61
SEPTEMBER 198520th anniversary year
NEWS SHEET**145**

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Balmain Association is about to celebrate its twentieth anniversary, which is a good score by anybody's count. A Party for members past and present is planned for 21st September which will be a great occasion for reminiscences and also for bringing together experiences of the past and the present.

At this time last year I spoke of our Committee working as a team to take on the responsibilities which were new to most of us. One year later, basically the same people have been so relaxed that Debby and Bob Nicholls are in America, Les Henley is in Italy and Richard Norman has just returned from Turkey. Lest you think that we could manage without any of these Committee Members, let me hasten to say that the gaps have been ably filled. Bruce Hamilton, who acted as Treasurer in Richard's absence, has given us enormous help not only in the area of finance, but also in bringing issues to the meeting - such as the matter of the Heliport, and making sure that we faced up to our responsibilities in this and other areas of concern to residents of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle. The News Sheet was distributed without fuss while Jenny and Tim Davis were overseas.

In this year we were concerned with a variety of plans for the Association as well as support for local issues.

Plans which are still underway include the publication of a book similar to "Balmain in Time", the storing of historical information by computer, and the setting up of plaques indicating features of interest in this area.

Meredith Walker has completed the preliminary Investigation towards the Conservation Plan which is now ready for discussion and approval. Some of us went to Hartley with Meredith to learn more about the possible display features for historic buildings, and returned stimulated by what we had seen.

The book publication is expected to be launched at the end of this year - hopefully in time for Christmas. This work has been done by a group mainly outside the Balmain Association. Responsibility for its work has been taken by Bob and Debby Nicholls.

Historical information has been gathering in

loosely organised envelopes and boxes over a period of years, but Tikwis Begbie has now taken over the command of a small computer and has already spent many of her nights feeding it with information. At the same time, more people are becoming aware of our interest in their early Balmain connections, and are bringing their knowledge to us.

The Watch House continues to be the focus of interest, and the garden is looking better than ever; even if the picket fence is overdue for painting. This matter will shortly be rectified.

These are management affairs; but what of the environmental issues? Traffic is choking our streets and is a major problem. Developers - always a threat in an historic suburb - are menacing our lifestyle, and government bodies are overriding popular campaigns. The "Maintain Balmain" group had relaxed only to find helicopters threatening them. The "Clontarf Park Action Group" is not allowed to rest, and the Mort Bay Action Group has now joined with Action Groups all over the State to preserve the best features of our environment and to promote saner, more democratic planning.

The loss of Birchgrove House brought the Balmain people together - saving the Watch House from the bulldozer led to the formation of the Balmain Association, and in the same spirit we join with the Action Groups which are helping to conserve the best characteristics of our historic home ground.

These are the tasks ahead for our incoming Committee - all worthwhile, and not really daunting because of the many unnamed helpers who keep the wheels turning. Tikwis Begbie has been the hub; but her resignation as Secretary will mean that she can spend more time on historical research - in which I hope to join her.

We leave with a planned activity for the end of the year - a display hired from Elizabeth Bay House called "Christmas in the Colonies". It will be available to us for seven weeks.

We look forward to seeing you on 21st September. Thank you all for your help in 1984-85.

FRANCES HEATHFIELD

VALE - RICHARD NORMAN

After many years on the Committee or the Balmain Association it is my sad duty to tender my resignation as Treasurer as I will be returning to live in England. I've had many years' pleasure on the Committee and it helped me to get to know and love Balmain. I shall be very sad to leave all my

friends and the area. My heart-felt thanks to all my friends and acquaintances who have helped me enjoy living in Balmain. I wish the Association and Balmain all the best for the future.

RICHARD NORMAN

NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 1985,

7.30 PM AT THE WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN

THE NATIONAL TRUST HOUSE RESTORATION COMPETITIONS

During Heritage Week this year the National Trust assisted in the judging of the Burwood District Restoration Competition, which was organised by the Burwood and District Historical Society in conjunction with Burwood Municipal Council. A large number of entries were received and the interest engendered by the competition was undoubtedly helpful in stimulating a greater interest in buildings of heritage significance in both the general community and the local council.

