



JULY 1983

NEWS SHEET

131

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965



SASANQUA CAMELLIAS

Jessica Murray

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

Sasanqua Camellias have been very neglected as garden shrubs, probably because people do not see them in the Camellia Shows. They have finished flowering by that time as they flower from February to May.

Many beautiful varieties have become available in recent years and more people have become aware that they are more adaptable and can be grown in a wider range of conditions than the more well known Camellia Japonica, which can be finicky if everything is not to their liking.

They can be grown in full sun or shade as specimen small trees, espaliered on fences or walls, in tubs or pots, or even as hedges.

They were originally the wild camellias of Japan, especially in the southern island (Kyushu) where they are grown commercially as a source of oil for culinary or cosmetic purposes and the timber used for furniture.

A great many varieties are now available - single and double types. The old double white Mine-no-Yuki (snow on the mountain) has still never been beaten - especially as a container plant.

Sasanquas are especially suitable for training along walls or fences as their branches are flexible. Some varieties suitable for this (especially on a cold south wall or fence where no other spreading plant would thrive) are Lucinda, Bert Jones, Sparkling Burgundy or Jean May.

NEXT MEETING:

4 JULY

7 30 PM WATCH HOUSE 179 DARLING ST

Shishi-Gashiria (Lion's Head) is a semi-double bright pink of prostrate habit suitable for sprawling over rocks or low walls. A dwarf type is Showa-no-Sakae, with a very long flowering period.

Types for hedges include Plantation Pink, Hiryn (red), Jennifer Susan (pink semi-double), or Edna Butler with double fluted pink petals.

Pruning the hedge is done just after flowering finishes.

Many varieties are suitable for tubs or even Bonsai treatment. Yuletide (a glowing red), Tanya (red) or Mignon are just a few. Red Willow is pendulous. All have the scent of either almonds or musk.

General growing conditions are as for azaleas and camellias. Acid soil, no lime and plenty of moisture, without being waterlogged. Not many pests; can be attacked by scale, either brown or white. Can be treated easily by spraying with white oil which can now be bought in an aerosol can for this purpose.

They are shallow rooters, so care is necessary when planting out to see that they are not planted any deeper. Best times for planting are Autumn and Winter to Spring.

A potting mixture for containers is as follows:

Four gallons (about two ordinary buckets) leaf mould or well-rotted compost.

Two gallons clean loam (no obvious weeds)

One-and-a-half gallons coarse sand

Two gallons cow manure

Three ounces Osmocote (long-lasting fertiliser)

NB: NO LIME

Later on, fish emulsion for fertiliser can be added.

Uncovering Our Past

PETER REYNOLDS

MORE MEMORIES OF BALMAIN



Our News Sheet 126 recorded Mrs T G Millner's memories of Balmain concerning her father, Lewy Miall Pattinson.

Since that issue we have gleaned more information on this early chemist from a fascinating publication, Collecting Australian Pot Lids by Robert Keil*.

Pattinson's name is still heard today in the firm Soul Pattinson and Co, the large pharmaceutical retailers.

The Soul part of the firm derives from Caleb Soul an Englishman who arrived in Sydney in 1863 with his son Washington Handley Soul. Caleb had worked with Claytons, an American patent medicine and chemical manufacturing company.

Although not a fully-trained chemist, he recognised the potential of marketing patent medicines. Inspired by the "Boots" chain of stores in England, the Souls opened a drug store at 221 Pitt Street, Sydney, and traded as Washington H Soul and Co.

At the turn of the century, by direct importing a and astute pricing, the firm was one of the leading business houses, with branches in the City and at Parramatta.

Caleb Soul died in 1884 and Washington carried on the business until 1903. By then he had opened three more branches at Newcastle and others in important centres.

1903 was a key year for the firm because then it was bought out by Pattinson and Co. Pattinson set up shop in Balmain in about 1885 in partnership with the English chemist, John Spence. When they bought out Souls, the partnership had sixteen shops supplied by their own factory.

