



the balmain
association
incorporated
news sheet

The Peninsula OBSERVER

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John Doyle's observations about changes he has seen in Balmain over the past 27 years shared at the opening of Balmain Favourites exhibition at the Balmain Watch House in December 2009

The most obvious thing to say about Balmain is that it is a true village. Being a true village means there is automatically interconnectedness – and therefore for its residents a chosen ratio of anonymity with familiarity. You can choose to leave the front door open or closed, choose to engage or withdraw, choose a hundred friends or choose none. But if you choose to leave the door open and engage, the rewards are rich.

We arrived in Balmain in 1982. I taught for a time at Balmain High School, some of the students I met there I still see employed in various occupations around the place carrying on the continuum, the intergenerational rhythms of village life. Certainly I've witnessed change in the last twenty seven years; there is more investment put into houses, there are fewer dog droppings on the pavements, and while there are more dogs of the small white and exotic variety, sadly there are fewer greyhounds on leashes, and friendly familiar figures have disappeared and are missed. I miss Guy and Amanda's Video Shift, which opened the year we arrived. I miss the elegant Peter in the Milk Bar on the corner of Rowntree and Darling Streets. Miss Bill's Garage. Miss seeing the hunched black figure of the grim faced Paddy McGuinness in the Unity Hall mulling over left wing conspiracies; miss the strong stale aroma of flat beer belching out of the Cricketer's Arms before, with the poker machines and the TAB, becoming The Monkey Bar; miss big John mixing paints at Brown's; miss his blindly optimistic sister; miss Mister Tong racking up another order on the abacus at Danus Hardware; miss the vague distracted smile of Arthur Pillinger who, while surrounded by broken and discarded pieces of furniture, proudly sunned himself on winter mornings beneath his sign 'The Specialist. Miss

Stimson's where you could purchase powders for making your own wood stains and varnishes and they wouldn't take a cheque. Or a credit card. Or betray a trade secret. Miss seeing Don Rocavert, rollie in mouth, racquet in hand with his buggered knees bellowing 'finish your game' to social tennis players on the Rose Street courts.



Photo by Leigh Gemmell

While some things are missed, some things feel like they should stay forever – Victoria Road Smash Repairs; the Town Band; Ralph's Deli; Bray's Books; TJ's Meats [I still miss Mark O'Neil]; the Rowing Club; the sight of the peninsula's oldest living monument to bravery Tom Uren walking bolt upright, hat on head, on his way to the bus stop charming all with his gentle love of life; watching the enigmatic Joe without the vivacious Lydia dozing in the winter sun with a flower behind his ear; the constant queue in the Post Office; jazz and boisterous dancers spilling out of the Unity Hall on Sunday afternoons; people sipping coffee sitting on milk crates; Peter Kenny and Pater Cairus exploring opportunities over a sandwich on a table outside Le Bich; Georgie Parker

jogging along Birchgrove Road; Rachel Ward power walking in the opposite direction; Judy Davis hiding her genius under a floral hat languidly wandering on the pitch upon which the first game of Rugby League was ever played; former Mayor Carolyn Allen daydreaming with her dog with the floppy ear in Elkington Park; Dawn Fraser baths; Dawn herself running about with an energetic grandchild; Peter Cashman broadcasting the arcane mysteries of the Yanmar 2GM20 inboard diesel engine at the opening of an exhibition here at the Watch House; Gary Stavrou driving by the Police Station towing his boat while in his mind he's conducting the London Symphony Orchestra; Margaret Throsby sharing a joke at Ballast Point Park; the summer sun sparkling off the water in most directions; and people of all hues, all beliefs, all ages taking in the wonder of the walks through a landscape whose history is told in sandstone and toil and hardship. And while the old Balmain died, it went to Heaven. This is no ordinary suburb; it's a space that tells the story of the nation – the kangaroo hunting of the Eora people, the birth of the Labor Party – an industrious suburb and at all times a suburb that surprises, held together by the glue that is its history and its people.

David Liddle and Barbara Hamilton are now adding to that history with this exhibition of its people.

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BALMAIN FAVOURITES

An exhibition of photographs by David Liddle and Barbara Hamilton of Balmain people and places. Held in the Watch House, 9 December 2009 to 23 January 2010

This photographic exhibition observed and recorded the current life and environment of Balmain residents for the interest and enjoyment of the present and future generations. It was inspired by David Liddle's 1986 *The Balmain Book* (a collection of photographs of a fast disappearing group of Balmain residents) and the encouragement given to the Balmain Association by the National Trust to continue to record Balmain's life and times now and not just research its past. It is remarkable just how much Balmain has changed in a couple of decades.



