

the balmain association

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held on Wednesday August 8, 1979 at Balmain Town Hall. The meeting was poorly attended, and was disappointing in view of the interest which was shown in the future of the Association at the General Meeting in February, when an Interim Management Committee was appointed to administer the affairs of the Association until August.

At the A.G.M., eight of the original eleven members of the Interim Management Committee (there had been two resignations since February) were present. It was decided that those members of management who were present at the A.G.M. should continue to hold office, and that the Management Committee co-opt new members of Management as required.

A number of members of the Management Committee have indicated that they intend to stand down from office in the near future, and it will be a priority of the Management Committee to fill vacant positions on Management to ensure proper organisation and administration of the Association's affairs.

HELP NEEDED

We need you to come along to the next General/Management Committee Meeting at the Watch House on Tuesday (please note the change from Wednesday September 11, 1979). Members should attend to make themselves familiar with the running of the Association and to offer help if they are in a position to do so. The future strength of the Association depends upon the support and voluntary help it receives from its members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

In the May Newsletter we advertised a Notice of a Special General Meeting to consider an amendment to the constitution relating to the payment of annual subscriptions - such that in future annual membership subscriptions shall fall due on the first day of July of each calendar year.

The S.G.M. was held concurrently with this year's A.G.M. at Balmain Town Hall on August 8, 1979. The proposed amendment was carried unanimously, and has now been referred to the Department of Services for approval.

CONTAINER TERMINAL

The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr. Landa on the future of the Container Terminal at Mort Bay:

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SYDNEY,

Mr. P.L. Pearson,
Vice-President,
The Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57,
BALMAIN N.S.W. 2041

Dear Mr. Pearson,

26 JUL 1979

I am writing in response to your letter of 11th May, 1979 concerning the future of the Australian National Line Container Terminal at Mort Bay.

Naturally, I endorse the Association's suggestion that the potential of a site of this magnitude is deserving of a detailed study. The problems associated with this particular site are by no means straightforward, however, and in fact I have had the complexities of the whole situation under examination for some considerable time.

Only one of the many major factors contributing to the complexity of the situation is the general lack of knowledge about the proposals which ANL's management may have in mind so far as the future use and occupation of the land is concerned. From the meagre information available at the moment, I am led to believe that the intention on ANL's part is to continue using the property even after the new terminal facilities at Botany Bay become fully operational.

As you will know, the site is partly freehold land which ANL owns; the rest is Maritime Services Board land on lease, I understand, until 1994. The New South Wales Planning and Environment Commission has informed me that, to date, all efforts to obtain some firm indication of ANL's future intentions have not achieved any success - needless to say I have asked the Commission to pursue its enquiries in that respect until a definite answer is forthcoming.

In the circumstances and in the absence of any certainty that the land will become available in the foreseeable future, if at all, for a more environmentally sympathetic style of development, I trust that you will readily appreciate why it is not feasible, at this stage, for the Commission to consider introducing substantial alterations to the planning controls over the area.

Subject to the satisfactory resolution of the problems I have touched on very briefly, there is no doubt of the benefit to be derived from a detailed study along the lines suggested by the Association. I shall certainly continue to keep the matter under review.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Landa
PAUL LANDA
Minister for Planning
and Environment

ANNUAL REPORTS.

Annual Reports from both the President and the Hon. Treasurer will appear in the next Newsletter.

DATING YOUR HOUSE

The Association has reprinted its very popular publication.

BALMAIN 1800 - 1882 THE GILCHRIST SETTLEMENT - A BASIC SEARCH PLAN DATING YOUR HOUSE

By Peter L. Reynolds.

It is in the form of a map (showing the historic subdivisions) and a twenty page guide booklet.

The booklet gives a step by step procedure for do-it-yourself land title searching and offers advice in arriving at the likely date of construction of your house.

The price to members for the map and booklet is \$10.00, and orders are now being accepted. Orders on hand will be processed at the price applicable to the first printing.

Members are advised to place their orders promptly with the Hon. Secretary.

BOOK REVIEW

The following is a review of "Balmain 1800 - 1882. The Gilchrist Settlement - A Basic Search Plan" which appeared in the "Leichhardt Historical Journal" No. 8 1979. The reviewer is Lesley Lynch, a Tutor in Australian History at the University of Sydney, who is writing a Ph.D thesis on Balmain from 1860 to 1894.

