



The Peninsula OBSERVER

the of the Balmain Association PO Box 57•Balmain•NSW•2041
www.balmainassociation.org.au

Vol 51 No 4 Issue 341

Founded November 1965

December 2016

President's Report October 2016 - Carolyn Allen

After the Association's 50 year Celebrations last year we have had a relatively routine year at the Watch House however with the abolition of Leichhardt Council and merger with Ashfield and Marrickville to form the Inner West Council (IWC) in May this year I am afraid that achieving some of our aims will be significantly more challenging in the future.

The aims "to improve the living, working and recreational amenities of our area and to maintain all features having natural, architectural and or historical value of the area..." rely very much on being able to work cooperatively with Council. Over the 50 years of our Association all will be well aware of the work members have done with Council in the development of planning controls and in all heritage aspects. In May all council committees were abandoned, including Precinct Committees which many attended and committees managing community facilities but also the Planning and the Heritage Committees, important to us in fulfilling our aims. 'Open Council' has also been abandoned.

The IWC has now called for expressions of interest from community members for seven Reference Groups to be in place until after the proposed Council elections September 2017. The Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group will have 15 community people representing the almost 200,000 residents. With Heritage as part of overall Planning and considering the very different histories of the 3 previous councils it is very difficult to see how effective members can be in influencing outcomes and preserving the character of our neighbourhoods. When you consider that we have had Kathleen Hamey, June Lunsmann and Christina Ritchie attending the Heritage Committee just for Leichhardt with 60,000 residents you can see why I am most concerned.

We are also aware of at least one case which gives reason to be worried about our Heritage controls. IWC has submitted a DA for the demolition of the kiosk at Elliot St Wharf. Whilst the original has been greatly altered it is still there,

in a heritage conservation area and of significant social and historical importance due to its links to World Heritage Site of Cockatoo Island. The application has been submitted without a heritage study of any kind or reference to heritage. It is an incident of an important principle being disregarded at a time when we are under administration and with no real representation. NB since our AGM the DA for demolition has been withdrawn so we will wait to see what happens.

I apologise for my little rant and turn to the positive issues of our work. Our Archives group has continued to meet each Tuesday morning and the Watch House is now open then for visitors then as well as on Saturdays. This group is an example of the strength of our members as really only one regular member, Ross Mackenzie, is a part of our Management Committee. Kathleen Hamey stood down from the Committee as did Andrew West and they, along with Jenny Longbottom, have undertaken the research for our history enquiries, most of the preparation for our exhibitions, articles for the newsletter as well as the archival work through the year. Jenny Longbottom has also done a wonderful job in putting all issues up to 2012 of the The Peninsula Observer onto our web site. Other interested members are very welcome to contribute in their areas of interest, you don't need endure meetings to be involved!

The *Then and Now* exhibition, reshowed in December /January displayed photographs from our collection along with more recent images and invited observers to identify what is different and reflect on how that has changed the experience of living in Balmain. Jennifer Porter's drawings of houses were also included and these were of great interest to an audience of new residents living in those houses and streets. For The National Trust Heritage Festival - *Discoveries and Rediscoveries* in April an exhibition *Discovering People and Houses of Balmain* had three themes of the past, *Rediscovering Balmain's Lost Houses*, *Remembering the 1500* (Discovering Balmain's Lost Heroes from the Great War) and *Discovering the People of Balmain*. We showed a video from 1973 which featured well known

Committee for 2017

Carolyn Allen – President

Di Garder – Secretary

John Symonds – Treasurer

Ross MacKenzie, Leo White, June Lunsmann, Helen Carter, Duncan MacAuslan and Christina Ritchie

Appointment of Auditor – Stuart Cameron at KS Black for 1 yr.

Appointment of Public Officer – Malcolm Garder nominated and declared elected.

members Bill Haesler and Robert Irving as well as many local advocates which prompted fond memories for many. Our most recent exhibition for History Week in September, themed *Neighbours*, featured the stories of individuals and families and their communities and connections to local sporting clubs, schools and churches. It included 'growing up in Balmain' stories of a number of members and local residents.

These exhibitions and many of our other activities relate to work in preserving history and interesting and educating others to do so. Our maintenance group, Leo White and John Symonds with others assisting at times, do much to ensure the Watch House is kept in good order. We removed the retaining wall at the rear of the Watch House early in the year which enabled our neighbour to install a damp course and it seems a little more work needs to be done on the boundary. I am very appreciative of the work John Symonds has done on this and the Association is also very thankful for the work Gerry Hayes from The National Trust has done and is continuing to do.

Contd on page 3.

