

NEWS SHEET

105

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965



? MUST IT BE SO LOUD

In less-densely settled suburbs than Balmain hotels are not so close to residences. Noise emanating from an outer-suburban hotel with its mammoth car park is not as big a problem as it is here.

In Balmain and Rozelle pubs and houses stand cheek by jowl - it has always been so.

Balmain's pub tradition is a long and flourishing one from the 1842 Captain Cook Inn, through the era of the 40 pubs in the 1880's, to the present day. During many of those years Balmain pubs were used by the community as meeting places for social groups and organizations. It was said at the close of last century that every Balmain pub was a club, that is, a place to gather for mutual satisfaction.

A new and unwelcome addition to our pub culture - amplified music - has become established and just as the five temperance societies of the 1880's kept a check on those 40 pubs, concerned residents are now trying to checkmate this new threat to our environment.

The OED defines environment as "the conditions or influences under which any person or thing lives or develops".

Members of the Association are "persons or things" and some have complained of this modern pollutant - NOISE. Where does the noise come from? Not from your average traditional jazz band but from banks of amplified speakers in small local pubs which in the summer months stay open until 11.00 p.m.

The complaints cover loud beer-garden music, amplified music penetrating walls of buildings and rowdy street behaviour after closing time.

In defence it is claimed that the livelihood of musicians would be affected by efforts to ban live music in pubs. It seems reasonable to suggest, however that the musicians' future lies in the answer to the question - MUST IT BE SO LOUD?

If the protagonists have any hearing left to ponder upon this vital environmental question then they will see that there are at least two alternatives to a total ban. Either the noise must be totally contained within the structure or it MUST NOT BE SO LOUD!

What noise levels are involved in this current craze for loud music? Many places of live entertainment exceed the legal limit for factory working conditions of 90 decibels (dB). The SMH of 20 September records Chequers as being 103 dB. When it is considered that the Threshold of Pain established by acoustic experts is 120 dB it can be seen that loss of hearing is not far away.



CHRISTMAS PICNIC 7 NUMA STREET
SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 3-8 P.M.

A case study of a complaint against a hotel in Leichhardt shows the plan of action to be taken against noise pollution.

On 29 September residents of Short Street, Leichhardt petitioned the Council against loud music, illegal parking and unruly street behaviour. Officers of the Council interviewed 22 occupants of nearby houses and flats and all stated unanimously that the music was played on week nights and Saturday nights and that it was too loud. They also insisted that it should only be played on Friday and Saturday nights and at greatly reduced volume.

The Council referred the matter to the Noise Control Branch of the State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC), the Traffic Police and the Licensing Police for advice. As an interim measure the Licensee has agreed to board-up the windows of the hotel during the summer months and encourage patrons to use the car park. Conduct of patrons in the street is beyond his control.

On 21 October Council resolved to require the Noise Control Branch, the Traffic Police and the Licensing Police to enforce existing legislation to control the activities of the hotel.

Council is also obtaining a legal opinion on whether it can oppose the renewal of the licence on the grounds of disturbance of the neighbourhood amenity.

What can be expected of the SPCC? Noise pollution, as are air and water pollution, is the concern of the SPCC and individuals can be fined up to \$500 and corporations \$5,000. The SPCC is therefore the first authority to be contacted.

The Noise Control Branch of the SPCC receives complaints on 20661 on weekdays between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. and on 267.5152 after hours and at weekends. The after hours number is an answering service where calls are taken for action by Duty Officers rostered to deal with serious complaints outside normal times.

The SPCC has a leaflet "Neighbourhood Noise" which is available free from G.P.O. Box 4036, Sydney, 2001, or from its office on the 3rd Floor, 157 Liverpool Street. Every member should have one!

Every member needs to know what to do in case of noise pollution from pubs:

1. Complain to the Licensee
2. Complain to the Noise pollution Branch - 20661 or 267.5152 AH.
3. Complain to the Traffic Police about any parking infringements - Balmain Police Station 82.0777.
4. Complain to the Licensing Sergeant about any disturbances - Balmain Police Station 82.0777.
5. Petition Leichhardt Council.

