



Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association
PO Box 16, Woollahra, New South Wales 2025



All local residents are invited
to the Queen Street Association's

Concert of Christmas Songs and Carols

with

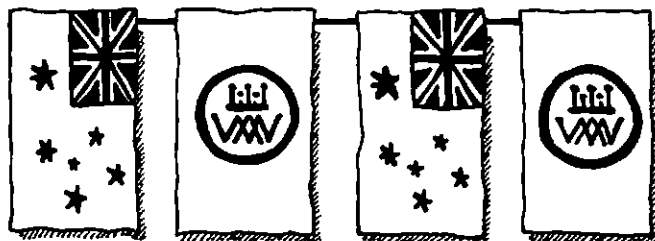
The Taverner Consort
Conductor Sandy Newman

QUEENS COURT

118 Queen Street, Woollahra
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th
6.30 p.m.

ADMISSION FREE

Including a glass of champagne (or orange
juice) and fruit cake to celebrate Christmas.



COME TO QUEEN STREET

on

Saturday, December 7th

- Shops at their best for the day. Prizes for the best shop windows by day and night.
- Music, Music, Music! Jazz on Dorhauer Lane Carpark, musicians up and down the street.
- Christmas songs by the Choir of St Marks Church, Darling Point
- Queen Street Art Show for local pictures at the National Association of Jewish Women's hall.
- Local Antiques Dealers' Great Outdoor Sale on Dorhauer Lane Carpark. Bargains galore!
- Charity and Community Service Stalls. Lots of ideas for Christmas giving.
- Delicious Sausage Sizzle . . . Amazing Tarot Card readings . . . Crazy Caricature Drawing . . . Ken Done posters for sale.

QUEEN STREET ART SHOW

A chance to buy a unique souvenir of the Queen Street area, an original local painting or drawing. The best artworks from this year's Queen Street and District Art Competition will be on exhibition, and all except the first and second prizewinners will be for sale. The show will be at the National Council of Jewish Women's Centre, 111 Queen Street, on Friday, December 6th, from 11 am to 2 pm, and Saturday, December 7th, from 9.30 am to 4 pm.

CALLING ALL BUSKERS!

Buskers of every age – and talent – are invited to perform in Queen Street on Come to Queen Street Day. There are two prizes of \$50 (all in coins, naturally) for the best adult and best child busker or group. Just come and perform. We will be along to judge.

LOCAL TABLES

A cosy pub and a "serious" restaurant

Our discerning critics find much to praise and little to frown on at two more local eateries.

LORD DUDLEY HOTEL

*Hotel Restaurant
Jersey Road, Woollahra
Telephone: 327 5399*

IS there any other Sydney hotel which so well captures the cosy atmosphere of an English pub than the Lord Dudley? The snug ground floor lounge even comes complete with open fireplace, sofa chairs and hunting prints on the walls.

The establishment was named after the second Earl of Dudley who was Governor-General of Australia from 1908 to 1911, probably about the time the Lord Dudley was built.

As with all hotels in our area, the Lord Dudley puts on an extensive table with an ever-changing blackboard

menu by the bar where you order and pay for your meal. The food is served either in the lounge or a small outdoor courtyard which is popular in summer.

Food quality? Somewhat better than average pub fare with an extensive range of dishes and hearty rather than delicate presentation.

On the day of our sampling visit, the "entrees" ranged from Vichyaise at \$4.95 to an English spinach salad with bacon, avocado, sun dried tomatoes and slivered parmesan cheese at \$9.95.

Mains graduated from a hamburger at \$6.95 to John Dory Meuniere at \$14.95.

I settled for the tasty beef sausages, perhaps not as bland as I prefer, served with excellent saute potatoes.



The Lord Dudley . . . Better than average pub fare and an extensive range of dishes.

Somebody with spicier tastes was very pleased with the satays served with peanut sauce. And our two other tasters enjoyed their liver and bacon, although my wife commented that the serving was twice as much as she could eat.

The most complimentary responses were for the desserts, great wedges of Mississippi mudcake and a Tiramisu, both served with King Island cream. And with the Tiramisu came a delicious strawberry coulis.

I can also be enthusiastic about the wide ranging wine selection, from a small carafe of house wine at \$4.50 to a bottle of Dom Perignon Champagne at \$160.

My only disappointment about our visit was that for a party with only limited time for lunch, the food was slow to appear. Also several desserts on the blackboard were no longer available when we ordered them.

Were we unlucky? Or is the message that if you lunch at the Lord Dudley, you should arrive early and have time to spare?

R.B.

