

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 27 No 9 Issue 218

Founded 1965

October 1992

Residents Back Council Appeal

At a special meeting of Leichhardt Council on 28 September in the Balmain Town Hall, 350 residents unanimously endorsed the decision to appeal to the Court of Appeal against the decision of Justice Pearlman in the Land & Environment Court disallowing Council's challenge to the GMREP of the National Party Minister, Mr Webster. Mayor Larry Hand attacked the Minister's unwarranted intervention in local government planning using the myth of "urban consolidation". The Minister's plan was deficient in the provision of affordable housing, public transport infrastructure, traffic management, open space and proper decontamination. Council accepted an amendment from Dr Jean Lenane calling for detailed studies of blood levels of lead and control of motor vehicle emissions.

Mr Webster was reported to say that the development applications submitted by Vanadi and Caltex met Department of Planning guidelines. He has refused to give an undertaking not to determine the DAs pending the outcome of the appeal. On viewing the plans, we conclude that the Department's guidelines are at variance with the report of the Commissioners of Inquiry of July 1991.

For the Caltex site the recommendation was "a population density of 150 persons per hectare with an average building of 3.3 storeys, which means 3 storey buildings with some 4 storey buildings on the site." Only one of the 13 proposed buildings is under 5 storeys and there are three blocks on the ridge, one of 7 storeys including a tower for an effective height of 9 storeys, and two of 6 storeys also with towers. 157 dwellings are proposed with a population of 370 persons. The developers claim that the Council's precinct controls limiting

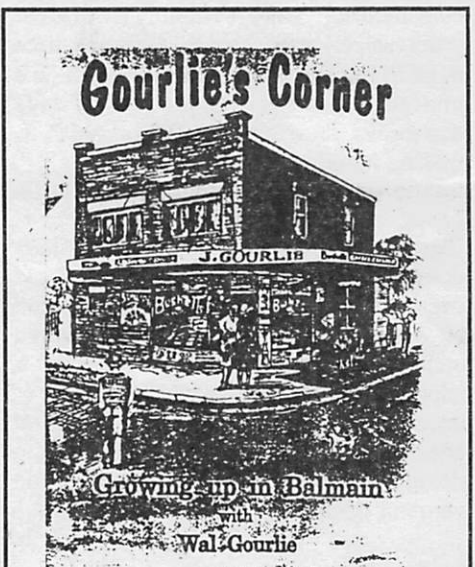
buildings to 2 storeys only applies to infill development and "visual analysis has shown that the buildings will have a positive impact on the aesthetic significance of the site and the foreshore protection area. . . However, the buildings have been shown to not adversely affect the aesthetic significance of the site or the foreshore scenic protection area. They do, in fact, enhance these matters." From three elevations 12 levels will be seen. How will the tall buildings on the ridge enhance the natural significance of the headland? The building bulk overwhelms the character of the area. A single Blues Point tower (heaven forbid) would, at least, allow a much larger park.

Their traffic consultants have used an incorrect factor of 0.55 veh/hr/unit. The survey of traffic generation at Cameron Cove revealed that a figure of 0.7 veh/hr/unit was more suitable. This is nearly 30% more volume. "Rowntree St north of Darling St is already carrying peak hour flows in excess of the desirable maximum flow." (p30 Traffic Study 1, 1990). This proposed development is an ambit claim to increase the value of the land. We believe that the site will be sold to another developer who will attempt to change the proposal to his advantage as has already happened at the Howard Smith site.

Vanadi has submitted a DA which will change the character of the Valley. The developer has proposed 356 dwellings with a population of 783 persons. The traffic generation is 178 veh/hr. Instead of the Commissioners' open space factor of 21m²/person the company has used 17m². Most of the open space will be in the less significant lower part of the site. The development does not provide for "affordable housing". The Government's

