



the peninsula Observer

newsletter of the Balmain Association

Vol. 59 No. 3 Issue 371

Founded November 1965

September 2024

Reopening of Balmain Town Hall and Library

By Helen Carter



The Balmain Association's (L to R) Lisa Tatman, Ilona Tar, Helen Carter and President Ross McKenzie

On Saturday, 17 August 2024 the Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne opened the restored and updated Balmain Town Hall and Library. After the Welcome to Country, the audience in the main auditorium were thrilled to learn that two library reading rooms have been named after prominent local women. Margaret Throsby AM, radio and TV broadcaster and activist, who had been a long term resident of Balmain, and Edna Ryan an activist for women to achieve equality in the workplace. Edna's research and lobbying were integral in the landmark equal pay decision of the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission in 1974. The original old Council Chambers which functioned as a public meeting room has been revitalised and connected to the main library, has been named after Uncle Bob Webb, duly recognising the first indigenous councillor on Leichhardt Council and an executive committee member of the Local Government Aboriginal Network for over 20 years.

The celebratory festivities were heralded in by a resident Jazz Band from the Unity Hotel. The library came alive with children in bumble bee head bands taking part in a spelling bee and other fun library activities. Visitors explored the enhanced library layout, expanded work and study areas, and joined the Heritage Tours conducted by Helen Carter and Ross McKenzie of the Balmain Association. The tours discussed architectural features of the 1888 Italianate building by Edward Buchanan and uncovered its history. Mark Calabretta's paper 'Off with its Head', exploring why the cupola and its arched portico have disappeared, was also shared. 'When the Flower Blooms the Bees Will Come' and they did, the Glass House was buzzing with activity attracted by a beautiful paper flower art installation curated by local creative collective My Kind Co. Visitors were welcomed to share in the creation of the paper botanical flowers under the guidance of artist Jo Delves Neville of Paper

Couture, and Lisa Tatman and Ilona Tar who are also leaders of our new Balmain Association's Art and Culture Committee.

Lisa has worked continuously to highlight the need for Balmain Town Hall precinct's regeneration and renovation, for creatives and our local community. Balmain Town Hall has now reopened as an arts and cultural venue, available fee free to creative and community organisations as part of the Creative Town Halls initiative. Lisa Tatman and Michael Bounds of the BA, have been influential members of the Balmain Town Hall Working committee assembled by Mayor Darcy Byrne, joined by Balmain Councillors Kobi Shetty and John Stamolis and council town planning.

We celebrate this significant renovation and look forward to seeing the Balmain Town Hall precinct further enhanced and rejuvenated for our Balmain community.

Robert Baudin: The Flying Fake

By Sunil Badami

When he was interviewed on ABC TV's This Day Tonight in 1978, the host remarked that few Sydneysiders would ever forget the exploits of erstwhile Balmain resident Robert Baudin. In addition to writing a best-selling memoir, Baudin was the NSW and Australian governments' preferred aerial photographer, having invented a foot-operated camera that enabled him to fly a plane and take photos at the same time. He was so in demand that despite royal protocol forbidding aircraft to fly over

licentiousness and unruliness', and from 11, after being seduced by a much older housekeeper, he applied himself to these with the same dedication he'd later devote to forgery and flying, skipping school and shoplifting to pay for regular thrice-weekly visits to local brothels.

Despite his exasperated parents' best efforts to reform him, he ran away from home to avoid the consequences of forging his report card. Riding the rails like a hobo during the Great Depression, stealing and scamming by passing

To avoid the draft, he convinced medical inspectors he 'had inclinations to homosexuality', and started forging hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of ration coupons. Given up by an accomplice, he was sentenced to only a year in a federal penitentiary, where he was diagnosed as sociopathic and spent a year in its psychiatric ward. Part of his rehabilitative therapy involved working in the prison print shop, where he learned even more advanced forgery techniques involving colour-separation photography, a process in which an image's colours are separated by three different photographs, with the negatives traced and the image reassembled.

