



JUNE 1984

NEWS SHEET

138

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS...

As our readers will be aware our last newsheet dealt heavily with Leichhardt Council elections in which we presented all candidates views. As a result of the election the Association congratulates Nick Origlass, Izzy Wyner, Margaret Lyons and Robert Heffernan. The Association hopes that it can work well and constructively with the newly elected Council.

As the Clontarf Park Action Group actively supported the election of Independents Origlass and Wyner and as the management committee has not received any adverse criticism from the membership regarding statements in the previous Newsheet the management committee and the Clontarf Park Action Group have agreed to work together on this issue where possible. Clontarf Park Action Group news articles will be published in the Newsheet, the first of which appears later in this issue.

In this issue also is a statement from Brad Welch of the Maintain Balmain Group. For those who do not know the Maintain Balmain Group operates out of East Balmain. Its prime concern being the effects on Balmain of the Maritime Services Board Pyrmont Wharfage Redevelopment. See Public Meeting on this issue below.

Denis Grafton has contributed an article expressing strong sentiments for the formation of an Environmental Forum. The management committee commends the ideas he expresses. Denis will attend the Balmain Association monthly meeting on Wed. 4th July and anybody wishing to participate in such a forum should attend this meeting.

Among other matters, Morts Bay redevelopment is still with us. Over the next few weeks the committee hopes to coordinate action on this issue and provide.... A Balmain Proposal!

THREAT TO BALMAIN EAST RESIDENTS

MARITIME SERVICES BOARD PROPOSAL - PYRMONT POINT.

Most residents in Balmain have not fully appreciated the environmental ramifications of the Maritime Services Board proposal to re-develop Pyrmont wharves No.19-25. The MSB plan to demolish the old timber wharves No. 19-23, all classified by the National Trust, blast away Pyrmont Point to sea-level and infill the harbour between the existing finger wharves, in order to create a one-level concrete slab the size of 12 football fields - all in an effort to provide a new general cargo/roll-on roll-off container facility.

In fact, Pyrmont Point is only 400 metres from Balmain East and the noise and lighting spill of a 24 hour, 7 day a week facility is obvious when one visits Pyrmont and looks north to Balmain.

The MSB has produced an Environmental Impact Statement, but this has been condemned by critics as vague, selective and basically incomplete in its environmental considerations.

Leichhardt Council has recently produced a report objecting strongly to the EIS and the proposal in general, on a number of grounds, e.g. noise, light spill, traffic generation and heritage aspects.

The MSB's EIS is basically a justification for outdated governmental policy, in that Port Jackson should be expanded wherever possible.

A major criticism of the EIS must be that it is not an independent assessment of the environmental impact of the proposal. The future needs of port facilities for Sydney Harbour must be examined by all concerned parties.

All residents should express their opinion direct to the Minister of Ports, the R.H. Mr. L. Brereton.

Convenor: Brad Welch
MAINTAIN BALMAIN ACTION GROUP

Public Meeting

Balmain—Forward or Backwards?

Balmain Town Hall

Wednesday June 6 — at 8 pm

The Mayor Ald W Brady in the chair

Subject: Redevelopment of berths 19-25 Pyrmont

Residents: Validity of the scheme, visual and heritage considerations, impact on Balmain and beyond of noise, blasting, lights, traffic, air and water pollution — have been investigated by concerned residents, and will be relevant for your discussion and judgement by a resolution of the meeting.

Yours faithfully

Ald N Origlass 810 2662

Ald I Wyner 810 3986

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 6TH JUNE 1984 AT 7.30 P.M.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN.

*** PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT ***

Over the years it would be easy to conclude that Balmain is under attack by a conspiracy of diabolical forces bent on its destruction. But not all changes have been for the worst and thanks to public spirit within the community, which has stood out against the more undesirable changes.

As far back as the early 60's there was a proposal for an oil wharf next to Dawn Frazer Swimming Pool on the site recently opened as the Fitzroy Avenue foreshores park, and of course the pool has been restored.

More recently in the mid 70's there was a proposal to store natural gas in the old mine workings of Balmain Coal Mine. Fortunately over the years the shaft had been filled with fly ash from White Bay and Balmain Power Stations, both of which are no longer themselves polluters. More recently Colgate Palmolive cleaned up the adjacent beach and installed natural gas furnaces in place of coal-fired furnaces and after resident and council pressure Unilever are doing the same.

But the major environment problems have required well-organised campaigns and the recruitment of community-based skills to combat these threats. The Anti-Freeway Campaign - opposition to the establishment of White Bay container terminal and the attendant chemical tank farm - the Coal Loader opposition group and the Bridge Action Group were bodies formed in great haste to meet a contingency and resulted in public participation in environmental decisions. Local government and its officers have played a major part in supporting and aiding the community in these contingencies, but local government boundaries take no account of zones of influence in terms of noise pollution and other problems.

