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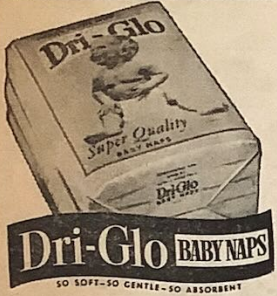
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VOL. 47—No. 21

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1968

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NAPPY SPECIAL
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BUSINESS

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 PHONE 82 3379

TIGERS HOLD CZECHS TO A DRAW

Last Friday night nearly 600 people attended the Dava Fraser Swimming Pool, Balmain, to witness a great game of water polo.

Balmain, current N.S.W. champions, played an 8-all draw with the Czechoslovakian side. Every spectator left the pool convinced that Balmain was unlucky to lose. However, the Czech players felt that a draw was a good result.

Before the game things did not look too good for "The Tigers". Only two nights earlier our boys suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of St. George. The way Balmain played that night they would not have beaten a girls' team. However, Captain Dave Woods assured us that Balmain were big-match players ("we have not won the last four grand finals for nothing"). This was certainly proven on Friday night. Our boys rose to the occasion and gamely rejected every onslaught the Czechs had to offer.

Swimming races and learn-to-swim classes have now resumed—every Saturday morning at 9.30 a.m.
 Tickets in our club's "Win a Toyota" competition are available from the President.

B.A.S. and L.S.C., 16 Fitzroy Ave., Balmain. Tickets are \$10 each and no more than 400 tickets will be sold. These are better odds than you would ever get at a race-track.

Gladstone Park Bowling Club

The result of the Xmas hamper was as follows: 1st prize, Fred Holloway, Booth St., Annandale; 2nd prize, T. Randall, Charles St., Balmain; 3rd prize, Mrs. M. Dean, c/o Bowling Club. Ironically enough, the winners of 1st and 2nd prizes are bachelors.

Bill ("The Lash") Duke put another weary year behind him on Sunday when we celebrated his birthday. Never mind. "Lasho", you have plenty of bowling years ahead of you.

Two of the most beaming smiles in the district belong to Stan and Ann Menzies, the reason being son Paul passed his final exam, to qualify as a solicitor. From 140 passes, Paul came home in 13th position. A cheerio to Bert Mantaan, hospitalised at the moment with a broken shoulder.

The green will re-open in a fortnight, but the first pennant games will be played away.

Don't forget the film night to be held this coming Saturday evening (20th January) at the old Balmain Leagues Club in Nelson St., Rozelle, commencing at 8.00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and tickets are available at the door.
 —"WINKIE POP"

Money Lent

On all portable goods—Radios, Tools, Sporting Equipment, etc., Jewellery
 Strict Privacy
Balmain Loan Office
 241 DARLING STREET, BALMAIN
 PHONE: 82-4696

ITEM OF INTEREST

For the best in Drapery, try Goldsmith's first. Their Sale Specials are unbeatable values, all keenly priced.
 When thinking of back-to-school wear, try Goldsmith's first. All local schoolwear now in stock.

BLACK AND GOLD RESTAURANT/COFFEE LOUNGE

Now completely renovated in modern styling to accommodate 60 people

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR:
 • BARBECUED CHICKENS
 • HOT MEALS TO TAKE AWAY
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632 DARLING STREET, ROZELLE (opp. T.A.B.)

Goings on at the R.S.L.

There isn't much of him, but boy, is he a real "swinger"? That is Jimmy "Troubles" Scourfield I mean. Out with the boys to North Ryde for a game of golf. Jim came home with a score card that would have made Bruce Devlin proud. Birdies were flying everywhere, and to top it off, our boy was only 6 inches off a hole-in-one. Good golfing, James! As I have said many a time before, our local talent deserves the highest praise. Sunday sick-parade saw five of our lads earning their \$2 each the easy way. Personally I think this is a very good idea, because who doesn't have a big head on Sunday, and the noise of brass bands, etc., is a bit hard to take, so fellows, if you want to participate, please hand your names in to Douggie Plumber. Believe you me, the age of miracles is wonderful. Last week I wrote about Micky Cannon and how bad he was, but now I am happy to say he is recovering by leaps and bounds, thanks to a new drug they are giving him—so let's hope it won't be long before we have this fine sportsman back with us. If any more turn up for this increased prize euchre tourney of a Friday, we will have to put on more stewards. It really is a great night out, but don't take notice of my bragging, come up and see for yourselves. Terrific list of pro. artists coming up for you, so keep your eyes on the "Link". Incidentally, the closing time for your nomination forms for positions on the Committee of Management is 12 noon, Sunday, 21st Jan. So, gents, kindly get your forms early. Books, books and books so urgently needed for our lads in hospital, so please friends, think of the boys lying in hospital with nothing to do with themselves all day. Teddy Hughes and "Little Eve" will gratefully accept them. See you next week.

