

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

174

FOUNDED 1965

PO BOX 57 BALMAIN 2041

OCTOBER 1988

GOING

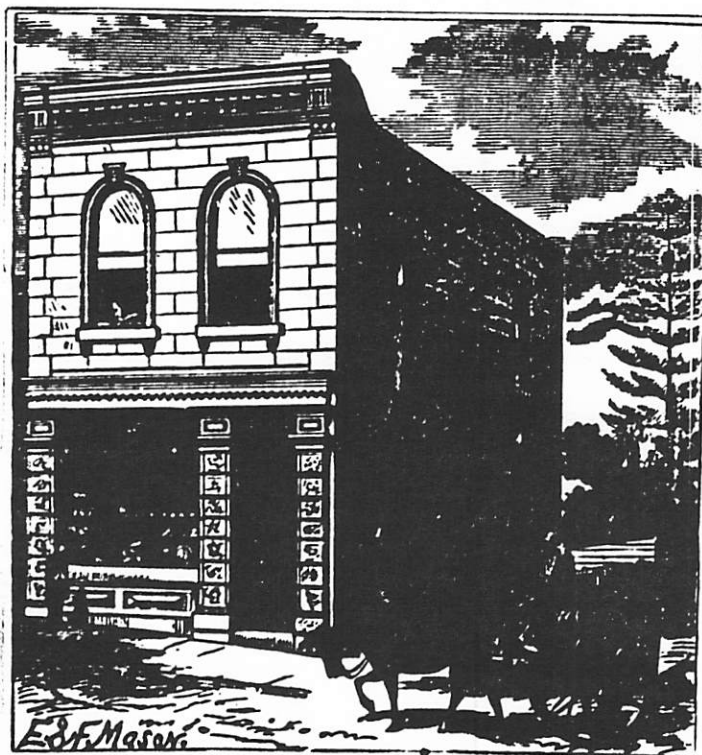
GOING

GONE?

MORE of Balmain's history is to disappear with the proposed development of 11 townhouses between 169 Darling Street and 3A Colgate Avenue. Local residents are unanimous in that they consider the proposed site will be overdeveloped with insufficient parking and the ensuing traffic problems with the narrow streets. The proposal will overshadow and overlook present properties.

How many buildings in Darling St. show their original 19th century form? Consideration should be given to the fate of 169 Darling St. whose facade remains virtually unchanged since 1881. The drawing (Balmain Observer, 11th June, 1881) shows the once splendid bakery of Mr. W.E. Dance, built in 1880. The Balmain Index reveals that William Edward Dance was a baker/pastrycook in Darling St. between St. Andrew's St. and St. John's St. /Broadstairs St. from 1876 to around 1889.

The Municipal Town Planner's Report, 27/9/88 states that the building is in poor repair (see photograph); however the proposed replacement building will "echo the character of a 19th century corner building, including a return balcony". WHY REPLACE REALITY WITH FICTION?



W. E. DANCE,

In announcing REMOVAL to NEW SHOP and BAKERY, DARLING and ST. JOHN STREETS, begs to acknowledge sincerely the very liberal support accorded him in the past, and to solicit a continuance of the same. Every article supplied will be guaranteed of best quality, at lowest remunerative rates. Families supplied with Best Bread daily. All kinds of Pastry, Mkt. and Tea Cakes fresh every day. Best brands of Colonial Wines single bottle at wholesale prices.



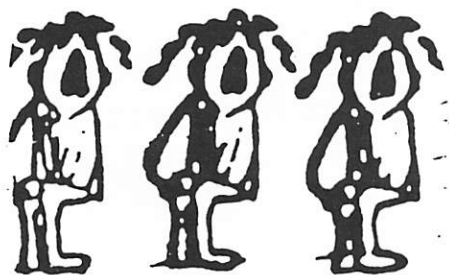
UNDER consideration for a Bicentennial Commemorative Plaque by the Balmain Association and the Rotary Club, Broomoo House, corner of Colgate Ave. & St. John Street, is also to be demolished. Built circa 1843, Broomoo House was described as "a very large house of cut stone, consisting of 11 rooms beside out-houses" (ref. Leichhardt Historical Journal No 10, p. 14).

