

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 34 No1 Issue 258

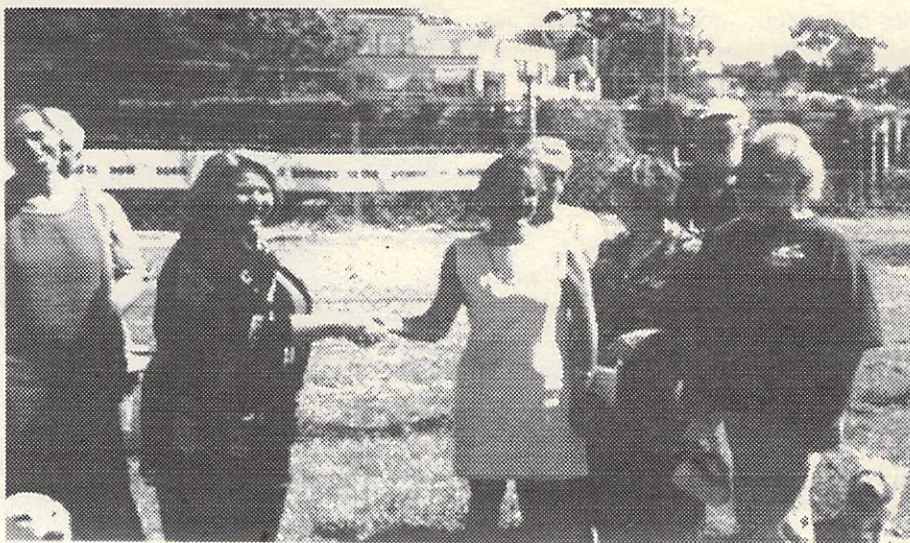
Founded November 1965

April 1999

Open Space Site For \$1

On behalf of Leichhardt Council and residents Mayor Kris Cruden accepted Mort Bay Site C from Sandra Nori, MP of the NSW Government and announced that it would be rezoned as open space immediately. The 1.4 ha site is likely to be used for youth facilities including basketball and netball. The Minister for Planning, Mr Craig Knowles had offered it to the Council for a nominal sum of \$1.

At meetings the local community had made it clear that they wanted the land for open space. Despite opposition from the General Manager, Mr Graham Foster, and two councillors, Mark Hewitt and Larry Hand, the Council agreed to acquire the site. Although the former owners, the Dept of Housing, estimated remediation would cost "several hundred thousand dollars", Cr Hewitt claimed the cost was "anywhere up to \$3 million." Cr Hand's opposition was disappointing given his support for Sect 94 funds to purchase less suitable land on the Crescent, Annandale.



Cr Kris Cruden accepting Site C from Sandra Nori, MP

Residents ridiculed a Village Voice headline "Toxic Park" as they find it is hard to believe the site is badly contaminated as asbestos was removed when the old factory was demolished many

years ago. They will not agree easily to a new proposal for temporary use of the land for a council depot to allow the conversion of the Llewellyn Street depot into a car park.

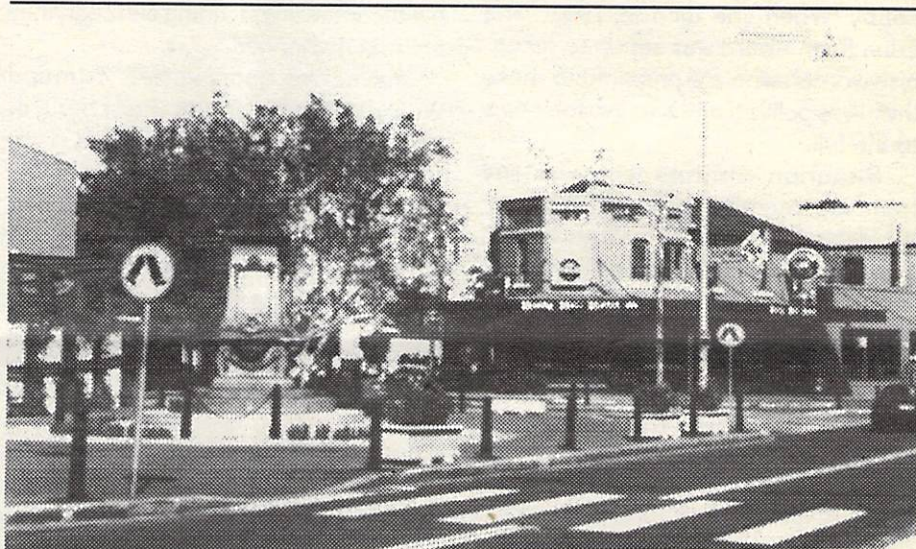
Rozelle Hospital Master Plan

The Urban Design Advisory Group is to develop a site master plan for the Rozelle Hospital precinct to assist the NSW Health Dept with future development opportunities.

