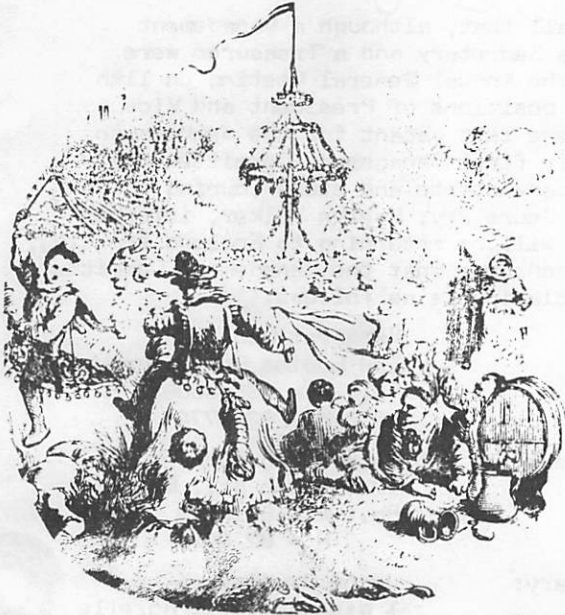


Issue 72
November 1976

the balmain association



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.

at the

WATCH HOUSE

179 DARLING STREET,
BALMAIN



balmain village fair

Portrait sketches, puppet show, honkey-tonk piano played all day and raffled in the evening, wine and cheese, candle making demonstration, hot dogs, pottery, rag dolls, tee-shirts, cakes, sweets, books, etc. and MANY MORE TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.



council report

your new management committee

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Well, maybe. Leichhardt Council is all things to all men, and this month was probably no exception. One of the more interested official participants read a brochure on new cars, and Annandale lost a restaurant, while a certain

Birchgrove balcony balustrade is in doubt. Our mayor attended the Local Government conference and will also attend the Boundaries Commission meeting at Sydney Town Hall on November 9. Then there are them as want to use tree planting money to actually plant trees, while them as suffers the problems of old trees in streets who want to uproot all existing trees. And the Town Plan! It will be before the Minister "in a couple of weeks", and as we know, there are them as for planting that, and them as for uprooting it.

DROP-IN CENTRE

A new unemployment centre has recently opened at the Westside Centre, 3 Montague Street, Balmain, to assist young people who are unemployed. The Centre is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday to give general information and to offer advice on interview techniques, retraining opportunities and job availability. The centre is particularly short of volunteers to assist with general activities and would like to hear from anyone who might have some time to spare. Please telephone the Centre at 82 0531 or 82 0533 if you can help.

MEMBERS' FORUM

The Association's membership is close to 500 - that makes 1,000 eyes watching things happen. Members' topical comments on local events will be published in the News Sheet. Write us briefly on what is happening around you - what pleases you or what really gets your goat. Send us solutions to local problems and ideas for solving. The Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041.

WHO WILL DO ALL THAT WORK?

You may recall that, although a Management Committee, a Secretary and a Treasurer were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 11th August, the positions of President and Vice President were left vacant for the members to fill at their first Management Committee meeting. After many starts and stops (during which our elected Secretary, Evelyn Walker, informed us that she will be returning to England shortly), we can now announce that the Management Committee of the Association is as follows:

- President: Margaret Dobson
108 Louisa Rd., B'grove.
Ph.: W - 230 5000;
H - 82 2774
- Vice President: Peter Colquhoun
12 Ewinton St., Balmain
Ph.: W - 82 4508
H - 82 0419
- Hon. Secretary: Jenny Deveney
1 Wisbeack St., Rozelle
Ph.: W - 29 8581
H - 82 1058
- Hon. Treasurer: Richard Norman
18 Gladstone St., Balmain
Ph.: W - 33 5251
- Management Committee: Helen Enle
9 Foord Ave., Hurlstone Pk.
Ph.: H - 55 5994
- Kerry Feldman
47 Palmer St., Balmain
Ph.: H - 827 2939
- Veronica Hagarty
4 Goodsir St., Rozelle
Ph.: H - 82 0378
- Richard Kent
4 Arthur Street, Balmain.
Ph.: W - 70 0771
H - 82 4558
- David McCann
4 Carievilla St., Balmain
Ph. W - 692 3411
H - 827 1179
- Mary Patterson
19 Johnston St., Balmain
Ph.: W - 692 2812
H - 827 2995
- Alastair Wilson
6 Birchgrove Rd., B'grove.
Ph.: W - 827 2679

