

NEWS SHEET

116

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1982

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL  7 30 PM WATCH HOUSE

BAN THE SECOND CROSSING

The coming of the private motorist has sparked new weird and dangerous schemes for crossing the Harbour.

There have been dangerous schemes before - dangerous to the environment that is. In 1893 J Horbury Hunt urged the building of a bridge to connect Ball's Head, Goat Island, Balmain, Pyrmont and the City. By this means a grand avenue would sweep from North Sydney, through the centre of town, to the Eastern Suburbs.

1893 was a great depression year and nothing more was heard of the scheme until the 1920s when architect/engineer, Francis Ernest Stowe, advocated a Y-shaped bridge, with Goat Island as the central interchange, linking Ball's Head, Balmain East and Miller's Point.

Amid the patriotic fervour of the time Goat Island was to be immortalised as "Anzac Isle".

The opening of the Harbour Bridge in March 1932 put paid to the scheme and the great coathanger has served Sydney well ever since.

With the industrial expansion of the 1950s came new schemes for the waterfront and in 1952 the Maritime Services Board (MSB) proposed a new crossing from about the foot of Booth Street to Pyrmont. A full colour replica of the scheme is still to be seen in the foyer of the MSB headquarters.

The single-passenger-private-car syndrome reached epidemic proportions by the end of the 1970s and politicians diagnosed that a new crossing was the only solution to the disease. Before the recent elections Mr Wran promised to be the popular doctor and the Department of Main Roads (DMR) have been struggling with feasibility studies ever since.

Security has the DMR tight-lipped and callers to their PR staff (20933) are rewarded with "You will have to ring the Premier's Dept (20576) about that". Callers are in turn referred to the Minister for Roads (2668266) whose office cannot say anything apart from "The Premier is fulfilling an election promise and we don't know any more and we can't say when the proposals will be on public show".

The DMR has two schemes - a bridge and a tunnel. The bridge proposal - an exercise in breath-stopping arrogance - cuts a giant swathe at high level from Mann's Point at Greenwich, straight across Long Nose Point, across the whole of Caltex on Ballast Point, swings in to decapitate Balmain East at Colgate's and then curves up through White Bay. Needless to say this effort will destroy all in its path and like the Bomb will generate many side effects.

The DMR tunnel, in an exercise in money spending, is guessed to be a deep excavation from the St Leonard's area to White Bay. Any such excavation cannot avoid endangering the gas body that is contained in what was the Balmain Colliery. Looks like a case of money to burn!

The Pioneer Group's tunnel also seems to be a similar undertaking but a private enterprise one. Again White Bay and Rozelle will be disastrously affected. Tunnels have to disgorge somewhere. Tunnels also need massive vent shafts for exhaust fumes. What about the impact of these on the skyline?

So far (23 November) we are only guessing about these three schemes. The fourth scheme managed to break cover when Transfield put it on show in North Sydney's Commonwealth Bank. After 2 or 3 days it was whisked away out of sight because it had pre-empted any political announcement. Newspaper coverage was limited to a piece in the Financial Review (6 November) which showed a six-lane monster suspended from concrete pylons. The bridge's road deck rides above the water at the same height as the Harbour Bridge.

For \$250 million (without property resumption costs) Transfield is offering to connect Ball's Head, Goat Island and then Balmain East. After touching down at the intersection of Darling, Nicholson and Johnston Streets, the bridge will sweep out over Ewington and after travelling above the White Bay Container Facility will disappear into the sunset somewhere in Rozelle Bay.

Balmain (and that means Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle) cannot escape unscathed in any one of these four schemes. Whichever scheme the Premier chooses, the links in the chain of destruction of our way of life will be forged from:

- 1 Planning blight
- 2 Dispersal of the community
- 3 Nose-diving property values
- 4 Demolition of culturally significant buildings
- 5 Destruction of parks and open space
- 6 New mammoth constructions
- 7 New commercial and office building.

If you need to see a complete chain of destruction take a walk along the edge of the Warringah Expressway along what is left of Arthur Street, North Sydney.

That is what Balmain can expect. Well, it is up to us to preserve what we have.

The Financial Review says that "observers expect a long and bitter debate" over where the second crossing is to be built. Long and bitter it will be, but it will take more than mere words to overcome this inhuman contempt for our way of life.

