

VILLAGE VOICE

No. 36-37 APRIL, 1988

Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

Victorian fountain gives a welcome to Queen Street

Through the efforts of the Association, a magnificent authentic Victorian garden fountain and surrounding pond have been placed in Davies Reserve at the corner of Queen Street and Oxford Street. Working in association with Woollahra Council, the Association arranged the restoration and installation of the fountain which was an anonymous gift to the area. Our picture shows the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Susan Collett, at the inauguration of the fountain on November 29 with (from left) her husband Peter; National Trust executive director Peter James; Queen Street Association President Tom Wilhelm; and Association committee member Duane Norris who supervised the restoration and installation.

Juniper Hall opens in style

THE \$3 million acquisition and restoration of Juniper Hall at the corner of Oxford Street and Ormond Street, Paddington, is the National Trust's major project for Bicentennial Year.

On Thursday, April 21, just a few days after it is officially opened, the Association is holding an evening at Juniper Hall to enable local people to inspect it.

The programme also includes a concert of songs by the Taverner Consort, and poetry and prose mostly written by the people of Paddington-Woollahra, past and present.

Fuller details are in the centre of this *Village Voice*.



Spend an evening with your association

The Association's Annual Meeting is always a lively affair when local grievances are aired. You don't have to be an Association member to participate. Make a note of the date — and come!

All local residents are cordially invited to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

National Council of Jewish Women's Centre,
110 Queen Street, Woollahra

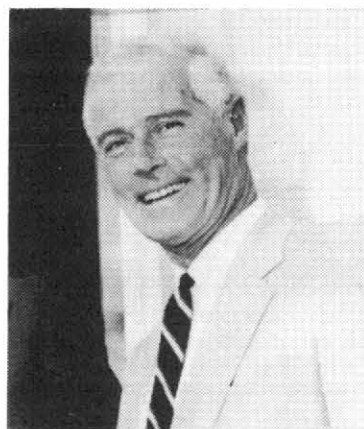
TUESDAY, MAY 10TH, AT 7PM

Guest Speaker

PROFESSOR MAX KELLY

President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

Professor Kelly will talk on the National Trust's major restorations in Bicentennial Year, including its most ambitious project, Juniper Hall in Paddington. Followed by complimentary Wine and Cheese.



MAX KELLY

Max Kelly is Professor of History at Macquarie University and author of six books including a history of Paddington called *A Paddock Full of Houses* and a fascinatingly illustrated profile of William Street in 1916, *Faces of the Street*. In addition to being President of the National Trust in NSW, he is a member of the City of Sydney Strategic Plan Advisory Committee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE past year has been one of great change for the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, says the President, Tom Wilhelm, in his annual report to members.

He continues:

After several years of quiet, a number of projects came to fruition in 1987 and the overall direction of the Association altered.

Originally founded by a mixture of businessmen and residents, the Association had become dominated by residents. In recent years that character has begun to change again.

In 1986, the Committee considered trying to replace the Queen Street Fair with some suitable activity that would be beneficial and enjoyable for our community. The effort came to naught.

In 1987, with the face of the Committee leaning more to the business side of Queen Street, we proposed and initiated a week of celebrations. The activities were many (perhaps too many) and varied.

We formed a separate Celebrations sub-committee to run the activities, and this had the wonderful side effect of drawing into the Association a number of business personalities who had not hitherto been involved with the Association.

Two groups

The upshot of all this activity was to make clear that there are two separate commercial communities in Queen Street — the antique dealers and the general retailers.

If Queen Street is ever to achieve the sense of community that it seems to have superficially, with some substance, the conflicting desires and interests of the two groups will need to be addressed.

Trying to create activities for our week of Celebrations that would suit both groups lead to the realisation that their needs and interests are so various as to be nearly irreconcilable.

The family barbecue with folk music held at the Holdsworth Centre and the antique auction held at Mobili showed our difficulty in trying to bridge this seeming gulf between the two groups.

Though Queen Street may have a "village atmosphere" we are not a village, but more of a speciality centre (perhaps the best centre for fine antiques in all of Sydney) with a kind of village stuck on!

Committee and the community will have to deal

with this unique dichotomy if a true sense of community is to be achieved.

Notice board

The Association, now a public company, made one little effort to increase our public image, by putting up a village notice board on the footpath by the Queen Street carpark.

For some time I had felt that we would gain some easy public notice, and serve the community better, if this was done. I suggested it to the Committee and they agreed.

With the cooperation of the Woollahra Council it was paid for and installed by the Association.

