

## QUEEN STREET 2000 PLAN READY TO VIEW

QUEEN Street 2000, Queen Street Association's master plan for the refurbishment of Queen Street, is now ready for public viewing.

It has taken a year to evolve, with the detailed work being handled by the landscape design firm of our president, Duane Norris Garden Designers.

In an article outlining the scheme, beginning overleaf, Duane says that although many Queen Street buildings have been finely restored in recent years, the streetscaping remains poor.

The scheme aims to create a vastly improved streetscape which will blend and harmonise with the essentially Victorian character of Queen Street, based on the great streets of Europe.

Among its features are:

- The placing underground of all power lines which at present spoil the Victorian atmosphere of the street and cause the unnatural trimming of trees.

- A uniform paving treatment of the footpath on both sides of the road between Ocean Street and Oxford Street.

- Installation of characteristic Victorian street lighting and street furniture, together with a street clock outside the post office.

- Some replanting of trees. In one area it is proposed that plain trees would predominate, in another area liquidambar. Better tree guards and root protection would be provided, but this ironwork would be in keeping with the streetscape.

- Dorhauer Lane carpark to be widened to extend across the end of Dorhauer Lane. The carpark would have a walled entrance behind which would be a planting of new trees and two statues of characters from the poems of Banjo Paterson to commemorate the fact that the famous author once lived in Queen Street.

- A bus shelter to be built to replace the present bus stop outside the Jewish Women's Centre. This would be in keeping with the Victorian nature of the Street but be sited nearer Ocean Street.

Obviously such an ambitious scheme could only be carried out in partnership with Woollahra Council and with the support of both residents and the business community.

An exhibition of perspectives, plans, photographs and models will be held on the evening of Tuesday, December 12, at the offices of Montifords, the real estate agents in Queens Court. This is also the evening of the Association's annual carol concert.



*The Queen Street and  
West Woollahra Association*

*invites all local residents to*

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118 Queen Street, Woollahra*

*Tuesday, December 12th, at 6.30 pm*

*Admission free, including a glass or two of bubbly (or orange juice) to celebrate Christmas*

### QUEEN STREET 2000

*The evening will also include the first exhibition of the Association's proposals for the development of Queen Street which are being drawn up under the title of Queen Street 2000.*

# QUEEN STREET 2000

THE SCHEME  
REVEALED

AFTER 18 months of discussion and debate, a master plan for the refurbishment of the streetscape of Queen Street will be unveiled on Tuesday, December 12.

The plans will be on display in Queens Court on that evening from 6.30pm. Later it is hoped they will be on view for public comment at the branch of Westpac Bank in Queen Street.

The project, which has been called QUEEN STREET 2000, has been funded by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association. The actual work on the plans has been carried out by the landscape design firm of Duane Norris Garden Designers.

The Association commissioned the project with a view to upgrading the existing facilities in the street and making Queen Street an example of an intact Victorian high street.

The idea was to conceive a streetscape which would blend and harmonise with the essentially Victorian character of the street, based on models of the great streets of Europe.

## Poor streetscaping

In the past 10-12 years, many improvements have taken place in Queen Street, notably the restoration of many fine shops.

But unfortunately little development has taken place in the street itself and a discerning eye would quickly notice the poor streetscaping facilities.

In fact, for a suburban street of such acclaim, Queen Street is in a very delapidated condition.

by Duane Norris  
President of the Queen Street and  
West Woollahra Association

The design team was asked to look at the area of Queen Street from Oxford Street in the west to Ocean Street in the east. They found that the street consisted of a haphazard arrangement of paving and kerbing, much of it in poor condition and lacking in any unity.

From Holdsworth Street to Halls Lane, it is paved on the northern side with Monier Cobblestones. These have been poorly laid and are suffering from years of neglect by the various utilities.

The rest of Queen Street is paved with a mixture of concrete and bitumen in varying states of decay.

The trees of Queen Street, for the most part, are what gives it a lot of its character but there is still a mish mash of plantings.

Under the scheme it is envisaged that the street will be predominantly planted with London Plane trees and Liquidambars.

One of the most ugly features of Queen Street is the overhead electric wires and wooden electric light poles.