Given one year's probation, he promptly set sail for Australia in 1948, tossing his parole papers overboard. Of course, he came to Australia as an assisted migrant, meaning taxpayers paid his fare! Using some of the secreted-away proceeds from the ration coupon scam, he learned to fly as a bush pilot before returning to Sydney, where he was involved in sly grogging and SP book-making until his then-partner in crime discovered him in bed with another woman.

After buying a part interest in a seedy boarding house, he took up with country girl Betty Bale, who owned a small semi-detached terrace in Mort Street, Balmain. Mavis Brady, who was born in Mort Street, remembers the couple as keeping to themselves, saying 'Betty was pretty quiet, and Bob was charming, always away on business.'

As Baudin realised, aerial photography requires a great deal of capital investment, and his tawdry little scams and boarding house rent weren't going to get him anywhere fast.

So, referring to a handy step-by-step forgery handbook, he started assembling all the equipment he'd need to literally make all the money he needed such as a printing press, an overhead camera, chemicals and paper stock. After a few false starts – including printing a run of A\$50 notes, which he ended up burning in the backyard incinerator, killing all of Betty's carefully tended flowers – he was soon cranking out up to 4,000 fake US\$20 and US\$50 notes an hour, running the printing



the sovereign, he was the first person in the world to do so, soaring over Queen Elizabeth II as he took photographs of the opening of the Sydney Opera House in 1973.

This feat was especially extraordinary, given that only four years before, Baudin faced up to 25 years in prison after being charged with being in possession of nearly \$290,000 in forged US greenbacks which he'd printed from the basement of his tiny semi in Mort Street Balmain!

But that's not the most outrageous thing the rascally Baudin did in a long, globetrotting life of crime. Born in Ohio in 1918 to a respectable French professor, young Bob was anything but.

As he asserted in his 1977 memoir naturally titled Fake: The Passing Fortunes of a Counterfeiter – respectability didn't hold any of the appeal of 'thievery, trickery, mendacity, rascality, craftiness,

off worthless junk jewellery as gold wherever he passed through, he landed in San Francisco, working as a gigolo before fleeing to Shanghai to avoid arrest.

Shanghai in the 1930s was a heady mix of glamour and sin, the Bund's night-clubs and opium dens teeming with diplomats and gangsters, bohemians and "bad hats."

Somehow, despite his criminal history, the smooth talking Baudin managed to enlist in the Shanghai Constabulary after telling what he admitted were 'outrageous lies', spending more time taking bribes and in bordellos than fighting crime.

With the outbreak of World War II and the Japanese Imperial Army's approaching advance, he skipped town, swindling and seducing his way across Burma, Singapore and India before returning to the US.

press day and night.

To avoid arousing the neighbours' suspicions, he set the radio at a level that, he reckoned, 'wasn't loud enough to sound like a party, but just loud enough for someone hard of hearing.' When Betty asked him what he was up to, he blithely 'gave her a bit of a cock-and-bull story. I explained the machine was an acquisition for the purpose of producing a bit of pornography.'

And to avoid arousing the authorities' suspicions, Baudin also ensured that his crisp forgeries were artificially aged by drenching them in a solution of diluted glycerine then putting them through a plunger washing machine to make them appear crinkled and used. Later, US Treasury officials would say his handiwork was almost indistinguishable from the real thing.

It's hard to imagine just how much money that is. US\$2 million in 1957 would be around A\$31 million today. 100,000 such notes would weigh around 100kg! And if some estimates are true – that he may have printed up to US\$10 million' – it's even more inconceivable.

But Baudin had done his research. As he pointed out in *Fake*, 'somewhere I'd read that owing to a weakness in Australian law little could be done about the manufacture of foreign bills – provided none had been circulated in Australia.' So, after hiding the plates and press and destroying other key evidence he made arrangements with various accomplices to get the money out to Asia and Europe and then flew out himself to Spain and Portugal.

