

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 27 No 3 Issue 212

Formerly the Balmain Association News Sheet (founded 1965)

APRIL 1992

The Rezoning Row

The NSW Ombudsman, Mr Landa, on the request of the Leichhardt Council, has begun an inquiry into claims that the Minister for Planning, Mr Webster, provided insufficient information for consultation on the preparation of a Regional Environmental Plan for the five industrial sites on the Peninsula.

The Council is also proceeding in the Land & Environment Court with their challenge on the removal of planning powers and the Government's intervention in the rezonings. It is significant that their grounds are similar to the successful action of the Association in conjunction with the Balmain Development Trust last year. In addition the Council claims that the Government is acting peremptorily against the intention of the legislation.

At a well attended public meeting in the Balmain Town Hall on 11 March the Council's actions were endorsed and further campaigning was supported. Mr Tom Uren, former Federal Minister of the Environment, made a strong speech in support for Ballast Point as a public park not only for Balmain residents but for the benefit of all Australians.

During the month Mr Webster praised a medium density estate at Westleigh as "urban consolidation at its best". The village comprised 70 full-sized executive homes on a 4.2 ha site with prices ranging from \$180,000 to \$350,000 with two tennis courts, a swimming pool, fountains and lawns, all around a central country club. A far cry from what he is planning for the five Balmain sites where 1,027 dwellings are proposed on a total of 19.4 ha. This would be three times the density of his "marvellous example".

Further evidence of the threat to Balmain is contained in two applications to the Council. The MSB has requested rezoning of the Jubilee Bay site of 1.75ha to allow for 96 townhouses. MacMahon Holdings of South Australia have filed a new development application for the Howard-Smith site in Water Street proposing 117 dwellings on 1.96 ha. We believe that the company has invested \$46 million in the site to this time before even foundations have been poured. It is interesting that their traffic consultants have used Stapleton & Hallam's original estimates from their Traffic Study for traffic generation from a development such as Cameron Cove even though these figures

have been revised because observations indicated that they were too low.

The Government's urban policies are a shambles with experts showing concern for the impact of the South Creek and Rouse Hill low density projects on the ecology. Recent reports from Los Angeles on traffic control expose the folly of the Government's freeway construction to service outer suburbs. Faced with four hour traffic jams on their 'freeways' there were proposals for double-decking, an extremely expensive response. Another scheme uses electronics to enable cars to travel in convoys with only a metre separation. The undeniable evidence is that freeways are traffic generating and the only viable solution is an efficient public transport servicing medium density housing and local employment.

A study by the National Housing Strategy has shown that most people living in the fringe suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne are not first home buyers but established families who are motivated by access to larger homes and gardens. First buyers were influenced primarily by price. The study indicates that the subsidy on provision of services should be removed in order to reduce the pressure on the city sprawl.

Glebe Island Bridge

The Federal Government in its One Nation statement agreed to fund the new high level Glebe Island Bridge.

The proposed bridge will have a 330 metre span which would be second in size only to the Harbour Bridge. The high cost of \$160 million is a consequence of its design deck height of 27 m above the bay and the need for long approach ramps. A low level bridge with 12 to 15 metre clearance could be built for \$70 million. Only one vessel, a coastal bulk blue metal carrier, *Camira*, leased by Pioneer, requires the clearance. CSR will cease using unloading facilities in Blackwattle Bay for its cement carrier, *Goliath*, in 18 months time.

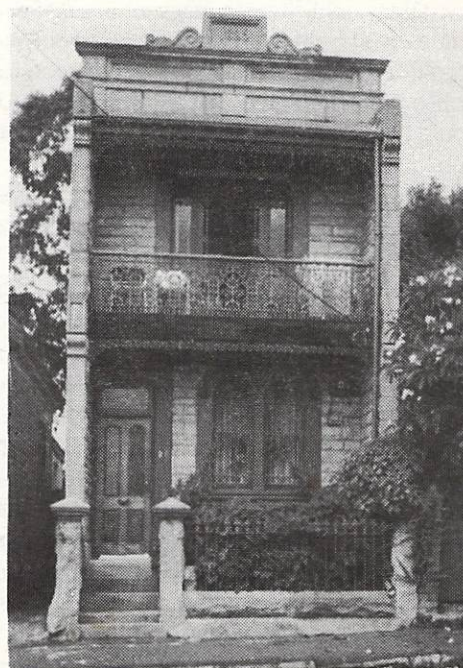
Leichhardt Council Alderman, Neil Macindoe said, "To subsidise this rarely used private facility, the taxpayers are being asked to fork out millions of dollars".

