

NEWS SHEET

112

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

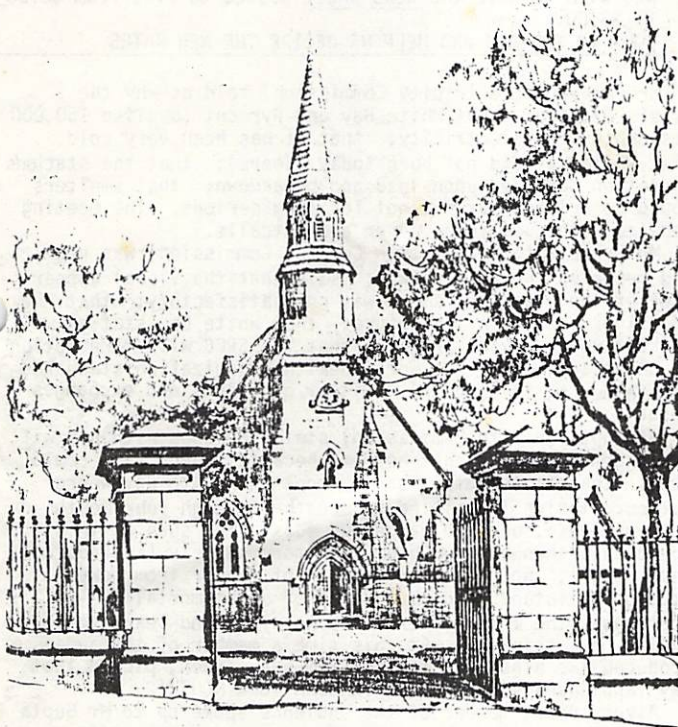
the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

▶ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 AUGUST 1981 BALMAIN TOWN HALL ◀

NEXT MEETINGS: MONDAY 3 AUGUST/ 7 SEPTEMBER 1981

7.30 PM - WATCH HOUSE



St. Andrew's
Congregational Church, Balmain

We are pleased to hear that this fine building at the corner of Darling Street and Curtis Road, Balmain, has been given \$50,000 by the NSW Heritage Council towards its restoration. The Association had the pleasant task of supporting the church committee in its application for funds and now we wish it every success in restoration work.

A NEW TOWN PLAN FOR LEICHHARDT?

On 10/11 May Leichhardt Council sponsored a seminar on future town planning within the Municipality. The meeting was attended by the Mayor of Leichhardt, many local aldermen, members of the Department of Environment and Planning and many interested parties. It was chaired by John Mant.

A problem: the new planning legislation

The Colman report on the Leichhardt Planning Scheme (gazetted as IDO 27) - gives Council sufficient grounds for rejecting the Planning Scheme and developing a new Town Plan under the direction of the Council's new Director of Planning, Mr Harry Bechervaise, who has recently done such a good job in Fitzroy, Melbourne. However, the fact remains that IDO 27, which generated an unprecedented 6,000 objections and which has been severely criticised by the Colman report, remains the operating plan for developers and government departments.

The question is how to change the plan and how to do this as quickly as possible?

Unfortunately the answer to this question is not at all clear. It seems that there is no one who can give a clear answer. Since the Planning Scheme was gazetted as IDO 27 the NSW Government has introduced new legislation in the form of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act: 1979, No 203. According to this Act a number of new procedures must be adopted in present and future planning. Very broadly, an old town planning scheme is now equivalent to a Local Environmental Plan (LEP). But an important aspect of such an old town planning scheme is now covered by a Development Control Plan (DCP) which deals with land use and the erection of buildings. Each of these plans has a set procedure to go through before it can be implemented - probably taking two years or more.

NOW IN THE INTERIM BEFORE WE ARE BESET WITH LEPS AND DCPS, GAZETTED IDOS CONTINUE IN FORCE AS "DEEMED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS".

So the question is: what is the fastest route to replacing IDO 27 with a more satisfactory planning document?

