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VOL. 49—No. 38

CIRCULATION 9000 COPIES WEEKLY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1969

BALMAIN HOSPITAL PLANS

Column NINE

RESIDENTS' CHALLENGE

Balmain peninsula residents will be specially interested in the proposal by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Morton, to introduce legislation to permit house-owners to challenge home-unit development.

Mr Morton said that, despite opposition by the recent Local Government conference to the proposal, he considered a right of third-party appeal should be given in some circumstances against certain types of development.

Some Councils, in allowing home-unit development, had disregarded their planning schemes, and the Minister had been forced to intervene.

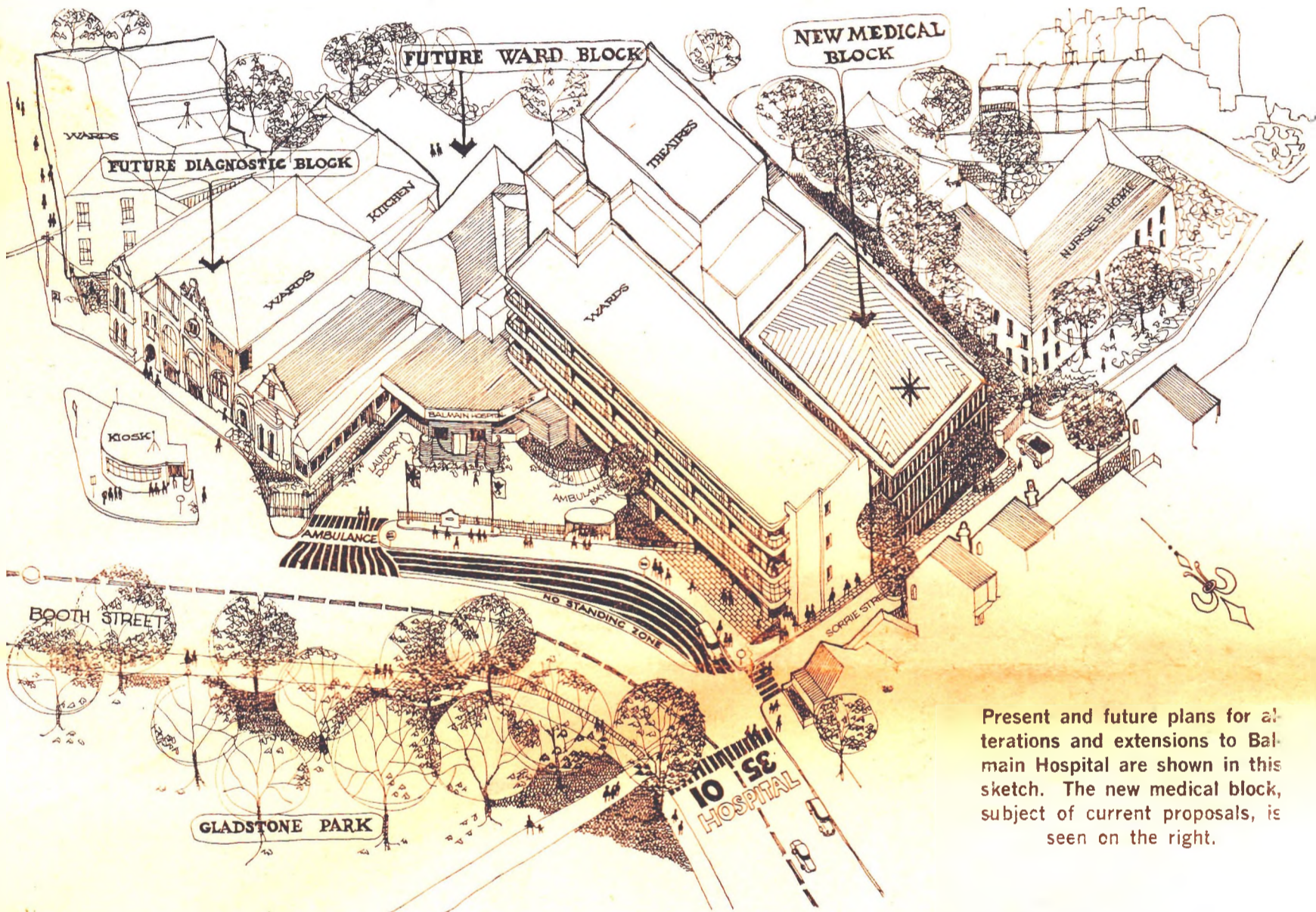
Of course, when a Council has zoned areas for home-unit development, and the zoning plan has been finally approved by the Government, objectors to development in line with the plan would have an uphill task.

