

the balmain
association
incorporated

NEWS SHEET

Vol 25 No 9 Issue 196

FOUNDED 1965

OCTOBER 1990

What's The Hurry Mr Greiner?

To justify its installation of Mr O'Toole as Planning Administrator for the Peninsula, the State Government accused Leichhardt Council of being unwilling or incapable of making critical decisions on the rezoning of 5 industrial sites. As we have pointed out Council was responding to the call from the overwhelming majority of residents for a carefully considered plan of development for the Peninsula. The community requests for a moratorium and a public hearing were met by blocking actions by the Government.

We need to focus on two important reasons why the Council is acting correctly and the Government is unsympathetic to the wellbeing of residents of Balmain. Firstly, the Stage II of the Traffic Study had not been completed and secondly the State Pollution Control Commission had yet to declare its reports on the chemical contamination on the sites. ELCOM has stated that the cleansing of the Balmain Power Station site could take until 1996 to complete. Without these reports there could be no proper deliberation of the rezonings. So what is the hurry?

The Traffic Study, Stage I, is the most substantial planning document to be released to date and the Government and developers must be made to comply with its recommendations: 1. "The proposed rezonings with their anticipated intensities of development for the five sites should not be collectively approved at this

point of time", 2. "we see considerable merit in individually reducing their intensity of traffic generation", 3. "The rezoning of these sites (Unilever and Ampol) should either be deferred until these works (City West Link as far as Catherine St and preferably the Glebe Island Bridge and local roadworks) are complete or very specific conditions placed on the timing of construction", 4. "The Balmain Power Station and Monsanto sites should only be developed if an appropriate package of roadworks acceptable to both the Council and the RTA is able to be undertaken".

Urban consolidation should not mean increasing population to the degradation of the existing population. Apart from the obvious amenities of traffic and safety in the streets there is the protection of the character and cultural heritage of the Peninsula. The streetscape should not be degraded by inappropriate architecture.

Stage II of the Traffic Study considers the effect of the land development expected in the next decade not just the 5 sites which represent only 30% of future projects. If all of the projects are built to the densities recommended by Council town planners (less than requested for the 5 sites) traffic will increase in peak hours in 1995 by 32%.

The roads out of the Balmain Peninsula are already crowded in peak times due to the blocking effect of traffic on Victoria Road. During the morning peak

hour it is not unusual to take 15 minutes to get through the Roberts Street intersection. Little or no funds are made available for upgrading public transport at a time when there is need for more diversity in bus routes. One of the solutions could be the use of Glebe Island as a staging centre to limit the use of private motor vehicles in the central business district.

Stage II also determines what contribution the developers should make towards the roadworks. It is important that the local streets protection be improved rather than maintaining the existing conditions. Some of Balmain's narrow streets are being used as collector roads and there is a need to manage these in order to return them to their use as local streets. Car parking presents considerable difficulties.

There are many other issues to be considered. Local aquatic clubs have to be considered as well as residents when investigating proposed marinas. Elderly residents need to be considered in the planning for their retirement. They should not be forced to leave their lifetime associations.

25th Anniversary Dinner

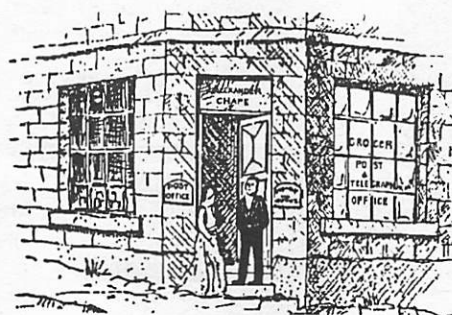
The Post Restaurant needed walls of rubber instead of sandstone to accommodate all who wanted to attend the 25th Anniversary Dinner on 12th September. Our apologies to those who were unable to get a reservation.

Elbow room was at a premium but the ambience was convivial. Many old friendships were renewed. A number of past presidents and other officials made impromptu speeches. Mrs Power speaking on behalf of the first president was received warmly. There were cheers for David Porter, Bob Irving, Bill Haesler, John Morris, Margaret Dobson, Peter Reynolds and Frances Heathfield. Delightful anecdotes and reminiscences of

previous campaigns interspersed strong messages of support for the current demands on development.

There were many requests for the function to be repeated on a regular basis.

Below : Chape's Post Office 1844 now the Post Restaurant



EXHIBITION

AT THE WATCH HOUSE

Pubs Exhibition

October 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st

11am - 4pm in the Watch House

Pub Paintings by Klin Sullivan
Heritage Pub Crawl Sat 20th at 3pm

Found

We have obtained a 1930s photograph of the Warwick Castle Hotel, formerly on the corner of Mort and Darling Streets (demolished in 1969 for the Commonwealth Bank). The photo is particularly interesting as it shows some men waiting at the tram stop.