Two committees will be established to manage the project. The Steering Committee will be the senior body with representatives from Leichhardt Council, NSW Health Dept, DUAP, Central Sydney Area Health Service and Friends of Callan Park.

The Advisory Committee will have continuous involvement to monitor the proceedings. Leichhardt Council is seeking to include community representatives. In addition there will be opportunities for public comment on the proposals.

Leichhardt Council is the consent authority and the process will not be completed until December 1999.



Loyalty Square

Now that the furniture and plants have been added to Loyalty Square there is far more acceptance of the original design. The vine is growing rapidly on the trellis and the rosemary around the monument enhances the aspect. If

this stage had been included in the initial work there would have been less criticism of the project. Some of the critics have even accepted the asphalt. Council proposes a meeting later to discuss the pavement.

Post Card Project

During 1998 the Leichhardt Council called for nominations of women whose contribution has been significant to the Municipality. A list of women were chosen and then a committee of the Mayor, Councilors and residents were asked to select four women, who had made a positive contribution to the lives of women in the Leichhardt Municipality and surrounds. The post card incorporating the images and stories of the four women was launched on Friday 12 March 1999, as an International Women's Day Celebration.

The Balmain Association nominated Maybanke Anderson and we are pleased that our nomination was selected to be one of the four women.

The four finalists were:-

Eva Cox, who was born in Vienna just before Hitler took over and arrived in Australia as a refugee. To-day, she is an unbridled critic of society, working as an academic, director of non-government and government bodies and organisations. Her ABC Boyer lectures were a catalyst for reflection on the need for social change in Australia. She was awarded an AO in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Edna Ryan who lived for 92 years and made the most of them as a political activist and participant in social and cultural events. Edna was respected by a multitude of women who continue her work through the Women's Electoral Lobby. When she died in 1997, The Edna Ryan Award was set up to recognise women who are prepared to make their lives political and also live their lives to the full.

Shannon Simons who was the founding member of the Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre in 1974. She remained on the Board until 1997 contributing the same energy and motivation with which, she fought for the opening of the Centre.

Maybanke Anderson owned and edited a newspaper; she campaigned tirelessly and successfully for the right of Australian women to vote, for fair property and divorce laws, for free kindergartens and children's playgrounds, for adult and sex education and for Federation. To support her family as a single mother she founded a school, which was noted for its standards.

Caroline Chisholm was influential in the decision of the Selfe Family to come to Australia. Henry, Bessie and children



Maybanke Anderson

Norman, Henry and Maybanke, arrived on the *Bangalore* on the 13 January, 1855.

Maybanke was born in Surrey, England on 16 February 1845 and received her unusual name from her G.G Grandfather's surname. Maybanke's education had begun in England where she attended a day school but received no tertiary education or training during the family's time at The Rocks.

The move from The Rocks to Balmain came in 1870, when her brother Norman Selfe, purchased some land and built twin terraces, now 21 and 23 Wharf Road, Birchgrove. These buildings are still standing although they are much changed.

Maybanke had married Edmund Wolstenholme, timber merchant of Maitland on 3 September 1867. They moved to *Maybanke*, 23 Wharf Road. In 11 years of marriage to Edmund, seven children were born of whom only three lived longer than five years. Edmund and Harry lived a full span of years while Arthur drowned, age 23 years in 1895 when the ship *Catterthun* struck the dreaded Seal Rocks off the coast of northern New South Wales. The

marriage was strained because of Edmund's alcoholism.

By 1879 the marriage was over and with her brother Norman's help she ran a boarding house at corner Wardell Road and Frazer Street, Marrickville. This house also remains under the care of the Salvation Army. Then in 1882, began her long association with education, when she opened a school for young ladies. By 1890 the Maybanke College had enrolled pupils from kindergarten to matriculation level, preparing them 'for all the University of Sydney public examinations.'

From 1880-1927, Maybanke was an active participant in many movements and events that shaped the democratic institutions of modern Australia law reforms, women's suffrage, and the growth of a free education system with professional teacher training.

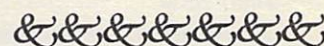
These were busy years for Maybanke, earning a living, petitioning for a divorce and establishing her own newspaper, *The Women's Voice*. In 1895 the Kindergarten Union NSW was instigated to provide Free Kindergarten's wherever possible in poor neighbours.

Maybanke lived for a time at 8 Rose Street, Balmain before her marriage to Professor Francis Anderson on 2 March 1899 at St Andrew's Congregational Church, Balmain. The Church was very advanced in its attitudes, as it not only permitted female ordination, but also married divorcees.