CLAUDE'S

*French Restaurant
10 Oxford Street, Woollahra
Telephone: 331 2325*

THE lasting impression left by Claude's Restaurant is that we are lucky to have a restaurant of such quality in close proximity to Queen Street and West Woollahra.

Entering the single dining room which seats around 40, one is struck by the elegance of the silver and napery in a vaguely art deco setting.

The tables are filling up, as

it's past 8 o'clock, and the highly professional cast of waiters glides earnestly around the room, providing information and assistance where needed.

A cast of waiters, no team, because this is theatre and at Claude's the production is nothing if not polished. Service is concerned, unobtrusive and a real feature.

But to find out why people are prepared to pay \$75 a head, or \$85 a head for the special "soiree de la fine bouche", one has to talk food. And quality and consistency.

On our most recent visit, we had the special "no choice"

continued page 4



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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: Neville Wran.

President: Ron Osborne.

Treasurer: Tim McCormick.

Secretary: Robin Brampton.

Membership Secretary: John Haymes.

Committee: Graham Freudenberg, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, Peter Hall, Appley Hoare, John Haymes and Charles Lloyd-Jones.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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Queen Street supports its special day

THE Queen Street Association is very heartened by the support being given to our Come to Queen Street Day on Saturday, December 7.

Aim of the event is to focus attention on the attractions of Queen Street and encourage Christmas shopping locally.

Woollahra Council has supportively agreed to the use of Dorhauer Lane Carpark for the event, and is providing flagpoles for a display of flags in Queen Street.

A bright four-colour poster has been designed free as a gesture to Queen Street by Ken Done who has recently established a gallery in the Street.

To help the association's funds, Ken has also personally signed a limited number of posters for sale on the day at \$25 each.

The actual cost of printing has been kindly donated by *The Wentworth Courier* and Bridge Printery Pty Ltd.

Individual shops have offered their help, including cash donations for the association's costs in organising the day.

Shops organising their own special events include Kidstuff at number 126A who will have two children's authors, Sandra McCuaig and Libby Hathorn, signing their books outside the shop.

A former journalist in Australia and London, Sandra McCuaig lives locally and writes for "young adults" between 12 and 16. She has two daughters in this age group.

Sandra has published four titles, all of which will be available for signing — *Bus Fuss*, *Blindfold*, *Spaghetti Connections* and *Shooting Through*.



Vincent Chapman who will demonstrate how he makes mosaics at the Re-Entombed Galleries on Come to Queen Street Day.

Libby Hathorn writes both children's and adults' fiction and also poetry and libretti. She has twice been awarded Australia Council literary grants, and several of her junior titles have won Australian CBC Book of the Year awards.

Her books, which will be available for signing, are *Tram to Bondi Beach*, *So Who Needs Lotto*, *Thunderwith* and *Talks with My Skateboard*.

Mosaic demonstration

Meanwhile the Re-Entombed Galleries at Number 28 Queen Street will have mosaic artist Vincent Chapman of Tile-Art actually demonstrating his craft.

Vincent has travelled extensively in Europe and the Middle East studying the different techniques and forms of mosaics.

He is particularly interested in the Byzantine era and since returning to Australia has commenced a series of reproductions of ancient Syrian mosaics.

One of the major features of Come to Queen Street Day will be an exhibition of winning and other pictures from the association's \$2000 Queen Street and District Art Competition, entries for which closed on November 23.

Tremendous interest has been shown in the competition which is for outdoor pictures of recognisable locations in the Queen Street area. One enquiry even came from the United States.

The contest will be judged by Mr Frederic Bates, president of the Royal Art Society of NSW, but the winners will not be announced until Come to Queen Street Day.

The contest exhibition will be held at the hall of the National Council of Jewish Women's centre opposite Dorhauer Lane Carpark.

The announcement of winners by association president, Ron Osborne, and the presentation of prizes by the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Cathy Lemech, will take place at 11.00 am at the exhibition.

Sponsors of the art competition are the Woollahra Hotel (First Prize, \$1000 cash); Zigolini's Brasserie (Second Prize, \$500 cash); Fred Pazotti (Third Prize, \$250 cash); and Australian Giftguide Productions (Special Junior Prize, \$250 cash).

Another big feature of Come to Queen Street Day will be band music on a bandstand in Dorhauer Lane Carpark.

Jazz will be provided by Room 17, a group formed a year ago, inspired by the desire to merge the elements of jazz-rock and funk in one capable outfit.

Band members are Sean Wayland (keyboards), Damian de Boos-Smith (guitar), Alf Kwon (bass guitar), Simon Ashton (drums) and Brydon Stace (vocals).

