

the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

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Parking Meters

Despite determined opposition from the Chamber of Commerce, Leichhardt Council has decided to introduce parking meters in Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Leichhardt shopping centres. A study by TTM Traffic Consultants showed that the areas are virtually parked out at peak periods and that nearly 1 in 5 of vehicles overstayed the parking limit. A combination of pay parking and enforcement was seen as inevitable.

Their recommendation for Balmain and Rozelle was for multi-bay meters, at \$7000 per meter, for 4 spaces along Darling Street commercial areas and for 13 spaces in the adjoining side streets down to Curtis Road for example. This will give 220 metered main street spaces for Balmain and 240 for Rozelle. There will be a 2 hour limit changing to a 4 hour limit after 6pm. Residents will be given 2 free permits for use only in side streets. The charge will be \$2 for 2 hours with a minimum coinage of 20 cents (6 mins).

To comply with legislation that prohibits parking on footpaths, Short, Philip and College Streets will be one-way subject to resident consultation. The recommendation is for consideration of off-street parking in the Llewellyn Street Council Depot. The estimated annual net revenue after year one is \$2 mill for the whole municipality.

The report stated that pay parking is an acknowledged and proven method for encouraging a higher turnover in short term parking areas. Waverley Council recently introduced an extensive pay parking scheme throughout Bondi Beach business centre and nearby streets. Initially businesses were against the proposal however advice from the Bondi Chamber of Commerce now indicates strong support as the benefits of regular turnover and proper enforcement are realised. North Sydney and Willoughby Councils both experienced the same situation.

It should not be forgotten that to visit shopping centres with free parking would cost at least \$2 in petrol.

Do you think there is a role for Meter Maids? It doesn't worry me - I walk.

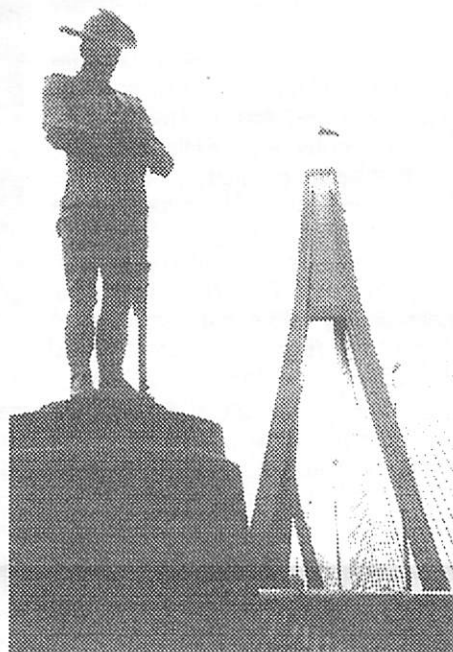
Anzac Statue

A bronze four metre high statue was installed on the western approach to the Anzac Bridge on the 25th April 2000, a fitting tribute to the memory of WW1. The Glebe Island Bridge was officially opened on Sunday 3rd December 1995 and was the third bridge to span Johnstone Bay, connecting Pymont to the west.

The Bridge was renamed Anzac Bridge on Remembrance Day 11th November 1998. Australian artist Alan Somerville, funded by the State government designed the statue. Also on both sides of the central outside span of the bridge, is a three metre wide rising sun badge created by Carl Merten. Take a walk across the Anzac Bridge and view the statue and the surrounding vista.

As part of the commemorations to mark the Centenary of Federation, a new television documentary series, *Australians at War*, has been commissioned by the Federal government. The eight part series is being produced by Beyond Productions and will be broadcast by the ABC about Anzac Day 2001. The series will honour the contribution made by all Australians in time of war and will explore how these experiences have influenced the development of the nation.

Within many Australian families there are items of wartime memorabilia that tell eloquently of the experiences of people who took part in those momentous



events. The *Australians at War* documentary producers would like to draw on some of this material to use in their research. You can offer to make available the items that are held by your family such as diaries and letters showing a personal view of the writer's experiences. Photographs and home movie film help illustrate the times. Ephemera such as souvenirs and postcards or items that help to explain these experiences are also avenues for research.

Contact Robert Pounds on tel 02 6289 1111, fax 02 6289 6470 or internet www.dva.gov.au.

Planning Procedures

Leichhardt Council planners have prepared a report on service provision that has serious implications for the policy of Open Council. For some time there have been moves by senior staff to introduce procedures to reduce approval times by delegating some decisions to council staff.

Under proposed procedures a committee of three senior staff (Building & Development Assessment Unit) will judge all applications for extensions unless five or more households object to the application. The applications are to have an estimated cost of less than \$2

million. If in 7 days a Councillor has not requested the matter to be called to the ward based Building & Development Committee it will be delegated.

