



The Peninsula OBSERVER

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

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The Launch of *Balmain Peninsula Transport History*

Way back in 2014, the National Trust Heritage Festival theme was *Journeys* and the Balmain Association presented an exhibition titled *Journeys to and from Balmain*, see article by Kathleen Hamey in March 2014 edition of The Peninsula Observer. In this article Kathleen talked about the outward spread of the suburbs and the means of transport that was available starting with the watermen and ferries who could transport people and goods between "Sydney Town" and the new land releases on the Balmain peninsula rather than by the toll road (we know about these today) that operated from 1811 connecting the city to Parramatta. There was also an image of Horse Bus 158 which was one of several buses operating from the Balmain Peninsula to convey passengers to the city via the Glebe Island Bridge once it had opened in the early 1860s.

The other image is of the counterweight, "the dummy", at the bottom of Darling St circa 1940 which many residents will remember, with 1940s tram waiting to go back up the hill to head for George St.

Now Duncan MacAuslan has completed a comprehensive history of this evolution of transport on the peninsula and his book *Balmain*

Peninsula Transport History was launched on the 10th December, 2016 at the Watch House.

Over 40 people attended the launch and were entertained by Duncan's words including from his previous statement that you wait ages for a bus and then two come at once and in his case two transport publications came at once: *Balmain Peninsula Transport History* and *Ryle'wy the History of Sydney Horse Buses*, both available at the Watch House.

He also faced the trials and tribulations of going into print, always fraught with a degree of anxiety and more so when managed by a "committee", with last minute decisions such as will it be colour or black and white? as well as other hiccups.

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. There were outrageous proposals for bridges such as the one to go from Balmain via Goat Island to the North shore.

Throughout December and January

there was an exhibition of photos of ferries, trams and buses of many vintages with associated paraphernalia. An added bonus to the exhibition was the return of the popular story boards "Callan Park: Compassion and Conflict in the Asylum" and the associated book.



Duncan with secretary, Di Garder

Overall 150 people attended the exhibition including 22 in just 2 hours on Thursday 26, Australia Day, when entrepreneurial Kathleen Hamey thought it would be an opportunity to show visitors some of our history.

Balmain Peninsula Transport History \$25

Ryle'wy the History of Sydney Horse Buses \$59.95

"Callan Park: Compassion and Conflict in the Asylum" \$15

All available at the Watch House.

June Lunsmann.



The attentive audience

IN THIS ISSUE

- P. 1 Launch of Balmain Peninsula Transport
- P. 2 Council mergers
- P. 3 Balmain Telephone Exchange Farewell to Andrew West
- P. 4 & 5 John Colin Watson, Steam Boat proprietor
- P. 6 An interesting story about Elliott St Wharf
- P. 7 Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group
- P. 8 What's on at the Watch House, 2017 Australian Heritage Festival Events - Balmain Association and Friends of Callan Park

Inner West merger is the wrong merger - John Stamolis

Of all the problems with Council mergers we can also add: "Do we have the right merger?" Just have a look at our Council. One end is on the CBD environs with extensive harbour front and contains the early heritage of our city while the other end is bayside. Over time, these big differences alone will present significant challenges for Council. When the politics start again in September, there may be heated battles about which areas get what funding and both areas may suffer.

State Government can force together any Councils that it likes but if we don't get the right merger, we will end up with an inefficient and incoherent Council trying to do too much, costing more than expected and stretching its resources too far. Before we continue with this merger, let's see if we have the right one.

In complete disregard to strong community opposition, the NSW Business Chamber continues to support the Baird mergers. I wonder what advice they give to their member businesses if they spend money on ventures which don't work or on products that customers reject? Do they suggest that these businesses should keep ploughing money into a bad venture? Do they get onto TV and radio saying how wrong the customers are?

We are forced to listen to nonsense that a demerger will be expensive. In several weeks, we could be back to where we were, at minimal cost, and we will all have forgotten about this whole merger mess. Our Council has 70 years of experience and performance. Several months of a merger can soon be undone if our community desires. We shouldn't be asked to pump resources into a merger that we don't want and may not be best for our future. Do we let it continue for the next 50 years or do we get this right? It's time that we were consulted about this.

