



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

Vol 42 No 2 Issue 303

Founded November 1965

June 2007

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT

The Balmain Association's *Meet the Candidates* night held on 14 March in the Tigers Club auditorium was considered a great success. It was the first opportunity to meet the two late-announced candidates, Jane Hyde (Climate Change Alliance) and Edward Okulicz (Democrats), both of whom made their presence felt. The other candidates, Jane Ward (Independent), Rochelle Porteous (Greens), Verity Firth (Labor) and Peter Shmigel (Liberal), together with the newcomers, addressed many issues put to them by representatives of the Balmain Association, Friends of Callan Park, WBSJG, CARz and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as from the audience. The proceedings were brilliantly moderated by Michael Raper with the help of time-keeper, Roger ("Hooter") Parkes.

It has been said that "the price of democracy is eternal boredom" but the night showed that such "democratic" activities can be far from boring, unlike debates between leaders of parties. Not only was the meeting judged to be interesting but it demonstrated how well various groups in the community can work together. The Balmain Leagues Club very generously provided the venue and staff free of charge and showed once again that they have the interest of the community at heart. Ian Scandrett (Chamber of Commerce) and Gordon Weiss (Precinct Committees) provided enormous help, ideas and support.

June Lunsman, on behalf of the Balmain Association, put the following question to the candidates:

"The Balmain Association has for many years recorded the history of Balmain and conserved heritage items in the area as well

as being proactive against many over-developments that have occurred. Our current Planning Minister, when in Local Government, tried to take over the inner city councils: he now appears to be taking over all of NSW. We feel strongly that the policy of "one size fits all" will do nothing to improve the environment or the living and working conditions of people on the Balmain peninsula and will be detrimental to preserving Balmain's heritage sites and character. In view of this we ask whether you agree that the heritage values of the Balmain electorate need to be better conserved and if so how should this be done?"



Above: Verity Firth, the new State MP for Balmain and Minister for Women, Minister for Science and Medical Research, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) and Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change Environment and Water (Environment), addressing the MTC night audience.

Below: The candidates with the moderator, Michael Raper.

Photos by David Liddle

While there was general agreement with the need for conservation in Balmain, there were limited ideas on how this might be done at a State level other than to ensure that the conservation and planning powers should lie with Leichhardt Council and that the powers and procedures of the Land and

Environment Court should be reviewed.

Arguably the most interesting part of the meeting was the Quick Quiz where candidates were asked questions and required to answer them by holding up one of three cards "Yes", "No" or "No comment" for a sequence of fifteen questions.

On reflection, what might have been informative to ask was a question of the members of the audience: "On the basis of what you have heard tonight will you consider changing how you thought you would vote?" If nothing else it would give some indication of whether the BA should organize such meetings in future.

Do we organize a MTC night for the Federal election later this year? If the answer is "yes", what other groups do we invite to join us? What are the Federal issues that we need to address or do we organize the MTC as a community service?

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who have joined the Balmain Association this year:
Maureen Clark of Kingsgrove
Susan Skinner of Waverley
Kate Bray & Rob Pillans of Balmain
Susan Thomson of Balmain
R Osmond of Birchgrove
John & Rose Braithwaite-Young of Birchgrove.

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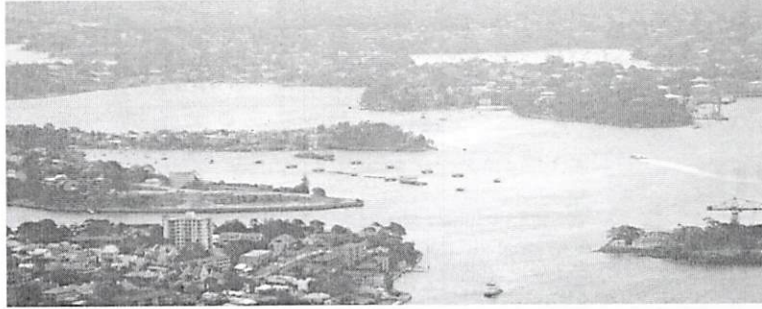
NATURE IN BALMAIN

The opening of Ballast Point park sometime in late 2008 will make a major contribution to the Sydney harbour foreshore and will provide a wonderful place to watch a new native parkland mature and attract a wide range of bird life and, hopefully, frogs.