Pattinson and Spence had been less flamboyant than the Souls who used soda fountains and the other attractions of the American drug trade. Yet the new firm of Washington H Soul Pattinson and Co, after 1903, gave each pharmacy a distinctive image which made it a household word in New South Wales.

When John Spence died in 1928, the chain numbered some forty shops and a large factory.

Washington Soul died in 1928, also, having been in retirement since 1903 - he had reached the age of 82.

* Enquiries concerning Collecting Australian Pot Lids should be made to R Keil, 9 Rigney Street, Whyalla, South Australia, 5600. The book was published in 1981

WATCH HOUSE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Management Committee would be happy to hear from a member qualified to prepare a Management Plan for the Watch House. The Plan would need to be prepared according to the guidelines laid down in the Burra Charter.
Please ring Peter Reynolds on 827 3560.

MORE JUNG FAMILY HISTORY

Ann Jung — born in Balmain in 1901 — received a copy of our News Sheet 130 with the Jung's Bakery story. Now Mrs Ann Gillies, she replies:

Thankyou so much for sending us the News Sheet in reference to our old home at 210 Darling Street.

I took the sheets up to my brother John (b 1899) yesterday afternoon. He unfortunately had a brain spasm about three months ago and has been unable to get about as well as usual but is not doing too bad lately. Of course he also has trachoma in both eyes and finds it hard too read much or see things at close range.

He was very pleased to receive the News Sheet, especially the large one, which he was able to read. I left him a copy for his son, Barry, and another for daughter Joan, who are very interested in family history etc.

He noticed one or two small errors in the family dates. My sister Mildred was born in 1904 and not 1907 as you have it. Brother George's birthday, 1907, was right.

We misread the time of building my grandfather's house but on reading it again, I realise that it was built about 1855, which would be correct...

When the weather gets a bit warmer, I should like to come down to a meeting myself but I don't think John would ever be well enough and he had to sell his car as he is unable to drive any more.

We are very grateful to Mrs Gillies and Mr John Jung for providing the details of the family history and wish them good cheer and continuing health.

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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING ————— 6 JUNE

T Begbie, K Brasier, G Chanter, B Davies, F Heathfield, R Linklater, S Lynch, L McDermott and P Reynolds met at the Watch House at 7 30 pm. Apologies received from R Norman and P Ryan.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1 National Trust re chimney repairs.
- 2 J Edwards re rock carvings.
- 3 M Coulon re derivation of names of Prosper and Coulon Streets, Rozelle.
- 4 National Trust re Young Trust visit to Rozelle in August.
- 5 G Downey re Jung family history in News Sheet 130.
- 6 George Philip & O'Neil Pty Ltd re incl of Watch House in National Trust Atlas of Australia.
- 7 J Dargavel, ANU, re timber firms in Balmain & Rozelle.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- 8 Replies to 1 to 6 above.
- 9 J McMahon re display of her mother's portrait in Watch House.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 10 Rozelle Post Office foundation stone.
- 11 Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 1983 now being published incl Part II of Peacock Point article, Simmons Point history, etc.
- 12 Rebuilding of Watch House chimney - advice sought from National Trust.
- 13 Letter of thanks tabled by Clontarf Park Action Group per K Brasier.
- 14 Resolved to write to Leichhardt Council re condition of Simmons Point Wharf.

Meeting closed at 9 00 pm. Next Meeting 4 July 7 30 pm at the Watch House.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR THE WATCH HOUSE

THE WATCH HOUSE REQUIRES MORE PEOPLE TO GIVE OCCASIONAL HELP ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR PM. IF YOU FIND HISTORICAL INFORMATION A BURDEN, YOU CAN GIVE CLEANING AND GARDENING ASSISTANCE INSTEAD.

PLEASE CALL IN ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS BEFORE 4 PM AND OFFER TO HELP.

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 4 July	Monday 5 September
Monday 1 August	Tuesday 4 October
Remember - first Monday in each month at the Watch House at 7 30 pm.	Monday 7 November
	Monday 5 December

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:

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

DELIVERED FREE IN OUR AREA

Add \$3.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted.

Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association" Rev. 18-4-83