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 1 President's Report, committee for 2017
- P. 2 Planning Matters
- P. 3 Balmain Peninsula Transport History
- P. 4 & 5 Birchgrove 200th Anniversary
- P. 6 Parks, Trees and Views
- P. 7 Other happenings, Back to Balmain Day, Community Exhibitions, Neighbours Exhibition
- P. 8 What's on at the Watch House, Book Launch *Balmain Transport*, 2017 Australian Heritage Festival

Planning Matters – Christina Ritchie

Development former Tigers Site, refusal – Earlier development proposals for the former Balmain Leagues Club site were refused in 2010 by the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP). Then in 2014, 24-storey towers were refused by the Planning Assessment Commission. In 2015 another application was lodged with the JRPP for one 12-storey and one 10-storey tower plus a large supermarket and specialty store. The developer chose to take this application to the Land and Environment Court. The court has refused the application on the basis of traffic and parking issues, and the impact upon local business and environment as a result of the design and size of the proposed development. There are no further proposals under consideration

Councillor and Community participation IWC (Inner West Council) – there will no longer be local meetings of LRAC – the new advisory group of ex-councillors. All meetings will be held jointly at Ashfield Town Hall. Members of the Balmain Association Committee and membership have applied to participate in the proposed IWC Planning and Heritage Committee. Places are limited.

Balmain Telephone Exchange (BTE) – Telstra has submitted a Pre-DA to IWC for the demolition of the front of the Balmain Telephone exchange and is now preparing its DA. The IWC has retained a landscape architect to design the public space to be created when the front of the BTE is demolished. The person is David Vago who designed the Darling Street entry to Rozelle Public School and Loyalty Square. David is preparing a couple of concept options which will be used to start community consultation later this month.

Fenwick's store DA approved, amended, Aug 2016 – Administrator Richard Pearson has approved the amended plans for Fenwick's store on the condition closing times be reduced from 7pm to 5pm. Mr Pearson believes the reduced hours would "assist to alleviate some of the night time parking issues." Tenders are now being called for the construction of the fitout works – estimated to cost ratepayers \$2 million. The restaurant will be able to seat 80-100 persons. The approved plans include public toilet facilities, a new access path and the planting of 15 native trees. The latest Inner West Council meeting passed the Expression of Interest for a café operator to take a 5 year lease on Fenwick's Store. Potential operators are invited to show how they would allow use of the gallery space beyond the minimum

lease requirement, provide information to guests about Balmain and its attractions and allow access to the heritage building for those not necessarily wanting a meal/drink.

Restaurant Elliott St redevelopment – the proposal by the IWC to demolish the café/restaurant at 107 Elliott St has been withdrawn. Balmain Association members and others objected to the demolition on the basis of Heritage significance related to the former use of the building as a cafe for workers waiting to go out to Heritage listed Cockatoo Island.

White Bay Power Station - Tech giant Google and the Baird government have entered direct negotiations to redevelop the White Bay Power Station as a tech centre.

Goat Island – The NSW government is taking steps to return Goat Island, known by the traditional owners as Me-mel, to the Aboriginal people, and has established a working group to establish how management of the island can be handed over. There are a number of Heritage items on the Island that will need to be protected under any new management of the Island.

WestConnex – construction is underway and some home owners and residents of Victoria Rd Rozelle have been notified that their homes will soon be acquired for the later stages of the project which include a tunnel under Rozelle in the vicinity of Victoria Rd. Concerns continue regarding the inadequate level of compensation for affected home owners. The recent offer of a potential extra \$50,000 does not appear to fully compensate owners of compulsorily acquired property.

Bus turning circle East Balmain- Major construction at the Balmain East transport interchange is now complete, with the new bus turning circle, accessible ramps and stairs opened on Saturday 24 September 2016. Landscaping and finishing works are being undertaken.

Glebe Island exhibition centre closed – The final exhibition closed on 20 September. The venue is now officially closed. The temporary exhibition centre operated from 2014 when the exhibition centre at Darling harbour was closed and demolished. Thousands of visitors travelled to the centre at Glebe Island by ferry. Exhibitions will return to the new centre at Darling Harbour.

WB Cruise Terminal– The State member for Balmain, Jamie Parker, reported that the Minister for the Environment, Mr Speakman has reached an in-principle agreement with the two major cruise

ship companies, Royal Caribbean and Carnival Australia, for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor their voluntary agreement not to burn high-sulphur fuel while at berth. This follows a realisation that Federal regulations take precedence over State regulations governing pollution from Cruise ships. The Federal government needs to re-amend the Federal laws on pollution from ships, so that the EPA can once again enforce the regulations it passed on burning low-sulphur fuel at berth as well as in the harbour. A long term solution to the pollution emitted by cruise ships while at berth in White Bay is to retrofit the terminal with shore to ship power. The NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the White Bay project recommended the introduction of shore power, and it is best practice in the northern hemisphere, where many ports have already introduced it.

