

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

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BEWARE HOUSING PLAN

A State Government report has recommended that planning regulations be relaxed to allow for more privately-funded medium-density developments in Sydney's inner suburbs. It intends to do this by giving developers the right to appeal to the Land and Environment Court when local councils refuse to rezone land for the construction of town-houses and villas.

This policy is also welcomed by the Federal Government. It appears that both governments will have a fight on their hands if they take precipitate action without ensuring that there are reasonable restrictions governing the quality and aesthetics of such housing.

Local councils and residents insist that they are the best judges of the types of housing most appropriate for their areas. Leichhardt Council has asked its planning department to look at ways of protecting residents' sunlight, limiting roof heights and boundary setbacks to minimise overtowering.

Balmain residents are particularly concerned because of the number of former industrial sites on the Peninsula about to be released. However, 40% of the development applications are from residents seeking to convert their two bedroom houses into three or four bedrooms. The council maintains that it has its hands full trying to protect the existing streetscapes. This also highlights the traffic problems. Because it is built on a peninsula, Balmain does not experience arterial congestion, but suffers from limited access from and across Victoria Road. We also lack suitable sporting and recreational facilities.

The Raine Report advocating the removal of the open space levy should be resisted vigorously.

MORT'S DOCK SHOOT-OUT

Dawn Fraser was interested by the recollections in our last issue of the raid on Mort's Dock pay-roll 39 years ago. As a child she remembers fishing near Elkington Park when two men got in a boat moored nearby. She actually helped them load a heavy bag which she realised later could have contained the tommy-gun. Imagine her surprise when she learned later that she had inadvertently helped the notorious duo, Dugan and Meers.



"Tell him we haven't got time for any of his bright ideas - we've got a battle on our hands."

VICTORIA ROAD TRAFFIC EASED



The first stage of the easing of traffic on Victoria Road and access to the Peninsula was opened on 20th February. Attended by the Mayor, Ald. Doug Spedding, Mr. Ray Brown, DMR Div. Eng., Mr. John McMullen, DMR P.R. Officer, and two stalwarts from the Balmain Association, Bonnie Davidson and Kath Hamey, Dawn Fraser, MP braved the rain to cut the ribbon to open the pedestrian overhead walkway at White Bay.

The DMR has commenced work on the underpass for the Crescent as part of the West Link which will follow the railway alongside Lilyfield Road and extend to Five Dock.

Because there are only four intersections on Victoria Road giving access to the Peninsula the Balmain Association has requested construction of a cutting and overpass at Darling Street to ease the congestion in peak hours. We believe that by reducing hold-ups on Victoria Road there would be less incentive for drivers to cut through the side streets. The DMR has a list of 28 similar intersections for urgent attention, but Darling Street is not included.

HOSKING STREET MYSTERY

For several months the units at 14 Hosking St., East Balmain have been unoccupied. Will the 10 year old block be bulldozed and redeveloped?

It seems strange that they remain empty while no redevelopment plans have been formulated. Desema Pty Ltd recently paid nearly \$8.4 million for the property. There are rumours that two other houses will go to gain access to the block through the MSB land at Cameron Cove. This would certainly improve the accessibility and improve the value of the property but at a huge cost.

GOURLIE'S CORNER

WH. & W. Fountain (piano tuners & repairs) ran the only music shop in Balmain which was situated firstly at the corner of Darling and Phillip Streets and later moved to Loyalty Square where Woolworths are today. They sold musical instruments, pianos, pianolas, mouth organs, pianola rolls, sheet music and records. The store operated from the late 1920's until early 1960.

The Balmain Index shows the following people earned their living from music last century:-

1858/9

Eastmore John, piano maker, Darling St.

Lamond Mrs, music teacher, Duke St.

Pyne Mrs W.J., prof. of music, Datchett St.

1858 to 1870

Marshall Henry, music seller, Campbell St.

1858/9 & 1861

Spagnoletti Ernest, prof. of music, Nicholson St.

1861 to 1870

Deane John, music master, Vincent St.

1865

Banks Thos., piano tuner, Campbell St.

1866

Eastmore Joseph G., piano maker, Adolphus Lane

1870

Banks Thomas, piano tuner, Duke St.

1871 & 1873

Eastmore J.George, piano maker, Adolphus Lane

1871

Marshall H., piano tuner, Beattie St.

Banks T., piano tuner, Grafton St.

