

ON THE WATERFRONT: PART 2

The 4-Shores Committee has a mixed bag of news for us - some good, some bad.

WHITE BAY PARK: First the good news - the White Bay Park in Donnelly Street will be built this year. Leichhardt Council has voted \$160,000 for this purpose and local residents will be invited to participate in the design process.

Notices concerning a public meeting on the park site will be delivered soon.

GRAFTON STREET: Now for some bad news - the Grafton Street site developer has won his appeal against Council's rejection of his application to stack this waterfront site with a seven-storey tower. The land in question is 1-13 Grafton Street between the Dickson Primer site and the Container Facility. The Land and Environment Court has given him permission to ignore Council's ruling. Because of the slope of the site, what is seven storeys at the waterside just happens to be a nicely controllable three storeys fronting Grafton Street.

The Grafton Street residents lost this one on a TKO but Council will take the case to the Court of Appeal!

DICKSON PRIMER: It is clear that there will be a waterfront park on this site. The only question which remains is how much of the site will become parkland - more on this in a later report.

WESTON STREET: More good news - Work on the Peacock Point Park (Illoura Reserve) extension will begin in about two months. In the meantime a film, "The Killing of Angel Street", will be made on the site.

The film is about a group of residents who take on a developer who wants to wreck this street for his profit. Apparently the residents win!

We are hoping for more such happy endings around here!

The film-maker, Tony Buckley, who made "Caddie" in Balmain, has given Council \$10,000 cash for work on the park and will do \$10,000 worth of work on the site when filming ends in two months.

Weston Street should be a park by the end of the year. Local residents have been involved in the design of the park. The landscape architect is Bruce McKenzie who created our Peacock Park.

THE CANEFIELDS: More bad news - Mr. Bedford, the Minister for Planning and Environment, has indicated that he wishes to move the Foreshore Building Line on the Canefields to allow new houses to be built close to the waterfront.

Mr. Bedford, however, has agreed to meet a delegation of aldermen and Duke Street residents to discuss the question.

Please show your opposition to the Minister's proposal by writing to him -

The Hon. E. Bedford,
Minister for Planning and Environment,
Parliament House, Sydney, N.S.W., 2000.

Do write as soon as possible as this will help the delegation - more on this subject in a future report.

MORT BAY: The position has not changed for nearly a year. The Commonwealth Defence Department is interested in the site but the State Government insists that it should be used for public open space, public housing and, perhaps, some light industries.

INACTION MAY BE THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM - KEEP A WEATHER EYE OUT ON THIS ONE!



NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 2 MARCH 1981
7.30 PM-WATCH HOUSE

MORE WATERFRONT PARKS IN BALMAIN: What can you do?

Leichhardt Council has a Trees and Open Space Committee which meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 8.00 p.m. at Leichhardt Town Hall.

You, as a resident, are entitled to be a full voting member of the Committee. If you are interested, why not come along!

Council is interested in getting as much public open space as possible in the Municipality as we are so short of it. GETTING LAND ON THE WATERFRONT FOR PARKS IS SEEN AS A PRIORITY!

There is a real chance of developing a series of waterfront parks and connecting waterways all around the Balmain peninsula. However, the details of achieving this have yet to be worked out.

This would be an important project for a group working under the auspices of the Balmain Association to get together and get it done. A lot of necessary information has been collected and is available.

What is needed is a group of interested people to put it together!

Volunteers please contact Peter Reynolds on 827.3560.

EWENTON

The Association asks all members and residents in the Grafton/Ewenton Streets area to keep a vigil to help Ewenton.

The building is being savaged week-by-week and anyone seeing anything suspicious there at any time should ring Balmain Police, 82.0277, or Peter Reynolds, 827.3560.

Watch out for Ewenton - it's a part of us!

Heritage Week plans

Our first ever Heritage Week, 23-29 March 1981, will make common knowledge one thing that we are all fighting for - in this mad world of sudden irrevocable change let us preserve something of the world that brought us here.

Association plans for the celebration centre on a pictorial exhibition at the Watch House on Saturday and Sunday 28/29 March. The Balmain Waterfront slide set will be screened and there will be plenty of time to browse among the old photographs on show.

Peter Reynolds will be on duty on both afternoons to answer queries on how old your house is - please bring a photograph as well as your questions.

