



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 40 No1 Issue 293

Founded November 1965

February 2005

Sydney Ports Corporation

The Glebe Island and White Bay port precinct is the key to the movement of essential goods to an accessible point within Sydney, facilitating our export and import industry. In the NSW Ports Growth Plan in October 2003, general cargo and container stevedoring would not continue when leases expired in Sydney Harbour and P&O vacated their White Bay Container site in early 2004. All other commercial shipping activities at Glebe Island/White Bay, such as, dry bulk imports including sugar, gypsum and soda ash, the transfer of bulk liquids, the importing of motor vehicles, and other working maritime uses, have continued as usual, maintaining the working Harbour.



Sydney Ports Corporation, as the owner of port land has recently upgraded the internal road network at Glebe Island and is in the process of reconstructing a seawall at White Bay. A greening program has been introduced for Glebe Island, which when completed, will provide a landscape lookout and a new home for the monument that commemorates the site where the United States Armed Forces came

ashore in Sydney on 28th March 1942.

There is a proposal by Pyrmont Raw Materials to handle dry bulk, such as sandstone rubble, at White Bay. A second proposal by Independent Cement and Lime to import cement, if approved, will involve the use of White Bay Berth 3 for ship berthing and the construction of receiving, storage and dispatch facilities on 1.22 hectares of land at the western end of White Bay. Cement Australia Pty Ltd has been conducting shipping and storage operations at Glebe Island since early 1990s. Sydney Ports have advertised recently for Expressions of Interest for the use of land adjacent to the berth at White Bay 6 at the eastern end of White Bay, former container terminal. (more next page)

70 Years On

Some products appear to have been around forever: Minties. - Billy Tea - Rozelle Tomato Sauce - Sunlight and Pears soap - Aeroplane Jelly - Vegemite - and Tarzan's Grip, just a few of the names that have been on the shelves of Australian pantries for generations. They are sold on their name and their claim as part of Australia's heritage.

Take Roland George Whitehead of Tarzan's Grip fame. His life seems to have been as durable as his glue. Whitehead was born 29th August 1898 at Balmain and baptized at St John's Church.

His father Charles, accountant, married Lydia Adamson at St John's Church in 1889, resided at Clifton, Fitzroy Avenue, Balmain. From 1891 to 1919 he lived at 44 Fitzroy Avenue, which remains today.

Roland Whitehead was a vaudeville strongman who traveled the variety circuits of England and

Canada. When refused a visa to enter America, he sneaked in illegally by swimming under Niagara Falls.

On his return to Australia, he set about developing a saleable glue and in 1935, he came up with Tarzan's Grip, the universal fixer. 'Quite a few people used it to fix their false teeth.' The glue was named after the movie character, Tarzan, who was already becoming a spectacular and readily identifiable figure in the 1930s. The glue received minimum advertising but was promoted on the country show circuit, by Whitehead with other members of his family until the 1950s.

Sales peaked in the 1960s with 1.5 million tubes being sold a year. This was long before other companies flooded the market with their range of special purpose glues.

Whitehead married Rena Botham in 1939. Their son, Dennis, took over the family company in 1969 just before his father's death. The company was acquired in 1983 by a



chemical company and has changed hand a few times since then.

The packaging of Tarzan's Grip has changed little in the 70 years as it still bears the distinctive trademark of Tarzan gripping the jaw of a lion and the all purpose glue product is readily available.

Source: SMH 15 February, 1986. Sands Directory. BDM register.

Anniversaries 2005.

The Balmain Watch House celebrated 150 years in 2004 but the original privy at the rear of the building, now used as a storeroom, was built in 1855? Other buildings of the same vintage:

The Grange, 7 Vincent Street. The former hotel the *Rob Roy*, Adolphus Street corner Vincent Street. *Hampton Villa*, 12b Grafton Street. *Balmoral House*, 46 Waterview Street. House, 49 Waterview Street. All the above buildings are of sandstone.