Column 9

STATE ELECTIONS:

The most likely time for the next State Elections is May or June. However, it could be earlier.

What is going to be the result for Balmain? Are we still to be tied to the Labor Party because, and only because, it is a political party, or are we going to show our independence, and vote for the candidate most likely to accelerate some progress into this area?

From the midst of this community there must be a man or woman who has real interest for Balmain development.

From the people there is need of a sincere vote. No thought of parties—just a real desire to elect a forceful, outspoken person who will relentlessly pursue a policy for rehabilitation; and one can only agree that restoration of this area is a full-time job for any politician. No ties to a party of any name, as parties will only utilise this time in a policy of improving their public image.

What we need is a man, NOT a party. Little or nothing has been achieved here from party representation—in fact,

there has never been an address to Parliament to point out the lack of development here.

Party representatives are of no use to Balmain; they are part of a party machine and seldom voice an opinion. Little time is left. Elect a man at the next elections, NOT a party. Think only of development.

SOCIAL DRIBBLE:

The Sunday papers must be pressing hard for a page of news to appeal to the people, and, whilst searching for this page that would increase their distribution, they serve up a page of social drizzle.

Stories of all sorts of uninteresting bits and pieces which apply to a few so-called socialites who are unknown to the ordinary people. Their only claim to social fame is one magnified by themselves within their own circle, and, boiled down, it is of little consequence to the average person.

Whether Maisie Doakes and Fitzwalters Fabergast ate steak cooked in wine or peaches boiled in gin is just so much drizzle. It's about time this large space was utilised for more useful and informative reading.

Name Your Brand. WE HAVE IT! JENSEN'S Gift Store
 for TOBACCO CIGARETTES
 249 DARLING STREET BALMAIN

MR. GORTON:
 Only a few days in office and now faced with a major problem to be or not to be dictated to by the Postal Union. This is a test, and they have picked a tough man to issue alternatives to. For our sake, let's hope the trouble is settled soon.

PAY AS YOU WEAR

EASY WEEKLY PAYMENTS
 IMMEDIATE POSSESSION
LADIES' WEAR, MEN'S WEAR, CHILDREN'S WEAR, etc.
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With pride and with supreme confidence in its superiority, we offer

CAMEO CREME COLD WAVE
 the Wave that is "In".

ONLY **\$3.75** Including Style Cut and Set
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MAISON LEWIS (Fully Air-conditioned)
 Morning & Afternoon Tea Available
 655 DARLING STREET, ROZELLE (next Post Office) — PHONE: 82-1503

1968 - Another Year of Road Tragedy?

by W. W. D. Harrison, Secretary, Road Safety Council of N.S.W.

South Wales. Many, many more have been seriously injured, maimed and disfigured.

Another year has passed with only a very slight drop in the number of deaths on the road. Once again we must approach the new year with the depressing knowledge that in the previous twelve months, some eleven-hundred people have been killed on the roads of New

sengers in their vehicles and the slaughter of pedestrians—particularly elderly people.

It is a damning indictment of motorised man that he can apparently become a killer merely by sitting behind the wheel of a car. It appears that no amount of exhortation to drive carefully will change the ways of certain people. Statistics do not frighten. Even the thought of sudden horrible death fails to shock. Or is it that this is something some people just do not think about? “It couldn't happen to me” seems to be the philosophy of the road for many drivers. Not until they are brought face to face with the terrible finality of their own negligence or lack of ability do they realise they have abused their responsibility — but then it is too late.

Whilst it might be true to say that the dangerous driving element in our community represents a small minority of the total number of licensed drivers, the bulk of accidents occurring on our roads actually involve the “respectable citizen.” Laxity, carelessness and impatience whilst having relatively little significance in our social living when translated into the use of motor vehicles will bring about death and injury. In the days of 1968 before us it behoves everyone to take serious stock of their driving ability and their attitude while driving — both to other road users and to traffic law observance. There is still plenty of room for improvement in all of us.