In a Mayoral Minute, the Mayor of Leichhardt, Evan Jones, has stated his Council's opposition to any second crossing. The Balmain Association fully supports Leichhardt Council's aggressive stance against the destruction of people's homes and places of work.

SEE STOP PRESS page 4



Visit the Watch House

The Watch House, 179 Darling Street, is open to the public each Sunday afternoon between 2 00 pm and 4 00 pm. Admission is free.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

MEETING OPPOSES SECOND CROSSING

500 residents jammed into Balmain Town Hall on Wednesday 2 December to demonstrate their rage at schemes to slash our area with a new Harbour crossing. Members of the Greenwich and District Progress Association came to make themselves heard and the press, radio and TV cameras were there to bring our opposition to the people of the State.

Leichhardt Council called the meeting and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Nick O'Neill, acted as Chairman. Alderman O'Neill gave a resume of the proposals for a second Harbour crossing and condemned the outrageous waste of public money. He outlined the expected destruction of the area and the disastrous effects on the health and welfare of residents, not only in our area but in those suburbs adjoining.

Alderman O'Neill read a letter of apology from Roger Degen MP who could not come because the Parliament was in session. Included in the letter was Mr Degen's question to the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Roads, Mr Paul Whelan, of 1 December asking that the Government "give the widest public exhibition to these plans for a second Harbour crossing to afford the residents of Balmain and other suburbs the opportunity to reject completely the proposals which, if implemented, would have a catastrophic effect on the suburbs of Balmain and Rozelle?"

Mr Whelan answered that the proposals would soon be on public show and that the Hon Members for Wakehurst and Manly in particular would be "vitally interested".

Mr Whelan, after stressing that residents "will have the opportunity to put forward their views", continued that there was some doubt as to the building of a crossing by saying that "the need must be shown". If the need could be demonstrated, however, then funding for the project would be beyond "present government resources".

Alderman O'Neill concluded by affirming the Council's total opposition to any crossing scheme, whether bridge or tunnel, and complete support of resident action to defeat this attack on our environment.

Mr Bill Tuck of the Balmain Bridge Action Group (BAG) spoke next on the break up of our way of life which would result from the schemes. As a Balmain resident he expressed the anxiety that all residents must be going through. As a member of BAG he urged everyone to sign the petition being circulated and to write to the Premier and to come forward and join BAG and offer their skills in the counter-attack against the bureaucracy. He appealed for funds to support the cause and the "hat" spontaneously passed around yielded over \$400.

Bill Tuck was supported on the platform by the chairman of BAG, Piers Toop, and BAG committee members.

Peter Reynolds spoke next and declared the Balmain Associations's unswerving support for the Council and for BAG and for the outcome of the meeting.

He said that even if we have to march on Parliament House to make ourselves heard, then we will (applause, shouts of support). The substance of his talk is as outlined elsewhere in this News Sheet (see Ban the Second Crossing) but his main points urged the people of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle to:

beware the magnitude of the constructions ("a six-lane highway is really a twelve-lane highway in actual width because of the associated structure, great widths needed for high-speed large-truck movements and vast approach road works")

beware of the deceptive scale of models and drawings ("a six-lane bridge is probably seen to be very graceful and elegant from a space-ship")

beware of bridge proposals that soar 50 feet in mid-air above the junction of Darling, Nicholson and Johnston Streets ("here, where the first three streets ever to be planned in Balmain meet, the bridge will be a dreadful source of winter shadow, wind turbulence and ghastly noise pollution, to say nothing of deathly traffic fumes")

beware of tunnels that disgorge traffic into already congested areas ("the motor-car tunnel, and that means for big trucks too, needs extensive ventilation so vent shafts will rear up amongst us. Access shafts also need to be sunk to remove the excavated rock which will be carted away by heavy trucks through your streets")

beware of thinking of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle as separate communities or that Greenwich, Waverton and Wollstonecraft are far enough away to fight their own fight ("we all will be affected by any crossing in, or near, our area. We are all in this together because we are all affected. We are all linked together by the waters of the Harbour and that in itself could be exploited as an alternative - public transport by water")

Peter Reynolds then moved that:

WE THE RESIDENTS OF BALMAIN, BIRCHGROVE AND ROZELLE, AND OTHER AFFECTED AREAS, CALL ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO REJECT IMMEDIATELY ALL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR A SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING TRAVERSING THE INNER CITY AREA. SUCH PROPOSALS, IF CARRIED OUT, WOULD RESULT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA.

