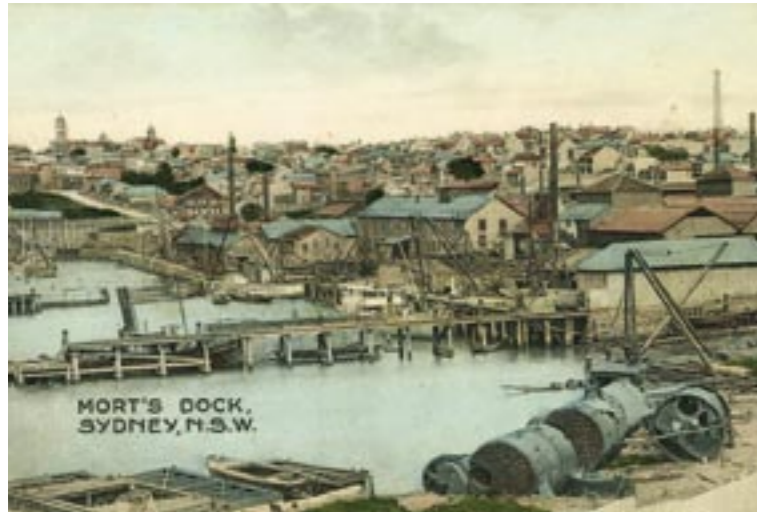


# BALMAIN'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE



## POCKET WALKING MAP

### SOME IMPORTANT SAFETY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- The walk requires average fitness and the average duration is 1.5 hours. Take care as the footpaths in Balmain can be narrow and uneven and tree roots may have damaged some surfaces that have yet to be noted or fixed by Council\*
- Use sunscreen, carry water and wear a hat and good walking shoes
- The Balmain peninsula carries a lot of traffic so always be alert and walk with care, even if the speed limit is 40km/h
- Look towards oncoming traffic
- When crossing roads never assume a driver has seen you
- Never assume a driver will stop
- Avoid crossing between parked cars
- Turning motorists must give way to pedestrians – but do not assume they will
- Use pedestrian crossings where available
- Be aware that cyclists younger than 12 years and those accompanying them are permitted, by law, to ride on footpaths
- On overcast or rainy days wear bright clothing or carry a bright backpack/bag so that you are more conspicuous to drivers
- If using a taxi, remember the speed limit on the entire peninsula is 40km/h so relax and be patient

\* Report major damage or footpath hazards to Council 02 9367 9222.



### WALKING AMBASSADORS

Interested in pedestrian safety and doing more walking in the Leichhardt Council area?

Council is recruiting volunteers to participate in the Walking Ambassadors Project with the purpose of promoting pedestrian safety through peer education and assisting in improving local walking routes. Call Council's Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Planner 02 9367 9000 for more information.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Balmain is well serviced by public transport. Timetables and route descriptions for buses and ferries can be obtained from the Transport Info Line on 131500, or you can visit [www.131500.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)

### FERRIES

Ferries operate regular services from and to Circular Quay wharf 5. Most stop at Thames Street on Mon – Sat and public holidays. No ferries stop at Thames St Wharf on Sundays. Contact 131500 for exact times and routes.

### BUSES

- 432 The Rocks – Birchgrove via Glebe and Montague Street
- 433 & 434 The Rocks – Balmain (Gladstone Park) via Glebe
- 441 Art Gallery – Birchgrove via City, Anzac Bridge, Rowntree St
- 442 Town Hall/QVB - Balmain East Wharf (Darling Street)
- 445 Balmain East Wharf (Darling Street), Rozelle, Leichhardt, Lilyfield Light Rail, Petersham Station, Dulwich Hill, Hurlstone Park, Canterbury Station



### LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF THE LEICHHARDT COUNCIL AREA?

You can access the Local History collection at Balmain Library - a research collection on the suburbs of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle. You can also visit the Local History room at Leichhardt Library, which houses an extensive collection on the history of Annandale, Balmain, Birchgrove, Leichhardt, Lilyfield and Rozelle. The collection includes maps, photographs, plans, newspapers, books and journals and oral history recordings. Log on to: [www.lmc.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://www.lmc.nsw.gov.au/libraries) for more information.

The Balmain Association, based at the historic Watch House building in Darling Street, Balmain, holds a collection on the history of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle open to the public most Saturdays. The Association welcomes new members.

