

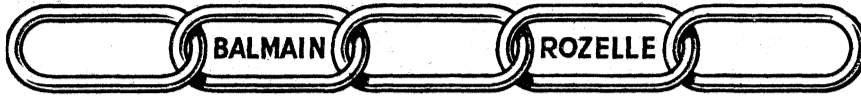
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VOL. 51 — No. 46

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1972

# Alternative Council Plan On Transport

In the light of next Saturday's public meeting of protest against the Department of Main Roads' plans for expressways through the municipality, latest plans before Leichhardt Council constitute a major alteration in tactics. On the agenda for last night's meeting of Council was a proposal for a precise, constructive plan for near-city transport in Sydney.

Last night's meeting commenced after this issue of The Link went to press, but it was expected that the substance of the proposal would be accepted.

Maps were to be displayed in the Council Chamber illustrating the proposal, to allow the public to follow the details.

## Disquiet

Council's view has been that there is disquiet among the town planning profession that the city expressway scheme envisaged in the 1940s is now to be implemented, 30 years later, when the whole concept of Sydney's planning has dramatically changed.

It has secured the assistance of experts in drawing up a scheme to propose to the Government.

This involves replacement of the expressway proposals with a more realistic plan which would tie improvements to the road system in with the city and suburban railway system.

It constitutes an alternative to the Government's scheme of metropolitan radial expressways.

This follows the general concept of the suggestion made by the State Planning Authority in its Sydney region outline plan, which it distributed in 1967.

The S.P.A. suggestion was one of seven proposals for the Sydney region, and was for a highway grid aimed at reducing the dominance of the radial expressway plan focussed on the city centre.

## Ring Road

Leichhardt Council's proposed plan is the provision of a realistic ring road system fairly close to the city.

This would join up with the metropolitan through-road system, and via road transport interchanges fit in with the existing city and suburban rail system.

An important part of the proposal is the construction of a "rapid transit" railway of about nine miles from the near-eastern suburbs to the near-western ones.

The experts who prepared this plan for Council consideration have pointed out that it would cost only a quarter of the Department of

Main Roads' expressway proposals.

On the other hand, they say, it would carry many times more people than the proposed expressways would in peak hours.

And it should interfere far less with the municipality's residential amenity than the expressway plans.

While commending the work of the anti-expressway committee and that of the experts who prepared this alternative plan, Council was expected to defer implementation of its plan for a short period.

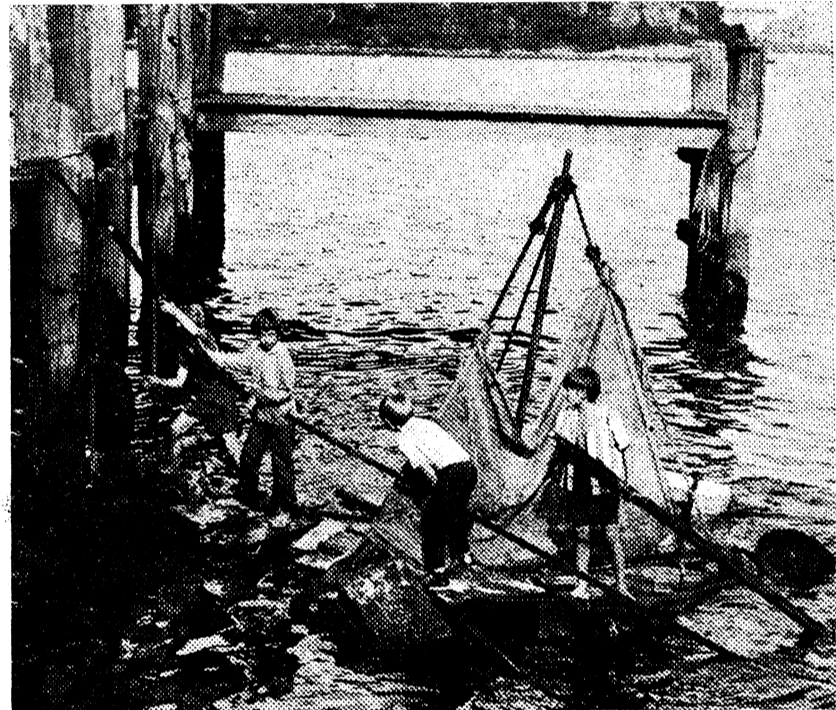
## Deferment

This would enable it to gauge public reaction to the plan as well as to seek other expert opinion of it.

