

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

173

FOUNDED 1965

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

SEPTEMBER 1988

ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Balmain Association continues its work towards preserving the history, character and amenity of our area. We encourage members of the community to bring their concerns and issues to us so that we may expand our role of representing residents in accordance with our Charter. Some issues arise suddenly; others draw on for years. Most specific problems are part of a general pattern of over-development, congestion and poor planning. That is why the Association recently called for a moratorium on development on the Peninsula until there is an overall town plan with resident participation. That is also why, in our News Sheets, I have tried to present issues in the context of appropriate planning principles and environmental law. It is also why I have targeted urban myths which scapegoat Balmain and block rational and realistic discussion of development and heritage issues.

I have enjoyed my year as President, because I have been supported by hard-working, talented and enthusiastic members. Thanks are due to all the Committee members, fund-raisers and supporters. Particular thanks are extended to the following:- Jeremy Arnett Vice-President, Warwick Purser Treasurer & general powerhouse, David Ramsay & Michelle South for their work on the Bicentennial sub-committee, Debby & Bob Nicholls for their work with correspondence and the News

Sheet, Kath & Val Hamey for their increasing involvement with records and News Sheets, Tikwis Begbie for her computer index of historical data, Norm Bull for his membership pamphlet 'Associate with Balmain', Steve South for impeccably professional management of Watch House bookings, Jessica Murray & Margaret Ford for their gardening wisdom, Bonnie Davidson, Pat Wray, Francis Heathfield, Helen Engle, Ann Ramsay, et al, for their excellent catering and back-up, Tim Davis & footsloggers for the News Sheet services.

The Balmain Association has had a busy year, with several successful exhibitions and functions, especially ones relating to the Bicentenary. We are assisting the Balmain Rotary Club in their project for the commemorative historic plaques in the area. The Management Committee has many projects underway, including the repair and restoration of the Watch House, an information pamphlet about Balmain and a new sign for the Watch House. We have offered to manage the restored Clontarf Cottage on behalf of the community. We are participating in the debate on issues such as helicopters, the future of site C at Mort Bay, the quantity and quality of local open space, traffic management, the redevelopment of industrial sites and the quality of life of residents. We are continuing to expand our membership (up 30% this year), and newcomers are always welcome as there is a great deal to be done. So long as members sustain their energy and commitment, the Association will grow from strength, playing a very important role in local life.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME to 30th June	1988	1987	1986
Memberships	2419	1816	1416
Fund Raising	0	243	638
Donations	1908	816	206
Centenary Envelopes	786	0	0
Watch House Hire	1972	1580	160
Miscellaneous	807	423	724
Half Thousand Acres	432	307	253
Around Balmain	2336	2765	4746
Leaflets	399	348	269
L.H. Journal	391	85	342
Total	11450	8383	8754

EXPENDITURE	1988	1987	1986
Newsletter	1224	1219	1266
Fund Raising	0	202	87
Govt. Charges	126	90	82
Centenary Envelopes	409	0	0
Watch House	2514	977	3167
Miscellaneous	20	53	745
Donations	70	0	0
Around Balmain	0	0	9826
Publicity	325	24	251
Publications	1612	446	665
Subscriptions	112	128	75
Stationery	0	97	0
Clothing for Resale	314	0	0
Total	6726	3236	16164

Clontarf Cottage

Birchgrove House and Clontarf Cottage are included in an exhibition of Demolished Houses now at Elizabeth Bay House. The display by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW is a study of homes lost through accidental or planned demolition. Fortunately, the Clontarf Community Committee has been established to restore the cottage and two meetings have been held already. Our Association is represented and has offered to manage the renovated building. At the meeting on 1st September a report was given by architect, Mr. Howard Tanner, who had, some years previously, prepared a detailed study for the Dept. of Housing. He will confer with John Doyle Associates on work to the lock-up stage.



NEXT to Clontarf in Wallace St. is a fine example of restoration of an old cottage by Mr. Robert Bruce who is a member of the Committee. The work lasted four years but has resulted in the preserving of one of Balmain's lovely old houses. The host of golden daffodils are splendid in the large spring garden.

One proposed development in the Balmain shopping area that will affect us all will be on the site now occupied by the Esso Service Station, 314-322 Darling St. The commercial and residential complex will cover the area from Helmut's Health Food store to Little Llewellyn St. The pedestrian entrance from Darling St. is to be an open plaza to the 12 shops with two large offices on the first floor and five 2 bedroom apartments on the second floor. There will be space for 41 cars accessed from Little Llewellyn St. The plans prepared by Lawrence Nield & Partners can be inspected at the Leichhardt Council.

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

LILLIUMS

LILLIUMS are the true lillies as opposed to arum lillies. At no time must lillium bulbs be allowed to dry out. They must be replanted the same day that they are dug up. Good drainage is essential and is more easily obtained by using pots. Commence planting in July. Wash pots. Place bulbs in a colander and wash away all the old soil. Disease will show as brown scales as against the healthy light coloured scales. Remove all brown scales and wash again. Keep the pots cool and moist in summer. Lilliums need equal amounts of sun and shade. Acid soil is best. Mix equal parts of liquid insecticide and liquid pesticide and soak the bulbs for one hour, then drain. Potting mix - one bucket of orchid potting mix, half a bucket of old cow manure, one handful of superphosphate. Place clean cocoat fibre in the bottom of the pots for drainage. Add potting mix and plant bulbs. The right liquid manure for lilliums is obtained by adding one level teaspoon of epton salts to one level teaspoon of sulphate of potash. Dissolve in a clean two litre plastic bottle of cold water. Shake well. Apply to soil once each fortnight from the time the plants appear. Sprinkle osmocote on the soil.

