

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

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Integrated Development Assessment

The Planning Minister, Mr Craig Knowles, is "fine tuning" the draft Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment Bill after receiving over 530 submissions. The bill will exempt some minor development from the need for approval, introduce private certification of complying projects, and bring consistency between various approval systems.

The E P & A Act 1979 was enacted to give some protection to the community against development. The Dept of Urban Affairs & Planning has produced a bureaucratic attempt at reform with scant regard for consultation with local governments. Mr John Mant said "the changes do not go far enough and are being shoehorned into a flawed act rather than a replacement by simpler and more effective legislation. They would result in more legal appeals and tension between consent authorities." It would be necessary for Council to strengthen their EPI, LEP and DCP controls with discretionary elements which would tend to defeat the objects of the amendments. In principal there maybe some value in moving towards a single approval system. However, the review would be incomplete without examining the role of the state agencies that intervene in the process.

The section addressing development without consent is of particular concern to local residents. Loss of privacy from additional windows is a pos-

sibility contrary to existing regulations. Under complying development the new guidelines on the preservation of single cottages will be at risk. The conservation areas of Balmain and Rozelle will be threatened. Demolitions are an ongoing source of concern and the proposed system of complying development would have a detrimental effect on the streetscape. Many important buildings that are not heritage items will be endangered.

With the object of introducing competition into planning the amendments will allow complying projects to be approved by private specialists rather than council officers. Councils may have to defend the approvals in legal appeals. In 1989 Byron Shire Council investigated certification by structural engineers and concluded that building application fees for a domestic dwelling would increase from \$80 to \$200 for private inspections. There would be no reduction in processing time. The system has resulted in increased charges in Victoria.

Competition is not a panacea for everything. A modern example of co-operation as opposed to competition is the Internet that is owned by nobody. By providing access to maps and planning regulations a state-wide network database would encourage developers and builders to prepare applications that fulfill the local government planning controls, improve residents participation, and achieve approval efficiencies.

Val Hamey

Conservation in Balmain

Leichhardt Council has adopted DCP L20 which seeks to conserve and limit demolition of small houses and detached cottages. They have also prepared "How To Do It" Guidelines on the conservation and extension of small houses in the form of a folder that sets out the steps required in getting Council approval for changes.

The Dept of Planning has requested changes to the draft Town Plan. Our main concern is their call for reduction in conservation areas. There are many sites under development that should satisfy the demands for urban consolidation. It is imperative to protect the rest. The Peninsula must remain a conservation area.

New Edition

Our popular publication "Called To The Bar" is now in its 2nd edition. It has been revised to reflect some changes to the hotels of Balmain and Rozelle. Copies available at the Watch House on Saturdays or by post. Cost \$13 post \$2. PO Box 57 Balmain 2041.

CALLED TO THE BAR

150 Years of Pubs in Balmain & Rozelle



Overseas Enquiry

Last February we had an interesting Enquiry from a couple from Newport, South Wales, U K. Opposite to where they live is the St Woolas Cemetery and a memorial caught their attention, as their pending holiday was to Balmain, Sydney to meet their daughter. The wording on the grave stone: William G Sommerville "Billy" Late 4th Engineer, Troopship "Parrattah", Eldest son of A W & G A Sommerville, Town Clerk of Balmain,

Sydney, NSW, Australia. Died 22nd February, 1919. Aged 23 years.

Alexander William Sommerville was born in 1869 in Balmain and married Georgina Schofield at Balmain in 1890. There were five children, one William G, Born 1896 at Balmain. Alexander lived in a lovely stone cottage built in 1860 Clarierville, 8 White Street, Balmain. Sommerville Point, end of Elliott Street, Balmain was named in his honour during his time as Town Clerk and Treasurer at the Balmain Council,

1893-1935. A service road on Glebe Island was also named Sommerville Road in 1939.

