

NEWS SHEET

114

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

THE MARINA AT THE BOTTOM OF THE AVENUE

Residents of The Avenue, Duke Place and Darling Street held a meeting on 20 September to protest against the private marina proposed by Datamet Holdings.

Alan Cameron, 2 The Avenue, chaired the meeting and Nick O'Neill spoke on the urgency of residents making their objections known. Residents were able to see displayed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted to the Maritime Services Board by Datamet. A petition was circulated and the meeting was unanimous in rejecting the marina on grounds of degradation of the environment, noise pollution and parking overload in the adjoining streets - The Avenue in particular.

On 23 September the Association submitted a schedule of 44 objections to the EIS to the Maritime Services Board (MSB).

The terminology of the EIS plays fancifully with the words "local residents". It states that the private marina is for "local residents" and it argues that the marina is a good thing because of that.

These same "local residents" do not even live in Balmain. They will only live in Balmain when they buy off the plan "architect designed beautiful 4 bedroom town house, exciting large entertaining areas and garden to magnificent harbour views, double Bentley garage and possible future marina - \$175 000" (SMH 19 Sept).

The EIS states that the marina is "for the local residents adjacent to Mort Bay" implying that the local residents want it.

Well - the meeting indicated in the strongest possible terms that the local "old" residents do not want the marina. The EIS is biased, misleading and inaccurate.

Residents affected by the marina should object in writing to The Secretary, Maritime Services Board of NSW, Box 32, GPO, Sydney, 2001. Letters should also be sent to the Hon J Ferguson, Minister for Public Works and Ports, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000 and to Hon E Bedford, Minister for Planning and Environment at the same address. Do it now!

The Association's covering letter to the MSB enclosing our objections is as follows:

22 September, 1981.

The Secretary,
Maritime Services Board of New South Wales,
G P O Box 32, SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2001

ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF
PRIVATE MARINA FACILITY AT MORT BAY, BALMAIN

Dear Sir,

Further to my letter of recent date I write to you on the subject of the above Assessment and attach my Association's schedule of objections.

A summary of these objections shows that the Environmental Impact Statement submitted by H L Burn and Associates is:

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

- 1) Misleading in its forecast that it will be used by "local residents" because it fails to define who these "local residents" are.
- 2) Biased towards its own end which is nothing more than a means of attracting high prices for a new town house complex on the "Sydney Slipway" site.
- 3) Ignorant of local parking and land-traffic problems which are already serious.
- 4) Unclear as to the disposal of effluent.
- 5) In conflict by claiming to improve water quality while admitting that the marina will be a source of pollution.
- 6) Unable to determine likely noise pollution with any credibility.
- 7) Unable to demonstrate that the foreshore will not be degraded by the construction of the marina.
- 8) Unclear as to safety precautions necessary in case of fire or explosion.

The environmental Impact Statement was exhibited at a public meeting held near the site of the marina on 19 October 1981. Residents of The Avenue, Duke Place and Darling Street (the closest streets to the proposed marina) were unanimous in their rejection of the proposal. They also condemned the use of the words "local residents" which they saw as referring to people not yet even living in the locality.

Their opposition to the marina proposal was condensed into a petition which emanated from the meeting and which, I understand, is to be forwarded to you separately from this letter.

My Association was represented at the meeting and fully supports the residents' petition. Furthermore, the Association sees the construction of the marina as being counter-productive to community relations. The berths to be created cater for an elitist group which we see as a disruptive element in the community.

Because the amenity of the residents is threatened and because of our duty of care for the Mort Bay environment, the Association strenuously opposes this attempt to provide an elitist group with a recreational facility at the expense of the community at large.

The Association objects to the proposal to build the marina in question.

I now submit our objections for your attention and await your reply.

Peter Reynolds
PRESIDENT.

RETRACTION

In News Sheet 113 we stated that the Council would "probably" oppose the construction of the private marina at the foot of The Avenue.

Nick O'Neill was kind enough to point out that Council has, does and will oppose the marina. Sorry Leichhardt Council.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

TREASURER'S REPORT

ACCUMULATED ACCOUNT AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1981

This year has been a relatively quiet one financially for the Association. Income from membership has almost doubled this year but sales of our various publications have fallen off. Half a Thousand Acres continues to sell slowly and we have not yet recovered the printing costs. We need to print a book similar to Balmain in Time or even reprint Balmain in Time which was a big fund raiser for us.

