

Rezoning Issue Set For New Council

The next Leichhardt Council will almost certainly have the responsibility of rezoning the five waterfront sites which were the subject of the Public Hearing in June 1991. The State Government appears to have ignored the present council's failure to meet the 6 September deadline resulting from the boycott by six alderpersons.

The new Council will have to consider the possibility of the appointment of another planning administrator if the LEPs are rejected. This will result in the loss of control of subsequent development applications. Residents will not be pleased with the waste of money and effort in removing Mr O'Toole only to have another administrator imposed.

However, it is not just a question of rejecting the draft Local Environmental Plans. The simple fact is that LEPs cannot adequately address all of the planning problems. To satisfy residents' concerns for an overall plan requires a Regional Environmental Plan. Fortunately there will be time to introduce a planning strategy for the Peninsula as these sites will not be developed for at least five years. The Council must show that it is capable of making a decision. The public have had many opportunities to make their concerns known and they are well documented. It is time to plan the next stage. The Minister will undoubtedly catch the odium of introducing the Commissioners' recommendations when he has to approve the LEPs.

A faction free council is necessary if the experience of the last few years is not to be repeated. In their report the Commissioners rightly criticise the failure of Council to plan despite warnings by its planners over a period of five years that the "industrial land would in future in most circumstances attract a residential zoning." As well they are "not satisfied that present provisions of DCP No 1 adequately regulates" .. "environmental factors which determine character of a locality, regulate building bulk, building height, streetscape, onsite open space, detailed landscaping and traffic calming measures on a precinct or locality basis." "...it is our view that Council should plan to conserve the existing urban form of the

peninsula. Such planning should be via detailed development control plans on a precinct basis which identify and consider the built form and structure of those areas of the Peninsula which presently characterise Balmain. ...we see the subject five sites and possibly other large sites as capable of separate identification and development without adversely affecting the existing built and visual environment of Balmain."

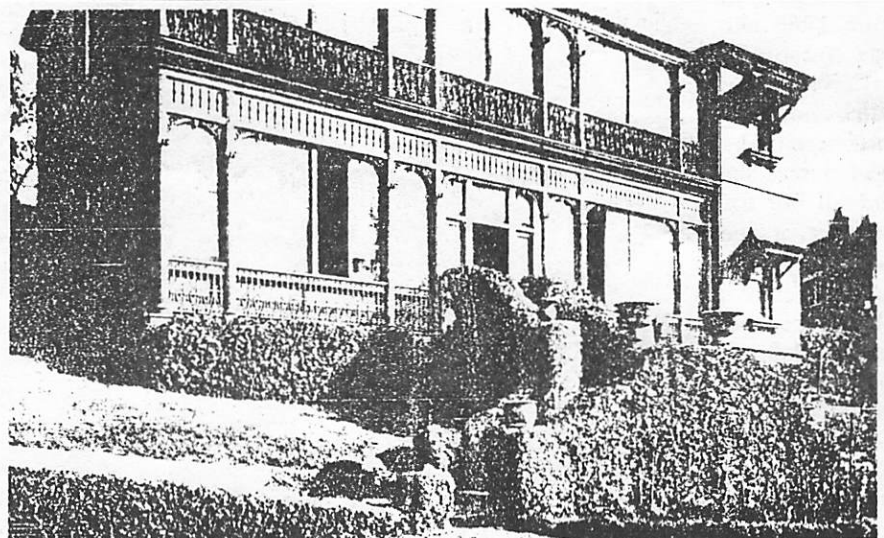
As the Commissioners consider the BURST proposal as more suitable for outer suburbs it is useful to consider the differences in the submissions. The statistics of the Tables on pages A13-A19 of the Report can be condensed to show an increase of population of just under 3,000 from the Commissioners recommendations as against 2,300 for that of BURST but the public open space contributions are nearly 34% greater. The Report highlights the financial implications should the sites not be developed to the recommended densities. If the proposed population is not achieved the Council will be faced with purchasing some of the land for open space.

The Town Planners have estimated that the landscaping cost for the Commissioners' recommended open space will be over \$5 million which would place huge pressures on the Council budget. Having regard to the deficits over

the past few years the new Council will have to address better management techniques. The Better Cities Strategy announced in the Federal Budget may be a source of finance towards these problems as well as contributions for traffic calming measures. The new Council will have to move quickly to determine their claim as the \$56 million allocated for this year may be designated soon.

Most residents find difficulty in reconciling their experience with the findings of the Commissioners on traffic delays at Victoria Road intersections. Could it be, as the RTA has pointed out, that the SCATES computer model is not well suited to testing oversaturated intersections and that the actual rates are much higher? Our experience is that the average time to exit the Peninsula from Roberts Street in the morning peak is four traffic light changes—10 minutes—as against the traffic consultants' 16 seconds.