CASEY COUNTRY

The story on Leichhardt Council, "Business as usual in Casey country" in a recent "National Times" issue (August 9-14, 1976 p7), made interesting reading. Here are a few extracts.

'Leichhardt is an inner-Sydney municipality. It was rock-solid working class Labor territory. The issues that mattered were the traditional industrial ones. You didn't complain about the noise from ship repair yards and backyard factories because you were talking about the jobs held by the boys, who turned up at Labor party branch meetings, or at least signed the attendance book when it was hawked around the pubs.

'Then the professionals, poets and junior executives moved in with their sandstock bricks and quarry tiles. In the municipal elections for 1971 Leichhardt Council was narrowly won by a coalition of greensies, civic reformers and radicals. This crowd scrapped the town plan of an earlier Labor council and began work on their own plan.

'They were well-intentioned but sufficiently amateurish to lose the municipal elections of 1974. The old-style Labor machine might be rusting in the cogs but it could for the moment, be cranked up enough to take on a few polite reformers.

'Alderman Les Rodwell, sales manager for a local timber yard and a former mayor, was back in as mayor. "I've always felt everybody should be involved in the conduct of their country. Remember Hitler. Dan Casey, a Labor identity in the area for many years, was re-elected and became his deputy.

'The reformers began to amass evidence of what they claimed was considerable rigging of postal votes in the Leichhardt election. Asked about it, Rodwell said recently, "It's always on in local elections of course. People say 'Elizabeth's going to be away, I'll vote for her.' Every election it's on. It's common knowledge.

'The blokes who won did the usual thing: wherever possible they reversed the policies instituted by their opponents. They re-erected the barrier between the public gallery and their own seating in the council chambers. They informed residents that those wishing to speak during council meetings would have to give notice in writing to the Town Clerk. They usually managed to hold off resident action queries until the last few minutes of council meetings.

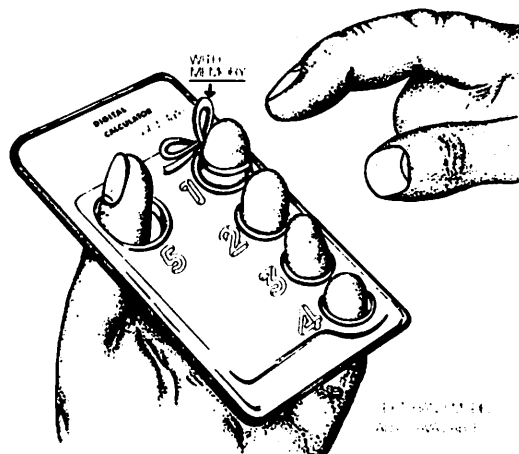
'Most of all, they wanted to have their own go at town planning. Last year Rodwell said "We must have progressive development. Pull down all the old dilapidated houses in Balmain and replace them with commercial and high rise. I don't want to live in a home unit, but plenty of others do."

'So the council came up with a plan whose major innovation on the previous effort was the inclusion of very high population densities. "There's not much difference between 200 and 300 people per hectare, to be frank," said Les

Rodwell. Residents evidently disagreed. There was a good deal of protest in the area, some of it loudly apparent at council meetings where Alderman Casey sometimes climbed under the barrier to invite an interjector to "come outside".

'In spite of such imprecations, resident protest grew noisier. So the council appointed Bill Sinclair, a businessman with travel agency interests, as a part-time public relations consultant on a salary which eventually reached \$15,000 a year (including car allowance). "He used to act as a sort of ombudsman, I suppose you'd call it," says Rodwell.

