

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

172

FOUNDED 1965 PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

AUGUST 1988

More about myths

THE new minister for Housing, Joe Schipp, has declined our request that a delegation from the Balmain Association meet him to discuss local issues. We shall persist in seeking a meeting to raise members' concerns about the future of Clontarf Cottage, the Mort Bay site and general housing policies in this area. We are particularly keen to dispel any myths Mr. Schipp may entertain about the history, demography, capacity and facilities of the Peninsula. Our concern was aroused early in his term of office when, speaking of the need to house 1 million more people in the Sydney basin, he said that the autonomy of local councils "would need to be examined" if they did not "respond responsibly" on issues such as building approvals to increase medium density housing in established suburbs. He cited the Rocks and Balmain as areas "that are less densely populated than they were 50 years ago." Two well-worn urban myths are implicit in this - one, that Balmain has a much greater capacity than its actual size; two, that the decline in inner city population is a regrettable "loss" that must be reversed at all costs.

We would like to explain the local situation directly to the Minister from Jagga. Our local facilities, roads and open space must cater for increasing num-

bers of recreational visitors, tourists and non-resident workers as well as residents. If the low-level, historic housing stock is to be retained, there are limited opportunities to increase residential occupancy. Many houses have been converted to commercial use, and the main cause of the decline in resident population, the ending of the slum occupancy rates, is a change to be applauded not bemoaned.

Meanwhile, one of Balmain's own, Paddy McGuinness, has just reinforced a whole gaggle of myths about Balmain in his Sun-Herald whinge about the so-called whingeing gentry who, apparently not content with driving out the working people, have become intolerant, isolationist, xenophobic wowers and killjoys, objecting willy-nilly to quaint markets, Monorails, noisy pubs, Darling Harbour, traffic and aircraft noise. The McGuinness logic would have us back in the dark ages of environmental law and civil rights.

Myth-peddling may be fun for journalists wanting sensational copy, but it is not constructive to romanticise Sydney's past. Mob rule and untrammelled libertarianism are not and never have been acceptable. Congested living has always required that behaviour be regulated. It is desirable that this stem from genuine consideration by all members of the community for other individuals.

Jane Ward

BALMAIN MARKETS

REACTING to the requests by local residents, the Leichhardt Council called a public meeting on July 21st at the Town Hall to discuss the future of the markets held every Saturday in the grounds of St. Andrews. It was a lively meeting, reflecting the interests of all involved, with a few unnecessary unpleasanties. The markets will be retained but to reduce the inconvenience to residents there will be restrictions on how early the stalls may be set-up and an area for seating and eating will be provided.





**MORT BAY
ACTION GROUP**

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

WATER LILLIES

WATER LILLIES must be planted in waterproof containers that have no drainage holes. Add equal parts of cow manure and potting mix, plant the lillies and top up with 5cm of coarse sand. Press down firm. To get coarse sand crush up sandstone.

Divide water lillies every three years, then repot. Always keep plants moist. They need sunshine to flower. Lower the pots gently into a shallow pond. The sand will stop the soil from entering into the water so they can be safely placed in a fish pond.

If water lillies are attacked by aphids or caterpillars, drown the pests by placing boards over the plants to submerge all the leaves for 24 hours, because fish do not tolerate insect sprays.

Margaret Ford

The Garden Club meets on the third Saturday of each month at 1.15pm at the Watch House. All interested welcome.



CAN YOU HELP

STREET STALL OCTOBER 15th

DONATIONS of good second-hand books and handicraft would be appreciated. Please start baking those cakes and biscuits. Jams or anything we can sell will be accepted eagerly.



What remains of Clontarf Cottage

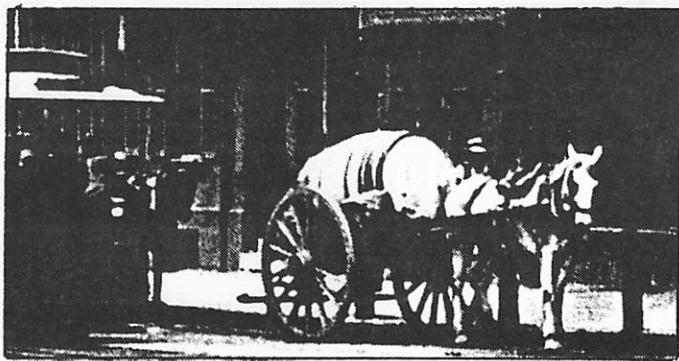
OUR ASSOCIATION is represented on the Mort Bay Community Services Planning Team which, has been set up to plan a community centre and investigate the needs of individual groups such as aged, youth, etc. This team has regular representatives from the Aged Pensioners, several regions of the Public Tenants Association (e.g. Coff's Harbour), a local school, a church, two local organisations, Leichhardt Council, and the Dept. of Housing.

The Housing Dept. wants to extend Church St. instead of Phillip St. and to retain that part of the existing industrial building as a "temporary community centre on what was open space in the plans and brochures. Both have been rejected by Leichhardt Council pending a meeting with the Minister for Housing.

A Public Tenants representative proposed that site C, which the Dept. wanted activated under the deferred residential zoning, should be all open space. This was supported by a majority present and the Council, but Mr. Carr, then Minister for Environment and Planning, proceeded to gazette the zoning. Due to a change of the Public Tenants delegate, there has been a majority vote to proceed as quickly as possible.