For the next couple of years, he traversed Europe, making countless small purchases receiving real currency as change. He timed the purchases for late afternoon, around bank closing time, so that shopkeepers, barkeepers, hotel managers and everyone else he diddled wouldn't discover the forgery until the next day, and he was long gone.

He accumulated so much junk, he'd have to discard it in toilets, rubbish bins, even his rental cars, in which he'd leave the keys 'for local urchins to enjoy' – and presumably take the rap.

If making an honest dollar sounds like work, passing off counterfeit ones sounds like even harder graft. Even though he was making around \$2000 a day in change, Baudin eventually

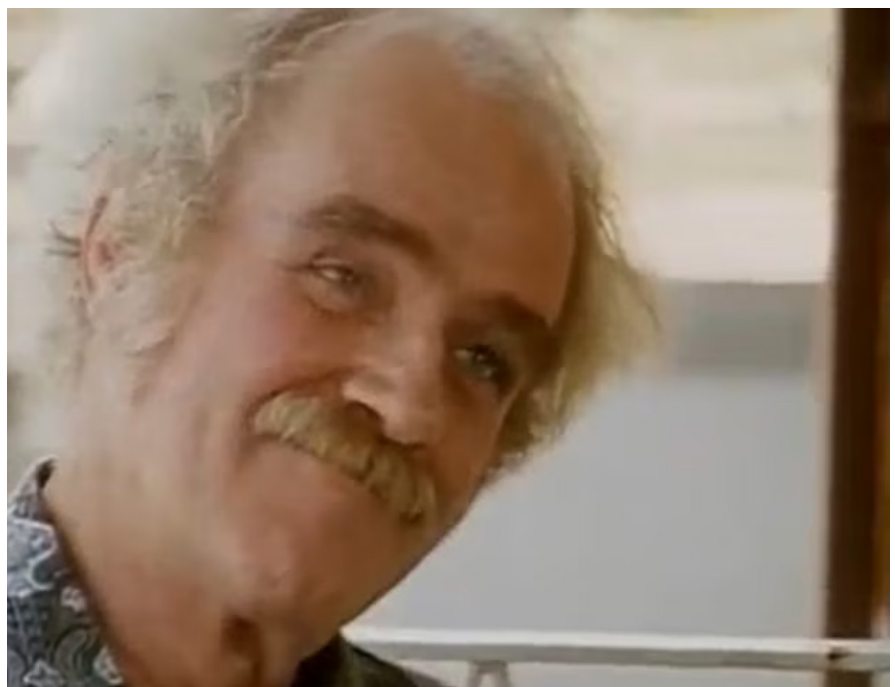
realised he'd have to double up if he wanted to reach his target faster. So he brought in an old girlfriend, Terry, to help speed things up. Posing as a rich American couple, they passed bad bucks all over Europe. They were so successful that at one point, after running out of notes, Terry flew back to Sydney to pick up more. Flying in one morning disguised as a pregnant woman with a pillow stuffed under her dress, she filled the pillowslip up with over \$100,000 and flew back on the evening flight.

But Bob and Terry had a few too-close-for-comfort shaves. Landing in London, a customs officer noticed the money in

a decommissioned WWII single prop plane to fly back to Australia via Asia. Naturally, the plane had half a million in counterfeit notes packed into the frame and doors.

But it all came crashing down when he ran out of fuel over Singapore. Falling fast, he frantically jettisoned notes before miraculously landing close from shore.

Naturally, the fearless aviator became an overnight celebrity, and from his suite at Raffles Hotel, his new found celebrity status enabled him to attract hundreds of thousands of dollars in investments from well heeled Singaporeans in an 'exciting' aerial photography



Robert Baudin - Picture courtesy of the Alan Whicker estate

the bottom of a suitcase. While Baudin sweated on an excuse and looked for an escape, the kindly officer recommended he use travellers' cheques, as they were more secure. After another scare in Germany, they were pursued by furious machete wielding gangsters in Mexico.