Of historical note is the fact that Edward and Ann Spofforth, the parents of the 'demon bowler' Frederick Robert Spofforth, lived in Broomoo House between 1848 and 1851. Frederick was born on 9th September, 1853 in Broadstairs St. Another occupant from 1863 to 1871 was Burchard Frerichs, a Sydney merchant and Consul for Bremen (1869).

Little else than the outer walls of the original house remains according to the Report. As the remains are an "interesting architectural curiosity", complete drawings and details should be made in the interest of our Balmain heritage.

Tikwis Begbie

HELP



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.

TOWN PLAN SUPPORT

SUPPORT is growing for the Balmain Association's call for a moratorium on large development on the peninsula until a comprehensive town plan is formulated. At the recent meeting of the Clontarf Cottage Committee, Ald. Issy Wyner made a similar call. Association President, Mrs. Jane Ward, has warned that people have become frightened of traffic problems that could arise from the development of the White Bay Power Station, Unilever, MSB and Ampol sites. The business park proposed by Pacific Properties could generate congestion in the Balmain shopping centre from the 2000 workforce.

The National Trust recently added its opposition to the sale of publicly owned land. We should raise the option of leasing as a viable alternative.

BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

AZALEAS

AFTER the flowering period is finished, layering is a good way to create new plants that will always grow true to type. Use semi-hardwood branches about 10 cm long. Make a cut about 1 cm deep in the underside of the selected stem and place a match in this cut to keep it open. Take a Y shaped woody piece from anu tree and use it to peg down the stem into damp sandy loam, alongside the parent plant.

In about six months new shoots will appear, then it is ready for lifting. Gently dig it out, retaining a ball of soil around the roots. Cut it from the parent plant above soil level and plant it in a new position.

Azaleas must be kept moist at all times, but do see that they have good drainage. They must have an acid soil, so avoid using lime. Top dress the soil with leaf mould and never hoe around the base; weed gently by hand if necessary.

Margaret Ford

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

MEMORIES

AN invitation to afternoon tea at the Watch House on 21st September was accepted by fourteen members of the Rozelle Combined Pensioners and they shared many experiences of past times. They were amused by Mr. J. Grafton's recollection of his childhood chant in answer to the call of the Clothes-prop man - 'What's your mother's legs made of? CLOTHES PROPS!'

Kilcade the milkman brought the response -

Come on ladies, come on ladies,
if you haven't got a jerry
if you haven't got a jerry
well, god bless you.

Mr. Grafton could also recall the aroma of the wonderful pies from Scott's Bakery.

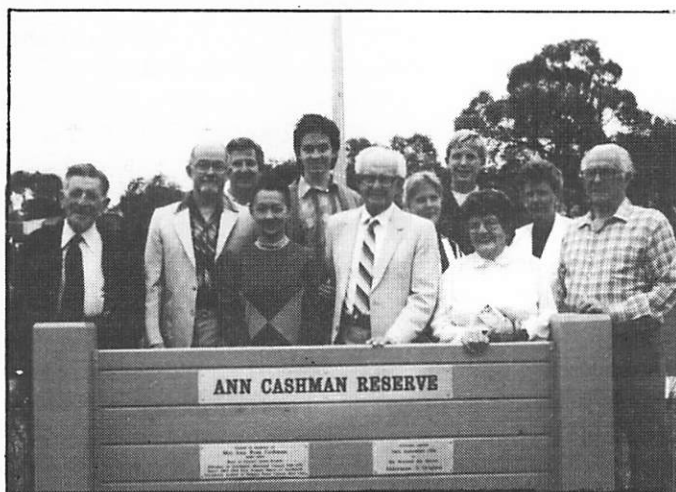
Their Secretary Mrs. Grace McLeod would be pleased to give information about the meetings held at the Harry S. Hannaford Centre, Rozelle. Phone 810 3963.



ANN CASHMAN RESERVE

THE Mayor, Ald. Nick Origlass, on 24th September officially opened the Ann Cashman Reserve on the corner of Beattie and Elliot Streets. The park has been named in memory of Mrs. Ann Ross Cashman, the first woman mayor of Leichhardt from 1963 to 1968. She was born in Foucart St. Rozelle and with her husband Mick, Mayor 1937-1939, ran a soup kitchen during the Great Depression.