'The NSW State Planning and Environment Commission recently took issue with the Leichhardt municipality's proposed town planning scheme. The council backed down on - most notably in reducing its proposed population densities - the one question Casey and Rodwell felt strongly about. "Now no one will want to do anything in Leichhardt," says Rodwell. "The developers will stay well clear of us".'



LEICHHARDT COUNCIL POCKET CALCULATOR

A new auto-programmable pocket calculator has just been purchased for eleven of the Leichhardt Councillors. The LCPC 5 (illustrated) operates on internal self-seeking logic circuitry, and has a non-volatile memory, but the larger LCPC 10, designed for patching to enlarge the basic 5 byte memory for slightly more complex functions, has a volatile memory. Interfacing with the even more complex LCPC 20 overcomes this problem, as the additional memory chips allow digital retrieval of stored data. Industry reports a fairly slack demand for all models but is hopeful of a large order from the Rozelle Branch Labor Party in the near future.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP's -

"LITTLE MURDERS" by Jules Feiffer

This is a thought-provoking Black Comedy about the effect of violence on society ... originally written about New York but becoming increasingly relevant in our own society ... very funny ... very frightening. There will be 8 performances:

Friday	19th November	8 p.m.
Saturday	20th November	8 p.m.
Sunday	21st November	7 p.m. (with discussion after performance)
Friday	26th November	8 p.m. (party at Watch House afterwards)
Saturday	27th November	8 p.m.
Sunday	28th November	7 p.m. (with discussion after performance)
Friday	3rd December	8 p.m.
Saturday	4th December	8 p.m.

For the Sunday Night discussions after performance there will be a Chairman to lead the discussion and coffee will be served. All those connected with the production will take part. Please book at least a week in advance if you want to come to the party on 26th November.

This play is being directed by Shirley Sheppard who previously directed "Ghosts" by Henrik Ibsen and played the leading role of Lola in "Come Back Little Sheba" by William Inge.

The cast is comprised of both old and new members of the Group; including Dan O'Sullivan who directed "Come Back Little Sheba" and more recently a Workshop Production of "The Crucible"; Golda Baker who was seen in the revue "Theatre of the Cream"; Ros Hawson last seen in "The Crucible"; Peter Thoeming also seen in "The Crucible"; Stephen Jones - Tom in "Tom Jones" and Proctor in "The Crucible"; Lloyd Nicholas who appeared in "Come Back Little Sheba"; David Ives who designed the set for our last production "Wind in the Branches of the Sassafras" and also played the Doctor; and Peter Clem, who although new to the Group has had University drama experience. David Ives has designed a set which we feel will add a great deal to the atmosphere of the play.

To be held at Presbyterian Church Hall, Campbell Street, Balmain. Watch local papers, The Herald, The Sun for further information.

BALMAIN AUCTION

An historic auction of Australian antiques is to be held in Balmain this month. On Saturday 20th November, the largest single private collection of colonial effects and nineteenth century Australiana will be sold by auctioneer John D. Rees. The collection is that of Dr. John Buttsworth, who has spent over fifteen years collecting interesting and rare objects from all parts of Australia. It is being held at "The Gothic Cottage" circa 1840, 33 Campbell St., Balmain, Dr. Buttsworth's National Trust listed residence, and is being sold to further finance restoration of the building.

Items to be sold include, convict handcuffs; two penny farthing bicycles; a large offering of colonial cedar furniture including chairs, sideboards, chiffoniers, kitchen dressers, an early colonial cedar extension table c. 1840 and a cedar chest of drawers c. 1830; colonial building materials including cedar and french doors, cedar fireplace surround and over-mantles; vintage car lamps and accessories; gas light fittings; historic medical items and nineteenth century Australiana galore such as Lithgow pottery, carnival glass, colonial tools and cast iron ware.



Although the rarer collector items are expected to bring good prices, there will be many bargains with hundreds of items selling for around ten and twenty dollars.