We have had very few fund raising activities this past year. The Garden Walk, not as well attended as in the past, did raise us \$250. Many thanks to all those who organised and helped run it. We do have another Garden Walk/House inspection scheduled for the end of this year. We need lots of volunteers to help make this a successful occasion. We are also considering holding another Village Fair. This can be a great social and fund raising activity with a lot of fun to be had by those helping. We need plenty of volunteers to help run our stalls and police the fair.

There is a lot of maintenance to be done on the Watch House, painting of the guttering, repair to the bannisters etc., for which we need volunteers to give us some of their time to help.

I hope that this year there will be a few more social functions for members and perhaps a resurgence of interest in the Association by members. We need your help either on Committee or assisting committee. We also need your help to organise or help at social and fund raising activities. Many thanks must go to Frances Heathfield for organising and opening the Watch House and selling the Association and its publications. Many thanks to all those others who have helped during the year.

Richard Norman

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1981

* 1 Box of 500 Cards was not included
in the figures for 1979-1980

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Membership	\$1,124.00	Petty Cash	
Membership Postage	62.00	Postage	\$ 17
Bank Interest	428.00	Stationery	10
<u>Fund Raising</u>		Miscellaneous	21
Garden Walk 1980	\$304.00	Hire Post Office Box	16
Book Raffle	26.00	Newsletter	
<u>Donations</u>		Printing	359
Royal Australian Historical Society	120.00	Postage	51
Golden Eagles	57.00	Stationery	14
Hannaford Senior Citizens	10.00	<u>Fund Raising</u>	
Miscellaneous	37.00	Garden Walk 1980	
<u>Reports & Publications</u>		Waverley Band Elkington Park	
Half a Thousand Acres	382.00	Reports & Publications	
Cards 74	10.00	Watch House Information Sheets	57
Cards 76	17.00	Gilchrist Maps	30
Buttons	4.00	Post Office Sheets	121
Gilchrist Maps	60.00	Watch House Leaflets	108
Watch House Leaflets	24.00	<u>Watch House</u>	
Post Office Sheets	90.00	Electricity	51
Miscellaneous	12.00	Water Rates	62
Commission Book Sales	64.00	Garden	27
		Buttons	374
		Insurance	35
		Rentokil	68
		Miscellaneous	67
		<u>Subscriptions</u>	
		Royal Australian Historical Society	18
		National Trust	18
		Miscellaneous	
		Heritage Week	278
		Night Safe Hire	25
		Miscellaneous	9
			312.00
			2,040.00
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	791.00
			2,831.00
			2,831.00

Uncovering Our Past

MICHAELANGELO IN BALMAIN



Cahermore, No 50 Darling Street, once had ceilings painted with native flora and fauna. George Turner, lying on his back like Michaelangelo, covered the ceilings with colorful bird scenes so lifelike that his son wanted to pick up the feathers from the floor each morning.

When the house passed out of the hands of the Turner family in the early 1970s, Cahermore had become almost derelict. Gaping holes in the roof allowed rain to pour in and obliterate the artist's splendid work.

The house appeared worthless but there was something about it which hinted at a story.

There is a story and it begins in 1840 with George William Paul, who owned the block bounded by Darling Street, Johnston Street, Paul Street and the water.

Paul, a land agent, sold the corner of Johnston and Darling Streets to George Frederick Isaacs in July 1840.

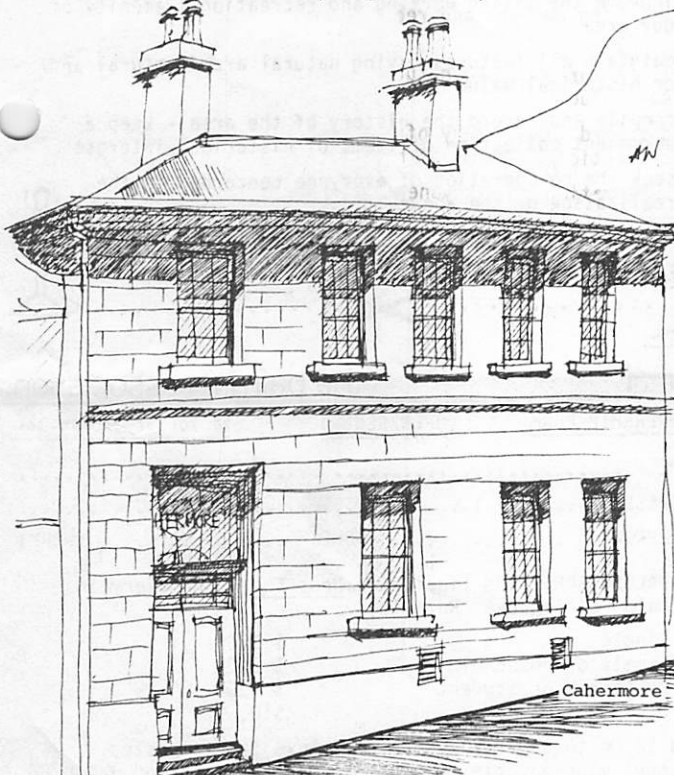
Isaacs sold the Darling Street part of the corner which now includes the hairdresser's shop and Cahermore to Jacob Rech in September 1841 for £97.

