

Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

# How to join the Association

THE Annual Meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, announced below, is open to all local residents. However, only financial members for the year 1992 may take part in the formal business.

Members may enroll or renew their subscriptions on the evening of the meeting. Also a subscription form appears on page 4 of this issue of Village Voice.

For individuals the subscription is \$15 a year, or \$10 for pensioners. Family membership is \$25 (two people), corporate membership \$40 and life membership \$150.

Care about your neighbourhood?

Then be sure to attend

The Annual Meeting of The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited

# Guest Speaker LESLIE WALFORD

on "Memories and Ambitions"

Tuesday, May 26th, at 7pm at Fred Pazotti 64 Moncur Street, Woollahra

Complimentary refreshments ALL WELCOME

(See notice above)

# 900

Mr Greg Woodhams

# **LOCAL DISCUSSION FORUM**

The evening will also include a forum at which residents may raise any issue concerning the neighbourhood, particularly planning and development. Woollahra Municipal Council's Chief Planning Officer, Mr Greg Woodhams, will open the discussion by explaining how residents may object to development and building applications which they believe to be against their interests or those of the neighbourhood.



Mr Leslie Walford

# About our Guest Speaker

LESLIE Walford is a sixth generation Australian, born in Sydney, who has made his name as an interior decorator, antiques dealer, newspaper columnist, lecturer on interior design, world traveller and social figure.

He was educated mainly in England, spent three years in the British Army where he was commissioned, then took his degree at Oxford University in politics, economics and philosphy.

Leslie spent three years studying interior design in Paris. As an interior designer in Australia, he has been responsible for decorating many beautiful homes as well as commercial premises.

We extend a particular welcome to Leslie because he has just been restoring some long-derelict retail premises in Jersey Road for his business headquarters.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing, both the President and Vice-President elected by members at the 1991 annual meeting had resigned from the Committee. This report has been compiled by the Acting President and Treasurer, Mr Tim McCormick, and the Secretary, Mr Robin Brampton.

YOUR Association has been very active in the past year and its work has included two successful new initiatives — the first Come to Queen Street Day and the first Oueen Street Art Competition.

### Come to Queen Street Day

WE mention this first because it was perhaps the most noteworthy of the Association's activities in 1991.

The aim of the event, on Saturday, December 7th, was to focus attention on the attractions of Queen Street and encourage Christmas shopping locally.

Thanks to a large degree to the generosity of Eastern Suburbs Newspapers which sponsored the event, it was well publicised. We were also grateful to Ken Done for donating the design of the four-colour poster.

As a result, there were many more shoppers in Queen Street on the day and local retailers were pleased with the

A number of charities, community service groups and local businesses which do not have Queen Street shopfronts were invited to provide stalls.

Other attractions included choir and jazz band music from a platform on the Dorhauer Lane carpark; a display of flags arranged by Woollahra Council; and an exhibition of the entries in the Queen Street Art Competition.

A shop window dressing contest, judged by Mrs Jill Wran and committeeman-retail executive Charles Lloyd-Jones, was won by Country Form Kitchens (best window by day) and Howell-Orlando Antiques (best window by night).

As this was intended very much to be a community day, it was encouraging that several retailers arranged their own special promotions.

We were also grateful to a number of people and businesses who so generously helped to make the day a success with various donations, sponsorships and other help.

Obviously one or two aspects could be improved, but it is hoped to make Come to Queen Street Day an annual event.

### Queen Street Art Competition

IN 1991, the Association held for the first time a Queen Street and District Art Competition with \$2000 in cash prizes.

This was open for outdoor twodimensional works of art in any media, reflecting the life and/or environment of Queen Street and its immediate neighbourhood.

The contest attracted more than 40 entries, many from outside the area, and was judged by Mr Frederic Bates,

President of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales.

Winners were:

FIRST PRIZE, \$1000 cash, sponsored by the Woollahra Hotel: Elizabeth Jamieson of Wahroonga, "Queen Street Impressions".

