

PO Box 16, Woollahra, New South Wales 2025

Prospects are delicious

IN March, the Association will stage a Queen Street Music Hall to mark the re-opening of the Woollahra Hotel restaurant. As chairman, Robin Brampton is assembling a cast of "celebrated artistes", all of course "engaged at enormous expense".

Elegantly re-designed by architect Alex Tzannes, the new restaurant will be run by Damien Pignolet of Claudes who promises "simple, honest French food, priced as low as possible".

And another delicious prospect - Queen Street has at last got its longed for fish shop. It's called Simply Seafood and is due to open in November around the corner in Moncur Street.

Enjoy all the colour...excitement...and bargains at

COME TO QUEEN STREET DAY

**Saturday, November 28th, 9 am to 4 pm
in Queen Street, Woollahra**

CAROLS AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

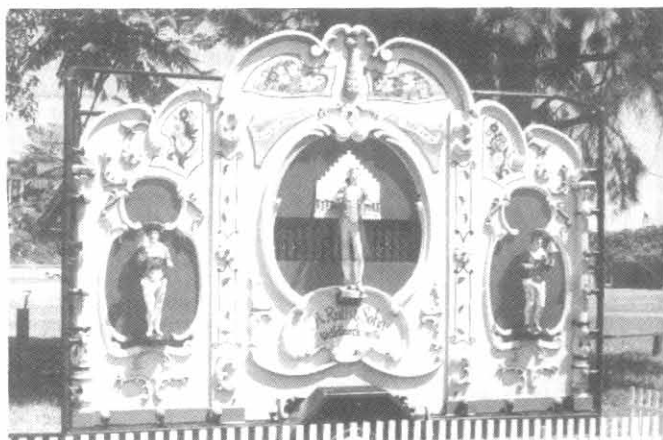
Free entertainment all morning in Dorhauer Lane Carpark.

10 am to 12 noon: The Orchestra and Jazz Band of Kincoppal - Rose Bay School.

12 noon: Concert of Christmas Carols and Songs by the Taverner Consort.

CHRISTMAS BARGAINS GALORE

Wonderful street stalls run by local businesses and community groups. And the shops will offer special gift ideas and attractions - including an exclusive Queen Street T-shirt. All traders will compete for display prizes.



DUTCH STREET ORGAN

This wonderful 100-year-old street organ from Haarlem in Holland will be playing at the corner of Victoria Avenue.

More fascinating melody from the buskers.

And the street will be lined with flags.

Come to Queen Street Day is organised by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd. Inquiries 363 5383.



Principal sponsor, Eastern Suburbs Newspapers, publishers of the WENTWORTH COURIER. Plus other local sponsors.

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, NSW 2025.

Patron: Neville Wran.

Vice-President and Acting

President: Cynthia Gregory-Roberts.

Treasurer: John Cunningham.

Secretary: Nick Eddy.

Membership Secretary: Mary Read.

Committee: Kate Buckingham, Graham Freudenberg, John Haymes, Tim McCormick and Mary Read.

Administrative Assistant: Patty Colette.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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LOCAL TABLES

Core business — she's apples

Another in our series of anonymous samplings of the cuisine and service at local eateries.

THE CENTENNIAL HOTEL

88 Oxford Street, Woollahra
Telephone: 362 3838

THE Centennial Hotel is very much part of that trend towards local dining which has transformed neighbourhood boozers around Sydney into something very much better.

At the Centennial, your food is not French fancy or Oriental tasty. Like the majority of our well-run companies now striving to concentrate on their "core businesses", the Centennial also concentrates on what it does well — basic cooking at moderate prices.

Getting straight to the bottom line, there are very few Eastern Suburbs eateries where a great fillet steak, with as much salad as you can eat, won't set you back more than \$13.90. For rump steak, you get the same deal at \$11.90. Sirloin at \$12.90.

With your steak comes a choice of sauce — pepper, garlic, mushroom or béarnaise. This kind of value is hard to beat, given the quality of the meat that we enjoyed on our recent visit.