Margaret Ford

The Balmain Garden Club have their meeting at 1.30pm on the third Saturday of each month in the Watch House.

HAVE YOU SPOTTED ONE YET?

Bicentennial Commemorative Plaques are being installed on buildings by the Balmain Rotary Club and the Balmain Association. A Heritage Walk and picnic will be held on Sunday 13th November. Commencing at the Darling St. wharf the walk which will allow an inspection of the plaques in East Balmain. The route will proceed to the Watch House before returning to Peacock Park for the picnic and sausage sizzle.

STREET STALL SATURDAY ANZ BANK OCT 15th

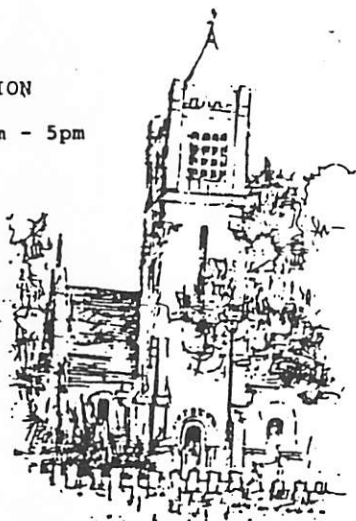
DONATIONS of good second-hand books and handicraft would be appreciated. Cakes and biscuits, jams or anything we can sell will be accepted eagerly. Deliver by 10am to stall cnr Mort & Darling Sts. We need volunteers on the stall as well. Contact Bonnie on 810 5185.

THE GLEBE SOCIETY

1988 BUILDING INSPECTION

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER 10am - 5pm

12 buildings, public and private will be open to the public to coincide with the opening of Lyndhurst. St John's Church (Blacket) and Hereford House are included as well as significant private homes.



Lunch and refreshments available from St John's or participating restaurants and coffee shops.

Family \$15, single \$10 pensioners and students \$5

Further information:
660 7713 660 7624 660 5610



Helen Engle and her potter colleagues at their successful August exhibition.



HISTORICAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & NOTES

LEICHHARDT Historical Journal No 15, page 8, refers to a theft at Birchgrove House (the first house on what was to become known as the Balmain Peninsula) demolished back in Christmas 1967.

Further details of the theft of "every square of glass" (worth 3/6 wholesale for each 10" x 8" pane) from Birchgrove House have been provided by Chris Pearce of Queensland.

One of the culprits responsible for the crime was James Groom (alias Thomas Pamphlett). At the age of 22, Thomas, a brickmaker at Manchester, was found guilty of stealing a bay mare in the county of Chester, together with five pieces of woollen cloth. A death sentence was commuted to 14 years transportation and Pamphlett was transported to New South Wales in the "Guildford", arriving in Sydney on 18 January 1812.

He and his accomplice were tried for the "glass" theft at proceedings of the Bench of Magistrates of 28 May 1814 and sentenced to 100 lashes in the Market Place and 12 months in the iron gang. A heavy penalty indeed even if glass was a rare commodity in those days! He absconded from the gang and in 1815 was sent to the Newcastle penal settlement. He is best known for being marooned with two others in the Moreton Bay area, living with aborigines for some 7 months before being rescued by John Oxley. Pamphlett later returned to the area as a convict for stealing 2 sacking bags and flour in the Hawkesbury area.

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 at 1.30pm 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. Afternoon tea will be served. Members and friends are invited.

EXHIBITION AT THE WATCH HOUSE

September 23rd to 30th
Chinese Brush Painting - Patricia Quinn

November 5th & 6th
Pottery - Helen Engle

November 25th - December 3rd
Paintings - Jan Marsh

FOR YOUR DIARY

Balmain Holidays - Ihea Rowe - Oct 8th

Street Stall - Oct 15th
cnr Mort & Darling Streets

Heritage Walk & Picnic - Nov 13th

SARAH BERNHARDT'S RABBIT

David Allen's play based on events which occurred on Rodd Island in 1891. Belvoir St. Downstairs Theatre, Sep 23rd to Oct 30th. Tues to Sat 8.15pm, Sat/Sun 5.15pm.



WE have on display at the Watch House a range of Colonial clothing which should be of interest as gifts or mementoes.

Full Colonial Aprons.....\$29.95
Caps.....\$9.95
Plain White Shirts (size 8 & 10)....\$14.95
Arrowed Calico Shirts (SM).....\$22.95
Arrowed Calico Shirts (M).....\$24.95
SPECIAL PRICE ON BOOKS

Around Balmain.....\$5.00
Half a thousand acres.....\$5.00
Leaflets.....\$0.60

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 1988

PRESIDENT	Jane Ward
VICE PRESIDENT	Francis Heathfield
TREASURER	Warwick Purser
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY	
MINUTE SECRETARY	Jeremy Arnott
NEWS SHEET EDITOR	Val Hamey
HISTORICAL ARCHIVES	Kath Hamey
HISTORICAL INDEX	Tikwis Begbie
FUND RAISING OFFICIAL	Bonnie Davidson
.. ..	Pat Wray
WATCH HOUSE CONSERVATOR	Debbie Nicholls
WATCH HOUSE HIRE	Steve South
BICENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN	Dave Ramsay

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.

WANTED

We need a volunteer to help with the correspondence



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".

Half-price until January, 1989