



The Peninsula OBSERVER

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www.balmainassociation.org.au

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Balmain Speaks Out

National Trust Heritage Festival 2017 *Having a Voice*

The Balmain Association presented this exhibition about the protests and struggles that helped to preserve our heritage, our history and our community and continue to do so today. Also the 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.

The exhibition opened on Saturday 8th April. John Morris reminded us of the time in 1965 when the newly formed Balmain Association was looking for headquarters and the Watch House was under threat of demolition. He was Assistant Director of the National Trust and with the enthusiasm of the members of the Balmain Association was urged to negotiate to have the

building placed in their hands to restore and use as headquarters. The Police Department were reluctant to lease to a community group who may disband after a couple of years but at John's instigation the property was ceded to the National Trust who then leased to the Balmain Association on condition that it be conserved and maintained. This has been achieved by much effort and continues today.

Our thanks to the many people who contributed stories, photos and memorabilia to the exhibition: Cathy and Richard McCabe, Friends of White Bay, Save Baileys Group, Elizabeth Stamaolis, John Stamolis, Friends of Callan Park, Michele and



John Morris reminds us of 1965

Kath Hacking, Jan Wood, Amie Zar (Local History and Archives IWC) and a special thanks to Elliot Nolan for his presentation about Maybanke Anderson (see her story pages 4 and 5)

Balmain Speaks Out - My Impressions - Jan Wood

A few years ago a friend visited me. "I've been for a walk around Balmain" she said. "How lucky you are to live here! The streetscapes are so delightful. Where I live in North Sydney all the old cottages have been demolished and replaced by high-rise." I felt very cross. Luck? "It's not luck" I said. "It's been a long, hard, bitter struggle!"

The exhibition "Balmain Speaks Out" honours our political activists; their passion, vision, tenacity and courage. "People Before Profit" became the catch cry of the time as developers circled vacant industrial land.

One of the activists featured in the exhibition, Maybanke Anderson, campaigned for Women's Rights and Suffrage. A Birchgrove resident, she epitomises the spirit of our local heroes today. The catch cry of these early 20th Century women "For the Betterment of All", I think expresses beautifully the motivation of our activists.

Sadly, in these days of Neo Liberalism, many have the attitude "What's in it for me? How much can I make on my capital investment?" The Balmain Association archives group including June Lunsmann, community worker, since she moved here in the mid sixties must be congratulated on "Balmain Speaks Out". Can you imagine the enormity of encapsulating 50 – 60 years of the countless struggles? Although the exhibition focuses on the Five Sites (Caltex, Unilever, Ampol, Monsanto Balmain Power Station), Mort Bay, Colgate/Palmolive, Clontarf Cottage, and today's struggles: the White Bay Cruise Terminal, forced council amalgamations, Callan Park, there were many, many more struggles. Some of the battles were lost but some were won. The fabulous Ballast Point Park would have been hundreds of million dollar townhouses. Mort Bay would have been a massive housing

development with little open space. "Balmain Speaks Out" documents the social, political and technological change of the past 60 years as well as the evolution of Balmain's waterfront, industrial working harbour to the highly gentrified suburb that it is today. We tend to forget that white settlement in Australia began in 1788, which is only 229 years ago. So the 50 - 60 years of Balmain history covered in this exhibition is basically a quarter of this time. (contd page 3)

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Planning Matters - John Stamolis

Fenwick's Store (Weston Street) – Council is still reviewing tenders and subject to that, expect that works will commence in July 2017 and will continue for 22 weeks. The nature of the works will include an internal fit-out, a kitchen, electrical works and a new floor. This will make it ready for the intended use as a café. New public toilets will be provided behind the café. External to the building, a lift will be built. Council intends to run an Expression of Interest (EOI) process for potential operators of the café once the contractor for the works has been appointed. In fact, Council has already received contact from several interested operators who will no doubt respond to the EOI.

Caretaker's Cottage, Elkington Park – Council are looking to exhibit a draft amended Plan of Management (PoM) with the amendment to the PoM being 'to allow the option of using of the caretaker's cottage as a café. The cottage is currently occupied by a Council staff member. There is an Administrator's determination to exhibit the draft amended PoM, with the proposed wording to go first to the Local Representation Advisory Committee (LRAC). As such, a report will be prepared for the Inner West LRAC June meeting to amend the PoM to allow a café as a permissible use and to request that this be publicly exhibited. The LRAC consists of 28 ex-Councillors who will make recommendations on the proposed amendments. If the PoM is amended, after public exhibition and consultation has taken place, Council will investigate this use further and prepare a business plan. Normal community consultation and a DA process would take place if Council decided to proceed with this. See comment on page 7.

