

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

171

FOUNDED 1965 PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

JULY 1988

FIRST FLEETERS LAND AT BALMAIN

ON Sunday 19th June the Fellowship of First Fleeters were the guests of the Balmain Association. In period costume, they were welcomed by David Ramsay (kneeling top picture) at the Darling St. Wharf together with the Australian Volunteers Band and members of the Balmain Rotary Club. The Mayor of Leichhardt, Ald. N. Origlass, then accompanied them to Nicholson St. where he endorsed a plaque commemorating the site of 'Durham', built by Captain Nicholson and the home of Josiah Mullens, a founding member and longest serving chairman of the Sydney Stock Exchange. Frank Mullens, great grandson of Josiah, donated the plaque, which was accepted by John Willis on behalf of Rotarians. This is the first of 50 similar plaques to be displayed on historical sites in Balmain. The visitors and local residents were entertained by the Australian Volunteers in the grounds of the Watch House while afternoon tea was served by the usual willing band of members.



Rotarians John Willis & Peter Kendall with Frank Mullens, Ald. Nick Origlass & Jane Ward

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ON response to growing pressure from our members, last month's meeting of the Balmain Association resolved to ask Leichhardt Council for a moratorium on all development on the Peninsular, until a total town plan has been drawn up with resident participation.

Most residents do not agree with planners and developers who think we need increased population and traffic, "visual" instead of functional open space and "glimpses" of the harbour instead of vistas and access. If "glimpses" are so quaint and satisfying, why are individuals prepared to pay millions to hog the view?

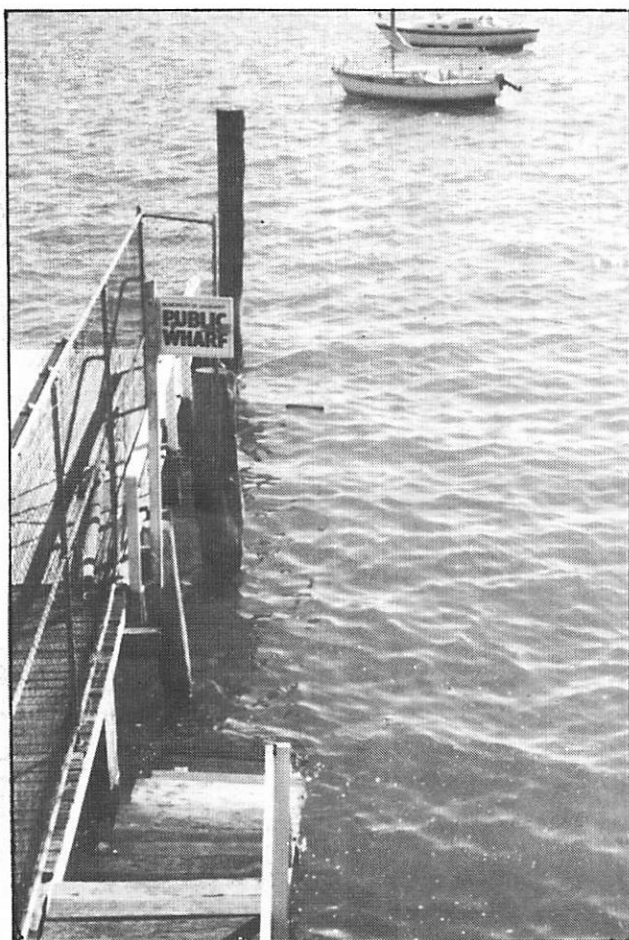
Foreshore setback, public access and vista protection should, by now, be statutory rights of the public and not depend on concessions or philanthropy by developers. Action by the State Government is long overdue.

At the last local government elections, the new Leichhardt Council gained a mandate to re-order priorities set by the previous Labor council and still being implemented by the departmental staff. As part of the comprehensive town plan we seek, strategies should be detailed for the increase of useful open space and the allocation of the \$1.2 million in Council's Open Space Fund.

Jane Ward

DEVELOPMENT REJECTED

ONCE again the Howard-Smith site development was unanimously rejected by the Leichhardt Council on June 12. Local residents who have petitioned Council are concerned by the blocking of views from Birchgrove Rd and the exclusive use of the publicly owned Maritime Services Board Wharf. Other than the Cove Street MSB wharf the only public wharf between Long Nose Point and Elkington Park is the tiny one (below) at the foot of Water St.