Helen Jackson: Punch Gallery. Photo by David Liddle

The subjects in this exhibition do not "bare all" but then portraits tend not to (It is worth noting that there are no nudes in the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra!). They do however reveal much of their inner selves and Balmain by being photographed in their favourite environment. It seems clothing *maketh the man* (or woman) but that the environment *revealeth him* (or her).

What is surprising is the environment that each subject has chosen to be photographed in. I had imagined that subjects would make choices based largely on aesthetics (parks, stone cottages, harbour views, cafes rather than pubs, churches, streetscapes and the like) and I was concerned that too many would choose the Dawn Fraser Pool. However it was often the involvement in, intimacy of, or familiarity with an environment that appealed when choosing their home, garden or workplace. To others it was a place that brought back memories, a place shared with friends or a sanctuary. Couldn't this happen anywhere? What is so different about these environments in Balmain? Smallness, compactness, human scale, use of available space, creativity and limited resources were used in many of these favourites, and sometimes a scrounging make-do personality rather than a willingness to buy off-the-shelf perfection. These were very common Balmain characteristics but this is changing.

How was a representative group of Balmain residents found to participate? The short answer is they weren't. The participants are more representative of people (and their now adult children) who moved to Balmain in the 60s, 70s, and 80s than it is of other residents. These people were part of Balmain's change from a working class industrial suburb to a middle class residential one.

Balmain has again moved on and is becoming home to a more affluent demographic as, for instance, university students, teachers and artists move to more affordable accommodation (40% of Balmain residents are renting) and property owner retirees look for a sea or tree change, or succumb to the inevitabilities of time. What is being recorded here is a passing generation, an altered lifestyle, a disappearing value system and a changing phase in Balmain's continuing evolution. The temporary custodians of the local environment, having influenced and modified it in the way they saw fit are, in turn, passing it on to others to continue the process. The changes in Darling Street are an obvious indicator of this. Gone are the greengrocers, second-hand furniture stores, butcheries and milk bars and in their stead are frock shops, restaurants and cafes.



Peter Hicks: Glass House. Photo by Barbara Hamilton

Gone too are the students who came to Balmain for cheap accommodation. Going are the idealists who sought to save Balmain from the worst ravages of development and political intrigue, who saved the Watch House, lost Birchgrove House, saw off the ANL container terminal at Mort Bay, the chemical tank farm and coal loader at White Bay and formed organizations such as the Balmain Theatre Group, Music 2041 and the Balmain Association.

What is clearly evident is a love of Balmain but sometimes also a sadness to see some of the changes that are taking place.

Fergus Fricke

BALMAIN FAVOURITES

David Liddle adds

While cottage industries and butchers are gone, there are features we don't miss. These include the corrugated iron fronts of empty shops from the early 60's; and the relentless tedium of palings, iron and bitumen without a single blade of grass. These have given way to trees, shrubs, a variety of tree canopies and even designer gardens.

Former rubbish filled pavilions of posters and litter that sat on Victoria Road opposite Robert Street, is now a grand, green parade of magnificent Celtis trees. On the opposite corner, a formerly overgrown patch of dirt is now a green and quirky little park where you can sit and watch the traffic zip by.

And even though the "them & us" still applies when comparing Balmain dwellers to "Rest-Of-Sydney" there is a noticeable community spirit.

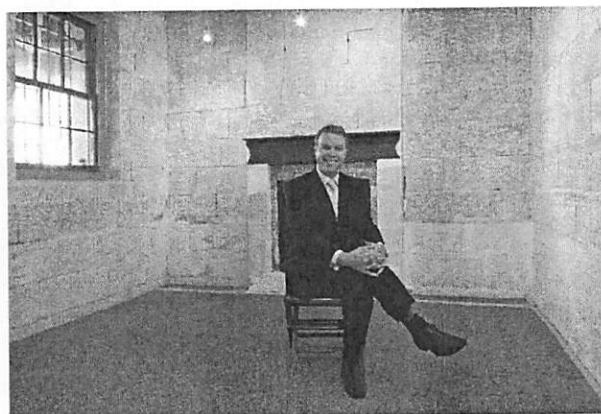
Perhaps it is the isolating peninsular geography or even just a legacy from blue-collar days, but community spirit does struggle on even today, strangled as it is by sky-high house prices or middle class pretension.

