



# NEWS SHEET

# 134

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year now concluding has seen the Watch House open to the public on Sunday afternoons. This most important service to the community is carried on by dedicated volunteers who not only receive visitors but also receive much information which we add to our files. We must move a vote of thanks to the Watch House workers.

Jessie McMahon was an important visitor to the Watch House. She gave us photographs and information for our News Sheet. Jessie paid the \$84 cost to have the portrait of her mother framed. The picture now hangs in the Watch House.

Mr. Bill Ottley collected his bookcase which stood in the stairhall for many years on long-term loan. We thank him for letting us have it for so long.

In the year passing we received tours from the Sutherland Shire and Newcastle Historical Societies. Both groups gave generous donations for which we replied with letters of thanks.

The small chimney over the Watch House kitchen had become dangerous and was demolished. The National Trust has favoured us with a list of stonemasons from whom we can obtain quotations.

The Wran Government announced in December 1982 that the Second Harbour Crossing had been abandoned. The Combined Bridge Action Group however has not been disbanded because it is felt that "it will be on again"!

The Association's contribution to publishing the history of the area is to be seen in the Leichhardt Historical Journal No 11 1982 and No 12 1983. As Balmain Editor for the Journal, I have been able to research and write the history of the Peacock Point areas. 1984 should see the publication of the next article in the "suburbanisation" series, concerning the area north of Darling Street, from Nicholson Street to the Old Sydney Slipway.

For the past year I have been acting as Hon Secretary as well as Historian and News Sheet Editor. The News Sheet is the vital link between the members, the Management Committee and the general public. A lively News Sheet reflects a lively Association.

I will close my report with a vote of thanks to all those who have made my three-year term as President effective. My very special thanks to all those unseen volunteer News Sheet deliverers whose diligence helps keep the Association alive.

I should like to convey my best wishes to the incoming Committee and wish them good luck for the coming year.

PETER REYNOLDS

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CHRISTENING GOWN DONATION TO THE WATCH HOUSE.

The homemade gown (recently donated to the Watch House) was worn at the baptism of Patrick Joseph Lynch, born 27 August 1884, in a little cottage in Pitt Street, Sydney, in the vicinity of Mark Foys. His mother, whose maiden name was Maria Healey, was an Australian born of Irish parents and his father was Irish, who left Ireland because of the Potato Famine, and worked most of his adult life in the Postal Department, Sydney. They moved to Balmain and lived in Mullens Street for many years, then to Lawson Street, Rozelle.

Patrick J. Lynch grew up in Balmain and spent all his youth and young manhood in that area. He was educated by the Christian Brothers and then apprenticed to Hunter Bros. as baker and pastrycook. He was married at St. Augustine's Church to Anne Treharne. There were ten children in his family, the first three born in Balmain. They later moved to the North Coast. As there were no trains in those days, they travelled by boat to Coffs Harbour, then by bullock dray to Caramba, where later he had his own bakery business. This was before the Coffs Harbour jetty was built, so the family was transported from the boat to shore by bosun's chair. He spent the rest of his life in that area - Caramba and Ulong, in the Eastern Dorrigo area. When retired, he moved to Coffs Harbour, where he died in June 1959, at the age of 75 years.

When a baby, Patrick's mother insured him for one penny per week; at his death the Policy amounted to fourteen pounds sterling.

Submitted by Mrs. G. Temperton

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 10 OCTOBER 1983

J. Arnott, T. Begbie, F. Heathfield, L. Henley, S. Lynch, R. Linklater and M. Paterson met at the Watch House on the above date. Apology received from L. McDermott.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1 The former President's Report.
- 2 Additional copy of the Conservation Plan from the National Trust.
- 3 Gosford District Local History Group re photograph of former Pymont resident prior to 1900.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- 1 Letter of thanks to the Dept. of Education for a copy of "Government Schools of New South Wales 1848-1983.
- 2 Mrs. Lorna Hawkins re family history and Dr. Edward Joseph Brookes du Moulin.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1 Discussed feasibility of letters to candidates standing in Balmain Ward & Rozelle Ward of Leichhardt Council in forthcoming local Government elections to submit short policy statement for News Sheet.
- 2 Notice of intended Historic Walk from the Balmain Rotary Club.
- 3 Agreed to have the Watch House gardens professionally mowed and cleaned up prior to the Association's lawnmower finally being fixed by a volunteer!