Pellegrini (107 Elliott Street) – a report is being prepared and is expected to go to Council in July 2017 which will outline future options for this site which was once a fish and seafood restaurant. A large development is currently taking place next to the Pellegrini's site (i.e. the Nutrimerics/Roche development) where Council will gain foreshore access for the community and this affects the Pellegrini site. Council has a number of options such as building a new restaurant and leasing this out or returning the land to community open space.

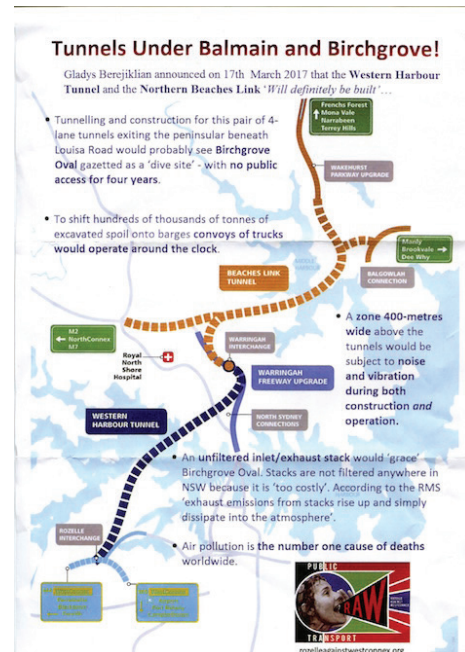
Civic Square (Telstra Building) – Councils' plans to remove the front part of the Telstra building to create a civic square fronting Darling Street are still in progress. Councils' recent community consultation showed that 85% of people

welcomed the concept plans. Council have approved Telstra's DA to demolish the front of the building but there are a number of things that Telstra needs to do before demolition can commence, such as: the remaining building must satisfy fire regulations, new entry and exit points to the building must meet standards and there needs to be internal reorganisation of the building. All of this needs to be done as part of the demolition and before work on the civic space can take place. Council are moving along well with consultation, reporting and exhibition of plans so that all approvals are done in readiness for the works on the new square to commence when Telstra have finished their demolition and restoration works.

Western Harbour Tunnel - this is at an early stage of planning. The announcement of this project in March 2017 included the preferred route, the start of geotechnical drilling and the commencement of a market sounding process for delivery of the project. The tunnel will connect to the WestConnex M4-M5 Link at the Rozelle Interchange, cross underneath Sydney Harbour between the Birchgrove and Waverton and connect with the Warringah Freeway at North Sydney.

Over the next six months, borehole sites will be tested in suburbs on the north side of the harbour and within the harbour. The borehole investigations will feed into engineering design, final costings and further route analysis. RMS will commence consultation with property owners over possible acquisitions in the northern suburban areas. Further work over the coming months will include detailed financial analysis, discussions with the private sector over funding options, community consultation, as well as extensive field work such as geotechnical studies, traffic analysis, noise and air quality monitoring, and flora, fauna and marine ecology studies. On 27 April 2017, Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) staff briefed the Inner West Council on the project. Key points discussed were:

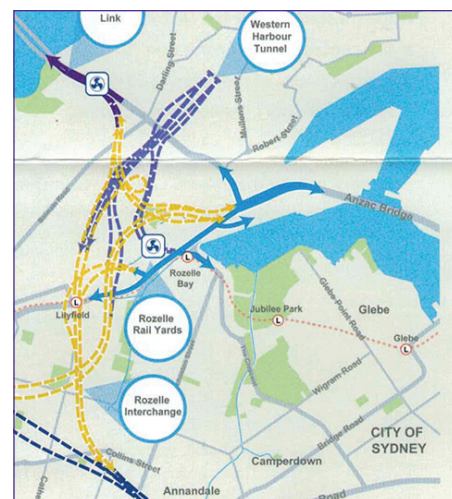
- though the tunnel would pass beneath Balmain, there would be no mid-tunnel construction dive site in Balmain and no spoil trucks travelling through Balmain - spoil would be removed by barge at a mid-tunnel site in Sydney Harbour;
- commencement of the Western Harbour Tunnel would be after completion of WestConnex M4-M5 Link;
- RMS are involved in discussions with other parts of Transport for NSW to ensure that the Western Harbour Tunnel does not interfere with or preclude future public



transport projects, including Metro Rail, future Metro West, Inner West Light Rail and future White Bay / Balmain Light Rail;

- the project will accommodate buses and will create new bus links, but does not include dedicated bus lanes;
- the project is intended to remove traffic from the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Military Road, creating opportunities for additional bus capacity and other improvements along those corridors.

