



NEWS SHEET



135

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965



HALF A THOUSAND ACRES

BALMAIN

A history of the land grant

by

Peter L. Reynolds and Paul V. Flottmann



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL. This December issue of the Balmain Association News Sheet is being circulated more widely this month as the Management Committee feels that many new residents in Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle may be uninformed about the Association.

The Balmain Association is a non-political local civic group that was formed in 1965 to save the Watch House from demolition. A group of concerned residents came forward to fight for the conservation of Balmain's heritage and as a result the Watch House was acquired by the National Trust, and subsequently leased to the Association. In its early days the Association led the fight against the building of container wharves; and more recently our most serious struggle was the campaign against the second Harbour crossing.

The Association also researches, records and published aspects of Balmain's past to promote interest in and understanding of this fine historic area.

For the forthcoming year new fund-raising projects are being considered. Who would be willing to help on Sub-Committees that will be looking at the possibilities of producing new postcards of the Balmain district and an Association T-shirt design?



CHRISTMAS DRINKS
PLEASE CALL IN



SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 1983

We, the Committee, will open the Watch House to members and prospective new members this Saturday. Please call in between 3 pm and 5 pm so we can meet each other. We look forward to seeing quite a crowd, even at such short notice, and hope that this will be the beginning of regular social meetings.

F. HEATHFIELD - PRESIDENT.

THINKING OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Help the Association.

- "Half A Thousand Acres" (Reduced Price for Members) \$7.50
 - (Numbered copies 1-50) \$15.00
 - Postcard-sized photographs, set of 4, Rozelle Post Office and other buildings "As They Were". 50¢
 - Badges - 'Living in Balmain' 10¢
 - Novelty Cards showing boats or houses, coloured 5¢
- ALL AVAILABLE AT THE WATCH HOUSE.



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS?

At the last Management Committee it was agreed that two members of the Management Committee would attend the forthcoming public meeting at the Leichhardt Town Hall to discuss the formal establishment of a local bicentennial community Committee.



NEXT MEETING OF THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION WED 4TH JANUARY 1984 7.30 PM



LARRIKIN DAYS:

100 YEARS OF GROWING UP IN AN AUSTRALIAN SUBURB.

Nicholson Street Public School Parents and Citizens Association in association with John Ferguson, Sydney. 112pp, \$14.95

** AVAILABLE AT THE WATCH HOUSE **

While the centennial celebrations of the Nicholson Street Public School have been observed by most of us living or working in the Balmain peninsula, one enduring aspect of the birthday party may have escaped notice: LARRIKIN DAYS.

Published recently and launched by the best-known 'Balmain Boy' of all, Premier Neville Wran, LARRIKIN DAYS is a social history of Balmain. Anecdotes and interviews with long-time residents are strongly woven into the fabric of the book.

The author, himself a journalist and Balmain resident, reminds us that during the early years of the 19th century the peninsula was used for picnics and kangaroo hunts. From these beginnings, we read about Billy Hughes' Saturday night speeches near the Unity Hall pub at Loyalty Square, in the days when he was a Balmain shopkeeper dreaming of a career in politics. The schism which divided the congregation of Saint Mary's church when a church warden sued a former secretary of the Sunday school is recorded, as well as tales of how the 'battlers' braved the Depression. Joe Wran, the Premier's older brother, remembers the fruit and vegetable business he nursed through the Depression, making daily rounds through Balmain and Rozelle with horse and cart. And the Premier himself tells how, as a boy, he caught blue swimmer crabs at the bottom of The Avenue. The pages are interspersed with over a hundred photographs, giving us another look at the people and buildings of our suburb over the past century.

LARRIKIN DAYS is an informative history, yet entertaining and light-hearted at the same time. A must for any Balmainiac, serious or otherwise.

Debbie Cramer



BOOK FAIR

at

TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE
3rd Floor, Argyle Arts Centre
18 Argyle Street, Sydney

FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 1983 to FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 1984

Weekdays 10 am to 5.30 pm

Weekends (November & December only) 12 noon to 5 pm.

The Centre will be offering a wide range of publications on environmental and conservation issues, ranging from flora, fauna and rainforests to urban planning and environmental law. Posters and childrens books will also be on sale.

Throughout the year a more limited selection of environmental publications are for sale and a book list is available on application.

TEC is a voluntary organisation and the Annual Book Fair is a major fund raising activity. Buy a book and help the environment!

HERITAGE ROSES

The Balmain "Event of the Year" has been the Show of Heritage Roses, which filled the Watch House with perfume and attracted visitors from all over Sydney and beyond. The Balmain Garden Club and the Balmain Association provided helpers, who sold admissions, literature, Devonshire teas and plants and also answered questions. \$880 was raised clear of expenses, and the Garden Club divided this most generously between the Heritage Roses Society and the Balmain Association.

Our thanks to the many members who responded to our appeal for help.

LOST AT THE OLD-FASHIONED ROSES SHOW
6 NOVEMBER AT THE BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE.

A blue and bronze-coloured enamel butterfly brooch of great sentimental value to its owner may have been lost at the Watch House on the day of the Old-fashioned Roses Exhibition. If anyone has found it, would they please hand it in at the Watch House any Sunday between 2-4 pm.



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

MEMBERSHIP FORM (OPEN/RENEW) PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: (HOME) (WORK)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (including News Sheet delivery in Balmain Birchgrove Rozelle)

Single	\$ 4.00
Family or Household	\$ 6.00
Pensioner or Student	\$ 1.00
Organization	\$12.00

Add \$3.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted. Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association".