IWC Independent Planning Panel– The Inner West Council has created an independent hearing and assessment panel to make independent determinations on development (and related) applications that are referred to it. All decisions made by the Panel are final.

Air BNB – A Parliamentary committee review has been conducted on Airbnb in New South Wales. The review concluded that Sydney ranked in the top 10 Airbnb destinations. If the recommendations of the review are followed, investors who rent out an empty property for short stays will need to abide by a code of conduct and seek council approval, with a threshold for when an empty property may be exempt from this process. The Committee also proposed empowering Councils to act on so called 'party houses' and give strata bodies the opportunity to ensure the amenity and security of their properties.

Ferry services to White Bay Ship Terminal – Captain Cook Cruises are operating a ferry service between King St Wharf Darling Harbour and the White Bay Cruise Terminal for cruise passengers. There would seem to be a valid case for the introduction of a service between the CBD and White Bay for the general public given the increased population in the local area, congestion on roads and inadequacy of current public transport options.

Draft 'District Plans' by Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) – On Nov 21st the GSC is due to release the draft District Plans for Sydney. The draft plans will be on exhibition until March 2017. Once approved, the plans will inform changes to Local Environmental Plans, as well as revisions to the 'metropolitan plan'.

Balmain Peninsula Transport History - Duncan MacAuslan

“They say that you wait ages for a bus and then two come at once. For me that seems to be the case with writing books. In December two of my transport history projects come to fruition; one on Balmain and the other on Sydney’s horse buses.”

Balmain’s transport history is fascinating including ferries, trams, railways, horse and motor buses. From the early days when watermen rowed residents from Millers Point to wharves at the east end of the peninsula. As the population grew the watermen formed a ferry company under the control of the Perdriau family which in the 1880s became the Balmain Steam Ferry Company providing services to wharves on both the north and south sides of the peninsula.

The National Library’s *Trove* collection of digitised newspapers has enabled all historians to search newspapers online; much easier to search than the laborious method of reading microfiches where it was easy to miss important news items. Consequently, the story of the various ferry companies is now much more complete and accurate than previously. Clearly the residents of the peninsula were as active then as now in holding protest meetings and advocating for improvements in services and cheaper fares. Local residents were advocates for a penny ferry and many local residents invested in the Balmain New Ferry Company which eventually acquired the older company.

Concerned at the State’s seeming disinterest in Balmain’s local transport the Balmain Council was unique in promoting a cable tramway along Darling Street although after twenty years nothing came to pass and the steam trams eventually connect Balmain and Rozelle to the city by land.

There were many other plans for transport solutions which never came to pass such as bridges to the city of which the Goat Island Bridge was the most fanciful. Other proposals included a railway to coal loaders along Long Nose Point and an underground railway along the length of Darling Street. Had any of these been constructed the peninsula would be completely different to the one we know well.

Trams, horse buses, and private motor buses also served the suburb and eventually left us with the government bus and ferry services we use today. All these stories are covered in my book *Balmain Peninsula Transport History* published by the Balmain Association with the financial assistance of Cobden and Hayson.

The second book, *Ryle’wy*, tells the story of Sydney’s horse bus industry which provided the city’s first public transport in the 1840s and reached its peak in the 1880s when the Sydney Tramway and Omnibus Company operated over 250 buses across the city, but never to Balmain. The title is the cry of drivers touting for business to the old Redfern railway station. Horse buses lasted into the early twentieth century when the Government’s electric tram system forced them out of business.

I hope you enjoy reading either, or both, of these books. Both will be available at the Watch House from 10 December.



Goat Island Bridge proposal

- *Balmain Peninsula Transport History*, Balmain Association price tba
- *Ryle’wy*, Transport Australia Publishing, RRP \$59.95

President’s report contd from page 1

I am also appreciative of members Rita Ellis for her continued regular assistance in maintenance and for Margaret Bailey for looking after the gardens – neither on the Management Committee, just willing members.

We also have our quarterly newsheet, *The Peninsula Observer* which June Lunsman puts together, often needing to chase stories. Andrew West has penned stories and others have contributed regularly but don’t forget to let us know if you have a story to tell. June also manages the bookings for the Watch House and we would be lost without this income and I thank her for this work.

Indeed, I am indebted to all our Management Committee for their work. John Symonds for being Treasurer, Diana Garder for being Secretary, and Ross Mackenzie for Memberships and many other necessary tasks, but also to Christina Ritchie, Duncan MacAuslan and Helen Carter for their work during the year. Several members retired at last year’s AGM, Margaret Bailey, Andrew West and Kathleen Hamey, and happily they have all continued their work. I would like to give Kathleen our special sincere thanks for her long term passionate and dedicated work.

