

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 33 No 5 Issue 255

Founded November 1965

October 1998

Loyalty Square Pavement

The Loyalty Square Sunset Committee has prepared design modifications for public evaluation on two Saturdays in October. There will be plans and pictures of the proposals as well as samples of paving materials. My design for paving around the monument has been approved by the Committee (see sketch below).

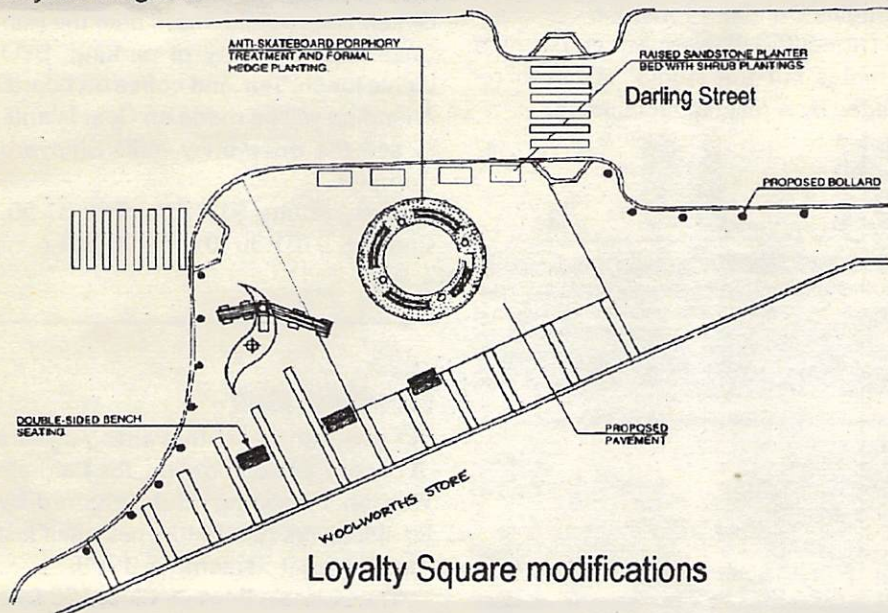
To protect the monument from skate boarders the Committee proposes porphory stone around the base with a formal hedge between the recessed lights. To repair the monument the RSL branch will apply for a grant from the Federation Community Projects Program.

Raised sandstone planter boxes are suggested along the Darling Street kerb and double-sided bench seating is envisaged under the pagoda.

Woolworths have been approached to investigate a design by Bob Irving to improve their building façade by increasing the height to match surrounding structures. They may use the opportunity to add another floor.

There will be a survey form available for public input to be evaluated. Members of the Committee and Council staff will attend the exhibition in Loyalty Square from 10am to 2pm on 17th and 24th October.

Val Hamey



Loyalty Square modifications

Town Plan Update

The Draft Town Plan was to be discussed at a Council Meeting on 15th September but a quorum wasn't present and the meeting was adjourned. There was no explanation for the non-attendance of six councillors as no apologies were announced. Rumours were rife that the six councillors were unhappy with some aspects of the plan or that they were protesting against the date of the Mayoral election. However, in statements made at the election night all of the councillors seemed to be in agreement on basic principles and we are none the wiser for the boycott.

The Dept of Urban Affairs & Planning is known to object to the floor space ratio of 0.5:1 and the draft report recommended 0.7:1 for Balmain and Glebe, 0.6:1 for Annandale and 0.5:1 for Leichhardt. Planners claim that many large sites would be at risk of subdivision into smaller sites to circumvent a 0.5:1 FSR. We believe that because of the absence of density controls there is a great risk of higher density on small sites. It is hoped that the DCP will include a provision for land to be dedicated for open space if it is available on the site. Allowing developers to contribute to S94 funds instead is a bonus for them and reduces the open space ratio because the land cannot be found. The report favours the retention of Heritage Conservation Areas and is opposed to the Urban Design Significant Areas advocated by DUAP.

"Urban Consolidation?"

A developer proposes to surround a heritage listed stone building, Bell's Store, with a massive structure of seven large townhouses on the Fenwick Property, East Balmain. The site is owned by Brambles.

Leichhardt Council has been asked to reject the proposal which may be then referred to the Land & Environment Court. The design is so mon-

strous that it would even be rejected by the Court.

The site has been listed in the draft Town Plan for acquisition as open space. A petition has requested Council to apply for a low interest loan from the NSW Govt to purchase the property. The loan would be serviced by the rental of the existing offices and an appropriate use of Bell's Store.