Local Best Seller

Philip Bray, of Bray's Books has announced that "Called to the Bar" was top of the bestseller list for the Peninsula. Our co-authors, Debbie Nicholls, Kath Hamey and Bonnie Davidson are thrilled by the news that the book had outsold Patrick White and Peter Carey locally. The book is available also at the Watch House priced \$12.95.

Heritage Pub Crawl

Friends of Dawn Fraser Pool invite you to a Heritage Pub Crawl on Saturday 2 May departing from the Watch House at 3pm. The walk will finish at the Pool for a sausage sizzle. Make up a party. For bookings ring 818 4954. Adults \$10 for each event. All proceeds to help retain the pool.



Wailes' 1883 House. Story inside.

POLICE IN NSW - PART 2

The Police Act of 1862 established a central police department administered by an Inspector-General of Police, responsible to the Colonial Secretary. Within this force there were four divisions – Mounted, Foot, Water and Detective. And within the force there were four grades: the Inspector-General, the Officer grade consisting of superintendents, inspectors and sub-inspectors; the Sergeants' grade; and finally the Constables.

All police adopted a similar style of uniform. Foot Police were issued with dark blue trousers and tunics; Mounted Police with light coloured trousers and dark blue tunic, worn with high boots and a cross belt for carrying ammunition or other equipment. At first all police wore a close-fitting cloth cap. The domed helmet was not adopted until 1875 when the Inspector-General, Edmund Fosbery, introduced it to prevent the sunstroke men had suffered while wearing the smaller caps.

The first duty of the colonial police, particularly the Sergeants and Constables, was defined as "the preservation of peace and the prevention of crime" and an elaborate set of rules and regulations was drawn up to ensure that the police fulfilled their duty in an efficient and effective manner. Police were required to rise, eat, work and rest at certain hours and be equipped with arms. For Foot Police these included a rifle, bayonet, handcuffs and whistle. According to the regulations, these arms were necessary to enable the police "successfully to overcome opposition to lawful arrests and to protect themselves against armed interference."

There were rules by which to arrest with and without a warrant; regulations defining the range of crime, pay and account books that needed to be maintained; and instructions on the personal style and techniques police should use to be effective. For example, they should studiously observe neutrality in political matters and were warned against deriving any pecuniary profit or advantage from a public contract. They had to observe the Sabbath and ensure a proper standard of cleanliness to impress locals with their respectability.

In the case of the Foot Police, constables continued the practice introduced earlier of maintaining a pace of two and a half miles per hour "so that any person requiring assistance, by remaining at one spot for any length of time may meet a constable". While the constable could "remain at a spot in suspicious circumstances" he had to satisfy his superior officer about the cause for such irregularity. In connection with regulations regarding record keeping, police were informed that they would not be promoted if they couldn't frame and write a report with "facility" or keep accounts correctly.

To assist in crime prevention, police transferred to a new district were advised to use every lawful means to make themselves acquainted with the names and characters of the inhabitants. Any suspicious characters or extraordinary circumstances were to be reported to Officers. They were advised to stop anyone carrying large sacks between the hours of 6 pm and 6 am.