After risking arrest by returning to the USA - where he was still in breach of his parole - they were finally nabbed by police. After negotiating a bribe of \$8000 in genuine currency, Baudin recalled the older cop remarked that '\$8,000 for getting out of doing 10 years was a real bargain.'

That ended their caper. Terry married a wealthy lawyer and Baudin bought

venture, before then flying off with the cash.

Over the next nine years Baudin built up his aerial photography business but according to Betty, 'Robert was never interested in money. We've never lived extravagantly. We've always lived very modestly.'

But in 1968, he was arrested in Sydney after the son of an accomplice found a strong box with \$100,000 in dodgy notes and went on a spending spree, which naturally brought Baudin to the attention of Police who recovered over \$286,000 fake US dollars - along with printing equipment and plates for Australian £10 and a single £10 note.

Robert Baudin: The Flying Fake (from page 3)

Balmain Association member, activist, author and Mort Street legend, Bonnie Davidson recalled the raid on the Baudins' house in the July 1990 Peninsula Observer (Vol 25, No 6, Issue 193), remembering 'vividly a CIB raid in 1969 [sic]. One morning at 6:30am, her family were startled by a number of police jumping fences.'

And it was that Australian moolah – even the old money, which was by then no longer legal tender, and which Betty told the Sun-Herald he'd only ever printed as 'a challenge' – that threatened up to 20 years' imprisonment.

According to Betty, Baudin was so distressed by the prospect of being too old to fly after he got out, and also that he might not get the old age pension, he decided to take matters into his own hands.

So on the morning of his trial on 3 February 1969, and despite having his plane impounded Baudin took off from Camden Airport in a single prop Auster plane – callsign Romeo Charlie Alpha – and buzzed Sydney at low altitudes for five hours. Thousands gathered in the CBD to watch, and the coverage was blanketed across radio, TV and newspapers.

Getting the then-NSW Police Commissioner Norm Allen on the radio, Baudin threatened to fly under the Sydney Harbour Bridge or into the sea past the heads unless the charges were dropped, saying if they were, he'd leave the country after wrapping up his business and seeking psychiatric treatment. The Commissioner said he would consider reducing the charges if Baudin landed the plane and accepted treatment before signing off, 'Romeo Charlie Alpha – your conditions are agreed to and you're cleared to land.'

Baudin was sentenced to five years, with a non-parole period of 12 months, of which he served only 15 months. Prior to Baudin's trial about a hundred grand, of the seized \$286,000, went missing and was never recovered.

Two junior detective constables were subsequently disciplined and dismissed for the theft with the chief investigating officer just happening to be the notoriously corrupt Fred Krahe, later implicated in the disappearances of Mark Foy's

heiress Juanita Neilsen and Griffith drugs campaigner Donald McKay. It's probably no coincidence therefore that the money 'vanished without a trace'. Despite his QC saying at trial Baudin would never fly again, after being released from Long Bay in 1971, where he worked – where else? – in the print shop, Baudin returned to being the Federal and NSW governments' go-to aerial photographer, taking that photo of Her Majesty only two years later. In 1977, he published Fake in Australia and Britain where it was well-received newspapers and television programs, including the popular series Whicker's World. So well-received in fact that it was later published in 1979 in the US by Brace Harcourt Jovanovich. But Baudin wasn't happy with what they'd done to his story, accusing them of chopping it to bits, neglecting to promote it, and, worst of all, calling it Confessions of a Promiscuous Counterfeiter.

So, on 9 October 1979, he did it again, this time in a hired Cessna. As he flew around Manhattan, a rumour spread that he was planning to crash his plane into the UN General Assembly, forcing over 5000 UN staff, including the Secretary-General, to evacuate the building and go out into the street, blocking traffic and bringing hundreds of police, firefighter and ambulances to the scene.