The new plan for the street recommends removing the overhead lines and putting all power below the ground.

At present the power lines are a major eyesore, detracting greatly from the beauty of many of the fine old buildings in the street.

The task of relocating the power lines below ground level would be a major undertaking and negotiations would be needed with the relevant authorities.

Parking remains a problem in Queen Street. The new plans will look at ways and make recommendations to improve parking facilities and make for a better flow of traffic.

## Briefing items

The design group was briefed by the committee of the Association and the items that were to be considered in the Queen Street 2000 proposal were as follows:

1. The streetscape should relate closely to the existing Victorian architecture so that the street and the houses can harmonise.
2. The overhead system of power lines should be removed and the modern electric street lights should be replaced with either Victorian gaslights or Victorian electric lights.
3. Both sides of Queen Street should be repaved to give the feeling of an elegant leafy avenue, reminiscent of Paris.
4. Elegant street furniture should be provided in keeping with the period, such as seating, cast iron bus shelter, bollards and a high street clock.
5. A place should be provided to house two sculptures dedicated to the memory of Banjo Paterson who lived in Queen Street.
6. Parking and traffic movement in Queen Street should be improved.
7. A landscaping plan should be provided to upgrade Davies Reserve, which currently holds the large Victorian fountain installed in 1987.

The plans which go on view on December 12 will show the new paving arrangement for Queen Street. It is not unlike the paving seen in England and is shown as York paving.

It is recommended that this will replace the concrete, bitumen and Cobblestone paving in the street, thereby giving an air of continuity and beauty as well as being totally practical.

## Victorian lighting

A series of one, two and four lantern lights on copies of Victorian cast iron lamp posts will form one of the basic elements in the new scheme.

These, together with matching cast iron bollards and cast iron street signs, will give the street a feeling of Victorian times.

Cast iron and timber benches will provide seating in strategic places and the whole feeling of this concept is to get

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### POWER LINES

*Overhead lines spoil the street's appearance. They would disappear underground.*

people out onto the street to enjoy the mood by promenading up and down.

One of the major projects in Queen Street 2000 will be a dedication to Banjo Paterson who was once a resident of Queen Street. The year 1991 will be the 50th anniversary of his death.

The Association has plans to erect two bronze three quarter lifesized statues of two of Banjo's famous characters. The plans show the placement of these in their new home in Queen Street.

### More parking

To try and resolve the traffic problems, the design team has made recommendations to increase the number of parking places, especially in Dorhauer Lane carpark.

It has also made recommendations to make some streets one way and provide limited time parking on both sides of Queen Street.

Also recommendations are made to prevent people from being booked for parking in No Standing and No Stopping areas and for parking on the wrong side of the road.

For these recommendations to be implemented, however, they would need to be approved by the Traffic Authorities.

It is hoped the new plan will go on show for three to four weeks in the Queen Street branch of Westpac Bank.

The general public, and in particular the residents of the area, will be asked to fill out a questionnaire to comment on the new proposals.

Also a formal delegation from



### FOOTPATHS

*Instead of the present haphazard arrangement, the street would have a uniform boulevard effect.*

Woollahra Council has been invited to view the plans.

The Association hopes that with Council's approval, work on the initiation of the plans might be done as a joint venture between the Council, the Association, local businesses and residents in much the same way as with the Double Bay Improvement Project.

The plans will also be submitted to the Design Council of Australia for a grant from their Community Development Funds for the next stage of the project which is carrying out all the design specifications.



*The Man from Ironbark and the Barber, a model of a possible statue to commemorate the fact that poet Banjo Paterson once lived in Queen Street.*



### TREE GUARDS

*These would be decorative as well as practical and reflect the street's Victorian character.*

The implementation and acceptance of these plans will mean that the Municipality of Woollahra will have a blueprint for the development of three major retail areas — Double Bay, Paddington and Woollahra.

The Queen Street 2000 scheme will also serve as a blueprint for any development applications in the street to see that they comply with the streetscaping proposal.

After many years of serious neglect, the implementation of the proposal by the Association will see a whole new revitalisation of Queen Street and surrounds.