Photos can be purchased in two sizes by phoning David on 9810 8552.

David's next project is to incorporate the iconic photographs into a book on Balmain now. Ed



Irene Walls: studio
Garry Clubley: Yurulbin Point
Jamie Parker: Watch House
Photos by David Liddle



Balmain postcards, in colour, featuring Balmain entrances (\$5) and a Balmain panorama from the PO Tower (\$7), are available from the Watch House



GOOD PLACES

The four cornerstones of a good place are uses & activities, access & linkage, comfort & image and sociability.

Recently there is talk about the importance of rediscovering a sense of community that we somehow lost when we gave up time-honored habits and stopped frequenting the vital meeting places, the "good places," in our neighborhoods. People are discovering that unique places, once integral to people's everyday lives, are slowly but surely disappearing. Parks are no exception. Many parks no longer function as important places that capture the hearts of residents.

It was not always like this. In the past city residents, on their days off, left their "noisy, dirty day-to-day world in search of nature", but it was nature both connected to a recreational destination and with social activities. For example in Europe, many city-dwellers headed out for country walks on their day off to the "people's garden" which was a path lined with boisterous entertainment, including merry-go-rounds, dance music, and refreshment booths, leading to a larger recreational destination at the end. Artists of that period, like Impressionist painter Georges Seurat, showed people swimming while others walked along the promenade on the Grand Jatte, an island outside Paris.

In the United States, the promenades of seaside resorts and beaches such as Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York and Hoboken, New Jersey were lined with popular attractions such as food sellers, shooting matches, and horseshoe pitching. This focus on social and recreational activities and amusement in parks was supplanted by the great picturesque parks designed by Frederick Olmsted and others. Park officials discouraged loud activities in favor of leisurely strolls and appreciation of the beauties of nature in order to elevate people of 'lower classes' to imitate the behavior of 'middle class' park users.

Unfortunately, many of these same parks and their descendants are not well used today. In addition to the obvious lack of maintenance and funding, parks often lack the right combination of physical amenities and activities that make the park a magnet and an important place within a particular community. As people spend more and more time at work, at indoor health spas, and at malls they also share less time and fewer activities with their fellow residents and neighbors; resulting in the loss of a sense of community. With more people seeking recreational activities in malls and sports

arenas – self-contained structures, largely privately owned with ties only to their neighboring parking lots – parks have been left behind.

How can today's parks once again become important places in communities? Can, or should, the vitality of parks of the past be revived? We know that parks can provide serenity, calm vistas and an experience of nature, but shouldn't they also provide places for social activities? New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, both examples of the 19th century picturesque park, have evolved into very actively used parks and continue to attract people today. Last these two parks hosted roughly 30 million visitors who participated in a variety of activities ranging from jogging on trails, to bird-watching, to eating lunch and having a cup of coffee, to just doing nothing. Parks such as these have by no means stopped offering opportunities to contemplate natural beauty, but passive uses are balanced with areas that buzz with social activity.

"Project for Public Spaces" has found that a good place provides a range of things to do, is easy to get to and connected to the surrounding community, is safe, clean, and attractive, and, perhaps most important, is a place to meet other people. This model also provides a useful framework for evaluating parks as places.



Activities and Uses

What types of activities make parks community magnets? When a park provides a place for people to ice skate and also an area nearby where people can sit and talk, get warm and get something to eat or drink, its chances of becoming a good place are increased, simply because there are numerous things to do, attracting many different people. A good place should be regularly available so that people can rely on it when the chatting whim strikes. The Great Good Place by Ray Oldenburg identifies neighborhood spots that act as the glue of their communities, drawing people to them for companionship and relaxation. Examples might be a neighborhood bocce court in a park, a corner bar, a coffeehouse or a

playground; all are places characterized by popular informality. Their users can anticipate lively conversations with the 'regulars,' 'characters,' and other neighbors. According to Oldenburg, in good places every person is known for their social self, not as an employee or family member; roles, he says, that can make people feel like they are in straightjackets from which they long to escape. A good place also encourages people to 'sit and set a spell.' Being able to sit, converse or just look at passersby is the key.

Comfort and Image

Good details can tantalize; they signal that someone took the time and energy to design amenities that welcome, intrigue, or help. Design ideas include community bulletin boards, restrooms, shade trees, child-friendly niches, moveable seating and bike racks. Two thousand movable chairs are scattered on the lawn of Bryant Park in New York, transforming the park from a drug infested public space to a popular mid-town haven.