Did you know that Dick's Hotel had a balcony? Photographic proof can be seen at the Pubs Exhibition. If you missed it in April make sure you visit the Watch House for its return.

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Ferry Services

The Balmain Ferry Fleet was operated by Henry Perdriau from 1841 until 1882 running to Millers Point as often as every 10 minutes in the daylight hours. Some of the vessels' names were Gipsy Queen, Waterman and Pet. A waterman rowed passengers privately at other times.

The Balmain Steam Ferry Co acquired the fleet in 1882. Its fare of 3d each way or seven tickets for 1s was considered too dear, so a cooperative was formed with the purpose of reducing fares, which they did. The Balmain New Ferry Company not only offered fares of 1d each but increased the comfort of the ferries.

The 20th century brought to Darling Street the ferries such as Karingal, Karabee and Kameruka (the name means 'wait till I come'). The Kameruka was two feet longer than Captain Phillip's flagship, Sirius.

Just prior to world War II, two ferry services operated from Balmain to Erskine Street. One was operated by Nicholson Bros and this service went from Thames, Yeend and Darling Streets terminating at Erskine Street, with the return journey in reverse. All of the names of their ferries and tugs started with a P, such as Prolong, Protect and Provide.

The Canterbury tram service (corridor type) terminated at the Darling Street Wharf and a ferry and tram ticket could be bought from Rozelle onwards for 3 pence. This enabled you to travel from Rozelle to the Darling Street Wharf, across Darling Harbour by ferry and catch a Watson's Bay tram from the Erskine Street Wharf to the corner of George and King Streets. The turnstile operated at the Erskine Street Wharf for the collection of fares. There was also a kiosk selling newspapers.

Hegarty Bros operated a twenty minute service from Bald Rock, Stephen Street, P & O wharf (if required) and then to Erskine Street. Kiosks were available at all wharves with the exception of Yeend Street and P & O.

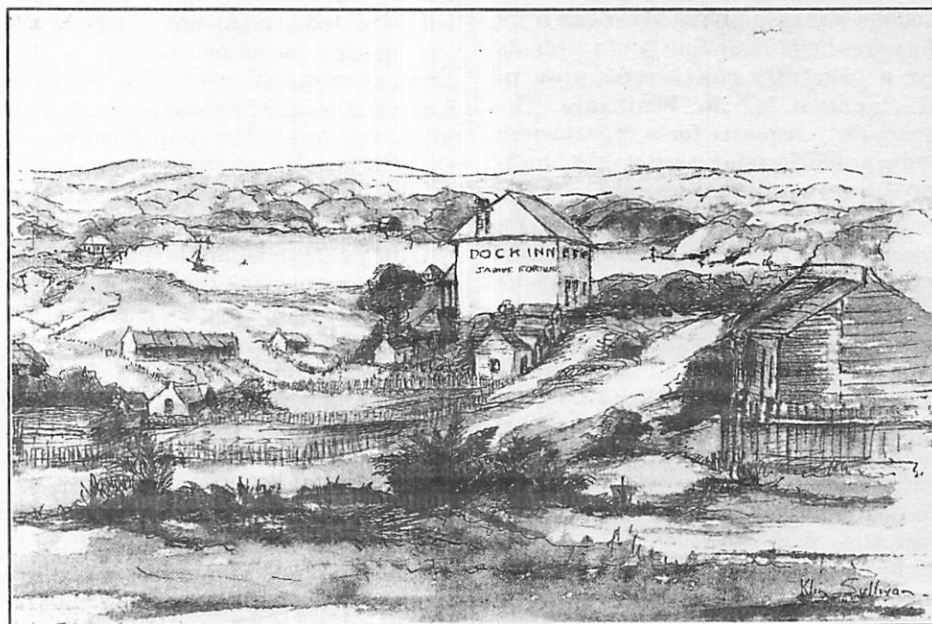
In the late 1930s a government bus service to Coogee operated on a Sunday during the summer months. There was a terminus at Loyalty Square and another route was from the foot of Cove Street in Birchgrove. The service ceased on the outbreak of war but operated again after the war until the early 1950s when it ceased to run owing to lack of support.



Balmain Christian Brothers

In April, 1887 the Christian Brothers established a school in a Thames Street building which was originally the Dock Inn. (This information was found during research for the Pubs Exhibition). Its three rooms were capable of accommodating fifty students.

In the early years the city pupils arrived each morning by steam-driven paddle-wheel boat. The 1887 School Register lists the parents' occupations such as shipwright, sailmaker, fruiterer, carpenter, and lamp lighter. The playground was made out of a sandstone quarry. The levelling was completed in 1915 when 6000 loads of filling were obtained from Mort's Dock and the Gladstone Park reservoir.