"Reynolds P.L., Balmain: 1800-1882. The Gilchrist Settlement - A Basic Search Plan. The Balmain Association, 1978; Map 1050 mm x 900 mm, booklet 20 pp.

This Plan and accompanying guide booklet are the most useful publications by the Balmain Association so far. The Plan, which I imagine many Balmainites will choose to purchase independently of the booklet, shows the first subdivision and sale of all the land contained in the original grant to William Balmain in 1800. These first sales of land occurred between 1836 and 1882 and one can see from a glance at the Plan the overall pattern of Balmain's subdivision throughout this period. Documentation on the Plan allows the curious to identify also the name of the original purchaser of any block of Balmain land. This amount of information makes the Plan an interesting document in itself.



The purpose of the booklet is to guide those who want to pursue the history of a parcel of land from this first sale to the present. The Plan supplies information (The Old Systems Title Register Book number and the number of the particular deed) which enables a researcher to go directly to the relevant records in the Registrar General's Department and begin the systematic search necessary to uncover all subsequent transactions relating to that land. The guidance offered to help the reader with this task is sufficiently clear and detailed to allow the hitherto uninitiated to proceed with confidence.

Reynolds is at pains to point out that precise dating of the first transaction relating to a particular piece of land does not necessarily reveal the date at which any building was erected.

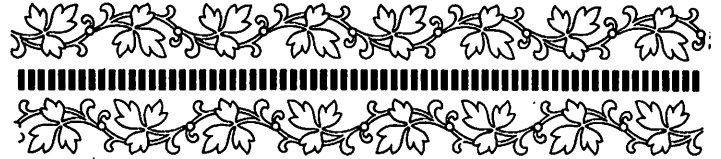
As most people will be motivated by a desire to discover the age of their home, this research procedure is not wholly satisfactory and Reynolds indicates the sorts of clues that can alert one to the probable date of construction (a sharp increase in the sale price, the appearance of a mortgage over the land, a sketch on a sales plan, etc.). Sands Sydney Directory can also be used to trace occupiers of a particular house and may be help to pinpoint the date of construction, although there are problems about its use. For example, unless the occupier is the title holder and therefore identifiable to the researcher, it is sometimes difficult to know which house in a street is the relevant one, as distinguishing house numbers were not systematic or stable until late in the nineteenth century.

There is an easier and more accurate way of dating the construction of a house and that is by information contained in the local council's Rate and Assessment Books. However while there are some fortunate Sydney home dwellers who can trace the history of their house in this fashion it is not available as a method of research to Balmainites. All Balmain Rate and Assessment Books prior to 1907 have disappeared. Not surprisingly as the surviving Council Minutes refer to several major scandals involving longstanding non-payment of rates by prominent aldermen.

Although recognising that Reynold's interest has been in tracing the history of the troubled Balmain/Gilchrist Estate (which includes present day Rozelle but excludes Birchgrove) it is a pity that the project was not extended to include Birchgrove. Although originally a separate grant, the area has long been an integral part of the peninsula suburb. From a contemporary perspective its exclusion appears rather arbitrary. I suspect some Brichgrove residents may feel somewhat piqued.

However it is gratuitous to criticise this research project for what it has not done. In getting together the basic information relating to the first sales Reynolds and his colleagues have performed a painstaking chore for which many will be grateful. I expect to encounter many copies of the large Plan on Balmain walls in the near future.

Lesley Lynch"



NOISE CONTROL

In the May Newsletter (No. 95) we published a brief article on the Noise Control Act, which - as we appreciated - did not give a comprehensive appraisal of sources of noise and the Authorities to whom you can complain regarding excesses.

