

April 1982

NEWS SHEET

119

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 3 MAY 1982
7 30 PM WATCH HOUSE

HARBOUR CROSSING PROTEST

A MAJOR ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN IS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED IN A BID TO HALT PLANS FOR THE SECOND SYDNEY HARBOUR CROSSING.

The Bridge Action Group hope to raise \$100,000 to finance the campaign through newspapers, radio and television.

Opposition to the second crossing has grown considerably in recent weeks, led by residents and community groups who would be directly affected by the scheme.

The Bridge Action Group (BAG) will go ahead with an extensive media campaign.

BAG Chairman Bruce Allen says the group would enlist the aid of advertising agencies, political lobbyists, engineers, architects and environmentalists.

Rock singer Glenn Shorrock, playwright David Williamson and well known advertising executive Lionel Hunt, all of whom have homes in the path of the proposed crossings, have also been drafted into the cause.

The NSW Government have put up four proposals and the public has been asked to voice their opinion as part of a two year \$2 million survey being carried out by several State Government Departments.

All four proposals have so far met with almost unanimous opposition from residents in the Balmain and Rozelle areas, as well as Waverton and Greenwich on the north shore.

Bruce Allen believes that "certain private enterprise groups would fund and build a second harbour crossing if it could be proved there would be sufficient profit earnings."

"That is to say, the whole project is being constructed so that private enterprise can take the cream off the cake."

"As a State we stand to lose not only our homes. We will also have to pay for land acquisition and road construction works."

Bruce says only those people with homes directly in the path of the bulldozers would have their properties resumed at full market value.

People whose properties were made noisy or polluted would receive no compensation, unless they were prepared to undertake lengthy court proceedings.

A conservative estimate by the Department of Main Roads (DMR) has put the cost of the crossing project at \$600 million, plus another \$200 million for three major access roads.

These figures were gauged on 1980 prices, and some DMR planners privately admit the figures were "nowhere near right".

Meanwhile, a survey carried out by Balmain estate agents, D J Thompson and Associates, has put the cost of affected housing on any one of the four planned routes in the Balmain area alone at \$95 million.

The four routes being considered by the Government are:

- * A DMR proposal for a bridge and viaduct from the proposed Gore Hill freeway to Victoria Road, Rozelle.

- * An alternative DMR proposal for a tunnel from Gore Hill to Greenwich, a bridge to Balmain, and another tunnel to Rozelle.

- * A Transfield group plan for a bridge from East Balmain to Balls Head Reserve with a support constructed on Goat Island

- * A Pioneer Concrete plan for a tunnel from near Victoria Road to the Gore Hill freeway.

The DMR adds that "to enable the expected traffic volumes to get to and from the new crossing, it would be necessary to construct the Gore Hill freeway from Willoughby to Lane Cove, the proposed arterial road from Darling Harbour to Rozelle, and the Johnston's Creek county road from Rozelle southwards to serve the central industrial area and Mascot Airport".

Opponents of the schemes declare it highly unlikely that the Government would give the nod to a tunnel under Sydney Harbour.

"It would be the longest peak hour tunnel in the world, and we don't believe the DMR has the expertise or the funds available to finance such a project" says Bruce.

As it stands, Bruce believes a toll approaching \$4 per crossing would be necessary just to repay interest on loans for the project.

He says that most of the problems on the Sydney Harbour Bridge were caused by the two-hour peak period.

"We also believe that a higher toll on the bridge would sift out a lot of people who don't need to travel at those times. That, combined with better scheduling of public transport, would solve most of the problems".

The Bridge Action Group accuses the DMR of failing to come to grips with traffic management in the City.

"The Gladesville bridge is not being used properly because of poor access. Meanwhile Ring Road 3 (incorporating the Ryde Bridge) is a most important route which has remained undeveloped" states BAG.

"Another factor from a demographic standpoint is that the population centre of Sydney is now west of Parramatta, so the idea of us, as a State, building a massive enterprise so close to another bridge is suicidal."

One consequence of a second harbour crossing, BAG says, would be to shift the City-centre back to the east with the new central business district being located just west of the present one.

"This goes against everything the planners have been saying to encourage further decentralisation."

Diagrams and models of the four proposed crossings have been on show in various parts of the inner city since December and are currently being displayed at the Stanton Library in North Sydney.

BAG calls on more people to stand up against the idea.