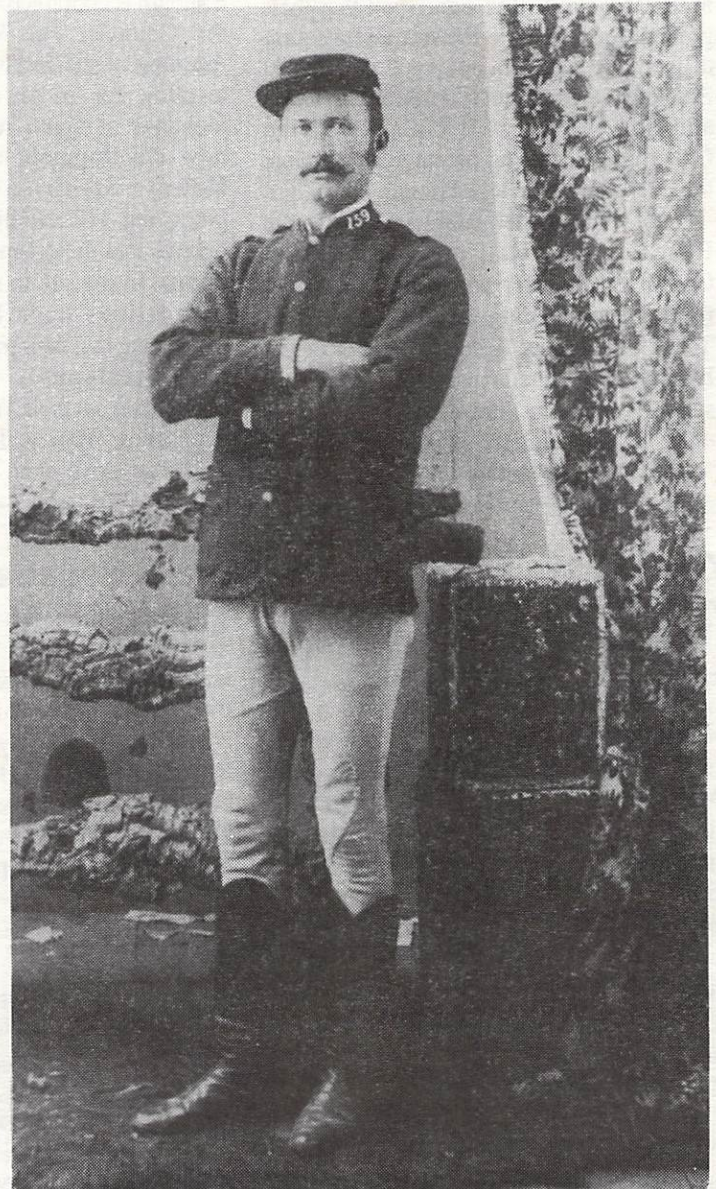
In addition to controlling and preventing crime, police took on a wide range of other duties. In the 1862 Act they were instructed in how to revive drowned people, using the Dr H.R. Silvester method. In the absence of developed regional authorities, councils and public servants, other functions they assumed included being Crown Land bailiffs, collecting electoral rolls, acting as agents for the Intestate Act, and being the inspector or supervisor for a number of acts such as the Weights and Measures, Poisons, Public Health, Slaughter Houses, Noxious Trades, Dairies, Schools and the State Children's Relief Act. In addition, they registered small debts claims and acted for the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

During the last three decades of the century, police responsibilities increased in other areas. They had to police truancy and were given increased powers to control working class leisure, particularly gaming, betting, prostitution, drinking, cock-fighting, and animal racing and ensuring that these activities were not pursued on Sunday.

Apparently this wide range of duties troubled some police and in the 1900's an Inspector-General complained that the responsibilities undermined the popularity of the Force "by exhibiting its members in the eyes of the public as universally interfering and censorious." However, the duties were considered an essential part of policing in Britain, Europe and America as well as Australia to such an extent that historian R.D. Storch referred to the police as "domestic missionaries" whose aim was to morally improve the working class by inculcating habits of sobriety, thrift and industriousness.

The effectiveness of the police in creating a more law-abiding society, as well as attitudes to the police, will be discussed in next month's Observer. (Based on material in the December 1991 Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, including "New Police, New Country" by Michael Sturma; "Pursuing Incurable Rogues: Patterns of Policing in NSW 1870-1930" by Stephen Garton; and "A Tour of the Rogues Gallery: Interpreting the Relics of Crime and Policing in New South Wales" by Christa Ludlow.)

Debby Nicholls



A Constable of the Mounted Police c 1874

Police Blotter

Wednesday 16 March 1855

Description of a dingy stolen from Mr Fitzharden, Waterview Bay: Length about 9 feet, width about 4 feet, painted yellow outside and inside, all the tops above yellow, the trimmings blue, a pair of paddles in her one of cedar the other of deal, the name 'Fitzharden' branded on one. Reported at this office 14 March 1855.

