

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 27 No 4 Issue 213

Founded 1965

MAY 1992

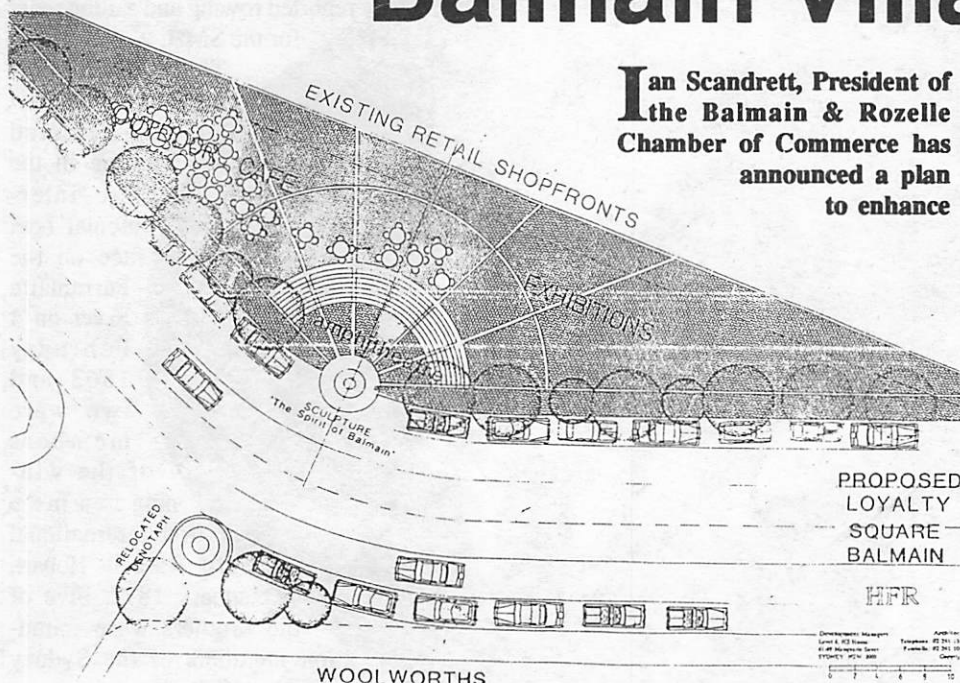
Balmain Village Plan

Ian Scandrett, President of the Balmain & Rozelle Chamber of Commerce has announced a plan to enhance

Balmain's Loyalty Square. The proposed widening of the northern footpath would provide outdoor eating and seating as well as space for exhibitions and festival performances.

Pedestrian safety around the square would be improved by narrowing the roadway to calm traffic dramatically. Paving of the roadway could be a further traffic calming measure and improve the Mort Street corner. Some extra parking spaces may be achieved.

Modifications will be necessary as the sketch is not accurately scaled. To reduce its vulnerability the Cenotaph should be moved closer to Woolworths and entry into Beattie and Palmer Streets would also be eased. As the plan effectively increases public open space it could be financed from the Open Space Fund.



Precinct Coordinator

Leachardt Council has employed Stacey Myers as their Precinct Committee Coordinator to establish the precinct system for the municipality. The exact role of these committees has not as yet been determined but it is envisaged that they will be developed on areas of resident mutual interest and will be linked for information exchange from the Council. This means that they will be consulted well in advance of any determination of issues and policies enabling them to make recommendations affecting their precinct.

Stacey is currently acquainting herself with various local interest groups and talking to interested parties on how they perceive the establishment of the system. She is scheduled to attend the June meeting of the Association.

Nearly three years ago we advocated the formation of the precinct committees and fully approve the procedure. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, why not attend the June meeting.

Save Birchgrove Park From Cars

Leachardt Council, in the next issue of the Leader, proposes a poll of Balmain residents on improvements to Birchgrove Park. This is one of Balmain's more important heritage areas and is classified by the National Trust.