However, from time to time local residents faced with what they consider undesirable development plans, feel very strongly that they should have legal right of protest over the decisions of Councils to permit such development.

Councils at times flatly refuse to listen to local protests, and this paper considers there should be an approved avenue of appeal against their decisions.

The Balmain area might prove to be a testing ground for such a matter, in view of the feeling among some house-owners that the attitude of Leichhardt Council towards home-unit development is not in the best interests of the area.

We consider the Minister's proposal completely justified, and hope he soon irons out the problems involved in the proposed legislation.



Present and future plans for alterations and extensions to Balmain Hospital are shown in this sketch. The new medical block, subject of current proposals, is seen on the right.

IMMEDIATE plans involve construction of a new medical block (as shown in the plan above). This will provide a new outpatients' casualty department.

Working costs have not yet been finalised by the architects, but it is estimated that the cost of construction will exceed half a million dollars.

In his annual report, the President said that the Board of Directors' time during the year had largely been taken up with the replanning of the hospital.

Numerous sessions with the Government Architect, a special sub-committee of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and Departmental Supervisors had, he believed, been successful in creating a most imaginative and extremely practicable extension of outpatient facilities.

Subject to the Commission's approval, he hoped that a model of this major development would be displayed within the district to revive public interest in this institution, which had served them without respite since 1885.

Outmoded Facilities

The plans were outlined yesterday by the Chief Executive Officer, Mr K. R. J. Boylan.

He told "The Link" that for a long time the outpatient facilities and casualty facilities at the hospital had been accepted as being outmoded.

The service called for from the hospital in these areas far exceeded the facilities available. The casualty department was now handling over 21,000 patients a year, and the outpatients' department 65,000 attendances.

That did not include the work performed by the pharmacy department in dispensing prescriptions for the many outpatients, nor the physiotherapy department, which handled over 6,000 outpatients a year. Another outpatients' section

New Medical Block

In anticipation of moneys being made available by the Hospitals Commission of N.S.W., Balmain Hospital is being extensively replanned.

The President of the Board, Mr. W. F. Pinerua, announced at the annual meeting of subscribers last Monday night that final plans for alterations and extensions had been submitted to the Commission for approval.

—the X-ray department, where 28,000 X-rays had been taken last year—was hopelessly small for the service rendered.

Despite the inadequacy of facilities, said Mr Boylan, the work done in those directions compared favourably with that in other peripheral general hospitals throughout the metropolitan area.

The present outpatients' department is located in buildings which were constructed in 1900, and added to about 1920, when the hospital was far smaller than at present.

To overcome the inadequacy the Hospitals Commission retained the architects' branch of the Department of Public Works to prepare sketch plans for a new outpatients' casualty department,

to be located behind Thornton House, and utilising the ground floor of Thornton House, known as the Harry Williams ward, as a casualty unit.

The location of the outpatients' casualty and medical facilities services in this new location is not planned as a permanent arrangement, but is intended to meet the hospital's current needs and to allow further replanning later on without affecting the in-patient facilities.

It is hoped to return the outpatients' service and casualty service to the existing site in a new building to be erected there. This would be for the future. It would be a far more sophisticated service block.

Construction of the new medical block now planned will make a marked difference in the outpatient and casualty facilities offered to the public at Balmain Hospital, says Mr Boylan.