We are not kill joys or wowsers nor do we want deprive any muso of a living but - MUST IT BE SO LOUD?

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE



Attending the hearing



Intrepid town planner Toni Mayo and local historian Peter Reynolds represented the Association at the hearing of objections on 5 November to the infamous 1979 Leichhardt Planning Scheme.

Direct reference was made to the Association's booklet Objections to the Leichhardt Planning Scheme - Balmain Rozelle Area as a back-up to verbal evidence. This publication was of great assistance and if it has not already been done it is time to thank the people who volunteered their help and expertise in getting it published - Bill Haesler, Toni Mayo, Peter Pearson and David Porter to name a few at the risk of offending those not mentioned.

James Colman, the Commissioner appointed to hear objections, took our evidence in a most courteous and helpful manner. The main thrust of the objections as summarised from our booklet were:

- 1 Destruction of the historical character of the peninsula by unsympathetic development.
- 2 Encouraging traffic increase by raising residential densities.
- 3 No requirements for compulsory landscaping by developers.
- 4 Restriction of public access to the waterfront.
- 5 No provision for regeneration of existing stock.
- 6 No public participation in planning decisions.
- 7 All proposed zonings inadequate as to location, lack of development restrictions and indiscriminate application.
- 8 Open space policy inadequate and must be reviewed.
- 9 Errors and omissions reflect lack of field study and inadequate research during preparation of the Scheme.
- 10 Ends of streets must become landscaped open space and not become the property of individuals or companies.
- 11 List of Historic Buildings incomplete - some buildings shown in National Trust Register overlooked. A glaring example here is "Ewinton".
- 12 Road widening unnecessary and an act of vandalism. For example, the widening of Withecombe Street would mean the demolition of 22 Belmore Street - a National Trust Recorded building.
- 13 Industrial land incorrectly zoned. Waterfront industries not needing waterfront access must be rezoned under 4(a) or 4(b).
- 14 Harbour Foreshore Preservation Area zoning inadequate and must be made more specific as to height limitations on development - remember the Nicholson Street and Hosking Street flats.
- 15 Foreshore Building Line varies from 6 metres to 20 metres. It must be a minimum of 30 metres back from the waterfront to be effective.
- 16 Small local corner shops not recognized and should be zoned Neighbourhood Business.

After hearing these objections Mr Colman spoke about the poor response to Council's "invitation" to appear before him. The Association commented upon the intimidatory tone of the form-letter with its off-putting phrases such as "the opportunity to appear personally, or by Counsel, Solicitor or Agent" and "you are informed that all hearings will be recorded and open to the public and to the press".

There was no "public" and no "press", the recording was done unobtrusively and the whole hearing conducted in an informal pleasant manner with helpful maps when required.

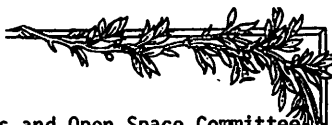
Nevertheless the invitation read like a Summons and only the colour prevented it from reading like any other "bluey".

Another likely reason for the poor attendance was the fact that most people were at work. Mr Colman was kind enough to point out that he was quite happy to see people out of office hours and that in fact the "invitation" said just that.

The Association replied that the language in which it was couched - "special arrangements may be made in cases of hardship" - contained amid all the other officialese tended to make people lose sight of this important offer.

Now that it is all over we can only hope that future invitations for public participation are written at a more human level because PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO PLAN!

Trees and Open Space



Leichhardt Council's Trees and Open Space Committee met for the first time on 23 October. Rod Linklater is the Association's representative on that Committee.

He reports that some 50 people were present and many petitions for street tree planting were discussed. The Council holds \$223,000 which could be used for parkland expenditure. Council loan commitments are not high at the moment and if finance could be arranged this park fund could be substantially increased.