Costigan Henry, music teacher, Vincent St.

Stavert H., prof. of music/singing, Hosking

Deane J., prof. of music, Little Lane

1873 to 1880

Banks Thos., piano tuner, Adolphus St.

1877

Walker R.A., piano tuner, Darling St.

Eastmore Miss A.A., music teacher, Campbell St.

1880

Eastmore Joseph G., piano tuner, Campbell St.

Eastmore Miss A.A., music teacher, "

Balmain Framers now occupy the shop where the Fountains first sold musical instruments. Balmain Framers have framed many of our historical pictures.

LOCAL CHORISTERS FOR JAPAN

Among Music 2041 members, both past and present, there are a number who are members of the Sydney Philharmonic Society. This group is responsible for the coordination of three choirs, the smallest of which, the Sydney Philharmonia Motet Choir, has been invited to sing in Japan at an International Song Festival to celebrate the first anniversary of the opening of the multi-purpose all weather stadium, the 'Tokyo Dome'.

The tour is organised by Kokusai Bunka Kyokai, with the support of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Japan Foundation and Nippon Hoso Kyokai, and is scheduled for a week later in March. Other countries participating include China, West Germany, Indonesia, Korea and the USA.

For those of us going to sing at this event - Claire Duffy, Alinta Thornton, my husband John and myself - we'll believe it when we're on the plane!

About Music 2041.

The Music 2041 Special Meeting to ratify our affiliation with the Balmain Association will be held on Saturday, March 11 - 3pm at the Watch House. So if you are a 1988/89 member of Music 2041, we hope to see you there.

Both Willis

HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE.

It is difficult to understand why struggling people continue to pay rent, when for a small advance upon the amount now going to the landlord, they can in a few years realise

THEIR OWN FREEHOLD!

for their own profit and that of their families after them.

The undersigned offers a choice from some hundred of well-situated

VALUABLE BUILDING ALLOTMENTS IN BALMAIN

(the most advancing of all the suburbs), commencing at £4 cash, and

21 QUARTERLY PAYMENTS of £2,

Giving immediate possession, and will SUPPLY TIMBER, &c., to those desirous to build.

PAYABLE by TEN SHILLINGS WEEKLY.

For those having no present intention of building, an undeniable opportunity of immense profit is evidenced by the fact of the astounding progress of Balmain during the past six years, and it is impossible that the present chance can ever recur after the working out of this beneficent

SCHEME FOR WORKING MEN.

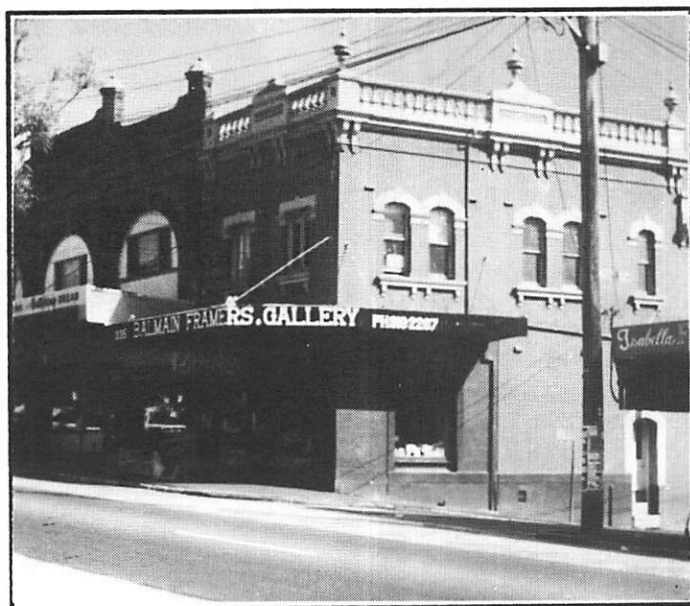
There are no law costs, no compulsion to build or fence, and the

TITLE is guaranteed INDISPUTABLE.

HANCOCK AND CROSS.

Merton Estate and General Agency Offices
Beattie-street, Balmain, near Dick's Hotel

From the Balmain Independent & Leichhardt
Observer January 15th, 1881.



BALMAIN'S SECOND POLICE STATION

Research connected with the Historical Plaques Project and the Balmain Index has revealed some interesting and possibly hitherto unknown facts to local residents about our police force and the location of the second Police Station, after the Balmain Watch House/lockup and before our third and present Police Station.