Mergers are precisely the sort of thing that the big political parties keep forcing on us and they wonder why we are so disenchanted with them. Mergers are provocative and grubby politics and is exactly the sort of interference that we have had enough of. The big parties should keep their hands off our local communities. They lack common sense and create huge problems in so many other policy

areas. Therefore, we should be doing our best to stop them interfering here.

Mergers cause local representation to fall to lowest levels ever

Forced amalgamations have slashed the number of Councillors across Sydney, reducing local community representation to the lowest level ever. Average representation for the Inner West will plummet from 1 Councillor for every 5,100 people to 1 Councillor per 12,300 people. This comes at a time when Sydney's population is set to grow by around 1.5 million over the next 15 years – increasing the average size of Councils by a further 60,000 people each.

The number of Councils proposed for Sydney (25) is less than Melbourne (31) and Perth (29).

In London, 1 Councillor represents on average 4,500. For Sydney it is over three times that (16,500)! That's because the number of Councillors on a London Council varies from 46 to 70 while in Sydney, the Baird Government has arbitrarily capped the number of Councillors at a very low 15. In London, our Inner West Council would have about 60 Councillors – not 15.

Of course, UK doesn't have State Governments, but would anyone seriously suggest that a London Council should have 45 **extra** Councillors just because there is no State Government? The Inner West will have 15 Councillors and 3 State MPs representing us. In London, we would have 60 Councillors.

I am not suggesting that Sydney Councils should have that many Councillors. I am simply comparing two global cities having similar democratic fundamentals. London is one of the top two global cities and has more local government areas and much higher local representation than us.

If you live in the Inner West Council, which has 185,000 people, you will have 15 Councillors. If you live in Canterbury-Bankstown or Blacktown, each with around 340,000 people, it is still 15 (the worst local representation in the nation). It's **one size fits all!** What is the reason for this disgracefully low representation? Anyone would have expected that reform of local government should have attempted to make representation of communities better and fairer across Councils. Now, it's worse!

State Government must lift their fixed cap on the number of Councillors – by a sensible amount because local representation will be far too low. We already have two levels of government – Federal and State – which have minimal interaction with the average person. Most people feel increasingly irrelevant when it comes influencing or interacting with Federal and State government.

Is it too much to ask that we have meaningful access to our Councils and our local representatives? After all, we spend enough money for three levels of government in Australia.

John Stamolis is former independent councillor for Birrabirragal/Balmain.

The current situation

Communication from Jamie Parker MP 14/2/17

All 20 existing mergers will remain in place in Sydney - including the merger which created the Inner West Council - while the remaining five merger proposals will proceed subject to the decision of the courts.

The decision was reached in an extraordinary meeting of cabinet this morning, convened for the express purpose of resolving the council mergers issue.

Sadly, it's one rule for the bush, one rule for the city. Every resident in NSW deserves equal treatment and genuinely local democracy. Whether you're in the city or the bush, the fact is forced amalgamations are undemocratic and damaging and must be scrapped.

It's disappointing that the Liberal/Labor majority on our local council voted against proposals from Greens councillors to take legal action against the proposed mergers.

The Greens are presenting legislation here in Parliament to unwind forced amalgamations and guarantee residents the final say through binding plebiscites. I'm absolutely committed to working with you over the next two years to ensure we reverse the damage of the Baird/Berejiklian government and restore local democracy.

Jamie Parker is a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly representing Balmain.

Balmain Telephone Exchange DA - Fergus Fricke

In case you wanted to comment on the DA for the demolition of the front of the 1957 Balmain Telephone Exchange building you will have to do it to friends, family or acquaintances and wait for the square/plaza/Balmain speakers' corner to be opened. Then you can speak to those seeking company, peace, a seat, inspiration or waiting for the PO to open. In other words the Development Application for the creation of a public plaza in front of the Balmain Telephone Exchange has been publicly exhibited and there were no objections. In fact there was only one response and it supported the DA.

What happens next? The DA now has to be assessed by Council staff before it goes to the "Planning Panel" and finally to be signed off by the Administrator. The demolition of the front of the Exchange can then be carried out after seven years of negotiations between the Balmain Association, Telstra and Leichhardt Council. Telstra is aiming to complete the demolition work by June this year. Ideally it would have been better if the plaza could have been extended another four metres. This would have revealed the whole of the side of the PO and provided a more substantial plaza. Having seen the interior of the exchange on several occasions it superficially seemed to be possible for this to be done. Perhaps the plaza could be extended in the future if anyone has a spare seven years to work on it.