Meanwhile the Minister for Local Government and Highways, Mr Morton, has replied to the letter from the Mayor, Ald. N. Origlass, seeking detailed information about the D.M.R.'s expressway proposals.

It was a formal acknowledgment, saying he would write again as soon as possible.

## High Adventure On Balmain Waterfront



This picture illustrates one aspect of the Adventure Playground, conducted at Long Nose Point by the Creative Leisure Movement, which has just been concluded.

It was based on the "Boys will be boys" motif, and was designed to act as a safety valve for high spirits.

The Movement feels the effort was really successful, and wants to thank all those who helped organise it.

The picture shows (left to right) Michael Chapman, Simon Butler, John Halloran and Michael Andrews paddling the playground's No. 2 raft, constructed of oil drums and wooden planks lashed together with ropes.

It was launched using the large crane on the site, operated by a dozen youngsters without a hitch, under the direction of Nick Masterman, Leisure Centre committeeman.

Following inspection of the site at the conclusion of the adventure by the chairman and chief landscape architect of the State Planning Authority, residents are arranging to present plans for development of the site.

One projected idea is to convert the large

## S.P.A.'S PLANS FOR PARK

Proposals by the State Planning Authority for the conversion of the site formerly occupied by the shipyards of Morrison & Sinclair Pty. Ltd., Long Nose Point, will proceed as early as possible.

Demolition of buildings on the site was halted during January while the area was used as an adventure playground by the Birchgrove Creative Leisure Centre.

The S.P.A. has advised

building on the site into a youth hostel, an adventure playground, or for open air drama or dancing.

Mrs Robin Jones, organiser of the Creative Leisure Centre, says that as there is a good possibility that this building may be preserved for public use, residents should desist from removing materials from this building, the wharf and the crane.

She also suggests that parents whose children derived enjoyment from the adventure playground should write to the Minister for Local Government, in the State Office Block, Phillip Street, Sydney, and tell him so.

ed Leichhardt Council that it intends to proceed with demolition of the existing buildings and structures as early as possible.

The Authority said it concurred in Council's resolution that the property should only be used or developed as an element of "Open space" in accordance with the objective of the purchase of the land by the Authority.

This was establishment of a harbour foreshore park.

Demolition of buildings and structures on the site was required to enable development of the site as a harbourside park.

Their dilapidated condition affected the views to and from the harbour, and could lead to public injury and mishap involving the Authority in legal liability.

The Authority would welcome any proposals by interested organisations to develop and landscape the area into a useful park providing substantial tree and shrub planting, and at the same time accommodating the Creative Centre's particular needs as part of the park.

## Column NINE

### The Positive Approach

Although the modern method of public protest on social matters appears to be growing more widespread, it obviously is often wrongly based — on negative instead of positive thinking.

The public protest sponsored by Leichhardt Council against construction of expressways through this municipality is one such example.

As a protest simply for the sake of protest, it is aimed merely at destroying the long-established Government plans for relieving Sydney's road traffic crisis.

We are delighted, therefore, to note the anticipated change in Council's tactics — to offer a positive plan not only for road traffic, but for public transport in near-city areas as well.

How practical the plan is we do not know, but it certainly appears to be worthy of Government examination in depth, for it seems to offer a practical suggestion for handling this city's transport crisis.

Nobody wants to see people — especially underprivileged people — lose their homes. And everybody agrees that expressways in themselves do not solve a general transport crisis.

Nevertheless expressways do a real job in the sphere of handling the motor vehicle explosion.

Leichhardt Council will earn universal commendation if its suggested transport plan encourages Government rethinking on the question of metropolitan transport, or only encourages fresh accent on the need to upgrade public (as against private) transport.

