

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

NEWS SHEET

the balmain association

APRIL 1983

129

FOUNDED 1965



GET FRIENDLY WITH EARTHWORMS

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

Jessica Murray

Earthworms have many uses in the garden, by increasing fertility and improving crops. They also increase microbe activity in the soil and improve the structure of it.

This allows better penetration by plant roots, water and oxygen.

Earthworms eat large quantities of organic materials and it has been shown that their excreta conveys minerals and nitrogen in a much more readily available form for plant nutrition.

There are many different kinds of earthworms. Those in our cultivated areas are mostly of European origin, with the native types found only out in the bush.

Earthworms like moisture for activity and unfortunately are prone to go deeply underground if long periods of dryness occur. They are now bred for selling in Victoria and NSW and can be obtained by post for about \$8 per 500, usually during the winter months.

Ofcourse they must be given conditions in which they will thrive. It is no use throwing them into hot dry sand. That does not turn them on at all. They must have cover: growing plants, or piles of dead plants, cool mulch, animal manures, or light loamy soil for preference.

When using fertilisers, sprinkle on the soil and water-in, before digging. Sulphate of ammonia is especially lethal to them. Sometimes it is necessary

to deal with ants and to have to use Dieldrin or Chlordane, both of which do not suit earthworms.

They are big eaters and like moisture and darkness. Given these conditions, they will double their weight in a month. They like vegetable peelings, boiled potatoes with skins, all cereals especially oatmeal and bran, stale bread, biscuits and cake, and all vegetable matter with only small amounts of straw or sawdust.

If this matter is being added to the compost heap, the hot stage of decomposition must be past, with the temperature of the heap below 25C, as any higher will kill the worms. The same applies to animal manures, especially horse or poultry manure.

They need plenty of moisture, sprinkled on, not poured on, because they can drown, as is often seen with dead worms around after heavy rains.

I once had given to me for the compost heap, a quantity of Honan matting squares. I was doubtful whether they would be suitable and they were put in a pile in a shady place, damped well down and covered with old hessian bagging.

After some months, the heap was seen to be much lower and, on having a look, was found to be "Home, Sweet Home" to thousands of earth worms who had found it all by themselves.

Earthworms are said to contain 72% high quality protein; in England high production techniques for growing earthworms are underway for feeding pigs, poultry and fish.

Even humans can eat them! In America, there have been competitions for recipes containing them.

Apparently the worms are oven-dried and then put in a blender and reduced to powder which is added to the recipes, increasing the protein content.

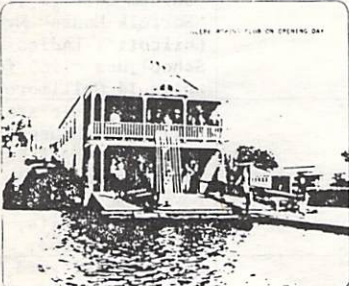
Acknowledgement: CSIRO Soil Division, *Discovering Soils*, No 5.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 2 MAY 1983
7 30 PM WATCH HOUSE

W Leichhardt Historical Journal

No 11
1982

RECOLLECTIONS OF 14 JOHNSON STREET GLEBE
EXPLORING THE SUBURBS AND MAKING A CITY
HOW SUBURBANISATION BEGAN IN BALMAIN



Anandale Balmain Glebe Leichhardt Lilyfield Rozelle

The Leichhardt Historical Journal No 11 1982 is now on sale at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street, at \$3.50. The Watch House is open on Sundays between 2-4 pm.

You can also buy the Journal at the Australia's Heritage Bookshop, 87½ George St North (opposite the Rocks Visitors Centre). The Bookshop has the widest range of Local History publications in Sydney.

Issue No 11 contains a former Annandale resident's memories of her old home and the article is a model of reminiscence writing.

Also included is Barrie Dyster's piece, "Inventing the suburbs and making a fortune". His article ranges far beyond our municipality to settlements at Broulee and Vittoria (NSW). You can also find out why Drumoyne was once called Bourke Town.

The Balmain contribution is the study of that part of Balmain

East from Peacock Point to Darling Street Wharf. All sites are examined; dates of houses are derived; origins of street names shown; and family history included.

The Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 for 1983 is now in press. It will continue the Peacock Point article. The 1983 Journal will also include a study of the area from Darling Street Wharf to Simmons Point.

Next year's Journal will contain a detailed article on all the land, buildings and people, from Nicholson Street to the Sydney Slipway (near Cooper St).

None of this can happen without funds. If you would like to see the Journal continue publication please buy a copy or send a donation to LHJ, 9 The Avenue, Balmain East, 2041.

All takings are put towards the cost of the next issue.

The publishers are the Annandale Association, the Glebe Society the Leichhardt Association and your own Association.

Uncovering Our Past



PETER REYNOLDS

FROM DARLING STREET WHARF TO SIMMONS POINT

When you look at this part of Balmain East, do you wonder what preceded the blocks of flats and the wide gash of Gallimore Avenue that you now see.

The area was a jumble of tiny stone and timber cottages, narrow streets and crazy laneways.

Development began in about 1838 and although many minor changes occurred, the hillside kept its boatbuilding waterfront and small scale until the 1960s.

The Howard family, in fact, owned their strip next to the Lookes for 100 years!

A study of this area, entitled "From Darling St Wharf to Simmons Point: Adam, Roach(Looke), Rogers and Simmons", is now being published in the Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 1983 and should appear in June.

The centrepiece of the study is Nicholson Street Public School which celebrates its centenary in April of this year.

The table below is the overflow from the Journal article and members and friends are urged to contact Peter Reynolds on 827 3560 if they have anything to add to the published information.

AREA BOUNDED BY MORT BAY, SIMMONS POINT, DARLING HARBOUR, DARLING STREET AND NICHOLSON STREET

STREET NUMBER	YEAR WHEN BUILT	BUILT BY	OCCUPATION	1983 DESCRIPTION
JAMES LANE DEVELOPMENT (OFF DARLING ST)				
1-3	1854	W James	woolsorter	twin ss,attic storey "Willow Cottages".
5	c1860	" "	"	ss stone (brick front) "Willow Cottages" with 1-3 James Street.

DARLING STREET DEVELOPMENT NORTH SIDE HARBOUR TO NICHOLSON STREET

21-31	1884	J Dobbie	builder	3s stucco terraces. "Plym Terrace"
33	c1860	W James	woolsorter	ss stucco "Devonshire Cottage", later additions.
35	-	-	-	ss brick shop
37	-	-	-	" " "
39	-	-	-	-
43x	c1860	W James	woolsorter	demolished for constr. of Gallimore Ave c1965.
45x	c1852	W Fanning	merchant	ss stone house. "The Red House" later "Helpstone" dem. for Gallimore Ave c1965 & units 41 Darling St.
43	c1975	-	-	new 2s brick.
45-47	c1905	J Lyons	spinster	twin 2s brick houses.
49	1903	" "	"	2s brick shop on site of shop & houses built by James Beattie butcher.
	(cnr Nicholson St)			

NICHOLSON STREET DEVELOPMENT EAST SIDE DARLING STREET TO MORT BAY

3	c1940	J Zihrl	wharfibr	ss brick bungalow
5-7	c1838	W Howard	boatbuilder	ss stone,attic storey 1877 dividide into 2 houses, dem c1965 for units 3 Gallimore Ave.