Peter will also give a public lecture about the Balmain Waterfront on Wednesday 25 March at 8.00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at Balmain Town Hall - tea, coffee and biscuits provided - ALL WELCOME.

* * * * *

HELP CELEBRATE HERITAGE WEEK BY DISCUSSING WHAT IS TO BE SAVED AND WHY: BY LOOKING AT THINGS ALREADY SAVED AND THINGS BADLY IN NEED OF SAVING: BY AWAKENING A FRIEND'S, OR A GROUP'S, LATENT INTEREST IN THE NATURAL AND BUILT WORLD AROUND US ALL - TALK TO CHILDREN ABOUT THIS MAGIC HERITAGE OF OURS AND THEIRS.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE



BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

Jessica Murray

HIBISCUS (ROSA SINENSIS)

These are good shrubs that could be more widely grown, as they will flower from November to May if given adequate water and nourishment. Most other shrubs give only a few weeks of flowering.

They came originally from China and went all over the world and are particularly at home in the islands of the Pacific. Northern Australia has several native varieties.

Many wonderful varieties of hibiscus have been hybridised in late years in Hawaii and Florida, USA and are now available here. However, many of these will not grow from cuttings as the old ones did. Others have poor root growth and are only sold as grafted specimens, which makes them expensive.

SITUATION FOR PLANTING

Full sun but sheltered from cold winds if possible. Prefer light sandy soil with no added lime. Good drainage is essential. Can be espaliered on a warm wall or grown as a small tree if supported by an iron rod for some years and the lower branches removed. Can also be left as a bushy shrub or put in a large pot.

PLANTING RULES

Do not plant out in winter as they dislike cold weather and may die. Best planted out from September onwards. Dig hole one foot wider than the container of the plant and disturb roots as little as possible - usually in black sheet plastic so cut down side carefully.

FERTILISER

Small applications of nitrophoska each month from October to April. Mulch with cow manure or mushroom compost.

PRUNING

Wait until cold weather passes - about late August or early September. Cut back about one-third all over. Prune to an in-pointing eye to keep plants compact. The deciduous varieties are pruned in June or July.

HIBISCUS IN POTS

Can be grown in pots for five or six years. Pots need to be not less than 20 inches across the top and tubs up to 28 inches. Soil mix for pots can be as follows:

- 3 parts sandy loam
- 1 part cow manure or mushroom compost
- 1 part leaf mould or peat moss.

A good plant for a pot is "Golden Belle" - a yellow single and a slow grower.

SOME GOOD VARIETIES

"D.J. O'Brien" (orange double) and "Mrs. Davis" (pink double) both old varieties but still worthwhile - singles are usually more dramatic than the doubles. "Prince of Japan" - brilliant red single. "Adele Miller" - single, dark red and white. "Catavki" - single, claret red. "Covakanic" - single, (multi-colour), red, pink fawn orange and lemon. "Cover Girl" - single, bright pink. "Double Rainbow" - rose and lemon. "Ruby Brown" - single, red, orange, brown, and lemon. "Miss Hawaii" - double orange. "Surf Rider" - single, golden with red eye (this is my favourite). "Zellie Wagener" - semi-double with red eye, deep orange. There are a couple of perfumed ones - "White Kalakua" (blush white) and "Full Moon" (double yellow).

PICKING

The flowers last only one day - use no water as it makes no difference. Look very nice as a table centrepiece for dinner. Pick early no later than 8.00 a.m. - just buds without foliage. Put in plastic bag or crisper (without water) until 5.00 pm. Mass together, perhaps longwise, without water and they open quickly and last the night.

The Balmain Garden Club meets at the Watch House on the third Saturday of each month at 1.00 p.m.

The next meeting for 1981 will be on Saturday 15 March ALL WELCOME.

WESTSIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

This community Centre is funded by the N.S.W. Dept. of Youth and Community Services and has been set up to help residents to fulfil themselves in many ways. It is one of two such centres in the Leichhardt Municipality - the other is at Annandale.

It is run by a full-time paid Co-ordinator and a volunteer Management Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting which is held each April.

Membership of the Centre is \$2.00 per annum.

Classes are held, some at no cost, some for a modest amount. At present the classes are starting for Yoga, Tai Chi, Office Skills, Dress-making and Toymaking. Last year classes were held in Gardening, Home Maintenance, Clowning Workshop for Children, Drawing, etc. Dependant upon requests from users and the numbers involved, suggestions are adopted and new classes formed. Child-minding is provided for class users.