The construction of the parklands will take approximately ten months to complete and will commence on completion of the clean-up of the oil terminal site. It is anticipated that construction will commence in the third quarter of this year.

The park will be planted with some seventy species of trees, shrubs, grasses, ground covers and climbers, providing a beautiful passive recreation area and a place for viewing nature. There will be no buildings other than the two public toilets, tucked away near the Wharf Road entrance and the Yeend Street entrance. Nor will there be any constructed water collection

areas. However, one of the most important features will be a series of bio-swails below



Ballast Point from Centrepont before demolition of tank 101

the sandstone escarpments on the northern and southern edges of the park. These bio-swails are natural water collection areas, planted with sedges and native grasses creating small marshy areas which, it is hoped, will attract frogs and water birds. Similar bio-swails in the Balls Head site have been very successful in attracting frogs. What is so important about frogs?

Frogs tell us a lot about the health of our environment.

As mentioned, this park will be a passive recreation area with entrances from Wharf Road and Yeend Street. There will be no fixed gates, only barriers allowing permanent pedestrian and cycle access. Cycle traffic will be restricted to the lower southern promenade area. As well as the substantial plantings of native species,

there will be extensive grassed areas, seating and pergolas for picnicking and enjoying the vistas. The question of whether dogs will be allowed into Ballast Point park has yet to be resolved.

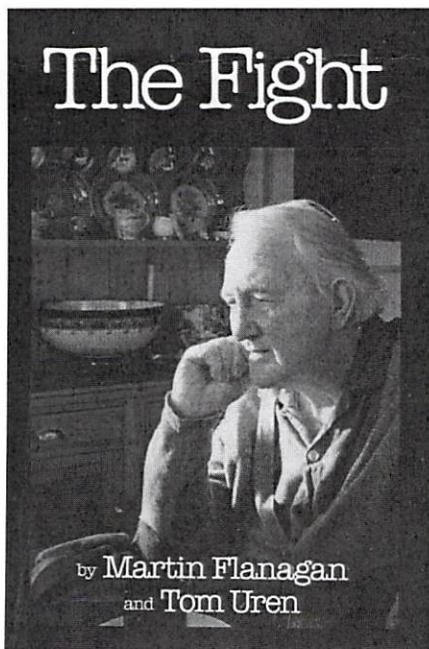
In my meeting with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority many other points were discussed regarding the philosophy of the park's design and the incorporation of the history of the site and its context into Sydney harbour.

Clive Abbott

The Fight

by
Tom Uren and Martin Flanagan
Publisher: One Day Hill

This quite slim book is a treasure. It is full of beautiful thoughts, elegant writing and fascinating insights. I came to it expecting no surprises as I have long admired Martin's writing and have known Tom for a long time.



I was not surprised by the evidence of Tom's passion, optimism and generosity of spirit. Not surprised but again uplifted. The unexpected bonus for me was the interplay between the two authors. There was clearly a philosophical tension between them. Tom's awful wartime experiences could easily have left him with a bitter, pessimistic view of life. Not so. It is instead the younger Martin who tends to pessimism. As each "issue" arises between them we see the sorts of choices we ourselves can make in our attitudes to life. Martin, I'm sure, would have finished this book with a more positive attitude than when he started.

Any reader will feel that they have been privy to a private discourse of public importance and, like me, be uplifted by the experience.

Philip Bray

White Bay is Dead, Long Live White Bay

The choking dust on kitchen floors
The droning of an engine's power
While children cry behind closed doors
The ugly high-rise silo stores
Trucks rumbling at the midnight hour

Container boxes clang and fall
As forklift beeps disturb the night
The remnants of a cargo hall
The soaring shed above the wall
Stand echoing the wharfie's plight

The port no longer pays its dues
The rail lines silent, rusted, dead
The cars roll in with modern hues
Enjoying city harbour views
It's time for people use instead

It's time to give this public place
A beating heart for work and play
Amenity for young and old
For health and knowledge, breathing space
A future better than today

Come join us at the ferry stop
Or play a game of footy there
Provide a respite place, a shop
A child care home, a biking track
A nursery, a market fair

Remember that the people count
We understand the short-term choice
A dirty industry, a high-rise tower
Where children play but have no voice
Usurped by ignorance and power.