"UNLESS WE DO TALK ABOUT IT NOW, IT WILL SNEAK UP ON US AND WE'LL HAVE THE MOST DREADFUL MESS!"

The public can voice their opinions by writing to the Secretary, Department of Main Roads, 309 Castlereagh Street, 2000. Head all submissions "Second Harbour Crossing Inquiry Team".



The above news item appeared first in the City Express 31 March 1982.

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION IS FOR PEOPLE IN BALMAIN BIRCHGROVE ROZELLE

Residents \$100,000 campaign

STOP 2ND HARBOUR BRIDGE



THE BALMAIN BRIDGE ACTION GROUP HAS JOINED FORCES WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE HARBOUR TO BECOME THE COMBINED BRIDGE ACTION GROUP (CBAG)

CBAG NOW BEGINS ITS CAMPAIGN TO RAISE \$100,000.

MANY PEOPLE AND GROUPS HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE \$100 EACH TOWARDS THE FIGHTING FUND - FIGHTING BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD.

CBAG IS SENDING LETTERS TO KNOWN SUPPORTERS AND AFFECTED HOMEOWNERS AS FOLLOWS:

As you know, the State Government is considering proposals for a second Harbour bridge.

You have already indicated your opposition to the idea by supporting the Balmain Bridge Action Group.

THIS IS TO ADVISE YOU OF WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE PLANS WERE MADE PUBLIC AND HOW THE MANY DONATIONS ALREADY RECEIVED HAVE BEEN USED.

If you watch TV you probably saw the Group's initial interview on Channels 7, 9, 10 and 2.

We've also had time on Caroline Jones' City Extra, and with Margaret Throsby interviewing Mr Whelan, plus numerous other radio interviews.

In addition, articles which have included the case against another crossing have appeared in the Financial Review, Sydney Morning Herald, Daily Telegraph, National Times and other papers.

Since then, other local groups from affected suburbs have contacted us and, after discussions, we have joined forces.

The combined group is known, logically, as the "COMBINED BRIDGE ACTION GROUP", and it includes the Balmain Bridge Action Group; the Greenwich and District Progress Association; the St Leonards-North Wollstonecraft Progress Association; the Brennan, Berry and Waverton Precinct Committees and other affected residential groups.

From among our ranks, an Action Committee has been formed of people qualified in traffic management, civil engineering, economics, public relations and advertising.

Your Committee believes we must now carry the fight to the State Government.

We intend to launch a FULL PAGE newspaper advertising campaign with back-up in public relations to pressure the Government to cancel their "feasibility study" now. Instead of allowing it to drag on excessively for two years - wasting \$2 million of taxpayers' money.

THE LATEST FROM MR WHELAN

Mr Whelan favours us with six lines in answer to ours of 8 March 1982:

Dear Sir

I refer to your further letter concerning proposals for a second crossing of Sydney Harbour, and in particular your desire that a committee be established to enquire into the social impact of such a proposal.

I will write to you again as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely
Paul Whelan

Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Roads

We await with bated breath!

The arguments against a second crossing are simple and devastating.

In order to pay the interest alone on \$800,000,000* Mr Wran would have to charge at least a \$4 toll on the new bridge. And that's at today's prices! (What it could finally end up is anyone's guess.)

If he tried to impose such a toll, traffic would shun the new bridge, making it lose tens of millions of dollars a year.

So Mr Wran would need to increase the toll on the "Coat-hanger" to \$4 too.

Desperate commuters would then jam Gladesville bridge. Which means a \$4 toll will be needed there as well.

The effects of all this on business life can be imagined. YET THERE ARE CHEAPER, MORE VIABLE ALTERNATIVES.

The DMR already had plans for a number of cost effective projects which could quickly take pressure off the Harbour Bridge.

Completion of Ring Road 3.

Putting in a duplicate Ryde Bridge.

And building a new bridge from Gladesville to Abbotsford to supplement Gladesville Bridge.

All these projects could be finished quickly, relieving the "domino" effect that is pushing traffic eastwards onto the Harbour Bridge.

To put these facts before the public we will shortly be writing to you again, asking for your further support.

And we'll be writing to the thousands of homeowners who lie in the path of the bridge approaches.

All contributions will go through a leading accountancy firm to fund the campaign.

We will be looking for an advertising budget of at least \$100,000.