In addition, an information and referral service is available and help is given to enquiries on what department to approach, personal problems, et al.

Should you wish to do some voluntary work, there is a service available (phone 827.2986).

This helpful and stimulating organization can be found at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 665A Darling Street, Rozelle (phone 818.2238). Drop in and have a cup of coffee and find out what activity suits your needs.

THE TIMES ARE A-CHANGING

Inner Voice (published by the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development Co-op. Ltd.) did a phone round-up of comments from local Councils on the N.S.W. Government's proposal that Councils should cut the number of "secret" committee meetings.

Most Mayors considered that open meetings would not be practicable.

However, Inner Voice did find one Council which invites residents to attend its committee meetings. Yes, you've guessed it - Leichhardt!

And they say: "Take Leichhardt, for example".

FALLOUT

Inner Voice published an article on the proposed siting of three smelters at Tomago, Lochinvar and Kurri Kurri and the concern of people in the Hunter Valley. Inner Voice says "Of immediate concern to local inner-Sydney residents are"

- * the inevitable bringing 'on line' of emergency power stations at Pyrmont and White Bay which, with their antiquated pollution control equipment, will release tens of tonnes of toxic and carcinogenic gases and particulate ash over a radius of some 15 kilometres.
- * Increased domestic electricity charges from Sydney County Council - about 17% or 18% - from 1 January, largely because of the big price hike it has to pass on from the State Electricity Commission which has been negotiating cheap power deals with the smelting companies in secret".

So these proposals for the Hunter Valley affect all residents in our area.

Uncovering Our Past

A HOUSE AND ITS STORY



Looking at the history of a house and the story of its occupants is a fascinating task which house-holders could undertake for themselves.

No 13 Johnston Street has an interesting past which is revealed in official documents and private papers.

In 1836 John Hosking bought the area from the bay up to Darling Street and between Johnston and Union Streets for £200.18.3. He sold some of the land for good prices in 1841 - Hosking Street was created by this subdivision.

In 1844 Hosking's assets were put up for sale with one of the Balmain blocks selling for as little as £10 - even though advertisements boasted a "ferry every ten minutes".

A market gardener, John T Baptist, bought Lot 15 on which the house at No 13 Johnston Street stands. In January 1845 he sold the land to William Richardson, a plasterer, for £50. He immediately mortgaged it - possibly to build a house.

Richardson sold the property in 1854 for £275 to Captain Thomas Tinley, a Yorkshireman of Charlotte's Place, The Rocks. Captain Tinley owned the *Mountain Maid*, and *Ocean Queen* and the *William Alfred* all of which plied the New Zealand-Australia run.

Tinley set sail in the *William Alfred* on 28 September 1860 with a cargo of his own goods to sell in Wellington. Four days before setting out he made his will, naming his wife, Eliza, and his son, Thomas Matthew, as beneficiaries.

On 24 November Rev Watkins, a friend of Captain Tinley's, recorded in his Journal, "There are fears for Capt Tinley. Eight weeks away and no word of him. I cannot realize the fact that he can be lost. I hope it is not so. Poor Mrs T, poor Tom!". Three days before Christmas he noted sadly, "No news of Capt T. I am afraid the sea has swallowed him up".

Probate was granted on 8 February 1861 with the cause of death stating "he is supposed to have died - having been lost at sea".

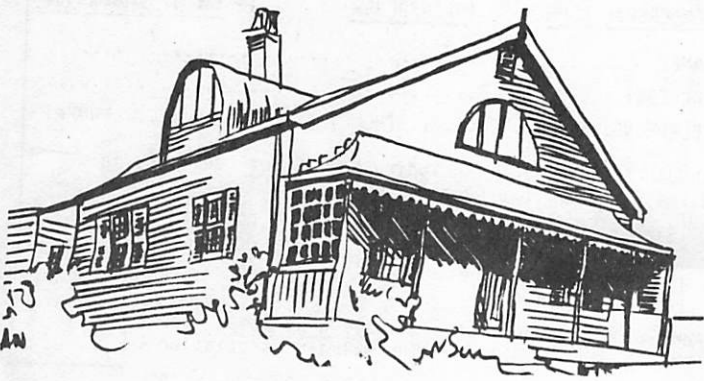
His widow stayed in Dunsley Cottage until her death in 1904 aged 86. Her son, Tom, sold the property in 1911 and it passed through various hands until the present owners bought it in 1978.

