

the balmain
association
incorporated

NEWS SHEET

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Council Should Decide

Leachardt Council's policy of community consultation on the rezoning of the five industrial sites is clearly correct because residents have the local knowledge to counter the effects on the amenities of the Peninsula.

The Council has appointed Mr Richard Smythe, former Director of the Department of Planning, to supervise the study of the Commissioners' findings from the Public Hearing. The workshop meetings that have taken place already have produced positive measures that will modify and expedite the draft Local Environmental Plans and help to establish the Development Control Plans that will regulate the development and its effects. These workshops will undoubtedly have a leading role in the setting up of permanent Council precinct committees.

Despite this, the Minister of Planning, Robert Webster, intends to introduce a Regional Environmental Plan because "In the light of these sites for urban consolidation, Council's continuing failure to deal with these rezonings in a reasonable time frame ... I have no alternative but to take action as I have outlined". The issue is not time but proficiency.

In our view the Council's approach is better on both counts. The Minister's harping on "urban consolidation" veils his real priority. Urban consolidation should mean more than savings on infrastructure for the Government and profits for developers.

The Government's narrow concept was recently exploded by Terry Metherill when he attacked the wasting of taxpayers' money in the low-density north-west sector of Sydney and "subsidising huge private developers who will make millions of dollars out of development of privileged areas of Sydney". Similar help for a major developer has just been announced for

South Creek Valley near Liverpool which the Mayor of Liverpool, Ald Latham, has termed an environmental disaster for the Nepean River. The light rail corridor recommended by consultants, Kin hills, has been ignored.

The Minister should be aware of the size of the housing that the developers are planning to build on our water front sites. The rezonings have little to do with urban consolidation. The dwellings will be twice the average price of housing on the Peninsula. In an interview, Mr Webster expressed concern for affordable housing on these sites but where is the mechanism that will make this possible? His Cabinet and National Party colleague, Joe Schipp, has closed down public housing and we certainly don't want another Mort Bay. This question of equity may possibly be addressed by cooperative housing.

Employment generation is feasible except on Caltex due to its traffic problems. Open space remains a community priority but residents must be aware of the legal and financial difficulties that limit the ability of Council to acquire more than 21m² per person.



These six apartments in River St illustrate the type of development that is not approved under new floor space ratio controls that reduce building bulk

Book Launch

Old Clontarf Cottage came alive on Friday evening, 25 October, when a throng of guests attended the launch of our latest publication, *Called to the Bar*, which attracted encouraging interest.

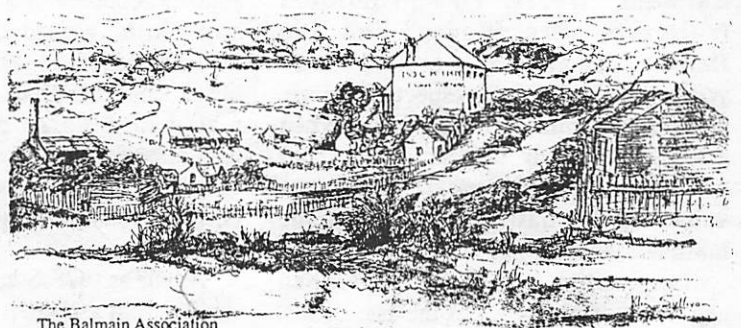
Guests included descendants of Fred Vale, first publican of Warwick Castle Hotel (1861-6), together with Mrs K Sandstrom, who was born at Clontarf. Our thanks to guest speaker, Dawn Fraser and to Association members who helped with the catering.

Called to the Bar is an account of 150 years of pubs in Balmain and Rozelle and lists 93 establishments and 1200 publicans. The book costs \$15.00 posted and is available from the Balmain Association Inc, PO Box 57, Balmain 2041. It can be bought at the Watch House for \$12.95.

Clontarf Cottage is available for hire through Leichhardt Council. Some conditions do apply.

