

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

Vol 24 No 7 Issue 183

FOUNDED 1965

AUGUST 1989

'Down the Drain'

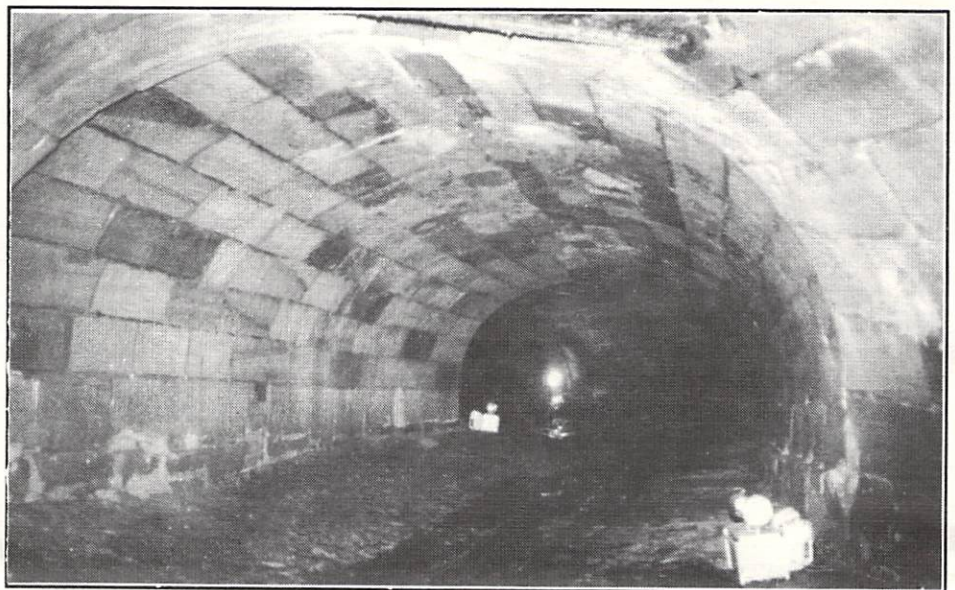
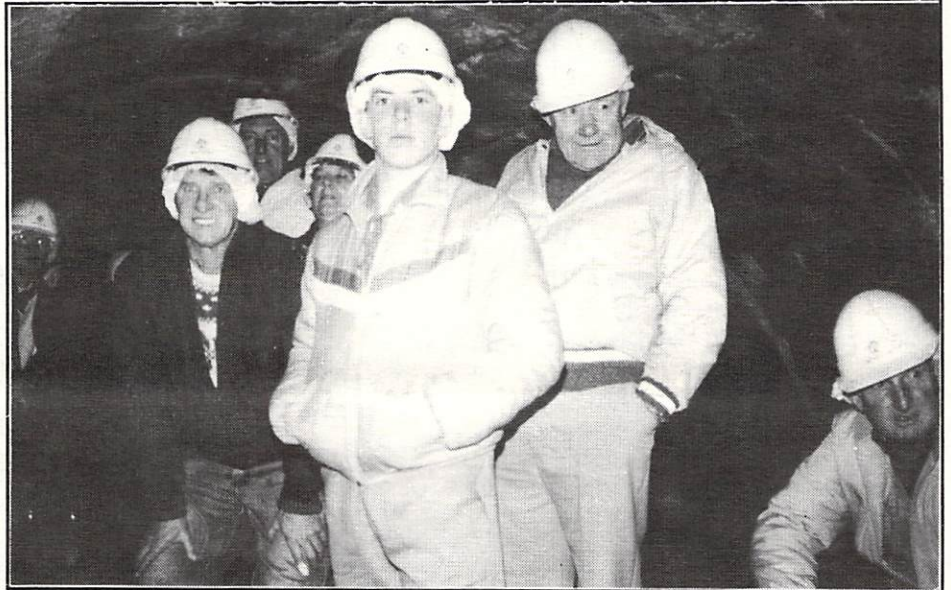
On Sunday 23rd July Sydney had its coldest spell for 3 years and where were some 40 members and friends of the Balmain Association? 'Down the drain' so to speak, well, inspecting the remains of the Tank Stream. It was actually warmer down there.