Dock Inn 1858 by Klin Sullivan



The last photograph of Fr Ted Harris

An ex-student of Balmain Christian Brothers, Father Charles Harris, MSC, was in New Britain in 1942 when the remnants of the 2/22nd Battalion straggled into his mission after the fall of Rabaul. He nursed their sick and buried their dead, and refused to escape with them.

The Japanese landed shortly after, took him captive and he was never seen again. His memorial is the grotto in the school grounds.

One hundred and three years later it must close because of a lack of pupils. The school's head, Brother Michael Warner, says that they have been teaching boys from thirty five areas, some as far away as Mt Druitt. Other uses for the buildings are being explored. It is hoped that the youth of the inner city can be served.

The Final Year Celebrations are to be held on the weekend of November 9th and include a Grand Ball at Wentworth House, Sydney University on Monday 12th November. To commemorate the closure, a pictorial school history is to be published. Local artist Klin Sullivan has painted a series of eight scenes from the 1850s to a present day painting of the school and these are available in a portfolio or a set of postcard prints.



Elliott Bros Chemical Works - (Monsanto)

From The Balmain Observer,
June 20th, 1885.

Messrs Elliotts' premises at Balmain consist of a number of buildings which stand upon a commanding piece of ground, of about 15 acres in extent, contiguous to the Terry Street Reserve.

The premises are supplied with Sydney water, which is conducted into a large receiving tank capable of holding 25 000 gallons. The buildings are lighted with gas; the machinery is of modern type and still more recent improvements are in course of completion on various parts of the premises. We may further mention, in connection with the water supply, that recent boring experiments have satisfactorily proved the existence of water at a depth of 13 feet 6 inches, and that a well 10 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep is now being sunk, which, when completed, will doubtless supply any deficiency caused by the scarcity of Sydney water. Twenty six men are at present employed at the works, where business is somewhat slack, but during the busy season, the number is considerably augmented.

There is no more important factor connected with the Chemical Art, than sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol. It seldom occurs in nature in an uncombined state and has therefore to be manufactured. For this purpose, Messrs Elliott import large quantities of crude sulphur from Sicily. The sulphur in the first instance, is placed in burners or kilnes, and thence the fumes pass into three large leaden chambers, two of which are 60 feet x 14 feet x 16 feet and the others 80 feet x 14 feet x 16 feet. From the chambers, the acid in its unfinished state is conducted into a

leaden column filled with coke for purifying purposes and it then passes by means of a pipe to the main chimney, whence escape all noxious gases, etc. The sulphuric acid now in its pure state being received into an open reservoir beneath.

In order to further concentrate the acid and remove any foreign matters, such as water and nitric and sulphurous acids, a retort of platinum is used. This is a very expensive item in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. The retort used by Messrs Elliott cost over £1800 and is capable of correcting four tons of the acid per day. The acid is drawn from the retort by means of a syphon, is received into jars and is then ready for use. There are Twelve kilnes capable of turning out from 5 to 6 tons of acid each day.

Muriatic acid and nitric acid, both commercial and pure; bi-sulphate of lime, super-phosphate of lime, muriate of zinc, sulphite of lime and bi-sulphate of soda are among the numerous other preparations made here.

Muriatic acid is extensively used by galvanists and for soldering purposes; it is of a highly dangerous nature. To produce it a quantity of sulphuric acid and salt is placed in a retort having a dome to it. The retort is sealed and the chlorine liberated and driven over into Woulfe's Jars where it combines with water and becomes muriatic acid.

Super-phosphate of lime is a mixture of sulphuric acid and guano. It is largely used by sugar growers in Mauritius. The super-phosphate of lime manufactured by Messrs Elliott Bros is highly valued in New Zealand and the Mauritius, and is said to exceed in value any other super-phosphate of lime sent there by 50%. With their present appliances, Messrs Elliott can turn out from 15 to 20 tons per day.

Update On Residents Activities

There seems to be a meeting, or two or three, a night in Balmain these days – a sign of the seriousness of the issues and the widespread and growing grassroots response.

The Evans Street Traffic Group and the Trade Union Liaison Committee have been formed, the Monsanto Action Group is being re-activated. Representatives of the Combined Pensioners have joined the community call for a total, integrated town plan which addresses the special need for retirement accommodation and pedestrian mobility and safety.

Negotiations are proceeding to select the Trustees of the Balmain Development Trust which is being modelled on the Pearl Beach organisation which was successful in preventing undesirable development.

A Picnic in the Park on Saturday September 23rd provided information and commitment from a steady stream of in-

terested residents. Money raised goes towards the Balmain Development Trust.

Further fund-raising activities include a \$100 a plate dinner/dance at the Sheraton Wentworth on November 5th, a film evening and a Balmain Music Festival. Donations are also welcome (made out to the Balmain Development Trust).