Alderman Peter Crawford spoke in support of the motion and stressed that second Harbour crossing schemes would destroy the homes and workplaces of the people of the area, destroy the environment and destroy the community.

Discussion from the floor was spirited and was led by Nick Origlass who urged the meeting to march on Parliament House as soon as the meeting ended. General discussion ensued and of particular note was the brave effort of one of the Nicholson Street Primary School students who said that her school would be destroyed by the proposed bridge.

The Chairman then put the motion which was passed unanimously and with gusto.

In winding up the meeting Alderman O'Neill urged that residents express their views by personal letters to the Premier, State Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000. Peter Reynolds backed that up by saying that when the Premier answers your letters, you should write again and again to keep the matter alive.

Above all, the mood of the meeting was one of maintaining the rage against this latest attack on the peace and stability of these inner-suburbs.

As an addendum to the meeting, Alderman Geoff Stevens informed that little worthwhile attention has been paid by the State Government to resolutions passed at the July public meeting against the operation of the White Bay and Pyrmont Power Stations (see News Sheet 112). The Government's role in this can be readily seen by the black smoke belching out of the White Bay station in the recent very hot and very humid weather.

The meeting, in an angry mood, closed at about 9 30 pm and many present came forward to join BAG's fight against the proposed wholesale destruction of Balmain.

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB



Jessica Murray

HYDRANGEAS

ORIGIN: They were in Japan for centuries but as that country was closed to foreigners for about 300 years, Hydrangeas were a long time getting to the rest of the world.

In 1776 a Swedish botanist named Thunberg, who had been permitted to stay for a limited time on an island off the Japanese mainland, managed to get smuggled to him one of the Hydrangea species.

Some years later Sir Joseph Banks obtained exactly the same species from China for Kew Gardens.

SITUATION: If you have a moist shady spot and have wondered what to plant, perhaps a Hydrangea is your answer as it is completely trouble-free if the situation suits it. They burn badly if in full sun and dislike dryness. They grow well in large pots or tubs but are susceptible to frost damage in inland areas - no problem in Balmain.

SOIL: They are one of the few plants whose flowers change colour according to whether the soil is alkaline or acid - all except the white varieties which stay white in all conditions. The pink flowered ones reflect an alkaline soil and to acidify the soil and change them to blue use one teaspoon of aluminium in a handful of sand and sprinkle around the plant and water well in - will need several weekly applications from August on.

Alternatively use a packaged Blueing Compound, obtainable at Nock and Kirby's and elsewhere. Use until flowering time in November - may take two seasons to get a full change.

Sometimes the result is to have pink, blue and mauve flowers on the bush, at the same time, which looks very attractive.

Changing blue flowers to pink is more difficult. Use a little lime - works best on potted plants. Easy to overdo the lime and if plants start looking yellowish, then iron chelates are necessary.

Though either the pink or the blue flowers are equally beautiful, people always seem to want what they have not got.

PROPAGATION: Use tip pieces about 6 inches long in October and November and make a clear cut at the base just beneath a node. Use rooting powder if available. Put in a cool shady place and keep damp though not waterlogged. Rooting takes about 6 weeks.

When putting the plants out in their permanent places, put 2 pounds of aluminium sulphate to each barrow-load of soil if blue flowers are wanted.