LEICHHARDT PLANNING STAFF

A list of officers that you may need to contact.

Gary Shields	- Chief Town Planner
Allan Cober	- Strategic Planner
John Pagan	- Statutory Planner
Bruce Ley	- Planner
Terry Watson	- "
John Carmichael	- "
Lindy Kelly	- "
Bruce Threlfo	- "
Linda Nash	- "

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

ROSE POTTING

IF you are thinking of moving house in a year or two, you may prefer to pot up your roses instead of establishing them in the garden. I know of someone who has recently moved from Balmain with 300 roses in pots, having accumulated them over several years in anticipation of a move to the country. He used small size garbage bins in several unobtrusive colours (dark brown and dark green), and making a number of holes in the base of each. I thought that he had concocted some exotic potting mix but he said that he only used Franklins "No Frills" mix, with several inches of crocking material on the bottom for drainage. Of course they were fertilised and watered carefully as plants in pots cannot forage for themselves. The pots were also raised on 1/2 bricks or similar to allow proper drainage and to keep out ants and earthworms, both of which can seriously upset potted plants. Use the same feeding instructions that were given last month for roses in the ground.

Jessica Murray

The Garden Club meets on the third Saturday of each month at 1.15pm at the Watch House. All interested welcome.

**It's the owners who
are guilty of fouling
up our streets &
parks...**



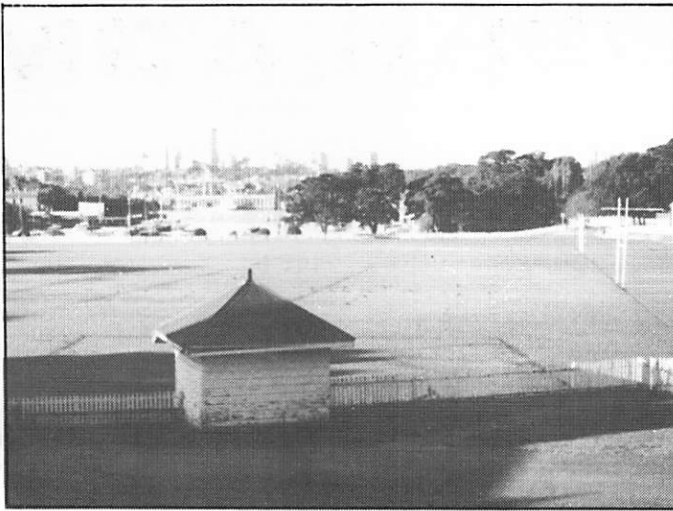
**and they're
breaking the law.**

Dogs using trees and posts to leave their scent is one thing. It's instinctive for them. But dogs can be trained, or restrained, not to foul up our public streets, paths, neighbours' gardens and parks. Where YOUR dog does his business is YOUR business. Your responsibility.

THE LAW: Offending dogs at large can be impounded. Owner could pay \$100 fine plus costs.

Don't break the law, control your dog!

INSERTED BY THE LEICHHARDT COUNCIL AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE



BIRCHGROVE PARK

'Tis night, calm night, and weary Nature
lies

So still, as though she never would rise
The moon, in shy alluring way
Kisses the water of this lovely bay
The waters trembling with delight
Blush rosy red from sun-set light
The sea wall's bend and graceful curve
The lapping waters gently serve
A winding path that wall pursues
And points all sides to lovely views
To quiet waters, distant heights
To moving boats with ferry lights
To seats on lawn, seen dimly there
Inviting rest, and soothing care
The soft green swards at back suggest
Composure, quiet, peace and rest
The dewy twilight too has drawn
Sweet scent of clover from the lawn
And boats, that glide and glisten by
Bring pleasure to my weary eye
And as they glide draw out and steal
Away my pain, and softly heal.

by M.A.H. Fitzharding

Born Dec 29th 1849 Waterview Bay.
Solicitor 1878-1925 Birchgrove Park
Trustee. Hon. Sec. Balmain Regatta, Boat
24ft "Adelphi". His former home "Keba" 12
Louisa Rd. is undergoing restoration.

What would be Mr. Fitzharding's
reaction upon hearing today's residents
complaints about the fouling of the park
by dogs and acts of vandalism that local
residents have observed?