A preliminary design of the "Exchange Plaza" (I shall call it that until a name has been decided on) was done by David Vago who works for "Habit8". David was also the designer for the open area in front of Rozelle Public School and the Loyalty Square plaza. The current version of the design is shown below. The design includes a

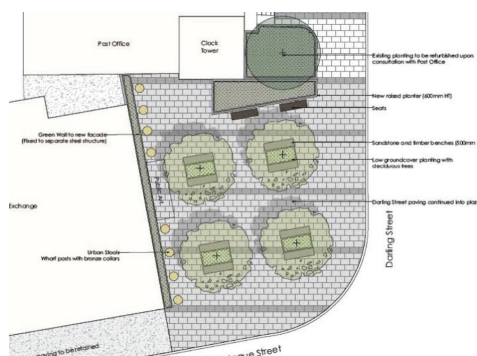
vertical garden/green wall on the as yet to be constructed new north-facing external wall of the exchange. This was the preferred option for that wall for a number of reasons that include creating a cooler space in summer and adding vegetation to an area that will have predominantly hard trafficable surfaces. The alternative was

a mural on the exchange's new front wall. While this feature is not included in the current design it seems that a combination of vertical garden and a mural may yet be a possibility. A mural could be a "trompe l'oeil" depicting the historic use of the site while also adding a feeling of depth to plaza. And speaking of heritage the DA heritage report undertaken for Council by Lynette Gurr, a Balmain resident, is well worth reading but unfortunately is no longer on the IWC website. However I can email a copy of it to anyone interested in reading it. The naming of the plaza is potentially a hot topic. Some suggestions are "POP" (Post Office Plaza), "Exchange Square" (not to be confused with the Exchange Hotel and soon to be the "Exchange Apartments"), Balmain Square, Barnet's Revenge (James Barnet designed the Post Office and Court House Building, the eastern side of which has been hidden since 1957 when the front of the present telephone exchange was built), "Anembo", which complies with Leichhardt Council's resolution to use



aboriginal names wherever possible, means "a peaceful or quiet place", and while it may not represent reality it does cover wishful thinking. Another suggestion might be "Restoration Plaza" which recognizes that there used to be public open space beside the PO at a time when there was very little road traffic, no traffic lights but many Italian immigrants. How about giving your suggestion?

Another of the yet to be resolved issues is whether the part of the decorative balcony on the side of the PO tower that was removed for the construction of the 1957 part of the exchange will be restored. This is not a straightforward issue as the Balmain Post Office building was sold to a private investor about 20 years ago and if the balcony is restored it will overhang the boundary of the plaza which remains Telstra's property. One suggestion has been to leave the damaged section of the tower as it is to remind people of past planning when there was a lack of interest in heritage and limited planning controls.



Farewell to Andrew West, a valued member

Andrew joined the Balmain Association in October 2013 and became very active in historical research. He was particularly interested in looking at the history of houses in the Balmain and Rozelle area and so helped many people who requested information about when their house was built and who had lived in it in previous years.

He also wrote a number of articles for the Peninsula Observer which he had thoroughly researched and made for very interesting reading. His first article for the Observer was "A street near you.... Roseberry Street", named after the British Prime Minister.

We are sorry to farewell Andrew as he leaves Balmain, but wish him well in his new move and know that he will continue to pursue his interest and love of history.

Di Garder, Secretary Balmain Association.

John Colin Watson, Steam Boat Proprietor

The Peninsula Observer presented an article on John Colin Watson written by relatives, Hazel Marks and Dianne Marshall in Dec 1999. Over the pursuing seventeen years, the research has continued. This article is written to add information to, as well as correct some facts now known to be incorrect.

John's personal family bible has recently been uncovered. It had been handed down the family, through his son John (1859-1936), and recently donated to the Mitchell Library. *What a find!* Janette Stewart.

John Watson was born in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire as John Watson on 15 January 1818, the son of John Burman Watson, grocer and draper, and his wife Eleanor (Ellen) Garvin Bernard of Hull, as written in his own hand in the family bible. Parish records at Gainsborough show him to be the fourth child – Eliza 1807, George 1809, William 1815, John 1818, Edward 1824. The first two were christened at Grimsby two days after their birth, but later, the first four including John, were christened at Gainsborough on 3 February 1818. Edward was christened at Gainsborough in 1824.