We trust we can look forward to your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,
Bruce Allen
Chairman

Combined Bridge Action Group

* This \$800,000,000 is based on the DMR's proposal, including the \$200,000,000 estimated for approaches.

TO PUT THE FIGURE IN PERSPECTIVE, IT IS EQUAL TO ALMOST TWO INVINCIBLE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

A similar letter is being sent to those affected homeowners who are not previous supporters.

The Balmain Association urges you to get your \$100 in now. Work towards it by cake-baking, wine-tastings or chook-raffles. Achieve it at ten weekly subs of \$10. Pass the hat around at the pub. Do it any way you like but raise the money. Put in what you can! Big money can only be fought by big money. THIS IS AN INVESTMENT. Your shares, big or small will amass the sum needed to fight big government.

OUR HOMES ARE AT STAKE! Invest in your future now!

The Balmain Association wishes to express its congratulations to the Combined Bridge Action Group and affirms its support in the funds campaign.

TWO APPEALS FOR HELP

APPEAL No 1: We have a very good 20 minute slide/tape set called THE BALMAIN WATERFRONT. The tape is narrated by Peter Reynolds but what is needed is somebody with a properly trained voice who will make a new and easy-to-listen-to tape.

All the facts are there but voice professionalism is needed. For the same slide set, we also need one 35 mm colour slide of each of the following: Balmain Power Station at Iron Cove; the Caltex Oil tanks on Ballast Point; looking out over (and including) Balmain High School; the Sydney Slipway housing project; and the expanse of tar-pave that was once Mort's Dock.

It's a good slide set now but these few improvements would make it terrific. If you can't help with the voice tape perhaps you can shoot the colour slides.

APPEAL No 2: We need a member to attend Council meetings, get the business paper and jot down some notes on matters affecting the Balmain area for a current affairs column for the News Sheet

If you can help with any of the above, please phone Peter Reynolds, 827 3560.

Uncovering Our Past

A HOUSE ON A CLIFF



Every allotment in the block bounded by Darling, Johnston and Union Streets and the Johnston's Bay waterfront has been cut from the original lot 16 bought by John Hosking in 1836 (see "A House and its Story" in *News Sheet* 107).

Hosking lost everything and, at a sale to satisfy his creditors, land in the block sold for bargain prices. In 1844 Robert Taylor, a local land investor, bought the large lots 22 and 23 fronting Hosking Street for £40.

In 1845 Taylor subdivided lot 22 and a part of lot 23 into four equal strips with frontages to Hosking Street.

Vernon Street was created by this subdivision. All this looked very neat on paper but in reality a sheer cliff face cut the land into upper and lower portions. The cliff is still to be seen towering above Hosking Street.

Thomas Holliday, a Balmain engineer, bought lot 4 and perched his house on the edge of the cliff. He was daring enough to hang the verandah out into mid-air with only a few timbers set into the cliff face to prop it up.

Though the stone cottage's address is 7 Vernon Street it can only be seen from Hosking Street.

The exact date of construction is unclear although it was in existence in November 1851 when Holliday used it to secure a loan of £50 from Helen Moir, a Balmain widow. The house again formed the subject of a legal transaction when Holliday leased it to one of Balmain's many stonemasons, Lewis Cawsey, in 1853. Cawsey paid about 12 shillings rent weekly.

The possibility that Cawsey was the actual builder of the house cannot be overlooked here.

Living at the foot of the cliff were Holliday's daughter Jane and her husband, Thomas Archer, who was a labourer by trade. Jane received the upper and lower allotments, as well as the stone cottage, on her father's death in 1858.

Jane, in turn, sold the upper portion to her brother, Thomas Holliday junior for £100 in August 1859. The oversailing cottage verandah was important in this sale because the boundary dividing the two lots was delineated in mid-air by its outer edge.

Thomas junior, a shoemaker, was living in Duke Street when he bought the property and after living in the house for the following ten years he moved to 137 South Head Road.

At his new address, Thomas opened a "boot warehouse" and traded there until his death on 4 April 1872.

