

the balmain
association

NEWS SHEET

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Appropriate Planning For The Peninsula

Residents are urged to attend the next Leichhardt Council meeting on June 12th at 7pm in the Council Chambers at Leichhardt Town Hall to demonstrate yet again their overwhelming support for a moratorium on rezoning until a new Local Environment Plan is approved by Council and residents.

The current array of rezoning proposals present major planning challenges to the Council and the community. It is imperative that the Council have more information available in order to take a more strategic perspective on the longer term implications.

It is important that a thorough assessment be made of the current proposals, and in particular of issues relating to traffic generation, development density, heritage, open space, foreshore access, marinas and the Government's recently announced proposal for the development of White Bay and Glebe Island. In order to do the rezoning proposals justice a strategic plan is the most rational and efficient way to resolve issue for residents, Council and developers.

So what's the blockage?

There have been three main arguments advanced against the moratorium. All of these reasons are negative, defeatist or excessively compromising.

The first is that the State Government will appoint an administrator if Leichhardt Council delays rezoning. Surely the Government would be reluctant to stir up a political row by over-riding legitimate local government and community concern, particularly with their low poll ratings and elections a year away.

The second is that comprehensive planning can be achieved sequentially. Past experience of ad hoc development and the scale of the current proposals indicate that this approach is inadequate. The Monsanto and Power station are half of the five developments' total area.

The third is that Kerry Packer's Monsanto site may be revitalised as a chemical plant if its rezoning is delayed. The Chemplex plant is economically and politically less viable than any alternative that would be permitted under a new LEP. The chemicals made are being phased out under international environmental law and arguments for the urgent

removal of toxic soil are unsubstantiated. The soil will probably have to be decontaminated on the site in any case.

Excluding the Monsanto site from the moratorium makes a mockery of a total environmental plan and creates a precedent for other developers to seek special exemption.

Twelve alderpersons will vote on the moratorium. Five of the Independents (Origlass, Wyner, Hand, Leone and Stock) are totally committed to the moratorium. Two other independents (Spedding and Smith) have consistently voted against it. The Labor group have vacillated. Originally they voted in favour but later the same night moved a rescission motion to exclude the Monsanto site. This was against the advice of the Town Planner's submission. The absence of any alderperson will affect the decision as would the lifting of caucus restraints on at least one Labor vote. The Mayor has an additional casting vote if the vote is equal.

A strong public presence at the meeting may be decisive.

See you there, troops.

Jane Ward

Brays Books Turn 21

Brays Books celebrated 21 years of successful operation on Sunday 26th May with tributes from Richard Parslow, Sales Director of Collins Angus & Robertson Australia; Jean Ferguson, Past President of the Australian Booksellers Association and the Mayor of Leichhardt, Ald Issy Wyner.

Philip and Margaret were true pioneers in providing a service for readers of all interests and ages. All present agreed that their reliability in ordering books not on the shelves was admirable, to say nothing of their amazing knowledge of the contents of the books in stock!

The Mayor made particular reference to the contribution the Brays have made to the local community and to the Council. Balmain would be a poorer place without them. The Balmain Association is grateful for the outlet Brays have provided for our publications.

Congratulations, Philip and Margaret, and best wishes for the future.

PS. Literary note: A recent paperback by Elizabeth Wynhausen now in stock at Brays although entitled "Manly Girl" also has a couple of chapters devoted to the days of the "Balmain Push".



25th Anniversary Dinner

Speaking of anniversaries — the Balmain Association turns 25 this year and the Balmain Post Restaurant has reserved its premises on 12th September for our celebrations. The cost of the dinner including wine/champagne/orange juice prior to the meal) will be \$27 per head. The restaurant is BYO. Start time 7pm.

The following menu is available:

Entree: Choice of soup of the day (eg potato & leak, tomato & zucchini) or pork & veal terrine with apple and peppercorns.

Main course: Choice of fillet of pork with calvados and pear sauce or loin of

lamb with oregano, onion and pistachio nut stuffing topped with red currant sauce.

Dessert: Choice of double chocolate fudge tart or baked French cheesecake. Coffee and chocolates.

NB: Vegetarians can notify us and arrange for a special menu.

Please notify us of your interest ASAP. We will want confirmed reservations (with money) by 31st August. Please let us know if you wish to make up a table.

The Post Restaurant is in the old stone building on the corner of Waterview Street and Queen's Place. Originally a grocer's shop built by Alexander Chape between 1844 and 1857 when he was made the Balmain Postmaster. His widow, Catherine, carried on as postmistress after 1870. The new Post Office was opened in 1887.

For many years the building was used by the Golden Cob Company as a store. In the early 1970s it was adapted for use as a wine bar and restaurant.