A plan to change the scheme

From the foregoing, it should now be evident why Council is seeking the most expert and comprehensive advice so that years do not elapse before a new town plan can be implemented - and so that developers do not have a bonanza in the meantime. After two days of discussion and argument at the seminar the following plan of campaign was adopted:

1 Produce an LEP which will lower site densities in a number of areas in the Municipality (especially in the Glebe Ward). This plan will be exhibited for 28 days and will be followed by public submissions. After this Council will report to the Department of Environment and Planning, which may lead ultimately to gazettal if approved.

2 Produce a DCP to cover all sites, building types in the Municipality. This will take much longer to prepare since much detailed planning will be involved.

3 Produce an LEP which will designate a number of areas as conservation areas (e.g. Peacock Point and Birchgrove Park). The procedure for this will be similar to (1).

4 In controlling the densities in the Municipality it was agreed that the 1974 Town Plan would be followed except that: a) changes were needed for obvious anomalies e.g. Young St, Annandale; b) some modifications were needed in the light of later census information and heritage studies.

The Outlook

Despite the fact that so much planning activity and public involvement has taken place in Leichhardt it seems that IDO 27 will be with us for some months yet. AT PRESENT THE "TWO FLOORS CONCURRENCE" CLAUSE WHICH LIMITS NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO TWO FLOORS PLUS UNDER-FLOOR PARKING IS HOLDING, BUT ONLY JUST! Council has been challenged many times in court over the past six months and this has tied up nearly all the Council's planning staff. To push through the necessary LEPS and DCPS will require a strenuous and determined effort of these same planners and of the aldermen. The new Council has shown that it has the will to set up a publicly acceptable planning scheme. Let us hope that it now has the strength to implement it.

Tony Larkum

Re-printed from the Glebe Society's Bulletin

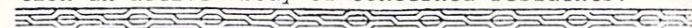
THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 August 1981

The time is approaching when all Management Committee and Executive positions are declared vacant and new elections conducted.

You can now take an active part in the running of your Association by nominating for one of the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Management Committee member.

Remember this is not an elitist group and new blood is always welcome to make the Association an active body of concerned residents.



PYRMONT AND WHITE BAY POWER STATIONS

Local residents packed Balmain Town Hall on 1 July to attend a meeting called by Leichhardt Council to discuss the operation of the two power stations.

In his opening address Alderman Geoff Stevens said that these stations are operating with inadequate monitoring and control equipment. They release many tonnes of pollutants, acid gases and fly ash into the air.

The Council is particularly concerned about the White Bay station. It gives off dense clouds of black smoke and is creating a severe NOISE problem for nearby residents who already have to cope with the neighbouring COAL LOADER.

Air pollution in the inner city is already high so the introduction of large sources of pollution is a matter of concern. Overseas studies have shown that air pollution can affect health and life expectancy.

THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN THE OPERATION OF THESE STATIONS.

Until recently both stations were seldom used, but now Pyrmont is in use continuously and White Bay is started up regularly each day to help meet the evening peak load. The Electricity Commission claims they must be used AT PRESENT to prevent more blackouts.

But the Council understands the Electricity Commission will use these stations for many years to help meet the increased demand from ALUMINIUM SMELTERS in the Hunter Valley.

Council has been informed that the Electricity Commission will EVENTUALLY fit modern monitoring and control equipment to the Pyrmont station, which may remove the VISIBLE component from the stack gases but the gases, vapours and fine particulates WILL STILL BE EMITTED.

However the Commission's intention is to NOT TO IMPROVE THE MONITORING OR CONTROL EQUIPMENT AT WHITE BAY.

Leichhardt Council has called on the N S W Government to order Environmental Impact Studies of the Pyrmont and White Bay stations to allow a full and open enquiry into the environmental and health consequences of their continued operation. A reply has not yet been received.

The increased use of White Bay prompted Council to call this public meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the residents of what Council has ascertained and to allow the various authorities to present their case. The Council also wishes to hear from residents as a guide to further action.