The Centennial is not one of those cook-your-own places, nor does it have the finesse of a dining room such as the nearby Phoenix. But it's ideal for families, with lots of room for groups and caters equally well for smaller numbers in comfortable surroundings.

Some of the other main courses include (bargain priced) Beef Centennial Burgers at just \$6.80, BBQ chicken teryake for \$8.00, a veal parmigiana for \$8.80, or lamb cutlets and mint sauce at \$9.50.

This is good food that's real value (like the side plate of chips with your main course which will add \$1.80 to your bill). If you choose to add to the cost with a glass or two of red, you do so at hotel prices, with relatively low mark-ups.

In my enthusiasm to get to the point, I omitted to follow the natural order of things.

The soup of the day (\$3.50) and pate with roasted brioche (\$5.00) were the pick of our starters, although one of our group enjoyed the Caesar salad (\$6.90).

The deserts included a chocolate mud cake with cream or ice cream and an ice cream sundae, for \$5.00.

In the tradition started years ago by the Clock Hotel, at the Centennial you will find quality steaks and a drop of wine at the right price. The service is friendly, if a little casual.

One small criticism was the lack of innovation at salad bar, although the freshness of the ingredients was beyond doubt.

R.O.



In memory of poet Dorothea Mackellar

THIS memorial to the poet Dorothea Mackellar OBE (1885-1968) was unveiled in Chiswick Gardens in September by Woollahra's Mayor, Alderman Cathy Lemech.

The memorial was suggested, with Association support, by Robin Brampton who lives in Ocean Street, opposite Chiswick Gardens.

Dorothea Mackellar, author of the famous nature poem, *My Country*, was also an Ocean Street resident when the family home was Rosemont.

Introducing the Mayor at the unveiling, Robin Brampton said he would like to see memorials to other famous Australians who made their homes in the area.

Particularly he would like Queen Street to commemorate the fact that "Banjo" Paterson who wrote *Waltzing Matilda* twice lived there.

ASSOCIATION REPORT

Overseas post for Charles Lloyd-Jones

UNFORTUNATELY Charles Lloyd-Jones was forced to step down in September after only four months as President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

Charles leaves Sydney this month for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he is taking up a senior management position with the large retail chain of Metro Jaya.

He and his family plan to live in Malaysia for five years. However, Charles will maintain his Woollahra links by continuing ownership of his Jersey Road home.

Charles, who was elected President unopposed at the May annual meeting, has been a director of the Association since 1989.

Accepting his resignation with great regret, the directors thanked him for his services and wished him every success in his new venture.

The Association's loss is shared by the great Sydney firm of David Jones. It is believed that this will be only the second time in the century and a half of its history that its management has not included a member of the Lloyd-Jones family.

New directors

Following Charles' resignation, the Vice-President, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts will act as president until the 1993 annual meeting.

She is supported by a committee which includes several new directors.

They include Ocean Street resident and solicitor, Nick Eddy, who is the new secretary; and John Cunningham, the new treasurer, who is both a Queen Street antiques dealer and the accountant.

Queen Street retailer Mary Read has taken over as Membership Secretary and other new directors are local residents Patti Graham and Kate Buckingham.

Continuing as directors from the previous year are author Graham Freudenberg, and book dealers John Haymes and Tim McCormick.



At the Association's 20th anniversary dinner in August, from left, Dr Ron White (Woollahra Hotel); Association stalwart Robin Brampton; Damien Pignolet (Woollahra Hotel); Association founding President, Leo Schofield; and the then President, Charles Lloyd-Jones. (Picture by courtesy of the Wentworth Courier.)

Dinner marks 20th anniversary

THE Queen Street and West Woollahra Association celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation in August with a dinner at the Woollahra Hotel.

Some 90 people attended the occasion which also honoured the 20 years Robin Brampton had worked on the committee, including many years as President, Vice-President or Secretary.

The Association's first President, Leo Schofield, gave a witty speech discussing both the Association's achievements and some amusing, and often heart-stopping, events over the years.