SECOND PRIZE, \$500 cash, sponsored by Zigolini's Brasserie: Leeka Gruzdeff of Paddington, "Fountain Memories".

THIRD PRIZE, \$250 cash, sponsored by Fred Pazotti: Sir Leslie Fowler of New Zealand, "Queens Court from the Woollahra Hotel".

JUNIOR PRIZE, \$250 cash, sponsored by Australian Giftguide Productions: Richard Winter of Woollahra, "Lazy Sunday".

All the entries formed an exhibition held at the National Council of Jewish Women's Centre in Queen Street for Come to Queen Street Day.

In the morning, the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Cathy Lemech, presented the prizes and complimented the Association both on holding an art contest with a local theme and the fine artistic response.

The Association would like to thank the sponsors of the four prizes mentioned above; the National Council of Jewish Women for allowing the use of their hall; and Mr Frederic Bates for judging the entries so expertly.

Although the contest was a success, the Committee feels it should be held at less regular intervals than annually and no contest will be held in 1992.

### Queen Street 2000 scheme

IN 1989, the Queen Street Association launched its ambitious Queen Street 2000 scheme for the refurbishment of Queen Street.

This aims to create, over a number of years, a vastly improved streetscape which will blend and harmonise with the essentially Victorian character of Queen Street.

Unfortunately, for several reasons, little progress was made during the year. Because the scheme can only be implemented in partnership with Woollahra Council, a joint Association-Council working party was set up in 1990, headed by the then Mayor, Alderman Hylda Rolfe.

However, Alderman Rolfe did not stand again at the September, 1991, Council elections and these resulted in a vastly different Council which decided to abolish all working parties.

Another problem has been finding a source of funds for approximately \$25,000 needed for the detailed planning work on the scheme.

During the year, it looked as though the money might come from funds which the Council had held in trust following the granting of approval for a Queen Street development back in the 1960s. However, this avenue was closed wher the applicant successfully asked for the funds to be re-imbursed.

Further progress was also inhibited by the resignation from the Committee, for personal reasons, of Mr Duane Norris who was the main author of the scheme.

The Town Clerk, Mr Michael Regnis, continues to take an encouraging interest in Queen Street 2000 and it is hoped the new Committee will find the human and other resources to see it progressed.

Meanwhile the Council has been asked to ensure that any public works carried out in Queen Street should be in sympathy with the concept.

As a result, early this year we were asked to endorse the early "bunching" of overhead powerlines in Queen Street into one thick strand in place of a number of separate cables.

Although the Queen Street.2000 scheme calls for all power cables to be placed underground, the association happy to accept "bunching" as an interim measure to make the overhead cables less unsightly.



QUEEN STREET ART COMPETITION – Frederic Bates (right), President of the Royal Art Society of New South Wales, judging the entries. With him is the Association's Acting President and Treasurer, Tim McCormick.

### Ever on the watch

AN unobtrusive but nevertheless important part of the Association's work is to be constantly watchful for any development which might interfere with the pleasant characteristics of our area.

In particular, we take a continual interest in what happens at Woollahra Council, especially building and development applications.

Recently we have been having discussions with the Council on how communications in this area can be

During the year we also took the initiative to bring together and try to conciliate in a major dispute between Council and a prominent local business.

It was gratifying that in the successful negotiations, the Council accepted the Association's view of what would be the ost acceptable solution for local sidents.

However, sometimes problems can without the Association's knowledge, such as when a householder last year completely altered the historic frontage of his home without Council approval.

We therefore ask that anybody who is concerned about any aspect of local development should quickly contact the Association for guidance and possibly

support.