1865. 29a Ballast point Road, F Lemm's workshop. Former shop, Curtis Road corner Thames Street.

1875. Former Bank of NSW, 238 Darling Street. 1-7 Trouton Street, former corner shop and dockworkers cottages. *Clovernook*, 43 Wharf Road. *Ravenscourt*, 39 Wharf Road. Dicks Hotel, Beattie Street corner Montague Street.

1965. The Balmain Association. Celebrations later in 2005.

The Balmain Association website can be visited on:-

<http://balmainassociation.aussiehosts.com>

Sydney Ports Corp

continued

It is proposed this land and berth will be used for working maritime uses such as servicing of commercial vessels and harbour islands. Enquiries: 9296 4999.

The Environmental Resources Management Australia has been commissioned by the Independent Cement and Lime to prepare a DA for the cement terminal at White Bay.

A community stakeholder meeting was held on 30th November 2004 at the Administration Building, Robert Street, Rozelle. Two representatives from the Balmain Association, Ann Bastock, President, and Kathleen Harney attended the consultation.

Traffic movements from the ICL site will be directed through Sommersville and James Craig Roads, connecting to the CityWest Link. No traffic will be directed into Robert Street. There will be three main structures on the site, A dome up to 31m, dispatch silos 38m and warehouse 12m. Vessel will berth at Berth 3 even though the site is located next to Berth 1 as there is not sufficient gap to allow for berthing at Glebe Island and White Bay site. There would be approximately 16 to 21 days berthing time per year allowing 27 to 30 truck movements per week where most movement on the site will be enclosed within the warehouse or under the dispatch silos. Noise, dust lighting were discussed. The dramatic view of the White Bay Power Station building from the bay would be compromised by the size of the dome.

The next stage of consultation process will be an 'open day'. Contact ERM toll free: 1800 788 388.

Umpiring the Development Game

Leichhardt Council has retained Peter Woods OAM to conduct a review of its development assessment process, "with a view to Council and its staff improving development assessment, reducing delays in decisions, improving communications and minimizing complaints."

The decision to undertake a review is to be applauded although in some respects it is too late and the "view" is too narrow as the review should also look at ways of ensuring compliance with development consent. Most of the old industrial sites have been redeveloped. These were the big developments that have had a huge impact on Balmain because of their scale and the inability of the Council to deal effectively with developments of this magnitude and developers with massive resources, influence and egos. However, there may be a need to demolish existing buildings, to build new dwellings and commercial premises and to add to and alter buildings and these also cause problems as well as solve some so the Woods review is badly needed.

In theory the Council's procedures for dealing with development applications and issuing consents (with or without conditions) are fairly straightforward but in practice they are complex and cause hardships and heartaches to developers, architects, residents and neighbours alike. There seems to be an attitude by many property owners that they have a God-given right to do whatever they wish on their properties. Neighbours, on the other hand, often tend to see their views, visual privacy, access to sunlight and peaceful enjoyment of their gardens or their music (rather than their neighbour's music) as an inalienable right. Council is the umpire in the development game and cops the brickbats from both sides.

The problems over developments faced by Leichhardt Council are the problems faced by most urban councils in NSW, and many rural ones as well, as urban consolidation, environmental protection, energy conservation, heritage issues and ecological sustainable development become more important and often clash with the desire for bigger houses, space for spas, bars and cars and better views. The resulting fracas can make a rugby league match look like kindergarten playtime.

The two teams involved in the development game are the "developers", who include developers, financiers, architects, planners, builders, estate agents, advertisers, investors and, to some extent, the state and federal governments (to name but a few) and the "conservationists", who include neighbours, concerned residents, environmentalists and community action groups. The former are "professionals" and the latter are, in general, "amateurs", in that they are not paid. It is a very

uneven match but because of the commitment of the "environmentalists" and a misguided belief that they live in a just world, the result of any match is not always a forgone conclusion.