The Balmain Association proposes that restrictions should be imposed on heavy traffic from the White Bay Terminal into Roberts Street during peak hours and there should be a total ban on articulated vehicles using Mullens Street. The new Council should immediately consult with the MSB to arrange the exit of these vehicles by way of Glebe Island and Somerville Road.



The interim conservation order on Wyoming (above) has lapsed. Stannards

have undertaken not to demolish before consulting the Heritage Council.

Balmain Personality

Sisters Valerie & Thelma

Valerie Davenport is a very well known name to many old Balmainites. Valerie started nursing at Balmain Hospital in 1924 and did not retire until in 1968. Sister Davenport, or "Dav" as she was called, went on to become Operating Theatre Supervisor and for 25 years was on call every night. Sister Thelma Otford, who began training in the same year, had expertise in Casualty and the two nurses served the Balmain Hospital and residents for almost 50 years and became known in the district as the "Dynamic Duo".



Mr. W. F. Pirera, Balmain Hospital President, making a presentation to Miss V. Davenport. Matron Miss J. MacLaren looks on

"The story of these two womens' contribution to nursing and their fellow man would stir the heart of the coldest person and most certainly affected the quality of caring of any nurse who was privileged to work with them."

Their close affinity was nurtured by a deep love of their religion. Both were devout Catholics and gave total allegiance to their church.

At Sister Davenport's farewell party in June 1968 she was presented with a gold watch and a cheque. Unlike most nurses she had all her experience at one hospital. She commenced as a trainee general nurse at Balmain in December 1924, became senior sister in 1950 and deputy

matron in August 1960. It was quite an achievement to secure this position in a major hospital with a single certificate. Valerie would have started on a wage of 14s 7p per week. She had seen Balmain

Hospital grow from 60 beds to a 230 bed institution at the time of her retirement.

During the great depression of the 1930s Sister Otford ran and paid for a soup kitchen, provided Christmas lunch for the poor of the district and visited families in need to assist emotionally or with the organisation of food.

Strangely, these two women, who together gave almost a century of service, died within a week of each other in August 1974.

As well as these two devoted nurses we would also like to mention the many home nurses who served Balmain people from the 1850s. Dr Owen Spencer Evans Snr used the services of the MacKenzie

sisters, Sarah, Agnes and Louisia, as midwives. Another would have been Honora (Granny) Killeen who, during the 1850s to 60s, could regularly be seen on her way to a confinement no matter how dark the night or lonely the road. The picture below is probably of her cottage near where Ewenton Park is today.

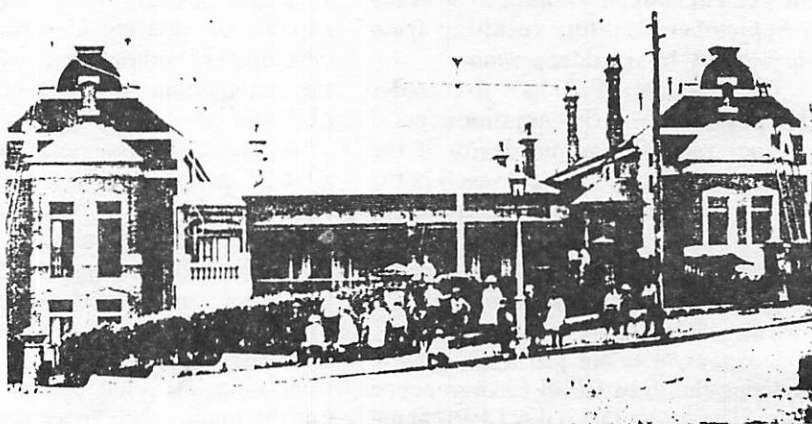
By the 1890s Balmain had seven lady nurses and midwives mentioned in the



Sands Directory—Miss Phillips, Mrs Tweedly, Mrs J Martin, Mrs Jeffries, and Mrs Ryan are some of the names. By 1915 there were twelve listed including Mrs Brownlee, Mrs Catherine Weir, Mrs

Allen and Miss N Brown of 5 Booth St which is close to Balmain Hospital, but women were still giving birth at home at that time. Miss Brown was still at that address in 1930 when there were fewer nurses operating from home.

One nurse, Mrs Agnes Short, seems to have been around for over 20 years from 1920 onwards. Mrs Mary (Polly) Walker was one of the last midwives and is said to have assisted some 3,000 children into the world, many of whom still live in Balmain. In the late 1920s she worked from her home known as the *Lion Tea House* at the corner of Darling and Hampton Streets. The house, constructed about 1880, is a fine example of high Victorian architec-



The Balmain Cottage Hospital (circa. 1901)

ture aptly named after the lion which rests majestically on the top.