See: [www.balmainassociation.org.au](http://www.balmainassociation.org.au) for more information or phone 02 9818 4954.



We hope you have enjoyed the walk and welcome your feedback. Please contact Christopher Reeves 02 9367 9392 or [chrisr@lmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:chrisr@lmc.nsw.gov.au) or Bruce Carter 02 9367 9266 or [brucecc@lmc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brucecc@lmc.nsw.gov.au)

### 1. WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE



The Balmain Working Men's Institute was formed in 1865 and its building at 332 Darling Street was completed in 1896. Working Men's Institutes aimed to 'improve the education of working men and instruct them in the trades'. The only condition placed on membership at the Balmain Institute

was 'respectable behaviour and the opportunities afforded for passing the time enjoyably instead of aimless loafing'. By 1912 the Institute had 700 members and a library of over 6 000 titles.

### 2. UNITY HALL HOTEL/ LOYALTY SQUARE WAR MEMORIAL



The original Unity Hall Inn was located at the corner of Nicholson and Darling Streets, East Balmain. It received its name from the meetings of the Balmain Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows (Freemasons) which were held there. In 1875 the licence for the hotel was moved to the present

Unity Hall Hotel at 290 Darling Street, Balmain. In April 1891 the Labor Electoral League whose name later changed to Australian Labor Party, was formed at the Trades and Labor Hall or Unity Hall (formerly the Adelphi Theatre) which now forms part of the Unity Hall Hotel.

The Loyalty Square War Memorial was erected at the intersection of Beattie and Darling Streets in 1916 to commemorate the Balmain servicemen who died during the WWI Dardanelles Campaign. Its drinking fountain design encouraged public interaction. Following restoration work, the memorial was re-dedicated in June 2000.

### 3. ISSY WYNER RESERVE

During World War II, the Sydney industrial suburb of Balmain became

the largest ship-repair centre in Australia. Some 3000 people worked at Cockatoo Dockyards, 2000 at Mort's Dock, plus many more in other yards. Conditions were generally tough, and especially so at the antiquated Mort's Dock. Issy Wyner worked at Mort's Dock and Cockatoo Island as a ship painter and docker, becoming a member of the Federated Ship Painters & Dockers Union of Australia in 1939. A well known union activist, in 1949 Issy was the president of the NSW Branch of the union and from 1974 its Secretary. Issy Wyner also served as a Councillor and Mayor of Leichhardt Council. The Reserve recognises his contribution to the community. Other local parks are also named after similar contributors to the community, such as (Nick) Origlass Park.

### 4. SHIP PAINTERS AND DOCKERS HALL

Built in 1915, the Ship Painters and Dockers Hall was used by the Ship Painters and Dockers Union from 1915 until 1990 and was the scene of many noisy meetings, planned strike action and an employment service for riggers and painters. This union, under its founding name, the Balmain Laborers' Union, was instrumental in the formation of the Australian Labor Party. Redeveloped in the 1990s, the external façade of the hall has been preserved.

### 5. MORT BAY PARK/ MORT'S DOCK/ BALLAST POINT

In 1854, Englishman Thomas Mort had an area at the south-western end of Waterview Bay now known as Mort Bay, excavated to create a dry dock on land acquired a few years earlier by Thomas Rowntree. In 1872 the dockyard grew to be the biggest in the colony of New South Wales, employing in excess of 1000 workers. Demand for the services of the Dock continued into the 1900s, withstanding the 1930s economic downturn. During World War II the company undertook war time contracts. The company closed on 12th November, 1958. Remnants of Mort's Dock can be seen in Mort Bay Park.



Named due to its convenient location for loading and unloading ballast for

sailing ships, the Ballast Point site was purchased by Texaco for an oil storage facility in 1930. The company operated there until the 1990s and following determined action by local residents, the NSW Government acquired the site for parkland in 2002. The site is currently under re-development.

### 6. THAMES STREET WHARF



This Late Victorian building, thought to be constructed in 1895, is possibly the last 19th Century ferry structure remaining in use on Sydney Harbour. Hundreds of dockyard employees would congregate at this wharf daily, waiting for the ferry home.

### 7. BALMAIN WATCH HOUSE



Originally one storey in height, the watch house was Balmain's first police lock-up. As Balmain grew rapidly, the need for local police and cells to detain short term prisoners increased. In 1854 the Balmain Watch House was built. Well known colonial architect, Edmund Blackett, Architect of the University of

Sydney, and his clerk of works, James Charles White were involved in the construction. The Watch House was threatened with demolition in the mid 1960s. Its poor condition was the catalyst for the formation of the Balmain Association, who have subsequently undertaken repair and restoration works to the building.