"Balmain Almanac" 1878

"Our police, six in number are amongst the most exemplary that New South Wales can produce; they are more parental than otherwise - protective not detective but they always look to the public interests ..."

Senior Constable Alexander Boyd (Bradford St)

Constable William David (Campbell St)

Const. John Taylor (Curtis Road)

Const. John Ross (Darling Road)

Const. Nicholas Soby (Darling St)

Const. John McDonald (lockupkeeper) (Darling St)

The expansion of Balmain caused the commercial centre to move further up Darling Street. In 1885-1887 a block of buildings was erected at the corner of Darling and Montague Streets which included Post and Telegraph Offices, a Courthouse with Clerk of Petty Sessions Office, and a Police Station.

This Police Station was a brick building with stone foundation and a slate roof, containing two rooms occupied as a charge room and a muster room, erected at the rear of the Post and Telegraph Office, with its entrance facing Little Darling Street. A detached brick building with slate roof, containing 4 cells and an exercise yard, also stood nearby.

A note in the Balmain Observer and Western Suburbs Advertiser, 4 June 1887, mentions that .. "Balmain with

nearly 23,000 inhabitants and 16 constables. has not had but one police charge this week."

When the police moved from there into a brick building next to the Courthouse in 1926, the former cell building was converted into a garage, and the old charge room and muster room were used as an exhibit room and meal room.

Below is an outline of how Balmain's police force increased in the second half of the last century:

1863 1 senior constable, 1 constable

1865-72 1 senior constable, 2 constables

1873-76 1 sergeant, 3 constables

1882 1 senior sergeant, 1 senior constable, 6 constables

1886 1 senior sergeant, 1 sergeant, 4 senior constables, 9 constables

1895 1 sub-inspector, 1 senior sergeant, 1 sergeant, 4 senior constables, 12 constables

1900 1 sub-inspector, 1 senior sergeant, 2 sergeants, 4 senior constables, 16 constables

POLICE SALARIES OF YESTERYEAR

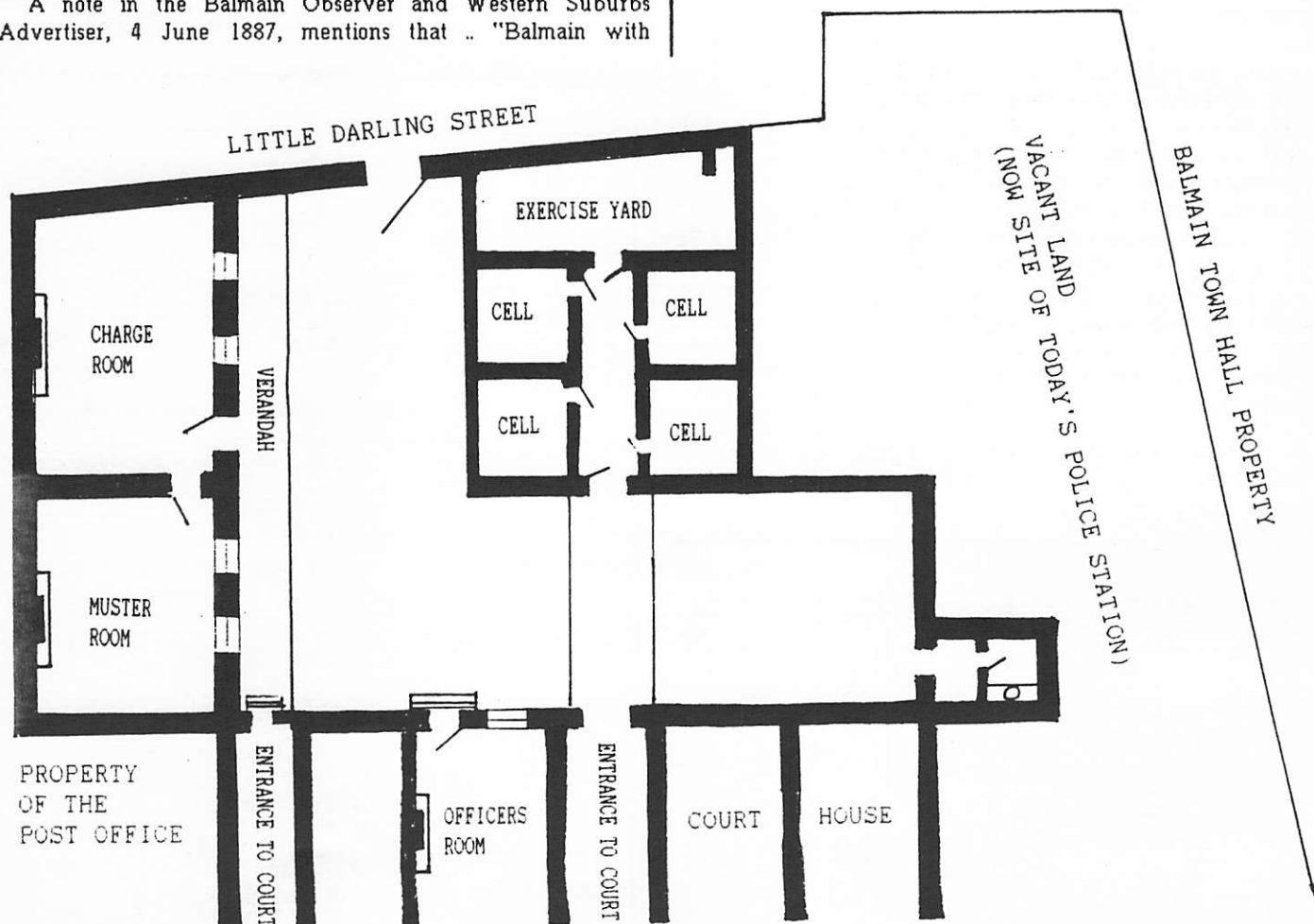
NSW - Votes and Proceedings of Legislative Council 1852
Vol 1. Supplementary Estimate of probable Expenses for 1852:

1 sergeant at 3/6 per diem to be stationed at Balmain from 1-7-1852.

2 constables at 2/9 per diem to be stationed at Balmain from 1-7-1852.

The Association is in the process of obtaining a copy of a photograph showing Little Darling Street and the entrance to the Police Station, prior to 1926.

Information and map details supplied by the Justice & Police Museum Limited. The Association wishes to thank the Curator Ms. Christa Ludlow for her assistance.



EXHIBITION AT THE WATCH HOUSE

• **March 3rd - 9th**

Works on Paper - Ann Sheridan & Larri

Current works on paper, Etchings & Screen Prints

• **Writers Aloft**

Meetings and poetry reading. Open to the public.
2nd Sunday in month at 6pm.

• **COMING SOON**

Heritage Week Exhibition

Sat 15th, Sun 16th, Sat 22nd April



BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

FRANGIPANI (Plumeria)

These are succulent trees from the tropics and are deciduous. The flowers have a sweet perfume. Many beautiful hybrids have been produced in Queensland, so now we have a variety of colours from which to choose. Sunshine is essential and they cannot stand frosts or cold winds. Good drainage is also important. Plant them on the north side of a wall and be sure to give them ample space to spread. Large cuttings can be taken in spring or summer, and will strike in moist, sandy loam. Frangipani need plenty of water in hot weather, so leave a sprinkler underneath the tree for twenty minutes on summer evenings.

ACALYPHA (Copper leaf Fijian fire plant)

As its name implies it is grown for its large, showy leaves. Acalypha makes a beautiful red leaf contrast when planted amongst green leafed shrubs. Beware of frosts and cold winds which will kill this tropical plant. It does well near a north or north-east facing wall. Acalypha do best in high rainfall areas and they should have well drained sandy soil with lots of water during summer. They are unlikely to grow south of Sydney. In August they can be lightly trimmed if their shape needs improving otherwise pruning is not necessary. Take hard wood cuttings and pot in winter in light, sandy loam in a green house to protect them from chilling.

Margaret Ford

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

PUBLIC MEETING

7.30pm Monday 20th March
Balmain Town Hall

Subject: Mort Bay Site C



**MORT BAY
ACTION GROUP**

WATCH HOUSE AFTERNOON

*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 Street,
Balmain.**

*Send mail c/o PO Box 57, BALMAIN, 2041
Contact Steve South on 810 1411 for renting of the Watch
House*

Our editorial phone is 818 4954

**Have you renewed your
membership in the prestigious
Balmain Association?**

*Your continued support is vital for the preservation of the
Watch House and all the issues that confront our
community.*

*Send your subscriptions to the Treasurer or bring them
to the Watch House on Saturday afternoon.*



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".