



NEWS SHEET

109

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965



HERITAGE WEEKEND

On Saturday/Sunday, 28/29 March the Watch House was open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. each day. The event was well publicised by posters and leaflets but we did not anticipate such an exciting response - almost 200 visitors! Members who helped at the Watch House were kept busy all the time.

The Police Historical Society provided an interesting display of old weapons, shackles used on convicts, badges, charge books and a "cat o' nine tails".

These alone would draw a crowd but we also had a 20 minute slide/tape set, "The Balmain Waterfront" as well as our display of photographs. The Association's publications were displayed for sale.

The slide set was well received and many people sat through a second showing (for pleasure) and remained out in the courtyard drinking tea and enjoying the day. Others, impressed by all that was happening, offered to rummage through their own old photographs or to display their personal collections in the Watch House.

Two long-time Balmain residents with many memories were interviewed on tape and filled in some missing links in our history.

Heritage Weekend has been the culmination of the efforts that have gone into making the Watch House, once again, a central meeting place for the Balmain Association. It was also the inspiration for an expansion of our activities this year.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 4 MAY 1981
7.30 PM-WATCH HOUSE



HERITAGE WEEK EVENTS IN RETROSPECT

THE BALMAIN WATERFRONT TALK: Peter Reynolds' slide talk in the Meeting Room at Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday 25 March was well attended - people coming from as far afield as Engadine to see some 100 slides about Balmain's waterfront history. We are again indebted to Robert Irving for collecting these slides over many years - thanks Bob!

ASSOCIATION DISPLAY AT LEICHHARDT COUNCIL: Our publications, historic maps and other material was on show in the Council's offices during Heritage Week. We thank Leichhardt Council for inviting us to make this contribution to Heritage Week.

ASSOCIATION STALL AT HERITAGE WEEK WIND-UP: We joined the Annandale Association in a stall on Observatory Hill on Sunday afternoon, 29 March, where our publications and information leaflet were available to interested parties on the occasion of the winding-up of the Heritage Week festivities. Let us move a vote of thanks to Betty Mason, President, Annandale Association for inviting us to share the stall and so present ourselves to the public.

Management Committee

Gladys Chanter, Frances Heathfield, Rod Linklater, Andrea Nield, Richard Norman and Peter Reynolds met at the Watch House on 6 April at 7.30 p.m. and processed the following business:

1. Apology from Margaret Dobson who was unable to come.
2. Letters sent to Premier Wran and Hon T. Uren re.: our opposition to any scheme to link Birchgrove and Greenwich by bridge or tunnel.
3. Letter sent to Greenwich Association in support of their opposition to a second harbour crossing between Greenwich and Birchgrove.
4. Resolved to thank A. Nield for setting up historic display at Watch House for Heritage Weekend.
5. Resolved to send letter of thanks to members of Police Historical Society for setting up display at Watch House for Heritage Weekend (Sunday).
6. Resolved to canvass owners of houses suitable for a House Inspection day scheduled for September/October-combined with 1981 Garden Walk day.

WELCOME

We welcome the following new members: David Cumming Photography, Pamela Roberts, Betty Sparnon, Ray and Helen James, Constance Ganong, Mrs. M. Sorrell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Chambers and Lorraine Hepburn.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP



The Balmain Theatre Group's next production will be "THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE" by Frank Marcus, directed by Dean O'Sullivan.

"Sister George" is the backbone of a long running BBC radio serial, and her ministrations to the ailing residents of Appleshurst have made her a household name to thousands of listeners. In real life she is a somewhat eccentric, domineering lesbian who delights in humiliating her younger partner, Alice, known as "Childie". A crisis occurs in her life when the BBC plans to make some dramatic changes to the programme. The consequences effect both her career and her personal life. There is plenty of biting humour and high drama.