### 8. COLGATE PALMOLIVE

In the early 1920s U.S. firm Colgate-Palmolive began operations in Broadstairs Street, Balmain later re-named Colgate Avenue. Within two years the company was employing over 140 people and its products became household names in Australia and New Zealand. Drawing on a local workforce and waterside access, the delivery of ingredients such as

tallow - animal fat - was quick and economical, deliveries being made by barge straight to the company's own wharf. In the mid 1990s the factory finally closed its doors and the site was converted for use as apartments in 1997.

### 9. ALEXANDER BURNS & THE ADELAIDE STEAMSHIP COMPANY

Developed by timber merchant Alexander Burns who used coal fired steam engines to power saw milling operations in his workshops on the property. Affected by the economic depression which devastated the colony of New South Wales in the 1890s, Burns' premises were repossessed and sold to the Adelaide Steamship Company in 1900. The company undertook major alterations and over the next 68 years successfully operated a ship repair and engineering service to the large Adelaide Steamship Fleet. At one time the workshops employed more than 600 workers, mainly local men.

### 10. ILLOURA RESERVE

'Illoura' is an Aboriginal word meaning 'pleasant place'. For most of the 20th Century a major portion of the reserve was a maritime repair and construction storage depot for the Maritime Services Board. In 1970 the Board's site was handed over to Leichhardt Council and converted to Parkland.

Landscape Architect Bruce McKenzie, was awarded a prize for excellence by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for his design of the reserve. The design included the re-use of timber pilings. In recent years the extension of the park at Peacock

Point was completed. 2-8 Weston Street, which is also to be developed for parkland by Leichhardt Council, will provide an important link to the reserve

# BALMAIN'S INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

From the 1840s onwards Balmain experienced rapid urbanisation as major industry established itself on its foreshores. Within a few years Balmain had been transformed from a quiet village into a bustling industrial town. The Balmain Industrial Heritage walk offers a snapshot of some of the areas' rich industrial and labour heritage.

The map and accompanying audio guide give you insight into the significant social history of the places that you will traverse and its influence on the lives of many Australians. The MP3 audio guide is available for free download at [www.lmc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lmc.nsw.gov.au)

To avoid steep hills we suggest you start on Darling Street at the Working Men's Institute and finish at Illoura Reserve, although this walk can be completed in reverse. You can also complete the walking tour in a variety of other ways e.g. by utilising the ferry route. We suggest you leave the car at home and take the ferry or bus to Balmain to undertake the walk.

Leichhardt Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land - the Gadigal and Wangal people, who form part of the Dharug nation (commonly referred to today as Eora) and their descendants.



4.Ship Painters and Dockers Hall



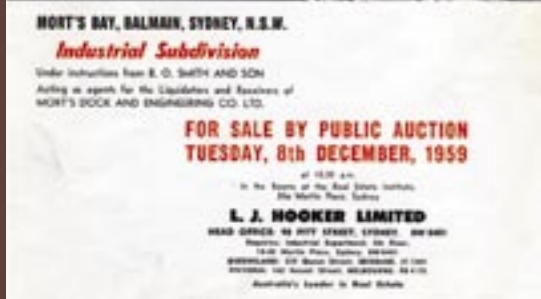
3.Issy Wyner Reserve



9.Alexander Burns & the Adelaide Steamship Company



5.Mort Bay Park/ Mort's Dock/ Ballast Point



## SITE LIST

1. Working Men's Institute
2. Unity Hall Hotel/ Loyalty Square War Memorial
3. Issy Wyner Reserve
4. Ship Painters and Dockers Hall
5. Mort Bay Park/ Mort's Dock/ Ballast Point
6. Thames Street Wharf
7. Balmain Watch House
8. Colgate Palmolive
9. Alexander Burns & the Adelaide Steamship Company
10. Illoura Reserve

National Trust Heritage Festival 2007



2.Unity Hall Hotel/ Loyalty Square War Memorial



1.Working Men's Institute



8.Colgate Palmolive



- Travel Route Loop
- Steep Streets
- Historical Sites
- Bus Stops
- Bus Routes
- Ferry Stops
- Public Toilets