Mr & Mrs Kearney's reply: We made further enquiries here and found that he(Billy) was in hospital in Newport, where he died and is actually buried here. We know that the hospital where he died was a "Fever Hospital" where you were isolated. We have visited his grave again and any relative may like to know that Billy is not alone.

A Walk Up Darling Street Remarkable Changes, 2

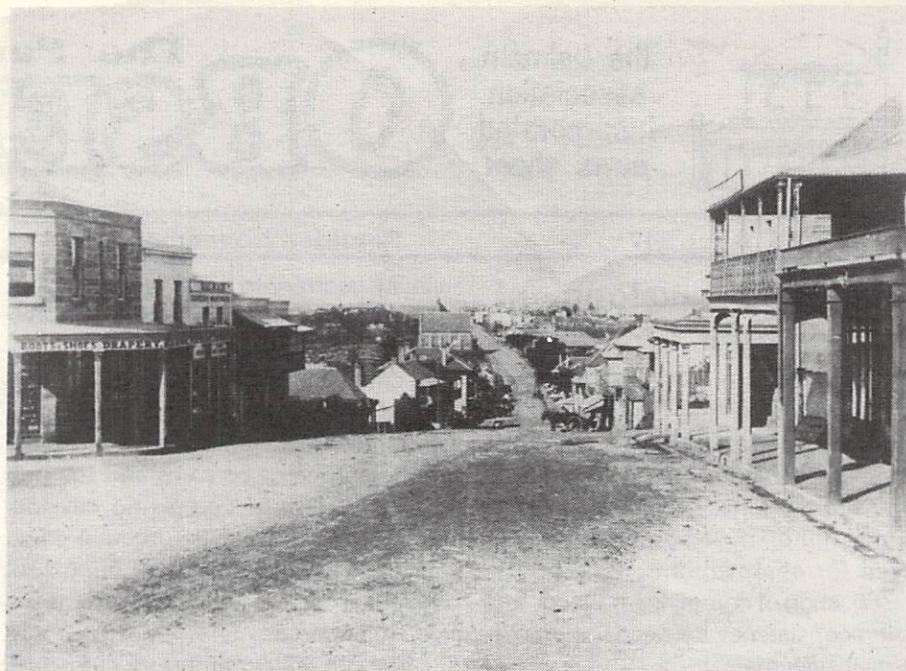
Continuing the 1880s Pen Picture by former Balmain alderman, Alfred H Bogle, from last issue.

The large stone residence with slate roof on the water front is *Ewenton*, occupied by Ewen Cameron Esq. We are now passing the School of Arts - the most popular concert hall and lodge room - it had an excellent floor and was the pioneer skating rink of this State. The Wesleyan Church is opposite in part of Tom Buckland's Estate - known as Moor's paddock.

Still on the right, we are now passing Cooper Street on the corner of which stands the weatherboard structure which was used by the early settlers and was the first Church, the Rev Dr Lang opened. The Church was soon over crowded, necessitating erection of larger premises at the corner of Broadstairs Street. (Colgate Avenue) The old structure was used as a school with Mr Whitehead, master. This was the second National School in NSW, Fort Street being the first.

The *Waverley* Hotel kept by James Barr, a worthy Scot, who also owned his own ship and traded in it to England and elsewhere. His son Jim managed a dairy and carted round the milk. The procession of Barr's cows to and from their paddocks in Elliott Street with Jim on his pony, was a very regular sight. Robert Paisley had a butchery on the corner of St Andrew Street and opposite William Parker, the District Register and first pharmacist, fitted out in excellent style - then Patterson on the other corner of Adolphus Street, then old John Brown's bakery alongside of W E Davies, an up to date bakery - opposite the *Boilermakers' Arms* Hotel, kept by Mat Hyland, about whom a whole book could be written.