It will incorporate such facilities as special audio rooms (for the testing of hearing), an eye clinic, and special cardiogram facilities.

In addition, the plans now in hand incorporate a proposal to convert the David Easton ward into an intensive care unit, to which will be added the new cardiac unit (financed by the dedicated work of the Hospital Auxiliary). This will mean that intensive care, cardiac and post-operative recovery facilities will be grouped and located immediately adjacent to the operating theatres and the main lift system of the hospital.

In case of urgency the staff will have quick access to this area, in which will be located most of the seriously ill patients of the hospital. The idea is to eliminate "scattering" of seriously ill patients throughout the ten general wards. Because of this grouping, highly technical skills, staff and equipment will be immediately on hand for patients in the acute stage of their ailments.

Continued on page 2

THE ABSTRACTS

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Ferries Will Not Improve

The State Government has refused to improve the Balmain ferry service during the morning peak hours.

The Minister for Transport (Mr Morris) has told the Member for Balmain (Mr Roger Degen) that the additional cost cannot be justified.

Mr Degen said he was amazed at the decision. "Mr Morris admitted that the cost of hiring an extra ferry to improve the service would be only \$26.50 a day", he said.

"This is an insignificant amount when compared with losses running into many millions of dollars a year incurred by train and bus services".

Mr Degen said the Government was ignoring the fact that the Balmain ferry service was operating at a more economical rate than any on the north side of the harbour.

The Government was willing to subsidise northside residents heav-

Hospital Plans

Continued from page 1

Mr Boyland says that the end result of the plans is that the hospital will be able to cater in better fashion for the patients it is currently treating.

Also, since it is intended to convert the existing outpatient facilities into a 32-bed male ward to compensate for the loss of the Harry Williams ward (which will become a casualty unit) and the David Easton ward (to become an intensive care ward), the net effect will be provision of additional in-patient accommodation at the hospital.

All in all, the proposals amount to a very important improvement in the service the hospital will provide for the people of Balmain and Rozelle, and adjoining areas. Also they will help to cater for the substantial growth in population expected in this district as high density housing developments increase.

Sunday Service

Mr Phillip Bray, of Bray's Book Store, Darling Street, Balmain, reports that the opening of his shop on Sundays is proving very popular.

Obviously this is a service appreciated by the Balmain people.

ily, but was not willing to allocate \$26.50 a day to improve the Balmain service.

Mistake In Advertisement

A typographical error turned the heading to the advertisement by F. A. Baker, Silver Pty. Ltd., Rozelle real estate agents, in our last issue from "The Abstracts" to "The Abstractors".

The advertisement is repeated in this issue. We regret the error.

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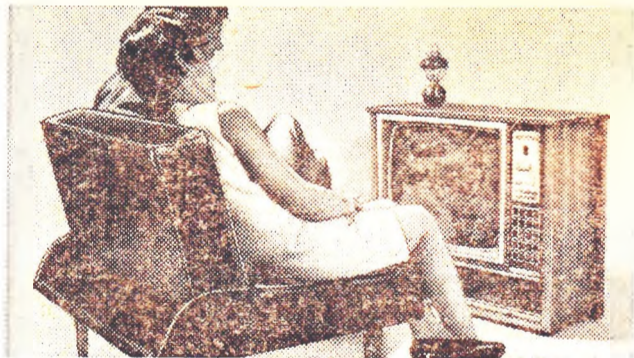
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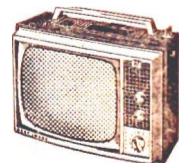
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Planning Scheme Objections: Hearing Ending

One more special meeting of Leichhardt Council will conclude the hearing of objections to the Council's Planning Scheme, and it will then be a matter of passing on to the Minister for Local Government the Council's views of them.

At last Wednesday night's special Council meeting for the hearing of objections the Mayor, Ald. L. J. Rodwell, announced that only one more meeting would be necessary to conclude the hearing of objections.

This would be held before Christmas.

That meeting will be the eleventh convened for the purpose. The first one was held on July 16, with a list of between 70 and 80 objections to be heard.

The full Council, comprising 18 aldermen, has been sitting as a legally constituted tribunal to hear them.

In Public

Upon conclusion of the hearing, each case will be reported on by the Council's Town Planner, Mr A. Kenna, and the Council's decision on each will be forwarded to the Minister for his appraisal and action.

Ald. Rodwell pointed out when the hearing commenced that the Act did not require Councils to hold open hearings of objections. Many held them in committee and then forwarded their findings to the Minister.

Leichhardt aldermen, he said, thought it desirable to hold open meet-

ings to allow everybody to hear the cases presented on behalf of the objectors.

The Council's generosity, however, did not extend to allowing The Balmain Association to present its objections to the plan publicly.

Although the Minister said that Council could receive its objections if it so chose, Council declined to allow the Association to appear at the public hearings.

It decided that the Association did not have the required interest (such as monetary interest) in the various properties referred to.

The Balmain Association had spent much time and effort on its report, which contained 22 different objections to the scheme.

It proposed zoning changes which it considered were vitally necessary if the Balmain peninsula were to develop "in a logical and cohesive manner".

Open Space

At last week's hearing, several Balmain residents stated their objections to zonings proposed for the east end of the area.

Two residents of Balmain East objected to the reservation of property for open space in

the area between Nicholson and Duke Streets.

One of them, Mr C. H. Hodges, said he considered there was already adequate open space in the east end. There were many congested areas in the municipality that were more appropriate for open space development.

The Balmain peninsula was small in area and sloped from a high crown down to the waterfront, and it did not create the hemmed-in feeling of other congested areas.

There was virtually open space all around the peninsula, he said.

A Wharf Road (Birchgrove) household-er objected to the proposal to zone the street as Residential B (high density housing).

Mrs A. Mackenzie claimed that the street was too narrow for that purpose. Home unit development would result in a heavy increase in traffic along it.

This was a harbour foreshore scenic protection area, and the view would be spoiled by a congregation of blocks of flats.

Mrs Mackenzie said those views were shared by residents of the area generally, and she sought to present a petition signed by about 60 local residents.

Council, however, did not accept the petition on the score that only those who objected officially and had pecuniary interest in the area would be heard.

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SPECIAL NOTICE: The kiddies' Christmas Tree will be held at Birchgrove Oval this Sunday and tickets for same will be given out at the Club from Mon. to Sat. and if collected at Oval Medals shown.

FRIDAY: 12 o'clock till finished, free snacks for all members and senior citizens. 7.30 p.m., Knock-out Euchre Tournament, \$40.

SATURDAY: Club opens 10 a.m. 8 p.m. The Formula Two, winners of the North Sydney Leagues' Club \$600 Talent Quest. This is one of the best duos in Sydney.

SUNDAY: Sick Parade. The Marquettes Knock About Act. 3 p.m., Film Afternoon, one good film. 7 p.m., Dance Night, Jackpot Monte Carlo worth \$40, also Kiddies' Christmas Tree at Birchgrove Oval, commencing 10 a.m. No tickets required for rides on Mini Wheel, Ponies, Train and Merry-Go-Round. All presents must be collected at Oval.

ALL MEMBERS' FEES FOR 1970 ARE NOW DUE.

BALMAIN LEAGUES CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE (FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS)

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PARTY NIGHT
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ROTARY CLUB ENTERTAINS "SENIORS"

Last Thursday was the occasion of the annual harbour launch cruise conducted for senior citizens by the Rotary Club of Balmain.

Club members and their wives were the hosts to 210 of the district's senior citizens.

The cruise is one of the projects on the club's agenda for the current year.

Judging by the remarks passed by those taking part, the beauty of the harbour and the hospitality of the club were greatly appreciated.

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PARISH HALL

WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER

12.30 p.m. SHARP

ADMISSION 40c

Guest Speaker

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PHIL "No joke. Anyone who lay-bys \$10 worth of records or books gets 'SYDNEY HOLIDAY' for 50c."

MARG. "What's it like?"

PHIL "A beauty. A perfect gift for 6-16 years!"

MARG. "A \$3.00 book for 50c! That's real value."

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SMOKE CONTROL RULES MATTER FOR GOVERNMENT

The Maritime Services Board's recommendations in regard to regulations designed to control undue emission of smoke from vessels in the harbour has been forwarded to the Government.

This was advised by the President of the Board, Mr W. H. Brotherson, when "The Link" asked for his reaction to the motion carried by Leichhardt Council at its last meeting expressing impatience at delay in controlling fall-out from ships at Balmain container terminal.

Mr Brotherson said it was now up to the Government to make the regulations. The Board did not make them.

The Council's motion, put by the Balmain ward aldermen, said (among other things) that Council considered there was sufficient knowledge and experience possessed by the Maritime Services Board to allow of immediate preparation of regulations to control undue emission of smoke from ships in the harbour.

This followed a report by the Mayor, Ald. L. J. Rodwell, of the meeting of the Council's

Smoke Abatement Panel with Mr Waddy, the Minister Assisting the Premier, at which the Minister was told that Council thought action to correct the nuisances was being delayed unduly.

Asked why the Board was not represented at the meeting, Mr Brotherson said it was quite normal for a minister without representatives of Government departments or instrumentalities being present.

That made for impartiality on the minister's part, he said.

Balmain Association DRAMA GROUP AUDITIONS

Young producer and writer Greg Ropert will be holding auditions on Tuesday, 2nd Dec., at 8 p.m. at The Watch House, 179 Darling St., Balmain. Experience not required, but please bring an extract, drama, poetry or prose, to read. Enquiries 82 3819.

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Boys' Club

The annual Christmas fete of Balmain Police-Citizens' Boys' Club, conducted last Saturday, was an outstanding success.

Proceeds will greatly assist in the building of a new canteen in the club.

The cake competition — judged by Miss V. Hanlon, of Sydney County Council's cooking section — resulted: Chocolate cake. Mrs Ryan. Packet cake. Mrs J. Phillips (Short St., Balmain). Child's cake. Robert King (Merton St., Rozelle). Scones. Mrs T. Terry (Merton St., Rozelle).

The apron competition was judged by Mesdames R. Williams and J. Walker, and winners were: Prettiest. Mrs J. Conroy (Ryde). Most practical. Mrs J. Simons (Drummoynne). Most original. Mrs A. Wood (Gipps St., Balmain). Most worked. Miss P. Miller (Newtown).

Raffles resulted: Baby

christening gown, Miss J. Tumeth (Rozelle). Knitted tiger, ticket, white D1, Kalney.

The organisers thank those who patronised the fete, and the many people who gave donations and worked to make the function successful.

Chocolate wheel: To be conducted at the corner of Mort and Darling Streets, Balmain, next Saturday morning, from 9 a.m. All proceeds go to club funds.

Trophies: Presentation night at the club on Friday, December 12, 7.30 p.m. The club's Christmas party also will be held that night, and all members are invited.

Cricket: The club's under 12 cricket team had their first win of the season, defeating Holy Cross outright by 21 runs, after being behind on the first innings. Best players: Des. McPherson (39 runs, 8 wickets for 33), and Doug. Nicholls (6 for 28).

Positions Vacant

Senior Invoice Typist

An experienced Invoice Typist is required by a large Wire Manufacturing Company in the Drummoyne/Five Dock area.

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Polling In Referendum

Here is a list of polling places in the Balmain-Rozelle district to be open on November 29, the liquor referendum polling day:

Balmain: Police and Citizens' Boys' Club, Darling Street. Birchgrove Public School, Birchgrove Road.

Balmain East: Balmain Teachers' College, Smith Street. Nicholson Street Public School, Balmain Hospital, Booth Street. Balmain Public School, Eaton Street.

Rozelle: Methodist Hall, Denison and Darling Sts. Rozelle Boys' Junior High School, Darling Street.

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