Two items of local interest are a "Balmain Bowling Club" EP Silver cup inscribed and dated 1909, and an EP Silver Biscuit Barrel presented to Mrs. Erwin (Mayoress) to commemorate Balmain Hospital's Jubilee 1945.

Viewings will be on Thursday 18th November 6 - 9 p.m., Friday 19th November 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and on Saturday 20th November prior to the sale at 11.00 a.m. Further information and a free illustrated catalogue are available from Dr. John Buttsworth (Ph.: 82 2857).

WORKING BEE

In order to prepare the Watch House for "Half a Thousand Acres" book launching and for the Village Fair, a working bee will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 9.00 a.m. onwards. We need someone with a mower to cut the grass, eager hands to pull many weeds, and volunteers to dust and clear the interior. If you can help please ring David McCann on 822 1179.

HALF A THOUSAND ACRES:

BALMAIN

"The true story of the early Balmain land grants has been one of the classic mysteries of early Australian history".

Professor J.M. Freeland



PETER L. REYNOLDS



PAUL V. FLOTTMANN

The Balmain Association is proud to announce the release of its first major hard cover book "Half a Thousand Acres, Balmain, A History of the Land Grant" by Peter L. Reynolds and Paul V. Flottman

Dr. Peter Reynolds, lecturer in Architecture at the University of N.S.W., and author of BALMAIN IN TIME, has spent almost six years delving into the fascinating history surrounding the notorious Balmain Land Grant. It is a truly exciting tale of colonial double-dealing, sly-grog trafficking and political intrigue.

HALF A THOUSAND ACRES: BALMAIN is one of the first books, and surely the most thorough, to research the history of an Australian suburb from the very beginnings of the Colony. It is a valuable and important contribution to Australian history and a significant milestone in historical studies of Australia. There have been no really scholarly investigations undertaken into early suburban land grants and the development of geographical areas - a field which has been largely neglected and is very much surrounded with myth and legend.

William Balmain, a surgeon who came to Australia with the First Fleet sold the land 15 months after he was given it in 1800 by Governor Hunter as a reward for his services to the Colony. John Gilchrist took possession of the land in 1801. Shortly before Balmain sold the land he received a cargo of rum from Gilchrist, who was living in Calcutta. It is assumed that Gilchrist put up the money for the rum since Balmain was penniless and the only way to pay was to give a piece of unused land in exchange. The legal transaction took place with the exchange of 5/-.

Naturally Balmain's descendants couldn't accept this and they struggled unsuccessfully for over eighty years to regain their lost "inheritance".

Gilchrist heirs also attempted to gain the "unused land" for themselves, and so began a legal battle which raged for 18 years after Gilchrist's death, finally ending in the House of Lords in London. Ironically, after the furor had died down, under the terms of his will the Gilchrist Educational Trust was set up in 1865. This Trust provided for the gradual sale of the Balmain land to provide funds for education and libraries for the working-class people of the manufacturing towns in England.

In HALF A THOUSAND ACRES: BALMAIN, Peter Reynolds and Paul Flottman have written a remarkable historical work, unearthing hitherto little known personal facts about Balmain and his family. The book traces the growth and development of Balmain as a residential area and clarifies many of the conflicting stories surrounding Balmain and corrects many of the "facts" previously written. A political, social and environmental history of high standard, and a fascinating read.

This interesting historical work is now available to Association members at a special price of \$8.95 (free delivery in the Leichhardt Municipality). With Christmas just around the corner it will make an ideal gift for your family or friend. For prompt service please forward your cheque for \$8.95 to the Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041.

If you are a book collector and wish to have an investment for the future or just simply wish to "show off" to your friends, why not purchase a copy of the limited edition of 100 numbered and signed copies. These are priced at \$25 per copy and are selling fast, so to avoid disappointment, act now and send your money to the Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041. Numbered copies will be reserved in strict order of receipt of payment.