We also said ‘vale’ to two long term members last year. Debby Nicholls who died in May received one of our Inaugural Life Membership Awards in 2014 and was a most revered and much loved member and Iris Ellicombe who was a continuing member for 50 years who died at 102.

Thank you all. Carolyn Allen.



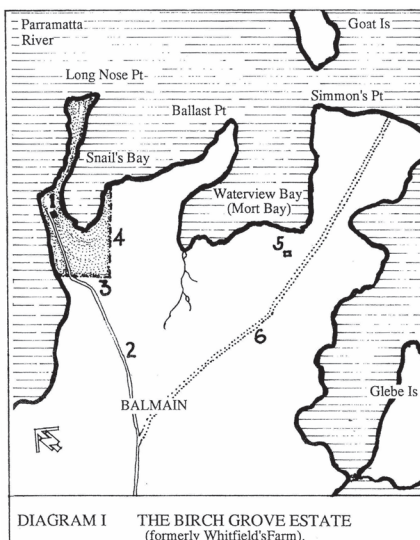
Perdriau built ferry Leipoa at East Balmain, Balmain Association Collection.

Birchgrove's 220th Anniversary September 2016

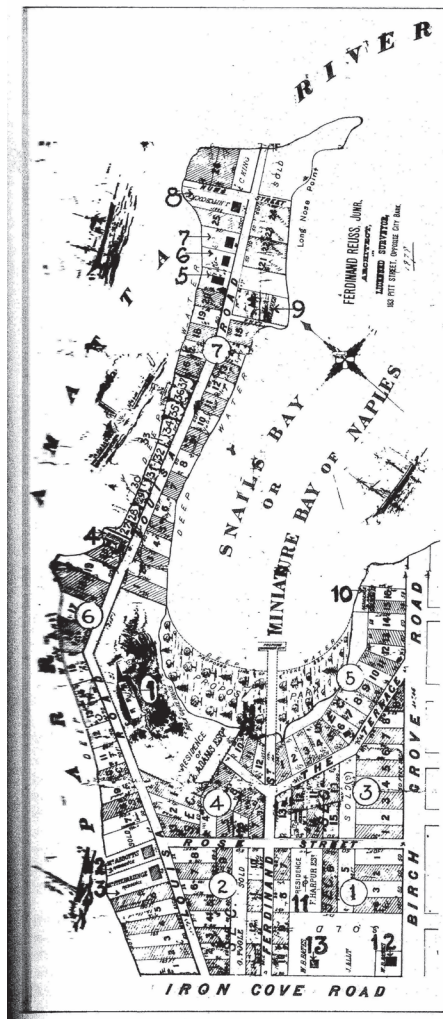
from 30 acres to 60 hectares - from the archives

In September 1796 Private George Whitfield, of the NSW Corps, was granted 30 acres of land including Yurulbin Point and an adjacent area of Snail's Bay. Whitfield was required to live on the land for a period of four years while "improving" the land by clearing, cultivating and erecting fences upon it.

Whitfield sold the farm in 1800 to a Mr Knight who then sold it to Captain Edward Abbott of the NSW Corps in 1806. Abbott returned to England after being discredited for his role in the Rum Rebellion. Shortly before his departure he sold the 30 acres to Lieutenant John Birch of the 73rd regiment. Birch added the word "Grove" in reference to its orange trees and Birch Grove House was built circa 1810, the first house to be built on what later became known as the Balmain Peninsula.



In March 1814 Sydney merchant, Rowland Walpole Loane purchased the property, including Birch Grove House. Loane later attempted to sell off the property, and commissioned surveyors, Hallen and Knapp to divide the estate into four lots. Receiving no offers Loane returned to England in September 1833. Five years later he succeeded in selling the house and its 30 acres to Captain John McLean, the superintendent of convicts. McLean mortgaged the property to a syndicate of developers in 1841. By 1844, his interest in the estate had been forfeited. The mortgagees resold



The Reuss Subdivision

the estate to another syndicate of Bloxsome, Todd and Icton. With the death of Todd, Bloxsome and Icton became joint owners in July 1850. The property was again sold in 1854, to Henry Watson Parker and then transferred in the same year to Didier Numa Joubert.

Joubert's subdivision plans established the layout of Birchgrove's modern streets. These were named after the Joubert family. Birch Grove house was retained with its expansive waterfront views and terraced gardens. After a period of financial instability, Joubert forfeited Birchgrove to the Bank of NSW. The bank took over the sale of residential lots selling 23 between 1864 -1877. A syndicate of three businessmen (McLean, McGregor and Threlkeld) purchased the remaining properties in 1878. New subdivision plans were subsequently advertised, promising the formation

of a recreation ground, park and public jetty. This proved popular with prospective purchasers.

