

Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

How you can help us

IF you are reading this and you are not a member of the Queen Street Association, please support our work for the local community by joining us.

The subscription is still only \$10 a year for an individual, \$15 for a family (two people), \$20 for a corporation and \$100 for life membership. Next year it is proposed to increase subscriptions, so life membership may be a good investment.

To join, just send your cheque to the Association at PO Box 16, Woollahra 2025, with the form which you will find on Page 4.



Drive away recession and mid-winter blues at **A QUEEN STREET DINNER**

Followed by an original entertainment
of songs and verse

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Devised and performed by

MAGGIE BLINCO and ROBIN BRAMPTON

At the Woollahra Hotel, Queen Street

TUESDAY, JULY 24th, at 7.30pm

Three course buffet meal with Richmond Grove wines

Auction of various good things
donated by Queen Street businesses

Arranged by

**THE QUEEN STREET AND
WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION**

to raise planning funds for

THE QUEEN STREET 2000 SCHEME

Tickets \$30 each

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Haymes & Sons, Bookdealers, 43 Queen Street.

Or by post from the Association, PO Box 16,

Woollahra, New South Wales 2025.

Stylish opening for Queen Street's own live theatre

TO start a new theatrical venture in mid winter, during a recession, without any subsidy, with seats for only 40 people, and at a low ticket price is a real act of courage.

But I can report that the new Lookout Theatre at The Woollahra Hotel in Queen Street is not only courageous but also very polished and professional.

The first production, two short plays by August Strindberg, produced by Jade McCutcheon, makes imaginative use of the small performance space.

Effective settings

The settings of Gert Schidor, a television set designer who lives in our area, are effective, as is the lighting and costuming. And the acting is some of the most stylish seen on the Sydney stage this year.

The artistic co-ordinators of the venture probably made what they considered a logical choice in *The First Warning* and *The Stronger* which Strindberg wrote for just such an intimate theatre where the actors are within arm's length of the audience.

Both plays are concerned with spirited women competing for the affection of a man and being jealous that he attracts others.

And both leave you with something to think about. In *The First Warning*, will the husband and his wife stay together after such heart rending? And in *The Stronger*, who is the stronger of the two

characters, the neurotic wife or the quiet former mistress she meets casually on Christmas Eve?

On the evening I saw the plays, Jacqy Phillips played both wives with an equally sure touch. From night to night, she alternates the parts of the wife and Baroness in *The First Warning* with Elspeth Langman.

Elspeth Langman makes a quite haunting impression as the mistress in *The Stronger*, acting expressively without dialogue in a performance which reminded me of a silent movie star.

Charles Hambling makes the husband in *The First Warning* a breezily likable character whose path it would be easy to imagine strewn with broken hearts; and Melissa Docker gets a great deal out of the part of the



Charles Hambling and Melissa Docker in the Lookout Theatre's production of *The First Warning*.

Duchess's coquettish young daughter.

My only criticism of the production is that it was a very short evening. The first play runs for just over 30 minutes and the second is even shorter.

It might have given the Lookout Theatre a better start if one of the Strindberg trifles had been a curtain raiser to a

more substantial popular play in the second half.

— Robin Brampton

• *The Lookout Theatre's second production, Province Anecdotes, two contemporary Russian one-act plays directed by Joseph Uchitel, opens on July 29.*

Phone inquiries: 32 9654 or 332 2570.

Bold as brass raid leads to tough security

A RAID by a brazen gang of thieves in June led to a meeting of Queen Street shopkeepers this month to plan stricter cooperative security.

The gang removed an antique art deco brass handle from the door of John Bunston's shop.

Moving next door, they took the door handles from the flats. Still seeking brass, they started to remove the door handle of Robert Morrison's shop which was found bent out of shape.

The previous evening, an

intruder was spotted on the roof of Andre and Cecile's Fink's antique shop, but he got away.

The meeting at Andre and Cecile's shop on July 4 was attended by more than 20 Queen Street shopkeepers, not all of them antique dealers.

They decided that the Queen Street business community should jointly pay for a security man, complete with dog, to be continuously on duty in Queen Street through the night.

One of the Queen Street

Association directors who was at the meeting, book dealer Tim McCormick, points out that the security man will benefit local residents even though they are not being asked to contribute to the cost.

This will be spread among Queen Street shopkeepers and, naturally the more who participate the less the financial burden on each.

Andre Fink is co-ordinating the scheme. His shop is at 102 Queen Street and his phone numbers are 32 3684 and 32 2344.



ZIGOLINI'S FINE FOOD is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cafe offers unique brasserie-style hot and cold seasonal food, and caters for cocktail parties, lunches and dinners. Also available: coffees and teas by the kilo and gourmet products. 107 Queen Street, Woollahra, NSW 2025. Telephone (02) 326 2337.

Association presses on with Queen Street 2000

ALTHOUGH disappointed that the Australia Council has again rejected an application for a grant to help with planning costs, the Queen Street Association is pressing ahead with its Queen Street 2000 scheme.

The plan aims to create a vastly improved streetscape which will blend and harmonise with Queen Street's essentially Victorian character.

Last month the Association's president and secretary, Duane Norris and Robin Brampton, were invited to a discussion with the Mayor, Alderman Hylda Rolfe, and the Town Clerk, Michael Regins.

At this, the first indications were given of Woollahra Council's estimates of cost.

Although these run out over \$5 million, the Associa-

tion is undaunted.

The scheme is long range in intent, which is why it is called "Queen Street 2000", and we believe that there is considerable room for reducing the Council's estimates without spoiling the scheme's effectiveness.

As mentioned in the previous *Village Voice*, a working party is being formed with the Mayor and Alderman John Darling representing the Council, and five Association nominees.

Now we know the Council's view on costs, this body can hold its first meeting.

Meanwhile the Association intends to apply again in August for a grant from the Australia Council under its townscape improvements programme.



Queen Street Association president, Duane Norris, displays the plan for the Dorhauer Lane carpark, one of the important aspects of the Queen Street 2000 scheme. (Picture by Ross Willis, reproduced by courtesy of the Wentworth Courier.)

Does traffic congestion improve road safety?

AT its June meeting, Woollahra Traffic Committee considered a number of suggestions to improve traffic management and parking in the Queen Street area.

This is the latest phase of a longstanding debate within the Council which resulted last year in a highly controversial proposal to require owners of properties from 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 has joined local businesses in opposing this idea as any effect would be both minimal and long delayed, while at the same time creating an onerous obligation on the property owners.

At the June Traffic Committee meeting, out local State member, Clover Moore, kindly nominated Queen Street Association secretary Robin Brampton to represent her so

that this view could be re-stated.

The committee had before it a number of other possible initiatives such as turning several local streets other than Queen Street into one-way traffic.

The Committee found none of these ideas acceptable with the possible exception of introducing angle parking along Victoria Avenue and James Street.

As a result, the Council has been putting the idea to residents of the two streets. We understand reaction is mixed.

An interesting point raised by one member of the Traffic Committee is that the present congestion in Queen Street might benefit road safety by slowing down Queen Street traffic coming from the Oxford Street direction as it approaches the Moncur Street intersection.

Thus the traffic would be less likely to cannon into people crossing the road in the main shopping area.

How high street shopping strips are fighting back

THE Queen Street Association's annual meeting in May was particularly well attended, with more than 60 local residents turning up.

Because our distinguished local resident, Neville Wran, had to cancel his appearance as guest speaker following a heart operation, a substitute was found at short notice.

She was Libby Ozinga, a member of the staff of the State Department of Planning who is co-ordinator of the Main Street NSW Programme.

Libby spoke of the success being achieved in preserving and if necessary, reviving the vitality of strip shopping areas such as we have in Queen Street, in competition with new shopping centres and malls.

Lively debate

Her remarks led to a lively debate in which Alderman John Darling congratulated the Association on its Queen Street 2000 plan and promised the venture his support.

Discussion was far ranging, and it was obvious that people at the meeting were also concerned with day-to-day issues such as the upkeep of local streets.

The exchange continued on an informal basis over a sumptuous buffet very kindly

donated by Alex and Lyn de la Vega of Zigolini's.

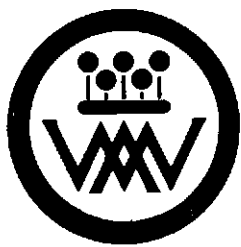
During the meeting, Duane Norris, the Queen Street garden designer, was re-elected president. Congratulating him, publisher Robin Brampton, who is again secretary, said Duane had put new heart into the Association with his work on the Queen Street 2000 plan.

Solicitor Ron Osborne continues as the Association's Treasurer, but Alex and Lyn de la Vega and Virginia Rose decided not to stand again as directors.

In their places the Association has two new directors, Tim McCormick and Gert Schidor, in addition to Jenny Dickerson, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, John Haymes and Tania Mitchell, who are continuing from the previous year.

Tim is a book dealer, specialising in early Australian art and history, who operates from premises in Queen Street. Gert lives in Moncur Street and works as a television set designer from an office in Queens Court.

The full complement of the Association committee is 10. This means another director is sought to fill the last vacancy.



DO YOU BELONG?

Join the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited and have a say.

The Association is an action group formed in 1972 to protect the interests of local residents and business people. Through it, we can effectively voice opinions – and influence decisions of public authorities – on:

- Planning and development
- Preservation of architectural characteristics
- Prevention of properties falling into disrepair
- Beautification of streets and recreation areas
- The fight against pollution or disfigurement of the area.

In four VILLAGE VOICE newsletters a year, you can get information about local events, learn about new businesses and read items of historical interest. There are social functions and a Christmas Carols concert – opportunities for people to meet.

You do not have to reside in the area to join.

The annual cost of membership (January to December) is:

Individual	\$10
Family (two adults)	\$15
Corporate	\$20
Life	\$100

Fill in the form below and post with your cheque to:

The Secretary
Queen Street and West Woollahra
Association Limited
PO Box 16
WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025

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THE LAW AT YOUR DOOR

- Another in our occasional series in which Ron Osborne discusses legal problems which face the ordinary citizen.

Acting against noise pollution

"The isle is full of noise, sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not."

THE TEMPEST
WHAT are some of the avenues open to you, a resident of West Woollahra, when noise becomes less than sweet in one of Sydney's most densely populated suburbs?

First, the good news on alarms. Buried in the *Noise Control Act, 1975* is a miscellaneous provision which states that where a member of the police force is satisfied that an alarm has been sounding in or on any premises for at least 30 minutes . . . he may enter those premises and take such steps as appear to him reasonably necessary to stop the alarm from sounding.

Unfortunately, "cars" are not "premises". But if that alarm next door won't stop ringing, your remedy is clear, quick and cheap.

The good news continues. There are a number of other Acts and Regulations to help you. Most of them are already working on your behalf, by which I mean that the threat implicit in the legislation operates to help keep the lid on noise pollution.

For instance, under the *Local Government Act, 1919*, councils can control and regulate noise in or near public places and regulate the use of premises so as to prevent objectionable noise.

Under the *Liquor Act, 1982*, you can make a written complaint to the Liquor Administration Board about the behaviour of people leaving licensed premises and a variety of other matters which can lead to the attachment of conditions on licences.

In appropriate cases, a complaint can lead to the suspension, curtailment or revocation of the licence.

In the *Motor Traffic Regu-*

lations, 1939, there are provisions concerning unnecessary use of the horn, the use of vehicles that generate undue noise, and other similar matters.

An important one for home unit dwellers is the *Strata Titles Act, 1973*, where most by-laws provide:

(a) A proprietor or occupier . . . shall not . . . create any noise likely to interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the proprietor or occupier of another lot . . .

(b) A proprietor shall ensure that all floorspace in his unit, other than the kitchen, laundry, lavatory or bathroom, is covered or otherwise treated to an extent sufficient to prevent the transmission of noise . . .

Under the Noise Control Act mentioned above, a council, or failing council the State Pollution Control Commission, can and do issue noise control notices to curtail offensive noise.

Another friendly device is the Noise Abatement Order.

You can go to any local court and complain of "noise amounting to nuisance" which affects your occupation of your premises.

The court will need to be satisfied that the "nuisance" exists and it will then make an order to "abate" the nuisance or to prevent its recurrence.

So if you are unable to interest your local Council or the Commission in those cooing pigeons kept by your neighbour, or in the amateur saxophonist who hits his highs at 3am, the local court may be your answer.

However, I would point out that the courts will take into account the fact that people who buy into an area subject to noise do so with full awareness of the area's noise levels. So a common sense approach should be taken.



Compiled by Jenny Dickerson
and Robin Brampton

QUEEN Street Business Group still hopes this year to produce a special shopping guide leaflet of the area, complete with map.

However, organisers Mary Read and John Haymes are disappointed at the reluctance of some people to contribute.

Each Queen Street business is being asked to pay \$250 towards the project, little more than the cost of a small newspaper advertisement.

For this they will get all-year-round exposure in a full colour production which will be distributed in places where tourists congregate.

Said John: "We know conditions are tough but it is only by getting together and doing some strong promotion that we can hope for an improvement."

* * *

THE builder's hoardings have finally disappeared at Giovanni's to reveal the sad disappearance of the brightly lit candy and confectionery store which was such a feature of the Oxford Street end of Queen Street.

Instead there is a cocktail bar obviously intended for the affluent, with cocktails priced as high as \$10 for a choice of Rolls Royce, Twilight Zone, Corona or Lover's Cocktails. Even non alcoholic cocktails are \$6 and \$6.50.

But local imbibers who are not suffering from the recession must wait a while. When we visited the restaurant for Saturday lunch recently, the bar was not yet officially open, the result, we understand, of some hold-up with Woollahra Council.

However, the restaurant



Actress Maggie Blinco and Queen Street Association secretary (and columnist!) Robin Brampton have compiled an entertainment of song and verse about food which they will perform at the Queen Street Dinner at the Woollahra Hotel on July 24. The antique dinner gong they are holding plays a vital part in the show, as the audience will see on the night.

part of what is now called Giovanni's Ristorante and Bar was doing brisk business. It has been warmly redecorated without losing any of the old bright bustling atmosphere and still has the same lively pictures on the walls.

The youthful staff, in their smart green aprons are still anxious to please and the food, although now more expensive, is still excellent in quality and original in presentation.

We did have a disappointment, though. A bottle of what the wine list called "Giovanni's White Wine Private Lable" at \$16 had to be sent back as unacceptable, a judgement with which the

friendly bar attendant agreed.

He substituted a carafe of house white at \$9.95 which proved easier on both the palate and pocket

* * *

TALKING of the fountain end of Queen Street, guess what's going to take the place of the now closed down Centennial Antiques.

That's right — yet another real estate agency!

A very sound and necessary business, no doubt. But wouldn't it be nice to see more shops for shoppers returning to Queen Street,

* * *

IN the currently quiet conditions in the antiques and fine arts industry, it is probably not surprising that the newly built Victoria Galleries building at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue has been empty for some months.

Nevertheless there is hope that it is not going to be a white elephant. A few weeks ago it was auctioned for \$1.275 million, compared with the \$1.2 million paid last year when it was put up for auction by the interests of Bill Shipton who developed it.

When we went to press details were not available of the purchaser or the use to which the building is to be put.



Shades of Ned Kelly! This original letter box stands outside a house in Cameron Street at the edge of the Queen Street Association's area.

A call for more singers and instrumentalists

WAVERLEY Philharmonic Society has asked us to mention that they are always looking for more players for their philharmonic orchestra and new voices for their choir.

Concerts are usually held at the beautiful old St Marys Anglican Church in Waverley which has great acoustics and a fine organ.

Jean Cooney tells us that the choir, directed by David Jensen, are a friendly bunch as widely varying in age as they are in singing experience.

The Waverley Philharmonic Orchestra is now in its eleventh year. It is conducted by flautist Anthony Ferner.

Inquiries about the choir to Jean Cooney (389 2874) or Joan Fried (30 3896); about the orchestra to Felicia Mitchell (661 6732) or Nigel Tanner (663 3204).



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.

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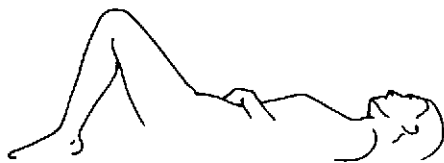
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