The main formal rules of the development game are spelt out in two documents, the Local Environment Plan 2000 (LEP) and the Development Control Plans (DCPs). The LEP states that, **"The protection of the amenity of residents should be pre-eminent"**. The LEP covers the whole municipality and sets out which parts of this playing field can be used for commercial, industrial, residential and recreational purposes. For residential areas it also states the type and mix of residences eg units, town houses or detached dwellings that are allowable. The LEP states how much of a property can be covered by a building using the FSR (floorspace ratio) rule which appears to be rarely applied. An FSR of 0.7:1 applies to residential areas of Balmain. The landscaped areas required in new housing is another important control included in the LEP, as is heritage protection.

DCPs are more specific than LEPs and cover issues such as height limits on buildings, roof forms, setbacks from boundaries, building materials, types of fences, driveway crossings and preservation of rockfaces. The DCPs can cover the whole municipality (such as those covering issues such as exempt and complying developments and notifications required for development applications and consents) or be specific to a particular property (DCP 37 applies to 2-8 Weston Street) or a particular street (DCP 21 applies to Wharf Road).

However, there is a marked tendency for the rules to be ignored in favour of accepting a culture of greed and a view that what makes money is good design and what you can get away with is ethical. So in submitting a game plan (a sort of self-assessed pre-match fitness and drug test known as a DA) to the umpire (Council) it is not unusual to make substitutions for real intentions (Plans are submitted that bare little relation to what will be built: a "Trojan house" - apologies Agamemnon.) and misrepresent the opposing side (A mistake might be made about the position of neighbouring building and its windows or in the overshadowing diagrams which are required by Council.) knowing full well that the umpire doesn't have the resources to check this information. If necessary substitutions can be made later using s.96 applications for approval of "variations" in the design already carried out (Oops, I made a mistake. Here is some money. Forgive me.).

Besides the players already mentioned there are many other players and officials in the game, both on and off the municipality, which complicates matters. There are the consultant planners, the lobbyists, the Council staff, the Councillors, the lawyers, the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR is a part of the State Government of

which Local Government is but one arm also) and groups such as SOS (Save Our Suburbs) and the Balmain Association. It must also be recognized that the Council is only the preliminary umpire. There is a greater umpire (not the big one in the sky but next to Him), the Land and Environment Court. Unlike most other games there isn't a salary cap in the development game and, although all sides can appeal to the L&EC for a replay, the situation favours the big developer with the big money.

The length of the development game is important. The opening stage of the game is the submission of the Development Application to Council. The clock starts to tick from then with a 40-day limit for the Council to make a determination on whether the game should get underway otherwise the "developers" can seek to have a decision made by the Land and Environment Court. In practice the 40-day rule is mainly applied to the larger developments while for smaller ones it can take up to a year. When the determination is made the development game proper has to get underway within the next five years. But oddly, there is no set time limit on the rest of the game although in unusual circumstances the umpire can order the game to finish.

What then are the problems associated with the game? Well the "developers" say the umpire is unduly interfering in their ability to do whatever they want to and the "environmentalists" claim that the umpire is not enforcing the rules. The umpire complains that he isn't the umpire because the State Government allows the "developers" to choose and pay their own umpire for the real game, which is to build

the development they really want. Private Certifying Authorities (PCAs) are employed to certify that all is fair, not only in love and war, but also in the development game. They are the goal umpires who are perceived to determine that every shot at the developer's goal is between the posts. (The boundary or line umpires are the Council Compliance Officers. In exceptional circumstances they can rule that a development player has overstepped the bounds of decency.)

There have been many issues left out of this description but this is also what neighbours face. Council gives detailed instructions to one side (the developers) but minimal information to the other side (the neighbours). Part of what we, as a group are trying to get Council to do is to prepare material to be issued to neighbours and other interested community members on the process and the part that Council plays in it: what Council can and cannot do. Another part is to get consideration on a number of issues that would, we think, benefit neighbours and the community as a whole. About forty of these will be published in the next edition.