Johnsons Bay and White Bay have foreshores in Pyrmont and Balmain. Balmain people can work through local government and residents groups to affect change at factories like Unilever, but dust control on the Glebe Island Grain Elevators or pollution from C.S.R. are beyond Leichhardt Council's jurisdiction.

Another problem for environmentalists is that groups such as the Coal Loader Opposition Group and the Bridge Action Group gather valuable data and correspondence, and then when the threat fades away (for the time being) those records may not be available. Both of these issues can and will resurface.

It would be far better and more effective if environmentalists could form a permanent watch committee of delegates from suitable residents groups in say Balmain, Rozelle, Pyrmont and the Rocks. These areas have common problems and common polluters and are under similar threats from development. Take the M.S.B. proposal for redevelopment of wharves 19 to 25 Pyrmont Point.

Construction will be continuous over a two year period and will involve blasting of 300 cubic metres of the sandstone headland of Pyrmont Point. Ultrasonic transmission will occur if the same sandstone forms the base of the harbour at this point. Even if the sandstone is not common bedrock with East Balmain, vibration effects will probably occur causing property damage. Noise levels will be 11 decibels above the daytime average and the water between the site and East Balmain will act as a reflector so that sound levels could be equal on both sides given suitable weather conditions. Houses with large areas of glass will be particularly affected as glass is a good resonator and poor insulator.

At night the level will average 19 decibels above normal levels. Temperature inversions occur almost every night in winter and on 50% of nights in summer and have a significant effect on noise propagation. Sites at a distance may be severely affected with increases of 8 to 10 decibels. This means projected noise levels may increase noise levels at the Balmain East points - Harbour end Grafton Street, Corner Vernon and Johnston Street, opposite 12 Grafton Street, by up to 13 decibels over normal day or night noise levels. These

figures are from Leichhardt Council's letter of objection to the Pyrmont Wharf Development.

In practice structured organisations such as the Balmain Association cannot spearhead campaigns on local environment issues though the Association and its members played an important role in the Anti High-Rise campaign and all groups co-operated to get SIX THOUSAND SIGNATURES to a standard petition.

This is a prime example of community co-operation in face of a universally perceived threat to the environment.

At other times the Association has provided its premises for meetings of the umbrella groups combining forces over threats such as the bridge or the coal loader or the container terminals.

This essay is a plea for the formation of a permanent Environment Forum with a watch committee able to meet when the need arises, with permanent records. This could cover Balmain, Rozelle, Pyrmont and the Rocks and would have far more influence than the small local groups forming its constituents to make and influence changes. A classic example of the defeat of a local group was the twice mounted campaign to seek improvements at Unilever. A forum with a wider base of public support would have far more effect in dealing with a multinational company, particularly where apathy in an immediate area inflicts nuisance on a wider area.

Next year the coal loader has had its alleged life span.

We all get coal dust fall-out and this would be worst in Rozelle, towards which prevailing winds carry it.

If you want to get rid of the coal loader, it will be of no use waiting for it to go away, or that Rozelle will by some magic cop the lot.

If you don't want to endure blasting and a permanent 24 hours container operation at Pyrmont, it will not be enough to hope that the few residents on that side can stop it, or can Leichhardt Council; you must act now and press for unified community action. The total environment centre at THE ROCKS will give every support I am sure.

For myself, I have endured much since 1968, I intend to put some continental roll shutters on my front windows, these are expected to cut ambient noise by 50%. I no longer wish to play a major part in future campaigns and have other concerns such as the bomb.

DENNIS GRAFTON

MORE THREATS TO OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

or

("TO BE OR NOT TO BE" BP.)

This extract is from a letter sent to Leichhardt Council, supported by nearly 200 people and initiated by John Watters of Birchgrove Road :-

Dear Sir,

I strongly oppose the application by Food Plus Pty Ltd to demolish the B P Service Station at 414-417 Darling St. Balmain, and to erect a supermarket to include the sale of petrol. I understand the present use is a permissible non-conforming one.

.....It would be completely out of character with the surrounding buildings and indeed with Balmain generally.

The proposed advertising structure and advertising panelling would not be in keeping with the staid character of the streetscape...

.....The original and first amended applications were rejected by Council and I commend Council for taking a responsible stand,...

I firmly believe that no change of non-conforming uses should be entertained which are obviously more out of keeping with the zoning of an area than the existing non-conforming use, and ask Council to reject this application without further ado.



CLONTARF PARK ACTION GROUP

c/o 22 adolphus st balmain 2041 ph 8106447

It has been some weeks now since our first contribution to the Balmain Association Newsletter, where the preservation of Clontarf Park was presented as a prominent local issue prior to the Council Elections - the issue was whether the site should retain its open space zoning or be handed over for Housing Commission use. We have always believed that the large majority of residents would support the retention of open space as a principal, and the election was our chance to impress this upon a new Council.