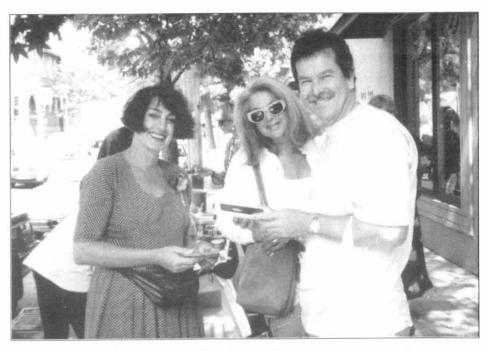
One particular matter which recently engaged our attention was the large scale Concert for Life in Centennial Park on Saturday, March 28th.

Initially we were concerned that there had been no consultation with local residents and when a consultative committee was set up, we were represented at every meeting including the post-concert "post mortem"

The event has raised a lot of discussion about the appropriate functions of Centennial Park and a good outcome is that the Association will be invited to influence further developments.

Now not only does the park management know we exist, but the various local residents' groups found they could work together very effectively.

It is also reassuring that we have been told by the Director of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust that no further events of the nature and size of



COME TO QUEEN STREET DAY - Ken Done and company were among the many people who came to Queen Street for this special day in December. Ken designed the special four-colour poster for the event.

the Concert for Life will be held in Centennial Park.

### Social activities

THE Association's major social activity of the year was in June when a Bush Dinner was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of A.B. ("Banjo") Paterson who lived in Queen

The evening included a diversion based on Paterson's works, created by our Secretary, Robin Brampton.

Robin acted as narrator, supported in the verse reading by TV star Ian Turpie and Queen Street printdealer Tony Ward who formerly was a TV actor and current affairs personality.

Guest readers included our President, Ron Osborne, who performed a little known but very funny Banjo Paterson poem about the game of bridge to which Ron is also addicted.

Among the 80 or so people who attended were the then Mayor and Mayoress of Woollahra, Alderman and Mrs Peter King, and Banjo Paterson's two granddaughters who live in Woollahra.

The evening also included an auction of various goods generously donated by Queen Street businesses and residents

which raised a useful sum for the Association funds.

Unfortunately the Association's annual Concert of Christmas Carols and Songs at Queens Court on December 10th was marred by rain. This caused the premature end to the tuneful singing of the Taverner Consort, conducted by Sandy Newman.

However, some 60 local residents braved the elements to attend including our Mayor, Alderman Cathy Lemech. Despite the downpour they stayed to shelter and imbibe the complimentary champagne and fruitcake which are a feature of the event.

### The Committee

IT was a great disappointment when, through personal circumstances, Mr Ron Osborne was forced in January to resign as President before completing his year of office.

The genial Ron has contributed much to the Association in recent years as Committee member, Treasurer and President.

Happily he assures us that his absence from the Committee may only be

continued next page

#### ZIGOLINI'S WOOLLAHRA

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

continued

temporary, and he hopes to rejoin at a later date. Meanwhile he is continuing to act as the Association's honorary solicitor and a contributor to our *Village Voice* newsletter.

Another loss was the resignation during the year of our Vice-President, landscape architect Duane Norris, who had previously served for several years as President.

Duane's contribution to the Association's work has been immense. He was the principal author of the Queen Street 2000 scheme and served as Vice-Chairman of the now disbanded working party set up with Woollahra Council to try to implement it.

We lost another Committee member through the resignation of Dr Peter Hall but were happy to welcome onto the Committee during the year local resident Graham Freudenberg who is well known as a political writer.

With the resignation of so many officers, it was obvious at the beginning of 1992 that the Committee would have to acquire new blood to continue to operate effectively.

To this end, a number of local residents and business people attended an evening function in March when the situation was explained.



SINGING IN THE RAIN – The showery weather did not deter many local residents from enjoying the Association's annual Concert of Christmas Carols and Songs at Queens Court in December.

As a result, several have offered their services on the Committee which should start the year with new strength.

One problem with Committee work is that these days few people are willing to undertake voluntarily the many regular routine tasks connected with an association such as ours.