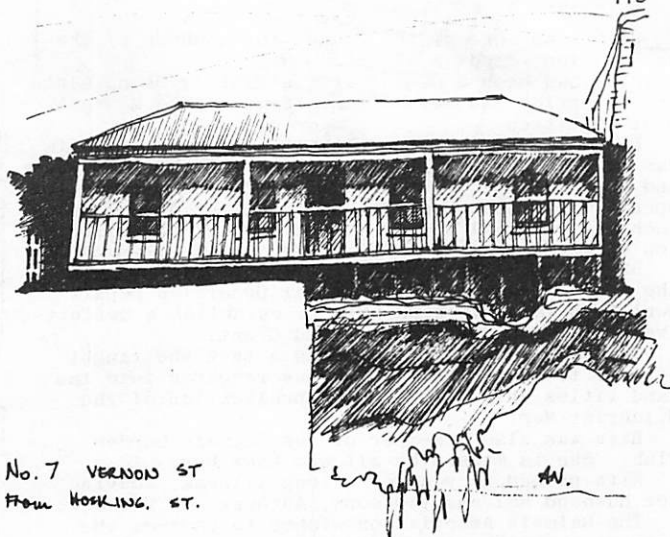
No 7 Vernon Street passed to his widow Mary Ann and she returned to Balmain and opened the "boot palace" in Darling Street. On her death in 1876 a 20-year legal wrangle began, tying up the property until 1895 when Arthur Holliday, a clerk of Woollahra, was empowered to sell it to the highest bidder.

Louis Ole Paulsen, a master mariner of Balmain, bought the house and the upper portion of the land for £155 in 1895. Captain Paulsen lived for a time in Edward Street but moved to Vaucluse in the early years of this century. He sold the premises to Alice Mary Rogerson in 1925 for £450.

The Rogersons have been long-term residents of Balmain and in 1939 bought the lower portion of the land with the little timber cottage facing Hosking Street from the estate of J J Wheeler for £250. Wheeler's memory is inscribed high up on the parapet above his butcher's shop on the corner of Darling and Johnston Streets where the hairdresser's now stands.

In recent years the house on the cliff has become derelict and dangerous. It came under the auctioneer's hammer in 1981 and it will hopefully be restored to its original simplicity so that it can once more look out from its perch with pride across Johnston's Bay to the bright lights of the city.

Peter Reynolds



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: I am indebted to Ross Hill, University of New South Wales for providing the basic details of the above. In my last column (*News Sheet* 114) I omitted to express my gratitude to Gary Wolff, University of New South Wales, and to Margaret Miller. Mrs Miller is a descendant of C J Bullivant and her help with "Michaelangelo in Balmain" is very much appreciated. PR

FAMILY HISTORY HUNTING

Mrs D E Sim of Padstow has written to us about her family as follows:

I was wondering whether your Association could help me at all. I'm tracing my family tree and have found out that my great-grandparents lived in Balmain. Also my grandparents were married there but I can't find any record in the two Anglican churches there.

They are supposed to have lived in Darling Street, near the water, as older members of the family have talked of rowing in the Harbour when they were young.

I believe my great-grandfather was a shipwright from Shields, England.

The names are:

Allen, Mark, m. Jane nee Atkinson, great-grandparents.

" Mark, b. 5 June 1864, christened at St Mary's Balmain 9 October 1864.

" Elizabeth, b. 22 October, christened at St Mary's 24 December 1865.

" Ester, b. 24 June 1867, christened at St Mary's 29 September 1867.

" Thomas, details unknown.

" Robert, b. 6 May 1872 at Cape Hawk, Stroud, NSW.

Ester Allen married Robert McCrimmon 13 July 1892 at St Mary's, Balmain. Also two children were christened at St Mary's, Elizabeth Dorrie Jane (15 July 1893) and Linda Esabel (11 December 1898).

I was told that Mark Allen senior used to hear of different jobs and pack up his family from the cottage in Balmain and return there when finished.

My grandparents were: Wormald, Henry Edward (builder) who married Elizabeth Allen about 1888-89 but I can't find any record. Their third child was christened at St Mary's but the other seven were I think christened at St Thomas', North Sydney. That is my next step to find out.

I'm hoping that while searching through the history of Balmain you might come across some information on my family. Also could you tell me where best I should look so I can search for myself. I suppose there are some books around which I could read.

We will advise Mrs Sim to join the Society of Australian Genealogists, 120 Kent Street, Sydney. The first place to look, on a self-help basis, is *Sands Directory* at the State Library.

This reference helps to locate occupants between 1858 to 1933 but we suggest that searchers work back from 1933 - the reason will become all too obvious.

We will certainly look out for the family names mentioned above and wish Mrs Sims well in her search.

OBITUARY

Rita Wise, one of the foundation members of the Association, died on 17 March 1982.