Watson was apprenticed to an engineer at 13 and later went to sea with the merchant navy experiencing many exciting adventures on the high sea, having been wrecked several times and fighting in the American-Mexico war of 1847. He joined the Merchant Service of New York and also the well known Black Ball Line.

No record has been found of his arrival in Australia but before his marriage to Honorah Nugent at St Mary's Cathedral on 13th March 1853, he worked at Jimbour Station on the Darling Downs, Queensland and was by 1853/4 working near Broadstairs, Balmain.

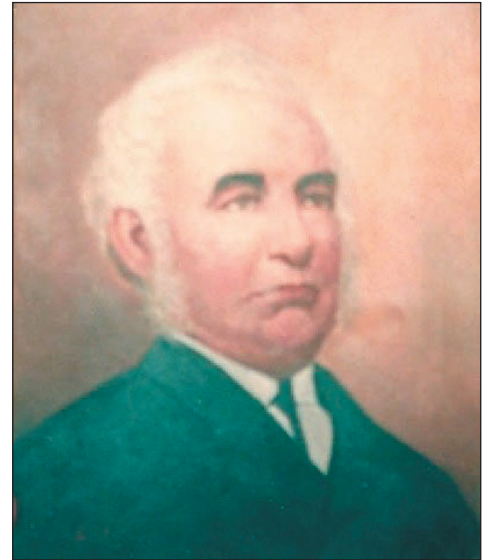
Honorah Nugent was born on 7 May 1825 at Banch, Tipperary, Ireland and arrived in Sydney on the Palestine, 7th March 1842, with her brother Michael.

They married at St Mary's Cathedral on 13 March 1853. The children were christened Protestant, but there are records at St Augustine's, Balmain, indicating that Honorah chose to later have them christened in the Catholic Church, unbeknown to her husband.

John and Honorah had six children, all born in Balmain, none before their marriage. Walter 1854, Mary Ann (May) 1856, Edward (Eddie) 1857, John 1859, Ellen Honorah (Nellie) 1861 and a stillborn 1863. The family were living at Datchett St when Ellen Honorah was born. Walter and Mary Ann later married siblings in the Dickson family, of Dickson and Son, timber merchants and soap manufacturers. John went on to own tugboats on Sydney Harbour, Edward became a steamboat proprietor and youngest daughter Ellen married Captain FW Marshall.

In the early days, John Watson was a waterman, rowing his passengers to the city. The Balmain Municipal Council Souvenir of Balmain 1860 - 1910 states: 'The late John Watson was manager for Mr Perdriau for

some twenty years and then he purchased the Bald Rock branch' and became its proprietor. He had the ferry run between Erskine St & Bald Rock on White Bay. There were other ferry Companies before his, but he was first at Bald Rock (near Smith St in White Bay). The Bald Rock Ferry was



John Watson - portrait by his daughter-in-law, Sarah Watson (nee Porter) c 1880

afterwards formed into the company of John Watson & Co, which he ran with his sons. The Balmain Steam Ferry Co finally bought out J. Watson & Partners in 1887. The Company had owned and operated quite a fleet of paddlewheel steam ferries between 1873 and 1887 including the Alma, Courier, Kirribilli, Atalanta, Violet, Nellie, MeMel, Gem, Excelsior, Bald Rock, Lincoln, and a wooden screw steamer, the Psyche.

In 1859 John purchased 11 Datchett St, Balmain, with a weatherboard cottage, near his employer, Mr Perdriau, at number 14. According to 'Walking Coastal Sydney Historical notes April 2011, the street was 'named after the village of Datchet, near Windsor in England, is on land bought in 1838 by cabinetmaker, John Barrett. Much of the land was steep and difficult but Barrett tried to maximise his return by creating lots with 6 metre frontages.' The first lot in Datchett St contained the well from which all purchasers had the right to draw water (Source: Leichhardt



John and Honorah Watson with their children



11 Datchett St, today

Historical Society). The cottage is still in existence. When my mother visited the house in c1999, she recognised the portrait of John, still hanging on the wall. The owners very kindly passed it on to Hazel, a direct descendant.

In 1865 John Watson returned to England to collect a large inheritance from his Aunt Sarah Lomax (nee Watson), which no doubt enabled him to purchase a ferry service and build four fine houses in Smith Street, Balmain.

