



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

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Precinct Committees Welcome

Almost three years have past since the Balmain Association called for the introduction of precinct committees in the Leichhardt Municipality. It is likely that the system will be implemented before the end of the year.

In April, Stacey Miers was appointed as Precinct Coordinator and she has presented proposals for 14 precincts with approximately 2000 households in each. The accompanying map shows the boundaries of the municipal precincts.

After a period of public exhibition and resident input the scheme is expected to be ratified by Council. Meetings will be called in each area to establish the

committee and to elect the officers of each precinct.

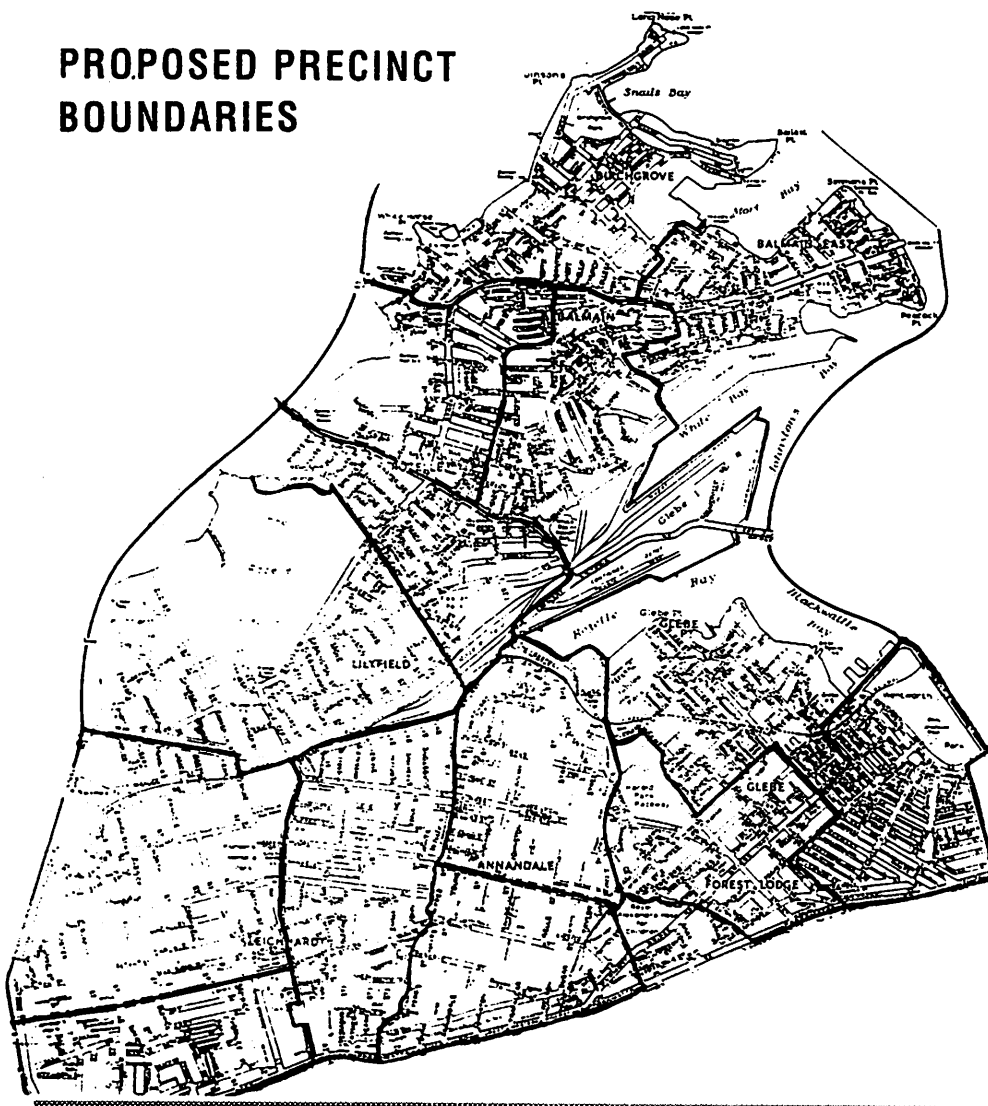
The role of the precinct committee is to supply input for Council on policies and programs such as traffic, open space, health, landscaping, building and environmental matters. A formal link between Council and the community will be established. The Council will consult the committees on all proposed zoning changes, codes or policies about planning or building matters as well as all major proposals or policy changes and traffic and transport management.