Local Banker Returns To “School”

Mr. Eager, of the local branch of the Commonwealth Bank, has been selected to participate in a senior training course for branch executive officers.

The course commences in Sydney on 1st February and will run for three weeks. In all, 24 Commonwealth Bank officers, drawn from New South Wales and interstate branches will attend.

Mr. Eager has been with the Corporation in Balmain for the past two

years. He is well-known for his interest in new settlers and is a member of the local Good Neighbour Council.

Manager of the Balmain branch, Mr. Geoff Turner, today said that this course is specially designed to give a broad picture of the latest trends in banking methods, including mechanisation, and to equip branch executives with the “know-how” of effective leadership in a progressive business world.

Mr. Turner went on to say that these special courses were a necessity in an expanding organisation. Careful attention to staff training had enabled the Commonwealth Banks to maintain their remarkable progress of the last decade.

DEMOLITION

Balmain-Rozelle R.S.L. Club

Tenders are called for the demolition of cottage at 440 Darling St., Balmain. To demolish cottage, level with ashes and roll site, remove all materials.

All Tenders to be marked demolition and addressed Balmain-Rozelle R.S.L. Club, 442 Darling St., Balmain.

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This includes Style Cut and Set (no extras)

STYLE CUTTING FROM 80c

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Come in and see Genny or Pamela, late of “Sylvia Michel”, Paris, for personal, friendly service at

572 DARLING STREET, ROZELLE (2 doors from Beattie St.)

FOR HAIR BEAUTY

PRESENT THIS AD AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON ANY TREATMENT

CODOCK'S JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Will be holding its

Annual General Meeting

on

TUESDAY, 23rd JANUARY, 1968

in the non-drinking Lounge at 7.30 p.m.

for the election of

COACHES AND SELECTORS

All players, parents, officials and any other interested persons are invited to attend.

ENQUIRIES 82-2176 R. STONE, Secretary

Balmain-Rozelle R.S.L. Club

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1968

Nominations for all positions on the Committee of Management will close at 12 noon on Sunday, 21st January.

President, 2 Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, 8 Committee men.

The Minute Secretary will be chosen from one of the 8 Committee men.

All nomination forms must be seconded by 2 ordinary financial members and all Medal numbers to be shown on nomination forms.

Robert Morrison Returning Officer for 1968

Boys' Club Roundup

Owing to extensive renovations to the club building, the club will not reopen until Tuesday, 30th January, 1968, when all activities will resume.

Likewise, the ladies' auxiliary “hoosie” afternoons will not recommence until Saturday, 3rd February, 1968, for the same reasons.

In the interim, we would be pleased to hear from any persons interested in the welfare of the youth of the district who could instruct or supervise any of the following activities which are conducted at the club: Boxing, wrestling, judo, trampolining, table tennis, billiards and snooker, weight training and body-building, gymnastics, physical training, Rugby League, Soccer

football, cricket, baseball, electronic hobbies.

Any interested persons could contact the club on 82-2234 any day, Monday to Friday.

GIFTS

for all occasions.

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249 DARLING ST. BALMAIN

HELP LEGACY all the year round

CODOCK'S SPORTS, RECREATION AND FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

70 MULLENS STREET, BALMAIN PHONES: 82-2176, 82-3987

THE “NEW LOOK” comes to CODOCK'S SATURDAY NIGHT'S DANCE to the music of “The Wee Five” Band.

Members and their visitors will be entertained this week by the following entertainers:—

THURSDAY: Bowls, Darts and Table Tennis. Cash Prizes.

FRIDAY: “The Wee Five” Band with Female Vocalist.

SATURDAY, 20th Jan.: “The Wee Five” Band. Martin Roberts—Vocalist.

SUNDAY, 21st Jan., 3 p.m.: “The Wee Five” Band. 7.30 p.m.: The Scourfield Bros.—Vocal Duo.

Geo. Schofield Piano Tuner

Late Pinnings and Beales Player and Organ Repairs All work guaranteed 20 Clayton St., Balmain PHONE: 38-5280

REDUCED RATES for Pensioners' Haircuts LADIES' or GENTS Cnr. Darling & Elliott Sts. Balmain

GARRY OWEN HOTEL ROZELLE

“Beer at its Best”

Tooth's New and Old.

WHERE YOU MEET ALL THE SPORTS.

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Try this week's Winning Specials

WARREN'S BUTCHERY

2 doors from TAB

639 DARLING STREET, ROZELLE 82-2595

BEST SHORT LOIN CHOPS 2 lb. 49c

BEEF SAUSAGES 2 lb. 49c

TENDER CRUMBED CUTLETS 5 for 35c

Extra Lean CORNED ROLL 39c lb.