Juniper Hall

We have always worked with the National Trust, and their grand restoration of Juniper Hall, to be officially opened on April 16, has been supported by the Association.

We had for years a policy of only supporting "local" initiatives but the overwhelming importance of this building overrode this custom and we donated \$1000 to the restoration fund.

The most visible Association initiative this year was the installation of a superb Victorian garden fountain in Davies Reserve.

The fountain had been donated to the Association some years ago for just that purpose, but due to some disagreements and misunderstandings with the Woollahra Council (whose full cooperation was vital to the placement of the fountain) the project lay stillborn for a few years.

Duane Norris of Duane Norris Garden Designs, a committee member, and the

planning staff at the Woollahra Council are all to be congratulated on such a fine result! The Davies Reserve will never be the same.

We hope, with the Council's continued support to have the reserve landscaped to make it a real showpiece and "doorway" to Queen Street.

History

Robin Brampton, our Vice President and resident publisher, had dreamed for some years that the Association would in some way support the publishing of a book about local history.

It was another wonderful accomplishment of the Celebrations that we saw the completion and publication of *Queen Street and District — A History and Guide*.

The work of John Paradee, from Paradee and Moore Antiques, is to be applauded for raising so much advertising revenue for the book. His efforts went a long way to defray the considerable cost.

I should add in passing that we nominated Robin for Woollahra Council's Citizen of the Year Award, open to any individual who has done outstanding service to the community.

To our satisfaction, and with the Council's obvious agreement, he did receive the award. A well deserved award if ever there was one — fine work Robin!

Finance

It has been a costly year for the Association, using some of our accumulated funds for the purposes mentioned above.

In the long run, the initiatives begun this year will prove valuable to the community,

though some of us wondered, in the midst of the year's work and at times confusion, whether it was really all worth it!

I would like to thank Cathy Winters who served as committee member and Secretary. We wish her good luck in her move to Bathurst.

I hope the initiatives begun last year will continue this year and would like to thank the many individuals who contributed to the Celebrations.

In particular I would thank Mary Read, Virginia Rose, Keith Lehane, Chris Pentland, Paul Baker, John Haymes, Frances Laverack, Monica McDonald and James Furber for their special contribution without which the Celebrations would not have been possible.

Celebrations to take new direction?

cont. from back page

For instance, taking the judges of the shop window dressing competition on their rounds of inspection proved something of an embarrassment.

Several shopkeepers had made no effort to create an interesting window... others were still working on their displays (and this on Saturday morning!)... and some windows were positively dirty, one even displaying cobwebs.

The judges awarded the prizes to Robert Morrison Antiques ("It just looked wonderful without being overdone") and Kidstuff ("The whole display of teddy bears shows an affection for the merchandise").

Financially, the Celebrations have placed a considerable burden on the Association which has made up a shortfall in the region of \$3000 between the costs of the event and the revenue.

Regretfully both Duane Norris, who was Chairman of the 1987 Celebrations committee, and myself have bowed out for 1988.

We take the view that although the Celebrations were a very worthwhile initiative, new thinking and leadership are necessary to ensure their future success.

New Association Secretary

THE Association has a new Secretary, Helen Young of Moncur Street, well known for her many years of work with the Holdsworth Street Community Centre.

She takes over from Cathy Winters who has moved to Bathurst with her artist husband Michael.

At the Annual Meeting in May, Helen Young will also stand as a committee member.

The committee has also been joined by Ray Reynolds, of John Street, co-opted in place of another John Street resident, Warren Fahey who has resigned.



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association
invites you to inspect the wonderfully restored

JUNIPER HALL

and enjoy a programme of

WORDS AND MUSIC

Australian traditional songs, together with poetry
written mainly by the people of the Paddington-Woollahra area,
past and present

with

THE TAVERNER CONSORT

Readings and narration by
Penne Hackforth-Jones and Robin Brampton

Thursday, April 21st, at 7pm
Juniper Hall, Oxford Street, Paddington

Tickets \$20 each
including champagne and supper

*Obtainable from Top Brass or Duane Norris Garden Design,
Queens Court, 118 Queen Street.
Or by sending a cheque to The Secretary,
Queen Street and West Woollahra Association,
P.O. Box 16, Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.*



Compiled by Monica McDonald
and Robin Brampton

THE past few months have seen a bewildering flurry of business changes in Queen Street.

Both the greengrocery at No 102 and the stationery emporium next door at No 104 have disappeared.

Newcomers Andre and Cecile Fink have stylishly remodelled No 102 for their French antique business, and Martyn Cook Antiques, late of No 42, is to move into No 104.