The stone building opposite is the police station (Watch House) under Sergeant Davis, who was sent to round up the Kelly gang. The Bell alongside is the Fire Bell to warn the volunteers, who might be working at Rowntree's Dock and were expected to down tools and run to the Fire engine in Booth Street and then to fight the fire. The Presbyterian Church which was alongside has been moved to Campbell Street under its Pastor Rev Gordon. On the other side of Broadstairs Street stands *Ashgrove* in which Dr Saxe and Dr Andrews once practiced and Mr Paul of Potts and Paul lived.



Darling Street c1870s near the London Hotel

The large drapery on the corner of Stephens Street was owned and occupied by Mr John Murray, who with his extensive staff was ever ready and willing to extend his efforts to please his patrons. A little higher up, we pass Balmain's first hairdresser and tobacconist, Andrew Bogle, who was also the first cornet in Balmain's first band. The band was specially formed by Mr Edward Deane to lead the Balmain Rifle Volunteers under Major Jaques across the Glebe Island Bridge, when Balmain was connected with Sydney in 1868.

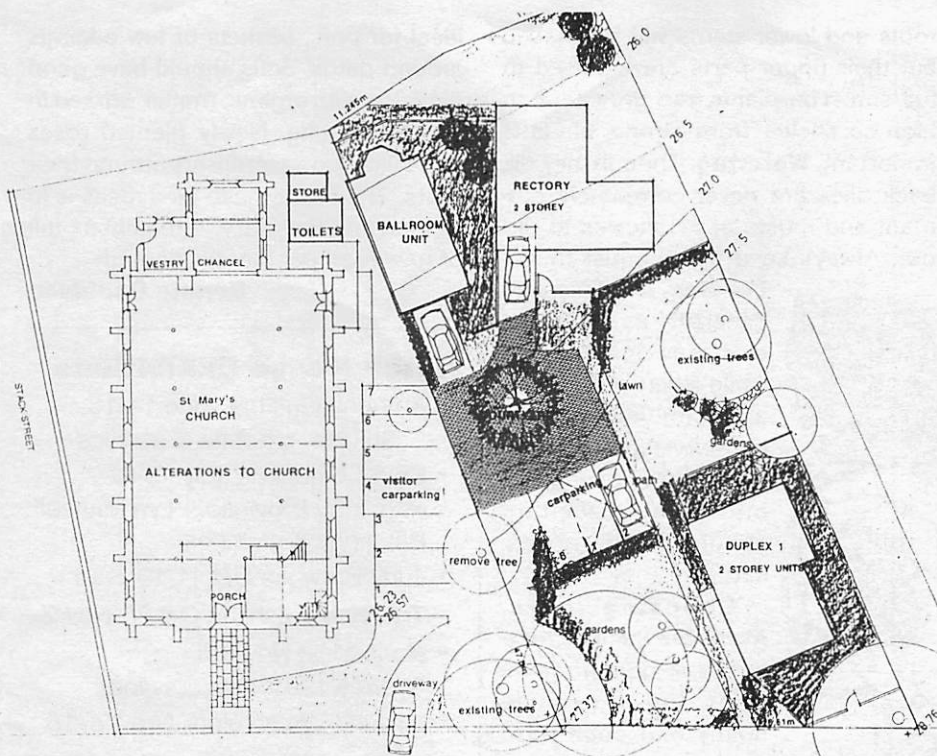
Next is where Harry Jesson started his grocery and sold to Jenkins. Jung's Bakery and *Lewis* Hotel adjoins. Opposite on the right is Andrew's Butchery who sold to Harpur, who's meat chopping machine was worked by the pony on a treadmill - this pleased the boys, but pity the poor pony. David Hall, a retired miner, owned the adjoining block on which John Moor, who had a cork leg, was a greengrocer. Tom Allan, ironmonger, John Loudon, bootmaker and William Knight, clock and watchmaker and his daughter, Mrs Porter lived and did good business. It was in the little shop used by Knight that Edward Fay started repairing and making boots, he founded the present big City firm of that name.