There is a proposal to remove some trees on the small section of the Park at the corner of Rose and Ferdinand Streets to provide a few spaces of car parking. The area was acquired by the Crown for the park in November 1881. A car park will not alleviate local resident's concern over visitors using their street parking. It will attract more cars. Parking is only an issue on perhaps fifteen Sundays in the football season. As there is adequate space on Grove Street, surely it is not too much to expect healthy footballers and their supporters to walk a short distance from their cars.

We urge members to vote for enhancements to the Park and to keep cars out.

Glebe Island Bridge Update

Sydney's Lord Mayor, Ald Sartor, has called for a reappraisal of the high level bridge that the RTA plans to build on Glebe Island at extra cost of \$90 million. He threatened court action. An Environmental Impact Study should be held to ascertain the effect of traffic noise on proposed residential development in Pyrmont.

The RTA seems determined to continue with the high level bridge if for no other reason than that the design work has been completed. Perhaps we should lobby the Federal Govt to refuse the extra funds.

Many residents have ridiculed the plea by the President of the Sydney Maritime Museum for a high level bridge for commercial shipping and the Museum's shipyard activities in Rozelle Bay. Similar arguments were advanced for the height of the Gladesville Bridge to accommodate Shell Co tankers which have long since disappeared.

William G A Fitzhardinge & Sons

In London in 1810, William George Augustus Fitzhardinge was born, the third son of William, created Earl Fitzhardinge in 1841. He was a King's Scholar in 1825/6 and in the following year was articled to Thomas C London for five years. In 1833 he married Mary Anne Gahen. A daughter and a son were born in England. In August 1838 the Fitzhardinge family left England as cabin passengers aboard the *James Pattison*. They arrived in Sydney in December 1838.

On 1 April 1840 he passed an examination to practice as a solicitor in Sydney. He started a practice at 4 King St and established the firm of Fitzhardinge & MacKehrie, later Fitzhardinge Sons & Yeomans and now incorporated as McCoy Grove & Atkinson. He also acted as Sydney agent for a Bathurst solicitor. Later, as his sons grew up, he systematically developed the potentialities of country practice linked to a city firm.

His first marriage produced three sons and two daughters. The eldest son, William, ran away to sea at 14 years of age and became a mercantile marine captain by the age of 25. Sons of this marriage, Henry Berekley and James Frederick, also became solicitors. Soon after wife, Mary Anne, died in 1844, William G Fitzhardinge married Anna Amelia Hyde by whom he had six sons and two daughters. All the sons of this marriage had their mother's surname included in their names. Two sons, Grantly Hyde and Craven Hyde, were born in Sydney.

By 1849 the Fitzhardinges had moved to *Peel Cottage* (now *Alma Villa*), Waterview Street, Balmain, where Maurice Arthur Hyde was born in December 1849. The cottage is still standing. The family moved to *Sleighford* cottage on the shore of Waterview Bay (Mort Bay) at 23 Thames Street. This house has been demolished. Five more children were born here; Annie Amelia, Morton Hyde, Mary, Clifton Hyde, Harding Hyde (died 8 days old). All the

children born in Balmain were baptised at St Marys Church. Two of the sons later established homes in Balmain. In 1865 Annie Amelia died at Sleighford cottage. Harriet Ellen Elyard was the third wife, married in August 1866. She bore two sons and one daughter. It is not known if any of these children became solicitors.

Six sons were articled in their father's firm and practised in Sydney, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Glen Innes. One son,

The Fitzhardinge family were all involved in rowing which started as early as the 1860s. The father required his elder sons to row him each day from Waterview Bay to Darling Harbour and return. Punctuality was his fetish and if one or other of the sons was not waiting when he arrived at the foot of Erskine Street that son could find his own way home. Whether Fitzhardinge Senior took a turn at the oars in such a situation is not known. One of his sons developed a taste for sailing and wrote weekly articles on yachting for the Sydney Mail and reported rowing and sailing races for the SMH.