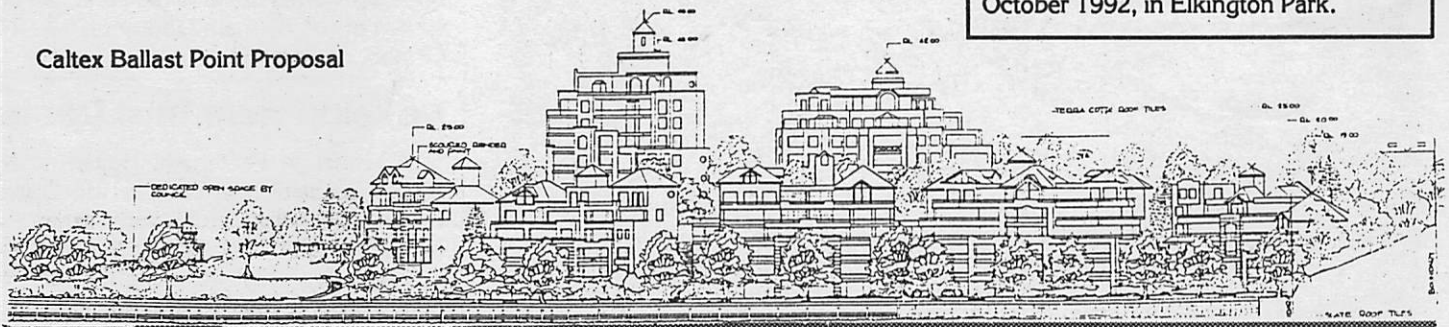
contamination remediation controls will not be as effective as the Council's.

The Minister continues to push "urban consolidation" as justification but the profit potential of the waterfront location is the major factor. The "donut" theory of population spread is a misnomer. There is no population hole in the inner suburbs. There has been a reduction in the number of persons per household. A better symbol would be a cone which has been reduced slightly in height. Despite a reduction in population since the 70s, Balmain still has one of the highest densities in Sydney and which is growing again.



You are invited to the Balmain Library on 23 October at 4-6pm for the launch of our new publication "Gourlie's Corner - Growing up in Balmain", a 56 page book with coloured cover and 42 photographs. Price \$10 + \$1.50 postage. It will also be on sale at the Back to Balmain Day, 25 October 1992, in Elkington Park.

Caltex Ballast Point Proposal



NSW Prisons Part 4.

The process of finding a system of punishment which was "just but fair", which has been discussed in previous articles, continued at the Long Bay Penitentiary for Males. Last month we noted the changes which took place at Trial Bay when George Miller and then Frederick Neitenstein were Comptrollers-General of Prisons between 1889 and 1909. Miller's reintroduction elsewhere of the gag, flogging and restricted diets had been condemned by the press, but Neitenstein had been welcomed as a man of ideas, experience and action ahead of his time — and in many ways this was true.

Although Neitenstein had felt that the free association of prisoners at Trial Bay was dangerous to "the wholesomeness of mind or body" and locked all prisoners in separate cells there, he was aware of the fact that separation could result in madness, "erotic problems" and "muscular distortions." The alternative would be a system of restricted association which meant separation for meals and rest together with closely watched association when at industrial occupation or exercise.

But his ideas about prisoner classification were probably the most progressive. He believed that any sentence must fit not the offence but the offender's character, which was in many ways dependent on a vicious environment" as well as heredity. Offenders who were 16, insane or habitually drunk should be in hospitals, asylums or industrial schools. Classification by age, offence, previous convictions, conduct and criminality would overcome the "evils traditionally connoted by association." These categories would include the juvenile first offender of a felony; the 16-25 year olds "accidental or impulsive" offender; and the habitual offender, addicted to "deliberate wrong doing" and perpetually hovering on the verge of gaoldom.

For each class of prisoner, the sentence should be set in a fixed ratio: juveniles to be kept out of prison as much as possible, but when necessary the sentences to be short and sharp, involving a few days of perfect seclusion; cumulative sentencing for the habitual who after three convictions should be incarcerated for an indefinite term "until a board of experts declared that he might be trusted at large with safety."

On the other hand, Neitenstein argued, none of these reforms could be carried out in the gaols which then existed in New South Wales. Darlinghurst and Biloela [which we have not discussed in this series] should be closed because they were not only inadequate to the task of reform but an embarrassment to the administration and "in every way - sanitary, deterrent, punitive and reformatory" - a new, properly equipped, penitentiary must be established." Once again a Committee was appointed which announced that in the new prison, "the treatment is being changed in a manner which it is thought, while acting as a deterrent, will ... induce [the prisoners] to lead honest and industrious lives after their release.