Other newcomers to the street are television actor turned print dealer Tony Ward, and Lynette Cunningham who specialises in small oriental antiques.

Tony Ward's Printique gallery is to open where Bonney's Flowers have wilted away from No 94; and Lynette Cunningham has succeeded the late Truus Stewart next door at No 92.

Meanwhile, it appears that despite a notice which appeared outside for several weeks, the former Queen Street Brasserie at No 107 will not become an architectural practice. It will reopen as a restaurant.

But nobody seems to know the future of another recent casualty among our service businesses, Brindles hairdressing saloon at No 110 which has been closed for several months.

* * *

SOME whacking prices have been paid recently for Queen Street real estate. Queens Court recently changed hands at auction for \$3.2 million, following the sale late last year of the Woollahra Hotel to Alan Bond brewery interests for \$2.5 million.

And interests which bought the Queen Street Brasserie building for \$345,000 sold it again within a month for \$445,000!

* * *

HOW much our recently established Neighbourhood Watch is needed is shown by crime figures for the Queen Street and Ocean Street area in September and October.

Thefts from nine houses and



other buildings netted the criminals \$17,299 worth of plunder, while a further \$5360 worth of property disappeared from parked cars.

Some 50 people attended a public meeting in Forth Street School in March to reinvigorate Neighbourhood Watch under coordinator Robyn Pinkstone.

It is hoped that in the winter, the coordinators will distribute engraving pens to enable householders to permanently identify such theft-prone possessions as video recorders. And a "super garage sale" will be held to raise funds.

But Robyn urgently needs more assistance, particularly volunteer coordinators. If you can help with this very worthwhile community activity, her phone number is 32 3810.

* * *

PLEASE to note that one of the aims of Clover Moore, new State member for Bligh, is to implement local traffic management schemes to divert heavy traffic from residential areas.

We trust this means stronger support in Macquarie Street for our continued battle to reduce Ocean Street traffic levels.

* * *

A SUGGESTION of Queen Street Association Vice President Robin Brampton that the street leading from Alton Street to Holdsworth Street be re-named Pat Thompson Place has been adopted by Woollahra Council.

The Association supported this way of honouring Pat who was a member of the Queen Street Association's first committee and had earlier

Waimea restoration begins

Yes, It's happening at last! The once-dreaded hydraulic excavator moved into the Waimea site in February, not to complete the demolition of the superb Regency style home but to prepare for its restoration.

It is now almost 15 years since strong resident action halted the Royal Blind Society's attempted demolition of the residence off Queen Street, built by Thomas Barr in 1858.

It is also 11 years since it was acquired by Parks Development who are at last

making good their promise to restore it as a family home for their principal, Dr Bill Kelly.

The restoration is being undertaken by a family firm of builders, C. A. Millar of Forestville, to the plans of Macins Associates Pty Ltd which provide for new construction work behind the old building.

Tony Millar who has been supervising the site works preparatory to the new building tells us the whole restoration will take about a year to complete.

joined with her poet husband John Thompson in founding the Paddington Society.

Until her death last year, Pat lived in Holdsworth Street, near the street which is to bear her name.

Incidentally, the street is not as anonymous as its recent lack of a street sign would suggest. It was called Weldon Lane, although Woollahra Library has been unable to discover why.

In Weldon Lane was sited Morrison's "Famous" Cake Factory which disappeared when Prosser's (later Eyles) training swimming pool was built in the 1960s. In turn this valuable local amenity was recently swept away to build townhouses.

* * *

TALKING of Pat Thompson Place (nee Weldon Lane), we understand its newly built group of town houses has a very eminent resident — Peter Weir the film director. We bid him

welcome to our very photogenic area.

* * *

QUEEN Street is still stunned by the tragic deaths in the space of a few short months last year of three women who had made a great mark on the local business scene.

Antique dealer Truus Stewart and restaurateur Josephine Pignolet were killed in road accidents; and antique dealer Anya Copeland died of leukemia.

Because both Truus and Anya were members of the Queen Street Celebrations committee, it was decided to dedicate the 1987 event to their memory.

Josephine and her husband Damien elevated Claudes' in Oxford Street to be one of Australia's best restaurants — and you had to book weeks ahead to get in.

To the relatives of Truus, Anya and Josephine, we extend our condolences. They will be affectionately remembered.

Excellent reaction to our history

MOST homes in the immediate area of Queen Street should now have received a complimentary copy of the association's Bicentennial Year book publication, *Queen Street and District — A History and Guide*.