If the project proceeds, Council would like to see a greater commitment to use of the motorway for public transport, including guided electric buses. Community sessions were in Balmain on 18th and 20th May. This next stage of work is expected to be completed in mid-2018 and will include a reference design; confirmed final project costings; funding strategy including tolling options and private sector involvement; and construction timeline including start and completion dates. *Our thanks to John Stamolis who is keeping us up to date with current issues during Christina Ritchie's absence. ed.*



The new spaghetti junction copied from Westconnex M4-M5 Link Community Update May 2017 by J.L.

A disengaging “community engagement” for the Western Harbour Tunnel

I attended this community feedback session at Balmain Town Hall Saturday 20th May.

Q: Where are the exhaust stacks for the Western Tunnel?

A: there will be one on the northern side at Waringah Interchange and another on the southern side in Rozelle railway yards.

Q: only 2 for a tunnel of this length compared to 2 large ones for the Harbour tunnel about one third or a quarter the length?

A: not my expertise, need to speak to someone else anyway it's still in the planning stage.

Q: and the dive sites, where will they be?

A: not planned yet.

My comment: you mean it will be done on the hop like the dive site in Darley Rd which cost peanuts when purchased by Dan Murphy's while planning for Westconnex was well underway but now costing a bomb.

Q: Is there an Environmental Impact Statement?

A: yes this will be part of the planning process.

On my further reading of the Fact Sheet, it seems that there is no advantage for Balmain/Rozelle and possibly a huge disadvantage as traffic will be funnelled onto the Anzac Bridge see diagram bottom

p.2. This is all a concept design for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link with more “detailed reference design” to be issued by mid 2018.

We need to be proactive now.

At the same time there was a rally protesting the effects of Westconnex in Rozelle. Once again many people do not understand what is happening to their neighbourhood or until it starts to happen are not interested. The dubious traffic studies and Environmental Impact Statements seem to be prepared by those most to gain from building these monster motorways which don't seem to even cater for good public transport.

As Jan Wood points out: maintaining the amenity of our neighbourhood has been a long struggle over the years but unfortunately it is still continuing today.

For information and to stay-up-to-date on Westconnex subscribe to their newsletter

westconnex.com.au/subscribe or to find out what's really going to affect you check out Rozelle Against Westconnex www.rozelleagainstwestconnex.org and also Action for Public Transport www.aptnsw.org.au

On a lighter note at the same time the Balmain Fire Station opposite had an open day with kids racing around with red “hardhats” and climbing all over the fire engine. Hopefully our fire station will remain open all the time after rallies in November 2013.

June Lunsman personal view.



Balmain Speaks Out - My Impressions (contd from p.1)

To me this makes this exhibition especially important as the voice of the protestor generally gets deleted, distorted or ignored by mainstream media. In this exhibition the protestor becomes the hero. So I liked seeing some of our past leaders honoured; Nick Origlass, Issy Wyner, Jean Lennane, to name just a few. It felt to me like visiting old friends, remembering the campaigns which were often hard work, filled with drama but also larrikin fun. Sifting through mountains of documents to find the material for the exhibition must have been an enormous task for the team. I imagine it was difficult too, because there are very few photographs of the activists at work. Political activists are so busy being political activists there's no

thought of “Selfies”. Few photographs exist apart from those in newspaper clippings. However newspaper cuttings can be very biased and do not respect the Activist.

The Activist can easily be belittled or labelled as just another bit of “rabble”. Another problem is that most people just go along with things, as Jean Lennane points out in the Ballast Point Sausage Sizzle video. The political activists are generally in the minority and most people believe that they do not have the power to change the “Powers that Be”. This exhibition proves this premise incorrect. It's fitting that the Balmain Watch House was the venue for the exhibition. The convict built stone Lock Up is now a National Trust building and home to the Balmain Association. The work of our local Activists saved it from demolition.

A strong impression I have of this exhibition is that it is the skeleton of a book. A collection of personal accounts of individual activists and their memories could well become the flesh. So many unrecorded stories! So many memories!