The Chairman, Mayor Evan Jones said that the following were invited to attend: The Minister for Energy; the Minister for Planning and Environment; the Minister for Health; the Chairman of the Electricity Commission; the Chairman of the State Pollution Control Commission; the Chairman of the Health Commission; the Director of the Department of Environment and Planning and Mr. Roger Degen, M P for Balmain.

With the exception of Mr Degen, none of those invited came, preferring to send representatives. Mr Degen received a heavy barrage from the floor when he told the meeting that Pyrmont was not in his electorate; that filter bags for Pyrmont station would be fitted at a cost of between 6 to 10 million dollars; why White Bay was being used; that it had burned for 20 days in June producing 90 MW when 14% of the State's electricity production was out of action; that consumption was 12½% above last year's figure instead of the 6% estimated; that people were turning off their expensive oil heating and warming themselves by electricity; that it will be better next year; that Joe Riordan is doing a fine job and that life is very difficult for Pat Hills.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Now that the news has broken about the parliamentarians' salary increases we feel it necessary to reveal that our subs too are following the trend of "the only way is up." We cannot recall the last rise in fees and the latest postage rise is the last straw.

Management puts forward the following to be discussed at the AGM on 19 August 1981:

Single	now	\$3.00	to	become	\$5.00
Family	"	\$5.00	"	"	\$7.00
Pensioner	"	\$1.00	"	"	\$2.00
and Student					
Organization	"	\$10.00	"	"	\$12.00

Postal rates for those members living outside our area or who wish to have the News Sheet posted to rise from \$2.00 to \$3.00.

COME TO THE AGM AND HELP US DECIDE THE NEW RATES.

Mr Jackson (Electricity Commission) told us why the crisis existed; that White Bay and Pyrmont supplied 150,000 residents with electricity; that it has been very cold; that White Bay did not burn today (jeers); that the stations' operation depended upon load and breakdown; that smelters could be tripped out but not for long periods. The meeting replied with questions, anger and catcalls.

Mr Crapp (State Pollution Control Commission) was next and repeated the reasons why; said that the visual appearance of the plumes of smoke was not satisfactory; that they will look better in the future; that White Bay station will be kept under review (rage); that the SPCC will take action if necessary; and that World Health Organization standards were aimed at (slow clap). Bitter questions and exchanges ensued.

Mr Gupta (Health Commission) stole the show with his wit and charm beginning that he came because nobody else could come; that it is safer near Pyrmont and White Bay where sulphur dioxide is emitted to breathe through your mouth, not your nose, because dangerous substances such as this would pass through your body much more quickly (incredulousness, rage); not much more chance of cancer from power station pollutants adding to rise of urban mortality - stress was the main killer (stop worrying and learn to love pollution - thinks!). At this time a member of the audience produced two blackened leaves from her garden, picked that day (applause) - OK BREATHE THROUGH YOUR MOUTH!

A very young member of the audience spoke up to Mr Gupta and said that two of his friend's pet pigeons had died because of the pollution and that if it killed birds then it would kill people. Mr Gupta's scientific mind moved him to ask who made the diagnosis.

Geoff Stevens summed up by stating that the meeting would not accept the present environmental impact statement; that we were disappointed with Elcom and the SPCC about their apathy towards White Bay and Pyrmont stations; that greater efforts be made to conserve power; that smelters be subject to the same interruptibility as any one else; that we could see little change in the situation for many years.

Nick Origlass moved that the 400-strong meeting applaud the Council for calling the meeting; that residents were daily subjected to 20 tons of sulphur dioxide, 20 tons nitrogen dioxide and 15 tons of fly ash plus metals and other chemicals from Pyrmont and White Bay stations; that they were antiquated only producing 300 MW of the State's total demand of 7,000 MW; that it would take years to eliminate polluting emissions; that electricity for Sydney's huge population cannot be rated above public health and environmental safeguards and so we call on the Government to close down both stations. Also because of the lack of forewarning of the crisis we call upon the Government to establish a Royal Commission on all aspects of Elcom.