And, in moving from a negative to a positive base, Council must surely improve its public image, instead of smudging it, as merely negative protesting would inevitably do.

## CODOCKS RE-UNION COMMITTEE

**The Re-union is ON, the 25th Feb.**

If you have not received an invitation please contact G. LARGE, 82-4939. If you have received your invitation please notify as to your acceptance or not. Catering will be finalised on the 12TH.

### DON'T BE LATE

A limit of acceptances has been set. Response is very good so please react quickly.

**Before the 12th FEB.**

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Phone 82-2569. Members phone 82-1601

**Special Notices:** Members are reminded that they must post their Ballot Papers by Saturday the 12th of February and that the film on Sunday starts at 2.15 p.m. instead of the usual 2.45 p.m., as the screening time is 3 hours and 11 minutes.

**Thursday, 7.30 p.m.** Knockout Domino tournament \$30.

**Friday, 7.30 p.m.** Knockout Euchre tournament, \$30. These games are for members, member's wives, girl friends, or mothers only.

**Saturday, 9.30 a.m.** Club opens 8 p.m., Lorraine Smith, vocalist from Queensland.

**Sunday, 9.30 a.m.** Club opens, sick parade. The Bandels, vocal instrumental, magic. Refreshments will go off at 12.45 p.m. instead of 1 o'clock, as the film commences half an hour earlier, 2.15 p.m.; Film Afternoon, 7 p.m.; Dance Night, prizes for the Barn Dance and a Jackpot Monte Carlo worth \$20.

**Wednesday, 16th February, 8 p.m.** Annual Club Meeting, Auditor's Report for 1971, and results of Elections for 1972.

**Saturday, 19th February,** Count Copperpenous, one of the best artists in New South Wales.

**Thursday, 24th February, 7.30 p.m.** Film Night, Academy Award winner.

**Sunday, 2nd April, 3 p.m.** Custers Last Stand doing two spots. They are regarded as the best group in Australia.

# COUNCIL'S MOVE TO PROTECT LOCAL GOVERNMENT STATUS

**Leichhardt Council is taking steps in an effort to protect the position of Local Government in the community, and indeed to increase its status in the realm of Government in Australia.**

It has written to all Councils in the County of Cumberland, and the two Local Government Associations, setting out its views in this direction.

The move has followed two current developments:

- Calling of a meeting on February 25 of the State Attorneys-General to draw up guidelines for the proposed All-States convention to review the Australian Constitution;

- The N.S.W. State Government's establishment of a Special Committee on Local Government.

### Concern

The step followed a letter to the Press by the Mayor, Ald. N. Origlass, expressing concern at the possible attack on Local Government status.

Ald. Origlass followed this up with a Mayoral minute at the last meeting of Leichhardt Council.

He said that, because of the importance of these issues confronting

Councils and their citizens, he felt the considerations mentioned should be placed before Local Government Associations and metropolitan Councils.

In regard to the meeting of State Attorneys-General, the Sydney Morning Herald, commenting on the growing responsibilities of Local Government, had indicated the reactionary attitude of State Governments.

That newspaper said: "If the dominant motive of the convention is to try to arrive at a more rational and enduring financial relationship between the Commonwealth and States, there should surely be representation from another quarter.

"And that, of course, is Local Government — the third and most grossly neglected tier of the Australian system of government . . ."

### Reactionary

"In regard to the establishment of a Special Committee on Local

Government, Ald. Origlass said that the following points were undoubtedly significant of the Government's reactionary perspective in relation to Local Government:

"(a) The specific exclusion from the terms of reference of any obligation on the Committee to have regard to the growing movement towards residents' involvement and participation in Council affairs and its encouragement to the end of developing real democracy;

"(b) The restriction of the terms of reference to the size of Local Government areas and the promotion of "proper economical and efficient Local Government";

"(c) The personnel of the appointed Committee being, per se, not appropriate to objective consideration of (a) above, even were this included in the terms of reference.