Room 17 will alternate on the bandstand the Choir of St Marks Church, Darling Point.

There will also be a buskers' contest with two \$50 prizes (adult and junior, all in coins naturally) and anybody or group busking in Queen Street on the day will be considered.

DUANE NORRIS GARDEN DESIGNERS

Items of interest for the serious gardener — watering cans, stainless steel tools, pigskin gloves, teak furniture, Sussex trugs, Felco secateurs, ARS pruning saws, English Wellington boots and much more.

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continued page 4

Come to Queen Street Day continued

Another contest will be for the most attractive shop window in Queen Street by day (to be judged on the morning of Come to Queen Street Day) and by night (to be judged the previous evening).

The prizes are dinner for two at the restaurants of the Phoenix Hotel or the Woollahra Hotel.

All shop windows will be considered by the two judges including Mr Charles Lloyd-Jones, an executive of the David Jones retailing group who is a member of the association committee.

Finally, Queen Street Association would like to emphasise that Come to Queen Street Day is not an attempt to revive the massive Queen Street Fair, last held in 1985.

Instead it will be a more intimate event to focus on Queen Street shopping, with its unique blend of antiques dealers and general shops.

Please support it.

OSNOF report soon to Council

FOLLOWING a burst of lively social activity earlier this year, OSNOF (Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway) is about to embark on a vital stage of its campaign to reduce Ocean Street traffic.

In July, the group held a very successful dinner and auction at Pruniers. As reported in our previous issue, this was followed in September by a morning of activities in Ocean Street and in Chiswick Gardens.

These high jinks have produced some useful funds for the serious business of lobbying, and OSNOF hopes this month to receive the comprehensive report it has commissioned from its traffic consultant, Lyle Marshall.

Mr Marshall has been examining what possible rationale the Roads and Traffic Authority could have for allowing so much through traffic to be directed down Ocean Street, to the detriment of local amenities.

The RTA's own figures show that the number of vehicles using Ocean Street rose from the already over-intense 27,330 a day in 1981 to 35,772 a day in 1989.

Now, of course, the situation is even worse.

OSNOF founder Reg Fountain said that when completed, Lyle Marshall's research would be submitted to Woollahra Council, several of whose new members have indicated sympathy.

It is then hoped the council will get behind a strong approach to the RTA, aimed at the adoption of some of the practical measures OSNOF has suggested for traffic reduction in Ocean Street.

Always opposed to the Ocean Street traffic build up, the Queen Street Association is keeping its fingers crossed that the OSNOF approach will at last lead to success.

LOCAL TABLES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

menu where the chef pulls out all the stops in a kind of "menu de degustation". The usual menu generally has about five or six dishes in each category to choose from.

To the food. It is hard, even for an enthusiastic amateur to comment critically on a dish such as the main lamb course we ate, described by the menu as, "A grilled steak from the leg, the loin roasted with parsley and basil, the shoulder as spicy sausages styled after Merguez. An eggplant garnish. Lamb jus".

Originality

Even if one knew who Merguez happened to be, there is so little basis for comparison when confronted by a course of such originality. I enjoyed it enormously. It was beautifully cooked, generous but not gargantuan, different but not tricky.

I also enjoyed the white asparagus with which the meal began — juicy, flavour-some and accompanied by what the chef was pleased to call "truffle juice eggs" — an eggshell full of an egg and truffle mixture, with toast "soldiers" faintly reminiscent of a hospital (a very good hospital, of course).

The remaining courses, for some possibly the more important part of the meal, were a St Andre cheese described as "triple creme", a peach tartlette a la Bourdeloue with a peach and champagne sorbet, coffee or tea, and petits fours.

If all this sounds like a French lesson, it must be said that France provides the inspiration for the cooking at Claude's. No Asian influences here, no Californian modern.

A dish I omitted to men-

tion, harbour prawns and squab fillets in a salad laced with chervil vinaigrette, may have provided a small concession to Sydney-style innovation.

Classical food

But Claude's provides classical food in the French style. You are most unlikely to come away without having had your senses stimulated and your appetite well satisfied.

Value for money is enhanced by the BYO set up. You can bring along your favourite bottle, free of any mark-up or even corkage, knowing that the food will more than do it justice.

What were the limitations, the niggles? Very few, by and large. Tables a touch close, perhaps, but that's not about to change.

The combination of prawn and squab was not a real

winner — squab alone, a little less rare, would have improved on this "surf 'n' turf" duo.

