

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

Vol 24 No 8 Issue 184

FOUNDED 1965

SEPTEMBER 1989

President's Report

The Balmain Association has completed another busy and productive year with the familiar pattern of ongoing issues and sudden local crises. As President for a second year, I have been supported and assisted by an outstanding Management Committee whose skills and diligence are matched only by their friendliness and co-operation. I thank them and those individual members of the Association who participated in the year's activities and contributed to their success.

Bicentennial projects dominated the first half of the year. The Association participated in several festive events which were enjoyable occasions for the community, while more permanent commemoration was achieved through the historic plaques project sponsored by the Balmain Rotary Club and assisted by the Balmain Association and

Leichhardt Council. The presence of these attractive and informative plaques should assist in developing historical interest and pride, and may even encourage greater retention of historic buildings and sites than would otherwise occur with the pressure of development.

A delightful finish to the Bicentenary was the news that Sister Johns had received nomination for a Women of 88 Award. The Balmain Association sponsored Sister Johns, who is a legend in the community for her years of work as a Baby Health Centre Sister.

In May 1989, Music 2041 amalgamated with the Balmain Association, adding to our already diverse range of activities and interests. Another new activity is the involvement of several members in the restoration of Clontarf Cottage.

The Watch House has featured in the television series, 'E Street', as the local police station. The Management Committee has taken great care that this and community uses of the Watch House have not impeded the ongoing restoration of this historic building,

which is a credit to the Association and its dedicated workers. Another continuing activity of the Association is the compilation of historical and photographic data. This is also progressing steadily and well.

Members may wish that the Association had equal success with its input into local environmental issues. Residential amenity, conservation, traffic control, housing mix and open space are constantly raised as matters of increasing concern. As previously reported, my strategy as President has been to deal with these issues in technical and specific terms rather than in vague generalities. As far as an Association like ours can have an impact in this society, this strategy has been effective and it will be continued with an increasing focus on setting priorities and targeting authorities with our views and principles.

The Balmain Association, I am sure, will continue to meet the challenges that arise. The more residents who join and participate the better, as this small peninsula has a wealth of history and character that deserves to be preserved.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1989

INCOME

YEAR	1989	1988	1987	1986
MEMBERSHIPS	2023	2419	1816	1416
FUND RAISING	930	0	243	638
DONATIONS	419	1908	816	206
CENTRY ENVELOPES	10	786	0	0
WATCH HOUSE HIRE	4214	1972	1580	160
MISCELLANEOUS	7493	807	423	724
1/2 THOUSND ACRES	772	432	307	253
AROUND BALMAIN	1420	2336	2765	4746
LEAFLETS	362	399	348	269
L.H.JOURNAL	391	391	85	342
PLAQUES	1500			
CLOTHING SALES	222			
INDEX ENQUIRIES	514			

TOTAL \$20270 \$11450 \$8383 \$8754

Fund raising includes	Snapper Island & Raffle
Miscellaneous includes	Interest \$626
Insurance Claim	\$2547
Dept. of Planning	\$2500
Music 2041	\$1494
Brown's Hardware	\$250
TOTAL	\$7417

EXPENDITURE

YEAR	1989	1988	1987	1986
NEWS SHEET	1651	1224	1219	1266
FUND RAISING	35	0	202	87
GOVT. CHARGES	56	126	90	82
CENTRY ENVELOPES	0	409	0	0
WATCH HOUSE	15006	12514	977	3167
MISCELLANEOUS	690	20	53	745
DONATIONS	200	70	0	0
AROUND BALMAIN	0	0	0	9826
PUBLICITY	360	1612	446	665
PLAQUES	1300			
CLOTHING RESALE	0	314	0	0
INDEX COSTS	347			
SUBSCRIPTIONS	116	112	128	75
STATIONERY/POSTAGE	438	0	97	0
TOTAL	\$20215	\$6726	\$3236	\$16164