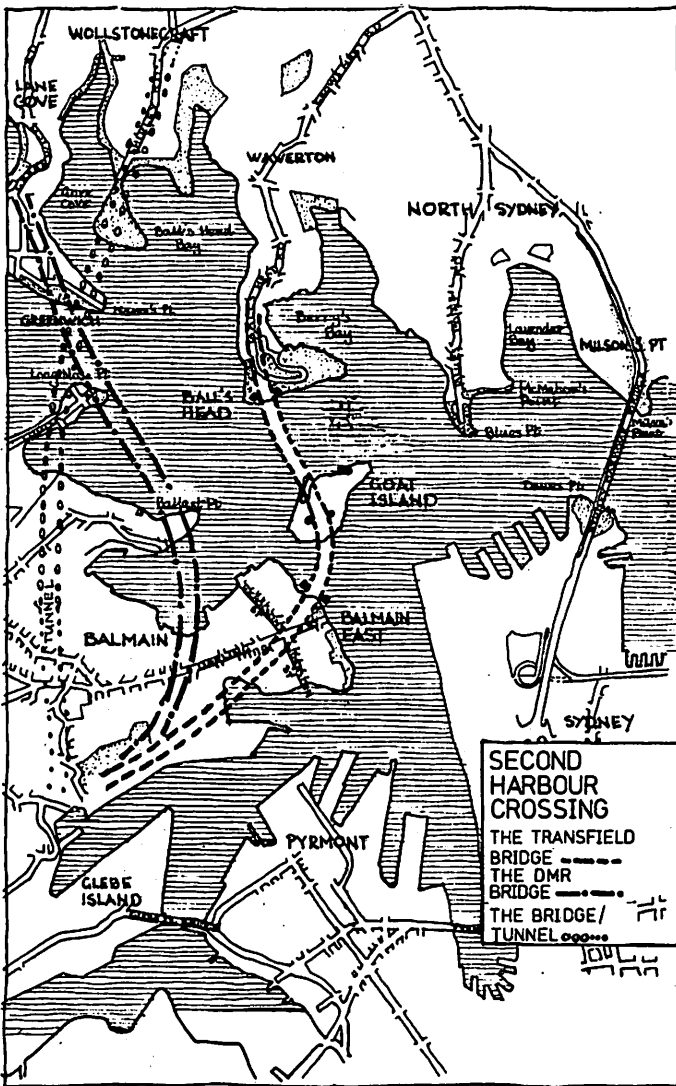
Another method of propagation is to use suckers from the base of an established plant cutting it down to about 6 inches. The best months to do this are May and September.

PRUNING: If not done the plants become leggy and unkempt. Best done after flowering has finished. February is the best month so the plants have a long time to make growth for the next season. Cut back all flowered wood to about 4 nodes from the base and also remove any dead wood or weak growth.

VARIETIES: Many new and better ones have been available in recent years from Japan and Europe, with stronger colours and larger petals which stay on better in winds.

Some good ones are Caroline (large pink petals which blue well), Carmen (crimson or purple), Arthur Billard (dark red or violet), Heinrich Seidel (deep red) and Vesuve (deep pink, mauve or deep blue).

There is a semi-climbing white one with decorative leaves, seen occasionally, and of course other white bush varieties are readily available.



NEW GROUP FORMS TO FIGHT SECOND CROSSING

What do you do about proposals for new bridge and tunnel crossings which will traverse or tunnel under either Balmain, Birchgrove, Rozelle and other inner city suburbs? Simply you should join the local protest group designed to arouse and maintain strong public opinion against any such crossings or subterranean links.

A group has been formed to coordinate all efforts by Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle residents to stop any such developments. Called Balmain Bridge Action Group (BAG) it is not a trendy group designed to stir up so-called radical opinion against State Government moves to establish harbour crossings. The group is made up of ordinary and extraordinary citizens of the inner-city who want to stop the government destroying what is a group of close-knit, enjoyable and historic peninsula suburbs. Many of you probably have families who are committed to inner-city living with all its in-built conveniences, such as good public transport, closeness to the city and beautiful harbourside views. But if these bridges and/or a tunnel are constructed, peaceful inner-city living for all peninsula residents will be gone forever. In the immortal words of that famous Smiths Weekly cartoon, "This is Serious".

We urge all residents of these suburbs to join BAG and to help the committee of that organisation to establish a fighting fund for the production of news releases, handbills and other literature. In an all-out effort to fight these proposals, we seek your donations because we must have money to buy paper. Be assured that if these bridges or the tunnel are constructed, especially the bridges, Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle will be spoilt forever. If you want proof, just look at North Sydney.

Don't be apathetic - join BAG.

For further information contact:-

Piers Toop (Chairman)
49 Waterview Street
Balmain 827.1273 (home)

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

7 DECEMBER 1981

Gladys Chanter, Frances Heathfield, Jane Howarth, Rod Linklater, Lorraine McDermott, Ethel May, Richard Norman, Mick O'Brien, Maggie Paterson, Iain Powell, Trish Ryan, Bill Tuck, Pat Young and Peter Reynolds met at the Watch House at 7.30 pm on 7 December to fix new subscription rates as announced in News Sheet 115.

