

the balmain
association
incorporated

NEWS SHEET

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PENINSULA PLANNING – AN UPDATE

The Minister for Planning, Mr Hay, has directed Leichhardt Council to complete four Local Environment Plans on the five major development sites on the peninsula by five weeks from 15 June. This is extremely unreasonable given the size, position and impact of the sites, the un-completed studies on traffic and hazardous substances and the time-table of Council meetings.

The nature of the Minister's intervention is such that Council is required to decide each re-zoning in the stipulated time-frame, not just to prepare reports for government or further public consideration. Re-zoning is the crucial stage for Council and resident determination of land use. The next, or Development Application stage, takes disputes to the courts, a costly process for Council and residents, but a lesser problem for developers.

Ironically one of the outcomes of the Minister's intervention is that Council has agreed to its planners' proposal that one report be prepared for all sites, enabling the planners to take a more strategic overview. This is in line with the community's call for a total town plan for the peninsula. Where the process instigated by Mr. Hay fails to meet legitimate community requirements is that it is hasty, does not allow for on-going public input into the

planning and it fast-tracks the re-zoning stage. The community has overwhelmingly and reasonably asked for continuing involvement in the planning process and for negotiation of adequate community concessions before re-zoning. Residents know how this higgledy-piggledy place works, its vulnerabilities and its needs. We welcome sensitive, appropriate development and urban renewal. We do not want delay for delay's sake, but we do oppose hurried, ill-conceived development.

Mr. Hay's opinion that the sites are of regional significance is, in fact, an argument for a carefully considered plan. The suggestion that Council has already had plenty of time to deal with the re-zonings (submitted from 14 months to 6 months ago) looks unreasonable in the light of the State Government's own ventures. The White Bay Power Station and Grain Silo sites have been under the planning umbrella of the Department of Planning since 1985 but no tangible plans have materialised.

Darling Harbour was a State Government planning and development exercise that took over four years to reach its present phase and involved a large, full-time bureaucracy, described in the Authority's own words as "architects and planners and a small army of consultants. Leichhardt Council is greatly under-

staffed by comparison and has the ordinary business of local government to transact. Darling Harbour was a single, consolidated site of 50 hectares. The sites currently and soon to be developed on the peninsula total over 40 hectares of a 316 hectare peninsula. The scattered nature of the sites, the hilly topography and the largely unplanned existing built environment indicate that a well-researched, integrated plan for the Balmain Peninsula is a greater planning challenge than Darling Harbour.

While the planners burn the midnight oil at Council, the developers rub their hands and the politicians plot and posture, the resident groups continue their initiative to work with Council in preparing a peninsula plan by liaising with Council through the consortium aptly named BURST (Balmain United Residents' Strategic Taskforce). BURST collates information, networks the local groups and communicates with the media and government. BURST is currently seeking an urgent meeting with Mr. Hay.

The Balmain Association re-affirms that the establishment of a system of precinct committees would have greatly eased the current turmoil and is still necessary for future local government.

Jane Ward

Incorporation

As you can see by the new nameplate above, Business & Consumer Affairs has issued a certificate of incorporation to the Association.

The Balmain Association Incorporated is now a separate legal entity and members, especially those on Committee, are safe from being sued as individuals. This is the main benefit of incorporation as well as that the Association continues regardless of changes in membership, etc. unless it is wound up and gifts and bequests can be accepted.

Copies of the new constitution are available on request.

Wyoming Order

Leichhardt Council was successful in canvassing the Minister for Planning, Mr Hay, to renew an interim conservation order on historic "Wyoming".

**1990 A G M
The Annual
General Meeting of
the Balmain
Association
Incorporated, will
be held at 7.30pm
on Wednesday,
August 1st, in the
Watch House. All
members welcome.**

Sir: Balmain residents are not opposed to *planned* development on the Balmain peninsula. The moratorium is to put a hold on development until a complete investigation of present amenities and the effect of those proposals can be carried out. We lack open space, we have narrow roads (already there are traffic jams at the local shopping centre) and our antiquated sewerage system does not cope with current needs (our local pool was constantly closed during summer). We have limited access to Victoria Road – for example, on Saturday mornings, to travel 2.5 kilometres to childrens' sport takes 20-25 minutes! So, Mr Hay, lend us an ear that is sympathetic as it was while you were in Opposition.

June Lunsman, Birchgrove.

Nurses' Home For Sale

We have heard that the Nurses' Home in Wortley Street is up for sale. Development?

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Water Troughs

A few horse troughs were situated in Balmain and it was a common sight to see a horse and cart pull up to a trough for the horse to get a fresh drink. The water flowed from a cistern similar to a toilet cistern housed at the end of the trough under a steel cover; as the ball went down to a low water level water would be released to bring it back to a high level again.