Fergus Fricke, Val & Kathleen Hamey, Jean Lenane, David Liddle, June Lunsmann, David Norrie, Roger Parkes, Jeanette Sullivan, Issy Wyner.

Commemorative Plaque

In the October 2003 The Peninsula Observer an item under the heading Balmain Personalities, featured John & Mary Quirk who both served in the NSW Parliament. John Quirk MLA representing Rozelle 1917 – 1920, Balmain 1920 – 1927, Rozelle 1927 – 1930 and Balmain 1930 – 1938. Mary Lily Quirk MLA, was the first ALP women elected to the NSW Parliament and served 1939 – 1950.

The family history was research by grandson Anthony Dickson and Mr Dickson sought to have his grandparent's achievements to politics and the local history of the Balmain area recognized.

The installation of a plaque was approved by the Leichhardt Council and the Mayor Cr Alice Murphy, unveiled the plaque in O'Connor Reserve, Quirk Street, Rozelle on 10th December, 2004. Cr Damian Copley-Finch, members of the Quirk family, local residents and three members of the Association's committee attended the commemoration ceremony.



Anthony Dickson, right

The site for the plaque in O'Connor Reserve was chosen as Quirk Street joins the park at that point and the family home for many years at 9 Gordon Street is close by. Victoria

Exhibition Management

Some twelve years ago when some students from the Sydney College of Arts then in Mansfield Street, Rozelle approached the Committee to exhibit their end of year works in the Watch House. Steve South fostered the idea as a fund raising scheme and the bookings increased. Now we limit them to the thirty week ends each year. The exhibitors come from Balmain and outer suburbs. We encourage first time exhibitors and this year twelve of the thirty are new to the Watch House. Pottery, sculpture, jewellery, hand woven goods, paintings will be exhibited this year.

June Lunsmann has offered to take over Bookings and management from Bonnie Davidson and Kathleen Hamey. Contact : 9810 6885. email speal@zip.com.au

In Your Garden

Recycling Rewards

Organic gardening is very popular with people who now realise the importance of recycling. Fallen leaves, lawn clippings, spent plants and weeds enrich the soil and produce healthier plants.

Plants draw up the nutrients and minerals from the soil to help them grow and much of this stays in the leaves and stems. Returning these to the soil in the form of mulch or compost helps to maintain the natural fertility. Well mulched soil with plenty of compost retains moisture and cuts down on watering. Plants grown in organically rich soil will be



healthier and less vulnerable to attack by pests and diseases, will need less spraying and produce more flowers or fruit.

A quick and easy way to compost leaves is to drive four stakes into the ground to form a square and wrap chicken wire or plastic mesh around. Fill the space with leaves, lawn clippings, etc, sprinkle each layer with sulphate of ammonia or manure and a spadeful of soil. Put a layer of soil on top, then damp down and cover with plastic or newspaper to keep rain from leaching out the nutrients. You can use any vegetable and fruit peelings, peanut shells, seaweed and tea leaves on the compost heap and you will have a rich mulch ready for use in spring.

Bonnie Davidson

What's On

Watch House Exhibitions

- **Barry Edwards. Original paintings of Australian & Overseas Artists Feb 12-13**
- **Balmain Peninsula Park Painters Feb 19-20**
- **Hartland artworks Feb 26-27**
- **Adrian Couani Paintings Mar 5-6**
- **Malana Arapoglou Artworks Mar 12-13**
- **Marica Pozega Art Mar 19-20**
- **C J Collis Mar 26,27,28 Incentive Prints**

Printed by Snap Print, Balmain. © Not to be reproduced without permission.



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula
OBSERVER

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

If undelivered return to:
The Balmain Association Inc
PO Box 57
Balmain 2041

Peter Reynolds
9 The Avenue
Balmain NSW 2041
2010/12

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 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 5.00pm 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 :vhammey@tpg.com.au.

Our Web site:

<http://balmainassociation.aussiehosts.com>

Annual subscriptions:

Household \$20,

Concession \$10

Organisations \$30.