We had the support of all 12 Independants standing for Council and in turn, we circularised the whole of the Leichhardt Municipality to assist their campaigns. Naturally, our main efforts were reserved for Balmain Ward and you should have received our leaflets urging you to vote for Independent Candidates Nick Origlass and Izzy Wyner. Both have supported us right from the start and for good reasons - firstly as Mayor, Nick was responsible for Council acquiring the site for parkland in 1974 and secondly, and more importantly, both are pledged to PREVENT THE ALIENATION OF ANY OPEN SPACE IN BALMAIN. As you no doubt are aware, Nick and Izzy were both elected to Council as Balmain's representatives, as were Independants Doug Spedding and Carol McVeigh for Leichhardt Ward. Thus Labor's total (12 man) domination of Council has ended, but with an 8:4 majority Labor Caucus still retains control.

The position of the new Council regarding the Clontarf Park issue has yet to be tested. We believe that the Balmain election result was a mandate to save this park site and to prove the point, we collected some 600 signatures to a petition on polling day.

THIS IS VERY MUCH A LOCAL ISSUE. The residents of Balmain have spoken and we can only hope that Labor Aldermen from other wards will listen to our representatives and vote to save Clontarf Park.

Unfortunately we have word from within the Labor Party that moves are being made to bring the development forward and to mount another smear campaign against us. This would be unfortunate and would merely underscore our belief that the divisiveness of Party politics has no place in Local Government. We must not allow politicians, professional or amateur, to use prejudice and slander against Resident Groups in order to further their own beliefs.

Instead, community discussion must be encouraged at every opportunity, so that a real democracy - from the grass roots not from Canberra - can evolve to deal with local issues. You have a right AND A RESPONSIBILITY to join in.

The Balmain Association provides the obvious focus and hopefully local issues like ours, and the Pyrmont Point Redevelopment, will result in increasing interest in community affairs generally.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, BALMAIN IS THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT AND BY ATTITUDES THAT WOULD SACRIFICE LONG TERM CONSIDERATIONS LIKE THE ENVIRONMENT IN FAVOUR OF SHORT TERM POLITICAL GAIN. Open spaces make great building sites, but we must not allow our parkland to be used for this purpose, regardless of the pressing needs of the moment.....

HELP SAVE CLONTARF PARK

You can help by responding to Nick Origlass's petition, which you should all have received in your letterbox.

Don't forget also, everyone is welcome at our meetings, EVERY SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE (NEXT MEETING 11TH JUNE). Your opinions are valuable to us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LANDSCAPING OF THE PARK on Sunday June 3rd at 10.30 a.m. onwards. This has become a regular event and everyone can look forward to an enjoyable barbeque afterwards. Come along, bring a plant if you can and help beautify a part of Balmain.

THE BIG EVENT - COMMUNITY BONFIRE! Clontarf Park has long been the venue for the local bonfire and this year it will be bigger and better than ever. We'll be providing a fireworks display and there will be a B.B.Q. available, all at a reasonable cost. We can promise you an enjoyable evening and a safe time for the kids on Saturday 9th June from 5.00 p.m. onwards at Clontarf Park, Cnr Adolphus and Wallace Streets, Balmain.

FUND RAISING - CAKE STALL - Saturday June 30th, Balmain Shopping Centre. Our last cake stall was a great success and helped raise the money necessary to fund our legal fight. We are doing it again in anticipation. We need your cakes, one, two, three, four, five or a dozen but please let us know in advance (818-4142) and drop them into Belinda at No. 3 Adolphus Street on Friday evening June 29. (FREE margarine available - phone 818-4142).

Thanks to the Association for space in the Newsletter.

ROZELLE FESTIVAL ARENA THEATRE

The model of the proposed Rozelle Festival Arena Theatre will be on display at the Watch House on Saturday 14th June 1984 betw en 1 - 3 pm.

The Theatre will seat approximately 1,200 and will be suitable for classical drama and some musical events.

Dennis Grafton has designed this as a Bicentenary project in co-operation with Hayes Gordon.

OPEN DAY, APRIL 14th.

The weather was perfect, the picture display lent by the council attracted visitors from other societies, and was a good 'talking point'. Most people stayed for a long time, not merely not the scones and tea (or other refreshments) served by our tireless helpers - Jessie McMahon and Laurine Gaskell.

We now have closer ties with the Glebe Society, the Lilyfield Oral History Group and the North Shore Historical Society.

BOOK RELEASE

The Australian National University Press has recently released a paperback edition of Anne Gollan's The Tradition of Australian Cooking.