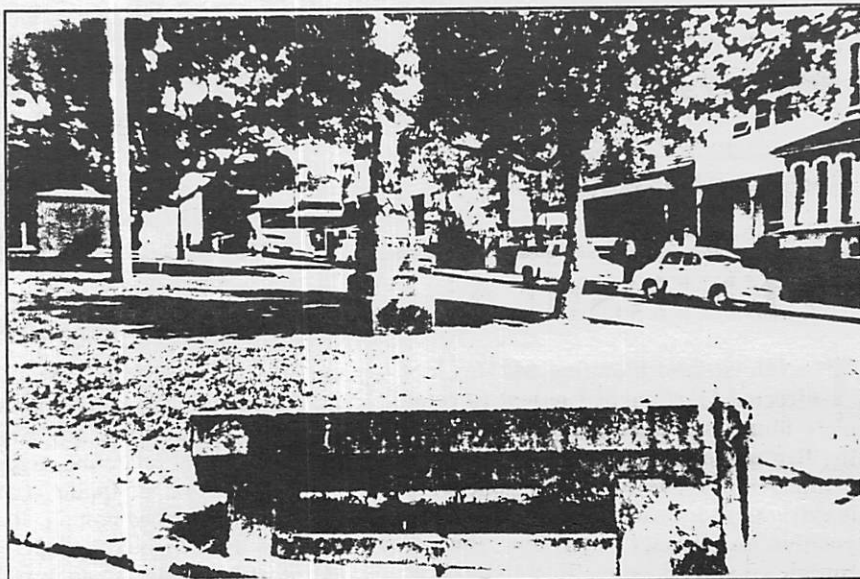
One of these was at the corner of Beattie and Palmer Streets and there were others at Macquarie Terrace (Rowntree St end), the Avenue and outside Dick's Hotel in Beattie Street. Bread and milk deliveries were done from horse and cart.

In the 1920s and 1930s many horse-drawn carts were used on fruit and vegetable runs in the locality. Each fruiterer had a run of his own, but when a glut of fruit or vegetables hit the market, many more appeared on the streets. These were known as "hawkers". Their strong voices shouting out their bargains soon brought the people out buying.

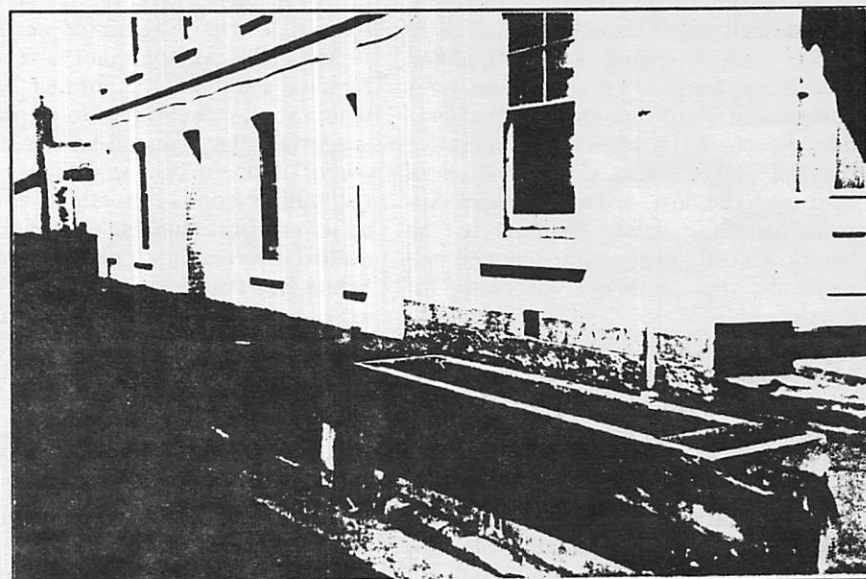
Two prominent fruiterers were "Boxer" and Jim Hawkes, the latter retaining his run for over 30 years. He was a well respected citizen of Balmain.

Two other noted Balmain people had egg and butter runs until late into 1950. They were Arthur Chapman, who also conducted a shop in Mullens Street, and Mr Bryant who worked from his home in Rowntree Street. Mr Chapman used a panel van but Mr Bryant worked from his very small horse and cart.

Mrs V Trevithick has enquired about Thomas Martin Davis MLA. On his death in 1899 a public subscription was arranged to erect, in his memory, a horse trough or bubbler with a small plaque attached. Can anyone supply further information?



Horse troughs in Macquarie Terrace (above) and Beattie Street (below).



Urban Environment Conference

On Saturday, 28th July, the NSW Urban Coalition will hold its 1990 Conference at the YWCA in Darlinghurst on the timely topic, "Planning the Action".

