

the balmain
association
incorporated

NEWS SHEET

Vol 26 No 2 Issue 200

FOUNDED 1965

MARCH 1991

What Should Happen Next?

In a landmark decision the Court of Appeal ruled for our Association against the Government's appointment of a planning administrator to Leichhardt Council. The embarrassing defeat for the Government was greeted by emotional scenes in the crowded courtroom and afterwards when residents met the press. Jane Ward, Association President, said "The decision was a vindication of justice—the government's action had been wrong in law, wrong in morality and wrong in planning."

Currently in NSW the only real long-term, visionary planning is being done by the public. The bureaucracies, professions and developers are merely processing profits. The Department of Planning has been blinded by their subservience to the urban consolidation policy. Mr O'Toole's recommendations would have allowed a developer of the Balmain Power Station site to put 40 persons in a space equal to that of his own suburban house in Bangor.

Mr Hay's attempt to fast track the rezoning had achieved the opposite effect to its intention. His planning commissar had taken almost four months to do what

the minister had required the council to perform in five weeks.

Ms Helen Styles, Executive Officer of the Balmain Development Trust, has since said "The Balmain Association would not have needed to take legal action to remove the planning administrator if the Minister for Planning, Mr Hay, had not intervened in the planning process to prevent the public hearing voted for by Leichhardt Council on August 23".

The three judges of the Court of Appeal, Justices Kirby (President), Priestly and Handley said in their joint judgement on February 19, "The opportunity for public participation imposes delays which would not occur if decisions were made unilaterally by the Minister or by town planning experts". "Any reasonable administration of the Act must take account of the delays which are inherent in procedures established by Parliament for consulting the public about environmental decisions that may affect them".

Many experts in the field of environmental law believe that the Government has few options in its attempts to rezone the disputed sites. The three-nil decision reduces the minister's chances of getting

leave to appeal to the High Court. The separate inquiry into the Council's efficiency has still to report so any attempt to remove the council would be another precipitate act.

So what should be the next move?

The preferred option for the State Government is to let the residents have a say in the planning process. The Balmain Development Trust has called on Mr Greiner to instruct his minister to conduct a public inquiry through the Commissioners of Inquiry for Environment and Planning to allow public participation in the planning processes affecting this community. The rescission last year of the Council's public hearing resolution by the administrator is invalid so the Council could also invite the same Commissioners to proceed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

The winners of the Trust's Design Competition will be announced on March 10 at a luncheon at the Opera House forecourt. The 33 entries represent \$100,000 worth of ideas. They will be displayed in the Town Hall on March 16.

You should write to the Council requesting a public hearing and attend the Council meeting on March 19.

Development On The Peninsula

We must now focus on why the residents are opposed to the Leichhardt Town Planners' rezoning of the 5 major industrial sites and the significantly worse alterations of the now defunct planning administrator.

Let it be clearly understood that most residents are strongly in favour of rationally planned development. Moreover, we recognise that new development should, by definition, seek to improve not degrade the existing amenity. Planning infrastructure, the Government responsibility, has not been addressed.

What are the main concerns?

Population. Balmain has a population density of about 105 persons per hectare, twice Sydney's average. Based on an average home unit size of 120 square metres (i.e. large units) the following table of population densities per hectare were recommended:

	Town Planner	Defunct Administrator
Power Station	212	235
Chemplex	189	235
Unilever/Ampol	189	212
Caltex	165	212

Traffic. We don't know the likely effects on traffic that would have been generated by the defunct administrator's recommendations as he didn't bother to do the calculation. We do know what penalties the Leichhardt Town Planner's scheme would impose—delays up to 12 times longer than we are currently suffering. **And the cost!** The RTA Scates model (and we hope we can rely on governmental figures) tells us that the annual cost of delays is \$21.5 million and this will increase by \$4.8 million to \$26.3 million by 1995 after taking the development into account. However, the RTA Scates model also tells us that the City West Link will save us \$5.8 million. The developers, out to make their windfall profits, will absorb

the savings generated by the City West Link and cost a further \$4.2 million. The motorists will pay an additional \$10 million per year.

Open Space. Balmain has about 24 square metres per person of open space compared with the Sydney average of about 35 square metres.

Keeping in mind that the greater the population density the higher the need for open space. Balmain needs to increase its open space ratio. The Town Planners have designated around 24% as open space on their plans. On the Balmain Power Station and Chemplex sites this represents about 12 square metres per proposed resident, only half what is currently in Balmain.