The original park was extended using an adjacent Education Dept. school furniture workshop, which was acquired by the Council in the early 1960s. A surrounding picket fence to protect the gardens and children's play equipment are to be added.



*The Cashman family at the dedication
of the reserve*

Balmain walk marks events

BALMAIN Rotary Club and the Balmain Association will jointly sponsor an historical walk on November 13 to inaugurate a series of commemorative plaques as a Bicentennial project. The plaques honour people, places and events of the 187 years since Dr. Balmain sold his land grant to Dr. Gilchrist for five shillings.

The short stroll will start at the Darling St. wharf at 10am and will end with a sausage sizzle at Peacock Point where the Australian Volunteers Band will entertain. A map of the walk, details of the plaques and historical information will be available for \$2 per family.



HISTORICAL QUESTIONS, ANSWERS & NOTES

A LOCAL resident of some eighty years, Bob Roberts, during a recent visit to the Watch House, supplied some interesting "entrepreneurial" details of by-gone days. Bob worked as a tyre designer for the Perdriau Rubber Co. Ltd. (floated in 1904 with a capital of £40,000) at Birkenhead, Drummoyne and was involved in the manufacture of tyres. Early tyres were made of cross-woven mesh which, due to friction, barely lasted from Circular Quay to Central Railway. Bob was a pioneer in the invention of cord fabric tyres which lasted considerably longer. Management, as is often the case even in these days, took the credit. (Chapter 6, Part III, of "Elusive Freedoms" by Ralph Perdriau is entitled "A leading pioneer in secondary industry of Rubber Manufactures in Australia. Perdriau Rubber Company 1882-1929-1964". The Perdriau Rubber Co. eventually amalgamated with the Dunlop Rubber Co.

Chris Pierce who recently supplied details of the theft of the glass panes at Birchgrove House, is writing a book about Thomas Pamphlett to be published by Boolarong Publications of Brisbane... we look forward with interest to reading the book.

HOME ownership is often a problem with family history enquiries when researchers have difficulties in coping with the idea that their ancestors in question were prosperous.

Both the Sands Directories and the Leichhardt Historical Journals reveal that many of Balmain's prosperous and not so prosperous citizens of the last century rented their homes and in fact changed residences quite a few times.

"Changing Perspectives on the Victorian Family", the English Genealogists' Magazine of September 1988, reveals that around 90% of all (U.K.) housing was rented accommodation up to 1914.

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED: Roughly five million men emigrated from Britain between 1870 and 1913.

EXHIBITION AT THE WATCH HOUSE

November 5th & 6th
Pottery - Helen Engle, Julie Ingle, and
Lorraine Nelson

November 25th - December 3rd
Paintings - Jan Marsh

FOR YOUR DIARY

Street Stall - Oct 15th
cnr Mort & Darling Streets

Heritage Walk & Picnic - Nov 13th

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

WE are saddened by the passing of one of our most valuable members, *SOMEONE ELSE* which will create a vacancy within our ranks that will be difficult to fill.

A long time member, it would not surprise us to find the name mentioned in our earliest records. Someone did far more than a normal person's share. Whenever there was a job to do, a meeting to attend, or any other task, one name was on everyone's lips - "LET *SOMEONE ELSE* DO IT!" It was common knowledge that *SOMEONE ELSE* was among the largest contributors to the Association; whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed *SOMEONE ELSE* would volunteer.

Now *SOMEONE ELSE* has gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Who is going to do the things *SOMEONE ELSE* did? When you are asked to help, remember - WE CAN'T DEPEND ON *SOMEONE ELSE*.

OVERHEARD in Louisa Rd. in the traffic snarl during the fireworks on Saturday 1st October, "Why isn't this a one-way street?"

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

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
BOOKS

Around Balmain.....\$5.00
Half a thousand acres.....\$9.95
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.

CONGRATULATIONS

Margaret Beale has kindly offered her services as our correspondence secretary as soon as her present commitments have been concluded.



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