Nurse Phillips of Clayton Street was one of the last private home nurses when she died in the 1890s. The Link reported "The inner west has also been served by the Sydney Home Nursing Association, established in 1900, and continues to do a wonderful job."

Sources: LHJ 14, Small Beginnings, The Link.

Vale Caroline Fricke

Caroline Fricke, a longstanding member and supporter of the Balmain Association, died suddenly from a fall on 31 August. The several hundred people of all ages who attended her memorial service at the Campbell St Church on 5 September were an indication of the community's high regard for her and the number and range of activities she had supported with friendship and tireless enthusiasm over the years. The peace and conservation movements, local music activities, the P & Cs of her children's schools and personal development education are just a few of the activities where she will be sadly missed.

The Association extends its sympathy to her husband, Fergus, and her children, Harry and Clive, and to the many others who have lost a dear and valued friend.

Claire

GOURLIE'S CORNER

Police

In the 1920-30s one police car, number plate PD 30 was a Morris Cowley. Ariel motorcycles with side cars made up the fleet. Foot patrols were the main source of protection and it would not be unusual to see a policeman checking shop doors and padlocks while on his beat.

It is interesting in that beat police have been reintroduced by the Balmain Station Patrol Commander, Peter McLaughlin, and they will specifically be walking around Balmain and Rozelle streets. By being assigned to an area the Beat Police hope to be acquainted with the residents who should feel free to speak to them on any matter.

The picture depicts motorcyclist Constable Cutler with Inspector Bowler and an unknown sergeant in Little Darling St behind the Balmain Police Station in 1924.

Balmain Police phone 556 0699.

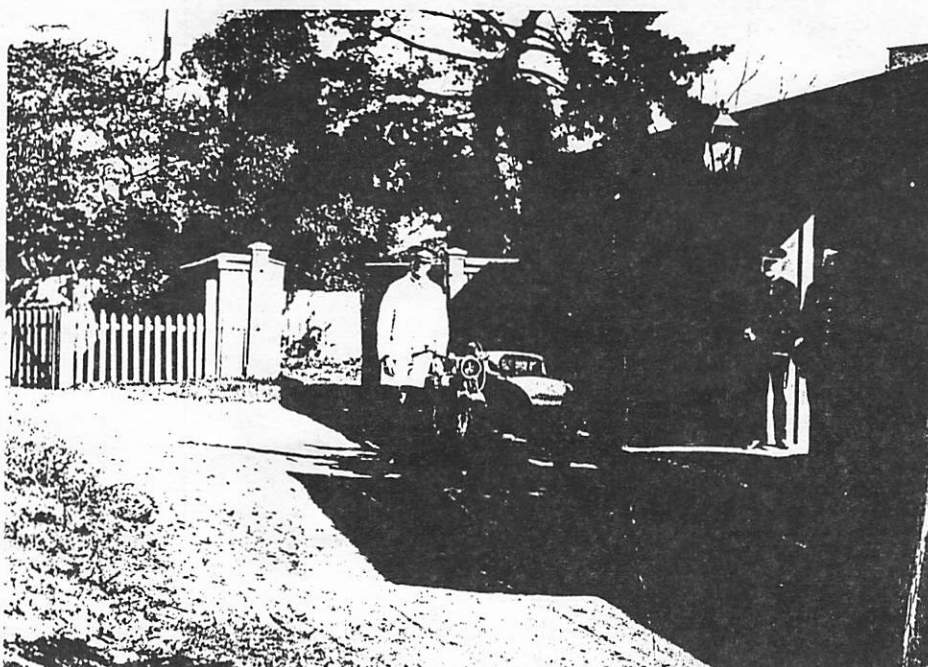
Birchgrove Park

Some months ago, at the instigation of the Friends of Birchgrove Park, Leichhardt Council constructed a low sandstone wall around the open space in Ferdinand Street at the entrance to the Oval as a means to prevent parking in preparation for improvements to the area.

The football associations have now requested that the walls be removed to allow parking. With such limited public open space on the Peninsula the Balmain Association supports the Friends in their endeavour to preserve this small area. The access streets to this space are narrow and not suitable for heavy traffic. Resident parking should be allocated for the Terrace and only limited parking for visitors. There is also the problem of excluding vehicles from the oval now that the gates have been removed. There are a number of devices available to achieve this such as bollards.

We propose that the Terrace be closed off at the Grove Street end and angle parking be provided along Grove Street adjacent to the park. This would extend the area of the park and reduce maintenance costs. The fenced area under the trees would then be ideal for a children's playground.