Contamination. All of the 5 sites are contaminated. We don't believe adequate protection is being proposed for the residents. Currently, the Unilever site has loose asbestos on site caused by the demolition works.

200th News Sheet

The Balmain Association was formed in September, 1965 and the first News Sheet was published in April, 1966.

We have reproduced a few excerpts from the early issues to commemorate this 200th issue. In July, 1975 the News Sheet became a monthly except for the

NEWS SHEET

FIRST ISSUE - APRIL 1966

• THE WATCH HOUSE •

THE NATIONAL TRUST HAS DECLARED THIS BUILDING ONE OF HISTORICAL INTEREST AND THE NEWLY FORMED BALMAIN ASSOCIATION HOPE TO RESTORE IT FOR USE AS THEIR HEADQUARTERS. THE ASSOCIATION'S AIMS AND ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN BRIEFLY OUTLINED ON THE NEXT PAGE OF THIS SHEET.



NEWS SHEET

SECOND ISSUE JUNE 1966

A last link with T.S.Mort was this office building which stood for some 80 years on the south side of the dock. The clock tower was a landmark to many and its passing ends another chapter in Balmain's history.



NEWS SHEET

TENTH ISSUE - OCTOBER 1967

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE

The street front as it was in the 1840's seen from the Parramatta River shows a simple yet unusual home of a gentleman of Macquarie's time. Built about 1814, with additions in 1827 and improvements about 1845, it is substantially still the same, except for extensions on this side.

January issue of each year. (The Editor needs a break)

To ensure prompt delivery we are planning to post the News Sheet to all members. However, in order to minimise charges it is necessary to register the publication with Australia Post. They require a name other than News Sheet, Newsletter or Bulletin. Can you suggest an appropriate name? Please send your ideas to the Editor, PO Box 57, Balmain.

the balmain association

LEICHHARDT TOWN PLAN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 2 MAR 76

The future of Leichhardt Municipality as a residential area will be decided at this meeting

PLEASE ATTEND!!

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

NEWS SHEET

FIFTH ISSUE - NOVEMBER 1966

An appeal against Leichhardt Council's rejection of the application to establish a free and open shelter for the old 'Mort's Dock' area is in progress. Illustration shows some of the shanty houses that will be totally affected if the Appeal is successful.

THE WATCH HOUSE

The Association's lease of the Watch House is one year old this month. During the year restoration work has proceeded in accordance with certain priorities and at a pace commensurate with our resources and the voluntary labour available.

The Watch House Committee, with its too few willing workers, have already achieved the following:

- Erected iron grilles over accessible windows to secure the building.
- Arranged re-roofing. • Demolished damaged ceiling and partition walls.
- Renewed the water supply and sewerage connections. • Installed new front doors. • Repaired and reglazed practically all windows.

With the aid of W. A. Flick & Co. and individual help have cleaned up much of outside and inside stonework. • Prepared, cleaned down and painted many areas. • Arranged for connection of power and light.

Recently, new front verandah posts were installed by members John Saunders and Bert Cook, using timber supplied by H. H. Cuth & Co. Pty. Ltd. and a start has been made on putting down new verandah flooring.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

GALA HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE NITE

Featuring A STAR-STUDD CAST OF THOUSANDS

in glorious technicolor and stereophonic sound



NEWS SHEET

OCTOBER No 28

Student Project

On Thursday, February 28th Balmain Town Hall became the focus for 215 1st year Design students of Sydney College of Art, Mansfield Street when they were briefed on their first project in the new disciplinary problem driven curriculum.

The project that has been set is to communicate an unusual perspective on Balmain to be sent to other students beginning their design studies in another place.

The students have four weeks to complete this assignment so don't be surprised if you see groups of young people wandering the streets, looking, drawing, photographing, videoing and asking questions.

Association member, Annette O'Neill will be giving two lectures on Balmain social history at Turner Hall Building 4 UTS, Broadway on Thursday, March 14th.

Labor Centenary

The first Labor League to be formed in NSW was in Balmain 100 years ago. The event is to be celebrated with a gathering in the "Trades & Labor" Hall, 294 Darling Street on at 6pm Thursday, 4th April and will be addressed by Bob Carr and others. Gough Whitlam will unveil a plaque.

This will be followed by a procession with union banners to the Balmain RSL before attending a Centenary Dinner where guests will include Neville Wran. Entertainment is by the Larikins. Tickets cost \$30 and concessions \$15.