June 1842 Rech, a baker, set about building a bakery on the site. The bakery, the first in Balmain, was built on the front of the steeply-sloping block and had no easy access for horse-drawn carts. A narrow block in Johnston Street which led into the back of the bakery became the entrance for carts.

In 1844 the bakery was a substantial stone building which Rech leased to John Watkinson. Watkinson's tenancy ended in 1845 when he bought the site of the present Balmain Bakery Restaurant. He began baking at the end of 1845 and continued until he died on 24 June 1852. His widow, Margaret kept the business going by marrying her dead husband's brother, James, who was also a baker, in 1855. (Margaret Watkinson was the builder of the houses 1 to 7 Trouton Street in c1875 - see News Sheet 93).

To return to Cahermore - the main reason for Watkinson's leaving Rech's bakery appears to have been Rech's bankruptcy.

On 6 December 1845 Rech sold the property to Charles James Bullivant, a publican, for £450.



It is thought that Cahermore had already been built by this time and by Rech.

The new owner, Bullivant, opened the building as the Waterford Arms in 1846.

Bullivant, the son of an English solicitor, came to Sydney on 30 January 1816 on the *Ocean* as an Ensign of the 46th Regiment. Also on board were the 218 male convicts under Bullivant's charge. He was then only 17 years old.

Youthful high spirits brought him the Governor's displeasure when soon after his arrival he drew on the wall of the guardroom a biting caricature of Macquarie. Young Bullivant's audacity was made all the more notorious by the ribald remarks added by other officers.

The irate Governor Macquarie threatened to court-martial Bullivant unless he immediately and publicly apologised. Bullivant partially redeemed himself in July 1816 by making this apology but his explanation of being coerced by his superior officer into making the drawing spelt the end of his military career.

Bullivant resigned his commission in July 1817 and forfeited the regulation sum of £400, good money in those days!

Now without a position, Bullivant first thought to return to England but preferred to eke out a living in Sydney. His fortunes changed on 10 July 1823 when he married Maria Ikin at St Phillip's, Church Hill.

The following 18 years brought prosperity to the marriage and eight children.

In 1830 Bullivant became the licensee of the Three Crowns on the corner of Cumberland Street and Charlotte Place (now Grosvenor Street), Sydney. Over the following 45 years, Bullivant operated many inns including the Forth and Clyde, the Golden Gate, Bullivant's Tavern (all in Sydney Town) and the first Rag and Famish (Berry and Miller Streets, North Sydney), the second Rag and Famish (Mount and Walker Streets, North Sydney) and also in North Sydney, the Old Commodore (on Billy Blue's land.).

Blessed with great business acumen and "the golden touch", Bullivant's life was a colourful and interesting one. Perhaps the most colourful event of all followed his death on 25 January 1879 at 80 years of age.

He had outlived Maria and seven of the children and his surviving child laid him to rest in the backyard of the family home at the corner of Merlin and Evans Streets, St Leonards. The *Evening News* of 3 February 1879 took up the story under the heading "Disgusting burial at St Leonards" and related the circumstances as being undesirable and hoped that "for the sake of the community, such another disgusting occurrence will never take place".

The lack of consecrated ground did not worry Bullivant. He was safely ensconced in his tomb - built to his own design and inscribed "The first day of darkness, the last of danger and distress".

To come back to Cahermore again - Bullivant sold the Marquis of Waterford, as the pub was sometimes known, to a land speculator, Joshua Frey Josephson, in May 1854 for £1800. Josephson sold to John Booth, Balmain's first Mayor, in 1869 and Cahermore passed through various hands until 1920 when it was bought by Agnes Turner.