One politician's hand of fate
Must not be granted power to choose
Who represents the people's voice
Must now respect the people's choice
Return the Bay to public use

We long to see the harbour shore
Reflect its wave of morning light
A public access way and more
A treasured place we can't ignore
A crowded city's open space
White Bay is ours let's give it life.

Christina Ritchie

THE CLONTARF COTTAGE SAGA

Having been somewhat pressured to write about Clontarf Cottage, I have set out below what my hazy memory and rough records disclose. But what is set out must not be regarded as the conclusive history of the land bounded by Adolphus and Wallace Streets. There is much more that could be added to what stood as one of the momentous issues which confronted the people of Balmain, standing with the fight over the chemical tank farm, containerisation, residential development of the five industrial sites and so many other attacks on our living area amenity and our general environment.



Clontarf Cottage before restoration

To look at Clontarf Cottage today, it is almost impossible to imagine the sorry state of nearly total deterioration to which it was allowed to decline. Even when functioning as the offices, foundry and general factory for years before Ward's Stoves acquired it, the decline had been monstrous. Ward's Stoves did nothing to alleviate this condition — in fact, for the short period that the stove makers occupied it (from 1947 to the early 50's) it continued to decline as a miserable, filthy, unsightly jumble.

With the demise of Ward's Stoves, deterioration soon went further, and it was at its lowest level when the Council, in 1968, decided to rezone the land as open space in its Planning Scheme. Then a firm sought to restart the foundry and other similar activities. This was rejected for a number of reasons, including its zoning. But this application and its rejection brought the Heritage Council and other historical interests into the frame. But the Council made its position clear at the time (1974), purchasing the property for open space purposes.

To see it now, of course, gives some idea of what the original fine residence must have been like when built in 1844, and set in pleasant bushland and open space. But only *some* idea, because the original had a second story, and the bushland area has

been taken over with the five blocks comprising 22 pensioner units. What is more, there is no visible evidence of the mighty struggle which was waged to save what was left of the original cottage.

Originally, the fight centred on saving the area as open space and recreation purposes for the surrounding residents, particularly the children. It was a motion by Nick Origlass and me to have the land rezoned for open space, in accordance with the wishes of the residents, and this was adopted by the Council, back in the 1960's and included in the 168 Leichhardt Planning Scheme.

But then came the Housing Commission of NSW showing interest in developing the land for housing purposes and the Council, by majority vote, sought to sell the land to the Commission for \$1. At the time, the land, though zoned for open space, was valued at least at the price paid for it (\$75,000) and the valuation placed it at some \$500,000. The plan fell through when legal advice showed that the Council had no power to sell.

By this stage, The Heritage Council and the National Trust became seriously interested in the old cottage and its history and the Balmain Association joined in with history of the cottage and the Balmain Association joined in with history of the cottage being prepared by Peter Reynolds.

Nick and I saw the importance of the new information and the need for the cottage to be saved and restored and we took up the fight on Council. But the Council and the State Government pressed on with a determination to see Housing Commission units built. The Commission hired contractors to clear up the site. And that was when the residents, members of the Balmain Association, Nick and I became involved in a scuffle which led to the arrest to nine of us, namely, Graham Romans, Alan Rosen, Andrew Boles, Jean Lennane, Robert and Candice Bruce, Jeff Leis, Nick and me. All were fingerprinted and charged with "obstruction of a vehicle".

The fight continued with argument as to the open space zoning preventing any form of building development on the land. But, then the proposal appeared for a shared development of the land, namely, restoration of the cottage and erection of 22 units for pensioners and disabled people. The Housing Commission had also discussed a

proposal for leasing the property for 99 years. Then the rental for this proposal was assessed at \$191,000 for the full term of the lease.

Eventually, a proposal was submitted whereby the units would be built and the amount of \$191,000 would be placed at the disposal of the Council for the restoration of the cottage, the money to be invested and bring further funds for restoration purposes.