Three sons were members of the crew that defeated Victoria in the first inter-colonial boat race on the Parramatta River on 4 February 1863 and two were members of the winning crew in the first International Gig Race in Hobart, January 1872. Five of the brothers were foundation members of the Sydney Rowing Club in 1870.

W G A Fitzhardinge brought to the colony a family tradition of responsibility to the community and passed it onto his sons, several of whom were active in municipal affairs and in the raising of volunteer regiments. Apparently of reserved nature he was devoted to his family and had pride in his family traditions and descent. His high standard of professional conduct and industry won him a standing in the community which was passed on to his sons. He died in September 1884 and was buried in the Church of England section of Randwick Cemetery.

Research by Bonny Davidson.

Sources:

PC Fitzhardinge - Seaton ADB Vol 4, Leichhardt Historical Journal No 15, Fitzhardinge Family Bible.

Key to Group Photograph

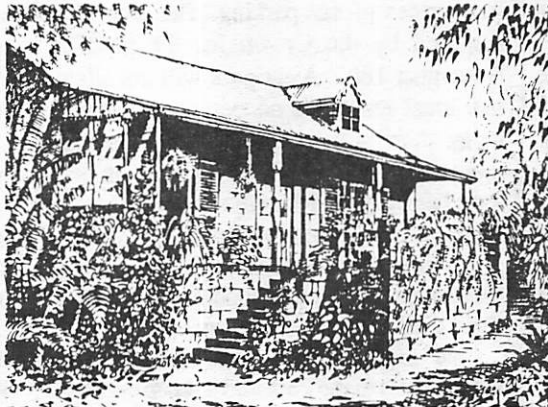
Seated left to right; William b. 20/6/1838, James Frederick 14/10/1841, Harry Berkeley 1/5/1843 (sons of 1st marriage), on cushion Clifton George Hyde 5/5/1861, seated far right, Moreton Hyde 7/2/1854. Standing; Grantley Hyde 6/11/1845, Craven Hyde 28/5/1847, Maurice Arthur Hyde 29/12/1847.

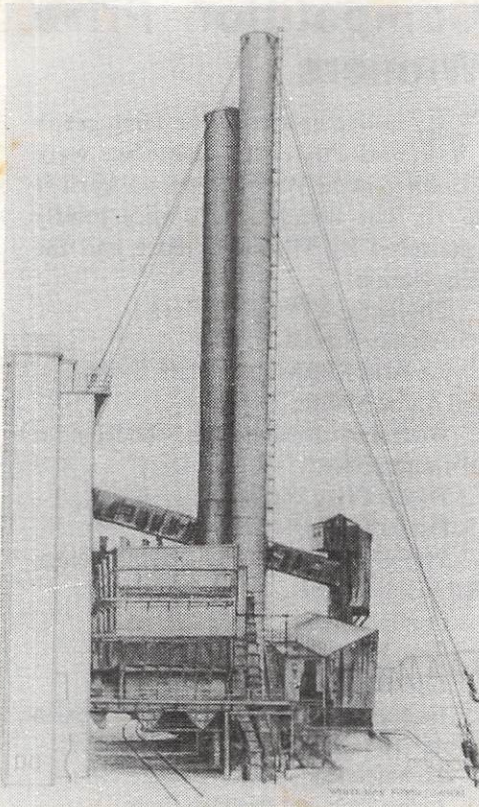


Sons of W G Fitzhardinge c1863

Grantley Hyde, graduated from Sydney University, practised as a barrister and was a District Court Judge for 28 years. Morton Hyde was a solicitor and Stipendiary Magistrate of NSW. Maurice Arthur Hyde, solicitor, a Trustee and secretary of Birchgrove Park Trust, built *Keba*, 12 Louisa Road after his marriage to Rebecca Devlin in 1874 and lived there until 1925. This house has recently been renovated. Grantley Hyde built his home, *Nuda* (demolished), in 1881 and lived there until 1891 while he was a District Court Judge.