The NYPD refused to shoot him down as they couldn't predict where he'd fall, but after almost running out of fuel, he landed at La Guardia Airport, where the New York Times reported he was treated by arresting officers 'more like a celebrity adventurer than a criminal, allowed to pose for photographers in front of his plane, and conduct a press conference, saying "maybe now the book will sell" and "I might get a bit of jail time but it was worth it."

Even long-suffering Betty remarked to reporters 'what a fool thing to do!... I assume he did it to get publicity. I don't know. I'm not in his head.'

As always, the ever-charming Baudin managed to escape the consequences. In 1980, he was acquitted of extortion, although his American pilot's licence – which he'd gotten on the strength of his

Australian one! – was revoked.

You'd think, as This Day Tonight observed, nobody would ever forget a character as colourful as Robert Baudin, but although Confessions of a Promiscuous Counterfeiter nearly sold out its print run as a result of his stunt, many news outlets refused to report on it, him, or his book.

Baudin thereafter disappeared, dying in 1983 and buried in a Catholic cemetery in Chicago. No family is listed on the simple marker. Betty – to whom he may not have even been legally married – died in 1996 and rests in her hometown of Hartley, outside Lithgow. Her plaque doesn't mention Bob – only her parents and "Lola and Marcia", although it's not clear who they are.

He wasn't entirely forgotten. Renowned investigative journalist Bob Bottom mentioned Baudin's crimes in his 1987 book Connections II, and how Fake had inspired a number of copycat crimes, including Australia's biggest counterfeiting operation in 1985.

Perhaps the last word should go to the indefatigable, indomitable, incredible Baudin himself. As he concluded in Fake:

'I've had desperate moments and fantastic moments. When I see people who've led a conventional life, I think they've missed out on a lot. They haven't had my ups and downs, the downs have been bad but the ups have been damn good. If there wasn't some element of excitement, life wouldn't be worth living. I haven't ever hurt anyone, my crimes haven't involved violence. I just printed funny money.'

The Balmain Association is proud to actively support creative arts and

Dr Sunil Badami is a writer, academic and broadcaster. He researched and appeared on the acclaimed Radio National documentary about Baudin, *The Flying Forger*, featuring rakeish actor Richard Roxburgh, which you can hear on the ABC Listen App, or online at <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/the-history-listen/forger-counterfeiter-richard-roxburgh-cons-baudin-history-listen/103812610>.

'Powering Up' our Living Legacy at White Bay

By Lisa Tatman

The Balmain Association is proud to support creative arts and culture both at the Watch House and in our local community. It is now exciting to see the inspirational resurrection of the White Bay Power Station, with the ambition of being an arts and cultural hub of the inner west. Celebrating this newly revitalised space with the inner west community, the state government is hosting the 'Power Up' Festival, a free three day community festival featuring local creatives and performers including musicians, artists, makers, as well as community groups. The Balmain Association is proud to be the leading local community group to be selected and featured in the festival this September.

Through an innovative 'Human Library' event experience, we are celebrating and sharing our Balmain Association members' lived local experience. We will be creating an intergenerational understanding of the Balmain Association, by 'Powering Up' our living legacy in an interactive event experience.

Exploring and activating our association in the main Turbine Hall, members will be our 'living history books', sharing both their personal local stories and the many stories of our successful community activism of the last 60 years. These great stories of activism, still have significant positive social impact for our local area and community today.

Our volunteer living 'history books', will be meeting and connecting with festival visitors in a 'one on one' interactive conversation experience. We wish to encourage intergenerational connection in particular, with BA members to be engaged in conversation with younger festival visitors. Parents accompanying children will also be encouraged to participate. We would love to welcome our Balmain Association

friends to reconnect with our members at the event as well.