When agreement was finally reached, in 1988, Nick, as Mayor, convened a public meeting for the purposes of establishing a Restoration Committee, which was duly elected, with me as its chairman. The Committee included, Don Harrington, and John Doyle, both architects, offering their services free, and Richard and Cathie McCabe, Denis Grafton, Richard Rollo, Allan Rosen, Graham Romans, Bonnie Davidson, Kaye Trippe, Kathleen Hamey, F, Derwent, Bob Love (Leichhardt Council), Jocelyn Jackson (of Howard Tanner, Architects), Grace McCleod and Robert and Candy Bruce. Also coming on to the Committee was Pat Williams, a roofing specialist who offered his services free to install a shingle roof similar to the original, if Council or the Committee purchased the shakes required,

Howard Tanner and Associates were chartered by the Housing Commission to design the five blocks of 22 units, and they agreed to supervise the restoration of Clontarf, placing Jocelyn Jackson of their firm as supervisor.

And so, finally, at a total cost of some \$350,000, on the 25th August, 1990, the Mayoress, Mrs Ruby Wyner, was able to officially open the Cottage for public use and enjoyment.

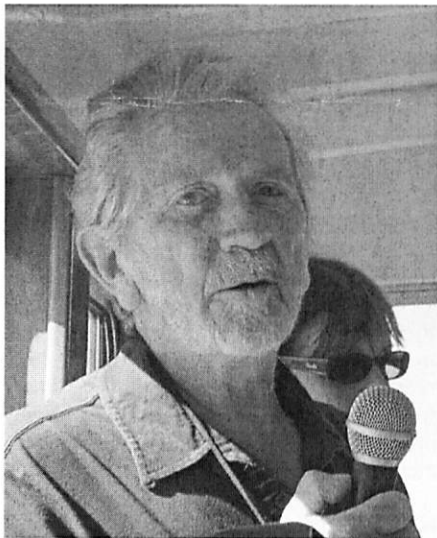
Issy Wyner



Clontarf Cottage after restoration

BALMAIN ASSOCIATION HERITAGE FERRY TRIP

As the theme of this year's National Trust Heritage Festival was *Places in context – natural and cultural landscapes*, the Balmain Association organised a ferry trip on Sunday 11th March, to look at the landscape around the Balmain peninsula and the landscape's context in western Sydney Harbour. We looked at the changes in the peninsula as there is virtually no natural landscape left, at our new and old open green spaces, how the cultural landscape has shaped the natural landscape, how the local community interacts with its environment and how these changes tell the social history of the place.



Bruce McKenzie (above) speaking about Peacock Point Park (below)



Our journey started from Thames Street Ferry Wharf in Mort Bay and we travelled south past the small park on Simmons Point to East Balmain and Illoura Reserve on Peacock Point. We were very fortunate to have Bruce Mackenzie on board who was the landscape architect responsible for designing this open space using native plantings – very innovative in the 1970s! Bruce spoke of his original vision for the reserve and how it has stood the test of time, although some new understorey plantings would improve the park. Vince Cusumano, Manager - Parks & Streetscapes, Leichhardt Council, talked about the steps at the end of the point and the dog beach.



White Bay container terminal and tank farm in the 1970s (above) and the same site now, Birrung Park (below)



We travelled into White Bay looking at Ewenton Park, beside the new Water Police headquarters, the site of Pilchers Paddock (now the White Bay container terminal) and on to Birrung Park (the site of the notorious chemical tank farm in the 70s). We looked at Pyrmont and the changes to the waterfront there before heading back around Balmain to the north.



Ferry trip tea providers, Sue and June

The new park under construction at Ballast Point and the history of the site was explained by Fergus Fricke, and Bruce Mackenzie came back to tell us about Yurulbin Reserve at the end of Long Nose Point, originally the site of the ship building company, Morrison & Sinclair. We travelled along the western shore of

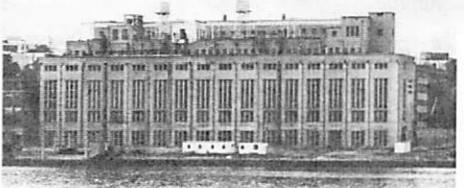


Balmain, past Elkginton Park, the open area in front of Balmain Shores, the site of the Balmain Power Station, under the Iron Cove Bridge to view the large parklands at Callan Park and then returned to Mort Bay. Luncheon was served on board as we slowly chugged around the Bay. Our thanks go particularly to the guest speakers who gave us the background information about some of the more significant sites. As well as Bruce Mackenzie, Vince Cusumano and Fergus, Judy Newton talked about Berry's Island, and Kathleen Hamey, our resident historian, filled in much of the incidental information.

