

NEWS SHEET

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041



HERITAGE WEEK

23-29 MARCH 1981

The people of New South Wales will be encouraged to examine their cultural and environmental heritage during the State's first Heritage Week in 1981. Heritage Week presents an opportunity for every citizen to reflect on the community's origins, to discover some things about the environment in which he lives and the places of natural and man-made beauty he wishes to preserve for future generations. School children and their parents, youth and community groups are encouraged to think about their local area, to investigate their surrounds - the buildings, monuments, beaches, places of specific historical interest and everyday things like trees, gardens and local parks that together make up our heritage.

If Heritage Week encourages the people of New South Wales to do some real research into their past, or present environment, and to learn more about themselves and their identity from establishing a respect for their past history - it will be a success.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 6 APRIL 1981
7.30 PM-WATCH HOUSE

Our first ever Heritage Week runs from Monday 23 March to Sunday 29 March and the Association's plans include:

- 1 Slide talk by Peter Reynolds entitled "The Balmain Waterfront" at the Meeting Room at Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday 25 March at 8.00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided - ALL WELCOME.
- 2 Heritage Weekend at the Watch House Saturday/Sunday 28/29 March from 10.00am to 5.00pm. A historic display is being mounted and the Balmain Waterfront slide/tape set will be shown at regular intervals.
- 3 Police Historical display will be mounted by Philip Patterson of the Police Historical Society on Sunday 29 March also at the Watch House.
- 4 The Association will share a stall with the Annandale Association at the Heritage Week wind-up at the National Trust Centre at Observatory Hill on Sunday 29 MARCH from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

HERITAGE WEEKEND AT THE WATCH HOUSE: SATURDAY/SUNDAY, 28/29 MARCH, 1981.

BRIDGING
BALMAIN

The Greenwich Association has asked us to support their opposition to a second harbour crossing from Balmain to Greenwich.

March 1982 is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge and this will conjure up memories of ill-founded schemes for crossing the harbour such as a Y-shaped bridge to link up Ball's Head, Goat Island, East Balmain and the city.

Reminders of the Harbour Bridge opening will also give emphasis to the need for a second harbour crossing and aggressive opposition is the only way to prevent it happening at Balmain.

Proposals to lessen its impact by building a tunnel should be seen largely as a red herring because whether in the air or under water, the crossing still needs approach works and expressway feeders.

Also it must be pointed out that the old Balmain Coal Mine was closed because of the ever-present danger of explosive gas seeping through fissures in the rock strata. Major excavations could cause a monumental disaster if this vast store of gas were to meet natural air and explode.

We must not be deluded by engineering solutions based on routing traffic through Balmain. Approaches for a second harbour crossing would be wider than the tongue of land out to Long Nose Point - goodbye Birchgrove!

Expressway feeder spaghetti-like coils will consume vast areas of our heavily populated district - goodbye Balmain!

Complex flyovers and interchanges will be mounted to link with other planned expressways - goodbye Rozelle!

In a letter to the Sydney Morning Herald (3 March) a Potts Point resident advocates a bridge between Balmain and Greenwich as the obvious answer to Harbour Bridge snarls. The letter goes on to say that this proposal is in line with Mr Uren's proposal for a second harbour bridge (Herald, 14 Feb).

While respecting concern for an overloaded car city we can only have contempt for the glib answer to the problem by "bridging Balmain".

The Association has written to Mr Wran and Mr Uren on this matter stating our intractable opposition to this attempt to destroy Balmain.

NEWS SHEET TYPING

We need an efficient typist with access to a carbon ribbon golf-ball machine for our News Sheet copy. Please contact Peter Reynolds 827 3560.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP



The next production by the Balmain Theatre Group will be "RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN" by Charles Dyer. The play will be directed by Michael Adams, who has had wide experience as a professional actor, director and designer both in the UK and Australia.

The play is a comedy for three characters, and has some poignant moments as the nature of each character unfolds. It tells the story of Percy, who comes to London from Manchester for a football match, and after getting "a bit merry" finds himself in the flat of a prostitute called Cyrenne. Neither Percy nor Cyrenne are quite what they seem to be, and the appearance of Cyrenne's brother Ricard disturbs the evening. There are some tender as well as very funny moments.