The house in 1978 had changed little although borer damage had been severe. The rare Huon Pine timber lining was totally destroyed but the cedar joinery, staircase and marble fireplaces were saved. The cottage's Georgian style is evident in the Regency doors and windows. All bricks and nails are handmade and the foundations are of local stone. The original timber shingles are under the iron roof of the verandah.

Some of Captain Tinley's accounts were found behind the wall linings where they had lain since 1859 - newspapers dated that year were used as backing for the wallpaper.

Pinpointing the exact date of the construction of a house is not always possible but many interesting details may be unearthed along the way.

Begin to research your house yourself!



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Have you thought how Australian history has been researched and recorded? It is done by a dedicated band of historians known as the Royal Australian Historical Society.

The RAHS has regularly provided the Balmain Association with money to further our research into the history of Balmain. Now the time has come when the RAHS is itself in need of money to sustain and expand its work for Australian history.

Rather than increase the membership fee (which has remained static at \$17.50 for some years), the RAHS has appealed to its members to enlist new members and the Association is passing on the appeal to those members who have history on their minds. Donations to the Library Fund are tax deductible.

You will find the Society at History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney - phone 27.1160.

On becoming a member you will receive a Syllabus Card setting out the monthly activities for 1981.

Visit the Watch House

Thanks to the constant trickle of visitors on Sunday afternoons we have a pleasant three hours once a week.

Some of our time has been spent in clearing away rubbish which has detracted from the Watch House. We have new books on sale - nothing over \$10 - in the foyer as well as buttons, postcards and posters.

A changing collection of historic photographs will be set up in one of the cells and a slide/tape set about the Balmain Waterfront is now being got ready for us to show.

The money for the displays has come from the generous donations of our Sunday visitors.

One special display is being organized with the help of Police Department research officers and the Police Historical Museum. We hope that this Police display will coincide with the weekend of Heritage Week (28/29 March).

On this weekend voluntary helpers may be asked to spend a little time on roster so that the Watch House will be kept open for both days.

The suggestion for a Police display came from a visitor to the Watch House as do many innovative ideas which we hope will be realized later.

If you like meeting people, you will enjoy spending some time at the Watch House which is becoming an informal meeting place for people interested in Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle.

HISTORY GROUP PUBLICATIONS

WATCH HOUSE LEAFLET: For some time now there has been a great need to update and reprint the excellent leaflet produced to mark the official opening of the Watch House after many months of hard slog by members and friends who did so much towards its restoration.

The new leaflet depicts the "two" Watch Houses - the original 1854 single-storey Blacket building and the 1880s additions by Colonial Architect Barnet with text and information about the founding and workings of the Association.

Entitled *The Balmain Watch House*, the leaflet will be on sale at the Watch House on Sunday afternoons for a modest sum to cover costs and raise funds.

Many thanks to Hal Wise for the cover photograph.

INFORMATION LEAFLET: A new give-away leaflet entitled *The Balmain Association* has also been produced. It features a tear-off joining slip which members are asked to give to friends to help our membership drive.

POST OFFICE DISPLAY SHEETS: Ten sheets (17 inches by 11 inches) tell the story of the postal service in Balmain and Rozelle. They are mainly aimed at the Municipality's schools but are also interesting for home use.

BALMAIN WATERFRONT SLIDE/TAPE SET: The story of the origins, development and changes in the Balmain waterfront is really the story of Balmain. The slide set brushes in the story from 1788 to the present day in 80 slides with a 15 minute sound tape.

Management now meets on the first Monday in each month (see Meetings Diary on back of News Sheet). - Every meeting is open to members.

At the first meeting on 2 February 1981, Hon. Sec. Margaret Dobson, vice-President Richard Norman, Committee Members Gladys Chanter, Frances Heathfield and Rod Linklater and President Peter Reynolds welcomed our new Treasurer, Ethel May.

Old stagers will remember Ethel as a diligent Hon. Sec., assiduously carrying out the unenviable task of entreating members to come to work at the Watch House on restoration working bees.

Who can forget Ethel armed with pencil and pad on the Friday afternoon ferry, without out fear or favour, urging people to come and help. She met offers of help and refusals with the same hearty good fellowship that she always has for friend or stranger.

We all wish Ethel well in her new post as custodian of our books.