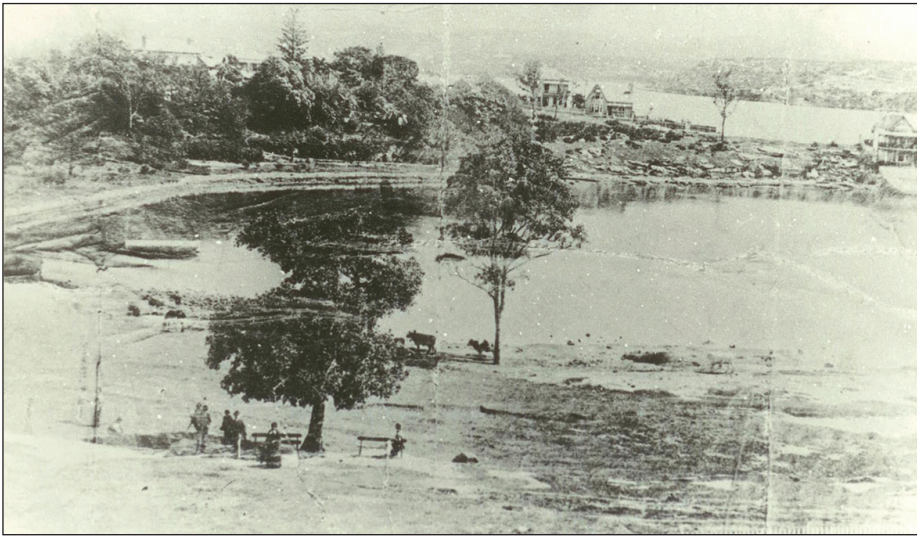
It must be noted that these early subdivision plans are similar to what is there today, 2016, but with the oval being reclaimed and further subdivisions of properties along Louisa Rd.

The Crown also took an active role purchasing 36 allotments to form the Birchgrove Recreation Ground. The Birchgrove Park Trust, was established in 1882. The first trustees were Messers Albert Elkington, Quarton Levitt Deloitte, John Booth, George Clubb, Edward Harman Buchanan, Charles Phillips and Jacob Garrard, MP and they set in place plans to reclaim Snail's Bay mud flats so that a flat area could be made to play cricket. Other amenities and improvements were soon added. Filling from the Sutherland Dock excavation on Cockatoo Island was used in the reclamation of the mud flats. A large portion was steadily reclaimed from 1886 and a rough dyke wall to support the oval was begun in 1887. By 1904 this work was completed.

In 1908 the Balmain Tigers played their first game of Rugby League and the Oval was the Tiger's home for many years. The sandstone wall dates from 1900.



Edward Harman Buchanan Architect
Alderman 1884-1890 Mayor 1888-1889
Chairman Birchgrove Park Trust



Snails Bay circa 1890 - Balmain Association Archives.

Some twenty years later the park was catering to tennis players and sports spectators with the building of tennis courts and a pavilion.

The Trust, under guidance of Edward Buchanan, continued with improvements to the park but the trustees finally resigned in 1948 due to lack of funding. Control then went to Leichhardt Council. Edward Buchanan died in 1943 but in 1942 Balmain Council had honoured him by naming

the path from the gates at the back of the pavilion to the gates of the ground, Buchanan Avenue.

Peter Carey set his book Oscar and Lucinda, at Birchgrove House. The historic house was demolished in 1967 to make way for a block of units. There was great local protest. The only good that came out of the demolition was that the newly formed Balmain Association's membership soared. We have been told that when

the demolition began locals removed many artifacts and garden cuttings. Since the 1970s Birchgrove's position on a peninsula with dress-circle harbour and city skyline views has resulted in property prices becoming some of Sydney's most expensive. The suburb has grown so developers/real estate agents can take advantage of the prestigious name Birchgrove

In 1974, I moved from Grove St Birchgrove to Ballast Point Road Balmain. Even though we have not moved we now live in Birchgrove.

References

- LHJ No. 15 Suburbanization of Birchgrove, Peter Reynolds 1986
- BA walk for National Trust 21/3/2010



Birchgrove the suburb today according to Google.

Birchgrove Bicentenary September 1996

On 15th September 1996 the suburb of Birchgrove turned 200. As the oldest on the Balmain Peninsula this was a cause for celebration.

So with great fanfare a weekend of celebrations followed fundraising events beforehand: the bottling of Birchgrove Port and a House and Garden tour. There was a Commemorative Service at St John's Church with the bell ringers tolling 200 peals on Sunday 15th.