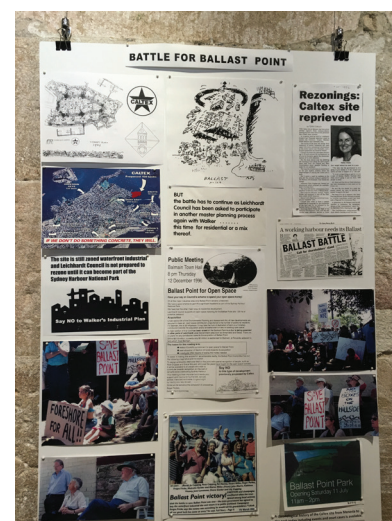
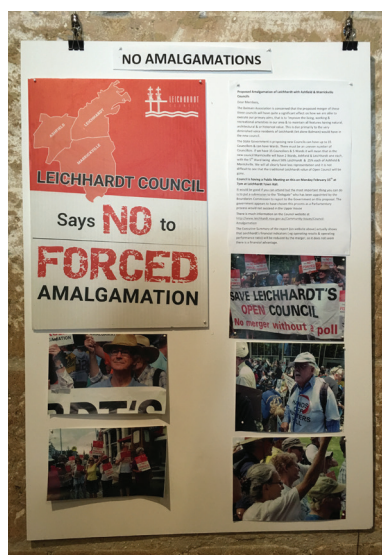
For example: Do you remember the gates across Mort Street and Cameron Street to stop the container trucks going all night? Do you remember the bike parades and the raucous council meetings? I have volunteered to collect stories on behalf of the Balmain Association if anyone would like to share their stories.

I hope Gen X and Gen Y who now comprise a substantial demographic of Balmain and Rozelle, value the political activism of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, for without their work, Balmain today would not be the desirable place it is. The battle for open space, the streetscapes, the limit on high rise..., the list goes on and on.

So I hope the next generation of “Balmainites” become involved in our story and community and continue to work for “the Betterment of All”.

Jan Wood, May 2017.

Jan was born in Balmain Hospital when it was a maternity hospital for Baby Boomers. Now the hospital specialises in Aged Care. So it will be from the Cradle to the Grave - she says.



Sex, politics and suffragism:

the story of Maybanke Anderson and the social revolution in Australia - Elliot Nolan

Through wit and words she fought for the rights of women to be treated as intelligent people, not pretty objects.

Introduction

The victory of the cause of federation in Australia heralded not only important political and economic changes, but redefined the role of women and their place within Australian society. In the late 19th century, the concept of women's suffrage was an anathema to many. There was a belief that women held their subordinate position not due to archaic social institutions imposed by men, but to an obscure 'natural' cause. The exceptions to the rule were usually female monarchs—such as Queen Elizabeth I—who were pejoratively regarded as 'ambitious', and ultimately functioning with a masculine rather than feminine mind. Of course, by the 1890s there were those men who believed in and argued for the equal rights and representation of women, but most of the effort in these formative years was conducted by women like Maybanke Anderson.

Who was Maybanke Anderson? Throughout her life, Maybanke was a tireless campaigner for women's suffrage and a reformer across social and educational lines. She organised and connected advocates for suffragism, paving the way for women to not only have the right to vote in federal elections but to stand for parliament. Her lesser known legacy is her work in laying the foundations for the establishment of the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales; the first free kindergartens.

Australian history is selective and tends to focus more on movements rather than individuals. It is perhaps for this reason that the story of Maybanke Anderson is little known now, but her own modesty in life; in doing what was necessary and right, without seeking laurels, may also help explain it. I hope, then, to tell at least part of her story here and in doing so encourage you, the reader, to explore her life and works further.

Early life

On 17 January, 1845 in the English village of Kingston-on-Thames, Maybanke was born to Henry and Elizabeth Selfe, the youngest of three children. Seeking a better life, her family immigrated to the burgeoning colonies of Australia in 1854, which had by then lost its stigma as a penal colony. Growing up around The Rocks in Sydney, Maybanke was quickly recognised for her intelligence and aptitude at school where she became a pupil-teacher, helping others during class and being instructed in teaching after school hours.

In 1867, at the age of 22, and by now a teacher, Maybanke married her first husband. Edmund Wolstenholme was a timber merchant and together they moved to a large house on Wharf Road in Birchgrove. Of their seven children, four died as infants, while a fifth child, Arthur, died in a drowning accident in 1895.