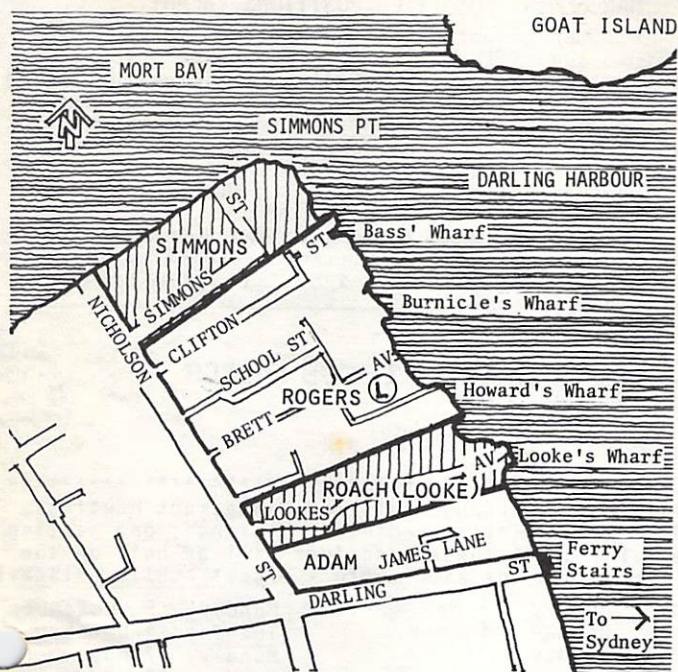
9	c1860	" "	"	ss stone, dem c1965 for units 9 Gallimore Ave.
11	c1903	T Butement	architect	2s brick terrace "Lorna", site formerly occupied by "Edwyna" built by E A Rennie, civil servant,c1856.
13	"	"	"	2s brick terrace "Chelvey",as above.
15	"	"	"	2s brick terrace "Alicea", as above
17	"	"	"	2s brick terrace "Dunraven",as above.
(Nos 11-17 dem c1956 for units 9 Nicholson St)				
19	c1845	W Llewellyn	gentleman	2s stone house, dem 1982 for town-houses 19 Nicholson St.
21	c1850	T Spence	builder	ss stone, "Woodbine".
-	1883	Nicholson Street School		ss stone
25	1881	W A Hare	jeweller	2s stucco terrace
27	"	"	"	" " "
				"Aliceville".
29	1879	DA Ritchie	teacher	2s stucco terrace "Arbroath".
31	1880	D Hutcheon	pianomkr	2s stucco terrace "Bon Accord".
33	1886	A Burns	timbermerch	2s stucco terrace "Alpha".
35	"	" "	"	2s stucco terrace "Arakoon".

LOOKES AVENUE DEVELOPMENT SOUTH SIDE NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR

-	1936	Electric Light & Power Supply Corporation substation		
1-5	1867	J Looke	boatbuilder	2s stucco terraces "Alfred Terrace".
5a	-	-	-	new house under construction.
7	c1920	J Hawkes	greengrcr	ss brick house, upper storey c1978.
7a	"	"	"	as above.
9	c1850	J Looke	boatbuilder	ss stone attic storey "Harbour View House" later "Braeside".
11	c1839	"	"	ss brick & stone dem c1965 for Gallimore Ave.
13	"	"	"	ss brick & stone
(The central stone portion of Nos 11-13 was probably Joseph Looke's original house,the brick side wings were added c1855)				
15	c1855	J Looke	boatbuilder	ss stone,attic storey "Lookes Cottage" later "Radcliffe House".
(No 15 was Joseph Looke's second home)				
17	c1865	W Looke	boatbuilder	2s stucco house
(No 17 was the home of William Looke, son of Joseph L, & husband to Eliza Gray Looke, "modernised" c1975.				

LOOKES AVENUE DEVELOPMENT NORTH SIDE NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR

2-4	c1860	J Looke	boatbuilder	ss stone,attic storey "Looke's double cottage"
6	c1850	"	"	ss stone house "Durham Cottage",later "Norfolk House" Mrs Chilcott's Ladies School,dem c1965 for units 14 Gallimore Ave
8	c1850	"	"	ss stone,attic storey "Cliffdale House", later Church of England Deaconesses' Boys Home c1905, dem c 1965 for units, 8 Lookes Avenue.
10	1838	"	"	boatbuilding yard & workshops, later Carmichael's, later S G White & Co's, dem c1965 for units, 8 Lookes Avenue.