Diana Garder



National Box Co. next to Dawn Fraser Pool in 1930 (above: P Reynolds, LHJ #20, 1979) and the same site now (below)



Balmain Power Station site before (above) and now (below)

Goat Island

Comments on the Draft Master Plan for Goat Island, March 2007

Goat Island, just east of Balmain is part of the lands of the Gadigal people. Bennelong is believed to have been one of the Aboriginal men associated with the island in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Under European settlement it has had many roles including gunpowder storage, a water police station, bubonic plague research and the centre of Maritime activities for Sydney harbour.



Photo courtesy of the NSW NPWS

In 1994 control of the island passed from the Maritime Services Board to

the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW and its role changed significantly. The Service has carried out conservation works and conducted tours on the island but it has been a low level of activity.

The Service produced a draft concept plan in 1996 seeking public comments and in March 2006 it published a *Conservation Management Plan* prepared by 3 firms of consultants. This was on exhibition from 14th April to 17 May 2006 and despite my close interest in the island I was unaware of its existence until recently. The *Conservation Management Plan* runs to 209 pages and I have not read it all but what I

have seen looks very interesting. It can be found on the NPWS web page.

Later in 2006 the NPWS published *Possibilities and Future Directions*, organised free tours of the island, and sought further public comments. It has now issued the *Draft Master Plan*, prepared by Conybears Morrison

International, which will be on exhibition until 11th June 2007 following which a final master plan will be adopted. Responses are sought by 11th June.

The *Draft Master Plan* can be downloaded from the NPWS web page, (www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/content/goat_island_masterplan_draft). It runs to 11 pages and, a warning, if you plan to print it, set your printer on "landscape" as the original is published on A3 and a "portrait" print will hardly be readable.

Briefly the plan offers two options. (1) Knock down considerable numbers of buildings and wharves and plant lots more trees and offer the island as a place for day-trippers. (2) Keep most of the buildings and wharves and allow a range of cultural activities on the island. These include cafes, overnight accommodation and craft workshops etc. My personal preference the second option as it retains the evidence of the evolution of activities on the site. It would need to be done with strict controls to prevent rampant commercialism or noisy concerts but the NPWS has a good record in this regard.

It is proposed to retain the Shipyard including the 150 and 500 ton slipways and the hammerhead crane. This seems to be a very good example of the "Working Harbour" concept and provides an attractive and non-intrusive industrial activity.

John Morris

(The nearest resident in Balmain to Goat Island)

Rozelle by any other origin and spelling would smell the same

Yvonne Carter offers another explanation of the origin of the name, "Rozelle", based on information from, "The Bailiwick of Jersey" by G. R. Balleine, Hodder and Stoughton, 1970, in the section on "Rozel". Are there any more explanations for the origin of the Rozelle name? Ed.

Reeds/rushes grow in Normandy. "Roseau" means reed and "Rozel" is the old French form of "Roseau". I believe there is a "Castle of Rosel" in

Normandy.

About the time of William the Conqueror, Jersey, off the Normandy coast, was divided into fiefs of various sizes and importance. Each had its seigneurial court and most had a manor house. "Rozel" was one of these. This medieval manor was rebuilt in 1770 and altered in 1820.

Rozel Bay in Jersey is named after the manor. Its history is interesting and on the eastern headland, Le Couperon, there is a gallery grave in which, about 2000 BC, a

prehistoric chief was laid. The Castel de Rozel appears to be a prehistoric fortress and some of it remains today on the western headland of Rozel Bay.

The Balleine reference gives more detail for those interested in Normandy, the Normans and Norman Law. Some may wish to refer to it, others may wonder if Rozelle (Rozel) Bay, Jersey C I, is related to our Rozelle Bay. Was there a Jersey man living hereabouts when ours was named? The Dumaresq family were from Jersey. Did

they name any of our area? "Rozel", Jersey, is a delightful bay and maybe the Dumaresqs, coming from another manor in Jersey, "Samarés", were reminded of it when they saw Rozelle Bay here.