Now is the time for the Rozelle Valley residents to petition the Council for the acquisition of the H H Cush fire-blackened site as a park for that beleaguered area. Petitions are addressed to the Mayor.

Petitions for street trees are also timely - remember those street planting expeditions when our own members had to break the paving to dig the holes and even plant the trees in streets such as Evans Street and Curtis Road.

A curious item cropped up at the TOS Committee meeting. The former owner of the old Balmain Ice Works land is offering to buy it back from Council at the same price that he sold it for in 1978. Council bought it then for a car park which has not eventuated.

The TOS Committee is considering the appropriate action to be taken.

CHRISTMAS PICNIC *****

Please join us for our traditional gathering on the waterfront at Nick Masterman's place at 7 Numa Street, Birchgrove.

This year it will be a PICNIC DAY - a chance for old and new members to get together and enjoy Christmas fare on this beautiful site.

REMEMBER NO FIRES - please bring PICNIC FOOD and BYOG. SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER from 3.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m.

BRING AND BUY AT CARIEVILLE *****

Come to No 8 White Street on Saturday 20 December between 2 00 pm and 5 00 pm for a Bring and Buy Auction. 20% of the proceeds will go to the Balmain Theatre Group.

Wine and Cheese will be served and there will be a Bric-a-brac Stall.

PLEASE NOTE: Goods may be left after 10 00 am on the day but must be removed on the same day.

CARIEVILLE WILL BE OPEN FOR INSPECTION IN THE AFTERNOON

————— MORT'S DOCK - THE FUTURE —————

On 19 August Mr Degen placed a residents' petition concerning the future of the Mort's Dock site before the Legislative Assembly calling for the land to be immediately handed over to the NSW Housing Commission for rental type accommodation for low income groups.

The Minister for Public Works and Ports wrote to Mr Degen on 2 October as follows:

- 1 Cabinet decided on 15 April 1980 to reject Commonwealth proposals for its use as a military base and recommended its future use to be a combination of:
 - a) public and private residential purposes
 - b) recreation and other open space
 - c) "low key" maritime purposes such as a marina and out-of-water boat storage facilities.
- 2 Premier Wran wrote to the Prime Minister on 17 April seeking a conference between both governments on the future of the site. The PM has agreed and has nominated the Minister for Defence (Mr D J Killen) and the Minister for Administrative Services (Mr J E McLeay). NSW is to be represented by the Minister for Public Works and Ports (Mr J Ferguson) and the Minister for Planning and Environment (Mr E Bedford) - no date has been set down.
- 3 The Australian National Line is legally entitled to occupy the Mort's Dock site within the terms of its current lease. The Maritime Services Board has no power to evict the ANL.

Uncovering Our Past

Peter Reynolds



THE LEGEND OF Mrs. CARIEVILLE!

Real estate advertisements for the Bishop's House, No. 8 White Street, Balmain, state that one of the house's notable owners was Mrs. Carievile and that she once owned Elkington Park.

Who was Mrs. Carievile and why is No. 8 White Street called the Bishop's House?

This National Trust Recorded building is now for sale and it appears that she was born in the excited atmosphere of a real-estate office.

It is the house itself which is Carievile and there never was any Mrs. Carievile!

The charming stone house once stood alone on land which would now be bounded by Glassop Street, Elkington Park, Carievile Street and what used to be called Fig Tree Bay.

In 1862 Frederick Ropier Robinson, an importer of George Street, Sydney, bought the land and set up residence there. Between 1862 and 1869 Robinson was a flourishing wholesale ironmonger specializing in plumbing and gasfitting. During that time he built a house which he called CARIE VILLA. The house later became known as Carievile.

So much for Mrs. Carievile - now for the Bishop. It has been a popular local legend that Bishop Broughton once lived at No. 8 White Street and that No. 18 White Street was the Bishop's Chapel.