NSW Government records indicate that Balmain subdivisions occurred in January 1869, with 14 allotments made in Smith St, Rosser, Reynolds and Mullens St. John was able to purchase four allotments in Smith St and build fine houses for his family - Gainsborough at 42, Grimsby at 44 (the nameplate hangs at No.43), Jimbour at 47 and a very fine two storey house Lincoln, at 49 Smith Street, Rozelle. (Now 53). 'Lincoln' had two carved models of ferries above the doors, in the front the 'Me Mel' and at the rear the 'Gem'. When built, residents came walking on Sundays from all over Balmain, to see the Watson's mansion in the bush. Of those homes, Gainsborough and Jimbour still exist. Grimsby was demolished in 1890 for extensions to the Smith Street School and Lincoln demolished for flats in the 1980s.

John took a lively interest in local matters and was an Alderman of the Balmain Municipal Council between from 1876 to 1878 He was liberal in his views, generous and kind hearted.



Drawing of Jimbour, artist not known.

He died at Jimbour, on 7th October 1889, after a long illness, his wife Honorah surviving him by only a few months, passing away on 17th December 1889. Both were buried at Waverley Cemetery. With them is their granddaughter, Lomaxia and other members of the family.

An extract from Old Books, Old Friends, Old Sydney by James Tyrell, who was born in Darling Street in 1875 states : *Balmain was a great place for boys of the Tom Sawyer persuasion in those days (1880-1887). We lived practically right alongside the water, only thirty yards or so from the Jetty and linked to the romantic world of piracy and adventures on the high seas by ships and sailors constantly coming into the bay.*

At times a ferry already ran from the Jetty, a paddle wheeler, taking passengers from Balmain to Erskine Street and the city. What may be called Sydney rush to get somewhere in a hurry is not altogether a latter day development, for even then there were always some either running to leap for the ferry as it moved off or ready to jump ashore before it tied up. Captain Watson who lived in a large house on top of the hill, ran the ferry. He was a

man of ships and water, even to the extent of having a ship modelled on the side of the big house up on the hill. The barques and ships of sail have long gone from Johnson's Bay and the site of my boyhood home, is completely covered by the works of Lever Bros., the soap people.

There is a growing group of Watson descendants who are meeting and sharing treasures. The family Bible and Honorah's wedding ring are two of those treasures. His descendants are a mixture of lawyers,

academics, marketers, teachers, social workers, farmers and more. Contact has recently been made with a Sydney based descendant of John's older brother George, who remained in England in the cabinet making business.

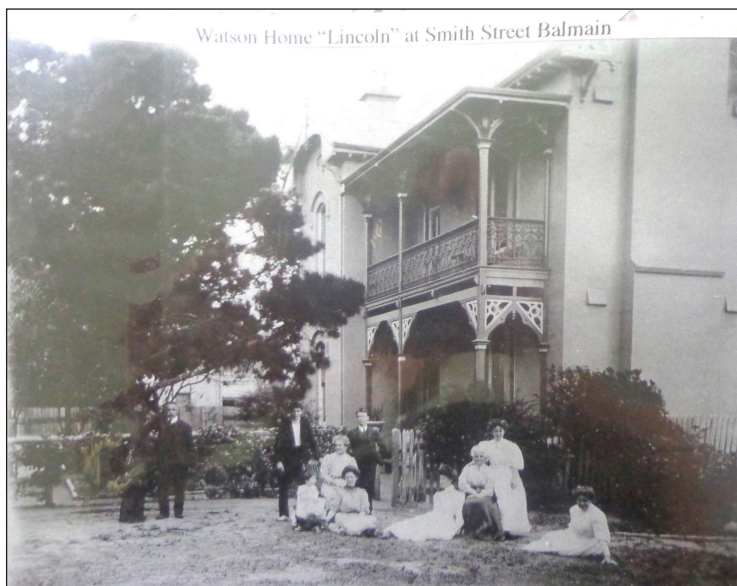
The Watson family has links with the Marshall, Dickson, Marks, Stewart, Rose, Pollack, Solly, Black, Grinsted, Gibb, Brehaut, Taylor, Campbell and Higgins families.

Footnote: The name 'Colin' appears to be a middle name added by John at some stage in his life. It does not appear on his baptism record, but is on his death certificate and Will. He writes his name as John Colin Watson in the family Bible.