On average 25 DAs are received each week. In 1999 Council received 2275 applications. Of the 1254 Development Applications it determined 944. There are 1000 outstanding applications. As justification the report states that the workload is not manageable. There is a shortage of experienced assessment staff in NSW. Criticisms relating to the service are dealt with by officers on a continual basis. The result is a stressful environment that has implications for staff retention. Continued page 3>

Cemetery Memorials Found

Many thanks to the Leichhardt Council for the installation of a plaque on a sandstone plinth, in the rose garden, at the corner of William and Norton Streets, Pioneer Memorial Park, to commemorate the old Balmain Cemetery.

Since the publication in December 1999 of Balmain Cemetery-Grave Concerns by the Association, two more memorials have been located. Mrs N Black of Haberfield and Mrs C Haeusler of Blacktown, contacted the History Committee after some publicity on the book by local newspapers. Mrs Black has a very faded photograph of the Gordon/Macdonald memorial in the Balmain Cemetery. The memorial was relocated in the 1930s to the grounds of St Mary's the Virgin Anglican Church, Denham Court near Ingleburn.

The church was built originally as a private Memorial Chapel in 1838 to the memory of Captain Richard Brooks (1765-1833) of *Denham Court House*. The architect, John Verge, in his day, was probably second only in importance to Francis Greenway. Verge also designed the eastern extensions to the 1812-1828 mansion. In 1898 the Macdonald family purchased the Denham Court Estate and it was Mrs Black's ancestor Alice Grant Gordon who married John Macdonald. On the 8th August 1870 Alicia A Gordon died aged 58 and Lewis Grant Gordon died on 28th March 1887 aged 74, both of Newtown.

John Macdonald (son) died 4th August 1892 aged 26. Alice Macdonald died 27th April 1896 age 51 and husband John Macdonald died 31st August 1896 at Croydon. All were buried at Balmain Cemetery. The church has a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to Alice and John Macdonald. *Denham Court House* remains today and the can be viewed from the road and the church welcomes visitors to the 10am service.

The Seaton memorial was relocated to the Woronora Cemetery in 1915 and Mrs Haeusler has written 'A Chronicle of Heartbreak' for the Observer.

'You have probably wondered how earlier generations coped with the tragedy of the loss of several children in a family. In the days before immunisation, antibiotics and modern surgery techniques, it was quite common for a family to lose two or three children, but how could anyone deal with the following.

George Anderson was born in Sydney on 10th July 1813. His parents were Robert Anderson, a Gunner with the Royal Artillery, who was court-martialled

for desertion in Nova Scotia and Mary nee Turner.

George Anderson a cabinetmaker by trade and his wife Margaret nee Thompson had eight children. The fourth daughter Mary born 24 June 1845 married James (Jacob) Seaton in 1870. They had fourteen children, seven boys and seven girls between 1870 and 1887. Only two children Arthur born 1870 and Alfred born 1877 survived childhood. All the children were buried at the Balmain Cemetery and when mother Mary Seaton died in 1915 aged 70 years, the remains of the twelve children were placed in one coffin and moved to Woronora Cemetery with their mother. Jacob Seaton died 4th February 1942 aged 91 years and was united with his family at Woronora.'

Extract from *Balmain Cemetery*: In the Victorian Age people lived among the reality of premature death. Numerous children born through great sacrifice and suffering died at an early age. In 1874, Sydney experienced an epidemic of measles and scarlet fever resulting in deaths of infants, in the densely settled industrial suburbs of up to 46% of births. 'A casual visitor must be amazed at the number of funerals that throng the streets but what size are most of the coffins?' asked the Illustrated Sydney News. 'It is the children, the little children, that are being borne so quickly to the grave....'

In the 1870s the average issue of married women in New South Wales was seven. Many women died in child-

birth, often of what was known as child-birth fever. More women died in hospital as it has been discovered that medical students came straight from performing autopsies to participate in delivering babies and passed on diseases from cadavers. Midwives had a better success rate in saving mother and child.

A serious outbreak of typhoid in Leichhardt in 1886, in which 38 persons caught the fever, was traced to a well on the Anglo-Australian Co's *Helsarmel Estate*, where water had been used to adulterate milk from a local dairy and which, when analysed, had contained 'organic matter'. The Board of Health's Medical Inspector concluded that the well was in direct line to receive the sewage from 1500 houses on the new *Excelsior* and *Halsarmel Estates* and the drainage from the Balmain and the St Columba's Catholic Cemeteries at Leichhardt. At this time there were no regulations for how deep graves should be or how near to human habitation.