The National Trust commends the idea of arranging a similar competition in our district, and offers its assistance, if requested, by providing one of the members of its expert committees (Historic Buildings Committee, Architectural Advisory Panel or Urban Conservation Committee) to assist on the judging panel.

The Trust suggests that the categories include:

- * Interior restoration - one room or feature - whole house;
- * Exterior restoration;
- * Additions or extensions;
- * Commercial or public buildings.

The judging criteria would cover:

- * Authenticity of style, design and materials;
- * Authenticity of colours and decoration;
- * Attention to detail;
- * Workmanship;
- * Streetscape contribution (exterior only);
- * Functionality (interior only).

**** Prizes, First and second in each category.

The Committee of the Balmain Association is considering organising a similar competition in the Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle areas, with the aim to promote active community participation in conserving the original character of buildings in these areas.

Before a final decision is made, the Committee would welcome any enquiries and comments. These should be addressed to:

The Hon. Secretary,
Balmain Association,
P.O. Box 57
Balmain 2041.



BALMAIN ASSOCIATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A Summons have been issued to members of the Balmain Association to attend the above celebration which will take place on Saturday 21st September, 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Refreshments will take the form of Devonshire Teas or Wine & Cheese.

There will be a display of Historical Interest, also Arts and Craft Works.

R.S.V.P. F. Heathfield 818 2307
D. Garder 810 3639

ROZELLE VALLEY RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

Yet another action group? YES!

Perhaps the question needs to be asked - WHY?

Why are the residents of various areas of "the Peninsula" grouping together to fight?

Why do they need to fight a Council who is supposed to be acting in the best interests of the ratepayers, but takes no notice of residents' wishes?

Why does this Council appear to support developers in favour of residents and support a policy of squeezing more and more people into the Peninsula? Why does this Council appear to encourage the traffic chaos that exists now and seek to worsen it?

The Rozelle Valley Residents Action Group was recently formed by people who normally just want to get on with their lives, but became incensed by the attempt to suddenly put more than one hundred people in their midst, turn quiet streets into a mess of traffic, and generally increase the density of an area which is already the most densely populated part of the Peninsula.

The development that we are concerned with involves part of the area surrounded by Mullens, Reynolds, George and Goodsir Streets. The developer originally tried for forty dwellings, and is now trying for thirty.

Add these to the recent developments already completed, those underway, those approved, and those before Council now, and the picture looks very gloomy for the future of the people of Balmain/Rozelle.

A moratorium on ALL high density development is needed until a proper plan for the long term future can be decided upon.

For enquiries phone: Leigh 810 1845
or Eleanor 810 8043

TRIP TO WOLLOMBI - 13 October 1985.

This will be the last opportunity for members to add their names to the list of people taking part in the trip to Wollombi (details in the last News Sheet No.144). Please return your application form as soon as possible.

I would be interested in the trip to Wollombi on 13 October 1985. The number in my party would be

I would be willing to go even if the bus cost \$8.00. \$10.00 \$12.50 (that's a half-full bus) each (Circle one)

Balmain Association
P.O. Box 57
BALMAIN N.S.W. 2041

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NO

TREASURER'S REPORT 1984-85

Balance of Accounts:

General Account	\$ 102.66
Book Publishing Account	\$ 43.54
Savings Investment Account	<u>\$8370.00</u>
	<u>\$9016.20</u>

RICHARD NORMAN

HISTORIC NAMES FOR FORMER INDUSTRIAL AREA

On the Dickson Primer site, below Ewenton Street in East Balmain, the restoration of the historic mansion Ewenton to lock up stage is nearing completion.

On the adjacent land, construction of 20 town houses and apartments by Lend Lease Residential is underway as the first stage of the development.

Landscaping of a 7000 square metre waterfront public park will be completed for handover within the next three months.