Contact: Janette Stewart
janetestewart@optusnet.com.au



Jimbour, 47 Smith St, today



Lincoln, 49 Smith St



Gainsborough, 42 Smith St, Balmain - courtesy Google maps.

An interesting story revealed about Elliott St Wharf

When objections were raised to Council's proposal to demolish the old café/ restaurant on the wharf and Paringa Reserve at the bottom of Elliott St late last year without a Heritage Report, the application was withdrawn and a Statement of Heritage Impact (SHI) prepared. The report relates a story of an approved waiting room, being demolished and rebuilt, turning into a kiosk and then a café and restaurant over the years without the due process we expect today.

The report (summarised by me here) was written by Lynette Gurr, using research and history by Leonie Mason of HBRS Architecture and the Balmain Association, through Lyn Gerathy Manager of Property and Commercial Services, Leichhardt, Inner West Council, has kindly been given permission to share the story with members. (the full report on Council website PREDA/2016/235) In 1885 the Balmain Council applied to the Department of Lands for a lease for a jetty at Elliott St, this was approved and built with the wharf being sublet to the Balmain Steamship and Ferry Company. A diagram from 1886 shows the wharf at the end of Elliott St at Fig Tree Pt, a fig tree is shown and labelled on the left side of the wharf.

In July 1887 Balmain Council commissioned a report on the need for suitable waiting rooms at various wharves, including Elliott St and upon adoption plans were prepared for Elliott St.. The waiting room was built and outlined on the amended detail survey of 1891.

By 1913, the waiting room at Elliott Street was in a poor state of repair and the Council decided to remove it. There is no record in newspapers of when a new waiting shed was erected in its place at this time.

Forty years later in September 1953 a GW Hunt tabled a report to Leichhardt Council investigating possible fraudulent activities in respect of "odd jobs" carried out in the former Balmain Council, by council employees and at no cost.

COST OF KIOSK

Mr. Hunt said that on March 18, 1952, the council decided to erect a kiosk at the Elliott Street wharf and lease it to Mr. J. Naylor at a weekly rental of £1. The kiosk included an existing waiting-shed and new structure.

Mr. Hunt said, in his opinion, a "reasonable estimate" of the cost of the work would be £800 to £850.

The council's records, however, showed that the work cost £1,198/6/4.

Part of the discrepancy of approximately £400 could be accounted for by the fact that some of the materials used were of "unnecessarily" high quality.

Wages charged against the job were at least £200 in excess of a reasonable figure.

It was apparent that a substantial part of the time charged was not actually worked on the job.

"Included in the materials charged to the kiosk were 23 rolls of lead dampcourse and copper core valued at £40/17/6," he said.

"This lead was picked up from the suppliers from a council employee, Mr. S. T. Owens, who states that he delivered the lead to Mrs. Erwin's building project at Eastwood.

"No dampcourse was used in the construction of the kiosk."

Mr. Hunt said that approximately 390 super feet of timber, mainly oregon, 480 square feet of "Swedish hardboard," one flush door, and four sheets of three-ply were charged to the kiosk but not used on that job.

Approximately 80 square feet of glass, also 15 windows, 47lb of putty, a new set of carpen-

ter's tools valued at £16/13/1, and other sundry items, were charged against the job.

It had not been possible to discover what became of the bulk of this material, which might have been used on other council jobs or which might have been stolen.

"The foreman-carpenter stated, however, that a quantity of 3 x 1 1/2 D.A.R. oregon which was charged to the kiosk was used to build three large step-ladders and to repair three others for the former engineer, Mr. Harding," said Mr. Hunt.

"This work is alleged to have been carried out by Mr. Baker under instructions from Mr. Harding.

"The ladders have since been recovered by the C.I.B. and returned to Balmain depot."

Source SMH - 2/9/1953

The Elliott Street Wharf kiosk was one of the "odd jobs" identified in the report. According to Hunt's report the Balmain Council decided to erect a kiosk to cater for Cockatoo Island workers at the Elliott Street wharf and lease it to J Naylor at a weekly rental of £1. The report in the Sydney Morning Herald, 2 September 1953 makes interesting reading.

The kiosk constructed in 1952-53 appears to have resulted from

the extension of the waiting room structure to the west as far as the seawall. No plans or surveys have yet been sourced to confirm the extent of the works.