Thursday 10 February 1859

Stolen from the shop door of Mr Noah Collier, draper, Darling Street, Balmain, on 7th instant, the following goods, viz: ten pieces of print, one roll of lace and one piece of crimson merino containing forty yards. A man named Jas Dennison was seen carrying off the goods from the door and was followed by a man named Buchanan and two boys; when he found himself followed, he dropped the prints and lace on the road and made his escape. The forty yards of merino are still missing. Description of Dennison: he is a plaster [sic] by trade, about 5 feet 7 inches high, dark brown hair mixed with grey, heavy eyebrows, face wrinkled, had on a Manila hat, white blouse and a pair of moleskin trousers, supposed to be in Sydney. Value of property lost £10 10s.

Monday 25 March 1861

Stolen between the hours of 1 and 4pm of the 21st instant, from a drawing room in the house of Mr Nicholas D Stenhouse, solicitor, Balmain, the following property: a lady's gold lever watch with a heart engraved on the back, No 2622, maker's name, M Marks, Castle Street, Liverpool, with a heavy gold chain attached, clasps like a hand, hoop links. Suspicion attached to a servant girl, who Mr Stenhouse declines to charge at present.

Editor's note. Mr Stenhouse resided in Waterview House, Caroline Street, Balmain, the first house built in Balmain. Demolished in 1920s.

**If you haven't yet sent
your annual
subscription your
Observer was
enclosed in a wrapper
with a renewal form.
We would be pleased
to accept your cheque
now.**

Heritage Week

25 April—3 May

The theme of Heritage Week 1992 is "Discover Your Hidden Heritage". Take a stroll to King George's Park via Byrnes Street Rozelle and you will find sandstone pillars with a plaque bearing the inscription *William Wailes 1844-1907, Cornish stonemason. Amy Wailes 1845-1918. William Wales built his home, 20 Quirk Street Rozelle, in 1883 and fashioned these four fence pillars from local stone in 1904 while building a cottage on this site for his daughter Mrs Hannah (Nan) Rodrick. Leichhardt Municipal Council Centenary Year, N Origlass (Mayor) 26 February 1972.*



WELCOME TO THE GUARDIANSHIP BOARD

The move of the Guardianship Board from Glebe to Balmain is now official: the Minister for Community Services, Mr Hannaford, ceremonially opened the offices in the refurbished Bijou in Rowntree Street by unveiling a plaque to that effect on March 16, in the presence of Vernon Dalton, the Director-General of the Department, and Nick O'Neill, Deputy President of the Guardianship Board (and member of the Balmain Association).

Darling Street shops are already noticing the increase in trade created by some 40 permanent staff, 62 part time Board members, and clients of the Board. For those of you who are wondering what the Board is, we provide, courtesy of their Official Opening brochure, a brief summary.

This gesture to one of the old nation builders followed a letter received by Council from Mrs Rodrick then aged 92 years. The Council had purchased her old home for the caretaker's residence for a time until it was demolished to extend the park.

Mrs Rodrick bought the land off Weston Road (Victoria Road) for £52. Her father built the brick cottage for her and carved the four pillars from the site stone. The pillars now define the entrance to the park. Four steps lead to a seat where her bedroom was and from this seat there are beautiful views over Iron Cove Bay.

On 2 May the Heritage Pub Crawl will pass some charming hidden streets in the Valley. See details in What's On.

The NSW Guardianship Board is a tribunal established in 1987 to support the right of adults with disabilities to make their own decisions whenever possible, while at the same time offering protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is empowered to hear and determine applications for guardianship and financial management for people 16 years and over and may also give consent to certain medical procedures for people who are incapable of giving consent for themselves.

The original headquarters were at "Bidura" in Glebe, but a steady increase in the number of cases being dealt with meant that the Board outgrew those premises and began searching for new ones. Balmain is fortunate that it became the preferred site and that the "Old Nash" – or Bijou as it was more recently known – is not only restored but once again bringing people and employment to Balmain.