New rates voted were Single \$4; Family \$6; Pensioner and student \$1 (remains); Organization \$12 and postage to rise to \$3, to take effect as from 1 January 1982.

The meeting closed and the normal Combined Meeting began.

- 1 Letter from Marion Good re Adelaide Steamship Co.
 - 2 From Nola Latta on Lawrence and Byrne family history.
 - 3 From Local and Community Publishing Co re Council Yearbook.
 - 4 From Australia Post re historical events in Tasmania in 1982.
 - 5 National Trust re water rates - duplicated payment.
 - 6 Letter sent to Sydney Morning Herald protesting against second harbour crossing - published 13 November.
 - 7 Noted that Council had accepted our naming Little Llewellyn Street.
 - 8 Welcomed members of Bridge Action Group and voted donation of \$150 to expenses. Resolved to support future action.
 - 9 Resolved to write to Premier after inspection of schemes for second crossing - urgent telegram to be sent immediately.
 - 10 Balmain Village Fair discussion and organization.
- As this was the last meeting for the year the Committee extended the compliments of the Season to all members and friends.

FAMILY HISTORY HUNTING

Mrs N Latta, a member of the Sutherland Historical Society writes:

My husband's maternal grandmother was Emily Lawrence, who was born at Balmain in 1885 and married Trevelyn Lyons Brackenreg at Waverley in 1903. Emily's parents were Harriet (nee Byrne and Joseph Lawrence, a carrier from Balmain. From family information I understand that Joseph owned a stable in Darling Street and had several horse drawn wagons which he hired out to Tooths Brewery, not far from the town hall. Apparently he was involved in an accident and was run over and killed by one of the wagons. He was deceased at the time of his daughter's wedding in 1903.

From records at the Genealogy Society in Kent Street, I note that there was a Joseph Lawrence of Mansfield Street, Balmain in 1889-90, and that in 1892 a Mrs Lawrence of 203 Darling Street is the only listing.

I am endeavouring to ascertain date of death for Joseph and I can only assume he died between 1890 - 1903 - the accident occurring sometime between those dates.

I would be most grateful for any information you have on record in respect to the Lawrence and Byrne families, and advise I am prepared to pay for any costs involved.

Apart from a Deaths search at the Registrar General the only clue that we can offer is the file copy of the Balmain Observer in the Newspaper Room at the State Library.

Anyone able to help should write to Mrs Latta at 48 Coopersnook Avenue, Gympie Bay, 2227.

Meanwhile, good hunting Mrs Latta.



WATCH THESE DATES

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1982 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	1 February	Monday	5 July
Monday	1 March	Monday	2 August
Monday	5 April	Monday	6 September
Monday	3 May	Tuesday	5 October
Monday	7 June	Monday	1 November
		Monday	6 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.

stop press

Now we know just how bad it really is! Proposals for the new second crossing were released to the press on Sunday 6 December.

The DMR tunnel referred to elsewhere in the News Sheet is much worse than expected. Beginning as a tunnel from the Gore Hill Expressway and carrying on as a viaduct over a bridge to Long Nose Point, then a viaduct across Birchgrove Park to dive into the rock somewhere below the Rowntree and Cameron Street junction and then to spew out at the head of White Bay.

The schemes will be on show from 14 December on at 142 Day Street, City. EVERYONE MUST GO AND SEE HOW BAD IT IS GOING TO BE!

The Association's urgent telegram of 8 December to the Premier reads:

THE PEOPLE OF BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE AND ROZELLE ARE APPALLED AT PLANS FOR A SECOND HARBOUR CROSSING IN THIS AREA STOP THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS SHOCKED AT THE DESTRUCTION THAT WILL FOLLOW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY OF THE SCHEMES NOW DISPLAYED STOP THE ASSOCIATION DEMANDS THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY ABANDON ANY PROPOSAL TO WREAK SUCH HAVOC ON OUR LIFE-STYLE STOP NB copy to Mr Degen MP.

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". 110 Dec '81