Moves are now in train to provide appropriate identifying names to the area.

The naming process involves application to the State Government's Geographical Names Board, which then asks the local community, through the Council, and the M.S.B., and local interest groups such as the Balmain Association and the Leichhardt Historical Society for their views on submitted names.

A proposal is being put forward to the Names Board to name the inlet off Johnston's Bay, Cameron

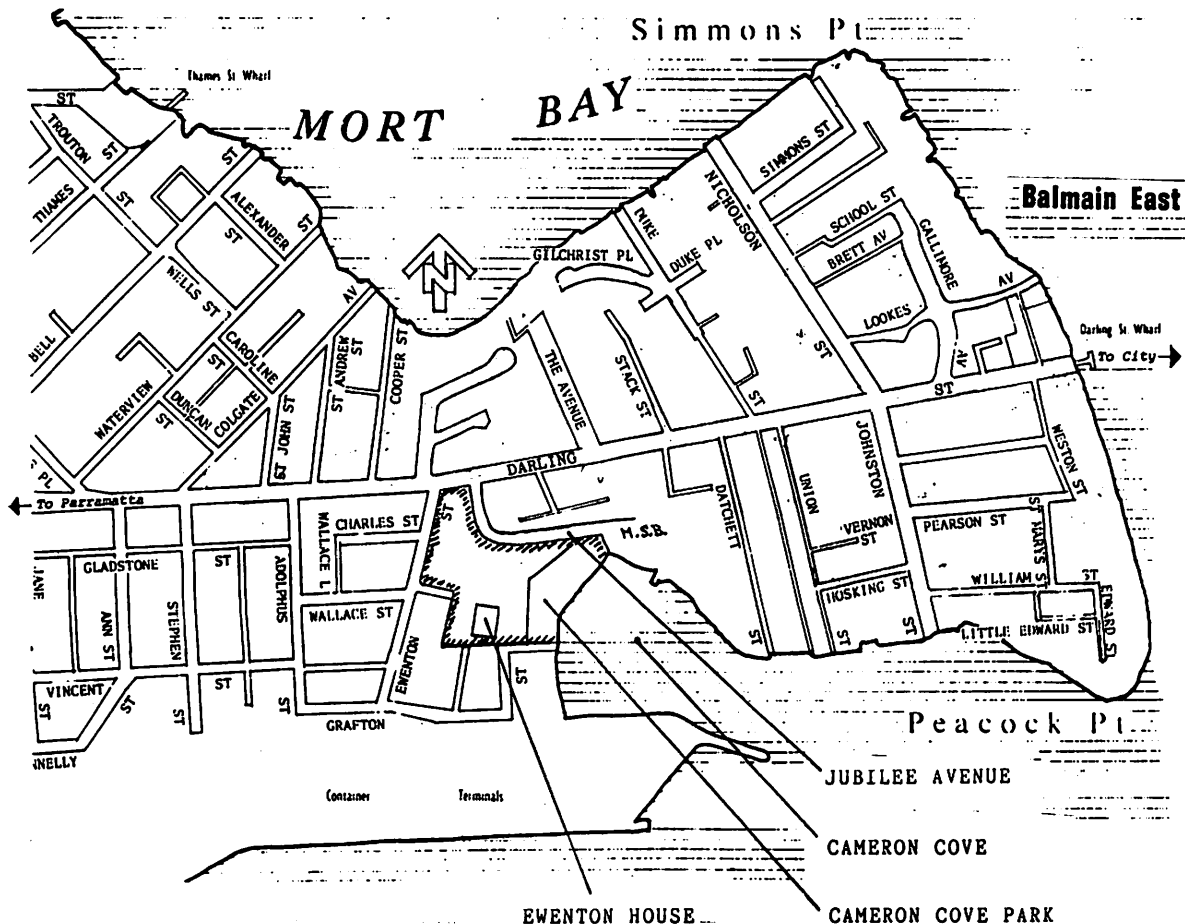
Cove, and the Park, Cameron Cove Park. It is proposed the adjacent M.S.B. road be named Jubilee Avenue.