One of our members, Ferg Fricke, has very kindly provided us with a copy of a table published by the State Pollution Control Commission (SPCC) on the typical noise complaints and the Authorities responsible for dealing with such complaints. Details of the table appear below:-

TYPICAL NOISE COMPLAINTS AND AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE

<u>NOISE SOURCES</u>	<u>AUTHORITIES</u>
Barking dogs, crowing roosters, etc. Noise harassment by neighbour where measured noise evidence is impossible for an authorised officer to obtain	Local Court of Petty Sessions - legal proceedings must be initiated by citizen
Aircraft in flight	Commonwealth Department of Transport
Electrical interference on radio and television from CB radio, etc.	Telecom Australia
Amplified music from residences Barking dogs, crowing roosters, etc. Defective burglar alarms on residential and non-scheduled premises Domestic air conditioners Motor vehicles on residential premises Residential construction noise Shop ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment Small factories and backyard workshops (non-scheduled premises) Swimming pool filter pumps on residential premises	Local Municipal or Shire Council

<u>NOISE SOURCES</u>	<u>AUTHORITIES</u>
Aircraft taking off and landing Amplified music from shops, hotels and clubs Defective burglar alarms on scheduled industrial premises, clubs, hotels, etc. Large industrial complexes (scheduled) Motor vehicles on public roads Open air concerts Rail transport Rifle ranges and gun clubs Road construction noise Speedways Sporting complexes Trench construction (water, sewerage, electrical or telephone) in roadways	State Pollution Control Commission
Vessels in navigable waters Amphibious aircraft while taking off and landing in navigable waters	Maritime Services Board
Noise inside factories affecting workers' hearing	Department of Industrial Relations and Technology
Amplified music at parties from 9 pm to 6 am Burglar alarms at any time Domestic or public disturbances from 9 pm to 6 am	Police
Trail bikes on public reserves, parks and roadways <u>NOTE:</u> Although the SPCC has authority to control such noise, difficulties in identifying and apprehending offenders has rendered enforcement by SPCC impossible at present.	Police Highway Patrol - North Sydney

We recommend that the above table be kept for future reference.

Ferg Fricke has pointed out that the table gives a clearer idea of the Authorities responsible for administering the Noise Control Act, but has suggested that we should not be fooled into thinking that the Authorities concerned will necessarily take action against the offenders. The Maritime Services Board is, for example, apparently reluctant to use its powers under the Noise Control Act. Anyone wishing to stop a noise

nuisance may be better off going to a Magistrate and taking out an injunction to stop a noise maker, though this will usually end in an expensive court proceedings if the noise maker is an industrial or commercial organisation.

The Editors would like to thank Ferg Fricke for supplying the above information; we welcome comment and/or news items from members. Just keep those items rolling in folks!

Social Committee

Activities this year have included:

The Watch House Open Day - 27th May.

A most successful day with very many new faces as well as better known ones meeting to look around the Watch House, discuss local planning issues and drink wine.

An Evening of Poetry and Music - 7th June.

Interested people heard a varied programme of poetry and songs on the theme of "Journeys". From this, a group has been tentatively formed to keep an interest going amongst those who enjoy reading or writing poetry. Would you like to join this?

An Evening of Wine and Cheese - July, 27th.

A group of Balmain and other inner city residents gathered to "Lay the Town Plan".



Restaurant Group

One of the most popular ideas which came from those gathering at social occasions has been the need for a regular Restaurant Group within the Association. This has been formed to sample local restaurants, getting together bi-monthly or thereabouts. Our first visit on Wednesday, 22nd August was to the Salama. Our next, in October, is to the newly opened Finny's in Darling Street - a 10% discount night for Association members and friends. Date to be fixed - see next Newsletter, or ring Diana Hale for further details.

COMING EVENTS

22nd. September - Our next coming event of importance.

Balmain High School is opening its grounds for a day specifically for Association members, friends and children for our INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD BARBECUE. We are going to have games of all sorts, using Balmain High School courts, fields and equipment, including non-competitive new games, dancing and other activities. Hopefully, all members of the family, but especially the children of all ages, will join in to take full advantage of the glorious harbour-side site, the waterfront barbecues, and the fun we hope all will have.

From 12.00 p.m. onwards - Saturday 22nd.
September - NO CHARGE

Bring your own food and drink

BALMAIN AFLOAT - FERRY NIGHT Sunday - 20th October.

An evening for Association members and friends to get together for a harbour cruise departing from and returning to Balmain, with entertainment provided by a Jazz Band.

The price will be \$8.50 per person (includes cruise, entertainment and supper, but B.Y.O.G.)

Diana Hale is the person to ring (82 4946) if you want to make a booking or to obtain further information. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter, but we suggest that you make your booking as soon as possible.



BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

The next B.T.G. production will be "The Ghost Train", a comedy thriller by Arnold Ridley, directed by Anne Roy.

Performances will be at 8.00 p.m. at the Campbell Street Hall, Balmain, on the following dates:

Fridays: Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14 & 21
Saturdays: Sept. 1, 8, 15 and 22

Bookings: Bray's Books, 268 Darling Street, Balmain,
Phone: 82 5613 (10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.)

Tickets:
Adults \$3.25;
Students/children/pensioners: \$1.60
First Night Supper \$2.00

HOUSE AND GARDEN INSPECTION

The Glebe Society is holding its biennial house and garden inspection on Sunday, 4th November, 1979. This occasion offers a unique opportunity to view the interiors and gardens of a fine selection of Glebe Houses and Institutions. The tour will be self-guided, using a map and explanatory notes, and will allow visitors to absorb the character and diversity of one of our sister suburbs. Hours of inspection will be from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Tickets will be \$3.00 each; write to the Hon. Secretary, The Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain, 2041, for tickets (enclosing a cheque for the appropriate amount). Closing date for tickets through The Balmain Association is Monday, 22nd October.

If you would like further information on any of the activities listed below, please tick the appropriate squares, cut out the slip and send to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Box 57,
BALMAIN N.S.W. 2041

or ring Diana Hale 82 4946

Please give me further information on the following activities:-

Evenings of Poetry/Music ☐

Restaurant nights ☐

International Year of the ☐

Child B.B. Que ☐

Ferry Night 20th Oct. ☐

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

watch these dates !!!

Fridays Aug.31, Sept. 7,14 & 21:

Saturdays Sept.1,8,15 & 22:

Balmain Theatre Group production of "The Ghost Train". Campbell St. Hall, Balmain.
8.00p.m.

Tuesday Sept.4. Leichhardt Council Meeting.
8.00p.m.

Tuesday Sept.11: Balmain Association General Meeting. 8.00p.m. All members please attend.

Saturday Sept.22 International Year of the Child Bar-B-Que. From 12.00p.m. (see note this issue).

Tuesday Sept.18: Leichhardt Council Meeting.
8.00p.m.

Tuesday Sept.18: Editorial closing date for October Newsletter.

Saturday Oct.20: Balmain Afloat - Ferry Night.
(see note this issue)

Sunday Nov.4: Glebe house and garden inspection
(see note this issue)

NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Contact: Philip Bray - 82 3982

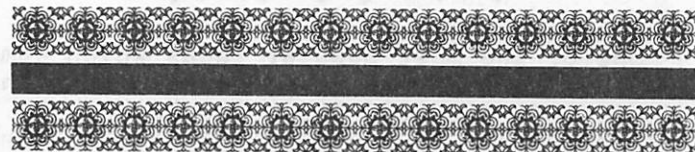
Peter Pearson - 82 4723

The Editors welcome comments and items from members for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Items need not be typed, providing that the handwriting is legible. Typed articles should be in columns 100 mm (4 inches) wide. Send items to P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041 or hand deliver to Bray's Books, 268 Darling Street, Balmain.

Closing date for next Newsletter:
September 18, 1979

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTORS PLEASE NOTE

As from next issue (No. 98, October, 1979), copies of the Newsletter will be available for delivery from the last weekend of the month of issue, and copies should be delivered at the latest by the end of the following weekend.



membership form

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

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:.....

*Current Annual Subscription Rates Are:

Single \$ 3.00

Family or Household: \$ 5.00

Pensioner (per household): \$ 1.00

Student: \$ 1.00

Organisation: \$10.00

(The above rates include the newsletter, hand-delivered in Balmain and Rozelle. For delivery by post, please add \$2.00 to the annual rate).

Send to: The Hon. Secretary,
The Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57,
BALMAIN N.S.W. 2041

Alternatively, leave your membership form and subscription payment, in an envelope, at Bray's Books 268 Darling Street, Balmain, and it will be passed on to the Association.

next general meeting

Time: Tuesday, September 11, 1979, 8.00 pm

Place: The Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain

Business: Will include the restructuring of the Management Committee, and appointment of members to vacant positions on management. Members interested in helping in the running of the Association should attend.