For further information phone Kath Hacking 818 2504, Susan Frisoli 569 8338, Diana Garder 810 3639, Jane Ward 818 1454.

Third Runway

Have you responded to the draft EIS for the third runway?

Balmain is one of the areas that will be subjected to greater numbers of aircraft. Indeed we are already experiencing more noise because of the changes to flight patterns. Contact Robert Platt 810 2915.

Balmain Bugged

Editorial – Sunday Telegraph 9/9/90

Balmain has long boasted a distinctive brand of local politics. A swag of big development proposals has provoked the latest demonstration.

Unable to come quickly to terms with these plans, the council has been shoved aside by a State Government eager to get on with it. A Planning Administrator has been appointed, leaving the council to get on with licensing pets and matters of similar moment.

Despite the need for speed, the Government and its appointee would do well to proceed with great caution.

Sydney's foreshore land is priceless, part of the State's most precious asset.

The proposed zoning changes create the first real chance this century for big stretches of the Balmain shoreline to be actively considered as a private commercial investment.

The Government must remember that it has a brief to speed up the decision-making process, not to ride roughshod over community concerns.

An historic precinct beside an ageless waterway deserves no less.

Editor's Note:

There is a conflict of logic in the "need for speed" and "proceed with great caution". The history of the Govt's own planning does not bring great confidence.

Heritage Study

The Leichhardt Municipality Heritage Study is now available to buy or borrow from the Balmain Library. This excellent work by McDonald McPhee Pty Ltd comprises three volumes.

The first deals with the history of the different parts of the municipality and has many old photographs and drawings. The architectural types are also discussed in this volume. Later conservation areas are delineated. An inventory of heritage items is established which is continued in the following volumes.

An interesting feature is the thematic chronology in Volume 2. Such features as population figures, sporting fixtures, churches, residential development and industry, etc are tabulated.

Anyone interested in the conservation of the local environment will find this work invaluable.

Books Available At The Watch House

- Around Balmain - special \$5.00
- Half a Thousand Acres \$10.00
- Balmain Book \$10.00
- Balmain History Trail \$2.00
- Pubs of Balmain \$2.00
- Leich. Hist. Journal #5-10 \$8.00
- L. H. Journal #11-13 \$10.00
- L. H. Journal #14-16 \$12.00



IN YOUR GARDEN

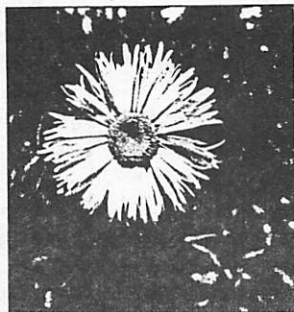
Chrysanthemum Maximum (Shasta Daisy)

The shasta daisy is an old-fashion plant, but the old cottage flowers seem to be staging a comeback. They are large white single or double daisy-like flowers carried on stems above the bushes, which grow about 45cm (18in) high.

The shasta daisy is a perennial flowering from December until January. They propagate from seeds, but may also be grown by division of the roots in early spring. This is the only way the double variety can be reproduced.

Shasta daisies require a moderately rich soil and ample water. A position in full sunlight is desirable. The plants maybe left in the ground for two or three years, after which it is advisable to dig them up, divide the roots and replant, preferably in new positions during winter or early spring. They are reasonably free of diseases and pests.

Chrysanthemum
Maximum
Shasta Daisy



Bonnie Davidson



Back To Balmain

Following the success of the inaugural "Back To Balmain" Day held last year the event is to be repeated this year on Sunday, 28th October.

Following an ecumenical service at St Andrews, Darling Street, Balmain at 10am the picnic will be at Elkington Park at 11am. Bring your own food and refreshments. The Balmain Police-Citizens Youth Club will operate a stall to sell steak sandwiches, soft drinks, ice cream, etc. The Leichhardt Municipal Band will entertain from the rotunda from 2pm.

The day will be one mainly of re-union where friends and acquaintances of earlier times will meet and reminisce on the pleasures of growing up in Balmain-Rozelle-Lilyfield. There are "old tigers" coming from afar. There should be plenty of people from the past who will be happy to see you again.

Raffle

The History Division is conducting a raffle in which the first prize will be dinner for two at the Post Restaurant to the value of \$70. Second prize is a basket of fruit and third prize is a box of chocolates.

Tickets are 50c and the raffle will be drawn at the Back to Balmain Day at Elkington Park on 28th October.



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WHAT'S ON

● Pubs Exhibition

11am - 4pm

Sat, October 13th, Sun 14th, Sat 20th, Sun 21st

● Heritage Pub Crawl Sat October 20th at 3pm

● Sunday, October 28

Back to Balmain-Rozelle Day

Elkington Park

Contact 810 1691

OUR HOUSE WATCH

The Watch House is open every Saturday from
12 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

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