Anchdeacon William Grant Broughton (1788-1853) arrived in Sydney in 1829 and became the first Anglican Bishop of Australia in 1836. In the following year he began work on what is now St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. The Bishop was an indefatigable builder and began almost 100 church buildings while in N.S.W., Tasmania and Victoria.

After an arduous career in Australia and New Zealand Broughton returned to England in 1853 where he died after contracting yellow fever in Panama on the voyage home.

Because of the Bishop's death in 1853 and the fact that the land on which Carievile now stands was not released until 1862, it is impossible for the Bishop and Mrs. Carievile to have been connected with No. 8 White Street.

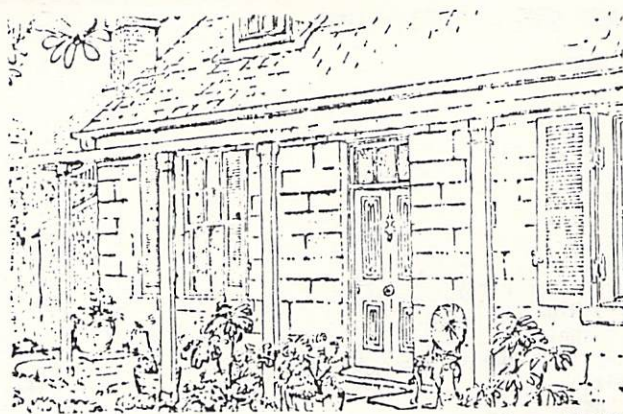
But all good legends have a grain of truth and at least two other clergymen were associated with the house.

The property was originally entered from Glassop Street which was then (1860s) called TERRY Street. In fact Terry Street stretched from Birchgrove Road to Weston Street (now Victoria Road). The part from Elliott Street to Victoria Road is still called Terry Street.

Terry Street derives its name from another indefatigable church builder. Archpriest John Joseph Terry is credited with being the architect of the first St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, and of the first St. Augustine's Church Balmain.

The second, and in this instance, the more significant clergyman was the Reverend George Grimm* Presbyterian Minister of St. Paul's Church, Balmain West (now Rozelle). Reverend Grimm took up residence in Carievile in 1881 until the Presbyterian Manse (now demolished by Victoria Road widening) was completed in 1884.

* John Williams' article on Reverend Grimm will appear in the Leichhardt Historical Journal, No. 9, 1980. The LHJ is now being produced.



No 8 WHITE STREET

(Jenny Porter)

It is most likely that No. 8 White Street got its ecclesiastical associations from Reverend Grimm.

But here another question arises. When Grimm was living in Carievile Frederick Robinson was still living on his land in White Street. Maps of the time show two separate stone houses on the site - Carievile and the present No. 18 White Street, the Bishop's Chapel, which was called TILBA TILBA.

It seems that Robinson built the smaller, Tilba Tilba, about 1879 and moved into it to allow Carievile to be let. Henry Bradley was the first tenant in 1879 and Grimm followed in 1881.

After Grimm's removal to the Manse the land was subdivided in 1886 and Carievile and Tilba Tilba separated. Robinson continued to live in Tilba Tilba and Carievile had various occupants including Alderman R.M. Brownlee of Balmain Council. The R.M. Brownlee Reserve in Wharf Road is named after him.

Carievile is much the same in 1980 as it was when built. Brownlee added the verandah on the part of the house facing the water. He very kindly recorded the fact for us on the inside of the cladding by saying "this verandah was added in 1924 by Alderman R.M. Brownlee and his assistant Ivor Ibbotson".

We have Frederick Robinson to thank for the establishment of Elkington Park - not Mrs. Carievile. In 1880 Robinson led a deputation to the Mayor and presented a petition by 80 ratepayers to buy White Horse Point for a park.

This was known as White Horse Park until it was renamed in honour of Alderman A. Elkington in 1883.

SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of the Management Committee I wish you all the Compliments of the Season and take this opportunity to thank the members who have given their time and expertise so generously.