Of late the Water Board have had buckets sent their way, but a little known public relations exercise is their Tank Stream Inspection. An excellent video introduction precedes the donning of hard hats and wellies (see picture) and down we went. Just a few steps into history. Only a short section is accessible but it is interesting to see convict initials in the original sandstone.

When the First Fleet arrived, the stream must have been beautiful as a series of small waterfalls through heavy timber was a feature in its course from a swampy area that is now Hyde Park to Bridge Street where it met salt water.

The sandstone was excavated in a number of places to create storage tanks, hence the name. One was dug near where Pitt and Spring Streets intersect. In 1828 all attempts to save the Tank Stream for drinking water were abandoned and it degenerated into an open sewer. In 1858 a stone culvert was built over it from the Circular Quay end. Today it is no longer a foul sewer.

Interested? Contact the Water Board Public Relations 269 5163.



Balmain Co-op Store as it is today

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Balmain Co-op Store

The Co-op Store was a shareholders' business in which the public were eligible to buy shares. Profits were put back into the business to reduce prices. This store was situated in Montague Street (the building still stands to this day). A bakery was owned by the Co-op and produced bread for the local household and shop deliveries. The bakery and horses were housed at the foot of Theodore Street. The store sold almost anything and closed in the late 1930s.

The Balmain Association invites members and their friends to join our Traffic Committee in order to monitor traffic problems and prepare submissions.

Contact Dave Ramsay on 818 5940

THE LAST OF THE MERTON ESTATE

HOMES FOR THE PEOPLE!

The above heads a pamphlet (a copy of which has been recently acquired by the Association) that was produced by Alfred Hancock, Merton Estate Agency of Beattie and Elliott Streets, Balmain, undated with the exception of a receipt showing the date 1894.

Mr. Hancock heads his pamphlet with the words:

"To my Friends and the Public: Nearly a quarter of a century ago I inaugurated a system whereby struggling people could secure their own freeholds by small gradual payments extending over a long period. There are many hundred of worthy people in Balmain to-day freeholders, and many **INDEPENDENT** who owe their rise in life **SOLELY** to the fact that they seized the opportunity then offered, every one of whom can testify to the considerate and liberal spirit in which I treated them during the currency of their credit.

Having purchased at a cheap rate the whole of the residue of Mr. Paling's Estates at a very cheap rate, Mr. Hancock offers a **SACRIFICE PRICE** of £2 Deposit and £1 Monthly each Lot at only **SIX PER CENT INTEREST**."

There is a Special Memo that says "the Vendors offer a Bonus of One Pound to all Purchasers on this Estate who shall introduce a Customer purchasing one or more Lots, provided Notice of such Introduction be given at the time. By means of a little energy in this direction holders of Lots may greatly reduce their payments, and confer the benefit of an immensely profitable investment upon their friends."

"Now is your time to buy: the prices will never again be so low as those quoted herein.

How the children of those thoughtful, frugal parents who purchase now will bless them hereafter.

One price Only and No Deviation

No advantage taken, but fair, straightforward, honorable dealing, as practised by A.H. towards his Customers since the commencement of his business.

PURCHASERS CAN BE SUPPLIED WITH TIMBER, &C., FOR BUILDING, PAYABLE BY TEN SHILLINGS WEEKLY."

Comments of interest associated with many of the Lots that were for sale: a) Starling /Hartley /Brent Streets will have the Great Attraction of Double

Frontage, and will largely participate in the important advantages of the New Reclamation at White Bay and the coming Trams; b) Denison/Albion Streets .. are really good Residential Sites for Working Men; c) Longview Street .. the Water Frontage Lots will some day be a fortune to the Owners; d) Foucart/Albert/Alice Streets .. highly desirable, close to and overlooking Easton Park and almost Adjoining Tramway proposed.

Finally Mr. Hancock writes:

REMEMBER

Nothing can prevent long and shamefully-neglected Balmain coming to the front in the immediate future.