NEXT MEETING OF THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION WED 2ND NOVEMBER 7.30 PM

OLD-FASHIONED ROSES EXHIBITION

As mentioned in last months News Sheet an exhibition of Heritage Roses will be held at the Watch House on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November, 1983 between 1.00 and 5.00 p.m.

Jessica Murray has written the following article on the subject of old roses for the News Sheet.

Both the beauty and history of this species is impressive. We are very privileged that the display will be held at Balmain and ask that you come along to see these wonderful blooms.

HERITAGE ROSES IN AUSTRALIA.

On recently reading a book written in 1844 by an eminent rosarian of that time, one was saddened by the thought of the many beautiful roses that have been allowed to disappear, and can never be replaced, as these are nature's own handiwork.

There was once a gracious garden of roses and shrubs around Elizabeth Bay House, planted by Alexander Macleay shortly after he got the grant of land in 1826. Though he did not build the house until 1835, he commenced the garden right away and made a meticulous list of all plantings. All that garden was allowed to disappear.

Next time you are at Vaucluse House, look for the large bush of "Marie Van Houtte" ( a tea rose dated 1871). It is near the circular pool. It is a deep cream, with touches of carmine pink. The old type roses were often big plants and were grown as shrubs, among other shrubs. About two years ago I saw a vacant house in Haberfield with several beautiful old rose bushes (almost trees) about 7 feet, with enormous bases. Passing there recently I noted they were gone and talking to the new owner, who was out in the front, about them He replied "Oh, I got rid of all them old things and planted these." and pointed proudly to a row of "screaming scarlets" of modern floribundas of 1970's vintage.

It happens all the time. Even around here. In 1979, just a handful of people in the different states of Australia formed the organisation "Heritage Roses in Australia", with headquarters in South Australia. There are similar societies in U.S.A. and New Zealand.

The purposes principally are to find the whereabouts of all old roses in Australia, and get them identified and propagated, largely by methods suitable for home gardens, and among other things to advise the Public and National Bodies how to make authentic plantings when renovating buildings with gardens. Packages of plants have been sent for Public gardens in Western Australia, Victoria & Queensland.

There are many old roses still to be located, particularly in country areas, which were settled early - places like Hill End, Hexham, Camden etc., and old properties, some are abandoned in a state of complete neglect. Also many are in old Church Yards. When getting cuttings in old cemeteries note the grave date if possible, as it may help in identification of the rose. For instance, if the stone says 1852 the rose most likely will be an earlier type than that date, even though those earlier types were still being planted up to World War I.

"Heritage Roses" feel that it is important that past beauty should be preserved for posterity, as a part of historical development, though efforts are belated and much has been lost.

The Balmain Garden Club donated a book on the old shrub roses by Deane Ross to the local library. It was a copy of that book that got me interested, though I was lucky in seeing some of the very old roses when a young child. I can remember at the age of six, being enchanted with colour and perfume of a rose called "Cloth of Gold" (date 1843) and have never seen it since, though surely it is somewhere in Australia still.

The headquarters of "Heritage Roses" is in South Australia, led by Trevor Nottle, 5 Walker Street, Stirling 5152. Annual subscription is \$7.50. Trevor has just brought out a new book on "Growing Old Roses". There is not a great deal of material about on the subject and his book will fill a need, as he is extremely knowledgeable.

Hoping to see you all at the showing of Old Roses at the old Watch House on Saturday 5th or Sunday 6th November, in the afternoon. While not as glamorous a place as last year's Elizabeth Bay House, it is still, an interesting bit of Australiana, too.

Jessica Murray.

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**JOIN** the balmain association

meaning BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- \* improve the living working and recreational amenity of our area
- \* maintain all features having natural architectural and/or historical value
- \* compile and record the history of the area/ keep a permanent collection of items of historical interest
- \* seek the co-operation of everyone concerned in the realization of the above



the balmain association

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Single	\$ 4.00
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