The BA 'Human Library' stories are also being captured in an intergenerational film series, featuring local high school students Scarlet and Emily. Together they are interviewing long standing BA members and friends of the Balmain Association, creating a time capsule of significant memories. In the series we explore Ballast Point, Dawn Fraser Baths, the Watch House and many other local landmarks, and the stories that saved them and made them.

Lisa Tatman is leading the Balmain Association 'Human Library' project as the Creative Producer, and also Chair of our newly established Arts and Culture committee. Lisa is collaborating with local Screen Writer Director Kate Barratt, to produce the film series. Together they are mentoring Scarlet and Emily as co-directors and editors.

The 'Human Library' intergenera-

tional film series will be screened during our BA Power Up Festival event.

We would love you to join us at White Bay's Power Up Festival to connect, engage, activate and celebrate our Balmain stories and our Balmain Association's legacy Friday 20, Saturday 21 and Sunday 22nd of September. See you there!

If you wish to know more or are interested in participating please email Lisa at artsandculture@balmainassociation.org.au



Vale Jane Ward

With sadness we advise of the passing of Jane Ward. Jane was President of the Balmain Association from 1987-1991 and again from 2007 – 2013. Jane came to live in Balmain in the mid 1970's with her husband and three children. She was a conservationist and had a passion for community action.

Jane was very active as President and presided over a large number of Balmain Association initiatives including the establishment of Precinct Committees, the Balmain Exchange Post Office Park and the Bi-Centennial Plaques. These plaques commemorated people, places and events and over 50 were installed around Balmain. Jane also stood as an Independent candidate in various elections – for Leichhardt Council in 1987; NSW Legislative Assembly, Balmain in 1988; House of Representatives, City of Sydney Council in 2004.

Di Garder



The Camerons return to Balmain-Baludarri

By Brian Scales, Community History Officer, Inner West Council

Two hundred years after eight-year-old Ewen Cameron arrived in the young colony of New South Wales, he and his wife Sophia have returned to Balmain-Baludarri. On Sunday, 30 June, in a ceremony at St Mary's Anglican Church, a church which the Camerons helped develop, great-grandson Richard Cameron donated recently reframed, dry pastel portraits of each of the Cameron spouses to the church. The Commissioner of the Cameron Clan for Australia, James Cameron, and Inner West Councillor John Stacmolis attended the ceremony in recognition of the importance of the Camerons in the history of Highland Scots in Australia and to the development of colonial Balmain. By arrangement with the church wardens, the superb portraits, the work of an anonymous artist in the early 1870s, will be photographed and digitised at high resolution for viewing on the Inner West Council Libraries' website.

Although the artist's name and the precise history of the portraits after the death of Sophia in 1878 are unknown, they were certainly passed on to one

of the Camerons' twelve children and have stayed in the family since. Extraordinarily, the portraits required no restoration prior to the donation - in contrast to the previously well-worn family bible, which was also donated.

The names of Cameron's Cove, a short walk from St Mary's in Darling Street, and the magnificent colonial mansion, Ewenton, which looks out across it to Barangaroo, are reminders of the family's presence in the south-eastern reaches of Baludarri on the traditional lands of the Wangal people. Ewen Wallace Cameron, the son of a British military officer brought to Sydney by duty in the penal colony, followed in the steps of other Highland Scot arrivals by distinguishing himself in commerce and philanthropy after early wanderings and adventure including two years on the California goldfields. Unlike several later occupants of Ewenton, his career did not include time as the mayor of Balmain, although he did make one unsuccessful tilt at becoming a member of the NSW House of Representatives. Ewen's and Mauritius-born Sophia's long association with St Mary's included

their marriage there in 1852, generous financial support and the donation of the church's stained-glass chancel windows.

The history of Ewenton, the house originally known as Blake Vale, which the couple acquired in 1856 and greatly enlarged and embellished, followed an arc common to that of many of early Sydney's grand houses - subdivision and loss of grounds, periods as a boarding house and industrial storage site, neglect, vandalism and descent into a derelict condition with the threat of destruction before eventual restoration of the house and the creation of a new garden.