Percy is played by David Ives who directed the Group's highly successful production of Anouilh's "The Lark" last year; Cyrenne by Maggie Deahm; and Ricard by Robert Laycock. Incidentally David Ives will direct the Australian premiere of Arnold Wesker's play "The Journalists" as the highlight of the Group's tenth anniversary later this year.

Venue is the Rozelle Primary School hall, Darling Street, Rozelle (near the junction of Victoria Road) and performances will commence at 8pm on March 18, 20, 21, 25, 27 and 28, and April 1, 3 and 4. Reservations from Brays Books, 268 Darling Street, Balmain, telephone 82 5613. Tickets \$4 adults, \$2.50 children and pensioners.

Leichhardt Historical Journal No.9 1980

NOW AVAILABLE 28 pages 21 illustrations \$3.00

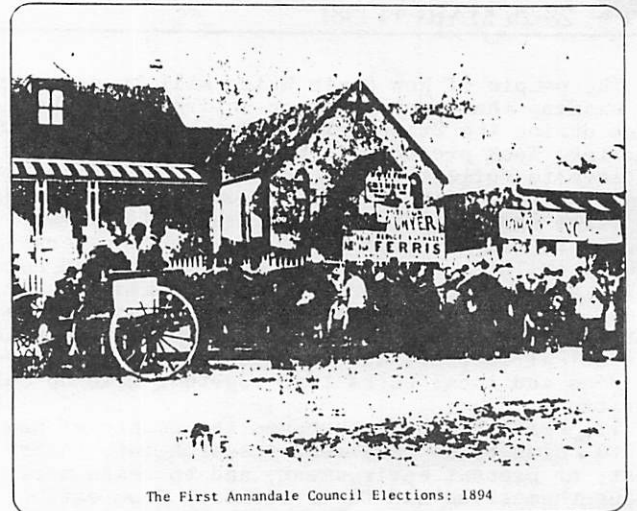
Leichhardt Public School
Kentville and the Annandale Bowling Club
Rev George Grimm of St Paul's Rozelle
William Bardsley of Forest Lodge Public School
Goat and Cockatoo: Two Islands off Balmain
Book Reviews

On sale at the Watch House or from Peter Reynolds

W Leichhardt Historical Journal

No.9
1980

KENTVILLE AND THE ANNANDALE BOWLING CLUB
LEICHHARDT PUBLIC SCHOOL: 1862
WILLIAM BARDSLEY: THE "BOSS" OF FOREST LODGE PUBLIC SCHOOL



The First Annandale Council Elections: 1894

Annandale Balmain Glebe Leichhardt Lilyfield Rozelle

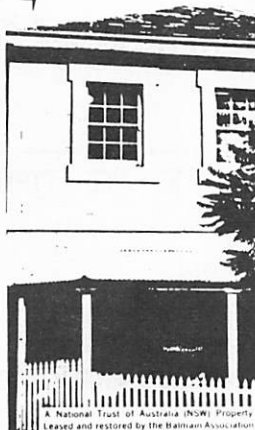
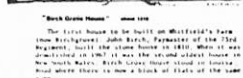
WATCH HOUSE LEAFLET

NOW AVAILABLE 50 cents
On sale at the Watch House on Sunday afternoons.

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



THE BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE



Double-side
4-fold
leaflet

COVER
AND
BACK
FOLD

THE LAST POLICEMAN AT THE WATCH HOUSE

Police Historical Society Secretary, Philip Patterson, asked the Police Department to provide the service record of Sergeant Ira Clarence Gray - the last police officer to live at the Watch House. His record reads:

Ira Clarence Gray was born at Grafton on 17 June 1889. Before joining the New South Wales Police Force as a Probationary Constable on 17 May 1911, he was employed as a farmer. During his period of service he achieved the following promotions:

Ordinary Constable	17. 5.1912
Constable 1st Class	1. 1.1920
Sergeant 3rd Class	1.10.1928
Sergeant 2nd Class	24. 2.1937
Sergeant 1st Class	22. 8.1940 until retirement.