Access and Linkage

A good place is easy to see and easy to get to; people want to see that there is something to do, that others have been successfully enticed to enter. On the other hand, if a park is not visible from the street or the street is too dangerous for older people and children to cross, the park won't be used. The more successful a place is, the more the success will feed upon itself. Sometimes, if a place is really good, people will walk through it even if they were headed somewhere else.

Sociability

A sociable place is one where people want to go to observe the passing scene, meet friends, and celebrate interaction with a wide range of people that are different from themselves. Have you ever noticed how many enjoyable conversations you can have at a farmers' market or a flea market? People tend to have four and a half times more sociable talks with people in a market versus a supermarket. How can the builders and managers of today's parks learn more from other places such as markets about where and how social activity occurs?

In Conclusion

A good place is refreshing and rejuvenating; after you leave it, you feel better for having been there. Sometimes you can't miss a good place when you stumble upon it, for it has great beauty to beguile and recharge you. At other times, a good place works well not because of an aesthetic appeal but because it is neighbourly; it draws people in and enables them to relax companionably even though it might not look like much.

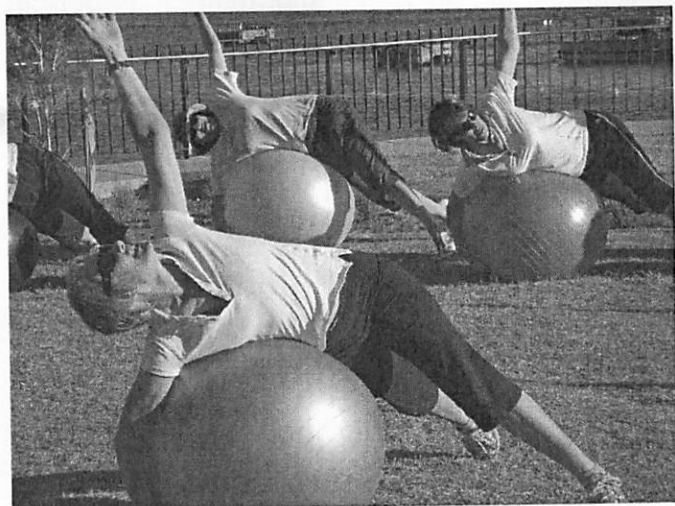
Reproduced in an abbreviated form from the website Projects for Public Spaces <http://www.pps.org>

Ballast Point Park – a scorecard on user likes and dislikes

If you go to Ballast Point Park early mornings and evenings, there are picnickers, walkers, runners, dog walkers, cyclists, barbequers, parents with strollers and young children and people just taking in the view. In the morning part of it is used by a fitball group. As yet there is no boot camp activity. Give the boot campers time and no doubt they will find the park for drill sessions.

During week days, especially in summer, park use tends to be sparse. On weekends the usage rises again, but depends largely on the heat.

The park was opened just over six months ago and The Observer considered it time to ask users what they liked and disliked about the park. An interesting range of responses were given.



Likes

Most people cite the view and the breezes as what they most like about the park, with its uninterrupted 270 degree view and a direct north facing outlook directly onto the Sydney Harbour bridge.

Women pushing strollers say they like the stroller-friendly paths and that young children could ride their tricycles on them.

They like the picnic areas, but were looking forward to the trees growing to provide more shade in summer.

People like the tiered headland replicating the bow of a ship, the exposed sandstone and that the rock surface is not totally covered with soil and turned into grassed parkland. There are other parks in the Balmain area – Elkington, Peacock Point and Mort Bay – which are predominantly grassy. They like that BPP is different.

They like the caged stones broken down from reclaimed rock which form walls in the park.

And they like that the surface is punctuated by reminders of the site's past industrial history, the grassed cylinder bases on the lower western level of the park and the rotunda and metal fuel tanks on the upper level. Several people said they like the history wall recalling the pre industrial residential history of the site.

Others point to the unique design of the park, its various levels and linked stairs and pathways that provide a surprise around every corner. The view from almost every angle and level is unbeatable. All said there is no comparison

to when it was an industrial site and there was no park access, and no one said they would have preferred to see residential buildings on the site.

Many commented on the choice of water wise plantings which are growing well on the western side of the park, but requiring more protection near the park entrance, particularly near the BBQ area, where they tend to get trampled.