Edmund was a wastrel. Frequently unemployed and penurious he took to drinking, before deserting Maybanke in 1885, never to be seen again. The Wolstenholmes had by this point moved to the outskirts of Marrickville where they built a house, 'Maybanke', so with support from her mother Elizabeth and brother Norman, Maybanke was able to turn her home first into a boarding school and then a school for girls.

Women's Literary Society and the Woman's Voice

The death of children and desertion of husbands was not unusual for married women of the time. Maybanke was luckier than most in that she had financial support from her family. Although Edmund had deserted Maybanke, she was still legally tied to him and was unable to petition for divorce on the grounds of desertion until 1892 when the law was finally amended.



Maybanke's interest and initiation into campaigning for reform preceded this. However, with the formation of the Women's Literary Society (WLS) in the late 1880s and with the help of her two friends Matilda Curnow and Lucinda Gullett, the WLS was based around intellectual, political and economic topics and proved popular enough to attract 100 members by 1892. The meetings were pivotal in providing the framework through which its members became public advocates for suffrage, and helped lead to the formation, in 1892, of the Womanhood Suffrage League (WSL). These organisations gave a platform for women to have their voices heard at a time when there was no formal provision for it.

By 1893, Maybanke had established a reputation as a formidable speaker and was elected Vice-President of the International Women's Union; and one year later also started her own newspaper, the Woman's Voice. Wholly produced by women, the first editorial states its purpose succinctly: 'The Woman's Voice will be womanly, but not weak; democratic, but not revolutionary; fearless without effrontery, liberal without license'. Despite its success, the newspaper proved costly to run during its 18 month lifespan and came to a close in 1895.

Federation and the Kindergarten Union

The shutting down of the newspaper was not a setback; rather it gave Maybanke greater time and opportunity to campaign for women's suffrage on the frontlines, specifically on the issue of the federation of the Australian colonies. The colony of South Australia had previously awarded women the right to vote in elections and there was a fear they would lose it as a result of federation.

Working with the Womanhood Suffrage League in 1897, Maybanke designed a petition that called for uniform suffrage in the Australian Constitution. It received wide circulation in the media and was doggedly guided into a draft of the Constitution Bill by sympathetic suffragists until it was approved by a slim majority of three votes.

The cause of women's suffrage was not an immediate success, but by 1897 Maybanke and her compatriots had reached the limit of their ability to influence the system from the outside. The New South Wales Labor Party had also by now made women's suffrage a key tenet of their party, and so what seemed fantastical 10 years earlier was becoming a faint reality.

Maybanke effectively retired from public life after this period. She and her friend Margaret Windeyer had already established the Kindergarten Union of New South Wales in 1896. These kindergartens provided unstructured

play and learning and also taught the children's mothers home economics. The free kindergartens were popular and more branches were established in subsequent years.

Later life

Social reform and the education of children proved a resounding note throughout the remaining years of Maybanke's life. It was also through her work as a reformer that she met a potential partner who was better attuned to her than her previous husband. Maybanke had met Professor Francis Anderson some years earlier and while we know little of their relationship in the intervening years, they finally married in 1899. Although causing a mild scandal due to their age difference (Maybanke was a 54-year-old divorcee while Francis was a 41-year-old bachelor) it did not diminish her overall image. Their marriage was to last nearly 30 years.

During these years, Maybanke penned a series of articles on her travels overseas and histories of Sydney suburbs like Pittwater, and gave talks to women's organisations. Following Francis' retirement in 1920, many of the reforms for which Maybanke had fought had finally come to fruition, with Australian women having gained the right to vote and stand for parliament on a federal level.

In good health at 81, Maybanke and Francis left for an overseas trip towards the end of 1926. In April, 1927, she was taken ill while



Photo taken in 1890

travelling throughout France. The details of her operation remain indefinite to us. On 15 April, Maybanke Anderson died at St. Germain-en-Laye, Paris; her place of burial also unknown.

Although Maybanke was highly regarded in her life, she remains largely forgotten today. Unflinching, she fought for the rights of women to be treated as intelligent people, not pretty objects. Through wit and words, Maybanke argued for uniform suffrage and applied these tactics to her other endeavours. She was not the sole mover on these issues, but the history of Australia would doubtless be the poorer were it not for Maybanke Anderson.

Maybanke's home in Birchgrove

Her brother, engineer Norman Selfe, was 15 when the family landed in Sydney in January 1855, and initially resided with them in the Rocks. When Norman was employed at Mort's Dock, he brought his family with him to live in Balmain. He had bought waterfront land and built the twin terraces Normanton and Maybanke which still stand at 21 and 23 Wharf Road, Birchgrove. It's likely that Norman shared Normanton with his widowed mother and next door lived Norman's brother Harry, his sister Maybanke and his brother-in-law Edmund Wolstenholme. Maybanke and her husband later moved to Marrickville.

In 1938 Eric Nicholson built the "new Maybank" as seen in the 1990s and his daughter Betty Daniel told us that she and her family lived in the top flat. The other 3 flats were rented to the Drivers and Deckhands who worked for Nicholson Bros. In 1948 the family moved into 19 Wharf Rd with their grandmother.

Normanton and Maybanke along with Wyoming at No. 25 and number 19 were saved by resident action in the early 1990s when there was a proposal to demolish and build townhouses. As can be seen today they have been well restored after their interim lives as numerous flats before and during WW II and the post war years



Maybanke and Normanton today

providing accommodation for the many workers on that waterfront. J. Lunsmann.

Macquarie's Mausoleum on the Isle Of Mull, Scotland

My husband, Malcolm, a property valuer, has been engaged by the National Trust to value their properties in NSW for insurance purposes. To our surprise this included the Lachlan Macquarie Mausoleum on the Isle of Mull, as that small plot of land on which the Mausoleum stands actually belongs to the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and is managed by them.

We had been planning a trip to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland for some time, intending to spend some time in Edinburgh and then travel north. The Isle of Mull, off the west coast of Scotland, is where Lachlan Macquarie returned when he left Australia and subsequently died. The proposed insurance valuation of the Mausoleum was the extra incentive to get us there. We set out from Edinburgh and at Oban drove onto a car ferry for the short journey to Mull. We had booked into a B&B on the waterfront at Tobermory for two nights. Tobermory is a busy fishing port with a very colourful seafront - houses, shops, restaurants, pubs of all different colours line the waterfront. We dined at a super restaurant, Café Fish, where we enjoyed fresh seafood – crabs, scallops, mussels, langoustines – right on the jetty.

The long drive to Gruline, the location of the Mausoleum, is by narrow single lane roads with passing places and finally we arrived at the parking place for the Mausoleum. Unfortunately, as for so much of our time in Scotland, even though it was summer, it was



raining! We had to walk over half a kilometre along a rough lane and through farm gates until we reached the site.

The Mausoleum, is a square, stone building with gable ends, buttressed walls and sloping stone-slabbed roof. There are marble panels at either end and the whole area is surrounded by a stone wall with stone capping and wrought iron gates. An Australian flag, some flowers and a beer cooler indicated that other Aussies had been there not too long before us!

Lachlan Macquarie had arrived in Sydney in 1809 as the fifth Governor of New South Wales replacing William Bligh. Macquarie and his wife, Elizabeth, had a vision for the colony of NSW and so Macquarie encouraged the expansion of the small colony with exploration beyond the boundaries – over the Blue Mountains

and further north and west to find grazing lands. Macquarie also established new townships on the edge of the settlement, including Bathurst, Windsor and Richmond. Reformed convicts were encouraged by

Macquarie to positions of authority and influence. Francis Greenway, colonial architect, and William Redfern, colonial surgeon, are two well-known examples of this policy. Macquarie had a very ambitious public works program, setting out the formal streets of Sydney and Parramatta and ordering the construction of roads and bridges to link Sydney with the new towns. Many of those public buildings are still are standing today. After an enquiry by a British commissioner which criticised Macquarie's liberal policies and the extent of his public works program, he returned to England in 1822 to vindicate his actions and restore his reputation. He was granted a pension and retired to the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

On his return to Mull this site was chosen by Macquarie but he was in poor health and died in 1824. After his death the Mausoleum was built in the grounds of the Gruline estate, which he owned. There is an interpretive panel telling the story of Lachlan Macquarie and his importance to Australia.

This is a very special site, a little bit of Australia in Scotland, which honours a man who saw the potential of Australia and is responsible for establishing the basis of our nation. Diana Garder



The Mausoleum

What are our Council priorities for Balmain? - Carolyn Allen

Elkington Park Caretaker's Cottage & Dawn Fraser Pool

In November 2016 Council submitted a Pre-DA to adapt the Caretaker's cottage in Elkington Park for use as a café.

This was the result of an audit process initiated by Leichhardt Council to assess commercial potential of council owned property. There was a 'consultation' on various uses for the cottage (written submission & an on-line survey) conducted at the end of 2014. A Conservation Management Plan, Traffic Study & other reports done during 2015. A decision to proceed was made at a 'council' (then under administration) meeting in August 2016 when it was said that a budget of \$600,000 would cover all costs including the process of amending the Plan of Management for the park. It was said that Council would receive commercial rent for this although at this stage ratepayers have not seen a business case.

At the same time, we have been waiting for work to be done at the Dawn Fraser Pool since at least 2013 when, following consultation, architectural plans were developed. This iconic, heritage listed treasure has been discovered by many of the new families in the area & remains an important recreational and social icon for Balmain residents. Work needs be done to the dressing rooms and the structure that is land based as



Figure 31 — View north from Elkington Park showing the Caretaker's Cottage sunken within the parklands and surrounded by mature palm trees (Source: NBRS+PARTNERS, July 2015)

only minor work was done here in the late 1990's major restoration which many Balmain Association members contributed to. Funds have been allocated in various council projected 3 year budgets for this work (and are also allocated in the Draft Budget on exhibition) but we have yet to see a DA lodged or evidence of the activity that has accompanied the cottage project.

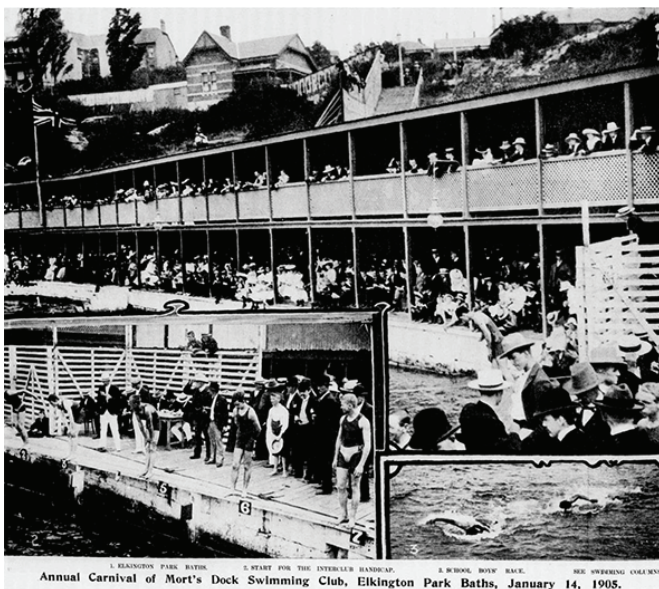
Elkington Park, the Dawn Fraser Pool & the Caretaker's Cottage form an important part of our heritage & cultural landscape. The cottage was built in 1885 as a residence for the caretaker of then Elkington Park Baths and has been occupied continuously

since then. It is described as a good example of a single story polychrome face brick Victorian cottage with slate roof & decorative barge boards to gable. It is one of the few remaining caretaker's cottages in the area and is listed as part of our heritage landscape in LEP 2013. Proposed changes to the cottage do retain the essential heritage by adding

kitchen & other facilities to the rear. But do we need this?

Currently the cottage does provide affordable housing for a council employee whose presence near the pool, especially during winter, and in the park provides valuable service in prevention of vandalism. The use of the cottage for cafe purposes was suggested by Council Officers during the consultation leading up to the POM for Elkington Park in 2004 and was not supported by the community as is reflected in the current plan. Written submissions to the adaptive re-use of the cottage in 2015 mainly supported the current use as caretaker housing (often on parking traffic grounds) but there was support for various uses such as a café from the on-line survey. I consider the value of on-line surveys far inferior to face-to-face consultation & written responses as, because of their ease, they can often reflect limited understanding of all the issues.

I believe we need to question priorities when we are thinking about spending rate-payer money to establish a café to compete with commercial cafes in the mainstreet, more so when we have not seen a sound business case. I would like council to concentrate on services and public assets which is surely what we expect from our rates?



The caretaker's cottage is clearly obvious above the baths in this 1905 photo.
From CMP prepared for Leichhardt Council.



What's on at the Watch House

www.balmainassociation.org.au

JUNE

Friday 16, Saturday 17 and Sunday 18, 11am to 7pm

ROMANCING THE LAND

Four lifelong friends, born in Latin American countries who have lived most of their lives in Australia, have combined their efforts to exhibit their eclectic and powerful art.

Beatriz Copello: Abstract Intuitional style she reflects the Australian landscape.

Clara Elena Uribe Norman: Creates earthy sculptures inspired by Australia.

Carmen Julia Henry: Her Cosmic Impressionist paintings take you on a trip from land to stars. Maggie Escarting: Celebrates the lives of children, her style is uniquely Naïve.

Opening: Saturday 17 at 6pm by author and journalist, Dr Anne Summers, please join us.

Saturday 24, 10-4.30 and Sunday 25 10-5
Speak from the hART

This is the 21st annual exhibition from Balmain hART stART Studio, now in its 22nd year in Balmain

Through modernist methods, and the introductory abstract painting units, all members develop a confident personal style in an atmosphere of warm friendly support.

Drinks Sat 1-3pm All welcome.

JULY

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2, 10am to 4pm
HELEN'S NEW WORK

Looking forward to showing her latest new works, Helen has long held a love of colour, originally in textiles, spinning and dyeing her own yarn for large tapestries but more recently in painting.

Opening: Friday 30 June, 6-8pm
All welcome

**Saturday 8, 10.30am to 5pm and
Sunday 9, 10.30am to 4pm**
"Mirror Image"

You are cordially invited to an exhibition of mirror work showcasing textiles and artefacts by India in Balmain and Indian-inspired artworks by Christine Young. The galleries will be used to stage interiors illustrating how mirror work can enhance your personal environment.

Opening: Friday 7, 6 - 8 pm All welcome.

**Friday 14, Saturday 15, Sunday 16 and
Friday 21, Saturday 22 and Sunday 23
10am to 4pm**

Outliers Exhibition

The Outliers are a group of four artists: Kristine Ballard, Melony Smirniotis, Tony Hooke and Peter Porteous who reflect their passion for the Australian landscape and pay homage to the great Australian impressionist landscape artists of the past. The Outliers artwork celebrates the beauty

of the Australian landscape through each of the four artists' unique styles.

Opening: Friday 14 6-8pm All welcome.

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30, 10am-4pm
Narrative of Things

Ana-Lia Washington asks the question – what is a still life image? Is it truly the one type of photograph that doesn't extend into the past or the future? Or is it instead a story of each and every object that makes up the composition?

Opening: Friday 28 6-8.30pm All welcome
Website: www.macrographia.com.au

AUGUST

**Saturday 5, Sunday 6, Saturday 12 and
Sunday 13, 10am to 4.30pm**

'..... Press On'

A new exhibition from Sydney Gallery School Open Studio printmakers working together with their individual vision unchanged, inviting the viewer to expand the interpretation between the language and visual media. These artists meet to share their love of printmaking in 'Open

Studio Practice' sessions at Sydney Gallery School, Meadowbank.

Opening: Saturday, 5 - 3pm All welcome.

**Saturday 19, Sunday 20. Thursday 24,
Friday 25, Saturday 26, Sunday 27**
10am to 3pm on 19, 20 and 26, and 10am to 2pm on 24, 25 and 27.

FACETS

The biennial exhibition from extraTexture, a diverse group of five Sydney based textile artists who meet to share techniques, develop ideas and challenge each other's textile art and mixed media practices. On this the fourth exhibition, the group challenge is to use a piece of fabric and asked to use it in their interpretation of the theme "In the Garden"

Extratexturetextileartists.wordpress.com

Opening: On Saturday 19 August at 2pm. You are invited to meet the artists: Cindy Cooper, Barbara McLennan, Margaret Millar, Kay Murray and Kerrie Shelberg while you enjoy a glass of wine with cheese and biscuits.



History Week: Pop! 2-10 September 2017/#HistoryWeek17

History Week 2017 seeks to examine, unravel and understand Australian 'popular culture'. As History Week enters its 20th year, History Council of NSW members are invited to celebrate popular culture across the decades, to investigate its construction and analyse its impact on communities and individuals.

How has popular culture, whether it be music, theatre, dance, film, television, sport or fashion, changed over time? Who defines it, and why? What does popular culture mean on an individual, community, regional and national level? How has the 'digital age' and 21st century technological change influenced popular culture? Have we entered a 'new age' of popular culture with audiences as creators, shifts in authority and more democratic modes of creative expression? Is history now part of popular culture?

History Week will explore these questions and many more from 2 to 10 September 2017.

The Balmain Association reserves the Watch House for all of September for their exhibition around the theme of History Week so we're asking members for your ideas.

Let's know email: contact@balmainassociation.org.au

or phone Ross 9810 8592 or Kathleen 9818 4954.

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
Postal: PO Box 57 Balmain 2041
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