Work on Long Bay began in 1901. The female prison was completed in 1909 and the male penitentiary in 1914, with 386 cells. Each cell had light and air admitted from a window in the front door and was connected to a system of ventilation. The various cell ranges, of 14-15 cells in a row back-to-back, allowed for an extensive system of prisoner grading according to age, history, habits and general conduct. There were huge exercise yards, a workshop, a debtor's prison, hospital and laundry.

The new Comptroller-General of Prisons, Sam McCauley, and Superintendent D.G. D'Arcy, were delighted with the new prison. They got the prisoners gardening, clearing 80 acres of scrub, fencing the gaol, cultivating the land, building the prison chapel, excavating a lagoon and exercising within the yard, all

under restricted association. The press supported this gaol regime of physical labour for petty habituals. The moral effect of the work was praised and the design of the prison described as of the most up-to-date lines.

As Christopher Mead has noted, Long Bay provided for the future just as Neitenstein said it would, and took longer to become a "failure" than Berrima or Trial Bay. But, he continues, all three exemplify the dynamics of prison reform. Each began with the proclamation that it was the "latest" and best development in incarceration for NSW from a blueprint originating overseas, usually England. Prison authorities argued that each previous system was a failure because of architecture, overcrowding, prisoner classification or attention to prison reform. Each subsequent prison would be "tough but fair." And each subsequently failed in its purpose.

As the Editor commented last month, the search for such corrective measures continues, together with the search for a system of penology which can rehabilitate as well as preventing future crime. The place of the magistracy in the criminal system will be considered in a future article.

Note: The accompanying photograph was provided by the Department of Corrective Services and shows Long Bay c. 1920. The tram line was installed before the prison was built. Darcy Dugan once escaped by cutting a hole in the roof of the tram, which can still be seen at the Tramways Museum.

Debby Nicholls

Source: Christopher Mead, "Tough But Fair: Some Practices of Imprisonment in New South Wales 1866-1914), Journal of the RAHS, December 1991.

Photo of Long Bay Penitentiary 1920s courtesy Dept of Corrective Services.



Old Film Found

A 16mm film documenting the campaign against the White Bay Container Terminal has been found in a Watch House filing cabinet. Produced and directed by Kit Guyatt in 1970 for the Balmain Association it features Issy Wyner, Nick Origlass, Robert Irving, Alicia Lee and other residents in protest action. It has been transferred to video tape and can be viewed at the Balmain Library on 19 - 24 October on demand.

Development Trust Debts

A dinner at Parliament House raised \$1,000 to settle the debt to the Opera House. Leichhardt Council voted to pay the remaining debts incurred by the Balmain Development Trust including the loan of \$2000 owed to the Association.

Balmain Church Organs

The name Hill & Son of London, stood for perfection in the 19th century for workmanship and organ design. Hill & Son became the elite of their trade, holding a Royal warrant appointing the firm organ builders to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

An excellent book which details nearly all of the historical organs surviving in NSW is "Historical Organs of NSW" by Graeme Rushworth. A quote from this book about the work of the prolific organ building firm, William Hill & Son; "Of the nineteen Hill organs built for NSW churches, residences and the Sydney Town Hall between 1866 and 1910, six have been rebuilt and altered and one broken up. Twelve remain in an original state and comprise a dozen unique monuments to those persons... who have been responsible for the preservation." Three of these unique instruments are in the Municipality of Leichhardt. Two of which are in Balmain.

St Mary's Anglican Church

Balmain East. In May 1848, St Mary's Church was consecrated with a small but powerful organ built by Mr William Johnson. The order for an organ was received by Hill & Son in November 1871 and was shipped out in January 1872. Erected at first in the west gallery of the church and was dedicated on 4th August of that year. At some stage it was removed from the gallery to the south side of the nave. The organ remains in largely original condition.

Interestingly, Johnson, faced with insolvency in June 1848, listed an asset of £30 owing for an organ.

St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, Balmain. The Hill organ of 1886 was built for the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Sydney, moved in 1907 to the St Carthage's Catholic Church, Lismore and in 1913 to St Augustine's Church where it stands resplendent in the west gallery. Full restoration was carried out in 1966 by J W Walker & Sons (Middlesex) and the consultant was David Kinsela.

