanics Institute was established in 1833. Classes were held four nights each week and a library made available. By 1880 there were 70 Institutes spread throughout NSW (many were called Schools of Arts).

In 1879 the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts founded a working men's college and from this grew the Sydney Technical College.

In Balmain a thriving working men's club required a new building in 1887. Erected by Messrs Clymer and Williams* for £540 the single-storeyed building accommodated the 50 members very comfortably. Membership was two and six-pence per quarter to use the library and billiard rooms and find "respectable behaviour and the opportunity to pass the time enjoyably instead of aimless loafing". Hours were 7-10 p.m. each week night and 3.30-10.00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Within ten years the premises had become too small and were replaced by the present large building. Edward Bowen, architect of Balmain Hospital and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at Rozelle, designed the new Institute in two stages which were built in 1893 and 1896. He either demolished or built over the original structure.

* Charles Clymer was a Balmain Municipal Council alderman and with his partner Williams were well-known local building contractors.



THE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE

The need for these Institutes waned as technical education became more accessible after World War I. The building however was not sold by the Trustees until 1974 when the Federated Shipwrights Union and the Federated Ironworkers Union bought it.

It was sold to the present owners in 1978.

The building was well used by generations of working men. A new function in the 1980s will hopefully maintain the facade of this important part of Balmain's streetscape.

Visit the Watch House

Member Frances Heathfield, a stalwart of the History Group, will be in attendance at the Watch House every Sunday afternoon from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. On sale will be the Association's publications of books, the Gilchrist map and guide, post cards, leaflet of walks around Balmain, and the Leichhardt Historical Journal.

Come and show your friends an example of a 19th-century police lock-up.

The London Hotel

Research archaeologist Warren Wickman is compiling a history and archaeological report on the London Hotel.

He is particularly interested in photographs of the London, stories about its atmosphere/activities and wants to meet anyone who knew any of the past proprietors. Phone 407 1177 or AH 449 2625.

BALMAIN BOWLING CLUB IN EARLY DAYS



PARKS and LARKS

The Association wrote to Leichhardt Council strongly protesting against the alienation of the public's use of Easton Park, Rozelle, by the Council's proposal to erect electric light poles and to fence in the park for football practice. Unfortunately, we mentioned Rugby League and this is the reply we received:

"Reference is made to your letter dated 14th July, 1980, in which you expressed alarm at a proposal to allow the Rugby League Club to have sole use of Easton Park.

Council has no knowledge of such a proposal.

The lighting is being installed to permit night training in winter. Tenders are currently being invited for use of Easton Park during the summer season.

At the present time the ground is marked for soccer and there are no rugby league goal posts at the ground."

URBAN CONSERVATION REPORT

The National Trust has published a survey and analysis of the Municipality of Leichhardt called LEICHHARDT: Urban Conservation Report. The Report has been submitted to Leichhardt Council as an objection to the 1979 Leichhardt Planning Scheme.

Classified in the Report are:

Elkington Park Area, Balmain
Evans Street, Darling Street, White Bay Area, Balmain
Peacock Point Area, Balmain
Birchgrove Park Area, Birchgrove.

The Trust also records the importance to the heritage of Australia of the whole of Balmain and Rozelle and makes similar findings and recommendations for other parts of the Municipality.

The Balmain Association welcomes the advice and encouragement of the National Trust's Report.

stop press

"Dukedoms"

SELFISH COMMUNITIES



The NSW Planning and Environment Commission has been renamed the Environment and Planning Department. The director of this newly-named body, Mr. R.B. Smyth, has said that all metropolitan suburbs should accept their share of medium density housing.

Mr. Smyth also said that communities should not be seen as "islands or fortresses surrounded by moats where selfishness and inhumanity is the characteristic of residents". A metropolitan region could not function as 45 or more separate "dukedoms".

Real problems exist, he said, when local councils were reluctant to give development consent to projects permissible under the zoning - this was based on local objections.

Members of the Association would agree that because zonings are usually carried out without resident participation then "local objections" must arise. Every resident has the inalienable right to have a say in local affairs - let us keep on objecting!



WATCH THESE DATES



Sunday, 28th September - A Walk in East Balmain.
Walk commences at 14 Paul Street. Visiting times: 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Tickets \$2.00 each, available at 14 Paul Street on day of walk.

Wednesday, 8th October - Balmain Association General Meeting. Watch House, 179 Darling Street at 7.30 p.m.

OBJECTIONABLE HELP WANTED

The Association requires professional help to advise members on preparation of objections to the Leichhardt Planning Scheme - the dreaded "Town Plan" which will affect all our lives.

The average member is at a bit of a loss when asked for technical details of his objections to undesirable developments, car parking, traffic movement, lack of adequate open space, building proposals out of scale and character with their surroundings etc.

Leichhardt Council will be officially hearing objections to the "Town Plan" from next month on. Members need expert back-up advice before they front-up to Mr. Colman, the Commissioner appointed to hear them speak.

If you can help professionally, please ring 827 3560.

JOIN the balmain association

meaning BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- * improve the living working and recreational amenity of our area
- * maintain all features having natural architectural and/or historical value
- * compile and record the history of the area/keep a permanent collection of items of historical interest
- * seek the co-operation of everyone concerned in the realization of the above

For further information please contact:

PETER REYNOLDS

827 3560



the balmain association

179 darling street balmain postal pobox 57 balmain 2041

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
TELEPHONE..... (HOME)..... (WORK)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (including News Sheet delivery in Balmain Birchgrove Rozelle)

Single	\$ 3.00
Family or Household	\$ 5.00
Pensioner or Student	\$ 1.00
Organisation	\$ 10.00

Add \$ 2.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted. Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association"