In Balmain, in a dairy near the hospital, the cows contracted typhoid and an epidemic spread from there. Hospitals sold sewage for fertiliser and that

was an effective form of transmitting the disease from patients in the hospital. Even adults, having survived the perils of childhood, the life expectancy at the end of the nineteenth century were 58 for females and 55 for males. The benefits to public health were gained from efficient sewage and drainage.

Kathleen Hamey



The Gordon/Macdonald Memorial & St Mary the Virgin Church, Denham Court



Balmain Cemetery Memorial Tablet in Pioneer Park

Heritage Festival Report

The National Trust Heritage Festival 2000 Program with this year's theme, **Our Sporting Heritage**, attracted over 150 events for Sydney and Suburbs. The Country and Regional Events attracted about much the same number. We are happy to report that our three main events, the Sports Walk, Spectacle Island visit and the old Balmain Walk, attracted 80 visitors of whom 90% were from outside Balmain. The Watch House had a steady flow of visitors to view the Photographic Exhibition of Balmain Sports and Personalities and a packed house for the launch of Peter Reynolds new publication 'John Balmain' by Cr Kris Cruden.

To celebrate the Balmain Bicentenary, photographs of Balmain and Rozelle were placed on display in the Town Hall Glasshouse. It would appear that the publicity given by the local newsprint, The Village Voice and The Courier, had stimulated interest in the publications of the Balmain Association as all the six sales outlets placed orders. The History Committee also welcomed 40 students from Birchgrove School to the Watch House, who enjoyed the visit especially being locked for a short time in one of the cells. Rozelle School also

asked for some assistance with 80 students on a tour of the Callan Park grounds including the rainforest and frog pond.

Friends of Callan Park arranged a Fun Run/Walk of the grounds, on Sunday 2 April. The morning was wet although the three guided tours of the Kirkbride Buildings, were well attended. May be it was the sausage sizzle that followed the tours. To arrange for guided tours contact 9810 2511.

Needless to say for events to happen, there is much planning and assistance. Many Thanks to the following: Lyn Hobbs, Wests-Balmain League Club. David Longhurst, Balmain Rowing Club. Kay Rocavert, Birchgrove Tennis Club. Jim McMahon, Balmain Sailing Club. Chris Matthews, Balmain Cricket Club. June Lunsman, Balmain Swimming Club. Mr & Mrs Tim Robertson, Clontarf Cottage Committee, Robyn Herd, Bonnie Davidson for kitchen duties and the Balmain Association Committee.

Clontarf Cottage Committee meetings, the 2nd Monday of the month at 4 Wallace Street. Contact 9810 3986. Friends of Callan Park, 1st Monday of the month at the Writers Centre on site. Contact 98102511. The Balmain Association, 1st Wednesday of the month, at 179 Darling Street. All Welcome to the meetings or join a committee and work for your community.

Mort Bay Estate

An application from the NSW Land & Housing Corp for formal separation of the Yeend Street housing sites with a strata subdivision was deferred by Leichhardt Council. The Dept has offered them for sale stating that the funds

are to be used for new public housing elsewhere. Tenants of the estate do not want to be forced out in the Olympic year when accommodation is scarce.

Local residents are concerned that a developer might increase the density and are wary of the threat to Site C.

Planning Procedures continued

The challenge to service includes the complicated legislative framework and the amount of time to explain the process. Time is spent seeking amendments to applications that would not be supported. Victoria has a computerised data base that details the planning regulations with maps and plans to help the generation of applications. It is available on CD Rom.

A serious omission is the need for officers to advise applicants prior to lodging a development application to consult with residents and especially neighbours. This would help to reduce alienation and shorten the processing time.

Sometimes it is prudent to spend time over an application. Processing speed isn't the main consideration. Besides the number of applications will almost certainly drop after 1 July when the dreaded GST begins.