The third Hill & Son organ in the Municipality was installed at the Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annandale in 1890. Other fine historic pipe organs in the Balmain/Rozelle are:

St Thomas' Anglican Church,

Rozelle. The Henry Jones & Son organ was preceded by an harmonium for accompaniment of services which Mr E Russell described in an 1884 report as "the harmoniamist" and with the choir directed by Mr C Whitehead. Payment for the new organ was accomplished by subscription and the total cost including the freight was £315. The organ was erected in the south transept where it remained until 1936, when it was removed to its present location in the north transept by Charles W Leggo.

It was equipped with an electric blower in 1929. Above the console is one of Henry Jones gigantic brass builder's plates 29.5cm long and inscribed with the South Kensington address.

St Andrew's Congregational Church, Balmain. This organ was built in 1867 by J W Walker of London for the St John's Anglican Church, Darlinghurst, and was moved from there to St Andrew's in 1887. It remains unaltered apart from the addition of electric blowing.



Muriel Taylor at the St Andrew's organ 1950s

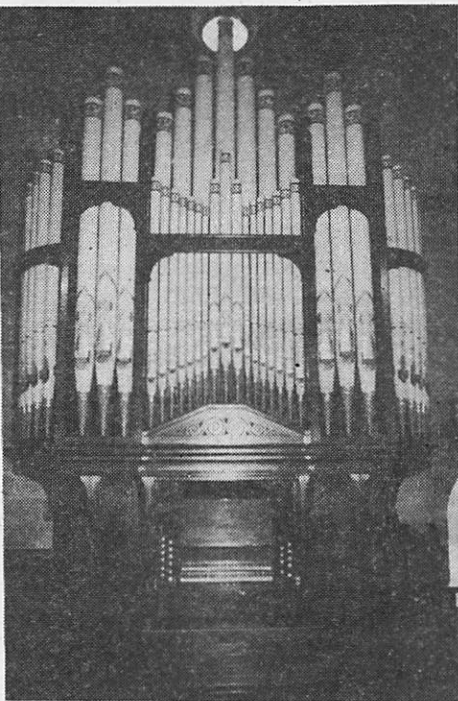
An extensive restoration to the 125 year old instrument is planned for 1993.

St. John's Anglican Church, Birchgrove. In 1898 the church installed a John Dresser organ from St. Andrews Anglican Church, Summer Hill. The organ today dates from 1913 when an order was first placed to another indigenous instrument builder, Griffin & Leggo. Their partnership, although only for a short duration, was responsible for the construction of some ten organs between 1912-1918. The dedication took place on 1st May 1915. Some changes were made in the 1950's

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Rozelle. Frederick Ernst Ladegast was almost certainly an employee of organ builders Charles Richardson and later W G Rendall in the early 1900's. In June 1907, Ladegast advertised an organ for sale. This was evidently the instrument later presented to St. Joseph's Church, Balmain West (now Rozelle), by a parishioner, Mr M Raleigh. It was reported that "the organ was played during the religious ceremonies by the builder, Mr E Ladegast." The blessing was on Sunday, 19 April, 1908. The subsequent history of this organ is unknown as the present instrument at St. Joseph's Church, has the Barrack Street address on the builders plate of the British Pianoforte Depot Ltd. The firm occupied the Barrack Street address from 1906-1914. The organ

was rebuilt and enlarged in 1974 by Mr A Jones.

Presbyterian Church, Campbell St, Balmain. Charles Richardson, son of the Manchester organ builder W E Richardson came to Sydney in the 1880's, primarily to be an agent for his father and also for the firm Hill & Son. At a time when most organs were fully imported from England, this firm was one of the few operating in Australia before 1900. The instrument was built entirely in Sydney for a cost of £504 and is one of the handful of Richardson organs which survive today. Restorative work by J W Walker & Son was begun in 1985. In addition the show pipes were restencilled by Mr. Wally Peters in collaboration with the Church organist for many years, Mr Bill Caukill.



Campbell St Presbyterian Church organ

Further work was carried out by Mr Peter Jewkes who regularly tunes and maintains the instrument.

John Williams of the Leichhardt Municipality Heritage Committee has undertaken to provide an inventory (with photographs if possible) of former and present historic organs in the municipality. If you have information contact him on 810 1109.

Kath Hamey.

Sources: Graeme Rushworth "Historic Organs of New South Wales". Organ Ramble in Balmain. The Organ Society of Sydney. John Williams, Bill Caukill, Glen Amer.