The portraits are available for viewing at St Mary's Anglican Church, 85 Darling Street, Balmain East. St Mary's would love as many people as possible to see them. If the church is not open, please contact Rev. Matt Davies matt@stmarysbalmain.church to arrange a visit. St Mary's Anglican Church has regular Sunday services at 9.30 am.



We are celebrating 'Marking Time' by sharing our Balmain Association members' stories and lived local experience. Members are our own history books, having lived the stories of our successful community activism over the past 60 years. We are sharing our legacy of activism in an archive exhibition of local Balmain Peninsula landmarks, and the stories that saved them and made them iconically Balmain.

Explore our beautiful heritage gallery space and our archival 'journal' of the successful local social impact projects, 'Marking Time' of the Balmain Association.

September 7 (Saturday), 11am to 3pm.
September 10 (Tuesday), 11am to 3pm.
September 14 (Saturday), 11am to 3pm.

Free entry.

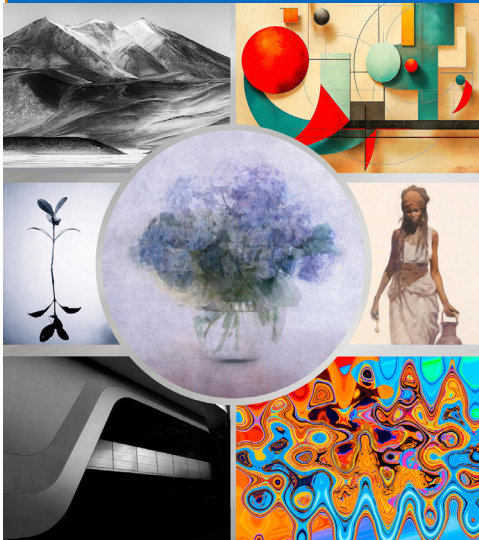
Event information balmainassociation.org.au

Event contact: info@balmainassociation.org.au

Social media: facebook.com/balmainassociation

What's on at the Watch House

Please check the Balmain Association website www.balmainassociation.org.au for up-to-date information on art exhibitions.



Visions Unveiled

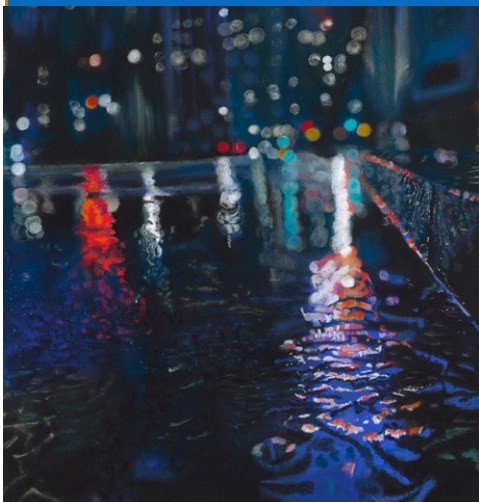
28-29 September 2024

Various Artists

Immerse yourself in the captivating allure of "Visions Unveiled" where the creative process of seven talented artists intertwines to form an unparalleled visual symphony. Delve into the graceful movements of abstract dancers, the compelling shapes of abstract architecture and portraits, monochromatic abstractions, traditional cyanotypes, tranquil homesteads, and minimalistic landscapes. Embark on a journey that guarantees to mesmerise and inspire as we invite you to celebrate the boundless beauty of diverse artistic expressions.

Hours:

Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 5pm.



The Shape Of Things

4-7 October 2024

Artist: Jane Wray

Jane's contemporary realistic works have a strong focus on light to develop the atmospherics of her diverse and often surprising subjects. The simplicity of her images is a base from which she adds beauty and intricacy and her works span many genres; landscape, still life, cityscape and occasionally abstraction.

Jane is a former finalist in The National Capital Art Prize and The International Association of Pastel Societies.

