



NOVEMBER 1986

NEWS SHEET

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PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

the balmain association

FOUNDED 1965

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

We have been approached by a resident of Grove Street who expressed concern at the possible neglect of the picket fence and other amenities at Birchgrove Oval. In response to his concern the Association has written to Leichhardt Municipal Council asking what long term plans Council has for the oval, including restoration work, new facilities and increased access. A copy of our letter has also been sent to the National Trust.

The Association was pleased to have as guests at our October meeting Mr Michael van Leeuwen and his wife Bronwen. Michael is Curator of the new Police Museum in Phillip Street, Sydney. It is expected that our December News Sheet will include an article on the museum which will be of interest to many members. Two of our members (Tikwis Begbie and Debby Nicholls) had previously been given a guided tour of the museum. Bronwen van Leeuwen and her mother Patricia Quinn will be holding an exhibition of Chinese brush painting and porcelain in the Watch House commencing Friday December 5th.

Speaking of exhibitions at the Watch House, artist Mel Freedman will be showing his work there commencing on Friday 12th December. Full details of both exhibitions are in the notices which appear on this page.

We would like to promote the Watch House as an Exhibition Centre. Any interested artists, potters, sculptors etc. who would like to organise an exhibition are welcome to contact Steve South on 810.1411 a/h or Norman Bull on 810.1611 a/h. The Watch House can also be made available as a meeting place for local organisations by arrangement with the Committee of the Association.

Should you wish to contact the Association on any matter the following may be contacted:

Norman Bull, President - 810.1611 a/h
Debby Nicholls, Secretary - 810.7391 a/h

MEETING

A Special General Meeting will be held at the Watch House at 7.30 P.M. on Wednesday 3rd December - before the normal monthly meeting begins - to discuss PROPOSED SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES and a proposal to introduce a COMMON RENEWAL DATE for all Association Members. The Special General Meeting is a requirement of the Constitution of the Association. All members invited to attend!

EXHIBITION

AT THE WATCH HOUSE

CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING

by Patricia W. Quinn

and

CHINESE/AUSTRALIAN INSPIRED BRUSHWORK & PORCELAIN
by her daughter Bronwen van Leeuwen

Friday December 5th - Official Opening at 7 p.m.
by Alan Stannard, President of Sydney Rotary.

All members and friends welcome.

Saturday December 6th and Sunday December 7th
11 a.m. - 4 p.m., demonstrations 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Donations \$2:00

Patricia Quinn has studied at the Julian Ashton Art School and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. Has exhibited in Singapore, Sydney and Canberra and her work is held in collections in Philadelphia, England, France, Japan, Hawaii and Australia. Patricia works with the Mo-Ku style using rice paper, vegetable root and mineral colours in accordance with thousands of years of Chinese culture.

Bronwen van Leeuwen is a graduate of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore, and the City Art Institute, Sydney. Has exhibited and taught extensively in Singapore and Australia, and held several Chinese Brush Painting workshops using the mediums of rice paper, silk, porcelain and ceramics. An exciting new dimension of Bronwen's work is the use of traditional Chinese techniques on porcelain.

EXHIBITION

AT THE WATCH HOUSE

PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE
by Mel Freedman

Friday December 12th - Official Opening at 7 p.m.
All members and friends welcome

Exhibition Times

Weekdays: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Weekends: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

December 12th - December 21st

This inaugural exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture will be presented at the Watch House from Friday December 12th to Sunday December 21st. Mel Freedman was born in Glasgow Scotland in 1945, arriving in Australia in 1972 after two years in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, he has painted seriously for twelve years. Current interests include charcoal drawing, pastel painting and sculpture and examples of these will be exhibited with approximately 50 paintings. A sample range of lamps, coffee tables and earrings which he has designed will be included in the exhibition. Mel Freedman is co-director and designer for Lounel Australia Pty. Ltd. - display manufacturers.

NEXT MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY

3RD DECEMBER 1986 7.30 P.M. AT THE WATCH HOUSE, 179 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN

HISTORICAL QUESTION AND ANSWER

Can you help?

1. Mr. Mori Flapan is researching the history of the steam pilot service of Port Jackson which was one of the earliest to use steamers in the world. In fact in 1877 the Marine Board placed into service the world's first purpose-built pilot steamer, the CAPTAIN COOK.

Balmain has a strong connection with the steam pilot service in that all four of the steam pilot vessels were built by Mort's Dock at Balmain. These vessels were:

Name	Date of Launch
THETIS	1883
CAPTAIN COOK (I)	Nov 1876
CAPTAIN COOK (II)	3 Dec 1892
CAPTAIN COOK (III)	10 Dec 1938

Further information on all these vessels particularly contemporary references to the launch of the THETIS and CAPTAIN COOK (I) and photographs of CAPTAIN COOK (I)

Archives or other reference material are sought especially the whereabouts of any local Balmain newspapers of that period; the State Library only possesses copies of the Balmain Observer for the periods 1884-1889 and 1899-1907.

2. Mr. R.J. Rowell of Epping is seeking further information about his grandfather Frederick Rowell who, after his arrival in Adelaide in 1854, came to Sydney with his family and took over the licence of Dick's Hotel in Balmain around 1899.

3. Further information is sought by Frances Heathfield about the cricketer Ted Iredale, once a pupil of Birchgrove Primary School.

GRAVE COMMENT

Some time ago, a chance remark from an inner city real estate agent set up a chain of enquiries. He said that during the Depression the poor were allowed backyard burials.

We have been asking for confirmation of this, and the following snippets of information have come from a grave digger and from Professor Waterson of Macquarie University.

According to the grave digger, "six feet deep" was a legal minimum in early Health Acts. According to Professor Waterson the registration of burials was made by undertakers. In other words, no undertaker, no registration.

The reason for the regulation on depth is to prevent disease, and the Balmain Cemetery was closed when it "leaked".

The following may be of interest: In 1825, burials were regulated, and could not take place inside a church or a chapel (with special exceptions) nor in a town without a cemetery.

The plague of 1901 did NOT call for special regulations but in 1921 when cremation became an alternative, a new Act prescribed that the dead could be buried at the back of public houses. Still-born infants were often buried in backyards, and there was little exercise of control in the outback.

We would be grateful for more information.

Did you know that Banjo Paterson belonged to the Balmain Rowing Club?

VISIT FROM DEP STAFF

As reported in the last edition of this News Sheet, a result of a meeting in September of the Association and Mr Bob Carr, the Minister for Environment and Planning, was a visit by members of DEP staff to Balmain to carry out a preliminary inspection of the shopping area to see if a heritage colour scheme project could be considered.

The preliminary inspection did occur, and at this stage a proposal is being prepared by the Department. More on this topic in our December News Sheet.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE
179 DARLING STREET BALMAIN

IS OPEN AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

FRIDAY - FROM 8 P.M.

This a BYO social evening - the night out you have when you don't feel like "going out"

AND ALSO

SATURDAY - 1 P.M. TO 3 P.M.

Coffee and conversation available (free)

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION MEETINGS ARE HELD
AT THE WATCH HOUSE AT 7.30 P.M. ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH - 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

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.
Cheques made payable to "The Balmain Association"