CALLED TO THE BAR

150 Years of Pubs in Balmain & Rozelle



The Balmain Association

William Beach Champion Sculler

The Balmain Rowing Club was privileged to have Bill Beach as a member and he always rowed in the club colours of black and gold. On 12 April 1884, on the Parramatta River he raced Edward Trickett, who was then the Australian sculling champion, for the championship and the right to race against Canadian, Ned Hanlon, the World champion. On 16 August of the same year he beat Hanlon to capture the World championship which he defended in 1885 against Clifford, 28 February, Hanlon, 28 March and Matterson, 18 December.



In March 1886, Beach left for London with his sponsor, John Debell, a publican of Bells Hotel, Sydney. He won the final of the International Sweepstake on the Thames for a prize of £1200. On 18 September he successfully defended his title against Gaudar on the Thames. After beating Ross for £1000 and the world championship, he returned to Sydney in December. Welcomed as a hero, he was presented to

Governor Lord Carrington and his lady on the way to the Town Hall to meet the Mayor and the Premier and to receive an illuminated address.

Special trains ran to the Nepean on 26 November 1887 when Beach again defeated Hanlon. He retired after this race after successfully defending his World title six times.

Professional sculling had become the first great spectator sport. It had been big business from the 1850s, when large crowds lined Parramatta River or crowded on ferries to follow races. Much money changed hands and promoters vied with each other to put up large stakes. The press enhanced the scullers' status as popular idols, reporting races at great length. The occupations of scullers, who were blacksmiths, quarrymen and timber-fellers, added to their almost superhuman image. They were depicted in the press as fine specimens of Australian manhood, full of manly power and vigour.

Banjo Patterson later captured some of the public adulation for these sporting demigods; "Stalking with their trainers through the little town of Gladesville, they were like Kingsley's Gladiators stalking through the degenerate Romans."

The excitement in Sydney was intense when Edward Trickett, a quarryman, on 27 June 1876 defeated Englishman James Saddler on the Thames to become the first Australian to win a World championship in any sport. On his return to Sydney an estimated crowd of 20,000 greeted him at Circular Quay. Balmain also has a small claim on him, as his father, George, was living in Balmain in 1844 in the area where Morts Dock was later built. Edward Trickett was born at Greenwich and baptised at St Marys Church, East Balmain on 19 November 1851. In those years sportsmen were mostly sponsored by publicans and in May 1884 Trickett moved to Rockhampton,

Qld, where he had apparently been given a hotel by an admirer.

William Beach retired to his home *Champion Cottage*, Brownsville near Dapto and died on 28 January 1935. He was buried at St Lukes Church of England cemetery. Monuments to his memory are in Cabarita Park (pictured) and in Bill Beach Park, Mullet Creek, Dapto. The Balmain Rowing Club has on display a framed neckchief which recounts his six world championships.



J B Sharp Pty Ltd

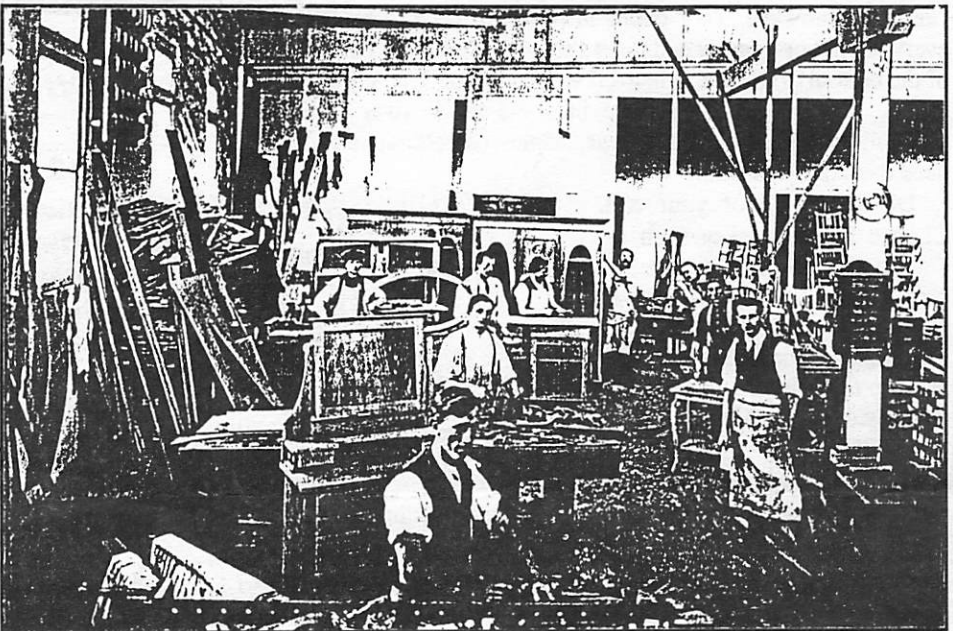
Recently the History Committee met Nell Davidson daughter of John Bennett Sharp who owned the furniture business where Woolworths stands today. Mrs Davidson kindly allowed us to copy photographs of the old store and interiors of the furniture workshop.