"Rather its continued bias would tend to be towards the Government's perspectives of a bureau-

cratic 'Council Manager' set-up and expansion of Local Government areas according to a pattern disregarding the need to foster the concept of basing the Council on committees elected in localities small enough to maintain the essential element of Local Government".

Ald. Origlass asked: What consideration may be expected to be given by this Committee to the compelling reasons, having regard to the expansion of municipal areas perspective, for the integration with the City of Sydney of its contiguous municipalities?

How further restricted will be the province of elected representatives with the accretion of power of non-elected bureaucracies integrant roots' one."

to the "Council Manager" system?

### "Vested"

Ald. Origlass added: "The establishment of Councils throughout Australia, consisting of delegates elected by elected locality committees and assuming wider responsibilities in accord with the concepts of the 'Seventies', would quickly reveal the redundancy, anachronism and divisiveness of States and State Governments.

"It is appreciated that no State Parliament, with vested interests in its own self-perpetuation, will initiate investigation on terms of reference related to the perspective of assisting the burgeoning of real democracy.

"Such initiative must necessarily be a 'grass-bureaucracies integrant roots' one."

### MEETING

## Balmain Childrens Playgroup General Meeting and Election of Committee

on  
WEDNESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, at 8 p.m.

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## SNAIL'S BAY SAILING

Snail's Bay Junior Sailing Club suffered a loss over the week-end with the death of Eddie Venard, a staunch supporter and a Vice-Commodore of the Club.

Each boat carried a black ribbon on the sail as a mark of respect.

Fourth heat of the Club championship was held, and the Super Snails sailed a close and interesting race.

Placings were: 1, Livonia (Barry Robinson, Ken Lycett). 2, Adonis (Misses Gay Phillips, Pam Jackson). 3, Stan-

ley Reeves (Paul Pont, Geoff Halstead).

Handicap: 1, Adonis; 2, Livonia; 3, Crusader (Miss Julie Phillips, John Pope).

Perfect conditions made for an exciting race between junior and senior Sabots.

Waratah and Nymph missed the start badly, and Argo and Little Ripper fought a duel for first place.

In the handicap section only seconds separated five boats, showing how keen the competition is.

Placings were:  
Junior championship: 1, Little Ripper (Ross & Glen Thomson); 2, Red Mill (D. Phillips, G. Arthur). 3, Charm (S. Langley, W. Arthur).

Senior championship: 1, Argo (J. King, C. Eager). 2, Rambler (I. Churton, Miss D. Taylor). 3, Silver Spray (R. & J. McJannett).

Handicap: 1, Little Ripper; 2, Scodon (S. Taylor, K. Eager); 3, Argo.

### 12 Footers

Balmain 12 ft. Flying Squadron's River Championship resulted:

Pol (M. Chapman, Lane Cove) 1, Ahatoo (D. Griffiths, Lane Cove) 2, Twister (T. Gardner, Hunters Hill) 3.

Handicap: Hustler (J. Barker, Lane Cove) 1, Dart (N. Bourke, Balmain) 2, Leslie T (R. Brown, Balmain) 3. 48s; 2m. 9s.

## BOYS' CLUB

The annual general meeting and election of officers of the Balmain Police - Citizens' Boys' Club will be held at the Club premises on Wednesday, February 23, at 8 p.m.

Members of the public are invited to attend, especially those wishing to stand for election to office.

Ladies' Auxiliary: Housie afternoons will resume this Saturday, at 1.30 p.m.

Cricket: The undefeated Under 10 team are all out for 38 in their match against Balmain - Rozelle R.S.L. Club, and in reply have taken 3 for 11. The Under 12 and Under 14 teams are also involved in close tussles.

Chocolate Wheel: Cnr. Mort - Darling Streets, Balmain, next Saturday, 9 a.m.

Rugby League: It is anticipated that training will commence next week at Birchgrove Oval, Mondays and Wednesdays. Boys interested should advise the office at once.

Instructors: The Club is desperately in need of the services of a wrestling instructor. Also required are instructors for boxing, table tennis, gymnastics, trampolining, judo and weight training. Ring 82-2234 if you can assist.

## HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The regular monthly meeting of Balmain Hospital Auxiliary will be held in Fidden Hall this Thursday, February 10, at 8 p.m.

New active members would be very welcome.

Next Saturday, Feb. 12, a chocolate wheel will be conducted at National - Darling Sts., Rozelle, at 9 a.m.

Other coming events Monday, Feb. 21 — Presto luncheon: Demonstration 10.45, lunch noon, 50 cents, in Fidden Hall, Hospital grounds.

Saturday, Feb. 26 — Chocolate wheel, National - Darling Streets, Rozelle. Assistants are sought (please ring Mrs Wakefield, 82-2990).



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Friday, 9.30 p.m., Diane Georgeson, vocalist.

Saturday, Ronnie and the Beard, vocal instrumental duo.

Sunday, a.m., Euchre tournament, 3 p.m., Irene Hewitt, comedian, The Co-Ordinates, vocal instrumental trio, 7.30 p.m., C. J. Smith, vocalist.

Note: Any ex tennis player or learners who wish to play Mixed Competition on Saturday afternoons please phone 82 4203 for information.

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## Public Meeting

At the meeting in December held at Leichhardt Town Hall to discuss with the aldermen the subject of municipal rates I was appalled that less than 40 people turned up . . . that so few people were interested enough to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss publicly this important matter.

I do not for a moment think that the bus strike kept people away.

Perhaps the Mayor was right when he said that the lack of attendance might have shown just how much confidence the ratepayers had in the newly elected Council.

If there is absolute confidence that this Council will do the right thing, why not turn out in force and say so?

The meeting held a few weeks earlier to discuss the new building codes was better supported; but by nowhere near the number of people one would have thought would be interested in knowing what was to happen to their municipality.

The meeting on the rate was most enlightening (as was the previous one).

We were told of the estimated expenditure for 1972, of the work the Council would like to carry out, and other interesting facts.

Our new Council is trying to do its best for the people of Leichhardt Municipality — so please give it your support and, when the next public meeting is scheduled, do your very best to attend.

—Miss Joan Thomas,  
Phoebe Street.

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## Children's Library

The Balmain Association's children's library, in the Watch House, Darling Street, is growing more in demand as the months pass.

Children using it now number 148.

Another cell in the Watch House is now being converted for use as an extension of the library, and the work will be completed at a working bee early in February.

Shortly afterwards new shelves carrying new books will be installed in it.

The library is open on Saturdays, and after school on Wednesdays.

Mr Haesler, President, said the success of the library had proved conclusively that a public library in Balmain was essential, particularly for children, apart from the excellent libraries at schools.

He said the Association regretted that its finances did not permit stocking of the bookshelves as much as it would like, but it had adopted a policy of providing money for new books monthly, to cater for the increased attendance.

## CHURCH NOTICES

**Church of England  
ST. JOHN'S  
PARISH CHURCH**  
Cnr. Birchgrove and  
Spring Sts.  
QUINQUAGESIMA  
SUNDAY

6.30 a.m., Holy Communion.

7.30 a.m., Parish Communion.

9.30 a.m., Holy Communion.

9.30 a.m., Sunday School.

7.30 p.m., Evensong.

**ASH WEDNESDAY,**

16th February

7 a.m., 11 a.m., 7.30 p.m.

Holy Communion celebrated daily, Monday to Friday, 7.00 a.m., also Wednesday, 11 a.m., Saturday, 7.30 a.m.

John Booth

Act. Rector

82 1396

## PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES

Balmain: 9.30 a.m., Sunday School and Morning Worship.

Rozelle: 11.00 a.m., Morning Service.

7.15 p.m., Discussion Group.

Rev. Andrew Soos

82-1170

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

9.30 a.m., Holy Communion.

7.15 p.m., Evening Prayer.

Rector: Rev. H. Voss

## St. Andrew's Congregational Church.

10 a.m., Family Service.

6.30 p.m., Meditation.

Minister:  
Rev. F. Lambert Carter

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