The Post and Telegraph Office in Queens Place, was about this time opened as a separate institution and Captain Chape's daughter was placed in charge with his dapper son, William, as assistant Post Master. On the other side is the triangular butchery, owned

by Murphy, who sold to George Deane. Across the road is the produce store, owned and run by Charlie Barrell & Son and then the *London* Hotel, with its rail over the entrance to the cellar. This rail was much used by the small boys as a horizontal bar. The *Oddfellow's Hall* on the corner, with caretaker Mr Jones in the business portion. Mr Jones' daughter is Matron Jones of Balmain Hospital.

The Bank of NSW is next, established in 1864 with Mr Tomkin, as its manager. Mr John Murray, opened the first account and Harry Jesson, was the second to make a deposit therein. Then, Charlie Butler, draper and postman and R Wood, undertaker, completed this block. Across the road, we see the new premises of H Jesson and the substantial shop and residence of the very gentle Mr Verey, whose display of fancy goods and school requisites was very complete. The steel shutters of this shop, acted as a curfew at 9pm each night. The general order by mothers - be sure you return home, when Verey's close shop. On corner Curtis Road, we see the Congregational Church and then the Pigeon Ground, our destination.

I trust you have enjoyed the stroll and recognised some structures and familiar names. Our stroll could be continued along many of our streets, in which have lived great men, who will never die. Their substantial work deeds and examples, remain with their excellent offspring, who like the structural work, completed by their fathers will ever stand the test of time.



St Mary's Church

A proposal to redevelop St Mary's Church in Darling Street has been prepared. The accompanying drawing describes the concept. The overall fabric of the church will remain and its worship functions continue but the church will be modified to provide more flexible spaces for church and community functions.

The old rectory and flats will be replaced with a new rectory and two new rental apartments. The "ballroom" will be retained and refurbished as a studio apartment that can be rented to provide income for the parish. The open space is revealed by demolishing the existing buildings that currently cover a large area will be landscaped to create an enhanced setting for the church and the new rectory. Onsite parking will be provided for the use of visitors to the church.

Reconciliation Week

May 27 was the 30th anniversary of the referendum that granted equal rights for aborigines. The Mayor, Cllr Kristine Cruden, in a mayoral minute, spoke of reconciliation:

"Reconciliation and multiculturalism are important concepts to all of us as a nation and the way we see ourselves in the world. It is a pity some among us would seek to denigrate the value that both concepts bring to Australia and to drive division in the community for cheap political advantage.

The chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, Patrick Dodson, has stated that 'to effect deep and lasting change in this country, reconciliation has to be a people's movement'. I believe he is correct.

This Council, as a body representing its local people, has recognised the need for its tolerance for differing lifestyles. Accordingly we deplore attempts to encourage intolerance and division in the community.

Leichhardt Council should add its voice to the growing calls by church and other community leaders around Australia to support our indigenous people and to support our residents who have migrated to Australia. These people, like all Australians, seek a better life here. They add diversity to our community, they add to our culture and they add to our knowledge of the world. I meet them at citizen ceremonies and it is clear that they value their citizenship more than many of us who were born here.

The indigenous people of Australia were the first inhabitants of this land. The rest of us are migrants. We should all be thankful the Aboriginal people were such good land managers and conservers of the environment and for their willingness to share their land and their culture with us. All of us should support each other and not draw national distinctions between which groups are OK and which are not."

Leichhardt Town Plan

The Dept of Urban Affairs & Planning has returned Council's draft Town Plan for revision. The Council requested permission to exhibit the plan. DUAP objected to "inconsistencies with the Minister's instructions" or "raised questions about practicality or reasonableness". Their main objections are:

The proposed maximum FSR (floor space ratio) of 0.5:1 for land greater than 1000m² in area is inconsistent with residential controls which state that the density of existing residentially zoned land shall not be reduced. The majority of residential land in Leichhardt is zoned with a maximum FSR of 0.7:1. The Council has in the past rezoned former industrial sites to 0.8:1.