ALMA VILLA, 48 Waterview Street (by Tony McLain)





White Bay by Klin Sullivan

POLICE GAZETTE

Police Blotter

Monday 12 September 1859

Stolen between the 7th and 9th instant, from the enclosed lands of Mr Thomas Perkins, Snails Bay, Balmain, 13 or 14 native cypress trees, about 2 feet high.

Editor's note: Thomas Perkins acquired the 5 acre extremity of Ballast Point from George Cooper, Sydney Controller of Customs, who had bought it from the Gilchrist Estate in 1840. It became known as Perkins Point after he built his residence, *Minerva*, in 1846. The building was a lodging house when Texas Oil Co purchased the site in 1930.

If your Observer was enclosed in a wrapper with a renewal form you are one of the small group yet to send your annual subscription. We would be pleased to accept your cheque now.

Harrie S Hannaford Senior Citizen Art Group

The best-selling status of "Called to the Bar" led the Observer's intrepid correspondent to contact Klin Sullivan whose paintings on the cover of the book contributed so much to its success.

Observer's readers may also be familiar with Klin's other paintings which appeared in the recent history of the Christian Brothers and have been exhibited locally at the Balmain Watch House, Fort Street High and Birchgrove Primary School. Since then Klin has been working on a series recording the industrial past of Balmain. An example is pictured on this page.

Another facet of Klin's professional life is the art class she teaches every Monday from 1-4pm at the Harrie S Hannaford Senior Citizens' Centre in Darling Street, Rozelle. As your correspondent found on a recent visit, this is not a standard art class. There is no curriculum nor does Klin decide on activities. Each of the 12 members of the class decides what to draw or paint; Klin's task is to help them achieve their aims by advising, demonstrating and "fixing up" mistakes. In this way she can teach composition, perspective, colour theory and mixing, and painting and drawing techniques which are all specific to the works in progress. The paintings are done using photographs as reference while drawings are mainly from life. Copying the work of other painters is strictly forbidden. The Group has an on-going exhibition at the Balmain Hospital providing welcome

decoration for the Morts Dock Geriatric Day-Care Ward.

The class began in 1979 as an Outreach project from Petersham TAFE. Klin taught for one term but other teaching duties at Guild Teachers College and Sydney CAE St George Institute prevented her from taking further classes until 1988. Three of the members of the original class - Marge Carlsen, Margaret Brummell and Greg Churven - are still participating. Marge and Margaret have a long connection with the Hannaford Centre: Marge was an early co-ordinator of the program while Margaret is in her fourth year as Treasurer. Both women won recent Premier's Citizenship Awards.

When the funding from Outreach was no longer available, other sources had to be explored. Adult Education now provides some funds but the balance has to be raised by members of the class, mostly through the sale of students' work at an annual art exhibition, where not only original paintings and drawings are available but also greeting cards made with photographs of the original works.

There is no doubt that the students are a happy group who are improving their skills and enjoying themselves in the process. Commented Nancy Newell, who is in her 5th year with the class, "Klin is an excellent artist and an efficient teacher who remains serene in all circumstances."

Further information about the classes is available from the Hannaford Centre on 810-0134.

Debbie Nicholls

Council Report

Wyoming

Leichhardt Council has set up a number of working parties to discuss contentious issue enabling residents and landowners to resolve differences in a relaxed atmosphere and to make recommendations to council for future action.

The Wyoming working party has accepted that Wyoming's outstanding historical value and its grand presence requires the building and its curtilage to be preserved and economic restoration be investigated. Adjacent buildings, Normanton and Maybank should be renovated to the original streetscape presentation with reference to the Snails Bay Residents Group studies.

Any infill development should be sympathetic to the appearance of existing buildings along the bay and views between them should be maintained. To protect the existing tugboat activity on the site and prevent it becoming a private marina the

existing maritime area should be rezoned to waterfront industrial.