The background to these chosen names is that Ewenton was for twenty years - from 1856 - the home of Even Wallace Cameron, with his wife and 12 children, while leading an active life in Balmain and Sydney affairs, Church, civic and commercial.

His choice of name for the house, a contraction of his first given name and surname is commemorated in the house itself and in the nearby Ewenton St, as is his other given name in Wallace Street. His surnames however has remained unremembered, hence Cameron Cove.

The soon to be opened roadway to the Park and the M.S.B. yard is named to commemorate the existence on that site for many years of the Jubilee ship building and boat repair yard.

The Geographical Names Board will in due course be advertising these names for one month prior to them being officially sanctioned.





BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB.

HEMEROCALLIS (DAY-LILIES)

Day-lilies are extremely easy perennial plants to grow, and are especially good for mass planting, requiring easy care, and in particular for sloping ground to bind eroding soil with their long tough roots.

They are untroubled by pests (except snails) or diseases and seem able to ignore nematodes that are common in the sandy soil in this area. Can grow in any soil, sun or shade, but flower best in sun of course. Like water in summer (will then flower in autumn too).

Origins: Northern Europe and Asia over to Japan. They were known in England in the Elizabethan times. The wild ones were yellow, but now have many colours (except true blue). Perhaps the coppery reds and purples are the most dramatic. Years ago, the one most people had was the old double orange one and, strangely, no more doubles seem to have been developed. There are countless varieties both evergreen and deciduous, and the newer miniatures are really interesting.

Day-lilies grow about 2 feet high with strap leaves and multiple flowers on stems. The individual flowers only last one day but the remainder keep opening over a long period. The entire plant is edible and used in Asian cooking - the tuber root being chipped and stir-fried, the flowers either fresh in salads or dried, and the leaves as a green vegetable. Our furry friends are always chewing the leaves, but perhaps, as cats, they might prefer grass, which we do not have.

General care: give some complete fertiliser such as Gro-plus etc., in Spring and February. A sprinkle of Epsom Salts is considered helpful. Propagation is by division of roots, should be done in about 3-5 years. When getting really overcrowded, the clumps appear to be rising out the ground. Some types proliferate small plantlets along the finished flowering stems. These can be plucked off, and planted out. The seeds can be planted, but will not come true to parent type; but perhaps something better maybe.

Day-lily tubers in packets appear at times on the shelves of supermarkets and nurseries, with notes on their colours. These are not named varieties; but are a moderate price and quite satisfactory. Of course, if the very best and newest named varieties are required, these can only be obtained from specialist nurseries, at a price that can go up to twenty-five dollars for a piece of root.

JESSICA MURRAY



P.S. Some named varieties of day-lilies should be on sale at a moderate price, at the Garden Club's Plant Stall at the Balmain Hospital Fete, on Saturday 14 September at Gladstone Park. See you there.

INAUGURAL RECITALCAMPBELL ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BALMAIN

featuring the 1893 Charles Richardson organ
recently restored by
J.W. Walker & Sons Australia Pty Ltd

BILL CAUKILL - ORGAN

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1985 at 3PM

Program will include works by
Sweelinck, Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn

Free admission
Enquires (02) 810 1170 or (02) 529 3201

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 1985-1986

The Management Committee of the Association is as follows:

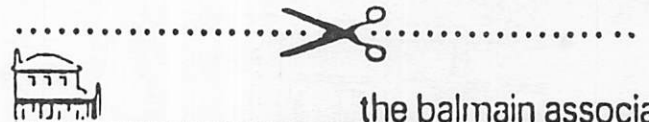
PRESIDENT:	Norman Bull
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Vacant at present
TREASURER:	Paddy Draper
HON. SECRETARY	Frances Heathfield
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:	Bob Nicholls
	Debbie Nicholls
	Jeremy Arnott

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM(OPEN/RENEW)PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 20

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: (HOME) (WOR)

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.
Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association"