The Dumaresq family settled the St Heliers area in the Hunter Valley and Henry Dumaresq (Governor Darling's brother-in-law) established "Saumarez" in Armidale.

I hope this contribution, from a Jersey man's offspring, interests your readers.

Yvonne Carter

Native honeyeater a cause for concern

An Australian honeyeater whose natural habitat is grassy open forests and woodlands has become a major threat to the continued existence of many small native birds. The Noisy Miner, *Manorina melanoccephala*, is taking over remnant vegetation patches and chasing small native birds away. A study of Noisy Miners found 65 species of birds had been attacked by Noisy Miners, including several cases where Noisy Miners had killed small birds.

The Noisy Miner, a predominately grey bird with yellow legs and beak, is frequently confused with the introduced Common Myna, a brown bird with yellow legs and beak. The preferred habitat of Noisy Miners

is a combination of eucalypts and open ground, a habitat previously rare, but now common in urban areas. Forest edges, golf courses, parks, and many suburban gardens manifest this habitat, and as a result, Noisy Miners have proliferated.

For those who are re-vegetating corridors or small areas, the research findings recommend no more than 85% of the trees should be eucalypts, supplemented by trees or shrubs (particularly feathery leaved acacias) with dense foliage and low food benefit to Noisy Miners.

Source: NPA NSW National Parks Journal Vol 50 No 1 Feb-Mar 2006, original article by Richard Hastings



Photo: Richard Major



The Wally. Sketch by Jenny Porter

THE WILLY WALLY

The Sir William Wallace pub is named after the famous 13th century knight and Scottish patron who led a resistance to the English occupation of Scotland during the Wars of Scottish Independence. The original reasons for choosing the name are not known.

The pub, on the corner of Cameron and Short Streets, was constructed in 1879 in the Victorian Filigree style with distinctive iron lacework and a two level verandah around the frontage supported by timber posts at street level. It is probably the only pub in Balmain still in its original state. The photographs inside the pub, which date from the 1920s, show that the external appearance has changed little since the late 1800s. The historical, architectural and cultural significance of the building is recognized by its inclusion on the NSW state heritage register.

The pub is one of a number of buildings in the area which formed an integral part of the ship-building and industrial history of the local area from the late 1800s. At the turn of the 20th century, the William Wallace and six other pubs were in close proximity to Morts Dock, regularly servicing the needs of local workers. With the closure of the dock (1957) and other nearby industries such as the Balmain Colliery only the William Wallace and nearby Dry Dock Inn and Royal Oak have survived. More recently, because of its location away from the main streets of Balmain, locals (who affectionately know the pub as the "Willy Wally", "Swills and Swallows" or simply "The Wally") make up most of the patrons. A number of famous local residents are also known to drop in from time to time.

A mural depicting pub life, complete with a number of regular patrons, was painted on an internal wall in the mid 1990s. The current owners updated the mural again in 2003 and added in a number of current locals and bar staff. The mural contains an image of actor Mel Gibson who provided perhaps the best known account of the life of William Wallace in the 1995 film *Braveheart*. In a 1995 US interview with *Rogert Ebert* just prior to the release of the

film, Mel Gibson recounts drinking at the hotel, "When I was a youngster of 20-odd and I used to go out with my buddies and we'd have a few beers and play pool and tell lies. The place we used to frequent was called the William Wallace Hotel and it had a painting of a hairy guy over the bar. I thought he was just the dead

former piano player. So that was what I knew of William Wallace before this." A film poster signed by Mel Gibson hangs in the main bar.

The pub has been used as a location for numerous films and TV series, including *Water Rats*, *Blackjack*, *Balmain Boys* and a 2001 episode of the UK hit police series *The Bill*. The 1994 film *The Sum of Us* starring Jack Thompson and Russell Crowe has a number of scenes filmed in the pub.



Part of the Wally mural

In 2006, permission was granted for a \$1.5m overhaul of the main bar and restaurant. Although work has not yet commenced, it seems likely the pub, that has been serving locals for 127 years, will soon receive an upgrade.