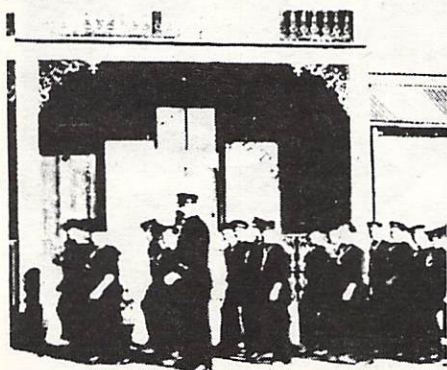
Did You Know?

That Australia's national song "Advance Australia Fair" is said to have been composed and first sung in Balmain?

About the turn of the century, the four-masted barque *Sabraon* of 4,200 tons, having been derigged, was moored off Cove Street and was a home for delinquent boys. The schoolmaster aboard the ship was the Rev P D Cormack, composer of our song. His pupils were the first to sing "Advance Australia Fair".

A former resident of Glassop Street, Mr Harry Cason, had recollections of the boys of the *Sabraon*, dressed in white canvas uniforms and large round sailor hats, being marched up Cove Street to St John's Church for Sunday services. See picture below. Rev Cormack also gave religious instruction at the Pigeon Ground School.

Another of the *Sabraon's* famous personalities was wonder swimmer Barney Kearin, who established several world records in Elkington Park Baths, now known as the "Dawn Fraser Pool". His trophies included one presented by the King of Sweden and it is held at the Powerhouse Museum.



Clontarf Activities

Scrabble every Monday at 7.30pm. All day Tournament 3 May. Contact 818 4896.

Toastmasters 1st & 2nd Wednesday. Contact 810 8428.

Coming. Wine Tasting. Fund raising by Clontarf Committee.

Clontarf Quilters

Are you interested in needlework? Our group meets each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in historic Clontarf Cottage Wallace Street Balmain.

We are a group who love sewing and a good variety of techniques are attempted. If you have an interest in the art of the needle why not join us for a pleasant and productive time each week!

Enquiries: Sheila Carter 818 2674 or Leonie Bullions 818 4675

In Your Garden

Add Colour With Bulbs

In autumn, many kinds of brightly coloured spring flowering bulbs may be planted. Some require open sunny positions while others will perform well in shady spots.



Garden borders can look attractive using bulbs with a combination of colours and textures. Bulbs such as freesias, muscari or grape hyacinths, spring star, anemone, ranunculus and lachenalice give colour displays to your garden. Anemones and ranunculus are best treated as annuals but the others may be left in situ to come up year after year. They need full sun, a well prepared bed with a generous ration of fertiliser added and mulch of compost over the top.

Bulbs for shady spots and under trees are bluebells, muscari, snowdrops, spring star and daffodils. Daffodils planted closely in clumps look very effective when surrounded by primulas, pansies or violas.

Flowering bulbs are rarely attacked by insect pests and diseases and grow very well in any good soil. When the flower buds appear, feed them Thrive soluble fertiliser to help blooms on good long stems.

Flowering bulbs give good value for money as many live on and multiply from year to year. Now is the time to start planting your favourites and include some new ones.

Bonny Davidson.

President Resigns

With regret the Association has accepted the resignation of Jane Ward as president. Unfortunately, Jane has decided to withdraw from public life because of family commitments. We wish her well and extend our thanks for her contribution to the advancement of the Association and the Balmain community.

What's On

at the Watch House

- April 11—12 Photo Competition "Looking at the Future as the Past". Prize giving 2pm Sat 11
- April 17—26 Ross Farrell
- Heritage Pub Crawl
Depart Watch House Saturday May 2 at 3pm. Adults \$10
Finish at Dawn Fraser Pool for sausage sizzle. \$10
All proceeds for Friends of the Pool. For bookings contact 818 4954
- Museum Week Exhibition:
Historic Subdivisions & Development Applications of Balmain & Rozelle
May 23 & 24 from 10am to 4pm
Music by Recorder Group 2041 on Saturday May 23 at 2pm

The Balmain Association Inc representing Balmain, Birchgrove, Rozelle.

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.

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.

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

Annual Subscriptions:

Household \$16.00, Pensioners & Students \$7.00, Organisations \$21.00.

Printed on recycled paper

© Not to be reproduced without authorisation