As a result, the Committee has appointed a part time administrative

assistant, Ms Patty Colett, who has strong commercial and association administrative experience.

Finally, we would like to thank fellow members of the 1991-92 Committee for all their support to us and the Association during the year.

Tim McCormick Robin Brampton

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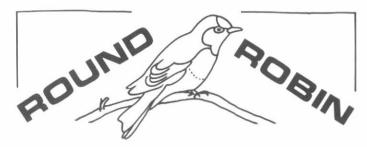
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# By Robin Brampton Secretary of the Queen Street Association

ONE of the fascinations about Queen Street is that hardly a week passes without somebody new putting up their shingle – or taking it down and moving elsewhere.

In December, we welcomed one of Sydney's best known quality art framers, Charles Hewitt, who has taken over No 30 as an antirian print gallery.

Once the photographic studio of Alan Nye, these spacious premises have more recently housed the Raine and Horne real estate agency which has moved to No 108 over the FW Boutique.

Although Charles Hewitt has been in business for 28 years, this is his first shopfront business and he is very pleased with initial reaction.

Previously he sold prints from a showroom at the

### The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ACN 002 872 433

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.

Acting President and Treasurer: Tim McCormick.

Secretary: Robin Brampton.

Membership Secretary: John Havmes.

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

Adminstrative Assistant: Patty Colette.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

Printed by Business and Commercial Mailing Service Pty Ltd. Typesetting by Warrior Desktop Design. Rosebery workshop which he uses for framing and custommade furniture.

Charles' Queen Street gallery displays a wide selection of English and European decorative prints, suitable for both home and boardroom decoration.

Presiding is the highly experienced print expert Penny Faulkner who worked for some years in the print business in London.

Charles tells me that his wealth of European contacts puts him in a good position for research – locating particular prints or types of print the customer wishes to buy.

TALKING about comings and goings in Queen Street, it is refreshing to find a new-comer who is happy with their initial business.

"It's working out very well here," said Margaret Auton who runs Desks of Distinction at 47 Queen Street with her husband Garry.

And although the recession has had its effect, Margaret says that you just have to work harder at selling rather than taking things for granted.

Desks of Distinction moved to Queen Street a year ago after previously being for 12 years at the Sydney Antiques Centre.

And the Autons, who have three young children, have now also made the Queen Street shop their home.

They sell desks dating from 1800 to 1930 at what Margaret calls "quite affordable" prices of \$3000 to \$4000. (Some antique desks can sell for as much as \$20,000 to \$30,000.)

The Autons also have a workshop which restores both pieces for sale and as a service to owners who want to spruce up their antique desks. This includes installing new leather inserts.



Gardens instead of stark paving, created by the community spirit of florist Susan Avery who has had the traffic buffers outside her new Jersey Road shop turned into an oasis of greenery.

If you want to buy or sell an antique desk, or have one restored, the Autons phone number is 363 4790.

A HEARTY pat on the back from the local community should go to florist Susan Avery. Since she moved across Jersey Road last October to number 59, she has created a lovely little oasis of greenery outside her new shop.

Susan has also provided the premises with a very distinctive Victorian style awning with carved wooden posts.

The gardens with their carefully chosen mixture of lavender, lobelia and creeper roses are in two triangular traffic buffers which previously were covered in paving with a few shrubs perched starkly

among them.

Susan tells me that Woollahra Council were most co-operative with her wish to create more extensive gardens and agreed to take away the paving, install brick surrounds and provide the soil.

The gardens were actually created by Susan's friends of Parkers Nursery at Turramurra who also must be congratulated on the concept.

The premises at 59 were formerly The Nelson Dry Cleaners, managed by a real local identity, Mick Coles, who has lived in Jersey Road for 50 years.

Naturally, Mick has some very interesting reminiscences of the area which we hope to include in a future Village Voice

# CENTENNIAL END of QUEEN STREET



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