FOREQUARTER BABY LAMB 99c EA.

CORNED BREASTS OF LAMB 3 lb. 19c

Where Quality and Economy MEAT

Balmain-Rozelle R.S.L. Club

Phone: 82-2569 Members' Phone: 82-1601

FRIDAY: K.O. Euchre—\$30.

SATURDAY: Neale Patterson—Vocalist.

SUNDAY (Sick Parade): Johnnie Garfield—Comedian. 3 till 6 p.m.: Bruce Gillespie, International Vocalist. 7 p.m.: Jeanette Fave, a very lovely Vocalist, who once ran second in Millers' Search for a Star Contest. Members, do not forget the Big Holiday Week-end Programme.

SATURDAY, 27th Jan.: Toni and Royce, Guitar Vocal Duo. First appearance in the Club.

SUNDAY, 28th Jan. (Sick Parade): Marjorie Moon, Xylophones and Dancing. 3 till 6 p.m.: Merina and Lucina, Spanish Guitar, Vocal Duo. On their fourth trip to Australia. One of the best duos ever to come to Australia. 7 till 11 p.m.: Edwin Duff, Vocalist. One of the very few vocalists to make good in America and has just completed a very long contract at Keith Peterson's West Side Restaurant.

TUESDAY, 6th Feb.: Annual Sub-Branch Meeting. Election of all Officers of the Sub-Branch off the floor. Also a new Building Committee.

WEDNESDAY, 14th Feb.: Annual General Club Meeting. Business: Auditors' Report for 1967. Result of Election of Officers for 1968 and a Building Committee for the Club to be elected off the floor.

“SIZZLING” SUMMER SPECIAL FROM BENNETT'S

Famous 'REVELAIR' 10" GYRO ELECTRIC FAN WITH 5 YEARS' GUARANTEE

A single speed fan with exclusive Gyro-Action. Heavy duty construction throughout, yet attractive model styling makes it the right fan for any home or office.

USUALLY \$36.95 — DURING JANUARY YOUR PRICE IS ONLY \$19.95

BENNETT'S ELECTRICAL CENTRE — 247 DARLING ST., BALMAIN • 82 3398

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

LEAVE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS AT TO BIRCHGROVE ROAD, BALMAIN BEFORE 12 NOON ON TUESDAYS.

ST. ANDREWS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY 10 a.m.: Family Service. Children's Church, 6.30 p.m.: Meditation. Minister: Rev. F. Lambert-Carter

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY 9.30 a.m.: Family Service. No Sunday School. 7.15 p.m.: Holy Communion. Arthur H. Horace.

Church of England ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH Cnr. Birchgrove Road and Spring Street, Balmain. SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY 7.30 a.m.: Parish Communion. 10.15 a.m.: Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m.: Evening Service. Rector: David Williams. 82-1306.

BALMAIN-ROZELLE METHODIST MISSION SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY 9.30 a.m.: United Sunday School. 9.30 a.m.: United Service, Campbell Street. 7.15 p.m.: United Service, Montague St., Balmain.

Rozelle— 10 a.m.: Sunday School. 11 a.m.: Rozelle Methodist Mission. 7.15 p.m.: Rozelle Methodist Mission.

BALMAIN-ROZELLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES SUNDAY, 21st JANUARY Balmain—Campbell Street. 9.30 a.m.: United Methodist. Presbyterian Sunday School. 9.30 a.m.: Morning Worship. Combined Methodist and Presbyterian Services. 7.15 p.m.: Evening Combined Service, Methodist Mission, Montague Street.

Rozelle—St. Paul's. 10.45 a.m.: Sunday School. 11.00 a.m.: Church Service. 7.15 p.m.: Evening Service. Minister: Rev. L. A. Martin.

IN MEMORIAM

BRAY—In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Ray), passed away 15th January, 1964. Golden memories, sincerely kept.

Of one we lost and will never forget. Sadly missed by Mum and Dad and sister Jennifer.

KELLY—In loving memory of our darling daughter, Clara, who passed away 14th January, 1959. God closed your eyes to ease the pain.

To wish you back would be in vain: In life you toiled, in heaven you rest. God bless you, Clara, you were the best.

Sadly missed by her loving father, mother, brother Sid and sister Noeline.