A policy document, which has been developed from the previous conference resolutions, will be presented and the conference will consider ways to translate policies into action.

Three workshops will be held on the following issues:

1. The Effects of Toxic and Hazardous Substances on health, safety, transport, production, storage, land and waterways.

2. The Effects of Tourism and Recreation on employment, rents, coastal development, marinas, airport expansion, water and sewerage.

3. The Effects of Urban Consolidation on city size and design, transportation, water and sewerage, pollution, urban bushland and quality of life.

Each workshop group will be asked to produce three priority action plans dealing with their areas of concern and in

harmony with the policies of the NSW Urban Environment Coalition.

The Balmain Association Inc is a foundation member of the Coalition. The conference is open to general attendance. For more information phone Jane Ward on 818 1454 or Marg Barry on 698 7461 (business hours).

Noise Control

In recent years the public has become more aware of the whole spectrum of pollution issues, but noise is still the type of pollution people object to most often and most strongly. There is a growing need for a rational debate on noise standards and control.

We propose to initiate a discussion with members with an article next month on this important subject. To stimulate your interest and provoke your participation we present the following definitions:

The definition of "offensive noise" in the State Pollution Control Commission Act is noise that, by reason of its level,

nature, character or quality, or the time at which it is made, or any other circumstances, is likely—

(a) to be harmful to; (b) to be offensive to; or (c) to interfere unreasonably with the comfort or repose of,

a person who is—

(d) if the noise is made in premises that are not a public place—outside those premises; or (e) if the noise is made in premises that are a public place—within or outside those premises.

Noise Levels

Source	Decibels
Leaves rustling in breeze	10
Factory	70-110
Train passing station	5
Public-address system	90-96
Air drill	90-105
Bandsaw on sheet metal	106
Pop	96-105
Boiler factory	105-110
Circular saw	100-116
Propeller aircraft motor(6m)	120
Painful sound level	130
Jet engine	140

This recent newspaper clipping from Melbourne revived vividly Bonnie Davidson's memories of a CIB raid in 1969 at a house in Mort Street. One morning at 6.30am her family were startled by a number of police jumping fences. The noisy printing press next door that they had suffered for years was apparently being used to print fake Australian and US banknotes.

An American citizen, Robert Baudin, was later sentenced to five years' gaol on counterfeiting charges. The police had recovered in Australia a total of US\$286,760 in fake banknotes. A further US\$21,000 in counterfeit money, made in Australia, had been recovered by US authorities.

In 1947 Baudin had served 12 months imprisonment in Los Angeles for forging ration stamps for petrol. On his release he came to Sydney in 1948. In the early 1950s he got the idea that there would be a market in Hong Kong, Singapore and Manila for counterfeit US currency. While living in Paddington, he had made copper plates as an experiment, by photographing an original banknote.

He married in 1954 and moved to his wife's residence in Mort Street, Balmain. He then purchased a lithographic machine and produced counterfeit US currency in 1955 to 1957.

Baudin left Australia in a plane being ferried to Africa and took with him more than \$50,000 in American \$50 and \$20 notes. Some of these were uttered in Spain and Italy. In June 1958, Baudin purchased an aircraft and, with two companions, left England with the balance of the notes hidden in the lining of the plane's doors.

They crashed near Singapore on September 17 but the doors were jettisoned over the sea and not recovered.

Back in Australia, Baudin was employed by State and Commonwealth Governments as well as private development companies on aerial photography.



The Balmain Association congratulates Mr Peter Manettas on his inclusion in 1990 Queen's Birthday Honours as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to the Fish Industry and the Greek community.

Many thousands of Peninsula residents daily pass the Manettas Ltd complex in Mullens Street on their way to the city. At a time when so many industrial establishments are leaving the area it is significant that Manettas Ltd ranks among Australia's 500 largest companies with a turnover of more than \$100 million specialising in seafood, frozen foods and groceries.

Peter Manettas, aged 13 years, arrived in Australia in 1927 with an older sister after his father had been killed in an earthquake. He worked in Greek cafe throughout NSW until 1934 when he partnered his uncle in a prawn trawler on Sydney Harbour. A year later he became a fish chef at the Trocadero and in 1938 started his own cafe, the "Victory", at 704 George Street, which soon became popular for its fish. Other restaurants began buying their fish from him and the wholesale trade flourished also.

In 1958 he sold the "Victory Cafe" business to establish P. Manettas & Co Pty Ltd at the Fish Markets then in the Haymarket area. He also set up the take-away fish and chip shop at Central Station which continues to this day. Expansion continued when Edgells Cold Store in

Rozelle was purchased, extended and an Export Processing facility was added 3 years later. In 1988 the business moved into Queensland and Manettas went back into the trawling industry with the launching of a \$4 million trawler, "Megisti Star", to fish the southern waters. Last year saw their re-entry into the retail arena with the establishment of Peters Fish Market in Sydney's New Fish Market.