Transport

One of my duties is to chair the Traffic and Transport Policy Committee. Council resolved to give residents the opportunity to reduce their car dependency by improving walking, cycling and public transport facilities. Traffic Engineer, Trevor Jennings, and myself attended the AUSBKE92 conference in the Melbourne Town Hall last March. Afterwards we asked the Leichhardt Bicycle Users Group to present their ideas for the development of walking and cycle ways in the municipality.

The next meeting of the Traffic & Transport Committee on Monday 18 May at 7pm in Leichhardt Town Hall will discuss measures to enhance pedestrian mobility, convenience and access and to incorporate pedestrian and bicycle friendly design features in future traffic management and roadworks.

Ald Nick Masterman

In Your Garden

Planning For Perfume

Most gardeners could rely on a handful of white flowers to scent their garden year-round. Sniff around your neighbourhood, gardenias, frangipani and the beautiful murraya parviflora are loading the air with their fragrance.

Murraya, flowering now, is a good bet for scent in spring and late summer. The perfume is like orange blossom and its common name is orange jessamine. It is a plant for just about every temperate garden. It has several benefits apart from flushes of perfumed flowers. It is ideal as a hedge or screen plant as it grows to around 3m and is evergreen, usually dense and leafy from tip to ground.

Autumn is here and paper white narcissus will start to appear. I think

viburnum tonus looks fine when it is not in flower and it is evergreen. You could still plant some freesia bulbs so that you can enjoy their fragrance later in the year.

There is really no end to perfumed white flowers in spring and summer. There are jasmines, frangipani, honeysuckle, mock orange, lily-of-the-valley (in cool climates) and the glorious gardenias.

Bonny Davidson



Fragrant flowers: gardenia, frangipani and murraya

Traffic Calming

Leichhardt Council has replied to our request for traffic management devices at a number of locations on the Peninsula.

You will be pleased to know that five calming thresholds (not bumps) are proposed for Darling Street between Curtis Road and Duke Street. Landscaped kerb extensions are suggested at the Duke St corner to overcome the illegal parking. To alleviate parking difficulties, the Traffic Committee is planning angle parking for the northern side of Cove St as well as on the park side of Grove Street.

It is pleasing to learn that there is some movement towards improving safety and amenities in Balmain.

Residents should also be encouraged by the Council's action on recycling.

Hopetoun Quay Project

Over one hundred residents responded to the Birchgrove Resident Group's meeting in the Birchgrove Public School Hall on Sunday 3 May. They agreed with a number of resolutions voicing their concern on the proposed density on the old Howard Smith site. They object to becoming the victims of MacMahon Holding's poor business decisions. It is believed that the developers have invested \$46 million in the 2 ha site.

Heritage Pub Crawl

The Heritage Pub Crawl on 2 May attracted over fifty walkers from as far afield as Heathcote and Manly.



Clontarf Activities

Scrabble every Monday at 7.30pm.
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.

Enquiries: Sheila Carter 818 2674 or Leonie Bullions 818 4675

What's On

at the Watch House

• Group Art Exhibition
Eva Molnar — Paintings,
Sculpture, Craft. May 2-17

• 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

• Design Exhibition — "Balmain"
Students of UTS
May 30 - 31. 12 - 3pm

Competition Prize Winners

Winning entries in the Photograph and Poster Competition were exhibited in the Watch House on April 11 & 12. The competitions were jointly sponsored by Michael's Place and the Association.

Photograph Prize Winners

Primary School

1st Arlo Robins, 2nd Mark Stevenson,
3rd Aaron Martin.

We had insufficient High School entries to award prizes.

Poster Prize Winners

Primary School

1st Fiona Gock, 2nd Michael Filitonga,
3rd Heather Cave.

Commended

Ryan Hughes and Ali Lowe.

High School

1st Nicole Mockitt-Jones, 2nd Christina Croft, 3rd Jade Sims.

Commended

Alexis Dutt and Brendan Cody

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.

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