MEYER—In loving memory of Norman Williams, who passed away 10th January, 1967. Close to our hearts he will always stay, Loved and remembered every day.

Always remembered by his loving daughter Lillian, son-in-law Ray and grandson Ken.

MOORE—In loving memory of my dear husband Lawrence, who passed away 16th January, 1966. We smile behind our heart-aches.

As you would want us to, And when we shed a lonely tear. No one will see but you: A million happy memories Can't ease a broken heart. The day God took you from us Our world just fell apart.

Loved and remembered always by his loving father and mother. The day God called you home. In our hearts you will always be. Cherished and loved in our memory.

Loving daughter Val, son-in-law Dan and grandchildren, Brett, Tracey, Brad.

IN MEMORIAM

NEBITT, May—In loving memory of my darling mother, who passed away 7th January, 1954. A wonderful mother laid to rest.

For me she always did her best. Her love was great, her heart was kind. A better mother no one could find.

Sadly missed by her loving daughter Iris, sister Holly, brother-in-law Bill.

SWINNERTON—In loving memory of our dear mother Mrs. Myrtle Sidney, who departed this life 19th January, 1965.

Please, God, fold your arms around him. Keep him in your loving care.

And all that seemed unwell. And all that seemed unwell. And all that seemed unwell. And all that seemed unwell.

SWINNERTON—In loving memory of Myrtle, who passed away 17th January, 1965.

God saw him growing weary. He did as He thought best. He put His arms around him.

And said, "Come home to rest." Inserted by Lillian Vale also Gladys and Merle.

TURNBULL—In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away 20th January, 1958.

Memories are like a thread of gold. Never tarnish, never grow old. Inserted by her loving daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMSON—Loving memories to and for our dear Mum and Grandmother. Barbara, passed away 17th January, 1966.

Sadly missed by Dawn, Jim, Barbara, fond son-in-law Tom and grandson David.

GLASSES, Boy's, Vicinity Jacques St. and Boys' Club, Balmain. Reward, 82-3006.

MARCASTE watch. Lost Saturday morning, Rozelle. Phone: 915-9383.

DOG, black Labrador, Clayton Street. Also home wanted for young kitten, 20 Clayton Street, Balmain.

BRICK OR GOOD TIMBER home urgently wanted by migrants for their parents due from Europe, 2-2 bedrooms in good condition. Quick decision for up to \$12,000 cash. Philip York, City, 211-0511. (Night 665-4916).

INSURANCE INSPECTOR transferred to Sydney. Wants good home for family of five. Company will finance to \$16,000. Philip York, City, 211-0511. (Night 665-4916).

WANTED TO BUY REFRIGERATORS, washers, televisions, stereos, etc. In or out of order. 80-0461.

YARDS, TREES, RUBBISH. Spray poisoning a specialty. Trees, shrubs, stumps, lawns, grubbed by experts. Power equipment used. Sheds, shops, factories, yards, cleared, rubbish removed, odd jobs done. 56-4085.

CAPABLE young mother, nice home and playroom, will mind child for working mother. Good ref. Mrs. Allen, 104 Short Street, Balmain. 82-1757, after 5 p.m.

WORK WANTED DAYLEM UPHOLSTERY Sydney's COMPLETE Re-cover, Repolish, Repair Service. 5,000 satisfied customers yearly. All suburbs, phone 638-0421, 55-6663 or A.H. 630-1865

WORK WANTED

GARDENS renovated. All types of gardens renovated, grass poisoned, trees lopped, grubbed, removed, chain saws and stump puller available. All types of rubbish, removed, sheds, yards, factories cleared. 50-5705.

FLATS TO RENT

ROZELLE 1 b.r. and 2 b.r. flats in block of 4, own laundry, 48 and 610 per week. A. Norton Pty Ltd, 198 Lyons Rd., Drummoyne. 81-1146, 81-1851.

TO LET

2 BEDROOM FLAT, bathroom & kitchen. Fully furnished. Opposite Town Hall. 1 Montague Street.

DOUBLE ROOM—Fully furnished. 63 Birchgrove Road, Balmain.

FLAT, S.C. dble. B/rm, living rm, 4 b.r., bath, toilet, etc. New furniture. 31 Darling St., East Balmain. 82-698.

NEW S.C. FLAT, 1 b./room, 4 1/2, large, bathroom, H.W.S. Furn. or unfurn. 9 Adolphus Street, Balmain.