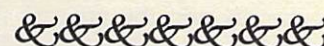
Maybanke gave 40 years of service as headmistress, philanthropist, professor's wife, speaker, donor, hostess, founder and patron of numerous associations.

Source: Maybanke Anderson by Jan Roberts. Published by Hale & Iremonger.

Note: A Free Kindergarten was opened at 143 Beattie Street, corner Lawson Street, in 1913 with Miss Swinbourne, teacher. The Balmain Phoenix Kindergarten at 36 Evans Street, Rozelle, opened in 1916 and continues today.



The card showing the four women is available from Leichhardt Council and some coffee shops may have them.



Heritage Values

A timber cottage on a large block at 2 Spring Street Balmain was recently sold by auction for \$920,000. This inflated price would indicate that the intention is to replace the cottage with a number of town houses. This will test the DCP20 that controls and applies guidelines for the retention or modification of small cottages.

At the last meeting of Precinct 1 a motion was put strongly supporting the protection and conservation of the existing cottage at 2 Spring Street Balmain as a heritage item under the objectives of DCP 20. Council was asked to initiate further investigation with the aim of listing it in the LEP as a heritage item. Also that potential purchasers should be made aware of the likely heritage concerns raised about this property.

A small cottage at 51 Gipps Street has a development application over it that will build over the whole property as well as adding another storey that will intrude on neighbours' privacy and sunlight.

St Johns Church Rector

The Rev James Butt will be inducted as rector of St Johns Church Balmain on Friday 23 April 1999 by Rev Trevor Edwards, Bishop of South Sydney. A public welcome will follow in the Hall.

Corrigendum

A family history enquiry was made recently on Samuel Plimsol Hill, bricklayer, of 11 Turner Street, Balmain, who died on 4 April 1930 as a result of a fall from the chimney at the Balmain Colliery, Birchgrove Road. In the publication *Gourlie's Corner* by Wal Gourlie, there is an item on a Samuel Hill, whipmaker in the 1930s at the same address.

Samuel P Hill was indeed a bricklayer and with the help of his brothers, he built a single storey brick cottage at 11 Turner Street in 1904. After his tragic death, his son Herbert and family moved to Turner Street to be with Samuel's widow Ada Louisa. Herbert Hill became a whipmaker and operated out of a small backyard shed at 11 Turner Street, for some thirty years. The business was successful, exporting the hand made whips internationally. His truck had *Hill for Leather* painted on the side.

1999 Heritage Week 17-25 April Towards 2000- The Century in Review

In April each year since 1981, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) has presented a week long focus on our heritage, through hundreds of community organised events and activities.

The Balmain Association has taken part each year. The following are some activities within the Leichhardt Municipality.

Balmain Watch House, 179 Darling Street, Balmain. Photographic Exhibition "Century in Review". Saturdays, 17 & 24 April. 11am-4pm. Entry, Donation.

Spell Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea
Eye strike a quay and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew
From Margaret Morters

Guided Walk of Old Balmain. Saturday 17 April, 2pm-4pm. Departs Balmain Watch House. \$15 pp includes afternoon tea at Clontarf Cottage, Wallace Street.

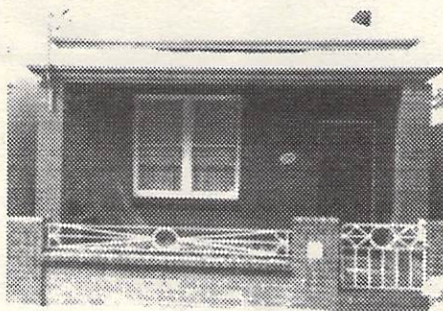
Balmain Heritage Pub Crawl. Saturday 24 April, 2pm-4.30pm. Departs Balmain Watch House. \$12 pp. Refreshments at 2 pubs at additional cost. Bookings: 9818 4954.

Friends of the Baths. Explore Balmain Swimming Club and Archives Room. Saturday, 17 & 24 April, Sunday 18 & 25 April, Archive Room, 12-2pm. Sunday 18 April, 11am-2pm, Carnival/ BBQ. Bookings essential. 9818 3185.

Snails Bay Residents Heritage Walk. Sunday, 18 April, Maps provided. 10am-12noon. Finish Dawn Fraser Pool. \$5pp Walk, & \$10 BBQ. Bookings: 9810 6885.

Leichhardt-A Tour of Discovery, conducted by local historian, Dr Peter Reynolds. Sunday, 18 April 10.30am-3.30pm. Departs Leichhardt Town Hall. \$25pp, Con. \$20. Bookings 9299 5599.