Tramway via Forest Lodge - Pegged out. Railway, Petersham to Field of Mars - Pegged out. Reclamation of White Bay - Now proceeding.

Levelling of Glebe Island and Establishment of Large Works - Certain to be done.

THERE IS NO CLAPTRAP IN THIS: The above Improvements ARE CERTAIN.

Ask yourself seriously, What effect will they have on the value of land, and who will profit by it?"

The Sacrifice List of Prices shows the price and lot numbers in the following streets: Albion, Manning,

Denison, Evans, Callan & Springside, Park, Oxford, Moodie, Western Road, Bridgewater, Denison, Cook, Foucart, Denison, Emily and Catherine.

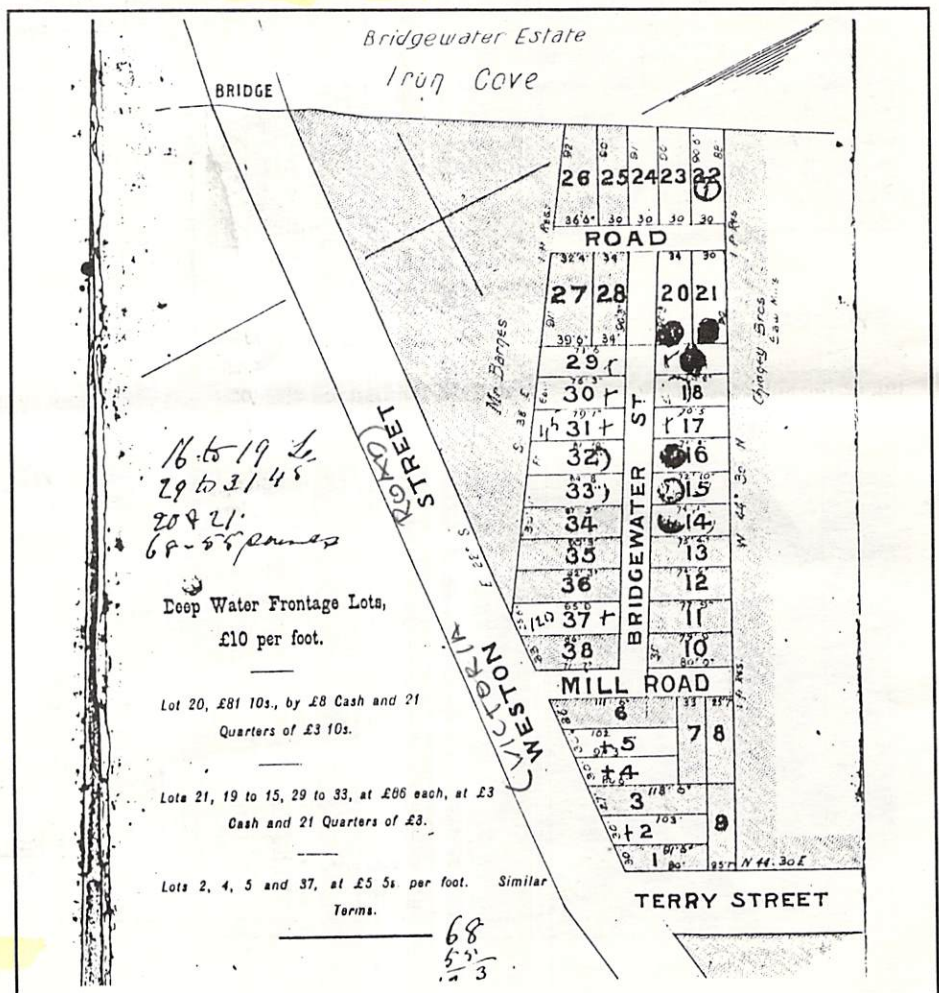
One area for sale was Section 44, Lot 2 of "The Gilchrist Settlement - A Basic Search Plan" bought in 1874 by Mr. Paling. The drawing shows the subdivision of Section 44. What makes this Section interesting that it is now about to totally change for the fourth time.