Carried unanimously after heated discussion.

Motion put expressing dissatisfaction with Mr Degen's lack of action in influencing the government to close down the two stations. An amendment included the name of Mr Hills in the motion. Carried unanimously.

Motion put for Mr Hills to be more active in protecting his own electorate of Pyrmont from pollution emitted by the station there. Amended to close down the station to protect his electorate. Carried unanimously.

Motion put to educate the people to use less power while a crisis exists and for less advertising of electrical appliances by electricity authorities. Carried unanimously.

The meeting closed about 10 pm.

Uncovering Our Past

BLACKET IN BALMAIN



On Sunday 16 August the Young Trust group of the National Trust come to Balmain to see the work of Edmund Thomas Blacket (1817-1883). Balmain is a centre of his architecture in buildings such as the church of St Mary the Virgin (1846), St Mary's Schoolroom in Adolphus Street (the hexagonal stone building c 1850 behind the old church hall), the Watch House (1854 lower storey only), Blacket's own house (1871, later Glendenning and now the Manor House Restaurant), Wood Lee in Stack Street (1870s?), St Thomas' at Rozelle (1874), Alderly (c 1875 now engulfed by Balmain Hospital) and St Thomas' Rectory (1882 by Blacket and Son).

Morton Herman's pioneering study The Blackets: an era of Australian architecture lists the architect's many buildings throughout Australia and more are coming to light. By turning the pages of the Australian Town and Country Journal, February 1878 (p 937), we know that Blacket built the old church of St Clement's at Yass in 1848.

Another Blacket building in the ATCJ is the Jane Street convent in Balmain. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd began their activities in Balmain in 1864 and the first convent was established in Father J J Therry's wooden presbytery alongside old St Augustine's church on the hill above Balmain East.

The Sisters later moved to Thames Street to the site of the present Christian Brothers school.

In 1868 following a bequest of Father Therry land in Jane Street was given for a new convent and Blacket was commissioned to design the building. Blacket's scheme was a long time in coming to reality and the foundation stone was not laid until St Patrick's Day 1876. The ATCJ of 18 November 1876 illustrated a grand towered brick and stone building containing accommodation for 12 sisters and 30 pupils with chapel, separate dining rooms, music rooms, school rooms, dormitories and infirmary with "the usual kitchen and out offices".

The style of the building was very like the Deanery at St Andrew's Cathedral and the "Asylum for the Indigent Blind" (ATCJ, 11 November 1876) - both of which have been recently demolished.

FAMILY HISTORY

There has been an upsurge in persons searching out details of their antecedents. This very rewarding study can lead to interesting facts, sad stories and even the odd family skeleton.

We get enquiries from time to time and where we cannot help directly we usually advise searchers to become members of the Society of Australian Genealogists, 120 Kent Street, Sydney.

Mrs Clair Behm, 173 Bath Road, Kirrawee, 2232 sent us the following:

I have been trying to obtain information about my grandparents Clara and Alfred Tydeman and her parents Johann and Ottilie Nawrot.

My grandmother was born in Balmain in 1876, was married there, and lived there with her own family at least until 1900 - perhaps longer. She was born at 9 Johnstone St, and was married while living in Waterloo Street.