The weekend started with a Colonial Dance at Balmain Town Hall on

Saturday 21st followed by the Bicentenary Picnic on Sunday 22nd with bands, Morris Dancing, food-tasting from local restaurants and a display of memorabilia at Rose St school. Highlights of the day were the Tug-of-War intensely battled with the Police Boys winning, and the Bicentenary Sailing Race attracting 25 boats. Read more about this in the The Peninsula Observer October/November 1996 at

[www.balmainassociation.org.au /](http://www.balmainassociation.org.au/) newsletters - June Lunsmann.



Families enjoying the colonial dance at Balmain Town Hall

The Birchgrove Subdivision: A Search Plan Stephen W. South

This was a new publication to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Birchgrove Grant.

It is a starting point for any search into the history of your land and contains information about the early subdivisions and ownership of the early lots. When searching you'll find the ownership details of your land through the title system. Unfortunately registration was not compulsory but when individual blocks were converted to Torrens Title every further transaction required registration. Residents other than the owner can be established through leases shown on the title at the Land Titles Office or lists in the Sands Street Directory. See "Using the Sands Directory" by Andrew West in the June 2016 edition of the Peninsula Observer.

The Birchgrove subdivision is available at the Watch House \$5
Happy searching.

Parks, Trees, Views and Houses - Fergus Fricke

While there are many people who value trees for their beauty, shade, dust filtering, oxygen production, fauna attraction, carbon dioxide reduction and peacefulness to name a few there are people who don't appreciate trees.

I first came across a "tree-free" environment believer when I moved to Balmain in 1974. Balmain at that time was virtually treeless and had been at least since 1909 when Charles Kerry took panoramic photographs from the top of the post office tower. One of the first things I did on moving in was to supplement the weeds only pocket-handkerchief sized "front yard" with a tree sapling. This was against the recommendation/advice/direction of my 85 year old neighbour and longtime Balmain resident, Mrs Carpenter, who lived in a cottage with a rammed earth floor and tiny concrete back and front yards*. When I asked why I should not plant trees I was told it was because they drop leaves. I ignored Mrs C's advice and a few years later when the eucalypt had doubled its height every year I recognized my foolishness as I had chosen the wrong eucalypt and that it not only dropped leaves which had to be regularly cleaned out of the second-storey gutters but it dropped branches as well, some of which damaged cars in the street and others which damaged the house.

While that tree has gone I learned my lesson and planted other trees that were more appropriate in size, safety and leaf-dropping capability. Meanwhile Balmain became a more desirable suburb to live in and tree-planting flourished in gardens, streets and in the new parks such as Illoura Reserve and Mort Bay, Ballast Point and Yurulbin Parks that some of the 1960s and 70s gentrifiers fought so hard for, besides saving and restoring buildings such as The Watch House, Clontarf Cottage and their own houses. Native birds and animals returned and displaced the sparrows that were about the only birds that could survive in Balmain's treeless environment.

In the 1990s the original gentrifiers began being replaced in the way they had replaced the working class Balmain residents. Many of the new wave of "immigrants" had more money, desires and other ideas about

how to improve Balmain that included increasing the size of the houses they bought, adding garages and obtaining harbor views. Trees hampered all of these and while it did the trees became bigger and the Council, recognizing the importance of trees in an urban environment, became more determined to preserve them despite the efforts of Ausgrid and tree sceptics to do otherwise. Policies were adopted on what to do when trees were removed, damaged or poisoned and on how to improve biodiversity in the municipality. These policies cover private as well as public land (but are not always applied for reasons one can only speculate on) and included replacing poisoned trees with a fabric covered structures of a similar size and educating residents about the importance of trees for moderating environmental extremes of temperature, humidity, rainfall, dust and wind.

In September this year official notices were attached to the boundary fences of Mort Bay Park giving notice of the intention of the Inner West Council to replace large coastal banksias with a dwarf variety, effectively destroying the understory and the wildlife corridor that had been created a few years earlier. Park users objected and another unofficial looking notice was locked onto a fence in Mort Bay Park stating, "A view for a few = the park with no trees", before it was painted over and later removed. The temporary notice expressed a view I agree with (if you hadn't already

suspected) but one I would have expressed as, "A park without trees is backward; it is krap".

Given the number and position of trees that have been poisoned and vandalized on the western side of the park there is reasonable circumstantial evidence that some local residents have taken matters into their own hands. While this action may give a temporary view of city buildings and the harbour bridge more action will be required on large and still maturing trees further into the park if Sydney's constantly changing skyline is to remain in sight. While those trees are removed perhaps the southern approach to the Sydney Harbour Bridge could also be removed so that we can see the Sydney Opera House as well.