The team was unanimous in preventing a 30 space carpark on the open space at lower Mort St. and rejecting the street extension until plans for site C are presented. They want to push ahead with the "temporary" community centre because it will be better than nothing and the new tenants will need a meeting place, even though it may be difficult for the Council to pull it down in 2 years time if the Dept. has not fulfilled its promise of a new centre. The Mort Bay Action Group has requested a meeting with Mr. Schipp to discuss the proposed planning for site C, reduction of heights of uncompleted buildings, and the relocation of the road.

At the last meeting local residents pointed out that the tree plantings in some areas restricted use of the park and the tenant's representative objected to the obstructing of their million dollar views. It was proposed that explanations be given at the next meeting at the site offices, entrance Cameron St., on Monday 15th August at 7.30pm. If you're interested, COME ALONG!



THE BALMAIN WATERCART

It is somewhat prehistoric is the Balmain Water-cart,
Hidden behind the Council Chambers
it's a thing that lives apart,
It cannot stand the sunshine
and the flaming thing would bust,
If they brought it into Darling Street
when west winds raise the dust.
It's of course a water creature
and it can't stand dust and heat,
But it moves along quite briskly
when there's mud upon the street.
Ah, but when a dust storm rages
someone takes it home to sleep.
Then they wake it up the moment
that the heavens start to weep.
If a drought lasts all the summer
then our water cart's layed up,
But when you see it raining
it would win a Melbourne Cup.
When the gutters are all brimming
and the mud would break your heart-
Up the street in stately grandeur
comes the Balmain Water-cart.

contributed by Thelma Massey



HISTORICAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & NOTES

DURING the last month we visited the family of Mr. John Jung, now of Eastwood. Mr. Jung, a spritely 89 yr old, was born at the Jung Bakery, 210 Darling St. His son, Barry, had a seemingly endless supply of family photos and we were busy with our note-books with so much information. Did you know that the first Balmain movie show was in Mort St. and there was an open-air show in the Birchgrove Oval (bring your own cushion)? A Jung Family History Exhibition is being planned.



210
JUNG'S BAKERY

212
ALBION HOTEL

THE FUTURE OF CLONTARF

A GREAT deal of resident and public interest was shown on Saturday 23rd July towards the restoration and use of Clontarf Cottage, Wallace St. when an on site meeting was arranged by the Leichhardt Council. Mayor Origlass, Aldermen Wyner and Courtney, and Mr. Singer from the Housing Commission attended with Association members and interested people. An inspection of the house did not dampen the enthusiasm of the group but it did reveal a daunting task to rebuild the cottage.

A steering committee of 20 will begin to organise the volunteer labour to prepare the site. John Doyle Associates offered to draw the plans and Pat Williams of Period Roofing Co. made a generous offer to roof the cottage. It is envisaged that the interior should have three committee rooms, bathroom and kitchen.



The Mayor, Ald. Origlass, Ald. Wyner and Ald. Courtney with Association members and residents

EXHIBITION AT THE WATCH HOUSE

Members and their friends are invited to the opening on Friday 12th August at 7.00 pm at the Watch House to 'A Mixed Show in Mixed Mediums'. Drawings on paper, Contemporary knitwear, Hand-tinted photographs, Decorated pots. The exhibition continues Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th from 10am to 5pm.

Coordinated by Jan Melville, De Peinture Art Studio Balmain. Interested crafts/arts people for 1989 phone 810 7505.

COMING SOON

~~August 12th to 14th~~
Chinese Brush Painting - Patricia Quinn

September 23rd to 30th
Pottery - Helen Engle
Nov 5-6

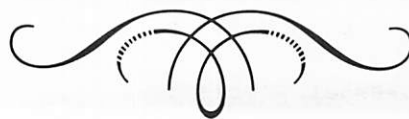
November 25th - December 3rd
Paintings - Jan Marsh



WE have on display at the Watch House a range of Colonial clothing which should be of interest as gifts or mementoes.

Full Colonial Aprons.....	\$29.95
Caps.....	\$9.95
Plain White Shirts (size 8 & 10)....	\$14.95
Arrowed Calico Shirts (SM).....	\$22.95
Arrowed Calico Shirts (M).....	\$24.95
SPECIAL PRICE ON BOOKS	
Around Balmain.....	\$5.00
Half a thousand acres.....	\$5.00
Leaflets.....	\$0.60

IT was with deep regret that the we learned of the recent death of Robin Jones. Typical of her energy, enthusiasm and courage was her organisation of the extremely successful Balmain Coal Mine exhibition such a short time before. She will be missed on the Peninsula and our sympathies are extended to her family.



WANTED

We need a volunteer to help with the correspondence

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE WATCH HOUSE

The Watch House is open EVERY Saturday from 1 to 3pm. Call in for coffee.

The Balmain Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Watch House 179 Darling St. Balmain.

Our editorial phone number is 818 4954.

Send mail to PO Box 57, BALMAIN. 2041.
Contact Steve South on 810 1411 for renting of the Watch House.



the balmain association
representing
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 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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: HOME:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (including News Sheet Delivery in Balmain-Birchgrove-Rozelle)

Please circle ... NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL

Single/Family/Household	\$ 8.00
Organisation	\$12.00
Pensioner or Student	\$ 1.00

Add \$5.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted.

Cheques should be made payable to "The Balmain Association".

Half-price until January, 1989