

Good on yer, Bill!

BILL Bradshaw, doyen of Queen Street antiques dealers, is celebrating having headed his own antiques company for 50 years. To honour this remarkable achievement and Bill's contribution to Queen Street, the Association is creating him an honorary life member. A profile of Bill appears in *Vibes from the Triangle* on page 5.



Come and hear

NEVILLE WRAN AC QC

Former Premier of New South Wales
speak on local and wider topics at

The Annual Meeting

of

*The Queen Street and West Woollahra
Association Limited*

Tuesday, April 9th, at 7pm

**at Fred Pazotti Pty Ltd
64 Moncur Street, Woollahra**

Complimentary refreshments

ALL WELCOME!

The meeting is open to all local residents but only financial members of the Association for the year 1991 may take part in the formal business.

Members may enrol or renew their subscriptions on the evening of the meeting. The meeting will include a forum when local residents can raise questions about the area.



About our speaker

A lawyer who became a QC in 1968, Neville Wran entered State Parliament in 1970. In 1973 he was elected Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. In 1976 he became Premier, holding office for 10 years until his resignation in 1986. From 1980 to 1986, he was also President of the Australian Labor Party. Since leaving Parliament he has become Chairman of CSIRO and holds a number of other offices including membership of the Centennial Park Trust. A longstanding member of The Queen Street Association, he lives in our area with his literary agent wife, Jill, and young daughter Harriet.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THIS year the President's Report, like our summer, has come early. And, as the heat of summer brought on a hive of activity, so too does the annual report stir up more activity.

The Association's activities have been slanted towards the planning of the Queen Street 2000 scheme for the beautification and improvement of the Queen Street streetscape.

The scheme has received great support from Woollahra Council and a joint working party of the Council and the Association was formed in 1990 to oversee the initial planning and development stages of the scheme.

This working party is chaired by Alderman Hylda Rolfe.

Other Council representatives are the Town Clerk, Mr Michael Regnis; the Chief Town Planner, Mr Greg Woodhams; the Chief Engineer, Mr Dennis Cafe; and one of our local ward aldermen, John Darling.

The Association is represented by myself, Mr Robin Brampton, Mr Ron Osborne and Mr John Haymes.

At present, the working party is seeking submissions from three of Sydney's leading landscape architectural firms for the implementation of design sketches and final design details.

Planning Year

It is hoped that the successful tenderer will be notified some time in April or May. The community will be notified and comments on the design interpretations will be invited.

The Association is hoping, therefore, that 1991 will be a major planning year when all of the conceptual details for Queen Street 2000 will be finalised.

As this will be a major undertaking for everyone involved, including the community, it will be important to carry out and understand all the details necessary to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

Report on the 1990 year by the President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited, Mr Duane Norris.

The community will be continuously updated by reports in the *Village Voice* which will see the continuation of four issues a year in 1991.

Social Events

The other major achievement for the Association in 1990 was the high profile social calendar, highlighted by two Queen Street Dinners with entertainment at the Woollahra Hotel.

Both nights were enthusiastically received and a sell-out for attendance.

Entertainment was provided at the first evening in July by the incredible Robin Brampton and the delectable Maggie Blinco in their programme, *Food Glorious Food*.

On the second evening, the renowned jazz pianist Dick Hughes provided a programme of music and readings from his favourite authors.

Both evenings also included an auction with goods donated by local businesses in the the Queen Street area.

The Association is greatly indebted to the business people for their tremendous support in this way which helped the Association to raise more than \$4000.

The other great social event of the year was the annual Christmas Carol Concert arranged by the Association in Queens Court with singing led by the Taverner Consort.

Again it was a great success with more than 100 local residents and their children attending.

The 1991 year also promises to be very busy with a full programme of social functions.

These will include a Banjo Paterson Commemoration Dinner with readings from the works of our great national poet.

Banjo Paterson, who died 50 years ago this year, lived in Queen Street for five years after his marriage in 1903.

Thanks to Officers

As this is my final term as President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank just a few of many people who have given their time unselfishly to the interests of the Association and therefore the Community.

One is our Secretary, Mr Robin Brampton, who amongst many other things edits and publishes *Village Voice*; organises the minutes and secretarial duties of the Association; and stimulates and orchestrates most of our social functions.