On 28 October 1970 *The Link* reported "One of Balmain's oldest business houses—the furniture business of J B Sharp Pty Ltd—is moving to new premises. The move is from Loyalty Square to Shop 3, 189 Darling Street (adjacent to the Watch House). The removal will take place next Monday, November 2. Mr J Syd Sharp said that this date was the 70th anniversary of the founding of the business, which occurred upon the taking over of the furniture business of Mrs McLauchlan. He has vivid memories of the early days of Balmain, including the colourful horse buses then in operation."

The Link, 7 October 1971, carried these opening specials.

BIG ROAR SPECIAL! 10 PACK FROZEN PEAS 19^c	BIG ROAR SPECIAL! LIMIT 4 HARRIS Capitol TEA 39^c lb.	BIG ROAR SPECIAL! LIMIT 4 DELL MARGARINE 24^c lb.	SUPERMARKET BALMAIN MANY MORE LOWER PRICES TRUE ONE STOP SHOPPING CLOTHING & HOMEWARES FAST RELIABLE HOME DELIVERY FREE DELIVERY FREE OPENING SPECIALS
BIG ROAR SPECIAL! 2 GALLON PLASTIC BUCKET 25^c	BIG ROAR SPECIAL! STYLEADER PANTY HOSE 29^c	BIG ROAR SPECIAL! Plastic 10 Gallon GARBAGE BIN \$135	

Last month, in celebration of 20 years operation, the Woolworth building was painted in heritage colours.



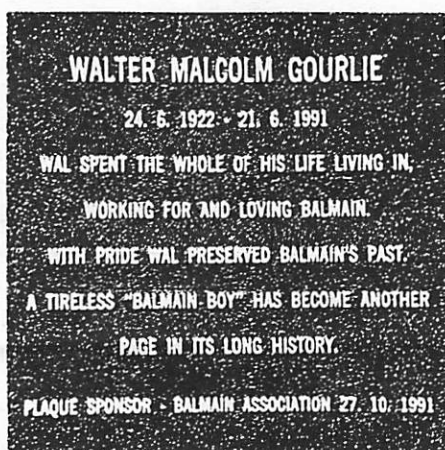
top, J B Sharp shop in Darling St, lower, furniture workshop

Back to Balmain

The last Sunday in October is firmly established as Back to Balmain Day. On 27 October, for the third year, thousands of old tigers came from near and far to Elkington Park for the picnic and to renew old friendships. Congratulations to George Stone, Cec Whitton, Peter Carter, Kevin Farley and others on the Committee.

A plaque to the memory of Wal Gourlie's tireless promotion was unveiled by George Stone and dedicated by the Rev Peter Carter. The Leichhardt Council had kindly installed it on the foundation wall of the bandstand in Elkington Park. They also provided the amenities that contributed to the success of the event. In the afternoon, the excellent Leichhardt Municipal Band played in the rotunda for two hours.