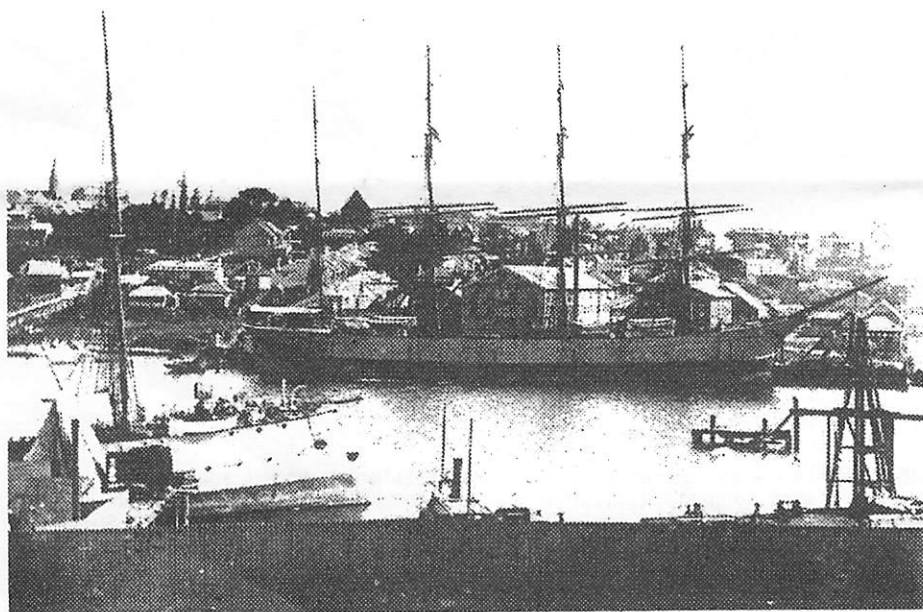
Baragoola

Members of the committee were invited to attend a monthly meeting of the Sydney Ferries Society on Saturday 3rd June. We accepted with pleasure, as the meeting had been arranged to be held aboard the ferry **Baragoola**, moored for some years at **Simmon's Point, Mort Bay**. The name **Baragoola** is an aboriginal meaning, a flood tide.

The owner David Ashton bought the derelict ferry in 1986. Mort's Dock Engineering Co. built the vessel and when launched in 1922, joined the Manly ferry fleet. She was the last of her type having a steam engine until 1961 when converted to diesel. The engines are intact. The passage to Manly was eventful on 28th August 1934 when the ferry collided with a large whale in the harbour.

Restoration of the ferry has completed the interior and painted. Next are the timber decks, then into the dry dock at Garden Island. There is a permanent conservation order on the ferry and the wharf dates from the Adelaide Steamship Co. also has a heritage order.

An excellent view of the ferry can be obtained by going down the zig zag at the end of Nicholson Street to Mort Bay. The zig zag was the area where men gathered to be selected to work on the wharves in the 1930s. Information on the Sydney Ferry Society contact, Geoff Johnson 9451 8559.



Mort Bay 1900



In Your Garden

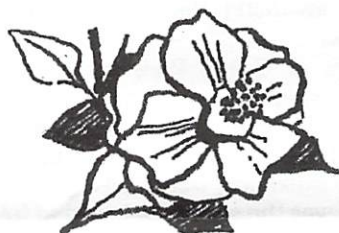
Sassy Beauties

Each season has its stars, but now around Australian gardens sasanqua camellias are stealing the lime-light. Sasanquas are the first of the camellias to make even an average garden full of flowers from now until early spring. As well as being the first to flower, they are easy going. They are easy to grow and are very hardy.

Sasanqua camellias can be small shrubs or small trees (5-7m). Most have a long lasting show of flowers giving at least six to eight weeks of colour. With a few delightful varieties the show will last right through autumn.

Although not native to Australia (they originated in Japan) the nectar filled flowers draw all sorts of native birds. The main bonus is that they rarely suffer any pest or disease problems and consequently they certainly don't require any regular spray programs.

Sasanqua camellias are at their best in open sunny spot with sun for about half the day. They will not do well in deep



CAMELLIA SASANQUAS

shade. If you are planting now dig in lots of peat moss or rotted manure or compost before planting. Camellias flower best with ample water through the summer.

Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta will have their usual yearly spring show for camellias that came to Australia originally with the MacArthurs. I try to attend every year.

In July remember you should prune roses. Remove all the dead and diseased wood completely then shorten healthy branches to promote growth. Do not prune weeping roses now. They are best pruned after their spring flush of flowers.

Bonnie Davidson

What's On

Watch House Exhibitions

- Art With Attitude - Mandy Nolan
Pop Art 24 June-2 July
- Balmain Photos from archives
24 June
- Three Painters & Sculptor
8-16 July
- Jo Byrne & Karin Maler
Mixed exhibition 22-30 July
- Warringah Printmakers
12-20 August
- Facets of Light & Color
Yvonne West 26 Aug-3 Sept
- Local watercolors & oils
Helen Ross & others
9-10 September
- Town & Country Landscapes
Philippa Tait 16-24 Sept
- Ann Garbutt 30 Sept-1 Oct
Spirit of Yesteryears

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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 of the area and 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 98184954. Email: valham@value.com.au. Our Web site: <http://member.rivernet.com.au/swsouth/watchhouse.htm>

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 or on email swsouth@rivernet.com.au.

Annual subscriptions:
Household \$16, Concession \$7,
Organisations \$21.