FLAT, own kitchen, bath and toilet. H.W.S. Suit bus. girl. 2 mins. City ferry and bus. 82-1433, evenings or weekend.

FURN. FLATETTE and serviced single room in Darling Street. Please enquire 91 Phillip Street, Balmain, or phone 36-6074.

BALMAIN, single rooms 86 and 87. Use all modern amenities. Refined young people. Apply 6 St. Andrew Street, Balmain.

FLATETTES. Single \$7.20, Double \$11. Furnished. 107 Mullens Street, Balmain.

FLATS to let, Rozelle. 1 b/r, kitchen, furn. Share cons. 21 Percy St., anytime.

FULLY furnished S.C. double bedroom, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, fridge, sink, married couple or two friends. 615 Darling Street, Rozelle.

ROZELLE Single & double rooms, fully furn. 23 Margaret Street.

BALMAIN. Selection of modern unfurnished bed-sitter apartments in excellent location near shops and bus. 34 p.w.

Well located flat in East Balmain, near the wharf, containing 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, tiled bathroom, wall-to-wall carpet, bit-in w/robes. \$19 per week.

Fully furnished flatettes (share bathrm), own kitchen, from \$12 per week. JACK ZIEBER SHAW & CO. 409 Darling St., Balmain. Ring 82-3097 or 82-3562 now

SMALL furnished flat, TV, all conveniences. Handy hospital and Levers. Harbour view. Cheap. 82-4496 nights.

CLEAN comfortable bed-sitting room, use of all conveniences. Suit 2 gens. \$7.50 each, or 1 gent only \$11.00. 71 Glassop Street, Balmain.

FURNISHED flatette, all conv., suit business couple or lady. 151 Darling Street, Balmain.

FLAT, fully furnished dble. room, dining room, verandah, kitchen. 469 Darling Street, Balmain.

SELF-CONTAINED modern flat. Suit business couple. Near transport, \$15.00 all after 6 p.m. 28 Mackenzie Street, Rozelle. 82-4254.

HOUSES FOR SALE HOUSE. 2 bedrooms, dining room, kitchen, etc. Furnished. \$6,600. 19 Nelson St., Rozelle.

FOR SALE

GREY convertible lounge suite \$54, 5-pce. laminex kit, settings \$27-\$27, 3 wooden double decker, as new \$24, wheelbarrow \$3.50, 6 prefab. w/robe \$32, val. vent. double fitted w/robe \$20, modern lounge \$22, washing machine \$45, 4-pce. cane garden setting \$15, 3' tallboy \$15, modern dressing table \$15, comb. \$11, dining tables from \$6, two loose cushion lounge suites \$16, \$20, 4 1/2" inner-spring \$12. NEW FURNITURE: Namco bunnans chairs \$10.95, chrome single beds \$10, single inner-springs from \$11, 4-pce. double bedroom suite \$11, \$102.90, small lounge suites from \$54, 6 buffets \$55. Namco laminex kit, settings \$25, 5-pce. \$37, 7-pce. \$56, chrome chairs \$6 ea. convertible lounge suites from \$9, 3' tallboy \$15, modern dressing table \$15, comb. \$11, dining tables from \$6, two loose cushion lounge suites \$16, \$20, 4 1/2" inner-spring \$12. 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This is a copy of a letter by Mr. Robert Irving, a Lecturer in Architecture at the University of N.S.W., to the Town Clerk of Leichhardt Municipal Council, setting out the history of "Birchgrove" House, probably the most historical building in Balmain.

Despite the efforts of Mr. Irving and others, the building was last week reduced to rubble by demolishers to be replaced by a new block of home units.

HISTORY OF "BIRCH HOUSE"

The Town Clerk, Leichhardt Municipal Council, Box 45, P.O., LEICHHARDT.

Dear Sir,

BIRCHGROVE HOUSE

With great sorrow I have to inform you that the Council's approval of a Building Permit application given to the developer who wish to erect a block of home units on the site of 67 Louisa Road, Balmain, on which is situated the old home known as Birchgrove House.

Having been one of the people campaigning for its preservation, and having done considerable historical and architectural research into the property, I wish now to tell the Leichhardt Municipal Council the story of this historic building, now condemned to demolition.

On May 14th, 1814, there appeared in the Sydney Gazette the news of a robbery at the "Cottage at Birch Grove", and in the supplement to the same issue a reward of ten guineas was offered by Lieutenant-Governor Mollie for the thief's interception.