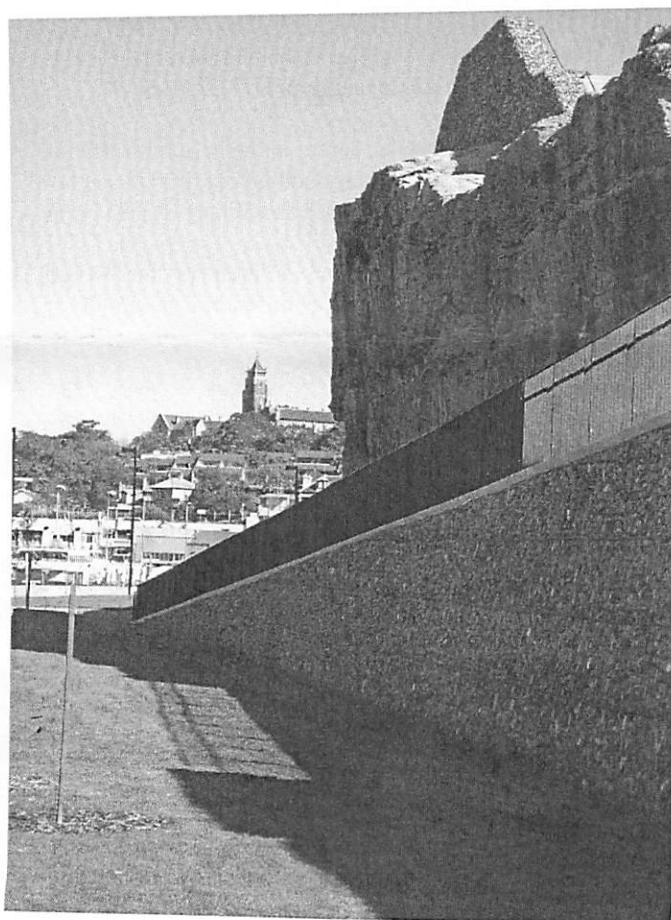
Dislikes and criticisms

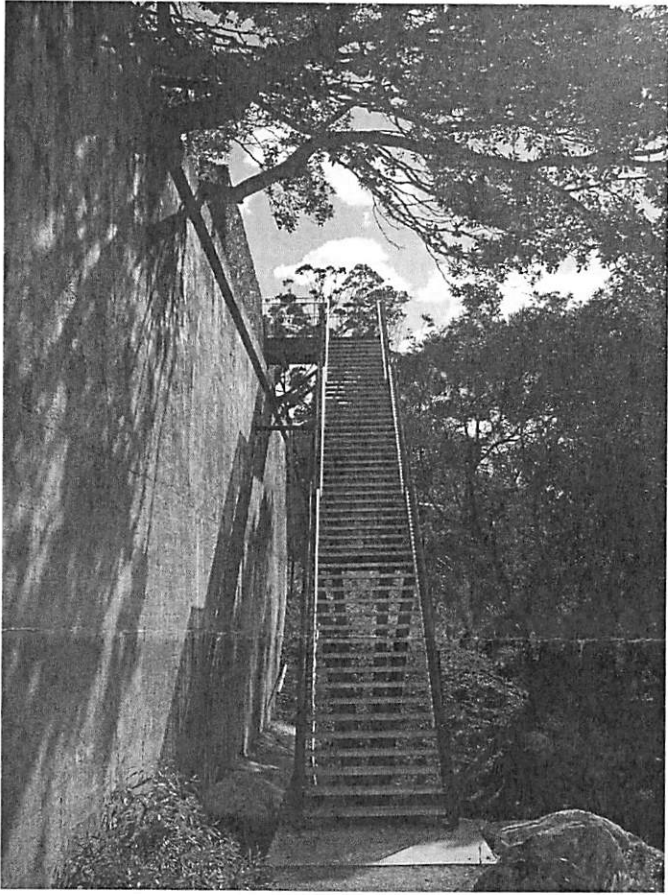
Originally residents living near the park expected to encounter parking problems on the weekend. Apart from New Year's eve and Australia day, parking has not turned out to be the problem that had been expected in Ballast Point Road, Yeend Street, Lemm Street and Wharf Road, with the exception of residents whose homes abutt the park and find they can't park their cars on weekends.

But noise and rubbish left behind picnickers are identified as negatives by several users. As is graffiti and broken glass.

Some residents living very near the park report that there is considerable noise from groups of young people partying and barbequing in the evenings and on weekends. The noise often goes into the night. There is also a build up of used paper plates and plastic cups thrown over the side of the BBQ area, although where rubbish is accessible, it tends to be picked up by other considerate park users and placed in bins.