Venue is the Rozelle Primary School hall in Darling Street, Rozelle (near the junction of Victoria Road). Performances will be on Friday 24 April, Saturday 25 April, and then Fridays and Saturdays 1, 2, 8 and 9 May at 8.00 p.m. Tickets \$4 adults, \$2.50 concessions. Bookings at Brays Books, 268 Darling Street, Balmain. Telephone 82.5613.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE



Jessica Murray

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

GERANIUMS

The plant we commonly call geranium is not the true geranium which is a small plant seldom seen here. However by usage we continue to call "geranium", plants originating in South Africa that correctly belong to pelargonium species.

TYPES: There are many varieties - the commonest being the Zonal or Hortorum, the Regal Pelargonium (with flowers resembling azaleas but more dramatic) and the "Ivy" geranium (Peltatum).

Other kinds include the scented leaf types which have usually insignificant flowers but the leaves have different scents such as lemon, peppermint, nutmeg, coconut, apple, lime etc. One variety of geranium with rose-scented leaves is grown largely in France and North Africa to provide an essential oil to blend with the much more expensive attar of roses in the perfume industry.

All the scented leaf types can be used in cooking, potpourri and sachets. Years ago the lemon scented variety was used extensively for lining cake tins.

The modern geranium is compact and free-flowering from Spring to autumn - try to get named varieties.

SITUATION: Prefer full sun and light sandy soil with very good drainage because they do not tolerate wet feet. In fact they can collapse quite suddenly due to excessive moisture.

FERTILISING: They are light feeders which is why they often thrive at base of trees and shrubs. Give small quantities of mixed general fertiliser every 2 to 3 months commencing after pruning in Autumn. Always water well after giving fertiliser. When flower buds form liquid fertiliser such as Aquasol or Thrive or Fish Emulsion can be used. Over-feeding gives excessive bush foliage susceptible to disease.

PRUNING: Essential to prune all geraniums or they become lanky with only scanty flowers at the tops. In March or April cut back to 2 or 3 nodes from base of each stem and thin out very old stems. Geraniums are only at their best for about 2 years so always have some cuttings coming on for replacements.

PROPAGATION: Is usually by taking cuttings from the tips of the plants (about 4 to 5 inches). Remove the bottom leaves and any flower buds and cut cleanly just below a node. They are best put in a pot first (3 to 5 inch pot). Make holes with a pencil for each cutting. Dip in Rooting Powder if you have it and put in pot making the soil firm around each cutting. Water well and keep in sheltered position. When they start to sprout pinch out growing tips to make plants bushy. Gradually harden the plants to sunlight. Should have roots in about 6 weeks and the ready for the garden.

DISEASES: Main fungus disease is Rust seen as orange-brown spots commencing underneath the leaves. Pick off affected leaves and destroy. Spray with Zineb or Captan directing all spray particularly under the leaves. Sometimes the plants become infested with small green caterpillars which are the offspring of a night-flying moth. Treat all insects with an insecticide.

POT PLANTS, WINDOW BOXES AND BASKETS: Geraniums are ideal for all of these. Turn pot plants every few days to get equal sun on all sides. For baskets, the "Ivy" geranium is the best though it is even better grown on netting or a sunny fence or just as a garden plant for ground cover. Any plants in pots or baskets require close supervision for watering.

POTTING MIXTURES, (especially for geraniums): Spread newspaper on ground or table and mix together 5 litres good garden soil, 2½ litres coarse sand (NOT beach sand) ½ cup blood and bone, 1/3 cup dolomite, 1/3 cup crushed charcoal and a light sprinkling of superphosphate.

Another mixture (without soil) - mix together ½ bucket coarse sand, ½ bucket well-moistened peat moss, ½ bucket old powdered cow manure, 5 table-spoons mixed fertiliser, 4 tablespoons dolomite and one handful blood and bone.

* * * * *

The BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB meets every third Saturday in the month at 1.00 p.m. at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street. On 16 May there will be a talk on "MINIATURE ROSES". Visitors are always welcome.



WATCH THESE DATES



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	3 August
	Monday	7 September
	Tuesday	6 October
	Monday	2 November
	Monday	7 December

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

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".