We then have no information for another forty years until 1992 but I do recall in the early 80s buying my children icy poles from the kiosk which was open at times of ferry visits. The Department of Transport notified Council it intended to replace

the wharf due to its poor condition.

We then have no information for another forty years but in 1992 Pellegrini wrote to Leichhardt Council seeking approval to undertake renovations to the kiosk, which they had subleased from Leichhardt Council since 1986. Two DAs were

lodged and approved in this year for internal changes and use as a coffee



Above: Waiting room/kiosk date unknown most likely 1970s/80s Leichhardt Council files.

Below: Source NBRSArchitecture September 2016



lounge, at a cost of \$50,000. In 1993 the Department of Transport notified Council it intended to replace the wharf due to its poor condition. In August 1995, the Council commissioned a survey which showed alterations to the shed structure had been carried out, but without a Building Certificate, and that the extension approved in the Amended DA had not occurred. The extensive renovations had been carried out at a cost according to Pellegrini of \$225,000. The work included considerable additions encroaching the adjoining Paringa Reserve, owned by Council, but not leased to the Pellegrini. Council appears to have taken no action in respect of the illegal building works.

Pellegrini had a 10 year lease with Council which expired in 2004 and following a dispute regarding rent and the construction on Paringa Reserve this was resolved and the lease was extended for one year with a substantial rent rise.

Pellegrini continued to hold the lease until they elected to vacate in 2015. Elliott St Wharf is little used now as regular ferries do not visit however with the considerable development taking place on the Nutrimerics site this may change in the future. This was the only waterfront restaurant on the Peninsula and could be a successful business.

Council is proposing a replacement café restaurant building and for its use as a licensed café/restaurant.

The replacement will be constructed entirely on Council land so there will be no need for a lease with Roads and Maritime. The SHI has not given the remaining structure any Heritage Significance probably as it has grown haphazardly over time, and the earliest elements still present are from sometime between 1913 and 1952. The site is of significant local importance due to its relationship with Cockatoo Island and our waterfront past. The Balmain Association has suggested that the significance be acknowledge at the site but the story includes some questionable actions on the part of local council over time so it will be interesting to see if that will happen.

Carolyn Allen

Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group - Ray Stevens

Ray Stevens is the Director of OIKOS Architects and also a member of the Balmain Association. He is one of local representatives on the Planning and Heritage Strategic Reference Group of IWC. He attended their first meeting on 9/2/17 and has the following:

- Reference Group will be bound to keep confidential some matters.
- Members not to speak on behalf of the IWC. (I asked for clarification on both these matters as I and others see it as our role to report to the community as well as participating)
- The Group will meet approximately every 2 months
- There was some discussion on the Statement of Vision and Priorities. The document is a typical workshopped document with typical “motherhood statements” with the intent to build a platform for the new Council as well as being mandated vision plan. I managed to have added a few suggestions to the Administrator (as there is no Council) to include the recognition that our suburbs are historically, geographically and social distinct and this should be recognised and encouraged. There is no such thing as a “Community of the Inner West” as yet.
- John Stamolis is also a member of the Group. John raised the issue that the Planning and Heritage Committees were separate under LMC and this may be a consideration further down the track.
- There was discussion about the

proposal to broaden the scope of the architectural award called the “Marrickville Medal” to include the whole IWC with possible name change. I mentioned I have been lobbying for many years for an award as have others and it would be a good move to actually have an award. Representatives of the Marrickville Heritage Society said they had not even been told of the change and they have been involved in its judging and organization since its inception. A motion was put to keep the award in Marrickville but have other ward based awards as well.

The Marrickville Medal

This has been awarded for Conservation annually since 1995. It celebrates built conservation works that contribute to the understanding and preservation of Marrickville’s rich cultural and architectural heritage. The award was one of the first of its kind in New South Wales, and coincides with the state-wide National Trust Heritage Festival.

Eligibility to enter the Marrickville Medal is open to all building works, completed in the preceding three years, which can be described as having positive conservation outcomes. Conservation could include any of the following approaches: preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation or interpretation. Large or small, private or public; the judges look for thoughtful and innovative outcomes. The three-person judging panel

comprises: an owner/designer of the winning property from the previous year, a member of the Marrickville Heritage Society, and a conservation architect. From Marrickville Council website.