Olympic Route

The official road route for the Olympic Games will include Victoria Road. The outer lanes will be reserved for the Olympic family, bikes, taxi cabs and public transport. No parking will be allowed and local traffic will be allowed in them for up to 100 metres in order to turn left.

What happens when the marathon is run along Victoria Road?

Frederick Holdsworth

The history committee receive many requests for assistance with family and general Balmain history and so it was intriguing when contacted by the conservation section of the New South Wales Art Gallery.

On the back of many works of art was a name label, Fredk Holdsworth, carver and gilder, frame manufacturer, studio and workshop, *Oldecliff*, William Street, Balmain. Nothing was then known about Holdsworth but research began to find some information about this artisan

His father Thomas Holdsworth was born in 1856 at Bradford, Yorkshire, England. In 1876 he married Jane Smith at Bradford. Thomas, Jane and children, Albert b1877, Frederick b1878 and William b1881, arrived in Victoria in 1888 and settled in Sydney in approx. 1904. From 1905 to 1914, Thomas Holdsworth was resident at 8 Bayville Street, Balmain. This building was demolished and the site is part of the car park at the Balmain High School. Thomas was a builder and it is possible that he built *Oldecliff*, 1 William Street, Balmain in 1914 and lived there until his death in 1921.

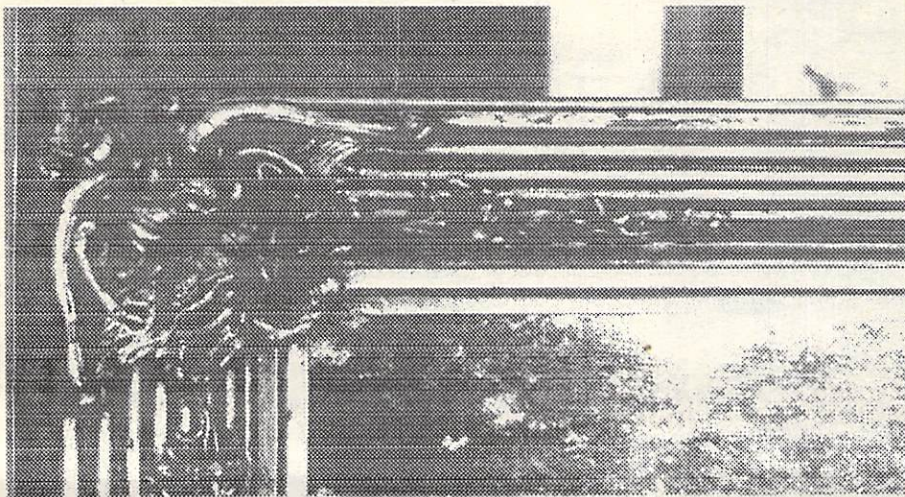
Frederick Holdsworth, also gave his address as 1 William Street, Balmain,

until 1926, then from 1927 to 1932 his address was 3rd floor, Wentworth Building, 6 Dally Street, Sydney, picture framer and artist materials importer. Frederick Holdsworth died 14 October 1940 at the Gosford Railway Station. His sister-in-law, wife of William was the informant. As Frederick Holdsworth did not marry, it is believed that he was living with his brother at 16 Hilltop Crescent, Manly.

Julian Ashton, the well known artist at that time, was a trustee of the Art Gallery at the turn of the century and it is known that Ashton took a keen interest in his frames and it may well have been his patronage which ensured Holdsworth was employed as a framer for the Gallery.

The Gallery supplied photo copies of some of Holdsworth's skill of the ornate carving on the gilded frames. A small selection for you to seek out next time at the Art Gallery are: Julian Ashton - Evening Merri Creek, Coral Necklace, The Wave. Arthur Streeton - Sunset Landscape. Hans Heysen - Hauling Timber. Henry Giggons - Self Portrait. Lawson Balfour - A Spanish Girl. Douglas Dundas - Toreador.

Oldecliff, 1 William Street, Balmain remains but the studio has been replaced by a residential building.



Close-up of picture frame by Frederick Holdsworth

Friends of Cockatoo Island Inc

The Minister for Urban Affairs and planning, Craig Knowles, has taken over control of planning for 38 waterfront sites, including Cockatoo Island, Ballast Point and Cameron Cove. This means that no development can take place on these sites without his approval and spells the end of the Commonwealth's rezoning of Defence Department sites for development. City-West Development Corporation, Darling Harbour Authority and Sydney Cove Authority, will become one body.