The cheese added unnecessary cholesterol, and if you didn't like the style, too bad. The petits fours were either unnecessary or not up to the exemplary standard of what went before; I'm not sure which.

The need-to-know basics are that Claude's has only a fixed price menu; is BYO; accepts cheques but not credit cards; and reservations are essential.

Claude's is a serious restaurant, one to measure others by — some consider it Sydney's best. If you would like to try some of the very best restaurant food available, with just a dash of theatre, you owe it to yourself to judge.

R.O.

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By Robin Brampton
Secretary of the Queen Street Association



Ripe for a stylish restoration . . . The decayed corner shop in Jersey Road which is to become Leslie Walford's new premises.

SOMEHOW Queen Street is not going to be the same without Alison O'Connor.

From her distinctive colonnaded home, she had for 20 years cast a critical eye on all that happened in the street, and many things displeased her.

Woollahra Council were frequently made aware of her displeasure when she would, for instance, object to a planning application for the extension of an antiques shop.

Among other things, she mounted continuous opposition to Queen Street Fair and believed (incorrectly we would claim) that the Queen Street Association encouraged antiques and boutique businesses at the expense of service shops.

Now Alison has left our area, her interesting little home at number 71 has been acquired as the headquarters of the Currey and Stephens interior design consultancy.

Philip Stephens, who is also living on the premises, was in the midst of a stylish renovation of the interior when we called to bid him welcome.

He told me that he and his partner, Leslie Currey, have found plenty of clients since moving to Sydney from Melbourne some three years ago.

Many, of course, are in the traditional "doing up" belt of the Eastern Suburbs. But a surprising number come from the "new money" Western Suburbs where homes are often unexpectedly palatial.

Another trend, according to Philip, is for people to expect interior decorators to provide a much wider service, covering such mundane matters as plumbing and electrical planning in addition to the creative element.

As interior decorators are by nature (if not by popular image!) very practical and pragmatic people, they are happy to oblige.

A LIVELY party with people spilling out onto the Queen Street pavement heralded the opening this month of Decadence at 88 Queen Street.

John Shepherdson and Tyrone Dearing have completely gutted the former Legends restaurant and painted the walls in stark white to show off their wares very effectively.

Decadence specialises in decorative art and design from 1820 to 1960, both furniture and accessories, and everything on show is in superb condition.

Decadence was for many years in Riley Street, Darlinghurst, but John tells me they felt that to be in Queen Street was a better business proposition because this is where antiques collectors come to browse — (and even buy!).

ALSO new to Queen Street are Helen and Francis Woolford of Unicorn International Antiques at Number 22, until recently the shop of Oliver Von Wilpert.

Francis, who likes to be known as Frank, got an early "bloodying" in the antiques game by moving round the outback, knocking on doors to see if anybody had anything interesting to sell.

"Over the years, I found some wonderful things," he told me.

Originally from Queensland, the Woolfords have moved their business to Queen Street from the Antique Centre in South Dowling Street.

They deal in general antiques, with strong emphasis on art nouveau, and their prices are dictated by the realisation that in a recession, dealers have to carry cheaper merchandise to survive.

GREAT news! One of the last abandoned and decayed

eyesores in our area is to be restored — by none other than Leslie Walford whose name means so much in the local interior decorating and social world.

The building in question is 117 Jersey Road, built in 1886 and situated on the corner of Holdsworth Street. Until the mid-1950s it was a corner shop, but for nearly 30 years it has stood down-at-heel and forelorn, a forgotten little gem of late Victoriana.

Leslie is so impressed with its potential that when the restoration is complete — hopefully in May — he plans to make it his business headquarters.

Downstairs will be a showroom, with offices upstairs.

I'm told Leslie Walford bought the building from the woman owner who actually lived there until 1985. And already he is being congratulated on bringing life back to the premises by older residents who remember patronising the shop until the 1950s.

With 117 Jersey Road set for a stylish restoration, may we also hope soon to see an end to that other depressing island of decay, the former milk bar at 48 Queen Street.

Probably the last unrestored shop in Queen Street, its appearance jars very badly with the otherwise noble aspect of the group of shops which includes Anne Schofield's Queen Street Galleries.

CENTENNIAL END of QUEEN STREET



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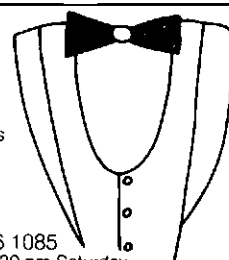



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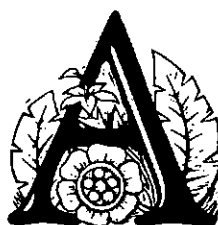
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