He also served at the following Police Stations:

Depot (Training)	17. 5.1911
Cowra	26. 8.1911
Lithgow (Temporary)	1. 3.1912
Cowra	20. 4.1912
Canowindra	7.12.1912
Regent Street	14. 9.1916
Children's Court	from 1919
Regent Street	3. 9.1927*
Balmain	28. 5.1937
Regent Street	27. 3.1944 until retirement.

* This included duty at the Children's Court as Police Prosecutor.

Ira Clarence Gray died on 13 November 1944. We are most grateful to Philip Patterson and to Inspector Murphy of the Police Department's Public Relations Branch for providing the above.

THE POST OFFICE IN BALMAIN AND ROZELLE

SYDNEY'S FIRST POST OFFICE

- 1788 When the colony was first settled official papers were carried by constables who sometimes delivered letters. Mail was a luxury.
- 1801 Private business men were authorized to charge postage per letter for mail from Sydney to Parramatta.
- 1804 An office for collecting mail had to be established on the colony to prevent people unlawfully taking possession of other people's letters and parcels, moreover a ship berth.
- 1806 Isaac Nichols was entrusted with this duty at his house and then became SYDNEY'S FIRST POSTMASTER. Delivery charges were: Letters one shilling, Parcels two shillings and sixpence, and five shillings.
- 1825 The Governor established further post offices in Sydney. Postmasters were appointed outside Sydney at Balmain, Campbelltown, Parramatta, Liverpool, Newcastle, Perth and Windsor.

BALMAIN'S EARLY POSTAL SERVICE

- 1836 First boats in Balmain - transport to and from Sydney by towing boat.
- 1841 A private postmaster for Balmain - mail carried to Sydney by boat at expense per letter.
- 1844 Henry Anderson's regular ferry service began. Population of Balmain reached 1,307.
- 1851 Augustus Hutchinson appointed postmaster at 410 per year. George Chappie, postmaster - the post office still located in private houses or shops. Much mail carried by postmaster.
- 1855 Mrs. Chappie's shop opened for service.
- 1860 Balmain Council incorporated.

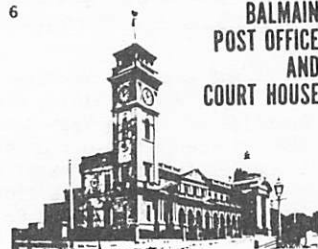


CHAPPE'S QUEEN'S PLACE POST OFFICE

- 1857 People were dissatisfied with much mail carried by a postmaster so in 1857 Alexander Chappie was given the job for 410 per year. He operated a post office agency from his grocer's shop at the corner of Queen's Place and Waterloo Street.
- 1858 A letter carrier (postman) was appointed to take the mail to the houses in the Murr Street, Jane Street and the waterfront area.
- 1861 The postman had to carry the mail for 3,400 Balmain residents.
- 1866 Money orders were added to Chappie's postal service. Chappie died and his wife, Catherine, became the post mistress.
- 1872 Mrs. Chappie established an agency for the Government Savings Bank. There were now 6,272 people in Balmain. A telegraph transmitter was installed in Mrs. Chappie's post office.
- 1881 There were now four postmen, one telegraph operator and one messenger for the 15,000 subscribers. Letters posted weekly 255. Telegrams per year 4000. Money orders per year 1700. Savings Bank Transactions 2000. Revenue for the year £103 15 10.
- 1885 Six postmen, two telegraph operators, one mail boy and four messengers were employed in Mrs. Chappie's shop to run the postal service. Mrs. Chappie retired and A. McNeill took over the Queen's Place post office. Local people had been agitating for a new post office for several years and work commenced on a new building in Darling Street which is now the Balmain Post Office.



108 BALMAIN POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE



LETTER BOXES...