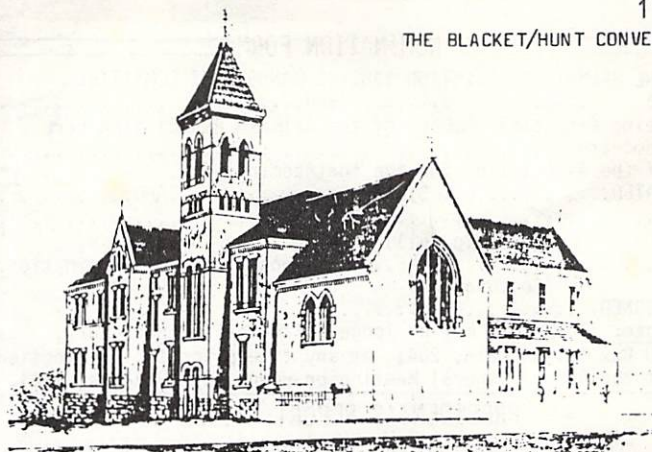
My grandfather was a master mariner and at the time of his marriage lived in Booth Street.

My great grandfather was a quarryman, Polish by birth, and my great grandmother was born in Germany. I believe that after marrying in Germany in May 1872, they then came to Australia and altered their name from Nawarotski to Nawrot.

Of my great grandparents these are the only facts I have. I don't even know when they died.

My question is, would the Balmain Association have the type of information I am seeking and if so is it possible to have access to it?

We regret not being able to help now but will keep our eyes peeled for the names mentioned.



These three buildings reveal the hand of John Horbury Hunt, a North American architect who was the mainstay of Blacket's office between 1863 and 1869. Herman dubs this time as Blacket's "queer period" when the "puissant personality" and "heavy hand" of Horbury Hunt was evident in the work emanating from the office.

J.M. Freeland in his Architect Extraordinary, the life and work of John Horbury Hunt: 1838-1904 defines Hunt's influence on the design of the convent as being revealed in elongated narrow windows and the tower with its round headed windows and doors on the lower levels and the tapered window arches on the upper levels. The pyramid hat spire is unmistakably Hunt's design.

Hunt was a much more daring and innovative architect than Blacket and loved to experiment often to the chagrin of his clients and the ruination of his builders. His buildings, according to Freeland, were "decades ahead of their time".

After Hunt left Blacket to build up his own large practice the two remained on very good terms. Edmund Blacket died on 9 February 1883 and Hunt was a pallbearer at the funeral on the next day.

When the convent was completed at the end of 1876 only the bare essentials of the original design were evident. Economy had forced this austerity and the tower was also omitted.

The Blacket/Hunt convent, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, was formally opened on 22 April 1877. It still stands on the hill just a little below the striking tower of new St Augustine's which dominates the Balmain skyline.
Peter Reynolds

Visit the Watch House

The Watch House, 179 Darling Street, is open to the public each Sunday afternoon between 2 00 pm and 4 00 pm. Admission is free.

HOUSE INSPECTION

Our fund raising "House Inspection in Balmain" day will be on Sunday 29 November 1981 between 11 00 am and 3 00 pm. We are trying to arrange interesting houses; "modern" as well as "historic" and, say, two of the fine churches in our district.

All this needs helpers, so please phone Rod Linklater (after 15 August please) on 82.0323.

SANDSTONE KERBS

In many parts of our area the crown of the road is much too high for modern usage and it seems that the easy way out is to rip up the sandstone slabs that form the kerbs and gutters and replace them with concrete at a higher level.

This not only interferes with footpath levels and access to residences it also destroys something worth keeping - another delight to the eye is being lost.

A much more sensible answer is to solve the real problem - lower the crown of the road.

Alderman Geoff Stevens is seeking residents' support to help him conserve the sandstone kerbs. Contact him at the Council Offices.

NOMINATION FORM

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION 1981-82 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
We.....and.....
being financial members of the Balmain Association hereby
nominate.....as.....
of the Association for the forthcoming year.
DATED.....SIGNED.....AND.....
I.....of.....
(name in full) (address)
.....consent to this nomination.
(occupation)

SIGNED.....
Note: This form may be lodged with the Hon Secretary,
PO Box 57, Balmain, 2041, at any time prior to the election
at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19 August 1981.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1980-81

The year now ending has been a period of con-
solidation for the Association. Membership renew-
als have been constant and newcomers have joined
at a steady rate. Management meetings were held
monthly and business regularly attended to. The
Committee's major achievements are listed below:
1 Convened a public meeting in Balmain Town Hall
on 11 September 1980 to hear local government can-
didates speak.
2 Appeared before Mr J Coleman on 5 November 1980
to air our objections to the 1979 Town Plan.
3 Sunday afternoon opening of the Watch House.
This has been a breakthrough in establishing the
building as an information centre, a selling point
for our publications and a place to meet informally.
4 New guttering and ridgecapping to the Watch
House rear cells.
5 Published a new Watch House Leaflet as a give-
away.
7 Published the story of the post office in Bal-
main and Rozelle as display material for schools.
9 Completed a slide set with sound tape entitled
the "Balmain Waterfront".
9 Conducted a public lecture in Balmain Town Hall
Meeting Room on 25 March 1981 to mark Heritage
week.
10 Organized Heritage Weekend at the Watch House
on 28/29 March with kind assistance of the Police
Historical Society.
11 Joined in with the Annandale Association at the
National Trust Heritage Weekend wind-up on 29 March.
12 Set up display in Leichhardt Council Offices to
help celebrate Heritage Week 23-29 March.
13 Set up permanent display at the Watch House.

I now wish to thank the members of the Manage-
ment Committee for their unstinted support and all
those members and friends who helped to make the
past year a fruitful one for the Association.
The News Sheet deliverers deserve a special commen-
dation.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Gladys Chanter, Margaret Dobson, Rod Linklater, Peter
Reynolds and new members Debby Cramer and Pat Young met at
the Watch House at 7 30 pm on Monday 6 July. Apologies were
received from Frances Heathfield and Ethel May.

- 1 Letter received from Leichhardt Council inviting us to
submit proposals for upgrading parks and open spaces for
Council's Trees and Open Space Committee.
- 2 From Leichhardt Council seeking our support for their
opposition to the operation of the White Bay and Pyrmont
power stations.
- 3 From Hon E Bedford and Mr M Maher replying to our letters
in support of Haberfield Conservation Area proposals.
- 4 From National Trust confirming details of Blacket in
Balmain tour by Young Trust on 16 August.
- 5 From Leichhardt Council re public meeting on White Bay
power station on 1 July.
- 6 From Hughes-Trueman-Ludlow Pty Ltd, 439 2633, requesting
whereabouts of any 19th century wells in our area - please
contact them if you have any information.
- 7 Agreed to co-operate with Leichhardt Municipal Library in
their aim to set up a local history collection by allowing
them to copy our history files.

PLEASE NOTE: FINAL MEETING FOR THE OUTGOING MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT THE WATCH HOUSE ON MONDAY
3 AUGUST AT 7 30 PM - ALL WELCOME.



WATCH THESE DATES

112



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 3 August
Monday 7 September
Tuesday 6 October
Monday 2 November
Monday 7 December

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

* * * * *
The BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB meets every third
Saturday in the month at the Watch House 179
Darling Street at 1 00 pm.

PUNCH PARK PEOPLE CALL A PUBLIC MEETING ON
MONDAY 27 JULY 1981 AT 8 00 pm IN THE
MEETING ROOM BALMAIN TOWN HALL
Speaker KEITH SUTER President UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
"WORLD WAR THREE: 1985 ?"
Enquiries to K Cheate 82.4874 or H Cottome 692.2338 (work)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 1981 at Meeting
Room, Balmain Town Hall at 7 30 pm *****
HOUSE INSPECTION DAY SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1981 *****

WELCOME

Join us in welcoming new members Dr Asher,
Dr Partridge, C Trewin and P Young. Would Dr
Partridge please phone 827 3560 and give us his
address?

JOIN the balmain association

meaning BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

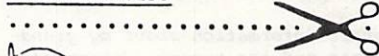
OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- * 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

(OPEN/RENEW)

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
Organization	\$10.00

Add \$2.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted.
Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association". 120 July 81