A Workers' Dance is to be held on Friday, 5th April at 7.30pm in the Balmain Town Hall. Tickets \$10 at the door.

There will be a Picnic on Saturday 13th April at 3pm in Mort Bay Park with entertainment by the Tocoda Saxophone Quartet, folk singers and dancers as well as the first performance by Southern Crossings of a special work for the centenary: "Voice of the People"

Limerick Competition 1991

In conjunction with Michael's Place the Association is holding a competition for a limerick having reference to the Balmain Peninsula.

There are three sections—Junior, under 13 years; Intermediate, 13 to 18 years; Senior, 19 years and over. The prize for each section is a \$25 gift voucher from Michael's Place and books of \$25 value from the Association.

Entry forms are available from Michael's Place 405 Darling Street, Balmain. Entry closing date is Saturday, March 30th.

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Schooldays

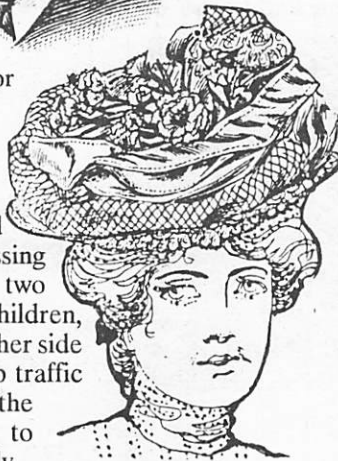
In the 1920 - 30s school teachers were smartly dressed and set an example to the children. Hats were worn by men and women while the men had a collar and tie with their suits. Looking at some school children today, their standard of dress and tidiness are not up to that of those earlier times when poverty existed and some boys were bare-footed.

During winter, the school children were asked to bring along each day a piece of wood, coal or coke to fuel the classroom fire during lessons.

The Pigeon Ground School supplied a huge cane basket for the children to put their lunch in for safe keeping. The lid was closed to reduce the temptation.



Ground or Rozelle schools. The NRMA sponsored road crossing flags for two patrol children, one on either side to hold up traffic to allow the children to cross safely.



There were no free tram tickets for the school children in those days. If you lived at East Balmain or Birchgrove you walked in groups to either Pigeon

Balmain Personality

Arthur Norman Barwick

Norman Barwick was born in Victoria but his formative years were spent in Balmain. His father, James Eli Barwick worked as a time-keeper at Tooths Brewery in Geelong, Victoria, then as a boatbuilder at Mort's Dock and later he was a baker at St Leonards.

James was a verger at St John's Church, Balmain North having had a wonderful reference from his mother's brother, Arthur Harvison of 99 Mort Street. He was also the verger of St James Church, Sydney. In 1915 he bought a house at 27 Spring Street (still in good repair) next to St John's Church.



The only son of James Eli and Maria (Harvison), Arthur Norman Stanley Barwick was born in Geelong in 1890. He was educated at Windsor and Birchgrove Primary School then at Fort Street High.

Along with his parents, Norman was a confirmed member of St John's Church. He was a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent and was commissioned a Diocesan Reader on June 14th 1915.

Norman's name appears in the sanctuary at St Johns as one of 255 young men of the parish who enlisted in the Imperial Forces. He left Australia in August 1917 and became a lieutenant in A Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade. He frequently told the story that he left Sydney with 200 pairs of socks made for him by his many friends.

His duties were to meet the Australian troops returning to England from the front and help them in every way possible. He was standing outside No 10 Downing Street when the Prime Minister announced the armistice.

On his return to Balmain, Norman remained with his family at 27 Spring Street after the death of his father (1927) until 1929 when he joined the Bible Society as an accountant and also undertook training at Moore Theological College in Newtown. He was ordained as a deacon in 1920 and a priest in 1929. In 1922 he married Grace McLachlan of Drummoyne.

Norman served as curate in many locations all over Sydney. He became Rector of Kurrajong in 1933. In 1943 he was appointed Rector of Wahroonga and also chaplain of the Home of Peace at Petersham. He was secretary of the Retired Clergy Association when he died in 1977 at Hornsby. There is a stained glass window to his memory in St Andrews, Wahroonga.

Update on Watch House Restoration

The National Estate Grants Program 1990/91 has approved a grant of \$2,500 on a dollar-for-dollar basis for restoration of stonework at the lower hinges of four Cell Doors. The work is being done by Kel Munyard of Hart Street, Balmain.