Andy Mitchell

COME BACK COLGATE

Cleo Lynch follows up her Colgate article in the previous issue of The Observer with an exposé of product testing/marketing methods of a Colgate competitor. Ed

In the mid 1970s Rexona, which had its head office and factory at North Rocks, advertised in a local paper for volunteers for a testing panel for hair products. Living in a neighbouring suburb, I applied, undertaking to attend their in-house salon on a regular basis. The products were not being tested for safety, but for veracity in advertising.

Home brand products and those of a rival company were dispensed from unmarked containers, which the hairdresser

received from the laboratory. Prior to being washed, our hair was parted in the middle, and a different product applied to each side. The hair would then be scrutinised intensively for differences, however infinitesimal, which might justify the claims of advertising campaigns.

Lathered with shampoo and moulded into peaks, our hair was tweaked and twirled in the search for extra lather or volume, depending on what enhancement the product offered. After the application of conditioner, a comb would be sleeked through each side of the wet scalp, on a scientific mission to detect differing degrees of tangle-free manageability. Discerning fingers, sensitive to the slightest nuance of extra smoothness, teased out strands of conditioner-coated hair.

After rinsing, the hair might be scrunched and squeezed, to produce the compliant squeak of the advertised 'squeaky clean.' Or each side might be examined for bouffant buoyancy, which might confirm the promise of added volume and stability for fine, fly-away hair. Portable lights and mirrors were also co-opted in the search for highlights, glints of an advertised enhancement, perhaps for hair spray.

Hairdresser and clients strained to detect minute variations in lather, smoothness, volume or sheen, depending on the product and its claims. And since the process was designed around product anonymity, our opinions carried the weight of scientific objectivity.

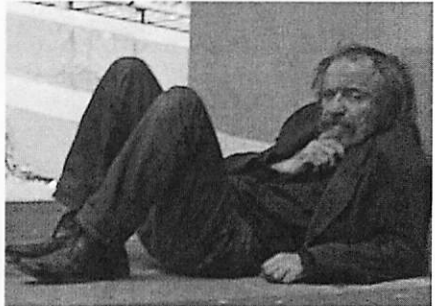
Sometimes we would be asked to participate in other tests for the laboratory, for products such as hand lotions and creams. Occasionally we were required to take products home to assess them over longer periods.

Every Christmas we were rewarded with a complimentary package of products, and the variety was staggering. In addition to shampoos such as Sunsilks and Palmolive, there were deodorants, Vaseline hand cream, cold cream (Ponds), sun screen, insect repellents, hair spray, body spray, shower gels, toothpaste, dishwashing detergents, soap and soap powders, the range seemed endless. It was then that I, a naïve, suburban housewife, became aware of the pervasiveness of multi-national organizations.

After about twenty-five years, the project was abandoned, and my hair had to adapt to the real world of the quick lather with a random choice off the supermarket shelf. The Christmas freebies had not converted me to any particular product. The multi products promoted by the multi national did not have the same ring of truth as the original Colgate Palmolive products. For me, the glamorous enhancements in Rexona's promotions, could never match the modest claims of Colgate Palmolive, even when the romantic and hygienic claims of Lux and Persil, offered every girl the subliminal chance of enduring, domestic bliss.

Cleo Lynch

LIVING LOVING AND LOATHING IN BALMAIN



Last year the Balmain Association organized an exhibition of photographs, taken by school children in Balmain, called "Balmain Through Younger Eyes". The exhibition, which attracted considerable interest, was very revealing of what children saw as being of interest in Balmain. The theme for the exhibition was *contrasts* and *differences*. Not only was it an eye-opener but it suggested the possibility of recording some of the present likes and dislikes, the beautiful and ugly, the appropriate and inappropriate for the future.

This year the Association is planning another children's photographic exhibition in December titled, *Living, Loving and Loathing in Balmain*. Perhaps members of the Balmain Association might like to express their opinions on the same subject using photos, drawings, prose or poetry to add to the Association's invaluable historical record of existing buildings, parks, objects, people, behaviour and practices in Balmain.

If you are interested in expressing your opinions in any way, photographically or otherwise, please phone 9810 1179 or send contributions by email to ferg@arch.usyd.edu.au or to The Editor, The Observer, Balmain Association, P.O. Box 57, Balmain 2041



What's on at the Watch House

JUNE

Saturday, Sunday, Monday 9 –11

Opening: Friday 8th, 6pm,

Exhibition and Book Launch.