Unlike resident action groups precinct committees have a direct, continuing link

with Council. They have no legal rights in Council decisions but their input will be valued by Council which, on a very systematic and regular basis, will be informed of community expectations and concerns. This will add weight to Council's dealings with other authorities and with developers and it defuses the volatility that has bedevilled local government proceedings.

Residents benefit by knowing that their views are taken into account and by being better informed and regularly consulted. Most importantly the committees will allow a broader expression of opinion from residents who are uneasy in public forums.

PROPOSED PRECINCT BOUNDARIES



Court Decision Awaited

Justice Pearlman has reserved her decision on Leichhardt Council's challenge to the State Government's REP on the five Peninsula sites.

Council's argument is that Planning Minister Robert Webster contravened a section of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act in not consulting councils concerning the preparation of the draft REP. Gary Downes, QC, for Council, asserted that the Minister had not given enough time for Council to respond.

The Director of Planning, Mrs G Kibble, appeared instead of the Minister. Under cross examination she agreed that letters to 52 councils affected by the REP could have been more detailed.

Our New Publication

A few years ago, Wal Gourlie gave the Balmain Association a dozen pages of memories of his boyhood which he titled "Balmain of Old". With his permission, this material appeared in the Association's News Sheet with additional information by the History Committee. The resulting column, "Gourlie's Corner" became one of the most popular features.

An expanded version with photographs is being prepared for publication for Back to Balmain Day, 25 October 1992. It will be titled "Gourlie's Corner. Growing up in Balmain with Wal Gourlie".

NSW Prisons Part 3

The "Separate System" of imprisonment, such as that at Berrima Gaol discussed in our last issue, did not receive unanimous support. Sir Joshua Jebb, Inspector-General of Military Prisons and Surveyor-General of Prisons in England, was qualified in his praise for the system. He believed that productive and hard labour was missing from separation and proposed instead a system of public works prisons. In this system the prisoner would proceed from a period in solitary confinement to a longer period labouring on public works and staying in demountable prisons, finally emerging on a ticket of leave.

Jebb's system was adopted in England from 1853 but also attracted criticism for being too generous. Sir Walter Crofton's modified "Irish System" was believed to be "less opulent" and thus more attractive. Crofton also added a third stage of imprisonment, prior to the ticket of leave, during which prisoners worked as ordinary labourers under minimum supervision and living in huts with no special precaution for escapes. Prisoners were ruled on a mark system in which they were rewarded for good behaviour with improved diet, correspondence rights, civilian clothes and more liberal exercise.

Although the NSW Colonial Sheriff, Harold Maclean, had written favourably about the Separate System at Berrima, he had visited England, Scotland and Ireland in 1869 and returned to Australia convinced of the value of putting prisoners to work. He also considered that a fundamental flaw in NSW prisons was the "defective construction" of the buildings. When he became Comptroller-General of Prisons in 1874, he immediately began to press for the construction of the public works and intermediate prison which would not only utilise prison labour but see the building of a new gaol. The following year, he and the Engineer-in-Chief issued a report recommending a new Public Works

Prison at Trial Bay where the prisoners would work on the construction of a breakwater.

The wheels of bureaucracy ground no faster in the 19th century than now, however, so it was not until 1886 that the prison opened and then with only one of two planned radial wings completed. It was situated on a two acre site, built from local granite, enclosed within a stone wall 18 feet high and 18 inches thick with four watchtowers. Each wing was designed to accommodate 62 ordinary prisoners.

When the prison was opened, Maclean declared that it was "destined to fill an exceptionally important place in the prison system." Its object was the inducement of good conduct with improved conditions inside the prison and better opportunities following discharge. The way this was to be achieved was through the licence system.

In addition to its cells, Trial Bay Prison also housed licence holders who were to work under the intermediate system. A licence was issued to prisoners in NSW who had not been punished for misconduct during the previous six months. They also had to be recommended by the gaoler six months (later 12) prior to possible discharge on licence and be fit for heavy work. The licence holders were housed, six to a room, in wooden barracks within the prison walls. They were permitted to fish, swim and amuse themselves while not working, as long as they did not pass beyond the boundary of the reserve. They could also receive a leave of absence for up to seven days or longer. Roll calls were at 7 am, noon and 5 pm and the daily diet included fresh meat, vegetables and a weekly ration of tobacco. Wages were fixed and progressive. Figures would seem to indicate that the system was successful. By 1889 all 693 prisoners at Trial Bay were licence holders and up until 1893 only 72 were re-convicted and re-imprisoned.