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Thomas Road Transport

Ken Thomas moved his carrying business in 1949 to the depot at 100 Beattie Street by acquiring the small carrying company of Campbell and Landers. The enterprise grew into the world's largest transportation company, TNT. The \$1.5 billion road and air empire in the UK and Europe is now courting eastern Europe.

Ken Thomas was born in 1913, the second youngest of six children, in the country town of Harden. His father was an engine driver for the State railways. In 1925 Ken Thomas' family moved to Camperdown and Ken attended the Fort Street School. He drifted through such jobs as a insurance clerk, a furniture salesman and a bank clerk. During this time he completed his education with degrees in Arts and Economics. He hated every day of the seven years he spent with the Commonwealth Bank and when he was transferred to Dalby in Queensland he quit and went bush as a jackaroo for nine months. Returning to Sydney he obtained a position as teacher at Trinity Grammar. He was, on his own admission, a shocking teacher and his next jobs were with Ampol and STC.

In 1946 Ken Thomas had already worked as a shop assistant, a bank clerk, schoolteacher and as a junior personnel officer. However, none of these positions had really appealed to him as being a lifetime career. He sought the relative freedom of being his own master.

Ken Thomas's first real contact with the trucking industry came through his brother-in-law, Ray Miners, who had bought a truck and was earning exceptionally good money from trading in fencing materials. Dazzled by the profit potential, he placed an order for a KS5 International at a cost of £822. Before he could take delivery of the truck, he was stunned by the collapse of supplies from the timber mill.

Luckily he was able to get a consignment from Mallesys, a major plumbing, bathroom and kitchen fittings manufac-



Does anyone know the names of any of Ken Thomas' interstate drivers?

turer. He took a week off from his employment to act as an offsider to assist his first driver, Frank Legge, who had just been demobilised from the Australian Air Force. In February 1946 the first load of lavatory pans was delivered to Darling Harbour railway yards at 10 shillings and 6 pence a ton. When he realised that he would be paid only 16 shillings for a full day's work by 2 men and a brand new truck he was able to negotiate a more financially viable hourly rate. The gross profit for the first 15 weeks averaged only £4 per week and Ken Thomas seriously considered getting out of the industry.

A rail strike in Melbourne came to his rescue and the realisation of the potential of interstate trucking changed the entire nature of the business.

By 1948 the fleet of 3 vehicles driven by Alan Fredericks, Alan Sutton and Selwyn Grieg. He had left STC and was a survey officer with the Cumberland County Council who were unaware of his business activities. His business had reached a level of development that allowed him to resign

his job and concentrate on running his company. At first the office was located in the kitchen of his Castlegrag home and the trucks operated 'off the street'. So he bought Campbell and Landers company primarily to gain possession of its depot at 100 Beattie Street, Balmain. It had about six trucks making local deliveries of coke and coal.

In 1950 TNT started an innovative door to door service between Melbourne and Sydney and by mid 1951 the company had expanded to 18 vehicles. An Adelaide branch was opened, contracted to the cartage of the new Hills clothes hoists.

Ken Thomas decided that as business was expanding the time was right for expansion. The Balmain terminal was overcrowded and the narrow entrance was difficult for semi-trailers to negotiate the sloping lane leading to the terminal itself. A site was chosen at the corner of Coward Street and Kent Road, Mascot (now TNT Australia). Balmain was not abandoned until the 1960s as the company had a thriving local cartage, crane hire and storage.

Horbury Hunt and the Great Cathedral Triangle

22 - 28 September 1990

A seven-day study tour linking the Horbury Hunt designed cathedrals at Armidale, Grafton and Newcastle.

Some Hunter Valley churches are added for good measure. St Peter's Church in earthquake-damaged Hamilton, Frederickton Public School will also be inspected.

\$595.00 fee covers air-conditioned coach, accommodation and all meals.

Enquiries to Dr Peter Reynolds 810 8560

Did your ancestors live in Balmain, Rozelle or Birchgrove?

The Balmain Index covers names, occupations, premises and addresses from 1844 to 1880. Additionally, the Association now has access to the records of St Marys Anglican Church, East Balmain. Searches can be made by the Association for \$5 per name plus s.a.e.

This notice, published in the Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists

has brought in a stack of enquiries to keep the History Division research busy. Requests have come from as far afield as Tasmania and New Zealand.

A family historian and member, Mr J Sims of Auckland, recently visited William Street, East Balmain where his forebear, John Sims, shipwright, resided. The houses, *Charles Villa* and *Elizabeth Villa*, 29 and 31 William Street built in the late 1850s are in good repair.

Another service, House Search, provides circa house age, past residence, map of area, etc. \$10.

Balmain Personality

John C Waterman My Career

I arrived in the colony in 1841 with my parents. My father was what we now designate a florist. He came as most pioneers to seek better circumstances and like many others in those days had an uphill grind.