Because of short delivery by the printer just before Christmas, we are having a reprint done to enable residents of Jersey Road to receive copies.

The book was written by history teacher Alison Halliday, who was brought up in Queen Street, and Association Vice-President Robin Brampton.

Reaction to the book has been excellent, and we have had some charming comments.

Out patron, Dame Joan Sutherland, who lived in Queen Street as a teenager, tells us that the book brought back happy memories.

And two members of the first committee who no longer live in the area, Rowan Shann (nee Beckett) and Michael Magnus, tell us that the book recaptures

QUEEN STREET and district



A history and guide



the feeling of the Association's early days.

We have also had comments on omissions, something inevitable in a work of this sort, particularly as the authors were working to a deadline.

For instance two famous literary figures were omitted from the chapter on notable people who lived in the area —

the poet Dorothea Mackellar of "I love a Sunburned Country" fame and Sid Baker, author of *The Australian Language*.

According to the recently published *Oxford Literary Guide to Australia*, in the 1920s, Dorothea Mackellar lived in Rosemont in Ocean Street. And Sid Baker's home was in Woods Avenue, off Wallis Street.

Interviews continue

We also had a phone call from John Dorhauer of Kings Langley which we hope will lead to discovering more details — and even pictures — concerning his forebears Christian and Heinrich Dorhauer who were great pioneers of Queen Street development.

Also the process of interviewing older residents for their recollections will continue.

While we have no plans for a revised and expanded edition of the book, such supplementary information can be used for historical articles in *Village Voice*.

Meanwhile copies of *Queen Street and District — A History and Guide* are obtainable at \$10 each from the Queen Street Newsagency; Francis Haymes Bookshop at 43 Queen Street; and The Bay Tree kitchen shop in Holdsworth Street.

You can also obtain a copy by post by sending \$11 including postage to the association at PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra, N.S.W. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

Patron: Dame Joan Sutherland.

President: Tom Wilhelm.

Vice-President: Robin Brampton.

Treasurer: James Furber.

Secretary: Helen Young

Committee: Mollie Lenthall, Monica McDonald, Duane Norris, Ray Reynolds, Anthony Sunman and Cathy Winters.

Honorary Committee Member: Leo Schofield.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

Printed by Business and Commercial Mailing Service Pty Ltd. Typesetting by Warrior Phototypesetting Services.

Celebrations to take a new direction?

By Robin Brampton

ALTHOUGH views are mixed about the success of the 1987 Queen Street Celebrations, there is a strong feeling among many Queen Street businesspeople that such a combined promotional event should continue.

For 1988, a new Celebrations committee has been formed including prominent local businesspeople Leonie Furber, Mary Read and John Haymes.

It is likely that any future Celebrations will have a stronger emphasis on advertising promotion than events.

In 1987, the week-long Celebrations were organised jointly by the Association and the local business community to replace Queen Street Fair, last held in 1985.

They got off to a lively start on Sunday, November 29, with a ceremony to mark the installation by the Association and Woollahra Council of a magnificent restored garden fountain in Davies Reserve.

Alderman Susan Collett, Mayor of Woollahra, arrived by horsedrawn vehicle in all her civic finery to pour champagne into the surrounding pool.

A brass band of happy

Tongan Islanders played in the bright sunshine and afterwards many of the big crowd remained for a friendly barbecue picnic in Centennial Park.

Also successful was a programme for antique and collectibles lovers in Queen Street Gallery on the Wednesday. This included expert appraisal of visitors' antiques; an auction conducted by Colin McWilliam of Edward Rushton Fine Arts; and a witty talk by Leo Schofield on the characters of Queen Street.

The mini fair on the Dorhauer Lane carpark on the Saturday also went well despite the absence of the promised horsebus to take people to a complementary event on Gaden Reserve. The horsebus was stranded at Strathfield when the truck carrying it broke down.

However, general support for the Celebrations from the public and even some members of the business community was not as great as we might have expected, given the amount of work and money which went into them.

Continued page 2

Help us to help you

THE Association depends for its strength in fighting for local causes on the support of its membership. If you are reading this and you are not a member, please join us. For individuals, the cost is \$10 a year. Family membership costs \$15 (two people); corporate membership is \$20; and life membership \$100. Send your application to the Membership Secretary at the address below. Many thanks.

Membership Application

Please enrol me as a member in the category of (tick square)

☐ Individual ☐ Family member ☐ Corporate member ☐ Life member

I enclose a cheque for \$

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

POST TO: The Membership Secretary, Queen Street and West Woollahra Association
PO Box 16, WOOLLAHRA, NSW 2025.