BOUNDARIES OF ADAM, ROACH, ROGERS AND SIMMONS

BRETT AVENUE (FORMERLY LITTLE'S AVE) DEVELOPMENT
NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR - SOUTH SIDE

1	c 1903	T Butement	architect	-
3	"	"	"	"Allowrie" "Eastbourne"
(Nos 1-3 dem c1965 for units 9 Nicholson Street)				
5	c1856	JV Barnard	merchant	ss stone, attic storey "Erith Villa" later "Lurley"
-	c1855	J Little (See L on plan above)	grocer	ss stone, attic storey 6 cottages built on site of the boat- yard, workshop, cottage & kitchen built by G Buddivant 1840-43 (Little's Cottages dem c1965 for units 3 Gallimore Ave & for construction of that street).
-	c1857	T Robinson	hairdresser	dem c1965 for units 3 Gallimore Ave.

BRETT AVENUE DEVELOPMENT NORTH SIDE
NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR

-	-	-	-	dem date unknown.
4	c1838	G J Rogers	solicitor	2s stone house "Oakley" dem c1945 for factory.

SCHOOL STREET (FORMERLY SMITH'S LANE) DEVELOPMENT
NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR - NORTH SIDE

2	1840	W Burnicle	shipwright	ss stone, attic storey upper storey added by Capt F Bracegirdle c1875, renamed "Kai- koura" by him.
-	1844	"	"	2s stone attic storey now 7 Gallimore Ave "modernised" c1982.
-	1840	"	"	ss stone cottage & stone wharf, dem c1965 for units 5 Gallimore Avenue.
-	c1875	J Jenkins	gentleman	ss stone house dem 1965 for units 5 Gallimore Avenue.
-	c1842	G Cannis	sailmaker	ss stone cottage enlarged by Dr Robt Huntley c1850, rena- med Staines House, dem c 1965 for units 5 Gallimore Avenue.

CLIFTON STREET DEVELOPMENT SOUTH SIDE
NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR

-	c1942	AV Darnill	residential proprietor	ss brick house now part of School.
-	c1857	J Row	wholesale chemist & druggist	ss house "Devonia Cottage" dem date unknown.
-	c1940	A Yule	m woman	ss brick house dem c1972 for School grounds.
15	c1938	VE Weldon	ferry master	ss brick house
14	c1845	H T Bass	shipwright	ss stone, attic storey "Vernon Cottage", upper storey added by Capt JM Banks c1882, renamed "Drum- mond Lea".
-	c1845	"	"	ss stone, attic storey "Alfred Cottage", site now occupied by twin 2s brick houses, 9 Gallimore Avenue.

CLIFTON STREET DEVELOPMENT NORTH SIDE
NICHOLSON STREET TO HARBOUR

2	c1888	J Peyron	photograph enameller	ss brick house dem c1972 for units 2-4 Clifton St.
4	"	"	"	ss stone house "Memel Cottage", dem as above.
6	c1910	M Lyons	widow	ss brick house "Maybank".
8	c1840	H T Bass	shipwright	ss stone house renamed "Clifton House" c 1860 by J Shoovert, coal merchant, renamed "Rostrevor" c1915.
16	c1895	J G Rich	m woman	ss w/b house.
18	1840	H T Bass	shipwright	ss w/b house & stone wharf, "Nut Shell Cottage", also "The Nut Shell", site now occup'd by new house.
20	"	"	"	ss w/b cottage, now new house.

SIMMONS STREET DEVELOPMENT SOUTH AND EAST SIDE
NICHOLSON STREET TO MORT BAY

1	-	-	-	ss w/b house
5	c1898	M Lyons	widow	2s brick house "Brookfield".
7	c1905	G Lyons	warehsmn	twin 2s brick house "Rathlyon"
9	"	"	"	twin 2s brick house
11	1881	W Thomas	gentleman	ss brick house
13	1884	A Cole	herbalist	2s stucco house "Winifredville", renamed "Kenilworth" c 1910.

SIMMONS STREET DEVELOPMENT NORTH AND WEST SIDE
NICHOLSON STREET TO MORT BAY

6	-	-	-	new house
8	-	-	-	" "
10	-	-	-	" "
12	-	-	-	" "
14	-	-	-	" "
(Nos 6-14 are built on the site of A Burns timber yard, which became depot for Adelaide Steamship Co in 1900)				
16	c1884	J Pratt	shipwright	2s stucco terrace, "Fairview", dem c1970 & new house built.
18	c1885	A Burns	timbermerch	2s stucco terrace, also another house fronting Mort Bay, both houses dem c1970 & new house built.