It is a delightful book and embraces the food and cooking techniques of tribal aborigines, the early settlers whose cooking was done at the campfire, and moves forward through the influx of gadgets, the introduction of gas & electricity, packaged & processed foods, and the recent interest in natural foods.

There are numerous quaint black & white illustrations depicting the old lifestyle, implements and products, and many interesting old household hints & recipes.

Limited number of copies available from the Watch House, 179 Darling St., Balmain
Price \$9.95

VISIT THE WATCH HOUSE

The Watch House is open to visitors on Saturdays between 1.00 - 3.00 PM. All welcome.



THE BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

SOME ROSES FOR PERFUME.

At professional Rose Shows perfume is not considered, but in a home garden it is surely of paramount importance.

There are many different types of rose perfume and most of the old fashioned roses had scent. Outstanding among the old type roses is the perfume of the Damasks which have been around for many centuries and came originally from the Middle East. Among the ones still available is Ispahan (pink cluster), a very old attar rose from Persia that came to England 1828. Blooms for 3 months in early summer. Another is Gloire de Guilan (pink) an attar rose for centuries, but was only brought to England in 1949. Another with an interesting history is Omar Khayyam, a small pink damask rose. The Persian poet Omar Khayyam mentioned roses frequently in his writing and said "Let my tomb be where the North Wind will blow the rose petals over it." In 1893, a rose hip was taken from a bush on his grave and planted in England on the grave of Edward Fitzgerald, his famous translator, and from that rose bush they have been taken all over the world.

Another good damask rose is Marie Louise, originated in 1810, and named for the second wife of Napoleon. Damasks are either pink or white (never red), and are tall 6 ft. plants for the back row as they are lanky and prickly, but require no pruning really, just remove dead wood.

Other old type roses with good perfume are the Gallicas which have been recorded as far back as 3,000 B.C., good plants for ordinary soil, growing about 4-5 ft. with few prickles, in colours from pink to purple (no whites). A good one is Belle de Crecy (changing from lilac to purple), having no thorns, but may need a stake as rather floppy.

A couple of Hybrid Perpetuals with special perfume, from the past, are Mrs. John Laing and Georg Arends.

The Bourbon Roses originated 1815 as a result of an accidental hybrid of damask and China roses, and are all highly scented. Good ones are Mdme. Pereire, Reine Victoria and Boule de Neige. All are big growers, need espaliering on a fence or wound round a tripod made of three stakes. The Musk Roses are another different scent, and came to Britain in the time of Henry VIII, and the Musk scent can be detected in many of the modern descendants.

The Rugosa Roses (used for rose hip syrup) are from Northern Asia and have a distinctive perfume resembling cloves or carnations.

The old Tea Roses of last century came from South China and their perfume is likened to the aroma of a newly-opened chest of china tea.

Many of these scents can be picked out in modern roses, even though many generations removed, from the originals. Some moderns with marked damask perfume are the reds of Fragrant Cloud, Papa Meilland, Mr. Lincoln, and the yellow with red edge Double Delight. Also some of the mauves i.e. Blue Moon and Shocking Blue, Chas. de Gaulle and Vol de Nuit. A dark red with strong tea scent is Kentucky Derby. Some good modern pinks are Esmeralda and Harmonie, Biffel Tower and Tiffany, all well-scented.

Florabunda Roses mostly have no perfume, but Iceberg is a special one which no garden should be without. The scents of china tea and musk can be picked out in its perfume. Some other good floribundas with perfume are the Yellow Friesia, deep pink Dearest, and salmon-pink Elizabeth of Glamis, Sweet Repose and Vogue are two similar types. Bella Rosa is a new one, a highly recommended salmon-pink.

Miniature Roses, these make lovely borders and are very hardy. I have one over 20 years old and still going strong. It is worthwhile to hunt for the few with perfume. Some pink ones with scent are: Avendel, Coral Treasure, June Time, Rosmarin, Stella Elizabeth, and Dresden Doll (which is also a Moss rose). Some red minis: Kathy, Beauty Secret, Starina and Gipsy Jewel. Maures: Lavender Face and Lavender Jewel. Yellows: Sundust, Sunny Morning, Party Girl, Orange Honey, Golden Angel. Whites: Snow Magic, Pace Setter, White Gem and Frosty (no thorns).



JESSICA MURRAY
Balmain Garden Club

PUBLIC LECTURE

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

by David Millar, lecturer on the History of Art and Architecture, will talk on the influences of European Architecture on Australia, using slides to illustrate.

The lecture is being organised by the Balmain Garden Club, but everybody is welcome to attend at the Watch House, 179 Darling St., on SUNDAY 17TH JUNE '84, at 2p.m.

JOIN the balmain association

meaning DALMAIN 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



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	\$ 4.00
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Organization	\$12.00

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