Unfortunately, the material conditions of the gaol were more problematic. Building costs soared, maintenance costs

were high and the breakwater itself was washed back in 1892, 1893 and 1897 so that in 1899 it measured only 220 metres, well short of the intended 1000.

By this time Maclean had been replaced as Comptroller-General by George Miller who introduced new regulations for Trial Bay, dropping the term licence holder, stopping leave of absence, lengthening the hours of labour and generally removing what he perceived as laxities in the intermediate system. Miller's successor in 1896, Frederick William Neitenstein, took an even harsher line. He accepted criticisms that Trial Bay was too fair and too slack, with prisoners abusing the system and forming criminal "pushes", and felt that the free association of prisoners was dangerous to "the wholesomeness of mind or body". Once again prisoners were locked in separate cells and the wooden huts were demolished. For prison authorities, the dismantling of Trial Bay became the equivalent of prison reform.

By 1903 the construction of the breakwater was abandoned and the prisoners moved to other gaols in the State. Another phase in the effort to find punishment which was "tough but fair" had ended. The next phase, at Long Bay Penitentiary for Males, will be discussed in a subsequent article.

Condensed from Christopher Mead, "Tough But Fair: Some Practices of Imprisonment in NSW 1866-1914", *Journal of the RAHS* December 1991. Photograph courtesy of Macleay River Historical Society Inc.

Debby Nicholls

Editor's note.

Corrective services appear to have changed in cycles by the political climate of the day. When the Greiner Govt was elected on a law and order policy the Minister, Mr Yabsley, adopted Draconian measures which increased the number of prisoners by 60% and there were riots. Since the appointment of Mr Griffiths a remarkable change has occurred. The number of escapes is the lowest for years and staff industrial disputes are 80% less.

Balmain Oral History

This project is getting underway with nine interviews completed and filed. A great deal of time and coordination is needed in each case as you can imagine. Memories cannot be rushed and we are fascinated with the emerging information.

We seek anyone with a long Balmain experience who is prepared to share it with us and leave it on the record. Who do you know who has lived here and worked at, perhaps, Mort's Dock, or Cockatoo Island, or just in the village? If you are willing, please call Yvonne and Peter Kendall on 555 8405 or Jean Torrens on 555 8780.



Trial Bay Gaol

Balmain Personality

The Rev William Stack B.A. (1810-1871)

The third incumbent of St Mary's Anglican Church, Balmain East, William Stack, was born at Kilmore, Ireland where his father, Edward, was a beneficed clergyman in what was then known as the Established Church. His mother's maiden name was Tempe Bagot. He graduated with a B.A. from Trinity College, Dublin, was made a deacon in 1833 and was ordained as a priest in 1834.



Rev Canon William Stack

In 1837 he married Mary Martha Bagot, also a native of Ireland, the daughter of Olivia and the Reverend John Bagot of Fonts-down, Kildare. They emigrated to Australia in 1838 under the auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, travelling in the same ship as General Sir Maurice O'Connell and Reverend Mr Sowerby, who became Dean of Goulburn Cathedral. Mr Stack was appointed to St Mary's Church, West Maitland with pastoral charge of all the Anglican parishioners in the Upper Hunter.

The Stacks' first child, Edward, was born in April 1838 and five more children were born in Maitland: John in 1839, William in 1841, Walter in 1843, another William in 1844, and George in 1846. Many of the Stack children were given Bagot as a second name.

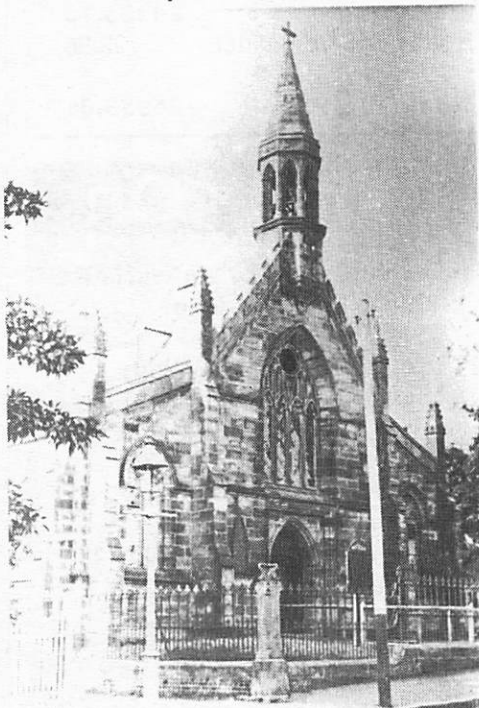
Following the formation of the diocese of Newcastle, Mr Stack was transferred to St Peter's Church, Campbelltown — now the third oldest church in Australia — in 1846. He remained there until 1855, during which time another five children were born: Olivia in 1848, Tempe in 1849, Mary Martha in 1851, Elizabeth in 1853 and Richard in 1854. The parishioners of St Peter's erected a white marble plaque inside the church in memory of Tempe, who died in 1851 aged 2 years, and Olivia Bagot who died in 1852 at the age of 4.