Sydney in those early days was not provided with any hygienic systems. No water supplies, no sewerage. I think no gas light. George Street was almost a bullock road. What are now beautiful suburbs were then just ordinary bush and scrub land. All North Sydney was a thickly wooded forest. No trams or railway. I saw Lady Ruth Stewart turn the first sod of our railway system in what was then called the Cleveland paddocks.

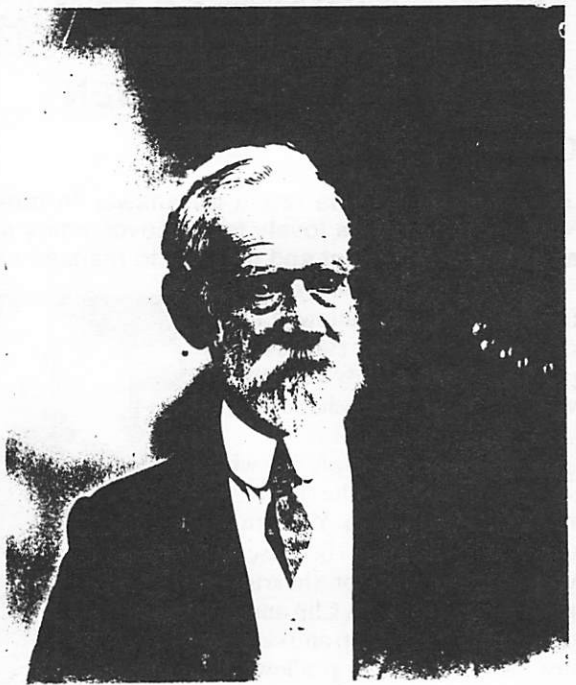
When about 7 years of age we resided at Waterloo and attended a private school in York Street near Barrack Street, a long walk for a little kiddie. We moved to the Botanic Gardens where my father was an overseer and I attended the same school.

At 13 I was apprenticed to the book-binding trade. During my time I attended classes at the Sydney School of Arts and studied mathematics, elocution, english grammar and literature, analysis logic and drawing. On account of my employer retiring from business I took up land surveying and served 5 years as assistant draughtsman. I then went to the gold-fields, first to Coonoona in Queensland at the head of the Fitzroy River and humped my bluey. The field was a shicer so after a very rough time I returned to Sydney and tried my luck again on the Jemiacumbend and Major's Creek, made a Christmas pudding and travelled off to Tuena, 150 mile of walking. After several months another 75 mile walk across the bush to Paddys River, then joined my old surveying party at Bargo Brush—again a draughtsman, I plotted the railway line from Picton to Bargo, next the line from Blacktown to Penrith. I then entered the teaching profession, first at Liverpool,

afterwards taught for a few months at Millers Point, then went in for training at St James Model School. After which I was appointed Head Mater of St Marys C of E School, Balmain in 1861. I first went to Balmain in 1854. The school succeeded well. I established a Band of Hope Society, opened an elocution class, became worthy Patriarch of both the Sons of Temperance and the Daughters of Temperance and the head of the Good Templars.

Church accommodation was now much needed, 1874. I had the honour of giving the use of a school I had built for a School-Church that I opened and superintendent of Sunday School and, with the help of others, conducted church services by the sanctions of Bishop Barker. I was elected conductor of the church choir. Miss Laura Livingstone gave her services as organist. After 3 years we were overcrowded and more accommodation was urgent. Some of the teachers and some leading churchmen of Balmain formed a committee of 20 and collected £400 in about 3 months. We purchased the site of on which St Thomas Church stands with the aid of E W Cameron, Esq of revered memory, and the generosity of Mr Ramsey. The naive portion of St Thomas Church was built at a cost of £800 and was clear of debt. A few years later we built the Sunday Schools Transept of the church, purchased a fine organ and built a vicarage. The whole is free of debt but of late years we have had a hard struggle. I was elected hon Choir Master and held that office for 14 years. I was also Churchwarden.

I had the honour of opening the Darling Street now Rozelle Public School and raised it to a first class school. After a leave of absence for about a year I took charge of the Nicholson Street Public School where I remained over 13 years when I retired from the service.



I have now been over 70 years in the State and of course could give a long account of the changes that have taken place. I was seldom if ever sick, worked about 51 years right off and enjoyed my life in this lovely country immensely.

I think I owe my good health to strictly temperance habits, exercise in walking, no trams for me during the time I was in active employment. I calculated that I walked 50,000 miles to and from work alone and at present, though nearly 75 years of age, I can still make good show.

I am thankful for the progress I have been permitted to make which enables me to provide a small competency for my wife and some help for my ten children.

John Cooper Waterman

If my executors, etc think well to publish this do so but arrange to put the pronouns in the third person—He for I.

