

To the Honorary Secretary of
THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION
35 Wharf Road Balmain

I wish to join The Balmain Association
and enclose the annual fee of \$1.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

• LOCAL COLOUR •

IT IS SAID THAT NEWCOMERS TO THIS COUNTRY NEVER CEASE TO MARVEL AT THE WEALTH OF AUSTRALIAN FLORA WHICH GROWS HAPPILY SIDE BY SIDE WITH EUROPEAN PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS.

A FINE EXAMPLE IN BALMAIN IS THE GLADSTONE PARK WHERE DARLING STREET ERGINS ITS LAST STRAIGHT MILE TO THE FERRY. VERITABLY AN OASIS, MAGNIFICENT SPECIMENS OF MORTON BAY FIGS AND EUCALYPTS CAN BE SEEN RIMMED BY MASSES OF FLOWERS.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NAMED AFTER THE GRAND OLD MAN OF ENGLISH POLITICS, WILLIAM EVERT GLADSTONE, BALMAIN'S GRAND-PARENTS WILL REMEMBER IT AS THE PIGEON GROUND AND THE SCHOOL NEARBY KNOWN AS "PIDRIES" IS NOW BALMAIN DEMONSTRATION SCHOOL. THE HIGH-TOWERED CONVENT COMPLETES THE SCHOLASTIC AREA AND BEYOND THE ROAD THE HOSPITAL FACES AN AVENUE OF BOX GUMS AND PALMS.

THE COOL GREENERY OF THE PARK IS OPEN

TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND LITTLE THOUGHT GIVEN TO THE WORK AND PLANNING ENTAILLED IN THE UPKEEP. PERHAPS THOSE WHO KEEP IT SO TREAT IT AS JUST ANOTHER JOB, BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO SILENTLY APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS AND TAKE REFUGE IN ITS SHADE



A POTTERS WHEEL & CLAY
available for use by "potters"
at 2 Numa St. Long Nose Point.

EXTRACT: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
1/3/1944 p. 3

"STEAM TO BALMAIN"

The Balmain Ferry Company beg to apprise the public that their steamer, the 'Waterman', is now running between the Gas Company's Wharf and Balmain, regularly every 10 minutes, from 8 am till dark, and trust, from punctuality, civility and accommodation of this boat to receive a moderate share of patronage; and feel assured that when the scenery of Balmain is fully appreciated by d'liberal and enlightened public, that the reward of honest industry and perseverance will not be withheld."

DISPLAY

Members who have old photographs or other relics of Balmain are invited to lend them for use in a display to be arranged soon in Mr Jack Zuber's office window.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION



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.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

IS A GROUP OF LOCAL PEOPLE WHO GOT TOGETHER AT THE END OF LAST YEAR TO TRY TO IMPROVE BALMAIN AS A LIVING AREA.

WE NOW NUMBER 140, AND, THE LIST OF MEMBERS GROWS LONGER AT EVERY GENERAL MEETING.

OUR AIMS, ROUGHLY, ARE TO WORK OUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THE AMENITIES OF THE AREA (WHICH YOU WILL PROBABLY AGREE ARE SADLY LACKING). WE HOPE TO MAKE THESE IMPROVEMENTS OURSELVES, WITH OF COURSE HELP FROM OTHER LOCAL BODIES WHERE POSSIBLE.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE AIMING FOR ARE A CHILD-MINDING CENTRE SO THAT HARRASSED MOTHERS CAN GET A BREAK FROM THEIR CHILDREN NOW AND THEN, A CHILDREN'S LIBRARY AND CRAFT CENTRE, A CENTRE FOR ADULT MEETINGS, DISPLAYS ETC., AND OTHER AMENITIES OF THIS SORT. FOR THIS WE NEED A BUILDING FOR OUR HEADQUARTERS. WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED THE USE OF A SUITABLE ONE WHICH WE HOPE TO OCCUPY SHORTLY.

OUR MEMBERS HAVE MANY INTERESTS. SOME ALREADY HAVE SHOWN A DESIRE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT BALMAIN'S HOMES AND BUILDINGS, WHILE OTHERS ARE INTERESTED IN THE AREA'S HISTORY AND RELICS OF PAST DAYS.

YOU, TOO, MAY HAVE AN INTEREST LIKE THIS -- IN THE ARTS OR CHURCHES, OR PHOTOGRAPHY, OR WATERFRONT INDUSTRIES. YOU WILL PROBABLY FIND SOMEONE WITH A SIMILAR INTEREST IN THE ASSOCIATION.

OBVIOUSLY WE CAN'T TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IN THIS BRIEF LETTER, SO WHY NOT COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT MEETING. IT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 21ST AT THE BALMAIN TOWN HALL. YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

WE BELIEVE THAT BALMAIN HAS MANY FEATURES WORTH PRESERVING, AND YOU COULD HELP US.

"OPERATION WATCH HOUSE"

A highly successful working bee was held on 19th and 20th February for the purpose of cleaning up the old Watch House in Darling St.

Some forty members descended upon the building at various times through-out the day and by teamwork and constant effort, they completely transformed the scene by night-fall. The rubbish was removed from the rooms, literally by the truckload and accumulated behind the building for removal later by the council, whose special garbage gang cheerfully removed the grim remains.

Simultaneously with the inside clean-up many members got to work on the grounds with equal success. The hedge, many years overdue for a haircut, was rapidly cut down to size; the rank growth of years was hacked out of dark corners and drains and gutters restored to working order.

Although the building was not yet officially within the Association's control, some steps were taken towards the rehabilitation which must be carried out before it can serve its purpose as Association headquarters.

Preliminary to architects recommendations minor repairs were done in several places and as many as nine layers of linoleum were removed from the floors. Temporary repairs in fibreglass were made to several broken windows and crumbling plaster which was due to fall out was pulled down and removed.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING HELD
APRIL 21ST BALMAIN TOWN HALL
AT 8 PM. — SHARP

In the event, the clean-up proved two things. Firstly, there is a lot of latent enthusiasm in the Association, which when channelled towards a common goal produces remarkably effective teamwork. The second, that it will take both hard work and funds to rehabilitate this building. Several enthusiastic members returned to the scene of the fray the following morning, only to find that overnight rain, pouring through huge holes in the slate roof, had brought down a few more square yards of plaster on to the floor which had been so carefully cleaned the previous day.

Despite this minor setback, the general feeling was that the clean-up had been a most successful operation and a fine example of what could be accomplished in the future.

THE BERRIMED THIRTY WORKERS SHOWED AN EQUAL ENTHUSIASM FOR A CUP OF TULLOCH BEER DEVOTED BY JOHN MACKENZIE — HEREWORTH A WORD OF THANKS TO HIM AND ALSO TO THOSE LADIES WHO LIKEWISE CONTRIBUTED WITH COFFEES, TEA AND Cakes.

THE COMING EVENTS

Wine - Cheese and Aerogard Evening to be held at the waterside home of one of our members.
Date to be announced at next meeting.

NEXT MANAGEMENT MEETING
TO BE HELD 14TH APRIL AT —
2 NUMA ST. LONG NOSE POINT.

NEXT HISTORICAL MEETING TO BE HELD 23RD APRIL AT 14^A LOUISA ROAD.