Mr Stack was transferred to St Mary's Church, Balmain East, in June 1855 at a

salary of £300. The Illustrated Sydney News later wrote, "He took an active part in the introduction of synodical government into the Sydney Diocese of the Church of England [and] ever occupied a prominent position in the proceedings of the Synod, where his expressed opinions always carried a considerable weight. At his insistence rural deaneries were established in the Metropolitan Diocese...He was the first clergyman advanced to the dignity of Canon by the free suffrages of his clerical brethren," an event which took place during his incumbency in Balmain.

During the same period, improvements were made to St Mary's Church. It had been built in 1846 as designed by Edmund Blacket, the recently appointed Diocesan Architect. By 1856 the church was no longer big enough and the Bishop issued a facility to unbuild portions of the edifice and re-erect them upon larger foundations using the original materials.

The family initially lived in Moorfield Cottage, 6 Charles Street, Balmain East, built in 1839, and now the oldest brick house still standing in Balmain. There Mrs Stack gave birth to two more children: Annie Kathleen in 1857 and Thomas William in 1858. Both children died in 1858. A parsonage was built in 1863 at 2 Pearson Street, Balmain East. A century later it was sold to fund the purchase of property adjoining the church and has since been demolished. The author of several pamphlets, including one on education and a tract on synodical government, Mr Stack was highly respected in church circles. He was for many years a Fellow of St Paul's College until 1867 when he vacated the position to travel to Europe for his health.



St Mary's Church before losing its steeple

On 12 June 1871, Mr and Mrs Stack received a telegram about a son who was dying at Walgett and immediately left Sydney by the Breeze Mail Coach. At midnight, six miles from Willow Tree, the horses apparently bolted, throwing the coach driver from his seat. In his effort to grasp the reins and control the horses, Mr Stack was thrown to the ground and crushed beneath the coach. His leg was fractured and he sustained other massive injuries which led to his death soon afterwards at Borambil Creek.

In accordance with his last wishes to be buried with the bodies of three of his children, his body was brought to Balmain and on the following Saturday he was buried in St Peter's Churchyard, Campbelltown. On the day of his interment, St Mary's Church, East Balmain, was filled with sorrowing members of his congregation. At the end of the service, which was performed by the Dean, the Very Reverend William McQuarie Cowper, assisted by the Reverend E. Rodgers of Trinity Church, a funeral procession left the church for Redfern Mortuary Station. There the procession was joined by ministers of various religious bodies including all of the clergy of the Church of England in the City of Sydney and County of Cumberland, as well as the Bishop of Bathurst. A special train followed the carriage containing Mr Stack's body for the journey to Campbelltown.

Over £70 was raised by public subscription for the Stack memorial which stands in St Peter's Church Cemetery. The church also has a clear and stained glass window which was inscribed in 1962, "In Memory of Rev Canon Stack, BA, Died 14 June 1871, aged 61 years".

At the time of his death, William Stack had resided for 33 years in the Colony of New South Wales. Of the 13 children born to his wife, only six were still living: Edward, John, George, Walter, Richard and Mary Martha. His widow lived in Wharf Road, Balmain, until 1880 when she moved to "Grassneath", Liverpool Road, Croydon, where she died on 9 August 1898 aged 83 years. She is also buried at St Peter's Church Cemetery, Campbelltown, as are many of the family. Stack Street in East Balmain is named for the man who served the parish so faithfully for 16 years.

Sources: LHM No 14. "St Mary's Church - 140 Years". "The Illustrated Sydney News" July 1871. State Library of NSW, St Peter's Church, Campbelltown.