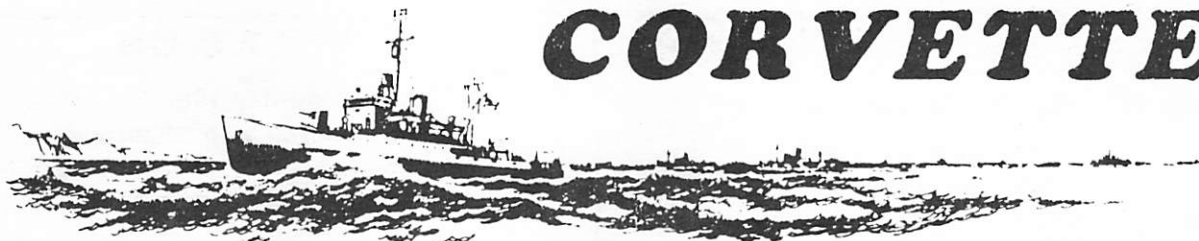
Lost somewhere in the time appear to be two streets: Mill Road and Bridgewater Street, now the site of the Balmain Power Station.

Bridgewater Street appears in the Sands Directories in 1884, Mill Road in 1888. Early occupants of Bridgewater Street (south) were T. Addison and G. Forster who subsequently joined forces to become Addison & Forster, Builders. In later years the N.S.W. Joinery Works was located on the same side of the street. Other occupants were Adolf Widmar (musician) and R. Cruickshank (composer). Bridgewater Street in the 1930s showed some 14 occupants. Mill Road had but few occupants.

The first entry entitled "ELECTRIC LIGHT", via Margaret Street, appears in 1910.

FROM VACANT LAND TO HOMES; HOMES TO INDUSTRY AND NOW BACK TO PROPOSED HOMES.



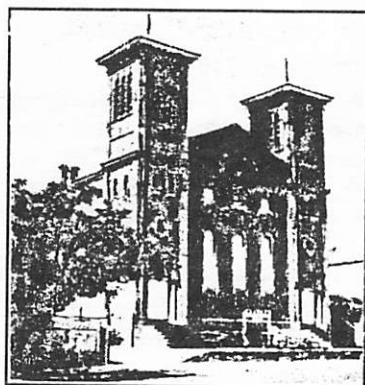


CORVETTE

The ship building industry holds a lot of history for Balmain and was particularly important during World War II as many corvettes were built by Poole & Steel, Mort's Dock and Cockatoo Island dockyards.

Only two RAN vessels were ever launched by a male and this honour went to the Rev. A.G. Rix from St. John's Church, Balmain. (1) Rev. Rix was an honorary naval chaplain and was present for the launching of 61 ships. Committee member, Bonnie Davidson, has fond memories of 'Cappy', as he was affectionately known, because he christened her, married her to husband Ray, and also christened their two children, Janice and Wayne. Rev. Arthur George Rix was minister of St. John's Church from 1928 until 2nd April 1953, when he passed away in Balmain Hospital. He was dearly loved by his parish.

One of the corvettes built in the area was HMAS "Kapunda", launched by Balmain MP, Mrs. M. Quirk from Poole & Steel, Stephen St. yards on 23rd June 1942. The South Australian town that gave its name to the ship was settled by pastoralists Bogot and Dutton in 1839 but really owes its development to the discovery of copper in 1842 and is said to be Australia's oldest mining town.



Kapunda Museum



The Rev. A. G. Rix

This information came via the office of local MP, Dawn Fraser, from Jack Hutchison, an ex-crew member. Jack's painting of the ship will be presented to the City of Kapunda and crew members will be coming from all over Australia for the commemoration of the date of her commission.