In early September however, there are some concerns about the details of the announcement as it appears that Woolwich and Cockatoo Island sites are not to be handed over to the State as they are not "natural settings for a national park". Also there are grave concerns about the statement that the trust's finances will come from "commercial activities and the redevelopment of parts of the sites".

So, hear more on the Harbour Cruise, on Sunday, 11 October, departing 11.30am on board *Radar*, from Birkenhead public wharf, near the Iron Cove Bridge. Plenty of parking. BYO picnic lunch. Tea and coffee on board. A landing will be made on Goat Island, to see the once busy MSB Shipyard Complex.

Cost, Adults \$15, Children \$7.50. Contact, 9181 3010 or 9498 1457.

Bowled Out

It was with regret that after 72 years of competition bowling, the Balmain Women's Bowling Club, chaired by President Mrs Ann Battin, held their last meeting on 9 September, 1998.

The Balmain Bowling Club, 156 Darling Street, founded in 1880 was very much a man's domain until 1926 when women formed their club, with President Mrs Laney and Treasurer Mrs Edith Ballerum, a position Mrs Ballerum held for 45 years.

In 1929, five clubs Balmain, Leichhardt, Rose Bay, Western Suburbs and Newcastle were the foundation members of the New South Wales Women's Association.

The remaining members are still keen bowlers and have dispersed to other clubs.

St Thomas Open Day

On the 24 October lots of activities will be taking place at the St Thomas Anglican Church, 668 Darling Street, Rozelle. These include historical displays, children activities, a video, music, drama and tours of the church. Refreshments will also be served. On Sunday 25 October, all the regular church services will be held. A special ceremony will be to re-locate the origi-

nal memorial plaques due to the recent renovations.

Everyone welcome. For further details contact the church office on 9810 74383.

The church was designed and built as a temporary school-church in 1873 by architect, Edmund Blacket. The transept and chancel was added in the 1880s. Blacket also designed the Rectory that was built in 1882.

Its On Again

Yes, the 10 Annual Back to Balmain/Rozelle Day will be held on Sunday 25 October, 1998. The day is one of re-union, where friends and acquaintances of earlier times will meet and reminisce of living and growing up in Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle,

This special year, we hope former employees of the many industries on the peninsula will hold their re-union at Elkington Park, where an old fashioned picnic will be held. Those attending, should provide their own lunch although a local school will have a sausage sizzle also ice creams and drinks will be on sale. The Balmain Association will have their publications for sale as well.

The day will commence with the opening from 9am to 11am of the local schools, Balmain, Birchgrove, Nicholson Street and Rozelle. Former student and teachers are asked to bring along school photographs and memorabilia. At 10am an Ecumenical Church Service will begin at St Andrew's Church, Darling Street corner Curtis Road.

The Leichhardt Municipal Band will play at the park and from 2pm, the Balmain Sailing Club will stage the Balmain Regatta off White Horse Point at Elkington Park.

So, "Pack up your Troubles" and head to Balmain on Sunday 25 October for a great day. Bring a names placard for those family historian who search the grounds for long lost relatives.

Further information, contact George Stone 9810 1078.

President's Report

Time for the annual report from the President again! It seems as if it was only a couple of months ago that I sat down to write a report on the Association's doings for the year 1996-1997! Yet another busy year has passed and so here goes.

Maintaining the Watch House is of the utmost importance and once again throughout the year funds generated from two major sources have contributed to repairs and improvements to the historical Edmund Blacket building. Sales of our publications plus walks and tours conducted by members of our committee have made it possible for a good deal of work to be done "around the House", the most expensive for the year being extensive replacement of guttering.

The Association would not achieve anywhere near as much in this department if it weren't for the highly successful scheme in which the Watch House is rented out as exhibition space to various artists who find the venue both reasonably priced and ideal in terms of layout and ambience. Steve South is the man who makes this happen and he has contributed a good deal of skill and effort to placing information regarding the Watch House and its availability on the Internet. So, watch out for us on the Net. As we are also now in the Sydney Telephone Directory it's possible that the coming year will see us busier than ever.

Members of the Association's Management Committee continue to attend local environment meetings, including those of the Loyalty Square Sunset Committee and the Northside Storage

Tunnel Alliance, involving discussion and planning. Reports appear regularly in this publication. It seems to me, a long-time resident in the area, we have more to be vigilant about than ever before. With the amount of development taking place in the area I fear waking up any morning now to find the peninsula sinking into the harbour!