Photographer Raymond Horsey exhibits his black and white photographs of Sydney's amazing bridges, streets and other contemporary works. Artist-photographer, Garry McDougall exhibits mixed media work inspired by his travels as a tour leader in Celtic Scotland, Ireland, France and Spain. Garry's novel, *Belonging*, will also be launched at the Watch House by a well-known personality. The 'photo-novel' is set in late Victorian and Federation Gundagai. Readings at 2pm Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Saturday, Sunday 16, 17 and Saturday, Sunday 23, 24

10am to 4pm

Work by Jane Theau, a printmaker and textile artist, and Louisa Hart, a studio potter. Jane employs intaglio, collograph and monoprint techniques to print chiefly on canvas and fine lawn. She introduces another dimension to her unique works using thread, beads, feathers and found natural materials. This collection of works has been inspired by several months spent beside the Salat alpine river in the Pyrenees.

Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July

"Interrupted Journey" Peter Mottershead

The exhibition will open on Saturday afternoon 30th June at 3pm. A warm welcome to everyone! Landscape images derived from a tour of Europe, as well as more recent images from more local sources. This exhibition, a collection drawings and paintings, is a continuation in a series titled *Journey of Life*. A very pleasant and enjoyable journey represented as drawings and paintings all in the beautiful ambience of the Balmain Watch House immersed in classical music with lashings of food and drink.

JULY

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8

9am to 5pm

Opening Friday 6th 7.30pm please RSVP

sailin1@optusnet.com.au by Fri. 29 June

'Directions' a photographic journey by Steve Liney.

There will be varying subject matter including; landscape, portraits and abstract.

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15

10am to 4pm

Opening Friday 13, 6pm to 9pm

Robyn Ross Art Group featuring oils, pastel and sketches.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22

Opening Friday 20 6pm - 9pm

ART BY MART - ART EXHIBITION

Margaret Rogers - An exhibition of acrylics, oils and watercolour on canvas, inspired by the love of colour and nature, featuring a variety of subjects with a creative, modern touch especially with birds and flowers.

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29

Available

AUGUST

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5

10am – 4pm

Opening Friday 3rd, 5.30 – 8.30

Life's a Puzzle

Three Sydney artists, Philippa Graham, Itzick Fisher and Pennie Graham, will showcase their most recent work, a combination of works on paper, paintings and sculpture. Their works investigate the complex relationships that connect people both personally and globally.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12

Open Saturday at 11am – 5pm, Sunday 11am – 4pm

HARTstART Studio's Annual Exhibition by a local painting class, using modernistic expressive techniques, that has been exhibiting for past 10 years.

Saturday 18, Sunday 19 and Saturday 25, Sunday 26

9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Opening Friday 17th, 5 – 8pm All welcome!

"Mixed Palette"

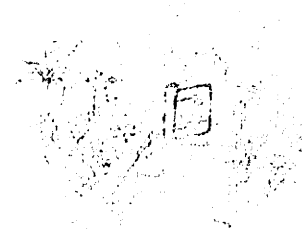
An exhibition of the work of three Sydney-based artists, Helen Clare, Trudy Goodwin, Sandra Williams. Each artist explores her immediate and personal environments in her own unique way and the resulting collection of works features a wide range of interesting techniques, including works on paper, etchings, paintings and mixed media.

SEPTEMBER

History Week: Saturdays 1, 8, 15, 22

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW

Saturday 22nd September, 2007



.... be led up the garden path

Two self guided tours with gardens open until 4pm.

Each walk approx. 1 and 1/2 hrs from 10am

More information later

Gardens needed - if interested in sharing
your garden with other enthusiasts

contact DI or June

Phone June 9810 6885, speak@zip.com.au

Diana 9810 3639, digarden@bigpond.net.au

www.balmainassociation.org.au

The Balmain Association Inc Representing Balmain, Birchgrove and 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 realization 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 12:00 – 3:00pm.

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Our Web site:

<http://balmainassociation.org.au>

Annual subscriptions:

Household \$20, Concession \$10,
Organizations \$30

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