With these views and actions of residents and park users it is difficult to see a solution and easy to see why Council Officers are reluctant to act. While officers are required to carry out motions passed by Leichhardt Council, one of which included the removal of the coastal banksias in Mort Bay Park, that would also require ignoring policies previously passed by Council. These include the biodiversity policy and the tree preservation policy. There is one solution which may be acceptable and that is to gradually replace some of the banksias with trees that would allow a view beneath or through the canopies. Angophoras would be one species that might be used sparingly.

The Inner West Council have been saddled with the job of placating at least two parties with radically different views on what constitutes a beautiful view and an ideal park.



Dead trees in Mort Bay and views through mature trees at Peacock Point

Other happenings during the last 3 months.....

Back to Balmain Day 2016

Again a most successful day and good weather. Organisers felt that numbers may have been down on previous years particularly those who usually travel from the central coast but the crowd seemed as large as ever with many newer residents attending.

The entertainment began with the Honeybrook Dancers who performed to much applause to be followed by the Birchgrove School Band and then the Leichhardt Celebrity Brass Band. There was much interest from adults and children in the rowing machines set up by the Balmain Rowing Club who again did a great job in providing sausage sizzle and a scrumptious range of cakes.



The large crowd watching the younger Honeybrook dancers



Ross MacKenzie and Kathleen Hamey, the usual suspects looking after the association's interests on the day

Community exhibitions and sale

Over two weekends in October three local organisations contributed to an exhibition and sale: Friends of Callan Park, the Balmain Library Knitters, SAWA Support Association for Women of Afghanistan.

Friends of Callan Park presented **Callan Park: Compassion and Conflict in The Asylum**

The book and story boards were produced as a result of two exhibitions - Faces in the Park, 2010 and Compassion and Conflict 2015. This book with its history, stories and photographs is available for sale \$10.

The Balmain Library Knitters presented some of their work and their Wrapped with Love story.

They have created a wonderful assortment of wraps, all destined for cold people in need here and overseas, and over 200 baby knit wear for Timor, that the knitters love making.

SAWA-NSW held a sale of collectables, jewellery, vintage clothing and bric-a-brac.

This raised over \$1200 for SAWA's new project with OPAWC (Organization of Promoting Afghan Women's Capabilities) in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.

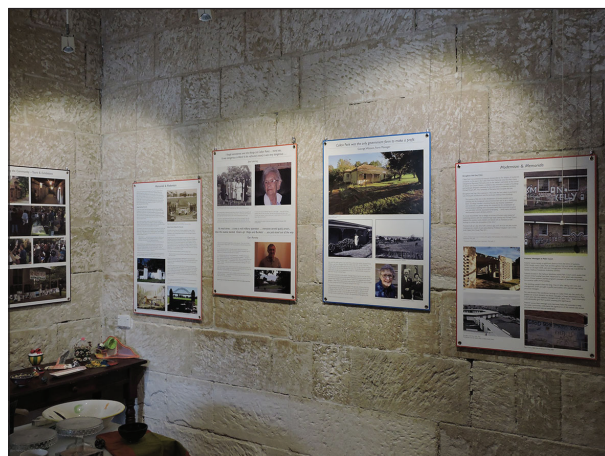


Photo courtesy Lyn Latella., Friends of Callan Park

History Week Exhibition Neighbours Saturdays throughout September

The Balmain Association presented numerous photos from the archives related to individuals, Churches, sporting groups and schools. Over the weekends the exhibition was well attended with many people returning for another look.

The exhibition officially opened with drinks and nibbles on Saturday 3 with special guest John Thomason, known to his many friends as Jack whose story is told in Jack's Story : Growing up in Balmain. Born in 1927, Jack remembers the days of the Depression,

when kind greengrocers put aside 'specs', fruit with spots on it that they gave to hungry children. As well, Jack's childhood had its trials. Jack's story is available for sale at the Watch House \$20.

Parks, trees etc from previous page

Native birds and animals also need to be considered. While the human population of Balmain is approaching plague proportions native fauna, apart from noisy minors, are not doing so well. Fairy wrens, silver-eyes and other small birds have disappeared because there are very few areas of dense understory vegetation that they can thrive in.

Encouraging residents to go into parks

and appreciate fauna, flora and views as well as exercise, relax and enjoy companionship and solitude rather than expecting all of those to be provided in a house or apartment is to be recommended and may be a part of a solution to an apparently insoluble problem.

* Balmain was not fully sewered until 1915 and transport of goods was largely by horse and cart until that time also. Houses, businesses

and industries etc relied on cesspits or "dunny can" services to remove human waste. There were the inevitable leaks, accidents and overflows as well as horse manure and "relief" in the streets all of which relied on rainfall runoff to take the offending deposits into the harbor. Concreted open areas were seen as being cleaner and healthier than gardens and trees.