ABBREVIATIONS: ss = single storey
2s = two storey
x = number change
w/b = weatherboard

For further information on ADAM, ROACH, ROGERS and
SIMMONS see Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 1983.

OBITUARY

Mrs Harding of 14 Paul Street passed away recently. Over the years, Mrs Harding was a supporter of the Association and kindly allowed us access to her garden during our Garden Walks.

The Association wishes to express deepest sympathy to her son, Alan, and other members of the family.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

The Clontarf Park Action Group report that the Leichhardt Council have approved a plan to resume the park for building.

If any park anywhere in the Municipality is planned to be resumed and lost as open space, all citizens should be concerned at the horrific precedent that is thereby established.

Rod Linklater
member.

Editor,

In an interesting presentation to the Environment Writer of the Sydney Morning Herald (16/4/83) the Clontarf Park Action Group claim that 94% of the residents in the area support the campaign for the park.

Well here is one of the 6% who does not support Clc as a park - but one who supports use of the land to do a little bit for the old folks.

Leichhardt Council have gone all out to get us more parks as the physical evidence on our waterfront shows us.

Now it's time to give the aged a bit of a go. Also, the Council scheme for the old folks includes the restoration of Clontarf.

Here is one of the 6% who can see the old house being fixed up and the old people helped by the Council proposal.

Peter Reynolds
member.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 5 APRIL 1983

T Begbie, R Linklater, P Reynolds and P Ryan met at the Watch House on Tuesday 5 April at 7 30 pm. Apologies were received from F Heathfield, L McDermott, R Norman and S Lynch.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1 D Cramer (22.2.83) re sub and News Sheets not delivered.
- 2 Local & Community Publishing encl LMC Year Book 1981-2.
- 3 S Blackwood re history of Mort's Dock.
- 4 J Edwards re history of area next to Dawn Fraser Pool.
- 5 Min for Home Affairs and Environment per LJ McMahon MP, re increase in funding for the National Estate.
- 6 School of History, Philosophy and Politics, Macquarie U, re history of funeral industry.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- 7 Replies to 1-4 and 6 above.
- 8 R D Mack, Sunbury, Vic, re his being directly descended from William Balmain.
- 9 N Golby re Treeve family history.
- 10 P Ireland re Ireland family history and our publications.
- 11 J Cullen re Knight family history.
- 12 National Trust encl copy of 5 above.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 13 Dangerous condition of Watch House Kitchen chimney reported. P Reynolds to investigate.
- 14 Conservation Management Study for Watch House to be prepared by Fiona Bush, Graduate School of the Built Environment, University of New South Wales. P Reynolds to advise.
- 15 Management Committee posts become vacant at Annual General Meeting in August. Various members indicated that they will be unable to stand for re-election.
- 16 News Sheet deliverer needed for the Peacock Point area. News Sheet 127, with dates and owners of buildings erected in that area, was delivered later than normal time by a member who kindly offered to help.
- 17 Clontarf Park Action Group. Opinion now divided on Association's support for Aged Persons Units on that site. Further discussion required.
Meeting closed at 9 pm. Next Meeting Monday 2 May.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE POSITIONS VACANT

All Management positions will be declared vacant in August 1983. Members are urged to consider the following: Peter Reynolds is taking one year's leave of absence and cannot stand for President; the present News Sheet Editor is also taking a year off; a Minute and Correspondence Secretary is needed now; a Membership Secretary (to keep the subscription list up to date) is also needed right away.

Come to the monthly meeting and volunteer - most of the present Committee have been at it for the past three years straight and need a break - see what you can do!

WATCH THESE DATES

1983 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 - except public holidays.

Monday 2 May	Monday 5 September
Monday 6 June	Tuesday 4 October
Monday 4 July	Monday 7 November
Monday 1 August	Monday 5 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

AMENDED SUBSCRIPTION RATES

MEMBERSHIP FORM

(OPEN/RENEW)

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

NAME:

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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

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Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association" 19-4-83