- 1833 "Drop-boxes" were introduced and placed with shopkeepers for the public to use. The fee for each letter left in the box was paid to the shopkeeper and collected twice daily by a postal official. From the shopkeepers the shop "receiving offices" when the post office ordered twelve new bell type letter boxes to be placed around the city. The first was at Circular Quay near the Customs House.
- 1860 Newspaper printing boxes were designed with a horizontal aperture.
- 1861 Balmain's first letter box was placed at the corner of Darling and Richmond Streets - also at Murr and London Streets. There were the only two boxes until eleven years later.
- 1872 Murrison and Reynolds Streets.
- 1875 Cameron and College Streets.
- 1876 Near the corner of Victoria Road and Lilyfield Road.
- 1877 Balmain Post Road and Lane Street.
- 1880 Darling Street opposite the town hall.
- 1881 Victoria Road and Richmond Street.
- 1883 Northgrove Road and Lane Street, Murrison and Palmer Streets.
- 1885 Murrison and Reynolds Streets.
- 1886 Murrison and Lane Street, Darling and Murrison Streets.
- 1888 Murrison and Murrison Streets.
- 1889 Darling and Murrison Streets.



AND POSTMEN



POST OFFICE DISPLAY SHEETS

AVAILABLE NOW \$5 per set of 10
Ten sheets (17 inches by eleven inches) tell the story of the postal service in Balmain and Rozelle. They are intended mainly for school use but are also of general interest.

Only 25 sets of ten have been printed and nine have been ordered already. The sheets are printed on tough flexible card and will be on sale at the Watch House on Sunday afternoons or phone Peter Reynolds 827 3560.

BALMAIN EAST POST OFFICE

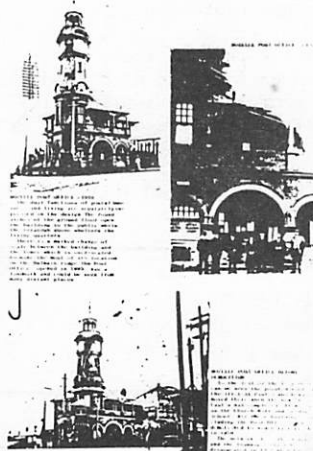
- 1890 A post office agency was located near the corner of Darling and Johnston Streets after a petition from the residents in the area. Money order and telegraph services were also established. Miss Emma Gargan was the first postmistress.
- 1893 The post office moved to its present location, which was at the time a grocery store, at the corner of Darling and Union Streets. L. J. Gargan was the postmaster.

BALMAIN WEST, GARRY OWEN OR ROZELLE POST OFFICE

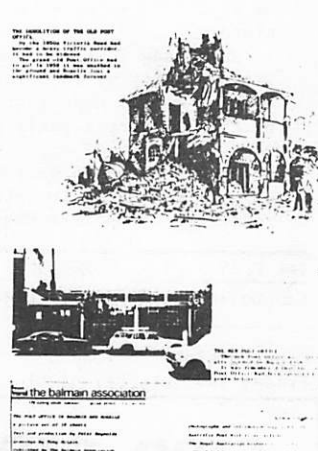


- 1877 Balmain West residents petitioned for a post office because the Queen's Place Post Office could no longer provide an efficient service. Joseph Gilling, grocer, became the Balmain West postmaster for 410 per year. His shop was at the corner of Victoria Road and Richmond Street.
- 1889 J. H. McNeill became the postmaster in Darling Street near the corner of Victoria Road.
- 1892 A new vigorous minded post office was opened by the Government but there was fierce argument about the name Balmain West, Garry Owen or Rozelle.
- 1895 The new Post Office was opened and named Rozelle.

ROZELLE POST OFFICE



ROZELLE POST OFFICE GOES...



THE TELEPHONE COMES TO BALMAIN

- 1876 Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
- 1878 First trunk call made from Sydney to Murrison.
- 1880 Royal Exchange opened Sydney's first telephone exchange.
- 1880 Sydney's first telephone service Murrison's shop, Balmain, to the City office.
- 1882 NSW Government acquired Royal Exchange telephone exchange.
- 1884 First suburban exchange at Murrison's shop.
- 1886 Murrison's exchange opened.
- 1888 Exchange opened at Balmain and Newmarr.
- 1889 Balmain telephone subscribers were: 1. Murrison's shop, 2. Chappie, 3. Gargan, 4. Tinker, 5. Gargan, 6. Gargan, 7. Gargan, 8. Gargan, 9. Gargan, 10. Gargan.
- 1893 Telephone at Balmain Post Office "for the use of the public on payment of a small fee".
- 1896 Public telephone at Rozelle Post Office - one of only 15 in the Balmain area.
- 1899 Telephone line extended from Balmain Post Office to Balmain East Post Office.
- 1900 Public telephone No 17 installed at Balmain East Post Office.
- 1918 Automatic exchanges at Newmarr, Balmain and Rozelle.