Website: www.janewrayart.com

Hours: 10am-5pm daily



Interactive

10-21 October 2024

Artist: Members of Craft NSW (and guests)

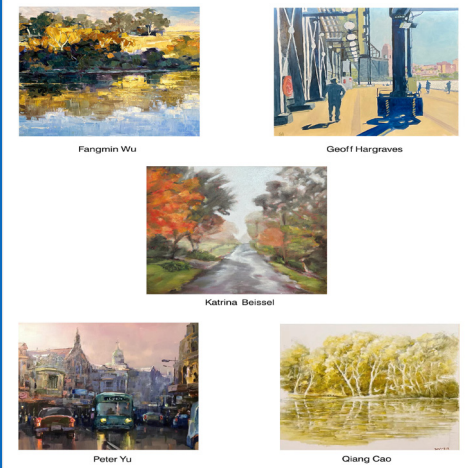
Celebrates the joy of 'hands-on' experience and is part of the Sydney Craft Week Festival. The theme is a response to a myriad of influences including climate change, landfill waste, culture, colour and covers various media from fine silver to wood. Visitors will be offered a daily Interactive experience in crafts including Kumihimo, Gods eye wrapping and hoop weaving with all materials supplied free.

Hours:

Fri 10th: 4-6pm Opening

Daily 11am - 6pm daily

What's on at the Watch House



Radiant Landscapes

26-28 October 2024

Various Artists

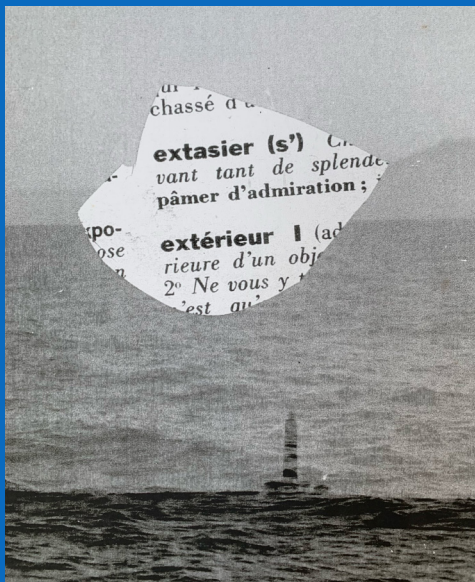
An exploration of the interrelationship of tone and hue, this exhibition pays homage to the beauty around us. Whether it be via a bustling urban scene or a serene inland vista, each artist in this group of five is interested in the play of colour and light to convey an uplifting moment in time.

Hours:

Opening Friday 26th October 6pm to 9pm: All Welcome

Saturday 27th October 10am-5pm

Sunday 28th October 10am-5pm



The Traveller's Lens

1-10 November 2024

Artist: Sue Hanckel

A collection of drawings, photographs and small gouache paintings created en plein air and captured with Sue's warm palette of pastels or looking through the lens of her old Olympus (as she captured here her departure from Capo San Vito for Majorca by sea).

These singular fleeting moments have been examined and re-imagined in Sue's studio and reveal their transition from these journeys to artist books, altered black & white digital photos and prints.

Hours:

Preview: Friday 1 November 2-8pm Opening: Saturday 2 November 12-5pm

Gallery hours: 10-4 pm Sunday 3 November, Thursday 7- Sunday 10 November

The Balmain Association Inc. representing Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle

Since 1965 we have aimed to:

- Improve the living, working and recreational amenities of our area
- maintain all features having natural, architectural and or historical value of the area and keep a permanent collection of historical interest, and
- seek the cooperation of everyone concerned in the realisation of the above.

Members are welcome to attend the Balmain Association meetings at 6pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street Balmain.

The History Room at the Watch House is open every Saturday from 11:30am to 3pm and every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm.

Website: www.balmainassociation.org.au

Postal: PO Box 57 Balmain 2041

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