Another criticism is that while there are ramps, there are not enough of them, leaving women with strollers and wheelchair users to struggle with steps in some areas.





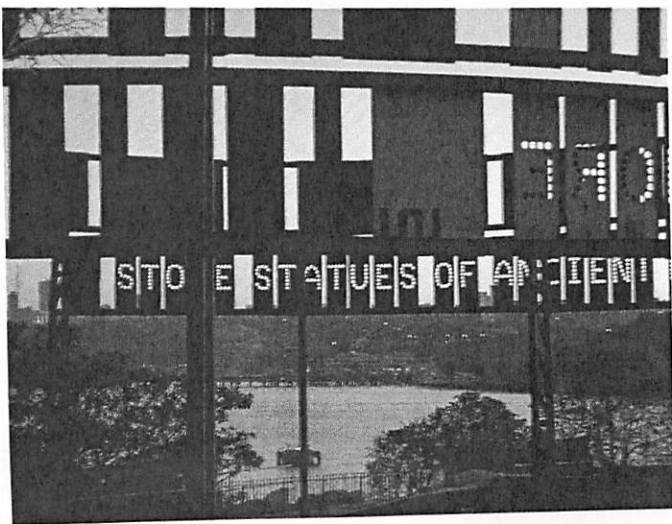
The positioning of the toilet block near Wharf Road is seen as too visually prominent and an eye sore to immediate resident.

There are no incremental ferry services to Thames St to allow public transport options.

One local resident says his garden hose is losing length every week as bits appear to be chopped off it for bongs. The hose didn't lose length before the park was opened.

Local residents also report a rise in hoon traffic on some nights and weekends as souped up car drivers see how fast they can do the Ballast Point Road/Wharf Road/Lemm Street loop.

Some parents with young children say they would like a playground area for young children or a sandpit to amuse their offspring while they picnic.



Several say the park looked a bit raw, exposed, bare and hot at present, but they expect plant maturation will soften it and the park to settle in as the trees grow. Local residents remember when Mort Bay Park was a sea of brown grass and trees struggling for foothold.

Some say they would have preferred a more traditional, grassed, flatter park.

On balance, there were more people with positive comments about the park than negative comments. But there is clearly room for improvement, particularly in relation to the late night noise and the planting of more mature trees so that shade will be available more quickly, protection of immediate resident parking and more frequent ferry services to Thames Street.

Update on Lang Walker's claim for compensation for being prevented from developing the site into a high-density residential area or as an industrial park.

Walker, through his company McRoss Developments in 1997 entered into an option agreement with Caltex to purchase the site for \$16.5 million.

The company paid a deposit which was refunded when the contract for sale was frustrated by the compulsory acquisition by the state government. Caltex received \$14.375 million in compensation and Walker turned down \$10.1 million.

Walker claimed that the site, based on obtaining residential rezoning, was worth \$60 million. This was based on the arithmetic of 138 units on the site, each valued at around \$600,000. Alternatively, he said it was worth at least \$33 million if it were redeveloped as an industrial site.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) reckoned the site was worth \$15.5 million, based on its worth for industrial use, arguing that there was never a residential zoning likely for the site.

A number of other valuations were offered to the court by SHFA ranging from \$11.3 million to a maximum of \$30 million if the court accepted that there was a chance for residential development to occur, but taking into account lower density and a discount for risk.

The battle over the Walker compensation has involved long and active court proceedings journeying twice to the NSW Land and Environment Court, twice to the Court of Appeal and once to the High Court before being returned to the NSW Land and Environment Court again last year.

Last Christmas eve, Judge Biscoe in that court determined that the value of the land was \$33.5 million and determined that compensation of \$17,055,138.50 be paid to Walker. This was based on \$33.5 million less \$16.5 million representing the cost of completing the contract of sale, and adding \$55,138.50 as compensation for disturbance costs incurred by Walker, who might be bemused that the judge got the figure right down to the last 50 cents. It's more than enough to pay for another luxury yacht in any case, not that Walker needs another.

But the residents say that the park is now there to be enjoyed by the community and visitors, instead of being a series of high-rise buildings gated, producing a lot of traffic every day.

Hopefully, the compensation judgement will mark the end of court fights over compensation for a battle that the community fought for 20 years.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Planning as it impacts on the Balmain area appears to be disarray to the extent that one could label it 'unplanning'.