Written about 1911. Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs Jeanette Greenwell of Kiama. Mrs Greenwell's ancestors include William Henry Wood of Wood Coffil Funeral Parlours.

Busplan Response

The State Transit Authority's Busplan attracted nearly 1,000 submissions with a large percentage of Peninsula residents making comments and suggestions. As a result of the community consultation the original plan was amended and presented to a public meeting called by the Leichhardt Council on Monday 28th May.

The officer responsible, Mr Lyall Kennedy, explained the changes and was subjected to a spirited barrage of questions and comments from the floor. Because of objections from residents and

busdrivers there will be no buses down Mort Street so Route 445 will still terminate at Gladstone Park. It had been proposed to change Route 441 to 433 during the day outside of the peak period. This has been revised to 443 after 7pm with the normal 441 route operating at 30 minute intervals during the day and no change to the peak services.

A couple of mini-buses would be obtained to shuttle Route 442 passengers while the turn-about was being constructed at the Darling Street Wharf. They could be employed afterwards on routes with low off-peak usage or to institute new cross-city routes.

The meeting later resolved to require the Government to not only maintain existing bus services but to improve and extend them as well as provide better shelters. Most residents believe that the Government was forcing the Authority to rationalise its services in order to reduce expenditure. Nobody liked the proposals that required changing buses to get to some destinations as this would mean paying another fare unless the Authority could establish an efficient transfer system. The termination of Route 445 at Gladstone Park was a particular objection.



IN YOUR GARDEN

Camellia

Camellia sasanqua offers an answer to most garden problems. It is a lovely fence cover, a tidy small tree, a first-class tub plant and an easy to manage espalier.

Sasanqua can be bushy and low, tall and narrow, or allowed to become a small tree. It stands annual picking or does nicely without and will grow in sun or shade and in windy positions.

There are a couple of white sasanquas, but in the main, are many shades of pink. You can use them in narrow places because they will stand clipping or shearing to any width and height. Clip annually or every two years, top and sides, or just sides with the top allowed to grow. Standard sasanquas are lovely in tubs or as a feature at entrances. Clipping is best done at the end of winter just before growth appears.

They grow more quickly and attractively with an organic mulch of manure, mushroom compost or if you like any of the nine-month slow release fertilisers. Ample water in summer keeps foliage in good condition and ensures plenty of flowers. They are reasonably free of pests and diseases. The best thing about sasanquas is their long, winter flowering period.

Bonnie Davidson

The famous camellia garden of Erydene, designed by the late Prof E G Waterhouse, will be open for visitors on the two Sundays, June 10 and 17. The garden contains one of the most varied and important camellia collections in Australia. The address is 17 MacIntosh Street, Gordon. Admission is \$2.50.

1990 Premier's Award

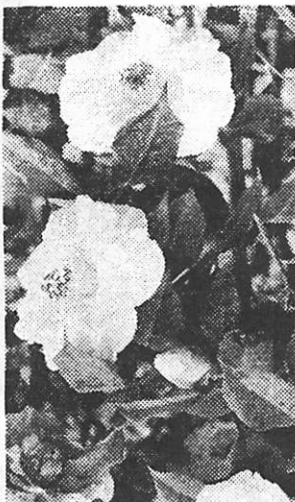
There were four winners from Leichhardt Municipality for the Premier's Award for 1990 during Focus on the Aging Week. One of these was our own member, Grace McLeod. The presentation by Dawn Fraser, MP was held at the Hannaford Centre in Rozelle on May 15.

Grace is constantly busy with her work for elderly people. She has been secretary of the Rozelle Combined Pensioners Association for 5 years and is on the management committee of the Hannaford Senior Citizens Centre.

She is also concerned with the development of services. She attends the local Aged Forum and has actively lobbied for more aged accommodation in the Balmain area.

Pubs Raffle Winners

Miss Morag O'Brien of 3/60 Birriga Rd, Bellevue Hill won the first prize of a dinner for four at Dick's Hotel in the raffle held to aid the recent Pubs Exhibition. Second and third prize winners were Justin Voller and Jean Lennane.



WHAT'S ON

Come and welcome our visitors on the walk and at the St Marys Church for lunch

- Sunday June 10 The Oaks Historical Society
- Sunday July 1 Total Environment Centre
- Saturday 21 Hornsby Historical Society
- Saturday 18 Ryde Historical Society

Contact 818 4954

- Wednesday September 12
25th Anniversary Dinner
- Sunday October 28

Back to Balmain-Rozelle Day
Elkington Park
Contact 810 1691

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:

.....POST CODE.....

PHONE HOME: BUS:

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (incl News Sheet delivery in Balmain-Rozelle)

Please circle... NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL

Single/Family/Household. \$10.00

Organisation \$15.00

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