Robberies were common enough in the new colony, especially at this time when convict transportations were reaching its peak. But this one was an unusual highlight on an architectural problem of the day, the one that disappeared from the house of glass.

The windows, every square of glass is stated to have been cut out, and part of the sashes also taken away. The glass was in panes 18 inches by eight inches, and would almost certainly have been of crown glass imported from England.

In its 153-odd years, Birchgrove House has had to withstand continued bad luck such as this.

The estate of 30 acres was granted by Governor Hunter to George Whiffles in 1796, and was called Whiffles' Farm when it was sold in 1805 to Captain Edward Abbott. Abbott became famous for his role in the internecine rivalry of the Rum Rebellion that deposed Governor Bligh. I do not know whether Abbott lived on Whiffles' Farm during the Rebellion, but when conditions returned to normal upon Governor Macquarie's arrival in the colony, Abbott sold the estate to John Birch, after which he gained an army promotion and ended his days in Van Diemen's Land as Deputy Judge-Advocate.

Birchgrove House was built by John Birch, who came to Sydney with Macquarie as Paymaster of the 73rd Regiment in 1810. Birch was evidently a man of some means, for the glazed and sashed windows described in the 1814 Gazette extract were a luxury, even a quarter-century after the initial 1788 landing. He also had a town house at Charlotte Square, ran horses in Sydney race meetings, and commissioned the building of a handsome private yacht of 40 tons, launched in Hobart Town. I have also found evidence of close friendships with John Macquarie and Captain John Piper.

Birchgrove estate abutted the 550 acres granted to Dr. William Balmain by Governor Hunter, now the suburb of Balmain. Its most distinctive natural feature was the neck of land called Yerribin by the natives — "Swift running waters" — now known as Long Nose Point because of the nose-like rock protrusion at its extremity. Here, the Parramatta River, the harbour tides and the waters are indeed swift. It was

and still is, a narrow rocky strip with ideal aspect and wonderful harbour prospect. It was described at the time as a beautiful retreat. The house Birch built soon after acquiring the estate had stone walls of a single storey, two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs, probably with a furnace for the east, the attic space, all symmetrically disposed about a simple hall. There was a single-sloped verandah on the east side, a detached kitchen and stables on the west, and a panoramic view up the harbour to the east. Birch's house survives as the centre two-storied section of Birchgrove House today.

In 1814 the 73rd Regiment left for Ceylon and Birch's association with Birchgrove came to an end. In 1817, the proprietor of the property was Raymond Walpole Loane, and in July of that year the Sydney Gazette carried further news of bad luck concerning the empty house —

great depredations . . . by (vandal) pulling down part of the inside fittings of the house, and sealing the materials thereof . . .

The beautiful Estate of Birchgrove . . . Together it was the only house for miles about, as remote as "half an hour's row from Sydney Cove", and very much further away by the track from the Parramatta Road. Its isolation must have made it attractive to thieves, and pilfered building materials were all as negotiable as when the windows were pilfered.

Noting the continued bad luck which occurred, R. W. Loane, it seems, was some-what of a developer, for that year the estate had grown from 30 acres to 600 acres. The new owner consisted of Balmain's grant, then owned by John B. Gilchrist, and leased by him to Robert Loane. He enlarged the house by adding two large single-storey rooms, one at each end of the original house, each with a hipped skillion roof. These two rooms projected eastwards, thus enclosing the verandah on three sides. The small stair hall was extended by a mid-lift staircase which extended westwards from the entrance front. A foundation stone for these impressive extensions was laid in April, 1827, with pomp and celebration, by Loane to his friend. Before the stone was lowered into place it was anointed with corn, wine and oil.

In the advertisement in the Sydney Gazette of October 1, 1827, the 600 acre estate is a self-contained dairy farm and orchard, and it represents the first recorded attempt by anyone to make use of the barren, stoney Balmain peninsula for productive farming. The first tenant was Samuel Augustus Perry, who arrived in the colony in 1829 as Deputy Surveyor-General.

to the famous Thomas I. Mitchell, and remained for many years his faithful shadow. In the 1832 Calendar and Directory, Perry is shown to be in residence at Birchgrove, a pleasant seat on the Parramatta River.

Shortly afterwards, Gilchrist's Balmain estate was separated again from Birchgrove. Whether it was unsuccessful as farming land or Gilchrist's agents wanted to take advantage of the colony's expansion by selling residential allotments, we do not know, but negotiations were made to subdivide and sell the land, and Birchgrove reverted to its original 30 acres. Loane's amalgamation venture had been successful, it is probably that whole of the Balmain peninsula would be known today as Birchgrove.