The back fence and gate have been repaired and quotes are being sought for new brush box verandah flooring and a new shingle roof for the outhouse. A Pest control inspection is also required. New matting and low-voltage lighting have been purchased and should be installed soon. These should improve our facilities for exhibitions.

On Tuesday, February 26th, a very hot day, we received a visit by the National Trust Director of Properties, Chris Levins and other committee members who are evolving an update property policy for the Trust.

Sale By Stealth?

The overriding preoccupation of the community with the proposed major developments and their impact must not be allowed to mask the government's other current attempts to dispose of public property on the Peninsula without adequate consideration.

The MSB is investigating the sale of the Buoy site in Cameron Cove, ELCOM has the old Cush timber yard in Mullens Street up for auction and the Dept of Health has applied for a DA on the old Nurses Home in Wortley Street to convert it into a private secondary education institution with extensive new buildings and parking allocation on local streets.

The Wortley Street development has been advertised in the 'Glebe' as No 10 Worth Street, an ironic misprint which indicates the department's intention—what its worth in monetary terms. Given its history as low impact use and reserve open space status, the community has a right to a much better deal for the home than as a private school which will, of necessity, appropriate Punch Park for its playing fields and will exploit a non-purpose built structure when there are purpose built premises available for lease or sale from the State Government.

Just a reminder...

Membership renewals are overdue. If you haven't sent your subscription yet please do not delay any longer.

Thank you for your support



IN YOUR GARDEN

Hebe

A tough and hardy plant like Hebe is a gift to the low-care garden. A native of New Zealand it comes in many varieties, but for the gardener two broad categories are of interest. Those with leafy branches and those of whipcord form. The latter have small scalelike leaves on slender branchlets, reminiscent of some conifers.

Hebe include a great range of lovely garden subjects. Some are grown for their flowers which range from pure white to deep purple, others for their lovely marked foliage.

They are easy to grow and thrive in almost any soil and in a wide range of situations. Most are very hardy and will grow for many years with little attention with only an annual pruning immediately after flowering to keep bushes healthy and compact. Most species are easily increased from cuttings.

Hebe love plenty of compost and do best in a sunny spot.

Bonny Davidson



Hebe buxifolia

Welcome To Balmain

On Sunday 7th April at 4pm a reception will be held at the Watch House to welcome Mrs Sue Balmain-Griffin, Valine Balmain and Laura Balmain from Texas, USA.

For some years Mrs Balmain-Griffin has been researching her family history and has given the Association a large family tree including photographs of the American Balmain connection.

If you are interested please contact 818 4954 now as invitations will be limited.

Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the Balmain Association Inc will be held on Wednesday 3rd April in the Watch House at 7.30pm. The business to discuss is the addition to the Constitution of "Part 6 - Additional Rules Applicable To Charities". This is necessary in order to register the incorporated Association as a charity in accordance with requirements from the Chief Secretary's Department.

History Trail Notice Board

Have you noticed the History Trail Location Map Notice at Thornton Park? Visitors to the area, arriving by ferry, can now be acquainted with the location of 16 plaques in East Balmain.

The notice board was sponsored by the Association together with Rotary Club of Balmain and the Leichhardt Council.

Requests are received regularly to add new plaques to the History Trail. The original 63 plaques were obtained through the Bicentenary Committee but this service is no longer available. However, a similar design can be produced by the foundry.

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WHAT'S ON

- Balmain Development Trust Competition Prize Announcement March 10 Opera House
- Design Exhibition March 16 Town Hall

- Heritage Week 6th – 14th April

- Exhibition of Lever Bros Photographs and Memorabilia

Sat 6th – 13th April 11am – 3pm

- Childrens' Colouring Competition Prize Presentation Sat 13th April 2pm
- Entries on display Sat 13th and Sat 20th April

OUR HOUSE WATCH

The Watch House is open every Saturday from 12 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 Street, Balmain.

Send mail c/o PO Box 57, BALMAIN. 2041

Our editorial phone is 818 4954

Interested artists, potters, sculptors etc. who would like to organise an exhibition in the Watch House are urged to contact Steve South on 810 1411. The Watch House can also be made available as a meeting place for local organisations.



the balmain association inc
representing
Balmain-Birchgrove & Rozelle

Our Aims Are To:

- improve the living, working and recreational amenities 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 cooperation of everyone concerned in the realisation of the above

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to: Treasurer, PO Box 57, BALMAIN 2041

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (incl News Sheet delivery in Balmain-Rozelle)

Please circle- ...NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL

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