Our retiring Treasurer, Peter Bell, relinquished the job on account of pressing business tasks. We wish to register our thanks to Peter Bell for his past help.

Among other business processed by Management it was agreed that the following letters be sent to:

1. Mr. Bedford, Minister for Planning and Environment, urging speedy resolution of any negotiations on the Dickson Primer site. While these become drawn out, poor old Ewenton is being pulled apart by vandals. All problems must be overcome to get work started on this significant part of our history - there is still plenty of structure and detail worth preserving. A decision is urgently needed by whichever authority is responsible.
2. A similar letter to Leichhardt Council asking it to do all in its power to help get restoration work started. A private buyer is waiting to begin restoration now!
3. To Mr. Bedford asking him to reconsider his decision to deprive the people of Sydney of yet another slice of public open space on the waterfront. (See Letter to Editor, News Sheet 106).

The Foreshore Building Line on the Canefields' site has been moved by Mr. Bedford closer to the water to allow new houses to be built on three blocks. These blocks were made too small to build on by the old Foreshore Building Line and could have become open parkland. Now they are to be built upon by Mr. Bedford's order but the small strip of waterfront land accessible to the public on the waterside of these blocks will be uninviting and largely unusable except as an access corridor.

Mr. Bedford is asked to move the Line back to its original position, a position determined by Leichhardt Council.

4. To Mr. Bedford about extending the Preservation Order which he placed on Louisville, 2 Wells Street, Balmain in March 1980 (see News Sheet 106).

Louisville is a part of our heritage so any development which occurs in this area MUST take into consideration the importance of preserving this historic dwelling.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: Reply from Leichhardt Council, 4 December, 1980, concerning a rumour of a sand unloading terminal in the Balmain area.

Discussed at Council meeting on 18 November, 1980. An observer, who is also an employee of Consolidated Goldfields, said that the company had rejected White Bay as unsuitable.

Council stated that it is opposed to any such terminal and the movement of sand trucks within the Municipality.

Council is not aware of any plans for a sand unloading terminal but are checking the matter with Mr. Bedford.

stop press

THE WATCH HOUSE IS STAGE STRUCK

The crew making the film in Weston Street wish to use the Watch House to shoot a key scene. It appears that a real life police station is needed for the action and that is what the Watch House is.

Anyone who has seen "Caddie" will know what to expect for this is the same group that produced that excellent film - part of which was shot in Balmain.

Needless to say the Watch House is anxious to show up well, a little apprehensive but very glad to accept the organizers' donation of \$500 towards very necessary maintenance.



WATCH THESE DATES

107



1981 MEETINGS DIARY *****
To simplify arrangements for Management Meetings, General Meetings and History Meetings one meeting combining all these functions will be held on the first Monday of each month - public holidays excluded.

Monday 2 March	Monday 3 August
Monday 6 April	Monday 7 September
Monday 4 May	Tuesday 6 October
Monday 1 June	Monday 2 November
Monday 6 July	Monday 7 December

Remember, first Monday in each month at the Watch House at 7.30 pm - ALL WELCOME.

Wednesday 25 March at 8pm Meeting Room Balmain Town Hall
Slide/Talk by Peter Reynolds "The Balmain Waterfront"
Sat/Sun 28/29 March 10am to 5pm at the Watch House
Display and slide show "The Balmain Waterfront"

THE PLAY FACTORY A NEW RESIDENT THEATRE COMPANY

Campbell Street Presbyterian Hall, Balmain

The first adult play chosen by the group is CROSSFIRE by Jennifer Compton; the play premiered at the Nimrod Theatre in 1975, is a challenging and thought-provoking one, exploring the difficulties encountered by women caught in the "crossfire" between feminism and traditional values.

Opening night: Friday 6 March 8.15pm and then each Friday and Saturday night till 11 April.

CLASSICAL BALLET TRAINING

Campbell Street Presbyterian Hall

Miss Leveda Carter, holder of RAD advance certificate.

Enrolments now taken for 1981. For inquiries ring: 799 5369.

MUSIC 2041

NEXT CONCERT: GOOSSENS STRING QUARTET at the Campbell Street Presbyterian Church, Balmain, on Saturday 28 March at 8pm.

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

For further information please contact:

PETER REYNOLDS

827 3560



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	\$ 3.00
Family or Household	\$ 5.00
Pensioner or Student	\$ 1.00
Organization	\$10.00

Add \$2.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted.
Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association".