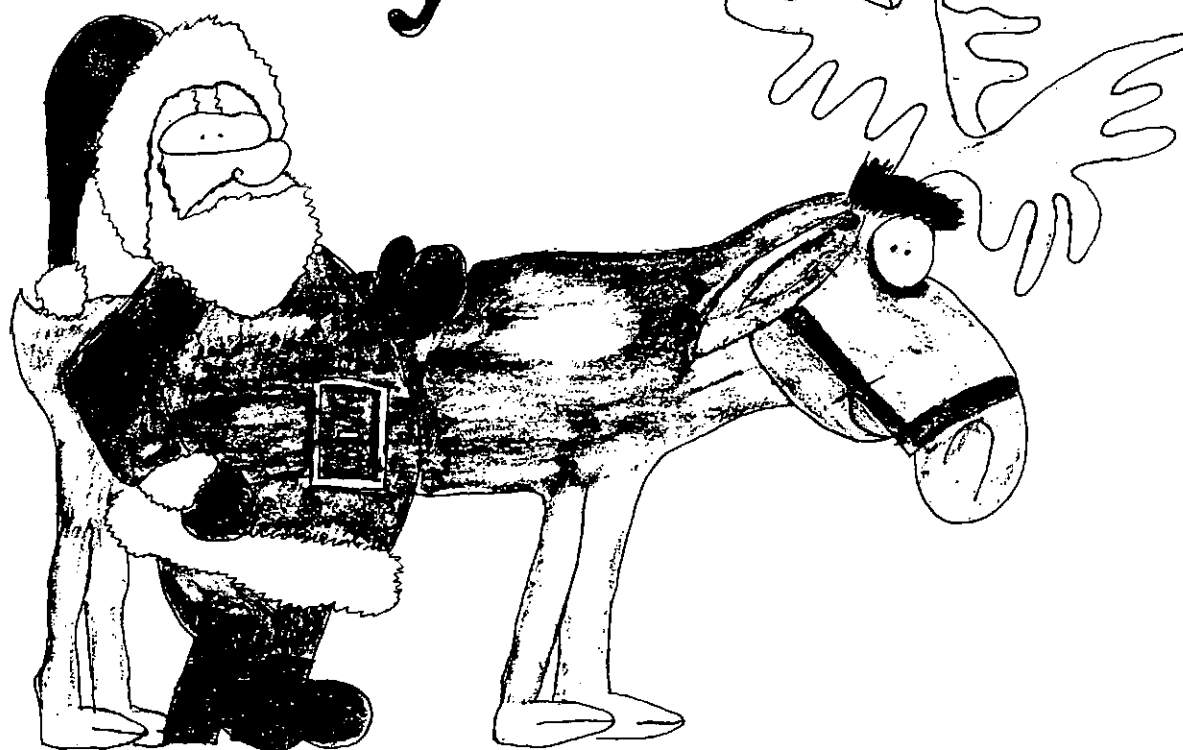


Children design concert poster

THE Queen Street Association's annual Concert of Christmas Carols and Songs has become a well established part of Christmas celebrations in the area. Last year more than 100 people attended, including the then Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Hylda Rolfe. This year we invited the children of Woollahra Infants School to design a poster for the occasion, with prizes donated by committee members Jennifer Dickerson and John Haymes. We were delighted with the spontaneous quality of the result, and a number of the posters are being displayed in business premises in Queen Street. Our notice below incorporates a poster drawing by Sarah Crozier who will receive a special prize from *Village Voice*.

Christmas Carols and Songs



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's

ANNUAL CONCERT

Featuring the Taverner Consort

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11th, at 6.30 pm

at Queens Court, 118 Queen Street

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

LOCAL TABLES

*Our regular front line report
on the local restaurant scene*

Pasta al dente and beautiful girls

ZIGOLINI'S
Fine Food Bistro
107 Queen Street, Woollahra
Telephone: 326 2337

IT'S possible, though unlikely, that if you live at Bundeena or North Epping you may not even have heard of Zigolini's, the brasserie of the made-up name at the very fulcrum of Queen Street and West Woollahra.

Be advised then that fully zipped up, Zigolini's will seat about 50 people who, for shift after shift, enjoy bistro-style food and drink from early morning to late evening.

Previous operators found the site hard going to say the least. Alex and Lyn de la Vega had the flair and the ability to come up with the right product — to their and our good fortune.

Do you want a cup of the best coffee, from the Roman heart-starter (sometimes called the short black) to the frothy macchiato? A three-course meal perhaps, fresh Oz food with an Italian accent?

Or you may prefer to settle down with a mango-scented tea while demolishing a sumptuous piece of hazelnut meringue cake, topped with apricot puree.

It's all there, at reasonable prices, and served with enthusiasm by a cast of young "table people".

It must be wrong, I suppose, to use words such as bistro or brasserie to describe a joint where not a drop of wine, beer or spirits can be purchased. Fortunately the nearby Woollahra Hotel fills that particular need.

It is the lack of formality, the casual atmosphere and the range of choice that makes you want to apply the bistro or brasserie stamp to Zigolini's . . . but back to the food.

The chef, whose name I only know as Nick, does a number of things very well indeed.

His servings are plentiful but well balanced. A serving of pie will come with a salad,

but a Zigolini's salad is a serious business. His vegetables are not only full of flavour but extremely well cooked (meaning not overcooked).

A slab of fresh pink salmon or pale white perch will be served hot but moist without a trace of dryness. Pasta in various guises is always *al dente*.

Am I sounding a little fulsome? Or like a paid informer? Then you try it.

I should add that I've never seen anyone thrown out of Zigolini's for just nursing a glass of mineral water while eyeing the attractive girls who always seem to aim for the big round table in the front room.

Zigolini's remains a place to treat your palate with variety and flavour. I suggest you do both.

R.O.

Authentic cuisine with your shoes on

ZEAMI
Japanese Restaurant
152 Jersey Road, Woollahra
Telephone: 328 1939

WE so enjoyed a recent visit to Zeami that we went back a few weeks later with four friends, one a cosmopolitan ship's captain who speaks a smattering of Japanese.

At Zeami one feels reassured about the authenticity of the Japanese cuisine by the large number of Japanese people who eat there. Occidental diners are often in the minority.

However, occidentals can be confident that they are not expected to take off their shoes and squat down at low tables in the manner which caused so much eyebrow raising when Japanese restaurants first came to Sydney.

Zeami is managed by Masako Gordon, a charming Japanese lady who used to be a tour hostess for Japanese visiting Australia.

It offers an extensive cuisine, including a separate sushi menu and most of the Japanese dishes with which we are familiar — plus some not so familiar.



ZEAMI IN JERSEY ROAD . . . Comprehensive Japanese menu and a good place to practice your English!

No less than 16 dishes are offered for entree, and the restaurant will provide a selection for a group of diners to share.

Our sixsome tucked into Yakitori (barbecued skewered chicken with shallots), Tori No Tatsutaage (deep fried chicken marinated with ginger and soy sauce), Gyu No Yasaimaki (vegetables rolled in thinly sliced beef) and Agedashidofu (fried tofu with Japanese mushroom sauce). One member of the party settled for an excellent Miso soup.

For main courses, two of us adventurously ordered the Sukiyaki, beef and vegetables cooked at the table in soy sauce and sake.

I had an excellent Tofu while others had the Shake' No Shioyaki (grilled salmon) and the Nabe Yaki Udon (Japanese noodles in hotpot with seafood and vegetables).

Generally our verdicts were oishi i desu (delicious) with the exception that the Tori No Tatsutaage was pronounced a little lacking in ginger flavour (a subjective judgement, perhaps).

Zeami's offering of drinks is as comprehensive as its menu, including Australian wines; three beers from Japan; and, of course, the deceptively potent saki rice wine which comes in the traditional little stone bottles.

Altogether our bill for a very enjoyable evening for six, including saki and two bottles of Australian wine, was \$230.

But our sea captain friend's attempts to speak Japanese to

the Australian waiter failed dismally. The friendly and efficient fellow told us that he had deliberately not learned the language so that Japanese diners could practice their English on him!

R.B.



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: Jennifer Dickerson, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, John Haymes, Tim McCormick, Tania Mitchell and Gert Schidor.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

Printed by Business and Commercial Mailing Service Pty Ltd. Typesetting by Warrior Desktop, Marrickville.

Council scraps controversial scheme for hardstanding

FOLLOWING strong opposition from the Queen Street Association and local business people, Woollahra Council has abandoned its controversial scheme for hardstanding areas behind Queen Street shops.

First mooted last year, this would have required owners of properties from numbers 28 to 150 Queen Street to provide open hardstanding areas at the rear of their buildings if they proposed an intensification of use.

The Association's Secretary, Robin Brampton, has appeared before both the Council's Community and Environmental Planning Committee, and the Woollahra Traffic Committee, to voice opposition to the scheme.

He said: "As the hard-standing areas behind business premises would only have to be provided when there was an intensification of use, it would probably be many decades before even one or two areas were created."

"In the meantime, owners of Queen Street properties would have an onerous condition imposed on them if they contemplated selling, and the parking problem would remain unsolved."

Robin pointed out that the proposal would lead to the demolition of useful buildings, the destruction of gardens and creation of unhealthy dumping grounds for rubbish.

It would also create insurance problems for the owners.

Other suggestions

The hardstanding requirement was one of a number of suggestions which the Council has been considering to improve traffic management in the Queen Street area.

These include turning several local streets other than Queen Street into one-way traffic.

However, most of the proposals would create so many difficulties that they are unlikely to be implemented.



Planning to restore its local pub atmosphere, the new owners of the Woollahra Hotel are appealing for pictures and information about the hotel in earlier times. When this picture was taken in the 1950s, the outside of the hotel on the ground floor was covered in tiles.

Cosiness returning to the Woollahra

THE new owners of the Woollahra Hotel, Ian Robertson and George Senes, plan to turn it back into a local community pub with a warmer atmosphere.

Both highly experienced in the hotel industry, Ian and George bought the hotel early in November.

"We want to restore it as much as possible and get rid of the airport lounge decor," Ian Robertson told *Village Voice*.

"We are looking to add a lot of warmth to the hotel and try to create the ambience which existed originally."

To this end, Ian is trying to get as much information as possible about the hotel in earlier days, and has asked the Association for help.

The present building, on

the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street, is believed to have been constructed in the 1930s, although an earlier Woollahra Hotel existed on the site.

Unfortunately, the Association has never found any photographs of this earlier building and we would be very interested to hear of any which exist.

We would also be interested in any information about the hotel in earlier days. (Call Robin Brampton on 331 1188 during the day, 326 1257 after hours.)

Restaurant granted

The other news of local hotels is that the Phoenix Hotel on the corner of Wallis Street and Moncur Street has won its appeal to be allowed

to run a public restaurant on the first floor.

This move was opposed in the Land and Environment Court by both Woollahra Council and local residents who fear the threat to their amenities from the number of people the hotel would attract.

In granting the appeal, Mr Justice Hemmings listed a series of strict conditions for the operation of the hotel and restaurant.

These include limiting the number of people on the first floor, including restaurant patrons, to 30 at any one time. And the number of people in the premises excluding staff, is not to exceed 150.

Hours of operation are noon to 11pm from Monday to Saturday and noon to 10pm on Sunday.

Green grow the footpaths oh!

THE poor level of footpath maintenance in Queen Street and the surrounding area is causing so much concern that the Association has written a protest letter to Woollahra Council.

Many local residents help to enhance the streetscape by keeping the footpaths outside their homes tidy, and even creating delightful little tree gardens.

But we believe it is the Council's responsibility to supplement their efforts by ensuring a high general standard of footpath maintenance.

Of special concern is the degree to which weeds have been flourishing unchecked

at the side of the footpath in certain areas.

Particular black spots are buildings which do not have a residential occupant, such as the Post Office at the corner of Moncur Street and the long unoccupied shop at Number 48.

Committee member Jennifer Dickerson says the stickyweed — some call it asthma weed — is amongst the offending greenery.

Parents alarmed

"Some residents with sick children are alarmed to see how much is around," she said.

"An association member approached Phillip Lachlan, from Lachlan and Ziles, who

was good enough to cut out all the weed along one side of his shop in Halls Lane.

"However, it grows in large plots in Smith Street and on various properties on the south side of Queen Street.

"Perhaps property owners could try and clean their own gardens and the street line as this weed seems to take hold where the fence meets the pavement."

In writing to the Council, the Association has asked to be given details of its footpath maintenance programme for Queen Street and the surrounding area.

At the moment, we could be forgiven for believing it was non-existent.

Future of burned out church

RECENTLY Association President Duane Norris and Secretary Robin Brampton held discussions with the professional advisers to the Uniting Church on the future of its burned out church building in Jersey Road.

The architects, Dawson Brown and Ackert, and the property consultant, Carole Baker, have put a lot of thoughtful consideration into their work.

Duane and Robin were able to inspect plans for six different options — from a simple memorial garden to a community hall. All the options would leave the present burned out shell intact, suitably strengthened, with new construction inside.

Local residents are being asked to encourage Woollahra Council to acquire the site and building, and use it for the option most favoured by a public meeting in September — a municipal library and art gallery.

However, while it agrees the building should be used for some community purpose, the Association's committee does not believe in being so specific.

Also it has told Woollahra Council that it does not necessarily support the retention of the present shell of the building, provided that whatever new structure is erected is in keeping with the architecture of the area.

Ocean Street battle revived

FOR many years, the Association has been battling unsuccessfully for a reduction in the uncomfortably high level of traffic in Ocean Street.

At one time we were encouraged to believe the completion of the Eastern Suburbs Distributor would bring relief. Although the Liberal Party pressed strongly for this when in opposition, it appears to have abandoned the project completely now it is in Government.

However, two Ocean Street residents, Reg Fountain and Peter Hall, are planning to revive the battle, and local ward alderman Susan Collett has promised support.

Association secretary Robin Brampton has joined Reg and Peter in their discussions and suggested that a useful start would be some research to see whether traffic volumes in Ocean Street are on the increase.

Could you handle this job?

ROBIN Brampton, who has been a committee member since the Association was formed in 1972, has asked to be relieved of the post of Secretary by the annual meeting.

On top of all the other work he does for the Association including editing *Village Voice*, he is finding the mountain of administrative chores a little too much.

So the Association is seeking a new Secretary. And as we are a company which must comply with certain legal requirements, it should preferably be somebody familiar with handling these.

A strong interest in the area is also important, but a successful applicant can expect to earn some money for putting in some five hours each week at a time of their own choosing.

If you are interested, contact the Treasurer, Ron Osborne, on 363 1865 after hours.

The Association at Work



The familiar figure of Sandy Newman will be missing when the Taverner Consort leads the singing at this year's Association Carol Concert at Queens Court. He will be away in Europe and the singing will be lead by assistant conductor Susan Briedis.

Return of benches sought

THE Association has written to Woollahra Council requesting the return of two benches for people waiting for buses at the stop in Queen Street near Dorhauer Lane.

A welcome amenity for older people, the benches disappeared when the frontage of the National Council of Jewish Women's premises was being remodelled to create two new shops.

Neville Wran as AGM speaker

IT is hoped that the speaker at the Association's Annual Meeting, possibly to be held in March, will be the former Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran.

A local resident, Mr Wran accepted our invitation to speak at this year's Annual Meeting. However, he had to drop out a few days beforehand when he went into hospital for emergency heart surgery.

As part of its 1991 social programme, the Association also hopes to find a way to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of Banjo Paterson who lived in Queen Street for five years after his marriage in 1903.

It is also planned to revive the Queen Street Music Hall at the Gaden Reserve which was a popular feature of the Association's 1989 social programme.

A money saving suggestion

THE Queen Street Association plans to increase membership fees for 1991. However, until the end of December, new life membership applications will still be accepted at the present rate of \$100.

Post your application to the Membership Secretary, Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.

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Compiled by Jenny Dickerson
and Robin Brampton

A RECENT visit to Anne Schofield's elegant antique jewellery shop in Queen Street coincided with that very exciting moment for an author when they see their book for the first time in its final printed form.

Australian Jewellery of the 19th and Early 20th Century, which Anne has written jointly with Kevin Fahy, is the result of many years of research.

Authoritatively written, it is claimed to be the first book on its subject, and is lavishly illustrated with 350 colour photographs.

The book documents the styles and fashions of jewellery from European settlement, through the colonial era and the goldrush, to the 1940s.

There is a comprehensive description of gemstones and other materials used in Australian jewellery, as well as a glossary of terms commonly used in describing jewellery.

A major part of the book is biographical notes on more than 250 Australian jewellers and designers, both individuals and firms, whose work is known by mark, documentation or attribution.

An important section looks at a variety of marks used that can provide a positive means of identifying the maker or establishing the origin of a piece of jewellery.

The beautifully presented book is published by David Eli Press of Balmain. Copies may be inspected or bought at Anne Schofield's shop at 36 Queen Street.

* * *

ANOTHER chapter in the story of the Victoria Galleries at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue.

It has opened as a medical centre but with only one practitioner in attendance — its owner, Dr B. Gooley.



ANNE SCHOFIELD . . . Her book takes the story of Australian jewellery from the first settlement to the 1940s.

Completed last year for the obvious purposes of art or antiques gallery, it has since twice been auctioned, the latest time this year for \$1.275 million.

Dr Gooley is understandably guarded in talking about the building. However we understand that his wishes to be allowed either to convert it to a restaurant or use it for a more large scale medical centre have met with little sympathy from Woollahra Council.

* * *

A WELCOME to Paul Attard who has moved into 74 Queen Street with his antiques business specialising in 18th and 19th century European furniture.

The shop was the former premises of Leo's Continental Delicatessen, the last remaining food shop between Moncur Street and Oxford Street.

A member of a well known antiques family, Paul lives in Nelson Street and previously ran his business in the Sydney Antique Centre in South Dowling Street.

However, because he has other professional interests, he will be leaving most of the day-to-day running of the shop to his wife, Candide.

When we called in, they were very busy with a complete restoration which has left the premises looking far more spacious than might have been thought possible in its Leo's days.

LONG-time Woollahra resident Harold Bathis, of Jersey Road, has been missing from his usual perch at the TAB lately.

A well known racing figure, Harold has had a spell in hospital. Let's hope he will be back punting by Christmas.

* * *

ONE of the problems of inner city living is that there can never be enough garbage collection. However, the occupiers of some premises could do more to help.

Recently on a Friday night outside the Commonwealth Bank in Queen Street, the cleaners had left two flimsy bags brimming over with rubbish.

Presumably they clean the bank on a Friday, and the bags would not be collected until early on Monday.

Spilling onto the pavement were carbon copies of banking transactions — a deplorable sight for people who stroll in Queen Street at the weekend.

* * *

PERHAPS Woollahra Council should think about replacing the galvanised steel rubbish bins in Queen Street with softer plastic bins.

We understand that it was one of the steel bins which was hurled through a shop window in Queens Court in a recent smash and grab theft.

When cows were kept near the heart of Sydney

PEOPLE interested in local history will find a treasure in *A Surry Hills Childhood: 1870*, a copy of which has been kindly sent to us by Ken Moon of the University of New England.

Ken was strongly involved in the editing and introduction of the book from a family manuscript written by his grandmother, Frances Purcell, who vividly describes how she grew up in a Goulburn Street dairy around 1870.

Those were the days when fresh milk did not come from the country. The dairyman actually kept cows in a yard behind his premises, somewhat of a threat to city health.

When she was eight years old, Frances was delivering milk around the Surry Hills neighbourhood although her mother was irate when a customer referred to her as "only a milk girl".

The book is somewhat unusual in that Frances, who died in 1935, wrote her story as fiction, although it is strongly factually based. The book is also incomplete, breaking off in mid sentence after some 14,000 words.

However it contains some colourful anecdotes such as the account of an uncle's arrival from Wales with a gaily coloured carpet bag and stick to ward off the blacks!

A somewhat tantalising aspect of Frances' story is her possible link with Jack Purcell, first owner of the grocery business in Ocean Street which is now the Woollahra Home Service Store.

Purcell was described as a "grocer and dairy man" when he was first recorded as owning the business in 1880. And his name, "J. Purcell, Grocer" is still inscribed on the second floor of the building which he added in 1882.

Frances had a brother John. But his surname was not Purcell but Lephherd which was Frances' maiden name.

So was this Purcell some other relative, or is the whole thing just coincidence?

• *A Surry Hills Childhood: 1870* is published by The University of New England Publishing Unit, Armidale, NSW 2351.

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