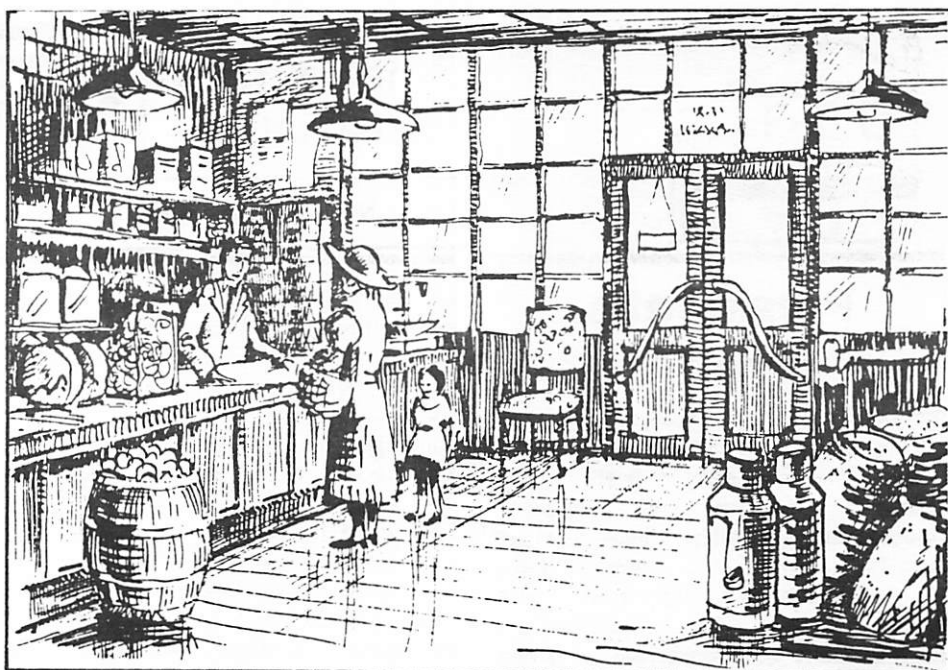
Watch House includes	Chimney Repairs	\$3659
New Floors, etc	Accident Repairs	\$3196
Painting		\$660
TOTAL		\$12915
Miscellaneous includes	Printer purchase	
CASH ON HAND - Cheque A/C		\$1388.49
Investment Savings		\$9774.92
TOTAL		\$11163.41

Darling Street Grocery Shops

From the 1920s to the late 1940s there were 7 major grocery shops in Darling Street from Balmain Town Hall to Gladstone Park. The names of these shops were: S.R. Buttle, Burns Grocery, Greatheads, Lakins, Broadhead and Barcham, J. Cohen, and Derrin Bros (2 stores). Derrin Bros had many stores in Sydney suburbs and their warehouse was situated in Beattie Street between Darling and Montague Streets and the building still remains to this day.

In the shops it was not unusual to see ladders on tracks attached to the shelves and the shop assistant would run and jump on the ladder. As the ladder slid along, the assistant would pluck out the goods that the customer required. All groceries were wrapped in brown paper and tied with string with a loop on top for carrying the parcel.

Burns Grocery, 281 Darling Street, was a very old-fashioned shop, with



Drawing by Tony McLain from 'Gathering the Strands' by Jennifer Bates

the cashier being at the top of the back of the shop. Shop assistants did not give change, but would put the docket and the money in a wooden ball (could be unscrewed in halves), put it into a slot and a cord was used to haul it up and the ball would fall out to a track and roll down to the cashier. The change and docket would be put back into the ball, and placed

into another downhill track and back to the assistant, who would in turn hand the docket and the change to the customer.

Most grocery shops had sawdust on the floor both before and behind the counter. The assistants used to run and slip along the sawdust to the shelves to save time.



Guest of honour, Sister Johns (3rd from left) at the Watch House

Congratulations Sister Johns

Members and friends of the Balmain Association welcomed well known identity Sister Johns at afternoon tea at the Watch House on 19th August. The occasion was to celebrate her receipt of a medal for nomination to the Women of 88 Award.

For some 20 years Sister Johns has cared for mothers and their children at the Balmain Baby Health clinic. In her

retirement she continues her community activities in the form of meals on wheels, Neighbourhood Watch and oral history of Lilyfield despite personal health problems.

Her mother and father were dedicated teachers in Kobe, Japan, where she was born and lived until 1937. She traveled to Europe via the Trans-Siberian Railway. She received her nursing training in England and rejoined her parents when they were repatriated to Australia from Japan.

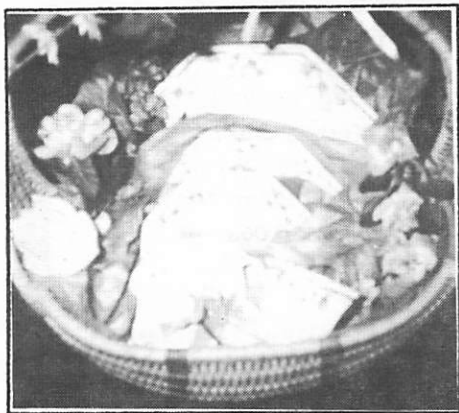
The Association was proud to nominate her for the honour.