Our association with Tourism New South Wales and the local restaurateurs during the Wine and Food Festival in June was a rewarding experience. Apart from participating in the planning of Eat Street we held guided walks with wine tastings in Rozelle and Balmain. These were a great success and proceeds helped with our fund for the planned installation of a Memorial Tablet for William Balmain which the Association has negotiated with the Rector of St Giles in London. Donations towards this fund will be gratefully received.

Among other achievements for the year we published "Rozelle Walks" by Bonnie Davidson and Kath Hamey which provides instructions for three self-guided walks around Rozelle and, like our other leaflets on walks in the area, is selling well. We continue to have a steady stream of visitors on Saturday afternoons when the Watch House is open for inspection. Many, including those from overseas, comment on the high standard of preservation and maintenance of our headquarters. We have done well in this past year and thank you for the support your membership provides and issue you all an invitation to "pop in" one Saturday - soon. Oh, and we can certainly do with more volunteers.

Ann Bastock

Treasurer's Report

Year ending 30 June 1998

Income		Expenditure	
Membership	2268.00	Dues/Subscriptions	170.00
Donations	1202.75	Insurance	285.00
Book Sales	4915.66	Publishing	3548.75
Photographs	600.00	Photocopying	340.20
WH Hire	10876.86	WH Repairs	10986.60
Research Fees	136.00	Postage	524.00
Walks	2047.00	Advertising	80.00
Bank Interest	820.40	FID/GDT Tax	30.40
Total Income	22866.67	Office	518.57
Cash & Bank Accounts		Furniture	93.85
Cheque A/C	9260.75	Miscellaneous	331.20
Term A/C	14000.00	Electricity	417.00
Petty Cash	49.90	Water	193.00
Total	23310.00	Total	17471.37

Management Committee

Ann Bastok, President,
 Frances Heathfield, Vice President & Public Officer,
 Jeremy Arnott, Secretary,
 Val Hamey, Treasurer & Editor,
 Kath Hamey, History Convenor,
 Steve South, Watch House bookings,
 Bonnie Davidson, Archives,
 Committee Members:
 Bob & Rita Ellis, Joyce Landau.
 Joan Aroney, Auditor



In Your Garden

Late Spring Gardening

Flowers for cutting. Dahlias are quite easy to grow and are among the most popular plants for summer and autumn flowers. They are available in many colours and may be small, medium or tall growers. The plants are heavy feeders and must be grown in very good soil, rich in organic matter. Some of the dwarf dahlias will grow in pots if you are short of space. Your nursery will have packets of tubers which will give you size and colour.

Don't plant the tubers too deeply. The neck where the new shoot arises should be about 5 cm below the surface while the opposite end can be a little deeper. Plant out after October and choose an open sunny site. Don't forget a stout stake to support medium and tall growers. Water thoroughly on planting then every week until the plants are growing strongly.



Water more often when buds begin to form during summer and never let the plants dry out. Covering the soil with a thick layer of compost will help. November gardening will have some fertilising for you to do. Feed all roses, trees and shrubs (camellias and azaleas excepted) with rose food and a complete fertiliser. Use a slow release fertiliser such as Nutricote. An organic alternative is blood and bone or a well-rotted manure. For natives use a native plant food or blood and bone.

Follow feeding with ample mulching. Use compost, spoiled hay, lucerne hay, mushroom compost or any of the mulches that you like. Mulch applied now will help plants, especially roses, to grow through summer without stress. Water use will diminish if you mulch well (6 cm or more).

Bonnie Davidson

Issy Weiner Reserve

Balmain activist, Issy Weiner, has been awarded a grant to continue his research on the history of the Painters & Dockers Union that was near the park on the corner of Mort and Curtis Road that has been named the Issy Weiner Reserve in recognition of his endeavours over the years.

Watch House Exhibitions

- Mother, Daughter, Friend
Assemblage & Collage 3-10 Oct
Betsy-Jane Green
- Francyne Cruze 17-18 Oct
- Jewellery, Weaving, Paintings
Anne Miller. 24-25 Oct
- Views of Sydney Harbour
31 Oct - 1 Nov. Oils, ink & wash.
Nado Milat
- Gail Hewison 7-15 Nov
- Barbara Rabito 21-22 Nov
- Louise Hegety 28-29 Nov

Printed on recycled paper by Snap Print, Balmain. © Not to be reproduced without authorisation



Registered Publication PP225832/00001

If undeliverable return to:

The Balmain Association Inc

PO Box 57

Balmain 2041

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**Postage
Paid
Australia**

Dr Peter Reynolds
9 The Avenue
Balmain East NSW 2041
1998/12

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.

Annual Subscriptions:

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