HMAS "Kapunda" took the Japanese surrender at Kuching, Borneo on 11th September 1945. There were fifteen surrenders in all, ranging from the deck of USS "Missouri", on 2nd September to Ambon, 22nd September and including Government House, Hong Kong and the corvette "Kapunda's" fore-castle. When war ended she assisted in the evacuation of Allied POW's from Kuching. She returned to Sydney 17th November 1945, was paid off into Reserve 14th January 1946, listed for disposal fourteen years later and finally left Port Jackson 21st May 1962 for breaking up. (2)

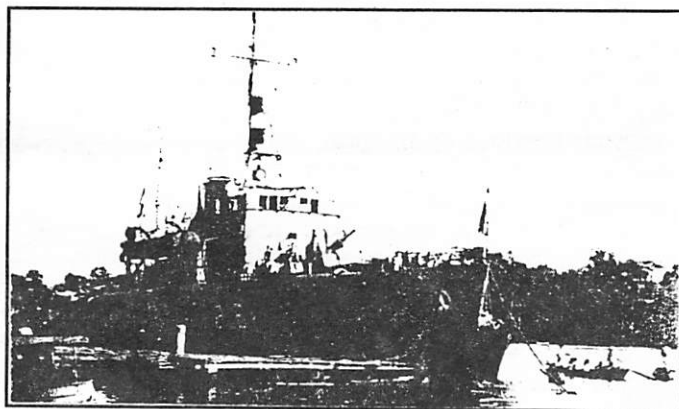
The RAN Corvette Association of NSW will be holding a National Reunion Dinner on Saturday 20th October 1990. If you are an interested ex-corvette crew member please phone Secretary Ern Pask on 888 1191.

Last issue omitted to credit the article about Cockatoo Island to Bob Nicholls. Our apologies Bob.

Below is a list of some of the corvettes that were built in Balmain dockyards (3):

Poole & Steel

Katoomba launched 16/4/41 by Mrs. H. Lloyd; *Geraldton*, 16/8/41 by Mrs. W. McKell; *Kapunda*, 23/6/42 by Mrs. M. Quirk; *Wallaroo*, 18/2/42 by Mrs. A. Poole; *Cootamundra*, 3/12/42 by Lady Davidson; *Cowra*, 27/5/43 by Mrs. P. Spender; *June*, 16/11/43 by Mrs. J. Rosevear.



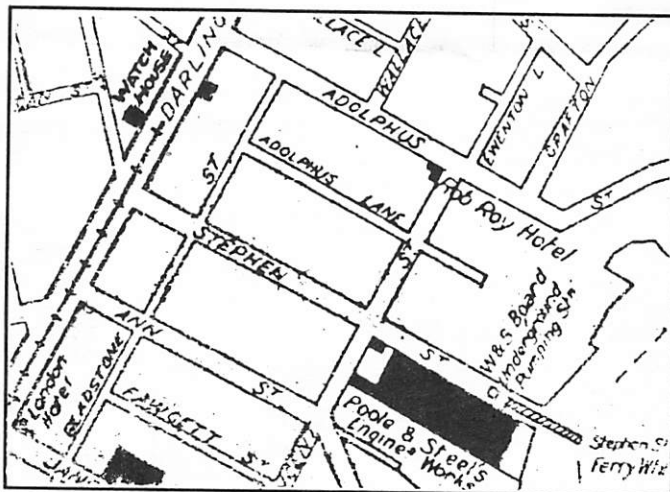
HMAS Kapunda at Kuching, September 1945

Mort's Dock

Lismore, 10/8/40 by Mrs. G. Mourhead-Gould; *Burnie*, 25/10/40 by Lady King; *Lithgow*, 21/12/40 by Mrs. W. Bennett; *Mildura*, 15/3/41 by Mrs. J. Durnford; *Deloraine*, 26/7/41 by Dame Mary Hughes; *Warnambool*, 8/5/41 by Mrs. E. Simpson; *Colac*, 30/8/41 by Miss M. Heady; *Dubbo*, 7/3/42 by Mrs. E. Serisier; *Armidale*, 23/1/42 by Rev. A. Rix; *Inverell*, 2/5/42 by Mrs. T. Punch; *Latrobe*, 19/6/42 by Rev. A. Rix; *Wagga*, 25/7/42 n/a.

