



PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

NEWS SHEET

the balmain association

AUGUST 1983

132

FOUNDED 1965



LOOKES AVENUE, BALMAIN, IN 1866

Mrs Elizabeth Leyer, a descendant of Joseph Looke, boatbuilder and Balmain's first estate developer, sent this photograph from Kilkivan, Queensland.

The house at left is thought to be Looke's first weatherboard cottage of about 1840 (later replaced by a house built by his son William about 1868, now unrecognisable as 17 Lookes Av).

In the mid-ground is Looke's Cottage (later Radcliffe, now 15 Lookes Av), built by Looke by 1844 and possibly even earlier.

Looke's Cottage passed out of the family's hands in 1928 and soon after the roof was raised and the enclosed verandah added.

In the background is 11-13 Lookes Avenue, the nucleus of which was built by 1844.

Only No 13 is still standing because No 11 was condemned by Leichhardt Council and purchased by it for demolition in 1968. A new house is being built on the site.

The Looke family history appears in LEICHHARDT HISTORICAL JOURNAL No 12, 1983 - see below for details.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 1983 AT THE WATCH HOUSE 179 DARLING ST 7 30 PM

W Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 1983

FROM PEACOCK POINT TO DARLING ST WHARF
SIDURA THE HOME THAT BLACKET BUILT
FROM DARLING ST WHARF TO SIMMONS POINT



Amundale Balmain Glebe Leichhardt Lilyfield Rozelle

The 1983 Journal commemorates the centenary of Edmund Blacket, architect; Nicholson St Public School; Orange Grove Public School; and the Balmain Hospital.

Peter Reynolds concludes his article on the ups and downs in the history of the PEACOCK POINT PRECINCT.

In the second of his articles on the suburbanisation of Balmain, he writes of the destruction of the SIMMONS POINT PRECINCT by "slum clearance".

This precinct (from Darling St Wharf to Simmons Pt and from the waterfront up to Nicholson St) contained many historic buildings and saw the lives of its inhabitants come and go.

Balmain's first boatbuilder, William Howard lived where the flats, Gallimore Av now are. He won the first silver cup ever awarded for rowing in Australia in 1838.

Joseph Looke, in the following year founded a dynasty on land that now bears his name - Lookes

Avenue. His family lived there from 1839 to, at least, 1928.

Nicholson St Public School opened in 1884. The centenary dates from 1 January 1883 when the School was founded in the old St Mary's Church School, now 7 Adolphus St.

Its 100 years are celebrated in Larrikin Days, the centenary book by Annette O'Niell and Tony Stephens. The Journal article places the School firmly in the context of education in Balmain generally and in the historical development of the SIMMONS POINT PRECINCT.

The Leichhardt Historical Journal is now on sale at the Watch House, 179 Darling St, on Sundays, 2-4pm; at Joe and Josie's Balmain East Fruit Shop; and at the Australia's Heritage Bookshop, 87½ George St North (opposite The Rocks Visitors Centre).

The Australia's Heritage Bookshop is a treasure trove of Local and Australian history publications.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 17 August 1983

The time is approaching when all Management Committee and Executive positions are declared vacant and new elections conducted.

You can now take an active part in the running of your Association by nominating for one of the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or Management Committee member.

Remember this is not an elitist group and new blood is always welcome to make the Association an active body of concerned residents.

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

The Management Committee met at the Watch House on Monday 1 August.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1 National Trust re conf of phone numbers for Watch House sign.
- 2 D Buchanan re McCurustie (?) family history (see Rennie, Leichhardt Historical Journal No 12 1983).
- 3 P M Jessop re purchase of our publications.
- 4 K Chidgey re publication of Chidgey family history.
- 5 F Richardson re changing name of Easton Park to Pyne Park (the Pyne family first owned the land there).
- 6 Rozelle Annandale Environment Forum & White Bay Residents Action Group Newsletter.
- 7 Leichhardt Council encl Business Paper, Planning, Environment and Works Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE SENT:

- 8 Replies to 1-5 above.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT THE WATCH HOUSE WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST.

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.

NOMINATION FORM

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION 1983-84 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
We.....and.....
being financial members of the Balmain Association hereby
nominate.....as.....
of the Association for the forthcoming year.
DATED.....SIGNED.....AND.....
I,.....of.....
(name in full) (address)
.....consent to this nomination.
(occupation)

SIGNED.....
Note: This form may be lodged with the Hon Secretary,
PO Box 57, Balmain, 2041, at any time prior to the election
at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17 AUGUST 1983.

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



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" 26-783