**Back to Balmain Day
Elkington Park
Sunday 25 October 1992**

In Your Garden

Dahlias Flowers for Cutting

For a long-flowering, colourful show of blooms in summer and early autumn start planting dahlia tubers now. Dahlias are semi-hardy tuberous-rooted, perennial plants that can be replanted each year and reward you with many lovely blooms over a long period to brighten the garden or to be used as cut flowers.

Dahlias grow in varying soil types as long as pre-planting soil preparation is done. They do best in deep, moist, well-drained, humus enriched soil and in a sunny position with protection from strong winds when planting. Hammer a stake in position to avoid any possible later tuber damage.

Avoid using fowl manure or fertilisers with high nitrogen content or you



could have lovely plants but with fewer flowers. An all purpose garden fertiliser is better to prepare the soil. Once the plants develop buds they can be given a fortnightly watering with a liquid fertiliser. For a longer display stagger the plantings during late October, November and December.

Dahlias usually bloom 14-15 weeks after planting, so plan when you want particular ones to bloom. Never let plants dry right out—you can prevent this by covering the soil with a thick layer of compost.

There is a wide range of dahlias to choose from including small, medium or large decorative types, pompom, cactus, semi-cactus, collarette, and single or double bedding dahlias.

When the plants begin to die down, usually in late autumn, cut foliage back to about 20cm above the soil. Lift carefully and store in a dry, airy spot such as under the house or a bushy shrub.

Bonnie Davidson

Howard Smith Site

A revised DA has been submitted to Council with the number of dwellings reduced by 6 to 111. The unit in Gow St that blocked views has been deleted as have some of the Water St units. However the buildings along Birchgrove Rd have been lowered by a mere 60cm and will still prevent the enjoyment of views from the road and houses on the opposite side. The Council has yet to consider the modified plan.

Dawn Fraser Pool

As you know the Dawn Fraser Pool needs major repairs. To ensure that the heritage nature of the pool is properly evaluated a Conservation Plan is being commissioned by Leichhardt Council with financial assistance from the Friends of the Pool and the National Trust. A workshop on the Pool conservation will be held on 24 October at 10am at the Pool.

The workshop involves taking photographs which will be processed during lunch. The outcome will be a display illustrating what people like about the Dawn Fraser Pool.

To cover costs and lunch there will be a fee of \$20. Contact Meredith Walker at Council on 367 9220.

Unilever Development

Vanadi's DA overcrowds the site and has the potential of 178 vehicles per hour in the peak period. The other major concern is the amount and position of the open space. The dedication of 17m² per person is below that required by the Commissioners of Inquiry and considerably less than the Council plan decided after extensive community consultation.

Most of the open space will be bounded by four storey buildings and will not provide visual links to the foreshore. In contrast the Council planned to position a large area on the cliff overlooking White Bay with substantial views of the harbour and city.

Other issues resulting from frightening past experiences with demolition hold little hope for compliance with health and safety regulations particularly in regard to asbestos removal as well as dust and noise pollution.

Recycling

The commitment by residents has placed Leichhardt in the premier position among inner west councils. Early results prove that implementing weekly recycling is popular and profitable. Previous figures showed that we were placed sixth in efficiency for recycling in the metropolitan area. Better results in the future are evidently on the way.

Back To Balmain

Program for Sunday 25 October.

9am Reunion at Gladstone Park Public School.

10am Ecumenical Service at St Andrews Church.

11am Picnic in Elkington Park.

2pm Leichhardt Municipal Band.

On 19-24 October the Balmain Library will have a "Back to Balmain" Photograph Exhibition. The Balmain Association video can be viewed during this period.

What's On

- Exhibition at the Watch House
Hilary Cassidy - Oct 3-5
Yuriko Goon - Oct 14-25
Janet Scott - Nov 7-18
Nado Malat - Nov 21-22
The Burlong Group - Nov 28
Hyunmi Lee - Dec 12-20
- "Gourlie's Corner"
Book Launch 23 Oct
Balmain Library 4-6pm
- Back to Balmain Day
Sunday 25 October

Printed on recycled paper
© Not to be reproduced without
authorisation

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

The Watch House is open every
Saturday from 12 to 3pm

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

Mail c/o PO Box 57, BALMAIN. 2041.

Our editorial phone/fax 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.

Annual Subscriptions:

Household \$16, Pensioners &
Students \$7, Organisation \$21.