1. **The Balmain Leagues Club** has submitted a Development Application (Reference D/2009352) to the Leichhardt Council. It calls for the demolition of all existing buildings, the construction of three residential apartment buildings of 6, 8 and 13 storeys and six basement levels which will provide, amongst other things, a car parking capacity for 594 cars.

There is no mention of the METRO terminus. The 600 cars will flow in and out of an area already at close to saturation level. Lululand planning.

2. **The Metro** – is it or isn't it going to happen? On TV on 18th January, the State Opposition leader said he would not go ahead with it. Premier Keneally said she would not comment until matters had been advanced. Apparently \$100 million has already been committed to preliminary works on what will be a \$5-\$6 billion undertaking.

3. **Bays Precinct** – no master plan has commenced, but the Bailey's re-fuelling site has been approved. But no work has commenced. No news has been released on the workings of the Taskforce and Cruise Passenger Terminal Steering Committee. The Premier announced on 20 December that a permanent cruise

passenger terminal will be built at White Bay Wharf 5 with a secondary berthing capability at Wharf 4. Good old style pubic consultation at work again.

If the Metro goes ahead, it is envisaged that it will have administrative and maintenance facilities in the area. No news again. No mention of the access road to James Craig Drive.

4. **Light Rail** – the extension to the Circular Quay and the one to Dulwich Hill is going to be part of a wider transport review according to this State government. Don't hold your breath.

5. **Callan Park** – on the 20 January, the Australian reported on the front page that 25% of all Australian troops serving overseas suffered some mental illness. Non-governmental community groups formed to help the mentally impaired (OUR PLACE and WHO to name two) are crying out for Callan Park hospital type facilities. What does the State government do about it? Nothing.

6. **Goat Island** – The committee formed to determine what is to be done on – and to – Goat Island has split on action to be taken.

One approach, championed by Paul Keating, wants most of the 20th century built structures removed as well as some of the 19th century ones too.



Shedding light on Goat Island

The other approach is to leave the island much as it is. John Morris is of this view and after his having discussed it with Councilor John Stamolis of Leichhardt Council the submission from Council has supported this view.

The Balmain Association supports the council's view as we would like it to be a working site as well as a recreational one.

For people who want to read more, the Management Plan is available on the NSW National Parks website at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/conservation/goatland.htm>

Roger Parkes

Should you wish to be sent a full colour electronic version of this newsletter and/or future newsletters please contact June at speal@zipworld.com.au

A New Editor for The Observer

After a year as editor of the Observer, Christina Ritchie has decided to step down to concentrate on her many other interests and activities. Christina has done a wonderful job of recording the activities of the Association and the history of Balmain, keeping members informed and setting agendas for the Association to address. Thank you Christina for your time and energy.

As the new editor I intend to build on Christina's strengths and ensure that the Observer continues to remain engaged with the local community and to keep it up to date on issues of interest and importance to members. The best publications are built on input from their readers and so I invite you to send your ideas and articles on topics of local interest, be they heritage and planning issues, architecture, gardens, local community events, community welfare, artists' exhibitions, park usage and improvements, car parking changes, pets, indeed any items of interest that you, as readers, think that the Balmain Association should engage.

Please email me on your thoughts, ideas, contributions to anneliese@ozemail.com.au I look forward to working with you.

Anneliese Parkes

Biennial Balmain Association Spring Garden Walks on Saturday 18 September 2010

Are you interested in looking over the back fence at local gardens? Join our Spring Garden Walks and you will be able to come through the front gate! Once again some of the gardens in Balmain and Birchgrove are being opened to the public. A varied collection of gardens will be showcased. Maps and information about the gardens and interesting streetscapes along the way will be provided.

Members' Meeting

Date: Wednesday 7 April

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Balmain Watch House

Agenda: Association members are invited to attend to discuss issues of interest and concern with the Committee and to view videos held by the Association including one of an interview with Philip Coxall, the designer of Ballast Point Park.

What's on at the Watch House

For further information see <http://balmainassociation.org.au>

MARCH

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21, 10am – 4pm
"Common Ground"

A collaborative exhibition that gives voice to our collective experience as women – the experiences we share regardless of creed, race or culture. Many women chart similar patterns in life. Although the works range from abstract to representational, the viewer will experience a sense of recognition - "I understand this", "I've been there".