Remembering his own early problems in his new country he was always eager to help his fellow countrymen with financial help and assistance in their struggle with a new language.

In 1987 the Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, awarded Mr Manettas a medal from the Fishing Industry of NSW in recognition of his services and contributions.



the plane that once belonged to a counterfeiter.

It's original, truly

THERE is nothing fake about Frank Dicketts' love for his 1944 war-plane.

The Auster Mk 5 has been an obsession since he found it once belonged to Australia's most notorious counterfeiter, Robert Baudin.

The plane was bought as "junk" about four years ago with an accident compensation payout for a crippling back injury.

Mr Dicketts, from Bax-

ter on the Mornington Peninsula, began restoration. Then a mate gave him a copy of Baudin's autobiography, *Fake: The Passing Fortunes of a Counterfeiter*.

The US-born Baudin, who printed \$2 million in fake US notes in the 1950s, was jailed in NSW in 1969-70 for counterfeiting.

Once, Baudin took off in the plane on the day of a court case and

threatened to crash over Sydney.

Mr Dicketts learned from the book the former Royal Navy plane was registered under Baudin's Australian wife's name — he checked and found her name in the log book.

Mr Dicketts says the obsession put him back on his feet after his work injuries — he has regained about 50 per cent mobility. He flies the plane.

While awaiting trial on forgery charges he had threatened to commit suicide and the Dept of Civil Aviation had cancelled his license and put a guard on the Auster aircraft which he kept at Bankstown. Despite this, Baudin went to Camden and bought another plane, also an Auster, and took off. In his report to Bankstown control tower he said that he didn't want to return to gaol and threatened to fly over the water and take some sleeping tablets "if he did not get any action".

Police launches and the HMAS Vendetta were alerted and two aircraft were put into the air to shadow the Auster. The plane held the attention of crowds of Sydney people. One fuel tank cut out and the plane dropped sickeningly before the other fuel tank came alive.

Eventually, he landed at Bankstown after receiving assurances from the Police Commissioner that police would assist him in his Court case.

Sydney Morning Herald 4/2/1969.



IN YOUR GARDEN

Bottlebrushes

Every garden should have a bottlebrush. It is surely one of Australia's most spectacular native plants, with flowers ranging in colour from pure white to cream and from the softest pink to deep crimson.

NATIVE PLANTS



Plants for small gardens may vary in height from just under 2m to 5m so there are varieties suitable for container growing, shrubs or ornamental shade trees.

Hardy and virtually disease free, bottlebrushes respond well to fertilising and to commonsense pruning for thinning or shaping. For best results select a sunny drained site. Regular watering, especially in the summer months, is recommended.

An ideal variety for container growing is *Callistemon viminalis* "Captain Cook". It rarely exceeds 2m in height and the main display of bright red flowers occurs in spring. More suited and ideally a tree for a small garden, *Callistemon salignus* "Pink Tips" reaches about 4m. It has long willowy stems and creamy white brushes surmounted by young leaves of a rich pink.

Bonnie Davidson

Ray and I visited Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta on Sunday 24th June for the last day of the Camellia Show which was truly lovely. We had morning tea there with log fires and beautiful camellia arrangements. If you haven't been lately please go.

There is also a Camellia Show at St Albans Epping on Saturday 14th July 1.30pm to 5pm and Sunday 15th 12noon to 4pm. A must for camellia lovers.

Margaret Ford of the Balmain Garden Club advises that their meeting on Saturday 21st July will welcome a guest speaker, Jeanette Cunningham, to talk about cacti and succulents. They meet at 10am in the rectory hall at St Mary's Church, 85 Darling Street, East Balmain.

The Balmain Hospital Fete will be held in Gladstone Park on Saturday 8th September from 9am until 4pm. The Balmain Garden Club runs the plant stall for this event. Funds raised at the Fete will go towards the purchase of life saving medical instruments.

You haven't forgotten to book for our 25th Anniversary Dinner, have you? In case you have it's on the 12th September. Ring!

Pubs Exhibition

Because it was so well received in April the Pubs of Balmain & Rozelle Exhibition is to be remounted on October 13, 14, 20, 21. The History Division has received further information and has unearthed some photographs previously unknown.

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WHAT'S ON

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

- Saturday, July 21 Hornsby Historical Society
- Saturday, August 18 Ryde Historical Society

Contact 818 4954

- Wednesday, August 1
Annual General Meeting

- 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 inc
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:

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

Please circle:NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL

Single/Family/Household. \$10.00

Organisation \$15.00

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

Cheques should be made payable to The Balmain Association Inc