What's on at the Watch House

www.balmainassociation.org.au

JANUARY

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 10am-4pm

Figures and the Landscape

Graham Cheney, Barbara Newton and Talia Iaconis are three art educators who have come together for a group exhibition defining a passion for the landscape and the figure. They are able to adapt a subject matter such as 'Figures and the landscape' in the most unique and individual ways.

Opening Friday 20, 6-8pm All welcome

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 10am-4pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday 4

History Room open 11.30 to 3pm

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 10am-4pm

BEIJING IN BALMAIN

An exhibition of "Painting with Light", works created in Beijing, China by Australasian artist Rone Waugh aka Wu Long and curated by Shen Xue. In these works the artist has set out to give his view of modern day China in an innovative and ground-breaking format. The works have received recognition from the Australian Government with a Highly Commended Certificate at the inaugural Arts in Asia Awards.

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 10am-4pm

'Must Have' Art

Helen Ross, is returning to the Watch House with this solo exhibition, a mix of large and small works, in her usual style and at affordable prices.

Opening Friday 17, 6-8pm, her many visitors from previous exhibitions and their friends are invited to enjoy these celebratory drinks

Saturday 25

History Room open 11.30 to 3pm

MARCH

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 10am-4pm

Marking A Mark

A collection of new works by artists: Sue McLeod, Brenda Livermore, Kate Furnell, Karen Steele, Bernadette Facer, Julia Sample & Tracy McCarthy. Making a mark is about the ways in which the artists line meets the world and abstracting its contrasts by means of print, artist-books and sculpture.

Opening Friday 3, 6-8pm All welcome

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 10am-4pm

Balmain and Beyond

Balmain Peninsula Painters' 13th annual exhibition at the Watch House. It will feature many of the local community's favourite scenes and subjects, as well as a variety of other works, including overseas, still life and animals.

Opening Friday 10 5:30 to 8pm Please come or anytime over the weekend.

Saturday 18 9am-4pm and Sunday 19 10am-3pm

Mamas with easels

This is a fun and friendly community based hub for mums who love and thrive on all things creative, colourful and artful. Inspired by nature, a love for painting, drawing and creating, they are unified by a passion to express their own uniqueness and sense of self. Made from the heart, with love.

Opening Friday 7-9pm All Welcome

Saturday 25 9am-5pm and Sunday 26 9am-4pm

FRIENDS in ART

MODEMA mosaicists, Mollie Pegler, Deb Kane, Margaret Tessarolo; Artists Chris

Beard, Fiona Davis and Quilter Margaret Besley have combined to present this vibrant, colourful exhibition of their work.

Opening Friday 24, 6-8pm Please join us for wine and nibbles

APRIL

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 10am-5pm

The Three Magick Stooges : Their World of Interiors

This exhibition is by three visual artists from around the world who explore themes of the exterior and interior world. April White – Paintings Yoka Terzic- Ink drawing and paintings Nicholas Beckett – Works on paper

Opening Friday 31 March - 6pm-8pm All welcome

Launch Balmain Peninsula Transport History 2pm, 10 December at the Watch House

Author Duncan MacLausan has also written *Ryle 'wy*, the story of Sydney's Horse Buses so join us and enjoy reading either, or both. Both will be available at the Watch House. There will be an exhibition of ferries, trams and buses open on Saturdays and Tuesdays throughout December and January. Please check our website under exhibitions for exact times www.balmainassociation.org.au

RSVP for catering for 10th December

Diana.digarder@bigpond.net.au or phone 0402 220 993

Welcome to the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival

The National Trust Heritage Festival began back in 1980 and has become Australia's biggest festival of heritage and culture. Thanks to the amazing involvement and support of thousands of volunteers every year we've become the nation's favourite heritage festival – and things are about to get even better - we have a new name Australian Heritage Festival so

Welcome to the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival Theme *Having a Voice*

Communities across NSW are invited to tell their stories through different voices, recognising the many narratives that have shaped NSW.

Having a Voice is about taking time to stop and listen to stories from every corner of our society.

Ideas for the Balmain Association include various protests to improve the amenity of our community BUT we also want to hear from different cultural groups so if you have a neighbour or friend who can contribute please encourage them to do.

The Balmain Association will be presenting their exhibition on Saturdays 8, 15, 22 and 29 and Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 April.

Email

contact@balmainassociation.org.au

or phone June 9810 6885,

Kathleen 9818 4954, Ross 9810 8592

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 6:00pm in the Watch House, 179 Darling Street Balmain. MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

The History Room at the Watch House is open every Saturday from 11:30-3 and Tuesday from 11am to 1 pm.

Postal: PO Box 57, Balmain 2041.

Material from this newsletter is not to be reproduced without acknowledgement.