Opening Fri 19th March, 6-8 pm

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28, 10.00 am to 4.30 pm
"Ways of seeing"

After a recent successful exhibition in Rozelle, Kristine Pedler, Margie Carew-Reid and Lynne Sung have come together once again for this exhibition. There will be a variety of small and larger works including landscapes, still life and botanical works. Opening 6 – 8pm on Friday 26 and all are welcome.

APRIL

National Trust Heritage Festival The Making of Our Nation

"... our future is not as a penal colony ...but a free settlement"

Governor Macquarie

2010 will mark the 200th anniversary of Governor Lachlan Macquarie's 12 year tenure as the 5th Governor of the colony of New South Wales. He was sworn in on 1 January 1810.

Governor Macquarie made an outstanding and extensive contribution to the growth of the State of New South Wales and his many legacies endure. He is widely recognised as being responsible for transforming the new colony from a penal settlement to a flourishing society. This was ultimately achieved through his visionary leadership and a public works program: the building of churches, schools, hospitals, roads and banks. He also initiated newspapers, agricultural developments, racing and sporting carnivals, festivals, celebrations and institutions.

Saturdays 3, 10, 17 & 24 April 11.30am – 4pm

"Balmain Workers Help Make Our Nation"

An exhibition of Balmain workers, past and present, helping to make our nation.

Sunday 11 April 10am – 2pm

"Balmain Workers Help Make Our Nation"

Cruise the sites where Balmain Workers (past and present) helped make our nation. Enjoy lunch on one of our former working islands. Wheelchair access limited. \$35 per person includes light lunch and refreshments. Bookings Essential 9810 6885 (see also booking form enclosed)

Saturday 17th April 1:30 to 3:30pm

Coach tour of the former industrial sites of Mort's Dock, Caltex, National Box Co., Balmain Power Station and Unilever. Return to the Watch House for afternoon tea and to view photographic exhibition. **Meet at the Watch House at 1.30pm.** Cost \$10.

Bookings essential Kathleen 9818 4954 (see also form enclosed)

Wednesday 14 April 6:00 for 6:30pm

Heritage Group of Leichhardt District

Book Launch of "Heritage Walks in the Leichhardt Shire"

Leichhardt Library, 23 Norton St

HGOLD has published the book with a grant from the Leichhardt Council and has a comprehensive set of walks over the entire municipality. Wheelchair access. Parking available.

Free but bookings essential 9519 3268

2010 National Trust Heritage Festival

The theme of this year's festival is The Making of Our Nation and it will be celebrated with events across metropolitan and regional NSW from Friday 9 April to Saturday 24 April. The Balmain Association has participated in each festival, now in its 30th year. More information at www.nationaltrust.com.au

MAY

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2, 10am-5pm
"Wall by Wall"

The OKAPI group presents their most recent work. The artists are pursuing their own themes and styles which will create an interesting and diverse range of artworks for viewing. All artworks will be for sale.

Opening Friday 30 April 2010 6pm-8.30pm with refreshments
 Everyone is welcome.

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9, 10.00am - 5.00pm
The Illawarra Collective

A collection of Paintings, Prints and Drawings by local artists in the Illawarra.

Opening Friday 5.30pm-8.30pm all welcome

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16, 10.00am - 5.00pm
Exhibition by 6+

Diane O'Dwyer, Roma Devjak, Heather Kepski, Harriet Loneragan, Carlie Lopez, Wendy Lowe, Michael O'Keefe and Lynne Sung return for another exciting art opening. This group of artists, known as 6+, are well known for creating diverse, contemporary images and they will be displaying their latest paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures in this exhibition.

Opening Friday 14 from 6pm to 9pm All welcome

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23, 10.00am - 4.00pm
"To Watch from Umbra"

Working to understand the contradictions and different perceptions of beauty and life evident in our inconsistent society.

Opening night Friday 21 6-9pm

Everyone is welcome for canapés and champagne for the opening night

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Robyn Ross Exhibition: No information available

JUNE

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 (Long weekend)

Watch House available for hire

History Room will be open 11.30am to 3pm



Photo by Penny Alexander

2010 Balmain Association Committee Members from left: Val Hamey, Roger Parkes, Kathleen Hamey, John Symonds (Treasurer), Christina Ritchie, June Lunsman (Secretary), Jane Ward (President), Diana Garder (Vice President), Carolyn Allen and Fergus Fricke. Absentees: Rita Ellis, George Cooper, Anne Bastock.

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 11:30am – 3:00pm.

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Our Web site:

<http://balmainassociation.org.au>

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

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