To you, Robin, we are all indebted. Our thanks indeed.

And to Mr Ron Osborne, our Treasurer, who this year was able to balance our books so that the Association came out in the black for the first time in several years. Well done, Ron.

Also to all the members of the committee for their enthusiastic and helpful support. Many thanks for a job well done.

Finally, I would like to extend to all residents an invitation to attend our Annual General Meeting at Fred Pazotti on Tuesday, April 9, to hear our guest speaker and local resident, Mr Neville Wran. I look forward to seeing you there.

Duane Norris, President

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Scheme for theatre school on hold

WHAT has happened to the imaginative plan to create a theatre school with auditorium on the site of the derelict Diamond Horseshoe Nightclub in Oxford Street?

Despite some misgivings from local residents, Woollahra Council approved the plan in 1988.

With no sign of the work starting we contacted the owner of the property, Mrs Irene Notaras.

She tells us that she still plans to go ahead with the scheme and her architect has applied to Woollahra Council for an extension of the time limit placed on starting construction.

However, the project has become a victim of the recession which is restricting funding to Bogdan Koca's Thalia Theatre Company which was planning to establish the theatre school in the building.

The Queen Street Association has generally supported the theatre school project and is disappointed that the vision of architect Victor Berk has not yet been realised.

Among other things we hoped that the school's auditorium would provide a venue for local meetings.

Let's keep hoping.



Walls made secure

THE Uniting Church remains hopeful that Woollahra Council will take over the burned out church building in Jersey Road and turn it into a municipal library and art gallery. Initial encouraging discussions with senior aldermen are to be followed by a formal presentation. Our picture was taken in December when stout shoring timbers were erected to ensure that the walls do not fall while the future of the building is decided.



Now poisoned but not removed . . . weeds proliferating in Jersey Road.

A mulch better way to go

THE Queen Street Association is still far from satisfied with the standard of footpath maintenance in our area, as noted in the previous *Village Voice*.

In reply to our protests, the Council says that it has approved use of contractors to control weeds in footpaths and gutters. Meanwhile the parks staff are attending to weed infested locations when notified.

Apparently this means spraying them with the contact herbicide Round-up which happened in Jersey Road when we sent the Council the photograph on this page showing how weeds were proliferating.

The Association has pointed out that this method leaves decaying carcasses of weeds which are just as unsightly as the original greenery.

Also spraying toxins endangers the delightful tree gardens planted by residents and garden flowers close to the footpath.

The alternative? Remove the weeds manually and take them

away to form compost. More laborious, perhaps, but visually more effective and environmentally more worthwhile.

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& Accessories.**

READS

130 Queen Street, Woollahra NSW 2025. Telephone: (02) 328-1036.

LOCAL TABLES

Our regular front line report on the local restaurant scene samples two fine Italian menus

Almost like being by the Colosseum

CORSETTI

Italian Restaurant
3 Jersey Road, Woollahra
Telephone: 363 4815

WHEN a restaurant flourishes at a location where others have found the going tough, there are usually good reasons.

Corsetti provides above average Italian food at around \$30 a head.

Like many of our local tables, it is well patronised by escapees from dull suburbia who enjoy a taste of the life we take for granted in West Woollahra.

There are no recessions in evidence here, and reservations are advisable.

Do not under any circumstances ignore the Bruschetta, Corsetti's version of garlic bread.

It has been written about elsewhere and rightly so — toasted Italian bread with a garlic-flavoured olive oil

coating, ablaze with fresh red tomato.

After washing it down with a glass of wine from the Italian wine list, you could happily leave then and there. But you probably wouldn't.

From the longish list of entrees, the antipasto was a stand-out. Antipasto often looks better than it tastes, unless you are lucky enough to wake up in a little Sicilian restaurant in a back street near the Colosseum where (naturally enough) the antipasto is "to kill for".

Corsetti's antipasto is not of that class, but it is almost as good as it looks. Ours included such delicacies as marinated octopus, mushroom frittata, tomatoes filled with a creamy risotto, eggplant in different ways, stuffed zucchini and marinated capsicum.

The bread at Corsetti also deserves a special mention. It is Italian, slightly "different" and very good for mopping up sauces and gravies.

The plastic butter packs lurking in the bread basket were an aberration.

Our main courses were spaghetti in a clam sauce; scaloppine with grilled cheese and prosciutto; grilled prawns with lemon butter (at \$19 the most expensive dish); and a delicious seafood risotto.

Good wine list

All our choices were traditional and very well cooked. There were no complaints.

Then followed a tiramisu and a mascarpone, both fine although almost indistinguishable from each other.

Corsetti is to be specially commended for its wine list. Having worked out that Italian wine goes with Italian food like no other, there's more Soave and Frascati than Brunello or Tignanello — but so what? That's the style of the place.

What makes Corsetti a hit is that it combines a number of important qualities. The ambience, terrace house style, is great. A little noisy, but fun.

Personnel — the maitre d'/proprietor is a very friendly gentleman and his staff are



A feature of the Big Mama trattoria in Moncur Street is its unusual soft sculpture decor.

unobtrusive and efficient.

The food is both enjoyable and good value. Arrividerci.

R.O.

Wit on the menu and turnaway business

BIG MAMA

Italian Trattoria
51 Moncur Street, Woollahra
Telephone: 328 7629

FOR a restaurant to be doing turnaway business in the middle of a recession, it must be doing something right.

In fact Big Mama does several things right.

Quality in relation to price is excellent.

It has a happy, bright bustling atmosphere which appeals especially to younger diners.

And the energetic staff impart a feeling of friendly insouciance which can make eating here a particular pleasure.

This same lighthearted feeling extends to the blackboard menu where the daily offerings have such names as INXS Pasta with Broccoli...

Joy, Desperation and Calamari... and The Successful Garfish.

On our most recent visit we just managed to get an unbooked table before the establishment became chock full.

I settled for the blackboard menu's Spaghetti with Open Minded Crab, followed by thick slices of steaming ox tongue — both excellent.

My wife had Avocado with Dried Tomato as a light prelude to her pasta, Bucatini All'Amatriciana, with bacon, tomatoes, onions and chilli.

The whole lot was washed down with an excellent bottle of Pinot Grigio.

Our bill was in the \$70 area, including the imported wine, but it is possible to dine much more cheaply at Big Mama by keeping to the admirable pasta dishes at \$7.50 and \$9.50. A mixed pasta for two, at \$23.50, is almost a meal in itself.

Main dishes of veal and chicken are all priced at \$11.50 with some of the blackboard specials venturing into a higher bracket.

So try it!

R.B.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ACN 002 872 433

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.

Treasurer: Ronald Osborne.

Secretary: Robin Brampton.

Membership Secretary: John Haymes.

Committee: Jennifer Dickerson, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, John Haymes, Charles Lloyd-Jones, Tim McCormick and Gert Schidor.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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Poster Contest Prize Winners

ON the front page of the previous *Village Voice*, we mentioned that the children of Woollahra Infants School designed some very striking posters in December to promote the Association's annual Concert of Christmas Carols and Songs.

One, by Sarah Crozier, was featured in *Village Voice* and received a special prize of \$25 worth of books from Haymes & Sons.

The others were displayed at shops around Queen Street and probably did a lot to encourage more than 100 people to attend the concert.

So congratulations to first prize winner Claire Morgan and second prize winner Nadia Doeblitz. They received prizes of \$30 worth of books and \$25 worth of books donated by committee members John Haymes and Jennifer Dickerson.



Compiled by Jenny Dickerson
and Robin Brampton

WHEN he was just seven years old, Bill Bradshaw knew exactly what he wanted to do with his life. He was going to be an antiques dealer.

"I wanted to own a shop just like the wonderful Miller Stokes antiques shop in Margaret Street," he told us. "He was my hero in business."

Young Bill was only 18 when he got his wish. He opened for business in a tiny shop and residence at the lower end of Market Street, between Sussex Street and Kent Street.

The only problem for the youthful antiques dealer was that he was too young to hold an old wares licence. So his mother held it for him, even though she knew nothing about antiques.

The Market Street shop opened on April 1, 1941, which is why the doyen of Queen Street antiques dealers is currently celebrating the remarkable achievement of having headed his own antiques business for 50 years.

And in half a century of trading, W. F. Bradshaw has had only two addresses. In 1957, he moved from the Market Street premises to 96 Queen Street, Woollahra, where he remains to this day.

Not the first

Bill was not quite the first antiques dealer in Queen Street. He bestows that honour on Edith Spire who had previously opened – then closed – an antiques shop at number 153, well away from the main shopping centre.

However, Bill Bradshaw was certainly the first great pioneer of the gradual movement which has turned Queen Street into Sydney's most famous street of antiques.

Commented Queen Street antiques dealer Oliver von Wilpert: "Where would we have been without him?"

Bill has always specialised

in Regency and early Victorian antiques. In earlier days, when his budget was smaller, it was musical boxes (then more plentiful), chandeliers and lamps.

He bought mainly at auctions and remembers that, with fewer sharp-eyed and knowledgeable dealers about, there were some wonderful bargains to be found.

\$250,000 bust

One of Bill's discoveries in those early days was the Meissen porcelain bust of "Baron" Schmeidel which he sold to the old Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences for £85.

Now valued at at least \$250,000, it is today a proud possession of the Powerhouse Museum and was featured on the cover of the 1989 Sydney Telephone Directory.

Since coming to Queen Street, Bill has specialised more in antique furniture, clocks and pianos.

He tells us that he plays the piano indifferently – but well enough to cherish a piano he has just restored by afterwards tinkling away an opera transcription, such as from *Norma*, on its keyboard.

Such deep affection for antiques is what makes a true antiques dealer and often Bill has a pang of regret when some piece he has come to love is handed over to a customer.

And what is the main change which Bill Bradshaw has noticed in his 50 years in the antiques trade?

"Prices!" he replies emphatically. "Even in the present depressed climate, antiques are still fetching extraordinary prices in London."

In the past 10 years, Bill Bradshaw has been assisted by the very capable Keith

The tiny single-fronted shop in Market Street where Bill Bradshaw started his antiques business in 1941. And, yes, the slim youth in the doorway is Bill himself. The building between Sussex and Kent Street has since been demolished.

Lehane whom Bill says he hopes will keep the shop "after I'm gone".

But despite a multiple heart by-pass operation a few years ago, Bill is a very fit 68-year-old and shows no signs of departing just yet.

And he has a great affection for the street which has been both his business address and home for 34 years.

"It's the loveliest place in Sydney with a real village high street atmosphere," he said. "I'm very happy to remain here until I'm carried out in a box."

* * *

A WELCOME TO Wendy Wride who has become temporary postal manager at Woollahra Post Office in Queen Street, following the departure of the friendly and conscientious David Thomas.

In February, David was married at Byron Bay in a real Australia Post wedding. His bride is postal manager at Ballina and David is now living in the area as second in charge at Byron Bay Post Office.

Wendy Wride, who was previously at Double Bay, says the term "postmaster" has been dropped in favour of "postal manager" because of the number of women like herself who are doing the job.

Her appointment is temporary as the position has to be advertised within Australia Post before an appointment is made. She has applied as she would like to remain with us in Queen Street.

THE antiques dealers of Queen Street are still playing their game of musical chairs, or perhaps in their case it is an elegant gavotte.

Longstanding Queen Street identity Rosalind Palmer has ceased to operate jointly with Elizabeth Davies at number 82, though we understand the parting was quite amicable.

Ros has now gone solo and moved into the spacious premises at 44 Queen Street which were once the famous Kaleidoscope of Grant Roberts and more recently the shop of John Paradee and Brian Moore.

Meanwhile Brian Moore has moved to Jersey Road and Elizabeth Davies is continuing to trade on her own at 82 Queen Street.

* * *

ONE of the best new businesses to open in Oxford Street, near the corner of Queen Street, is Paula Zubani with her shop In Residence.

Paula stocks all the elegant essentials, beautiful bed linen, fine handtowels, perfumed essences and oils, tiny teddy bears in pink tutus and soaps made with olive oil for a lady's delicate skin.

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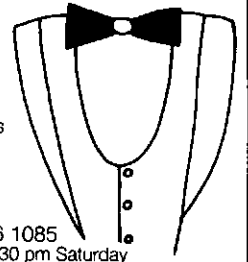
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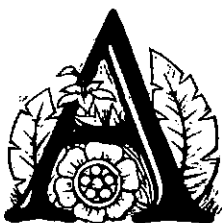
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