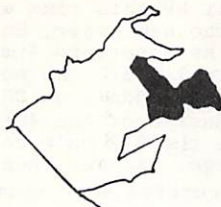
Agnes' husband George redecorated the interiors in Australian motifs. When not emulating Michaelangelo, George Turner was a glass painter for the celebrated Lyon and Cottier who made the coloured glass for the Sydney Town Hall. He also designed the "Christ and His Apostles" window in St. Augustine's, Balmain.

Very likely, George named the house "Cahermore" (the fort on the hill in Gaelic) and worked the name into the leaded fanlight over the entry.

The Turner family sold the house to Bruce Stannard in 1975 and he saved it from destruction. During the renovations, reminders of Bullivant came to light. On the base of a heavy glass was inscribed, in a hand not unlike the publican's, the words "stolen from Bullivant". It must have been a real "Waterford" glass.

Peter Reynolds

BALMAIN WALKS-1



OLD BALMAIN

On sale now - the new Balmain walk map. Price to members 60 cents at the Watch House on Sundays between 2 00 and 4 00 pm.

The map has three walks over the area called Old Balmain which is equivalent to Balmain East and Mort's Dock.

Proceeds from map sales raise funds for the Association and provide an interesting and pleasant walk around your historic suburb.

VILLAGE FAIR AT THE WATCH HOUSE

The Village Fair will be held on the night of Friday 11 and all day Saturday 12 December 1981.

Emphasis is being placed on bringing people to the Watch House to appreciate the extent and variety of cottage industries in the Balmain area. Friends of Balmain's Watch House live as far away as Newcastle.

Goods to be presented for sale will include hand-made wooden toys, pottery, cakes, lamp-shades, woven material, embroidery, plants and "terrariums". There will also be a papermaking demonstration.

If you have something to display sell or donate, this is the Fair for you.

Remember the dates 11-12 December, just in time for CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

You may contact us through the Watch House on Sunday afternoons or by ringing Frances Heathfield on 818 2307.

COMBINED MEETING

6 OCTOBER

Gladys Chanter, Christine Lee, Philip Lee, Rod Linklater, Andrea Nield, Richard Norman, Peter Reynolds and Pat Young met at the Watch House at 7 30 pm on 6 October. Apologies were received from Francis Heathfield, Ethel May and Trish Ryan.

- 1 Letter received from Leichhardt Council inviting us to attend meeting to elect Mayor.
- 2 From Council inviting us to attend a Housing Seminar.
- 3 From RAHS enclosing Journal and questionnaire.
- 4 From Mitchell Library re our donation of items published this year.
- 5 From Australia Post on the same subject.
- 6 From John W M Williams re subscription.
- 7 From Pat Woolford re waste collection.
- 8 Letter sent to Maritime Services Board re marina.
- 9 To Minister for Public Works and Ports re marina.
- 10 To Minister for Planning and Environment re marina.
- 11 To Leichhardt Council re marina.
- 12 General discussion on December "Village Fair" - deferred until next meeting.

PUNCH PARK PEOPLE

Punch Park People will stage a one day seminar on Solar Energy in the main hall of the Balmain Town Hall on Saturday, 21st November from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This seminar is designed for lay persons and its theme will be "Everything you would like to know about Solar Energy. Leading authorities will discuss and answer questions on the following topics:

- Your Right to Sunlight
- Passive Solar Housing
- The Efficiency of Domestic Hot Water Solar Systems
- How to Build your own inexpensive Solar Collector
- Making Existing Housing more Solar efficient
- Photovoltaics - electricity from sunlight
- The Latest in Solar Energy Research.

Admission will be free.

For further information ring : 827-3438, 569-1377, 827-2757, or 82-4874.

WATCH THESE DATES



114



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 November
Monday 7 December

Remember, first Monday in each month at the Watch House at 7 30 pm - ALL WELCOME.

The BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB meets every third Saturday in the month at the Watch House 179 Darling Street at 1 00 pm.

BALMAIN THEATRE GROUP

BALMAIN-ROZELLE MEMORIAL HALL, 442 Darling St., Balmain

Fridays and Saturdays at 8.00pm; Sundays at 5.00pm

18 September to 25 October, 1981

GLEBE HOUSE INSPECTION

The Glebe Society announces that a House Inspection Day will be held on Sunday 1 November 1981 between 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Twelve buildings will be on show.

Tickets are \$3 each adult and \$7 for a family.

Contact the Glebe Society through PO Box 100, 2037 (SAE please) or phone 692 0071.

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", 9 Oct '81