We look forward to a successful New Year for the many activities that are part of the Balmain Association.

Peter Reynolds-President

Visit the Watch House

Frances Heathfield continues to open the Watch House to visitors.

She pleads for 156 members of the Association to offer one hour per year at the Watch house on Sunday afternoons.

Choose your own time between 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on any Sunday and ring Frances on 818.2307 or leave a message at the Watch House.

Frances is also on hand to sell books, maps and greeting cards and as this is our only fund raising activity it is to be supported.

BALANCE SHEET: 1979 - 1980

EXPENDITURE		\$
Petty Cash		34
Watch House		
New guttering	957	
Electricity	37	
Insurance	180	
Water Rates	56	
History Room	160	1390
Fund Raising		
Watch House Party	28	
Ferry Night	975	1003
Town Planning		
Objections Booklet	850	
Petition	61	911
News Sheet		
Printing	479	
Postage	118	597
Printing Gilchrist Map		260
Subscriptions		
ACF	25	
National Trust	18	
RAHS	17	60
Miscellaneous		
AGM 1979	37	
Night Safe	30	
Refund Balmain		
Theatre Group Bond	100	
Miscellaneous	21	188
		4443
INCOME		\$
Membership		620
Watch House		
Hire	60	
Donation	50	110
RAHS Grant		250
Fund Raising		
Watch House Party	27	
Glebe Garden Walk	1	
Ferry Night	1025	1053
Publications		
Half a Thousand Acres	546	
Balmain in Time	312	(sold out)
Gilchrist Maps	120	
Cards 74 & 76	9	987
Bank Interest		
(Includes \$161 earned 1978-1979 but not included for that year)		412
		3432
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		1011
		4443

stop press

"COUNCIL'S STAND ON WATERFRONT"

The Glebe's front-page story (26 November) regarding Leichhardt Council's freeze on Balmain East development though sensational is not quite correct.

What the Council is trying to do is to make some sense out of the great rash of development applications for the area bounded by Datchett and Duke Streets, Mort Bay and Johnston's Bay and Cooper and Ewinton Streets.

Re-development projects in this area are too numerous to count and if all were to begin at once the whole face of Balmain East would change overnight.

In order to control, but not to prevent development, the Council has decided to defer decisions on building applications until an overall study of local planning problems, community needs, open space requirements and traffic questions has been undertaken.

Council sensibly sees the best way to do this is to engage a consultant to prepare a DRAFT LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN which should be completed in early 1981.

One of the sites affected by this "stand" is the Dickson Primer/Ewinton block. Council does not want to rezone this site until it has the benefit of the proposed PLAN.

The Association supports Council's "stand on the waterfront".



WATCH THESE DATES



BALMAIN ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS PICNIC 7 Numa Street
Saturday 13 December 3 00 pm to 8 00 pm

BRING AND BUY at 8 White Street

Saturday 20 December 2 00 pm to 5 00 pm

1981 MEETINGS DIARY

To simplify arrangements for Management Meetings, General Meetings and History Meetings one meeting combining all these functions will be held on the first Monday of each month - public holidays excluded.

Monday 2 February

Monday 2 March

Monday 6 April

Monday 4 May

Monday 1 June

Monday 6 July

Monday 3 August (regardless of Bank Holiday)

Monday 7 September

Tuesday 6 October (Monday 5 is Six Hour Day Holiday)

Monday 2 November

Monday 7 December

Remember, first Monday in each month at the Watch House at 7 30 pm - ALL WELCOME.

DONATIONS

We wish to thank the Royal Australian Historical society for a grant made under the NSW Cultural Grants Scheme.

Thanks also to Elizabeth Feast for a donation of \$35 from sales of her pottery during our Balmain East Garden Walk.

THANK YOU!

The Management Committee wishes to thank all members and friends who made their gardens available to us during our Balmain East Garden Walk - thank you.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

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"