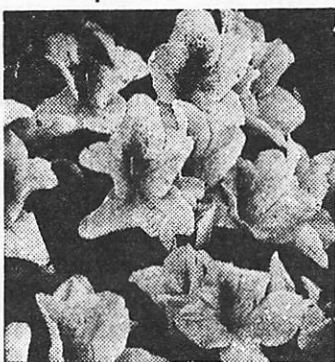
Bonnie Davidson

**Back to Balmain Day
Elkington Park
Sunday 25 October 1992**

In Your Garden

September—Feeding Time

Spring has many messages for gardeners—take a little closer look and you will find it is now time to feed the plants to make your garden grow. Provide a feast now and your plants will not only grow bigger and faster, they will be healthier. Check the soil. Is it hard? Are the roots close to the surface? Are the plants a healthy green colour and full of foliage? Any or all of these symptoms reinforce the need for feeding. Use blood and bone or Dynamic Lifter if you're organically minded or Oz-Grow, Native Gold and Nutricote eight or nine month fertiliser on all trees, shrubs, roses and fruit trees, perennials and bulbs. Even dormant bulbs need



AZALEAS:

feeding if you want an abundance of flowers next year.

There are specific fertilisers for special plants. Rose and citrus foods for example but there is really no need to use specifics. Any dry fertiliser suits all plants although it is customary to treat acid-loving lime-hating rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, and others in this group with Camellia and Azalea Food because it does not contain lime.

After you have fed everything in sight apply a mulch of any old decayed organic

matter such as compost, manure (cow, horse or poultry) so long as it is well rotted. Lay the mulch deep, six to ten cm is not too much.

Gardening Tip. If buying potting mix for your plants make sure it has the Australian Standards Code on the pack and you will have a premium grade mix with added micro-nutrients.

Bonnie Davidson

Treasurer's Report

Income 1991-92

Membership	4484.00
Donations/Grants	3075.17
Watch Hose	8955.35
Leaflets	734.23
Around Balmain	2524.00
Half Thousand Acres	399.00
L Hist Journal	497.50
Miscellaneous	1155.60
Interest	407.39
Called to the Bar	13440.58
Total	35672.82
History Sub-Committee	1155.62
Interest	229.38
Total	37057.82

Surplus 12101.81

Note: Improvements to W/H includes

Lighting	910.91
Kitchen	1787.61
Stonework	4280.00

Bank Balances 30/6/92

Cheque Account	5897.51
Savings Account	10142.85
History Account	5324.81
Total	21365.17

Expenditure 1991-92

Observer	2959.87
Research	1013.00
General W/H	727.69
Improvements(see note)	7406.03
Organisations	175.00
Music 2041	1000.00
Publications	249.25
Miscellaneous	1049.13
Govt Charges	152.25
Called to the Bar	9501.53
Total	24233.75
History Sub-Committee	722.26
Total	24956.01

What's On

- Exhibition at the Watch House
Emma Thiel & Friends
Sep 5-13
Louise Broue – Paintings
Sep 19-27
Hilary Cassidy – Oct 3-5
Yuriko Goon – Oct 14-25
Janet Scott – Nov 7-18
Nado Malat – Nov 21-22
The Burlong Group – Nov 28
- Gallery Festival – Sat Sep 12
Arts Balmania 2pm - 7pm
- Back to Balmain Day
Sunday 25 October

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Competition Result

Drawn by Paul Khouri

Winners

1st Prize - Dinner Set - Lilian Emmett

2nd Prize - Casserole Dish - C Harris

3rd Prize - Chocolates - F Fricke

Balmain Association Inc Office Bearers 1992

President	Frances Heathfield
Vice President	Ann Bastok
Treasurer	Debby Nicholls
Editor/Public Officer	Val Hamey
Minutes Secretary	Jeremy Arnott
History Committee	Kath Hamey, Bonnie Davidson, Debby Nicholls, Ann Bastok, Jean Torrens
Fund Raising	Bonnie Davidson, Kay Trippe
Watch House Conservation	Debby Nicholls, Jeremy Arnott
Watch House Exhibitions	Steve South, Leonard Matkevich
Oral History Committee	Peter & Yvonne Kendall, Jean Torrens
Traffic Committee	Dave Ramsay, Val Hamey

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 Watch House is open every Saturday from 12 to 3pm

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/fax 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.

Annual Subscriptions:

Household \$16, Pensioners & Students \$7, Organisation \$21.

**St Andrew's Congregational Church
invites you to an Education Service
on**

Sunday 13 September at 10am.

Speaker: Mr Peter Martin

Principal of Balmain High School.

Participation by local schools.