With the improvements already witnessed by Sydneysiders in Macquarie Street, Circular Quay, Darling Harbour and now Double Bay, it is high time that Australia's premier suburban street had a facelift.

### Good investment

The current trend to restoring our elegant old areas of Sydney will be a worthwhile investment in terms of time and money.

If acted upon, the Queen Street 2000 plan will endow Queen Street with great beauty and durability which will last well into the next century.

It is a unique project which will not only enhance the pleasure of local residents but of non-locals and tourists.

All residents are invited to attend the preview and unveiling of the plans in Queens Court on the evening of December 12 to coincide with the Association's Christmas Carol Concert.

## Hardstanding plan halted

WOOLLAHRA Council's plan to make owners of Queen Street commercial properties create six-metre deep hard-standing areas behind their premises if there is an intensification of use has been halted.

But whether we can persuade the Council to drop the unpopular scheme altogether remains to be seen.

The object of the proposal, affecting numbers 28 to 150 Queen Street which back onto Peaker Lane or Smith Street, was to reduce the Queen Street parking problem by creating areas behind the shops where trucks could unload.

However, owners have strongly objected because the proposal would involve destruction of existing buildings and gardens; cause illegal parking and rubbish dumping; and lead to insurance problems because the areas would be open to the street.

When the matter came before the Council's Community and Environmental Planning Committee in October, a report from the Council's two principal planning officers recommended that the scheme be dropped.

They pointed out that in view of the difficulties in successfully implementing the plan, there would be no real benefit to Queen Street in the immediate future.

Three people addressed the meeting on behalf of the objectors — Queen Street Association secretary Robin Brampton; local solicitor John Read whose daughter runs a

Queen Street boutique; and a solicitor appearing on behalf of Queen Street antique dealer Bill Bradshaw.

Robin suggested that one unfortunate aspect of the scheme was that it was only taking a "fleabite" at the Queen Street parking problem and a much wider approach was necessary.

One of our local ward aldermen, Susan Collett, was sympathetic on this point and, on her motion, the committee decided to adopt a resolution noting that the Local Traffic Committee would make a further report.

This would have regard to — The lack of loading facilities and its effect on the flow of traffic in Queen Street and surrounding lane.

— The existing conflict of car parking and traffic for residents, business owners and staff, delivery vehicles and shoppers.

## Dee goes North

THE committee was very sorry to receive the resignation of the Association's vice-president, Dee Dorgan, who has left the district to live at Lismore.

A documentary film producer and one-time ABC children's television personality, Dee has switched careers and joined the editorial staff of *The Northern Star*.

In her two years on the committee, she was a most conscientious worker for the Association and we wish her well in future.

Following Dee's departure,



*Sizzling success . . . Ron Osborne presides at the barbecue.*

the committee has decided to leave the post of vice-president open until the next annual meeting, but to invite Tania Mitchell of Ocean Street to fill the casual vacancy on the board of directors.

## No later hours

WE congratulate Mr Dennis Beuganey, licensee of the Woollahra Hotel, on withdrawing his application to the Liquor Administration Board for extended licensing hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

He originally applied to keep the restaurant and lounge bar areas open until 1.30 am in the morning on these three nights.

While acknowledging that the hotel is well conducted, the Association joined many local people in opposing the

move, fearing that it would cause noise and hooliganism in the early hours.

In a good example of public relations, Mr Beuganey circularised people in the area telling them that, in view of their strong feelings, he had decided not to go ahead with the application.

Meanwhile local residents are continuing their efforts to contain the noise and hooliganism which have erupted at the Phoenix Hotel since it reopened.

When we went to press, there had been an adjournment of the hotel's case before the Land and Environment Court to be allowed to open a full scale restaurant on the first floor.

The original planning application only gave permission for dining facilities for residents of the hotel, and Woollahra Council is opposing any increase.

## Sale day success

THE Association had a warm sunny day for its Super Garage Sale and Community Day at the Holdsworth Street Community Centre on Saturday, October 28.

Some 30 stalls did business varying from very brisk to disappointing but a particular success was the sausage sizzle conducted by our honorary treasurer, Ron Osborne.

Altogether the day made a useful cash surplus for the association and the committee is considering how the venture can be improved when it is held next year.