The Demon Bowler

While we are lauding the success of the Australian XI captained by Alan Border, this month we should be commemorating the birth of a great cricketer from Balmain. Known familiarly as 'the demon bowler', Fred Spofforth was born at Broadstairs Street on 9th September 1853 and attended the Pigeon Ground School.

In the 'greatest of all test matches' in 1882, Spofforth took 7 for 46 and 7 for 42. Australia won by 7 runs. He worked at the Bank of NSW before leaving for England as a professional cricketer. A member of the first Australian team to visit England in 1878, he also went with the 1880, 1882, 1884 and 1886 teams, after which he settled there permanently.

Our story in the July issue about marriage celebrant Mrs. Muriel Taylor has prompted the present occupant, Mr. Phillip Esler, to express a desire to restore the iron lace on the balcony. However, he doesn't know the design. Would any of those married couples have their wedding photo taken in front of 19 Jane Street?



Help Needed

The photograph shows part of the 36 piece Nikko dinner set that is offered as first prize in a raffle run by the Balmain Association History Sub-committee for the important research for the history archives. There is also a 2nd prize of 6 crystal wine glasses and a 3rd prize of a box of chocolates.

The committee would appreciate help from members who are normally too busy with their work to attend the Watch House often but who may find the time to help the Association by taking a book of 20 tickets to sell. Please contact Bonnie on 810 4585 or Kath 818 4954 or drop into the Watch House on Saturday from 12 to 3pm. Thank you

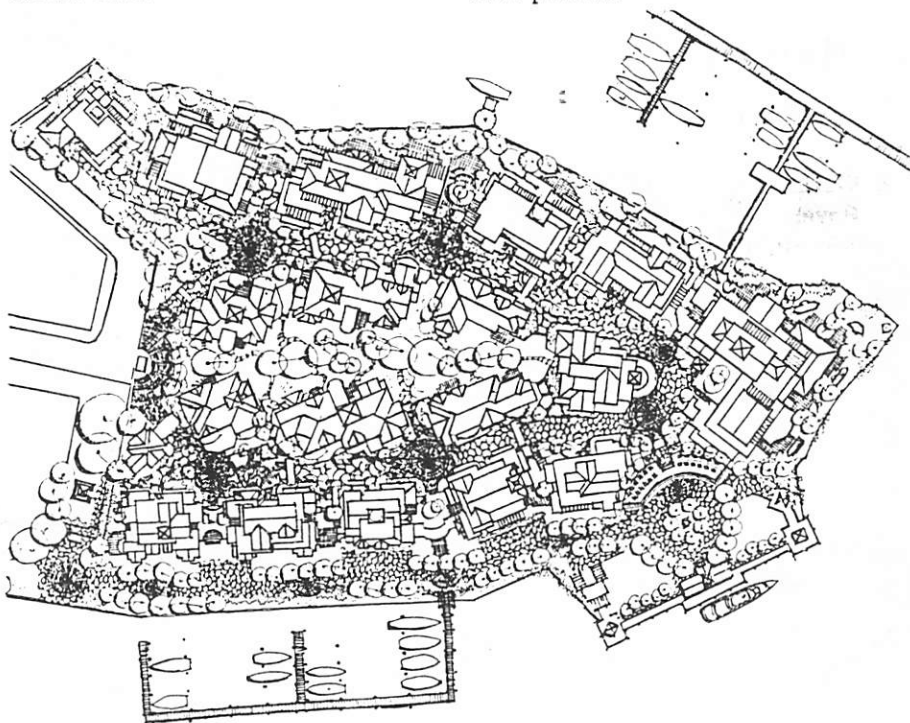


from Sydney Morning Herald

Ballast Point Development

Comrealty Ltd, at Caltex Oil's instigation, have prepared a concept plan for the development of Ballast Point for residential use. For over 60 years Caltex have operated an oil storage terminal on the 2.6 ha site and is preparing a rezoning proposal for submission to Leichhardt Council this month.

A sketch has been prepared by architects, John Bruce & Partners and is shown here.



Initially, the plan envisages 180 residential units in medium density and, encouragingly, provides for both public and private open space. Further information can be had by calling Janet Thompson on 959 3488. Comments will be accepted.