THE POST OFFICE IN BALMAIN AND ROZELLE

Gladys Chanter, Margaret Dobson, Frances Heathfield, Rod Linklater, Andrea Nield, Richard Norman, Ethel May, Peter Reynolds and Trish Ryan met at the Watch House on 2 March 1981 at 7.30pm and processed the following business:

- 1 Letter from the Greenwich Association enlisting our support for their opposition to a second harbour crossing between Greenwich and Balmain. Resolved to write to Premier Wran to support Greenwich and to state our own views.
- 2 Letter from the National Trust offering the hire of a stall at the Heritage Week Wind-up on Sunday 29 March. Resolved to decline because of clash with our own display at the Watch House. (Later agreed to share with Annandale Assoc - if member can be found to attend.)
- 3 Letter from Mrs Betty Sparnon, South Australia, applying to join the Association. Accepted and replied to.
- 4 Letter from Police Department as reported elsewhere in this News Sheet. Acknowledged with thanks.
- 5 Letter from Forest Home Films asking to use the Watch House for film sequence and offering \$500 donation. Letter sent agreeing and accepting donation. (Telephone call to Peter Reynolds from Forest Home Films later withdrew offer of donation because Watch House too small for filming inside.)
- 6 Telephone call to Peter Reynolds from Leichhardt Council offering space for a display at the Administrative Offices during Heritage Week. Resolved to set up display.
- 7 Representatives needed to attend Council's Trees and Open Space Committee - one night per month. Resolved to canvas for a member to attend. (Volunteers welcome.)
- 8 New publications now to be printed. (Sale price as shown elsewhere.)

A LETTER FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mrs Betty Sparnon of Auburn, South Australia writes:

I was re-reading Balmain: a history of the land grant and once again became very interested in my home town. As I am always eager to read any publications on Balmain and also keep in touch with the area, I was wondering if you could allow me to join the Association or at least keep in touch with new books and such.

My parents and brothers and sisters still live in Mullens Street and no doubt will never leave as they have been there for around 23 years. So you can see I have a very real interest.

At present I am totally engrossed in my Family Tree and my husband's so am receiving a new education in history.

I cannot say I miss Balmain as the changes I see each visit destroy my love for the area a little each time. But I can only hope that with your Association you will be able to keep a small part of my memories alive for my next visit.

Looking forward to your reply, etc.

We were delighted to receive this letter and just as delighted to accept Mrs Sparnon's membership.

THE PLAY FACTORY **A NEW RESIDENT THEATRE COMPANY**
Campbell Street Presbyterian Hall, Balmain

CROSSFIRE by Jennifer Compton

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

stop press THE H H CUSH SITE

This derelict site at the corner of Mullens and Parsons Streets is owned by the Sydney County Council.

A notice board on the site announces that it is available on lease for industrial purposes.

Gaining open space by lease, as one means of acquisition was discussed at the Leichhardt Council Trees and Open Space Committee Meeting on 19 February.

If leasing is possible then this would be a wonderful opportunity to turn a fire-blackened ruin into a fine green park in the heart of a very dusty crowded Rozelle. But it will never happen unless the residents fight for it - take up a petition now!



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

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

HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS IN BRIEF

Tuesday 24 March at 9.00 p.m. at Annandale Council Chambers 79 Johnston Street, Annandale - talk by Robert Irving: 'Why conserve?' - preceded by Annandale Association display and meeting commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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"

Sunday, 29 March at 1.00 p.m. at the National Trust Centre Observatory Hill, Sydney - Heritage Week Wind-up: combined Balmain Association and Annandale Association stall.

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".