In 2006, the Balmain Association management committee discussed a similar award in the form of a Certificate of Appreciation. The idea was that we took photos of what we considered appropriate restorations and also new buildings. Unfortunately it seems too many other issues got in the way and no photos were ever presented! Maybe an opportunity still exists. June Lunsmann.

Another book launch

Little Lost Girl

Graham Wilson is a self published local author who formerly lived in Balmain and now lives in the Rocks.

He has written 3 novels called the ‘Old Balmain House’ Series. These are predominantly set in Balmain from the 1840s to current day and have been sold overseas as ebooks. This is the second edition produced as a print book and launched on Thursday 23 February, at the Watch House. It is a work of fiction. However many locations and parts of the history of Balmain are true. The idea began soon after purchasing a much loved cottage in Balmain where a sepia photo of a small girl who lived in the house about 100 years ago, was found.

Cost: \$20 at the Watch House, Brays Balmain, Gleebooks and Abbeys.



What's on at the Watch House

www.balmainassociation.org.au

APRIL

National Trust Heritage Festival

MAY

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7, 10am to 4pm
'First by 4'

This is the first group exhibition by four Sydney artists, drawn together through interconnecting and longstanding friendships and their backgrounds in graphic design. It will highlight the individual nature of their artistic paths and the inspiration they find in all that surrounds them.

Opening Friday 5, 6-9pm All welcome.

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14, 10am - 4pm

Dan Gild goes Solo

Danielle Gild exhibits her latest works in this solo exhibition. Through layers of colour and a degree of abstraction, these works expressively interpret landscape, responses to her urban and domestic world in acrylics on both canvas and paper. Dan has also found a passion for ceramics and will be showing some of her works in clay.

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21, 10am - 4pm

Sandy & Sandy

Sandy & Sandy are two artists who have been friends since art school days. They create affordable art based on all aspects of life and scenes from Balmain to Ryde and west of the blue mountains. Their painterly styles are complemented by their love of colour and light. Come along!

Opening Friday 19th 6-8pm All welcome

Saturday 27 10am to 6pm and Sunday 28 10am to 4pm

'LADIES IN ART'

Fiona Davis, Suzanne Fredericks, Kerri Kerley, Marlysse Medina, Mollie Pegler, Julie Percy, Helen Ross

Seven complementary artists showing works depicting colour, movement, emotion and diversity juxtaposed with grace. Their individual personalities portray their artistic journeys in various forms and techniques.

Opening Friday 26, 6 - 8pm All welcome

Saturday 3 June, Sunday 4 and Saturday 10 and Sunday 11, 10am-4.30pm.

VOICES FROM AN ISLAND

Works on paper by Helen Brancatisano

This exhibition is the culmination of research into the turbulent history of the 'Biloela' Industrial School for Girls established on Cockatoo Island in 1871. The works, including etchings, monotypes and mixed media, strive to evoke the haunting human presence of those now absent, linking us to our past.

Opening Friday 2, 6 to 8.30pm

All welcome.

National Trust Heritage Festival 2017 *Having a Voice*

Balmain Speaks Out

The Balmain Association is presenting this exhibition about the protests and struggles over the years that helped to preserve our heritage, our history and our community. Issues such as ferry services, container terminal, coal loader, army at Mort Bay, Mort Housing development, the five sites etc. etc. Also early days of protest and advocacy by people such as Maybanke Anderson who lived in Wharf Rd and later produced a fortnightly paper, *Woman's Voice*, in 1890s.

If you have a story, some photos that you would like included in the exhibition please contact one of the following. Email: contact@balmainassociation.org.au or phone Kathleen 9818 4954, Ross 9810 8592

The exhibition will be open during April on Saturdays 8, 15, 22 and 29, 11.30 to 3pm and Tuesdays 11, 18, 25 11am to 1pm.



Rally to save Ballast Point

Lost voices in Callan Park

Sunday 23 April – Sunday 7 May 2017

Come and see what makes Callan Park so Special. This Outdoor exhibition highlights history and attachment to Callan Park and Broughton Hall. Exhibition is installed across the landscape with a guided tour on day one, then self-guided – take a leaflet and meander.

Guided tour: On opening day, 23 April - \$20.00 meet at 2.00 at NSW Writers' Centre

Bookings: Essential by 22 April <https://www.trybooking.com/258777>

Questions: focp.admin@gmail.com



Photo courtesy Lyn Latella

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.