The Traffic Engineer is proposing to install traffic humps in Rose Street and a threshold at its intersection with Louisa Road. For a more ascetic and less troublesome approach we would prefer sections of rough paving to reduce vehicular speed.



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Treasurer's Report 1990-1991

Expenditure	
Watch House *	10372.90
News Sheet	2930.15
Publicity	620.16
Donation BDevTrust	1000.00
Miscellaneous	416.25
Publications	708.25

Subscriptions	148.00
Dinner	1527.58
B Development Trust Loan	4000.00
Bank Charges	55.55
Total	22836.55

History Sub-Committee

Total Expenditure	4135.19
Excess General Expenditure over Income 1990-1	
Less:	

Outstanding loan owed by B Development Trust

Excess History Income over Expenditure 1990-1

Actual Excess Expenditure over Income

Bank Balances as of 30.6.91:

Cheque Account	2967.72
Savings Account	1881.26
Total	4848.98
History Account	4441.98
Loan outstanding	2000.00
Total Assets	11290.08

Income	
Watch House Hire	1991.25
Membership	3185.50
Leaflets	674.08
Donations	709.08
Miscellaneous	195.25
History Trail	255.40
LHJ	466.50
Around Balmain	2207.20
Half Thousand Acres	537.00
Balmain Book	180.00
Dinner	1540.00
B Development Trust	2000.00
Interest	636.06
Total	14567.32

Total Income 6563.56

8269.23

2000.00

2428.37

1540.86

* Incl payments for lighting	1873.09
Painting	838.00
Stonework	4600.00
Floor covering	24.10
Carpentry	450.00
Total	7985.19

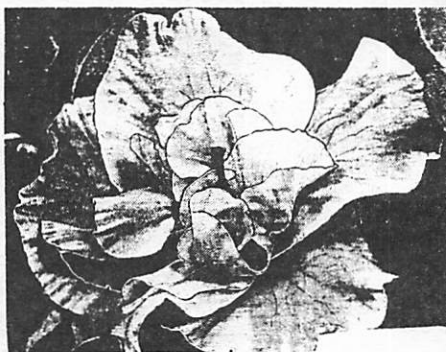


In Your Garden

Azaleas

Gardeners around the country love azaleas for their massed spring flowers and their colourful display in most coastal gardens.

Azaleas are easy to grow provided they are in slightly acid, well drained soil. They like part sun or filtered sunlight, although many tall singles grow equally well in full sun. Azaleas suitable for full sun are labelled sun azaleas.



The most reliable are the old tall growing singles such as Alba Magna (white), Equistite (lilac-pink), Ruth Kirk (salmon) and Spendens (salmon-pink and rose-violet scented). These all grow vigorously.

Semi-double varieties are almost as hardy as the singles and need filtered sun or part shade. They are not as tall growing being compact and bushy and many have large blooms, often in two colours. Reliable varieties include Avent Bells (bright red bell-shaped flowers), Dr Bergmann (carmine-orange, dark throat) and White Prince (white with red throat).

It is important to keep water off the flowers as much as possible, rather, avoid hosing the flowers just concentrate on watering the roots.

When planting out loosen the root ball and put into well mulched soil, taking care that the plant is at the same level as it was in the pot. Water well and mulch over the soil surface to protect the shallow root system from drying out. Never add lime to the soil where azaleas are growing.

Azaleas affected by lace bug and red spider can be sprayed under the leaves with Lebaycid.

My azaleas are growing in terra cotta pots and have given a fine display this year. My pink Rose Queen is lovely at the moment and I have just added a White Lace to my collection.

Prune lightly after flowering and feeding with a complete fertiliser is best done after flowering in spring.

Bonnie Davidson

**You are
Called to the Bar
at Clontarf, 4 Wallace St
6-8pm Friday 25 October 1991**

**for the launch of our book
"Called To The Bar"
150 years of Pubs in Balmain & Rozelle.
Guest speaker: Dawn Fraser**

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WHAT'S ON

- Marilyn Dennes — Paintings. September 14-16
- Campbell St Presbyterian Church
Exhibition at the Watch House. September 21
- Pubs Book Launch — Clontarf, Wallace St
6-8pm Friday, October 25.
- Heritage Pub Crawl — 2pm Sat October 26
- Back to Balmain Day — Elkington Park
Sunday, October 27
- Belinda Scott — Paintings. October 18-31
- Share My Phantasy — Writers Aloft
1st Sunday of each month. Readings, critique
Supper served.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Return to Treasurer, PO Box 57, BALMAIN 2041

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Please circle-...NEW MEMBER / RENEWAL
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Add \$6.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted