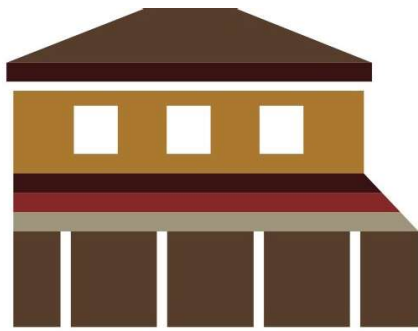




# the peninsula Observer

newsletter of Balmain Association

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## “I grew up in a police station”

by Sarah Cupitt

**T**he Balmain Watch House carries many memories for Margaret Collett (nee Gray), being both born and raised in the now historic police station. Margaret's parents were Eliza and Sergeant Ira Gray; she was the ninth daughter and 12th child. The Watch House is of historical and social significance as one of the surviving buildings of Sydney and owes its present existence to two factors; Governor Fitzroy's message to the Legislative Council on September 28, 1852, and the Balmain Association.

Balmain's history as one of the first land grants in the colony and its varied development made it a unique suburb with extraordinary physical surroundings that we still enjoy today.

Governor Fitzroy's message introduced a Bill for the erection of lockup watch houses for short prison terms because of the vast distances between ordinary gaols.

The Balmain Watch House at 179 Darling Street was a police lockup designed by Edmund Blackett in 1852 and built in 1854. It was a single-storeyed building with four rooms: a guard room, a constable's room and male and female cells. Unsigned and not updated, the 1854 drawings were unearthed in the archives in 1971, making it possible to visualise how the original Watch House looked.

Nothing more is known of the Watch House until 1864 when a report advised that urgent repairs were necessary.

By 1878 the population expansion was sufficient to require a police force of six to look after the building. The construction of additions to the building in 1881 included the erection of an upper storey, a kitchen wing at the side, a front verandah and stairs, cells, privies and exercise yards at the rear. A door between the female cell and guard room was blocked

up, and a corridor was created across the larger male cell to provide access to the rear areas. Unfortunately, no drawings for these additions have ever been found.

The Watch House exemplifies the simplicity of early colonial buildings, with the later constructed upper storey designed in harmony with the early Victorian lower storey. The only decorations are minimal chimney mouldings and bas-relief stone frames around the windows. However, the

building's austerity is relieved by the colours and markings of the bare stone walls, and the ghostly stripes visible on the awning. With its slate and iron roofs, copper guttering, wooden verandah posts and 12-paned windows, the Watch House provides a sampler of early colonial style and materials.



Pic: Siblings Margaret and Bruce, courtesy of Margaret Collett

1887 saw a new police station built further up Darling Street but the Watch House remained as an overnight lockup, though the extent to which prisoners were kept there is unknown.

Ira Gray was promoted to Constable First Class in 1920 and Sergeant Third Class in 1928. In the late 1920s, the Watch House solely became the residence of the local Balmain policeman and his family.

continued on page 7

# “Digitising our future”

## Australian Heritage Festival 2021



*Committee members, guests and former Mayor of Leichhardt, Larry Hand who opened the exhibition enjoy refreshments in the Balmain Watch House courtyard.*

*Members of the Balmain Association Archive Committee put together a great exhibition for the Australian Heritage Festival with a focus on digitising the Association's historic collection.*

## What's inside

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## Apology

In the last issue of The Peninsula Observer, the article “From the archives” incorrectly stated: Ashgrove circa 1840 on the corner of Colgate and Darling Streets has been demolished.

We are pleased to report that far from being demolished Ashgrove was restored to its former glory some years ago by Bruce Spence.

Please note that the mistake was not the article author Helen Carter's but the The Peninsula Observer's editor having a moment.

# The Bays West precinct

by Duncan MacAuslan

Bays West includes Rozelle Bay, White Bay and Glebe Island, the Rozelle Rail Yards and White Bay Power Station. On March 22 the NSW Department of Planning issued a draft *Bays West Draft Place Strategy* that aimed to:

- Describe a vision and future directions for Bays West and share proposed 'Big Moves' to help transform this precinct
- Identify the sub-precincts that make up the wider Bays West Precinct
- Support the NSW Government's investment in the Sydney Metro West project, including the Bays Station, to unlock the precinct's potential.

The summary strategy document was light on detail, full of jargon and possibilities. Much more detail was to be found in three other documents: *Bays West Sustainability Framework*, *Bays West Urban Design Framework* and *Bays West Connecting with Country*.



The last of these acknowledges the history, culture and continuing connection of First Nations People to Bays West. Comments closed on April 29 and the BA's submission follows.

## The existing environment

**Heritage** – sadly there is hardly any natural heritage remaining in the precinct, the northern boundary has been quarried away and streets that once led to the waterfront, such as Stephen and Adolphus, end in cliff faces. Other locations such as the Bald Rock Ferry Wharf (near the Robert and Buchanan Streets intersection) are now under acres of concrete. Many of the 'escarpments', including that in Roberts Street, are the result of early 20th century 'strategic' plans for wharves.

There is little or no natural shoreline all having been straightened with wharves; water courses are long lost or converted to storm water channels. Much of the existing residences and parks occupy old industrial sites. For example, Birrung Park was an oil storage depot hence the round enclosures.

The few heritage sites include the significant White Bay Power Station that defines the location with its towering chimneys.

**Access** – the precinct has limited traffic access – only James Craig Road and Robert Street. The former is quite indirect, the latter already at capacity. There is presently no pedestrian access other than along Robert Street.

## The strategy

The Association supports the reuse of White Bay Power Station as a cultural centre. Possibilities could be a museum for First Nations people and culture. The *Connecting with Country Framework* highlights how little is left of Aboriginal heritage in the Bays West precinct and how much has been lost. A museum to celebrate this would be an iconic place to relate the rest of the precinct to.

**Transport** – the establishment of the Bays West Metro station will assist in alleviating the severe lack of road access to the precinct. However, the Key Plan in the *Urban Design Framework* (section 4.2) shows the bus network heading towards Victoria Road. It would make more sense to link it to Balmain, Rozelle and Birchgrove enabling the peninsula's residents to access the CBD, Olympic Park and Parramatta with ease.

Water access has historically been important to Balmain and there once was a ferry to Bald Rock. While expensive to provide, consideration should be made for a public wharf at the head of White Bay. This would enable both a future ferry service as well as excursion vessels and private access.

There is also great value in improving bicycle and pedestrian access to the Anzac Bridge by providing a bike and walkway across the head of White Bay instead of the long way round the power station to Victoria Road.

The association also supports saving the second Glebe Island Bridge as a low-level easily used access to Pyrmont and the CBD. We are dubious, however, about bridges to Glebe and Barangaroo which would need to be quite high to enable maritime access to proceed unimpeded. We note that both have been proposed in the past; to Barangaroo as far back as 1871!

**Taller buildings** – the Association is concerned about the use of this term. Taller is a relative term and could describe a building that is taller than a single storey residence, taller than the grain silos or taller than the White Bay chimneys. Given the severely limited access to the whole Bays West Precinct the Association does not understand how the location could support a large population implied by the building size in some of the conceptual drawings.

# The greening of Balmain

by Di Garder

I came to Balmain in 1965, buying a small terrace in Grove Street, Birchgrove for the princely sum of £3000 pounds (\$6000)!

We were fortunate that we were opposite Birchgrove Oval and so had trees in our view. The only trees in Balmain were in the large parks, Birchgrove Oval, Gladstone Park, Elkington Park and Punch

forwarded a plan for landscaping and planting of trees in parts of Balmain. The response was “Council’s Special Parks and Playing Areas Committee has now given consideration to the matter and I am directed to advise that Council’s finances preclude the carrying out of these works in the current financial year”.

In spring of 1970, after much

The park at Elliott and Beattie Streets (now Ann Cashman Reserve) was earmarked for planting English Plane Trees – the BA had them for sale for \$2! One of these \$2 trees was planted in the small courtyard of a dear friend in Punch Street at that time. The last owner, another friend, has just sold after living there for just under 50 years and I was able to visit the



Park with a small number in places like Macquarie Terrace.

This was the beginning of the “new wave” moving into Balmain – young professionals who wanted to be close to the city centre and saw what was happening in Paddington. The Paddington Society had been formed and the Balmain Association (BA) had its first formal meeting in November 1965, after preliminary informal meetings at Sybil Masterman’s house in Numa Street, Birchgrove.

Gardens, although often small, were being planted with a range of trees. In our small courtyard we planted a Liquidamber tree that was very attractive while it was small but has since been removed! This increase in tree planting led to the BA deciding to approach the Council to plant some street trees.

In October 1969 the BA

lobbying from the BA, the first street trees were planted by Association members, in Curtis Road under the direction of Neil Oates, a landscape architect. These were *Melaleuca Quinquenervia* (Broadleaf Paperbark) and are still going strong 51 years on.

At this time Peacock Point Park was being established by Bruce Mackenzie, landscape architect, and for the first time Australian native trees were being planted in a public park. Bruce used the natural topography enhanced by stone paving, wooden plank walls and bark and leaves on the ground. *Melaleuca Armillaris* (Bracelet Honey Myrtle) with cream flower spikes and *Melaleuca Hypericifolia* (Hillock Bush) with weeping foliage and orange/red flower spikes were both planted in large groups at Peacock Point.

house and tree as she was leaving – it is enormous! And of course drops its leaves every autumn.

By August 1971, Balmain was looking greener and the BA was encouraging members to plant in their streets with assistance from the Council. The Forestry Commission Nursery at Pennant Hills had tube stock from 40c each and if you bought more than 30 tubes they were reduced to 30c each. By this time, I had moved to a larger terrace almost next door to Birchgrove School, which had a long backyard to a rear lane. We divided the yard with a courtyard immediately at the back and planted a deciduous *Acer Negundo* (Box Elder Maple) and then behind the courtyard wall we planted a grove of *Casuarina Glauca* (Swamp Oak). Of course we took advantage of the cheap offer and planted 30!!



Haemastoma), Eucalyptus Nicholii, Bangalay (Eucalyptus Botryoides) among others. The Bangalay can grow from 15 to 25 metres.

In my street, Birchgrove Road, we planted Angophora Costata (Sydney Red Gum) and Melaleuca Linarifolia (Flaxleaf Paperbark). By June 1973 the Council was planting Melaleuca Quinquenervia in some streets such as

There are still a few standing.

The BA next planted Brush Box in Roseberry Street, across Mullens Street, down Ennis Street to link Punch Park. The plane trees weren't planted in Ann Cashman Reserve instead a mixture of native trees and deciduous trees were used.

Betty Maloney, a garden lover in Mosman, wrote a book, *Designing Australian Bush Gardens* in 1973, followed by *More Bush Gardens* and we all read them greedily – they became our bible! We learnt the botanical names of many Australian natives and we planted them in our small front courtyards and back gardens with gusto!

Some very inappropriately!

Eucalypts became very popular – Scribbly Gum (Eucalyptus

Dock Road, as the BA had three years earlier.

In the late 1970s I moved to Curtis Road and again transformed an old garden with a lemon tree and oleander into another native garden complete with Casuarinas, Grevilleas and Acacias among others.

Jacarandas became the preferred tree of the Council into the 1980s and they were widely planted. Ballast Point Road had oleanders that were replaced by Jacarandas. The one at the Watch House was planted around this time.

Now as you drive into Balmain from Victoria Road you look up to Balmain and it is very green. Most streets have been planted and the parks have been added to as well

as new parks have been established. Yurulbin Park at Long Nose Point was a ship building site that Bruce Mackenzie transformed. Birrung Park, along

White Bay on Donnelly Street, was a chemical tank farm for a short period and Mort Bay Park was the site of a container terminal after Mort's Dock was closed.

After a long campaign to stop over-development on the site, the acquisition of Ballast Point by the Carr Government, and the establishment of Ballast Point Park was a great win. The park was completed in 2009 and all participated in planting a huge range of native plants. Even my granddaughters remember the occasion. In the 12 years since then plantings are really thriving.



This headland with Balls Head opposite makes a wonderful entrance to the Parramatta River.

As the tree cover has increased so have the birds and the possums, and although possums can be a problem at times, it is still good to share our environment with them.

Many of the trees are now fully mature and in some places impede the views of residents so we must be vigilant that trees are not vandalised but carefully trimmed so that we can continue to enjoy this enhanced environment.



# Turning on the lights: Balmain's forgotten gasworks

by **Bill Ryall**

Most folk living on the Balmain Peninsula know of Sydney's first gasworks at Barangaroo and subsequent

gasworks was explained by Rosemary Broomham, in her comprehensive history of gas-making by AGL, (*First Light*.

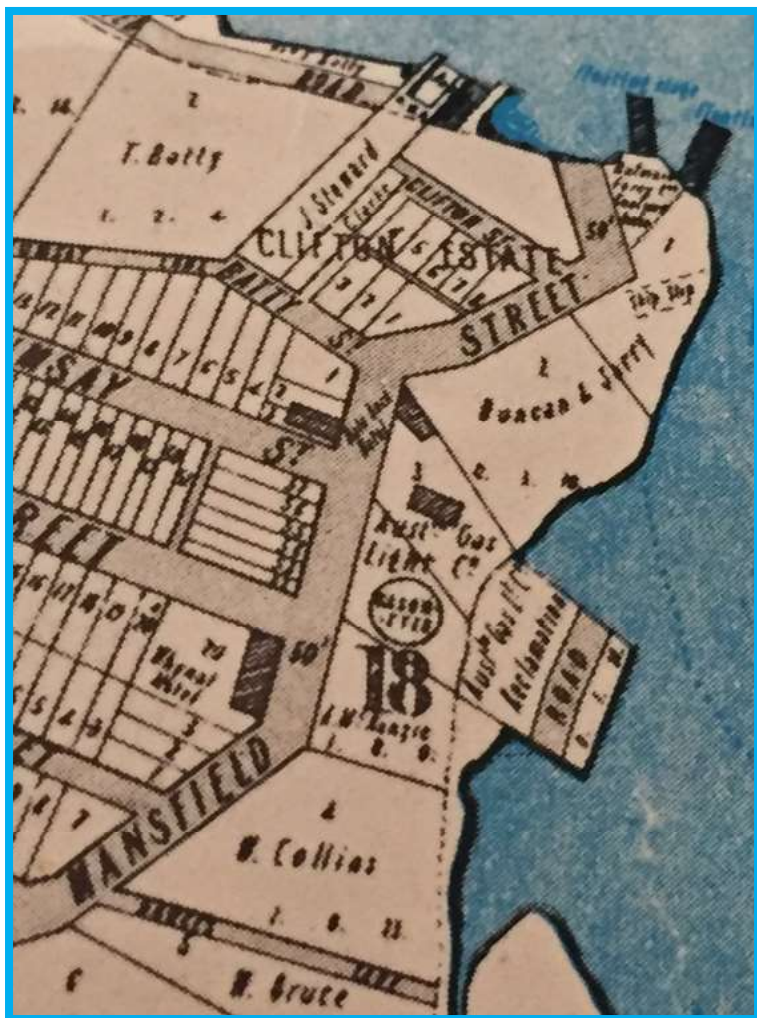
The directors took only three months to decide that the gas supply should extend to Balmain and that a small local works was the most economical means to take it there."

In 1873 AGL purchased 2.5 acres (approximately 1 hectare) of land adjacent to White Bay for construction of a small gasworks to service the rapidly extending suburb of Balmain.

The gasworks were located on Allotment 3 in Section 18 within the Gilchrist Estate, adjacent to the head of White Bay, on the plan dated 1800 to 1882 of the Gilchrist Estate, with a frontage to Mansfield Street, near the Bald Rock Hotel, and extended to the then shore of White Bay. In addition, part of White Bay was reclaimed presumably to allow delivery of coal feedstock and other supplies by boat.

Although referred to as the Balmain Gasworks, the site is now within the suburb of Rozelle.

Part 2 of the booklet *History of Balmain*, published by the Municipality of Balmain in 1935 to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Municipality, stated that at the time of incorporation of the Municipality in 1860, no street lighting was present and that "...Old residents tell us that the first public [kerosene] lamp erected was in front of the old tannery which stood on what is now Thornton Park, Darling Street East, and quite close to Darling Street Wharf. This position was considered of



Extract from an early map of the Balmain Municipality

gasworks at Waverton and Neutral Bay and, of course, of the large gasworks at Mortlake, but little is known about the small local gasworks that allowed the lights to be turned on in Balmain.

The reason Balmain was selected by the Australian Gaslight Company Limited (AGL) as the site for a small

150 Years of Gas) as "Balmain with ferry transport to the city and many local industries was a well populated suburb housing representatives of all classes. Balmain was thus an exceptional case, representing the Gas Company a close settlement of all types of potential customers as well as a market for coke for metallurgical purposes.

primary importance owing to the fact that many boats were pulled up on to the white sandy beach there, whilst their thirsty occupants made a friendly call to the old Shipwrights Arms, which is still a prominent landmark at the far eastern end of the Municipality...”

Council noted the kerosene lamp provided a “...very serviceable guide to residents most of whom were domiciled at the eastern (Peacock’s Point) end of the borough, that it was not long before a general demand was made upon the Council to provide more lights, the condition of the streets making night travelling awkward and dangerous.”

Broomham stated that the “Estimated cost of small works exclusive of land was 6,100 pounds; workforce 2, wages total 5 pounds per week; mains 10,000 pounds”. The sum of £6,100 in 1873 is equivalent to about \$1 million in 2021.

*The Sydney Mail* and *New South Wales Advertiser* of 16 April 1898 described the gasworks to comprise a retort house 60 feet in length (18 metres) by 25 feet in width (7.5 metres), with provision for five benches of retorts, condensers, purifiers and meters and a gas holder 50 feet in diameter (15 metres) by 20 feet deep (6 metres) having a capacity of 40,000 cubic feet (1130 cubic metres).

The supply of gas by 1876 “... provided a boon, not only to Council as a public body, but also to the many residents who, at this time, had built their homes in Balmain... and that “...50 municipal lights lights appeared in 1876” and “...by the end of the decade Balmain’s streets carried more than 200 lamps...”

Subsequently, Council “... launched out in this direction and lamps were erected as quickly as possible”. The fuel that made public lighting possible was the supply of gas from the Balmain Gasworks. In addition to public lighting, the availability of gas also allowed for domestic and industrial uses.

The Balmain gasworks operated until 1887 by which time it was more profitable to obtain gas from AGL’s large gasworks situated at Mortlake. After this time, *The Sydney Mail* and *New South Wales Advertiser* stated the Balmain facilities were dismantled and, together with the site, were sold.

To continue gas supply to the Balmain Peninsula, AGL established a large telescopic gasholder of 580,000 cubic feet capacity at Haymarket. To make room for the gasholder “...two small holders and cast iron tanks were taken down and these were subsequently re-erected at Woolloomooloo and Balmain”.

The Balmain gasholder, clearly evident on an aerial photograph of the Balmain Peninsula dated 1951, was located in the north-eastern part the present-day White Bay Park, adjacent to Vincent Street, Rozelle. The gasholder is no longer present and no information has been sighted relating to its demolition and removal.

Subsequent to demolition of the Balmain gasholder, gas was supplied to Balmain from AGL’s Mortlake gasworks until their closure in 1971 when natural gas was sourced from South Australia and Queensland.

## “I grew up in a police station” continued from page 1

Sargeant Ira Gray, his wife Eliza and their family of 12 children lived there from 1930 to 1945.

Margaret grew up at the police station with her sisters and brothers and attended the local Balmain public school. In descending order, the children were Allan, Douglas, Jean, Jessie, Nola, Merle, Marie, Dorothy, Sylvia, Ronald (d. 1933), Edna, Margaret, Bruce, and Eric (d. 1942). Ronald and Eric died at birth.

The charge room was furnished with a three-seater lounge, table, sideboard, gramophone and piano. The right cell was a bedroom for two boys, and three girls shared the left cell. Through the exercise yards were the two rear cells that were not used as bedrooms. The rear left cell was a play room, or more accurately the work room and the adjacent cell was strung with clotheslines. Upstairs, the remaining four girls and boys were in the present-day office and history room. The meeting room area was big enough for two more children. The main bedroom took the remaining space with a double bed for mum and dad and room for the baby’s cot.

Margaret’s sister Marie would take Bruce and her under a bed in one of the cells and read to them by torch and put it under her chin to scare the youngsters. When Margaret later got whooping cough and had to stay in bed, she would tie the sheet to the brass bedposts and make a tent.

“When mum and I had morning tea, she would pour some in my little red Bakelite tea set and would put an arrowroot biscuit on a plate; I still have the tea set today”.

Margaret and Bruce would bounce down the staircase steps on

their bottoms, and sit in a box and “slippity dippity” their way down to the cells. They would sit on the front steps of the Watch House and count cars and trams going by, and at Christmas, the Methodist Church would stop and sing carols on the back of a truck.

“I had a small pedal bike with two wheels on the back that looked like a horse. Bruce would stand on the back axle, and we would ride it down the back street towards the Colgate factory near the water.”

When war broke out in September 1939 the two eldest brothers, Allan and Douglas joined the army, and Eliza put Margaret’s Mickey Mouse doll on top of the kitchen cupboard wearing an army hat on his head and his arm pinned up in a salute. Time passed, and things changed, and Balmain was declared a danger zone, Margaret remembers her mum taking her and Bruce on the train to Bombala where she stayed at her grandparents’ home until it was safe to return.

“When the war was on, we could see the Sydney Harbour Bridge from upstairs. The sirens would start, and searchlights would light up the sky.”

Margaret’s sisters did their bit for the war effort with Nola joining the WAAFS, Jean went nursing, and Jessie joined the WANS as a volunteer. The children were in and out of the Watch House during and after the war.

Looking back now, Margaret’s most precious moments about the Watch House were the memories of her mother and father amid times of depression and war. From sitting on her father’s lap in the garden to looking forward to Friday nights where he would bring Bruce and her five cents worth of lollies. Ira had also turned one of the

outside toilets into a birdcage for canaries and finches. Later he built large stone and cement fish ponds outside the back door filled with goldfish — Margaret could never catch one.

Her father had been promoted to Sergeant Second Class in 1937 and to Sergeant First Class in 1940, taking up duties at Regent Street on March 27, 1944. He had just passed his inspectors exams and was being fitted for his new uniform. Soon after Margaret’s sixth birthday, Ira passed away without warning. With two sons away at war and after losing two baby sons in the last 10 years, Ira had a few strokes and died on November 13, 1944 at Balmain Hospital aged 55. Margaret’s sister Jessie had just given birth to his first grandchild on November 5, 1944 — eight days before Ira died. It was Marie (16 years old at that time) who told Bruce and Margaret that their dad had died, the only thing Bruce could say was “what does died mean?”. Margaret remembers her mum telling her it was the biggest funeral Balmain had ever seen.

Eliza and the remaining children moved from the police property in 1945 and relocated to the army hub at Herne Bay (now Riverwood) for 12 months. Later they were given a housing commission home on the corner of Toongabbie and Seven Hills where her mum had first pick of the new estate.

“Years later when I went to Parramatta Home Science Secondary High School we didn’t have much to live on so Mum made my uniform out of Dad’s old police pants, and I was so proud to wear it.”

There was no smoking or drinking or bad language in their home — only love. Margaret was just 18 years old when her mum died in a

car crash on the August 30, 1956. Margaret remembers how her mum said she would have married the same man and had all his children if she lived her life over.

By the 1960s the police vacated the Watch House and deterioration became rapid, it was unused, in a sorry state and slated for demolition. The building became a target for vandals and a home for vagrants — a leaking, broken derelict.

Fortunately, the Balmain Association formed in 1965 to maintain the historical value of the area, joined forces with the National Trust in a fight to preserve the building, with the restoration of the Watch House becoming its most cherished project.

Out of the family of 14 children including the two sons who died at birth, there are only four still living; Jessie, Dorothy, Margaret and Bruce with dearly loved sisters Edna and Marie passing away last year.

Present-day visitors to the historical site, including Margaret and her extended family, appreciate the enormous achievements of those early members who worked hard to restore the building and its history. The Association now has its headquarters in the restored Watch House and manages it as an exhibition space that reflects its efforts to preserve the heritage of the Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle communities.

**Sarah Cupitt is  
writing a visitor’s  
guidebook on the  
history of the  
Watch House for the  
Balmain Association**

# QUIZ

by former mayor of Leichhardt, Larry Hand

## Questions

1. In what year was the Balmain Town Hall opened?
2. What structure was demolished to make way for the Sydney Opera House?
3. On the Sydney Light Rail Network, which station is between Rozelle Bay and Glebe?
4. Dendrology is the study of what?
5. Which organisation's motto is Blood and Fire?
6. Which National Rugby League team has experienced the longest premiership drought?
7. What is the animal emblem for New South Wales?
8. The Sydney suburb, Sans Souci is a French expression meaning what?
9. Still a market leader, what is the name of the first perfume launched by Chanel in 1921?
10. What type of animal is a sugar glider?
11. What are the three main ingredients of a Negroni cocktail?
12. Proclaimed in 1810, name Macquarie's five towns.
13. In his work, *Theses on Feuerbach*, who wrote: 'Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it'.
14. On a standard laptop computer are the letters in upper or lower case?
15. A private residence since 1991, 4 Stephen Street, Balmain, was formerly which hotel?

## Answers

1. 1888
2. Fort Macquarie Tram Depot
3. Jubilee Park
4. Trees
5. The Salvation Army
6. Parramatta Eels, 34 years
7. Platypus
8. Without care
9. Chanel No. 5
10. Possum
11. Campari, gin and vermouth
12. Pitt Town, Windsor, Wilberforce, Richmond and Castlereagh
13. Karl Marx
14. Upper
15. Pacific Hotel (was also known as the Opera House)

# What's on at the Watch House

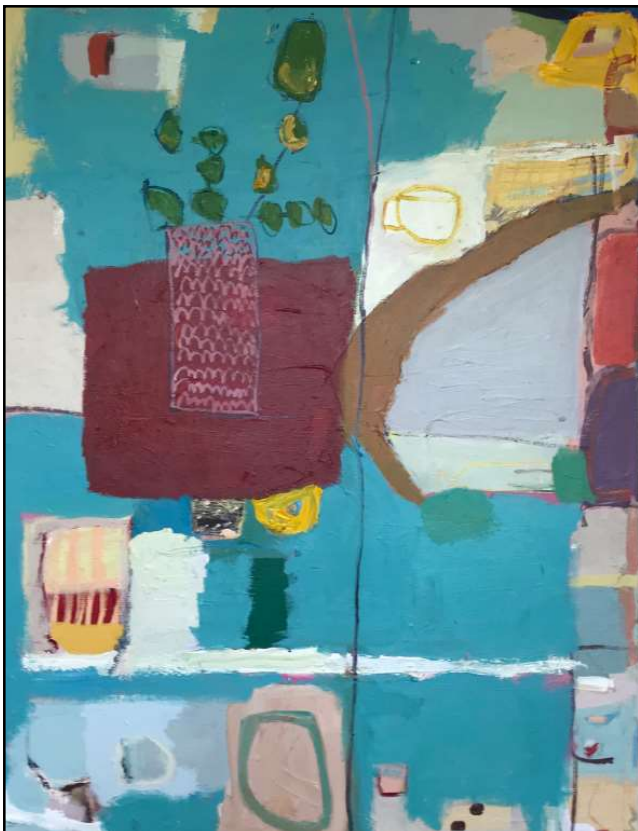
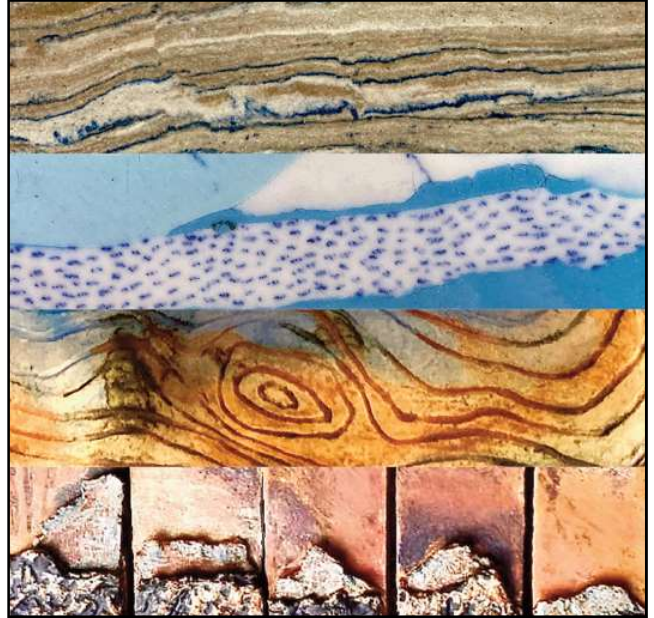
## Sculptural Horizons

Sculptural Horizons is a group exhibition of 12 artists, creatives who come together to share in their passion for sculpture and love of the clay medium. Clay is both utilitarian and decorative, it has been used by humans since prehistoric times and is one of the oldest materials for sculpture. In the past, sculptors working in metal or other mediums regularly built small preliminary pieces or maquettes in clay, however today we find many contemporary artists rediscovering and celebrating clay as a sculptural medium in its own right.

The artists are from diverse cultures and experience, yet clay connects them, inspiring and enriching each other with their collective learning and practice. Comprising award winning artists, skilled artisans and enthusiasts, the group puts their love and dedication to the medium on show in this exhibition. We invite you to come along and enjoy this eclectic presentation of functional pottery and sculptural forms.

July 9, 10, 11 July, 10am to 4pm

Opening: July 9, 6pm to 8pm



## Play it by Ear

Sophie and Jane Witter are sisters. Sophie is a painter from Tasmania, who recently had a successful solo exhibition in Hobart, while Jane lives in Sydney and works with reclaimed textiles.

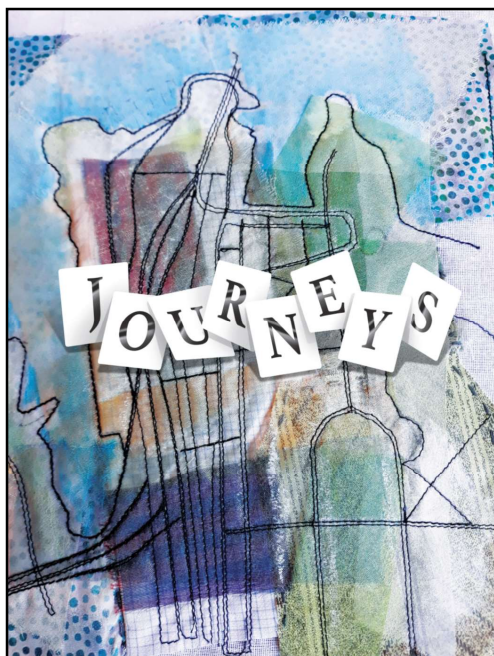
They share a vision about the importance of creativity and beauty in everyday life.

Their exhibition "Play it by Ear" runs from July 16 to July 18 and is a celebration of the feminine gaze and the struggle to carve art out of the demands of the domestic space.

July 17 and 18 from 10am to 4pm.

Opening: July 16, 5pm to 8pm.

Instagram accounts @witterjane and @wittersophie.



## Frayed Artists Textile Group

Frayed Textile Artists are preparing for its next exhibition, **Journeys**, to be held at the Balmain Watch House in July 2021.

The word 'journey', originally a literal unit of time and travel, has become a metaphor for the experience of living life with all its ups and downs.

During the pandemic, our journeys have been much closer to home – our travel has been restricted in many ways.

This has not, however,

prevented us from continuing our textile works as well as learning new techniques to incorporate into these works. The pandemic has affected us in different ways, and for some has had an impact on how we work and the work that is produced. We invite you to come along and join us to explore our textile adventures.

July 23, 24, 25 and 30, 31

10am to 4pm

August 1

10am to 3pm

Meet the artists July 24

12pm

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**the hART grows fonder** A painting exhibition from the members of the hART stART studio 'the hART grows fonder' is the 24<sup>th</sup> annual exhibition from the Balmain hART stART art studio at the Watch House. Audiences will be treated with expressive artworks, rich in exploration of colour and texture. This exhibition is for people who enjoy paintings in modernist styles with strong emphasis on individual expression.

June 19, 10am to 4.30pm; June 20, 10am to 4pm. Drinks with artists, June 19, 12pm to 4pm.

The hART stART studio, running in Balmain for 25 years practises the hART stART method that encourages mindfulness, personal growth, and a sincere friendship between members. Through modernist methods, all members work in a confident personal style in an atmosphere of warm friendly support.

hART stART studio meets for evening classes on Tuesdays in a designated art studio, just a few minutes walk from the Balmain Watch House. To enquire phone Gary 0410 639 819 or view the website at [www.hartstartstudio.com.au](http://www.hartstartstudio.com.au).

**Connection** ExtraTexture, a small group of textile and mixed media artists, is excited to return to the Watch House with its new exhibition.

Connection explores not only the relationship we have with each other, with colour and texture and with place and time, but also the diverse ways we approach a common theme.

June 26, 27 and July 2, 3, 4, 10am to 4pm.

Instagram: @extratexture\_textile\_art. Facebook: extraTexture Textile Artists.

**The Magic of Mosaic and Art** The magic of mosaic and art is celebrated in this exhibition when mosaicists Gretel Perlstone, Margaret Tessarolo, Deb Kane and Mollie Pegler combine with artist Carolyn Thomson to showcase their work.

The mosaic group of talented artists are delighted to be again exhibiting their latest works at the Balmain Watch House. Full of light and colour their works reflect the inspiration each artist draws from the beauty of nature and the world around them.

Carolyn Thomson's flower realism style of artwork, in both acrylics and oils, shows her keen observation in detail and her passion for colour. Each flower coming to life on canvas reflecting her inspiration from the natural world.

August 28 and 29 from 10am to 4pm.

# What's on at the Watch House



## Roll Over

Open Studio Printmakers is a lively group of artists who come together, to explore and expand the enduring practice of printmaking, resulting in distinctive and contemporary works on paper. Lino and wood cuts, screenprints, solar prints and etchings are some of the methods used to create this exciting exhibition.

Artworks reflect original creative thinking, by using a wide range of styles and techniques; their use limited only by imagination.

With no show in 2020, this printmaking collective will once again exhibit works of professional quality and range. The group regards these exhibitions as an opportunity to showcase the time honoured medium of printmaking to the wider community. Visitors will not be disappointed! A wide range of framed and unframed works will be included and all are available at reasonable prices.

August 7, 8 and 14, 15 from 10am until 4.30 pm. Opening August 8 at 2pm.

The Bays West Precinct  
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Not only would personal access be difficult but so too would provision of services. This needs to be clarified.

The Association suggests that in keeping with the surrounds that a limit of five storeys should be applied.

We note that there is very little said in the strategy about the Cruise Terminal. It has been a peninsula discussion item ever since it was 'temporarily' relocated from Barangaroo. Complaints about noise and pollution have been continuous. The demand for shore to ship power has been ignored and needs to be addressed. There is also the possibility that it will become redundant as the ever-increasing size of cruise liners reduces the number that can safely pass under the Harbour Bridge.

## Summary

In general the Association supports the draft place strategy with the noted reservations:

- As soon as possible improve pedestrian and bicycle access
- Provide a bus service to link the Metro with Balmain
- Include a public wharf
- Five storey limit on taller buildings
- Retain and restore the Glebe Island Bridge.

## The Balmain Association Inc. representing Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle

Since 1965 we aimed 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 realisation of the above.

Members are welcome to attend the Balmain Association meetings at 6pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Watch House, 179 Darling Street Balmain.

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

Website: [www.balmainassociation.org.au](http://www.balmainassociation.org.au)

Postal: PO Box 57 Balmain 2041

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