COPY No. 1 OF THE 100 NUMBERED AND SIGNED COPIES WILL BE AUCTIONED AT THE BOOK LAUNCHING ON NOVEMBER 17. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BIDDING FOR IT, PLEASE PHONE DAVID McCANN, Tel. 827 1179 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



LOYALTY SQUARE

**at about
the turn of
the century**

HOW TO GROW MORE VEGETABLES Than You Ever Thought Possible on LESS LAND THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE

A system of agriculture which could make it possible to grow an entire balanced diet on between one-quarter and one-twentieth of the land required by present agribusiness techniques sounds almost too good to be true. Yet a non-profit environmental group in the U.S.A., Ecology Action, after four years of research now believe that such yields are possible using the "Biodynamic/French Intensive System". The method has a tremendous potential for areas like Balmain where back garden space is at a premium.

The method is a combination of two forms of horticulture begun in Europe during the late 1800's and early 1900's. French intensive techniques were developed outside Paris where crops were grown in an 18-inch depth of horse manure and planted so close together that when mature the leaves barely touched. The biodynamic techniques were developed by Rudolf Steiner, the Austrian genius, philosopher and educator of the early 1920's. Noting a decline in the nutritive value and yields of crops in Europe, Steiner traced the cause to the use of newly introduced inorganic chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

It appears that the combination of these two techniques enables production of 4-6 times the national per acre protein average. Using this method an individual can raise a complete, nutritively-balanced diet for one person on 1,250 square feet of average arable soil with only 15 minutes per day of labour.

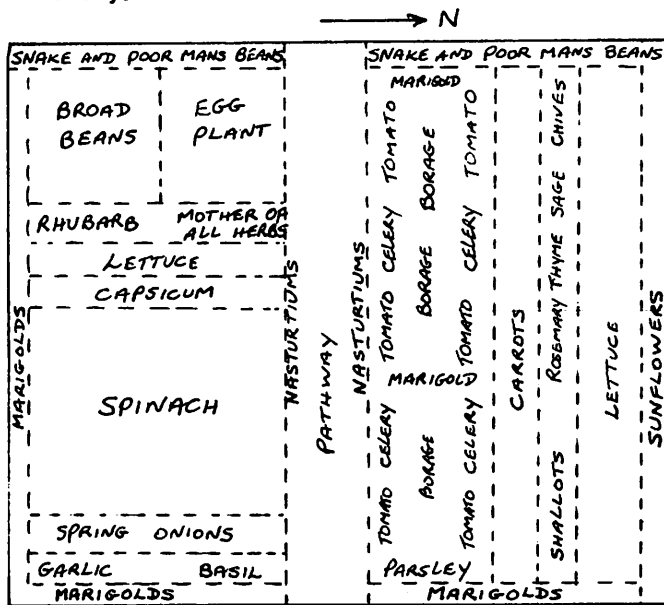
The secret of the technique lies in careful preparation of your garden bed to allow air, moisture, warmth and nutriment to properly penetrate the soil. The bed should be a "simulated landslide" with a raised curved surface area 3-6 feet in width. The top 12 inches of soil are completely dug over and mixed with compost to provide an open textured structure. The next 12 inches are then loosened with a strong fork before the top soil is replaced.

This 24 inch soil preparation allows the plants to be spaced more closely so that their leaves almost touch. With deep soil preparation the roots find sufficient room for vertical development in the absence of horizontal space. In addition to increasing the yield per area, the close spacing provides a mini-climate and a living mulch which reduces weed growth and holds moisture in the soil.



Seeds or seedlings should be planted on a hexagonal spacing pattern, at least half of the recommended distance for the particular plant. No fertiliser is necessary if the bed has been correctly prepared with compost, only light waterings are required, and extensive use should be made of companion planting. No herbicides or pesticides need to be used.

Companion planting takes advantage of the simple fact that some plants like each other and that other plants repel harmful insects. For example, the herb borage repels tomato worms while its blue flowers attract bees. French marigolds (Tagetes patula) excrete a substance from their roots which kills nematodes, they promote the growth of tomatoes, and repel insects by their pungent odour. (Note that it is important to use the old varieties of marigolds; hybrid varieties tend to have the smell bred out of them).