While local residents, especially those living in Ballast Point Road, Rowntree Street and Dock Road, will welcome the disappearance of trucks and tankers the effect of up to 400 private motor vehicles moving in and out of the area will have to be studied. The Traffic Committee of the Balmain Association would appreciate comments from interested persons.

Early Bird

Join now and get 16 months subscription for \$8.00. Inevitably there will be an increase in the annual charge for 1990. A gift of a Balmain Association subscription is a gift for every month of the year and not merely for your News Sheet.

Why Some People Are Poor

Bad management keeps more people in poor circumstances than any other one cause. To be successful one must look ahead and plan ahead so that when a favourable opportunity presents itself he is ready to take advantage of it. A little forethought will also save much expense and valuable time. A prudent and careful man will keep a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy in the house, the shiftless fellow will wait until necessity compels it, and then ruin his best horse going for a doctor, and have a big doctor's bill to pay, besides; one pays out 25 cents the other is out a hundred dollars, and then wonders why his neighbour is getting richer while he is getting poorer. For sale by F. Williams, Rozelle, and W.G. Bladon, Balmain.

from Balmain Observer, December, 15th, 1899.

Balmain Association Office Bearers

President-	Jane Ward	818	1454
Vice President-	Frances Heathfield	818	2307
Treasurer-	Warwick Purser	810	8429
Minute Secretary-	Jeremy Arnott	818	1902
Editor-	Val Hamey	818	4954
History Committee:			
Archivist-	Kath Hamey	818	4954
Fund Raising-	Bonnie Davidson	810	5185
Watch House Conservation-	Debbie Nicholls	810	7391
Index-	Tikwis Begbie	810	7417
Traffic Committee:	Dave Ramsay	818	5940
	Jane Ward		
Watch House Hire-	Steve South	810	1411
Music	2041 Convenor- Gwynedd Merson	818	1018

EXHIBITION AT THE WATCH HOUSE

October 20th-22nd Jan Melville
Paintings and drawings
October 25th-29th Bill Berecny
November 3rd-5th Patricia Quinn
Chinese Brush painting

The Essential Viola

a recital by

Hartmut Lindeman - viola

David Bollard - piano

- Works of Paganini, Rachmaninov, Britten, Ravel, Debussy, Dvorak, Milhaud
- 4pm Sunday 10th September in Campbell St Presbyterian Church

Admission by programme. \$10 including refreshment.

Available from Walls Pharmacy 346 Darling St,
Soft Union Music, 270 Darling St,
The Balmain Veterinary Hospital, Victoria Rd.
To be recorded by 2MBS.FM



BALMAIN GARDEN CLUB

FLORAL ART

To Prepare Flowers

For delphinium, dianthus, foxglove, lupin, nasturtium, daisies, stocks, sweet pea, chrysanthemum and poppy: remove leaves from base of stems, dip stem ends in boiling water, then stand overnight in a half full bucket of cold water to which has been added one tablespoon of sugar.

Aster, dahlia and marigold: remove nearly all leaves then proceed as for above.

Camellia and gardenia: place on damp, white paper placed over a bowl of ice cubes.

Carnation: cut between notches, slit stem lengthwise.

Geranium: place in shallow vase as soon as picked but do not wet leaves.

Gladiolus: remove three buds from the tip so that other flowers will open, re-cut stems and place in half a bucket of warm water to open flowers.

Christmas bell, iris, tulip, and cornflower: re-cut stems under water, place fine wire in tulip stems.

Roses: cut diagonally, scrape bottom of stems, wrap in white, damp paper, stand in water.

Poinsettia: remove all leaves, burn leaf scars with a match, burn stem ends, leave in bucket of cold water.

Hydrangea: young heads will not last so cut mature heads at old wood, remove most leaves, plunge stems in boiling water, then stand in sweet, cold water overnight.

Add one teaspoon of sugar to vase water for all flowers.
Margaret Ford

WHAT'S ON

September 17 - Spring Heritage Walk
Woolwich - Kelly's Bush
Bring hamper lunch. Adult \$5 Children free
Ferry departs Darling St Wharf 10am
Long Nose Point at 10.06am
B B Q facilities at Clarke Park

October 15th - Goat Island Excursion
Adult \$10 Family \$25 Child \$5

November 12th - Commemorative Plaque Walk
December 16th - Christmas Drinks

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.....\$4.00

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

Cheques should be made payable to The Balmain Association