In 1833 a large advertisement in The Australian proclaimed that Birchgrove was For Sale by Auction, with vacant possession — with its Modern-built verandah Residence . . . Erected by the Proprietor, under his own immediate inspection, having been originally intended for his own Occupation. All the desirable advantages of land and water carriage. The House contains eight rooms, with Out Kitchen consisting of Cook's House, Detached Kitchen, and Men's Apartments. The Garden is tastefully laid out, with Summer House . . . Fruit Trees . . . and a constant supply of Water upon the spot, for the Use of the Establishment . . .

In the advertisement, merchants, spermaceti-ship-owners and export traders of the colony were particularly invited to inspect the estate. It is interesting to note that, although offered with this sale, no Crown Grant was made at this time. No actual grant appears until 1850, when the wealthy merchant and grazier Bloxsome and Lection are recorded as owners.

I was unable to find any record of the sale resulting from this large advertisement. Loane did eventually sell in 1838, however, to John McLean, the Colony's Superintendent of Convicts. Traditionally it was McLean's cows, wandering on the east end of the Balmain peninsula, that made the track that became Darling Street.

Oswald Bloxsome was already a millionaire when he and Thomas Lection acquired Birchgrove estate in July, 1850. Soon afterwards his land holdings throughout eastern Australia totalled nearly three-quarters of a million acres. He built an elaborate Elizabethan mansion overlooking Mosman Bay, and never lived in Birchgrove House. The estate seems to have been occupied from the 1850s until 1856. William Salmon Deloitte, the ship's master who brought Bloxsome to Sydney in his vessel, the "Florence", in 1831, Deloitte's progeny, including his seven sons, became well-known local identities, and Deloitte's name was named in his memory; it is the lovely little pedestrian walk built between Swan Bay and what is now Birchgrove Park.

Bloxsome and Lection were speculators at the time of Australia's greatest 19th-century expansion, and they planned to subdivide the estate into villa allotments. The actual fragmentation was begun in the mid-fifties by a new owner, Didier Numa Joubert, and during the next thirty years Long Nose peninsula began to take on its present-day appearance as the waterfront houses multiplied. Louisa Road and Numa Street were named at this time for members of the Joubert family.

A typical "marine villa" of this building period of the estate is The Anchorage, in Louisa Road almost opposite Birchgrove House. It was built for the Driscoll family, timber merchants and sawmilliers. The "widow's walk" surmounting the roof enabled the family to see the comings and goings of their timber ships on the harbour and the river. Small ships moored opposite the Parramatta River frontage of the house.

The last family owners of Birchgrove House were the McDonnells, who bought the remainder of the estate, an area of about 18,000 square feet, and moved in at the end of 1895. The boom was over, and the decline of the suburb began. Gradually the decline of the building became evident.

The house as it stands today is structurally almost as sound as ever, but the ugly extensions of many decades clutter its street frontage and, like the lush garden,

the old building has had to look after itself for too long. But the garden front, once overlaid with a water terrace, has not been altered in form since 1827. The summer house is gone, but the garden wall survives, from 1814, probably. Some of the original "out offices", built of squared rubble, and the wooden shingles are still underneath the corrugated iron.

Many details of the original Birchgrove House of 1810, as well as its general form, are still evident today — the simple carved and moulded cedar fireplace surrounds, the low six-panel doors re-used in the extensions, the flooring boards of uneven grain without tongues and grooves, the hand-sawn structural timbers.

The house must have undergone a face-lift in Deloitte's time, for the cast iron verandah columns and railings, the bay windows, one of the large fireplaces, and the external rendering that now conceals the six-inch stone courses, date from about the mid-forties. The verandah floor tiling might be from this period as well.

There is no documentary evidence that an architect designed Birchgrove. But plenty of innate skill, building tradition, history and beauty are there. The widespread local support for the idea of its restoration, encouraged by the National Trust, has been entirely characteristic of the regeneration sweeping through Balmain, making history a living tradition once more in this old suburb.

From these notes you will see that the land upon which Birchgrove House stands was granted four years before Balmain, and that the house as it exists today was built thirty years before any other permanent building in the whole of local support for the idea of its restoration, encouraged by the National Trust, has been entirely characteristic of the regeneration sweeping through Balmain, making history a living tradition once more in this old suburb.

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