Rita had been a member of the History Group since its inception and served many terms on the Management Committee.

Ever a tireless worker for the Association, Rita was an accredited researcher at the Mitchell Library and the Archives Office of New South Wales. She spent countless hours at these institutions, indexing much raw material to add to our historical collection.

She was the main force in pioneering the use of the land titles at the Registrar General's Department from which we were able to establish a definitive history of the Balmain Land Grant.

This very demanding work was a task she taught herself to do and her meticulous research into the land titles culminated in the publication of the Gilchrist Map.

Rita was also a member of the Balmain Garden Club. She is missed by all who knew her.

Rita passed away after a long illness, leaving her husband Hal and two sons, Anthony and Michael.

The Balmain Association wishes to express the deepest sympathy to Hal and the members of the family.

MISS MARY O'ROURKE

We have learned of the death of Miss Mary O'Rourke at the Our Lady of Consolation Home, Rooty Hill.

Miss O'Rourke joined the Association in 1981. She was the youngest daughter of James O'Rourke who served at the Balmain Watch House.

James O'Rourke was born in Ireland and worked as a labourer before joining the Police Force on 21 March 1857. He left the Force on 7 January 1865 and later became a personal guard to Sir Henry Parkes at The Abbey in Annandale.

Miss O'Rourke visited the Watch House last year and revived old memories. The Association wishes to extend sympathy to her relatives and friends.

COMBINED MEETING

5 APRIL 1982

Gladys Chanter, Margaret Dobson, Frances Heathfield, Rod Linklater, Ethel May, Lorraine McDermott, Richard Norman and Peter Reynolds met at the Watch House on 5 April at 7 30 pm.

1 Apologies received from Andrea Nield and Trish Ryan.

2 Letter received for Australian Heritage Commission re our advice of discovery of another historic silo on Cockatoo Is.

3 From Maritime Service Board advising of its refusal to permit new marina at foot of The Avenue, Balmain East.

4 Australia Council, Literature Board re updating publisher register.

5 From Mrs J Morris, Bilgola Plateau re history of No 1 Wallace Street, Balmain.

6 From Leichhardt Council re Works Committee inspection at Max Cooper and Sons development site on 31 March.

7 From Min for Roads acknowledging ours of 8 March re our continuing objections to the second crossing.

8 From F B Rice and Co re their moving to the Balmain Co-operative building, 28 Montague Street.

9 From Mr J Donovan in reply.

10 Hurstville Historical Society re Waldron Lecture 1 May.

11 From Mrs D E Sim re Allen and Wormald family history.

12 From R R Rose reporting on Rose family reunion at Australiana Village, Wilberforce, at which 970 congregated!

NB The Rose family were the first free family to settle in Australia - arrived 15 January 1793 - later connected with Balmain East at Peacock Point.

13 Letter to Newcastle and Hunter District Historical Society accepting their bus tour of Balmain on 6 November

14 To Owen Munn advising that Atlantic Flash was a brand of petrol marketed by the Atlantic Union Oil Co.

15 Leichhardt Council supporting moves to reduce salaries of senior officers which are now 20% above legal requirement.

16 To Mrs J Morris re 1 Wallace Street.

17 To Mr R A Littlejohn re Captain McLean and Birchgrove House.

18 To National Trust condemning State Government for desecration of Harbour Bridge by addition of clip-on footway etc.

19 To Min for Roads re our objections of 8 March, again, again!

20 Bushwalkers' visit on Heritage Saturday raised \$97 - thanks to all who helped.

21 Watch House fence panel completed - thanks to R Linklater and G Lewin.

22 Bridge Action Group campaign discussed and resolved to continue our affiliation and support.

WATCH THESE DATES



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	5 July
Monday	2 August
Monday	6 September
Tuesday	5 October
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.

Visit the Watch House

Admission to the Watch House on Sunday afternoons now costs 30 cents. This sum includes a printed 4-fold leaflet PICTURES AT THE WATCH HOUSE which describes the framed photographs and objects on display.

The Watch House is open to visitors on Sundays between 2 00 - 4 00 pm. All welcome.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our new members Candice and Robert Bruce, and Mrs Betty Harris.

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

AMENDED SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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	\$ 4.00
Family or Household	\$ 6.00
Pensioner or Student	\$ 1.00
Organization	\$12.00

Add \$3.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted. plr.
Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association" 13.4.82