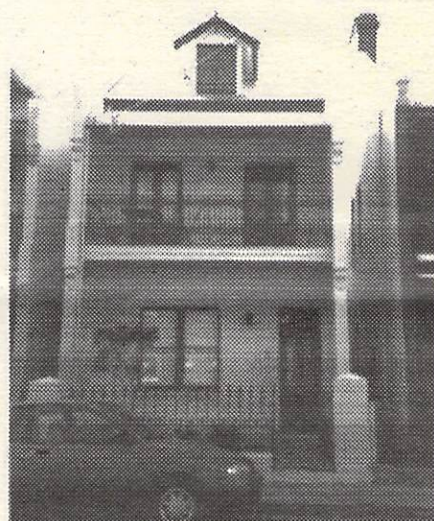
Callan Park Heritage Tours. Sunday, 25 April, 10am-3pm. Friends of Callan Park. Maps and guides available. Allow 2-3 hours for whole tour. Depart: NSW Writer's Centre. Donation. Contact: 9810 2511.



Sam Hill's home

Later the business was continued by Herbert's son Kevin in his backyard at his residence at 19 Birchgrove Road, until about 1980.

When *Gourlie's Corner* was being prepared for publication in 1989, a photograph was taken of 11 Turner Street. On checking the condition of the house in February 1999, much to our surprise, what appeared to be a c1890 two storey terrace, was in place! The property had remained in the Hill family until some five years ago and the new own-



No 11 Turner St today

ers built over the original house. The buildings on both sides are matching two storey terraces.

With thanks to Hill and Gould family historian, Mrs C Hill, 35 Witt Avenue, Riverpark Carrara. 4211.

In Your Garden

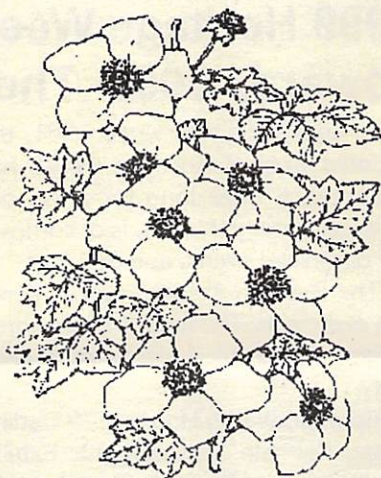
Gardening with Bulbs

Once autumn arrives the thoughts of the flower gardener turn inevitably to the spring bulbs display. Most of us have plans for a few bulb varieties that we would like to grow and now is the time to put them into effect.

If you're a novice take heart - anyone can grow bulbs. With a couple of exceptions (notably tulips and hyacinths) they will grow and flower with ease in a wide range of soils and locations. Even those places less than ideal but never in heavy wet clays as these spell trouble because the constantly damp situation could rot the bulbs.

Bulbs mix well with other plants and so are ideal for spots here and there in the garden. Plant them between shrubs, under trees or in pockets of a rockery. They are also suitable for pots, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes to bring colour to balconies and other paved areas.

Bulbs can be planted at anytime over the autumn months. Before planting it's



worthwhile to add some plant food into the soil to provide future nourishment for better flowering. Use about two handfuls per square metre. If you forget just sprinkle on top afterwards. Once they are planted it's a good idea to mark the spot to ensure you don't disturb them accidentally.

The first shoots that push through are rather tempting to slugs and snails so keep an eye out and scatter bait around. When flower buds appear in spring apply some liquid fertiliser to give the display a boost.

After flowering has finished remove flowerheads but leave foliage to die naturally. The foliage may look untidy as it yellows but don't be tempted. This is essential since the bulb draws in nutrients to produce next year's blooms. Some bulbs are happy to remain in the same site year after year but check directions on the packet.

Bonnie Davidson

Watch House Exhibitions

- ◆ Century In Review 17-24 Apr
Photographs
- ◆ Annette Ridge 1-9 May
- ◆ Joseph Loewy 5-13 June
Photo-relief on watercolour
- ◆ Claire Elsworth 17-20 June
- ◆ Anthea Slade 10-11 July
with Franca Della Vedova
- ◆ Patricia Quinn 21-22 Aug
Works on paper

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Registered Publication PP225832/00001

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Dr Peter Reynolds
9 The Avenue
Balmain East NSW 2041
2000/12

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 of the area & keep a permanent collection of historical interest; seek the cooperation of everyone

concerned in the realisation of the above.

The Balmain Association meets on the first wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Watch House 179 Darling Street Balmain. The Watch House is open every Saturday from 12 to 3pm. Our editorial phone/fax is 02 9818 4954. Email valham@value.com.au.

Interested artists, potters, sculptors, etc. who would like to organise an exhibition in the Watch House are urged to contact Steve South on 02 9810 1411.

Annual Subscriptions:

Household \$16, Pensioners & students \$7, Organisations \$21.