WANTED

We need a volunteer to help with the
correspondence



HISTORICAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & NOTES

MRS. THOMPSON of Raymond Terrace, en-
quiring about the names Johnston /
Johnston circa 1870 and William John-
son circa 1850, has been the recipient of
the Association's first trial Database
Extract from the *BALMAIN INDEX*. It works!
We now have somewhere in the order of 5500
entries between 1844 and 1877.

The University of Sydney Library
wrote to us concerning the boat "*Tom
Fisher*". It was a 74 ton two-masted
schooner, named after its owner Thomas
Fisher of Darlington. Its captain was
James Beattie, also of Darlington. Beattie
took out a mortgage with Fisher for £1200
to purchase it, but Fisher died in 1884,
leaving virtually his entire estate to the
University of Sydney. The University
called in the mortgage in 1885 but Beattie
defaulted and the University sold the
ship. The University's archives have the
mortgage document and bill of sale, both
of which give detailed descriptions of the
vessel. There was said to have been a
second ship, the "*Sarah Fisher*", named for
Thomas Fisher's sister but the University
has not been able to verify this.

Concerning the naming of streets,
Mrs. Ryan of Drummoyne informs us that
Prosper and Coulon Streets were so named
after the death of the brother of Edward
Goodsir's wife (formerly Melana Coulon).
Prosper Coulon, a prominent rower in the
Clarence River area, died in 1875. Melana
named her home in Reynolds St. "*Prosper
House*" - regrettably the house no longer
exists.

Sandy Barrie, Photographic Historian,
is seeking information on early profess-
ional photographers practising in the
Balmain area between 1840 and 1945. Of
note is the information Sandy gave about
SIDNEY RILEY "who went on to be the most
famous of the Sydney photographers and is
well documented". Sidney Riley is listed
as occupying 328 Darling St. in 1911 and
1914.

Tikwis Begbie



Coming soon

AUGUST EXHIBITION

A Mixed Show in Mixed Mediums

OPENING on Friday 12th August at 7pm at the Watch House a show has been organised by Jan Melville of *De Peinture Art Studio*, who exhibited earlier this year. She will be displaying drawings on paper, in pastels and mixed media. Other artists participating are Sonja Etherington - contemporary knitwear; Sally Olive - hand-tinted photographs; and Pol Polkamp - decorated pots.

The exhibition continues Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th from 10am to 5pm. All enquiries to Jan Melville on 810 7505.

HOLIDAYS AT BALMAIN

THEA ROWE spent her school holidays with her grandmother in a cottage (now gone) in Palmer St. These were days of happy memories for her.

Thea Rowe is an experienced entertainer who many will remember. She is coming to the Watch House on Saturday, 8th October and will give an informal and amusing talk on holidays at Balmain. This will be an afternoon to interest everyone who knows Balmain. We expect to revive memories.

Watch later News Sheets for details.

Dear Members,

To the ladies of the Association, Bonnie, Debbie, Frances, Kath, Jane and Jan, THANKS for a great job on 19th June for the visit of the First Fleeters. A special thanks to Jessie Gray, Bob and Val also without bias, my wife, Ann whose cakes went quicker than a politician's promises.

The Australian Volunteers Band was very popular and if the membership feels fit, we could have more visits.

These hard working members lead the way and promote the Association. I would hope that more of our members will take part in future activities.

David Ramsay

Chairperson Bicentennial Committee

1988 AGM

THE BALMAIN ASSOCIATION

1988 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST

IN THE WATCH HOUSE

179 DARLING STREET

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE WATCH HOUSE

The Watch House is open EVERY Saturday from 1 to 3pm. Call in for coffee.

The Balmain Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Watch House 179 Darling St. Balmain.

Our editorial phone number is 818 4954.

Send mail to PO Box 57, BALMAIN. 2041.

Contact Steve South on 810 1411 for renting of the Watch House.



the balmain association
representing
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 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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: HOME:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (including News Sheet Delivery in Balmain-Birchgrove-Rozelle)

Please circle ... NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL

Single/Family/Household \$ 8.00
Organisation \$12.00
Pensioner or Student \$ 1.00

Add \$5.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted.

Cheques should be made payable to "The Balmain Association".