The Association stall was busy and the sales of *Called to the Bar* were very encouraging. The raffle 1st prize of a coffee



set was won by Anne McLeod, 2nd by M Gerard and 3rd by Mr Kensey.

When we went to the Art Bronze Foundry at Brookvale to receive Wal's plaque we were escorted around the plant to view the production of bronze statues. The plaques in the footways of Macquarie St and Circular Quay are the work of this foundry.

Kath Hamey

Cockatoo Island

The Department of Planning is reported to preparing a draft environmental plan for proposed development on seven Sydney Harbour islands.

A five-star hotel is rumoured for Cockatoo Island and townhouses for Goat Island. Other islands to be considered are Spectacle, Snapper, Rodd, Clark, Shark and Fort Denison. The plan is being formulated by a steering committee of representatives from the departments of Planning and of State Development, the Maritime Services Board and the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

The last week in October was a sad one for many who have worked on Cockatoo Island. The auctioneer's voice echoed through the gloomy old buildings. Ald Nick Masterman believes that the huge floating crane, Titan, is a heritage item and should be retained in a static display.



In Your Garden

Sunburnt Flowers

The merciless Australian sun creates real problems for garden plants. Believe it or not, plants actually do sunburn, some very badly, and this can lead to sickness and the death of the plant.

The sun also causes rapid evaporation of moisture from the soil making life hard on the poor plants' roots as well. Fortunately there are many techniques which are useful for minimising these problems and they are set out below.

Water: It's been said before but I think it needs repeating, watering is the single most difficult part of gardening. Don't stand outside each night with the hose—this is bad for the plants. Water once or twice a week with a good quality sprinkler such as the Nylex Gardena Rainwave. Your plants in pots will need to be watered everyday in hot weather and makes sure you see water coming out of the bottom of the pot. It helps if you add some Wetta Soil to pot plants. See that your pots are in some shade over summer, particularly ferns, fuchsias, azaleas, maples, camellias and daphnes need the extra protection.

Do mulch all of your soil. Choose from mulches such as: compost, leaf litter, woodchip, bark, mushroom compost or even straw or seaweed. Ideally the mulch should be about 75mm to 100mm thick. This will cut down on moisture loss and keep the soil far healthier.

Hibiscus, bouganvilleas, frangipanis and acalyphas are a few plants that love this time of the year. Fertilise hibiscus every couple of months with Nitrophoska or Citrus Food. A small amount will do—a heaped dessertspoon full for a 2m tall plant. Don't forget to water at least once a week.

Bonnie Davidson



Oppose Third Runway

Local residents have been so burdened by planning and development issues on the ground that many have not fully acknowledged the deleterious effect of a third runway on this area.

On Tuesday 29 October a packed Leichhardt Town Hall was told of the inevitable environmental safety and health degradation. One eminent speaker, Bill McCarthy, Professor of Surgery at Sydney University, was utterly scathing of the rationalisation of the runway. Our "crap detectors" should be over-registering when we read the proponents' documents.

Residents were told that the economic rationale of expanding Kingsford-Smith is false and short term and that the intensity, frequency and danger of aircraft operation would inevitably be compounded by a reduction in the curfew.

Residents are urged to be active in this final stage of the fight against the third runway. Write to any of federal MPs. Attend the public meeting in the Great Hall, Sydney University on Monday 18 November at 7.30pm.

Jane Ward

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WHAT'S ON

- **Myths and Beasts—Nov 8-16**
Janet Scott—Garden Sculpture
Michael Joyce—Painting
Clemency Browne—Screen Prints.
- **Helen Engles & Friends—Pots. Nov 23-Dec 1**
- **Belinda Thomas—Paintings. Dec 7-22.**
- **Christmas Drinks—Dec 21. Details in next issue**
- **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**

**the balmain association incorporated
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Return to Treasurer, PO Box 57, BALMAIN 2041

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POST CODE **HOME PHONE:**

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 \$6.00 to above rates to have News Sheet posted

Cheques should be made payable to The Balmain Association Inc