Cockatoo Island

Bathurst, 1/8/40 by Mrs. A. Doyle; *Goulburn*, 16/11/40 by Mrs. J. Grace; *Bendigo*, 1/3/41 by Dame Mary Hughes; *Wollongong*, 5/7/41 by Mrs. J. Beasley; *Cessnock*, 17/10/41 by Lady Gordon; *Glenelg*, 25/9/42 by Mrs. H. Evatt.



Map showing where Poole & Steel's Works were situated

Sources:

- (1). St. John's Balmain Centenary Book.
- (2), (3). 'The Corvettes' by Iris Nesdale.



BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

MAGNOLIA

There are both deciduous and evergreen types of Magnolia. Some have exotic perfume. Magnolias should be protected from strong winds. They like sandy loam with plenty of water in summer. Use a thick mulch of leaf mould. Take hardwood cuttings of both evergreen and deciduous types in summer.

LASIANDRA

Lasiandra (Tibouchina) is a sun loving plant which prefers a warm climate. After a hot day give Lasiandras a light sprinkle, but keep the soil as dry as possible on cold winter days to avoid chilling. Although they are evergreen, frosts will burn the leaves. Lasiandra have a great abundance of flowers which can be pale mauve through to a deep purple. They look good when planted amongst Hibiscus. Use compost and animal manure in the soil. During early spring remove growing tips to keep the plant dense. If it shows a tendency to send out long, thin branches the plant is probably getting too much shade so prune back hard in September. In summer strike side shoots in rich sandy loam in pots kept in a greenhouse.

POINSETTIA

Poinsettia (Euphorbia Pulcherrima) can be grown in a well lit and well ventilated room, but do best in a greenhouse. If you wish to grow Poinsettia outdoors remember that they are frost tender and will lose their leaves in late winter. When taking cuttings for striking, allow the cut end to dry for several hours before potting. Keep pots in a greenhouse. Always use gloves when picking or pruning Poinsettia because, like all Euphorbia, they have a poisonous milky looking sap. Be careful not to splash any sap into your eyes while pruning as it will cause pain and even temporary blindness.

JACARANDA

Jacaranda is one of the most beautiful flowering trees in the world. They must have room to spread. Use a thick carpet of mulch for a few metres around the trunk, because the roots are shallow. They do best in warm coastal districts as cold winds can spoil the shape of the tree. Jacaranda is grown from seed.

Margaret Ford

An excellent community information directory of local services facilities and activities for 1989 in the Leichhardt Municipality was recently launched by the Mayor, Ald. D. Spedding and Ald. I. Wyner. David Sampson and fellow workers at the Leichhardt Central Library produced the book which is available free. We have some copies at the Watch House for distribution.

Balmain Combined Pensioners' Association meets every pension Thursday at 1.15pm in the Balmain Town Hall with a social on the alternative Thursday. House is held on some Thursdays. Contact Mrs. Barbara Murphy on 810 3600.

Rozelle Combined Pensioners Association hold meetings every pension Thursday from 1.30pm and bingo is held on the alternative week. A Singalong is held every fourth Saturday from 1.30pm. All activities are held at the Harry S. Hannaford Centre, Darling St. Rozelle. 810 3963

WHAT'S ON

2pm Saturday 19th August
Afternoon Tea with Sister Johns
to celebrate her recently received medal
for nomination for the Women 88 award

Next Association Outing
September 17 - Spring Heritage Walk
Woolwich - Kelly's Bush
Bring hamper lunch. Adult \$5 Children free
Ferry departs Darling St Wharf 10am
B B Q facilities at Clarke Park

OUR HOUSE WATCH

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
Our editorial phone is 818 4954

Interested artists, potters, sculptors etc. who would
like to organise an exhibition in the Watch House
are urged to contact Steve South on 810 1411. The
Watch House can also be made available as a
meeting place for local organisations.



the balmain association
representing
Balmain-Birchgrove &
Rozelle

OUR AIMS ARE TO:

- improve the living, working and recreational amenities 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 cooperation of everyone concerned in the realisation of the above

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to: Treasurer, PO Box 57, BALMAIN 2041

NAME:
ADDRESS:

PHONE HOME: BUS:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (incl News Sheet delivery in Balmain-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