A BALMAIN VEGETABLE GARDEN

Biological control of pests and use of natural repellents are necessary components of the system since pesticides are harmful to the soil microflora. Perhaps the simplest relevant example for Balmainers is the use of wormwood to control snails. A "tea" made from Artemisia absinthium and spread on the ground in spring will discourage all slugs and snails from setting foot anywhere near your garden.

If you want to explore this method more thoroughly, here are some useful references: "How to grow more vegetables than you ever thought possible from less land than you can imagine" available from Ecology Action, 2225 El Camino Real, Pao Alto, California 94306, U.S.A. (\$US 7 by air mail).

"Companion Plants" by Helen Philbrick and Richard Gregg, Devin-Adair, 1976 (\$4.50 in paperback).
 "Pest Control without Poisons" Lawrence D. Hills, Henry Doubleday Association, C/- Ms. R. Taylor, Vincents Road, Kurrajong, NSW 2758.

watch these dates !!!

November 2, Tuesday 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meeting, Town Hall,
Norton Street, Leichhardt.

November 10, Wednesday 8.00 p.m.
Balmain Association Management C'tee
Meeting, Watch House, 179 Darling St.

November 16, Tuesday 8.00 p.m.
Leichhardt Council Meeting, Town Hall,
Norton Street, Leichhardt.

November 20, Saturday, 12.30 - 10.30 p.m.
Don't miss The Balmain Association
VILLAGE FAIR (see note this issue).

November 20, Saturday, 11.00 a.m.
Auction of John Buttsworth's
Australiana collection at 33 Campbell
Street, Balmain.

November 23, Sunday, 2.30 p.m.
Balmain Garden Club meets at the Watch
House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain.
Guest speaker on "Ferns" - all welcome.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS, make sure you purchase
your copy of "Half a Thousand Acres" before
our limited stocks run out. (see note this
issue).

new members

A big welcome to the following new members:

Mrs. E. Murphie
21 Dock Road, Birchgrove.

Mr. B. Eton
10 Glassop St., Balmain.

M/s R. Keating
10 Jane St., Balmain.

M/s J.M. Delaney & M/s Garnett
32 Callan St., Rozelle.

membership form

I wish to open/renew my membership with the
Balmain Association and enclose \$.....*
subscription.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Telephone.....

Send to:

The Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O.
Box 57, Balmain, 2041.

*Subscription rates: Single membership \$2.00
 Family \$4.00
 Pensioner / Junior \$0.20

D.L. Johns
6 Cecily St., Lilyfield.

M/s E. Wilson
81/10 Gow St., Balmain.

Mr. & Mrs. G.H. Parks,
32 Birchgrove Rd., Balmain.

M/s C. Cremen
7 Smith St., Balmain

Mrs. J. Murray
39 Clayton St., Balmain.

M/s L.J. Patrick
65 Mort St., Balmain.

Mr. B.R. Brady
41 Booth St., Balmain.

Mr. & Mrs. D.W. Simmonds
1 Campbell St., Balmain.

Welcome back to:

Mrs. A. Epstein
40 Thomas St., Balmain.

BALMAIN IN TIME

For those of you who have recently become members,
we would like to draw your attention to the pub-
lication "Balmain in Time". This book, written
by Peter Reynolds (co-author of "Half a Thousand
Acres") and Robert Irving is a record of historic
Balmain and some of its buildings. A brief his-
tory of the beginnings of Balmain is given and
there are some 60 photographs and illustrations
of buildings you will recognise, together with
details of their construction and former
occupants. The price of this soft-backed 40-
page publication is only \$3.00 and can be obtain-
ed by forwarding your cheque to the Balmain Assoc-
iation, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041. Delivery in
the Leichhardt Municipality is free.

next general meeting

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 8.00 p.m.

WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND ... FRIENDS

WELCOME ... TEA and COFFEE PROVIDED