Among suggestions are some form of musical entertainment, and switching the day to Sunday.

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## VIBES from the TRIANGLE

Compiled by Robin Brampton

PROFESSIONAL theatre would come to Queen Street if the scheme of two local residents, Barbara Blackman and Andrea Baker, comes to fruition.

They plan to open the Lookout Theatre Club on the first floor of the Woollahra Hotel, "lookout" being the English equivalent for the Aboriginal word "woollahra".

In a letter to the Association, they say that the intention is to perform chamber music and have poetry and play readings and performances of intimate drama with small casts.

"In this we are following the tradition of Andre Antoine who, just on 100 years ago in Paris, set up the concept of intimate theatre and performed works by Chekhov, Ibsen, Strindberg, George Bernard Shaw, Maeterlink and others," they write.

Barbara and Andrea say their theatre would hold a maximum of 40 people. Patrons would use a separate entrance at the hotel and the aim would be to keep ticket prices low to encourage a family attendance.

Although the Association's committee is sympathetic with the general idea of the Lookout Theatre Club, we have asked for full details of any submission for planning permission before deciding whether to give it our blessing.

☆ ☆ ☆

WE may soon see an end to the rather empty look of the Victoria Galleries, completed last year at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue.

The Shipton Group, which was asking \$2.5 million, has found a purchaser but the new owner has



bought the building as an investment and is looking for somebody to lease it.

When we went to press we were told that one or two parties had shown interest but nothing had been finalised.

☆ ☆ ☆

THE Queen Street area has lost another of its identities with the departure of real estate agent Dorothy Rosewell who once had her shingle up in Jersey Road and lived for a long time in John Street.

Dorothy has bought a 34-acre goat farm at Jilliby, north of Wyong, and already the 20 cashmere goats she acquired have become 43 through natural increase.

Having been in real estate for 32 years, Dorothy is still keeping her hand in with the property game. But she tells us she is concentrating on making the goat farm "a super little place".

"I love it," she said. "I've never enjoyed myself so much in my life."

☆ ☆ ☆

A WELCOME to antique dealer John Bunston who has moved into 86 Queen Street where his immediate predecessor was the Daphne Tyson shop for American designer cotton and fabrics.

John says his stock is somewhat eclectic, with both classical pieces and 20th century, including Arte Deco.

Number 86 was once Queen Street's second chemist's shop and was also for a time occupied by Ernest Elphinstone Antiques before Ernest moved up to the corner of Halls Lane and then to Woollahra Galleries.

John has been in the antiques business for some years and worked with Ernest Elphinstone in Queen Street. So he says that moving into Number 86 is coming full circle.

☆ ☆ ☆

RARELY have we encountered a family history more detailed and thoroughly researched than *The Underwoods: Lock, Stock and Barrel* by Liz Parkinson of Terrigal.

Just published, the book is the story of convict James Underwood, his two free settler brothers, and the family dynasties they started.

James was Australia's first legal distiller and owned considerable land in Paddington.

An Underwood descendant, Liz says her interest in family history started because she wanted to locate the "missing" Underwood money. She didn't find any but found a good story instead.

The book is obtainable from the National Trust gift shop at Juniper Hall or by post, at \$27.50 including postage, from The Lazy Lizard, PO Box 157, Terrigal, NSW 2260.

## Appley Hoare does us proud

Quite stunning is the final result of Appley Hoare's rebuilding of the former antique shop of Rosalind Palmer at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue, pictured left.

The two storey building is in true Queen Street Victorian character with the exterior in cream and a heritage dark plum colour, well designed lettering and spotlighting on the windows.

And, yes, she has put back the railway clock which Rosalind Palmer made a feature of the building.

A newcomer to Queen Street although well known in the antiques business, Appley opened the shop with a party on November 30.



### 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:** Duane Norris.

**Vice-President:** Vacant.

**Treasurer:** Ronald Osborne.

**Secretary:** Robin Brampton.

**Membership Secretary:** John Haymes.

**Committee:** Alex de la Vega, Lynette de la Vega, Jennifer Dickerson, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, John Haymes, Tania Mitchell and Virginia Rose.

**Village Voice Editor:** Robin Brampton.

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