The proposed heritage conservation areas cover a large part of the municipality. The Heritage Council and DUAP made it clear that such large conservation areas and the use of heritage instruments to achieve urban design and amenity objectives "was not appropriate or acceptable".

Other disputes are with controls on effect of aircraft noise, affordable housing provisions, contamination, port land, special use zones, and too many objectives and policies.

Heritage areas abound in Leichhardt Council area and especially in Balmain, Rozelle, Annandale and Glebe. If the areas are reduced individual buildings would need to be declared and we were told that this was not acceptable. The Dept can't have it both ways.

Annual General Meeting

All members are requested to attend the

31st Annual General Meeting of the Balmain Association to be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7 August 1997 in the Watch House 179 Darling Street

Reservoir Parking

Leichhardt Council has allocated \$15,000 for a feasibility study of the plan to use the disused Gladstone Park reservoir as a parking station.

The proposal was first promoted in the Balmain Development Trust's Competition in 1990. It has been heavily promoted by The Balmain/Rozelle Chamber of Commerce. The reservoir is believed to have the potential to hold 200 cars.

In Your Garden

Lilies and Roses

Though dozens of unrelated plants are called lilies there is no mistaking true lilies or liliun to give there official name. These majestic plants produce some of the most beautiful flowers and given a climate that is not too hot they are not very hard to grow. The scaly bulbs are planted about now and you can get them at most nurseries. The choice will be limited to a few varieties but they are the best if you have never grown lilies before.

There are a few ground rules to observe.

Soil. All lilies demand extra well-prepared soil

but whether it should be comparatively rich or poor depends on the species.

Site. As a rule grow them where the

roots and lower stems will be shaded but their upper parts are exposed to full sun. The plants can grow to 2 m high so shelter from strong winds is important. **Watering.** Though they die back lilies are never completely dormant and must not be allowed to dry out. Always keep the soil just moist.

Feeding. It is difficult to generalise as some species grow in poor soil while others need richer and more fertile conditions. Average good garden soil will usually do and heavy feeding should not be necessary.

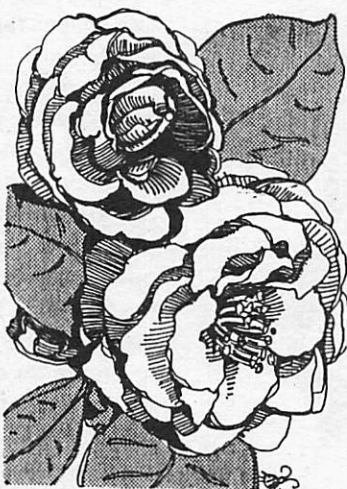
Choosing roses.

Roses are suitable for a range of garden situations but they love sunny and open positions and really need

five to six hours of sun each day for them to flower well. Miniature roses are fast increasing in popularity and are

ideal for pots, baskets or low edgings around paths. Soils should have good drainage with organic matter worked in before planting. Newly planted roses don't like strong fertilisers around their roots. The best time to feed roses is in August and February. A matchbox full of rose food per plant is enough

Bonnie Davidson



Watch House Exhibitions

- Anthony Griffiths June 14-15
Still life, graphite & acrylics
- Enid Colquhoun July 19-27
with Judy Brownlie & Lyn Mitchell
Paintings & etchings
- Judy Brownlie Oct 11-19
- Tracey Marshlian Oct 25-Nov 2
- Nado Milat Nov 8-9
Sydney 1997. Oils, drawings
- Lilyfield Watercolour Grp Nov15

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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. Our editorial phone/fax is 9818 4954.

Interested artists, potters, sculptors, etc. who would like to organise an exhibition in the Watch House are urged to contact Steve South on 9810 1411.

AnnualSubscriptions:

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