Robin was also in a reminiscent mood, tracing how Queen Street had developed from a collection of often down-at-heel shops to the elegant

street of antique dealers it is today.

Robin was fascinated at the game of "musical chairs" which now went on when a shop became vacant and other dealers jostled for possession.

As a gesture of thanks, Association President, Charles Lloyd-Jones presented Robin with a giant inscribed testovín. Later, Robin wielded the hammer for an auction of goods donated by local businesses which raised some \$2500 for Association funds.

The dinner took place soon after Dr Ron White of Bowral and Damien Pignolet of Claude's Restaurant took over the hotel and the meal reflected their interest in culinary excellence.

Centennial protest

THE association has strongly supported local residents in opposing the application of the Centennial Hotel in Oxford Street for a 24-hour licence which would allow trading to 5am.

In letters to the Licensing Administration Board and Woollahra Council on October 8, the directors wrote:

"We would like to express our extreme concern to Council as to the effects this would have on the residential areas of John, James, Moncur, Oxford and Queen Streets and Victoria Avenue – indeed the whole district of West Woollahra.

"The area is already amply supplied by three hotels with adequate trading hours. The residential nature of the area continued next page

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ASSOCIATION REPORT

and local tourist attractions (all of a daytime nature) are well served by these existing opening hours.

"The Centennial's application notes public support for the extension – we can assure the Council that this is not local public support.

"The residents of this precinct have already indicated their wishes during the recent Phoenix Hotel attempt to increase their restaurant facilities and trading hours.

"We would request the Council to act to the best of its ability in the residents' interests and oppose the current application before the Licensing Court."

At the beginning of November, the owner of the Centennial Hotel, Mr George Senes, told a prominent Association member that the application for a 24-hour licence had now been withdrawn.

However, he intended to apply early in 1993 for a licence which would enable the hotel to trade until 1am, rather than midnight.

Mr Senes said that in making the new application, he would like to hold discussions with the Association.

Queen Street 2000

QUEEN Street 2000 – the project for the planned refurbishment of Queen Street

for the 21st century – has been adversely affected by significant changes in the Association's directors in the past 18 months.

This has led to a loss of continuity and momentum. However, the present directors are concerned to keep the idea viable.

As a result they have formed a new sub-committee consisting of Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, Kate Buckingham, Tim McCormick and Mary Read.

They will study the documentation accumulated so far and recommend a future course of action.

Leslie's memories

OUR guest speaker, Leslie Walford, delighted some 60 people who attended the Association's annual meeting in May with a sparkling account of his early life and work in Woollahra.

He recalled his introduction to Queen Street as a boy in the 1930s, and the forbidding personality of his grandfather who built and lived in Belford, the block of flats still on the corner of Ocean and Queen Streets. ("Belford" is a combination of his grandparents' names.)

Leslie gave a fascinating account of his meticulous restoration of the property at 117 Jersey Road, now the elegant headquarters of Leslie Walford Interiors.

This had been one of the earliest and last of the Woollahra corner stores, in

continuous use for at least 80 years into the sixties.

When Leslie acquired the property, it was in a state of extreme dilapidation and infestation. The little wooden tower had been used as a store-room and contained, in varying degrees of preservation, a virtual museum case of the domestic products in daily use in Sydney throughout the first half of this century.

Leslie said he regarded the restoration of the property as a personal contribution to the character of a special part of our city which he loves so well.

Another speaker at the meeting was the Woollahra Council's Chief Planning Officer, Greg Woodhams, who led a useful discussion on local planning matters.

See you there

IF you would like to find out more about the Association, to join or perhaps renew your membership for 1993, we are having a stall on Come to Queen Street Day near Moncur Street.

An informative brochure will be available, and also copies of the Association's book, *Queen Street – a History and Guide*.

Also, specially for the day, the stall will be selling a stylish cotton T-shirt with a decoration of the Queen Street logo – yours to wear across your heart for \$20.



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With Robin Brampton

NEWS from the melting pot ...

Queen Street must have become a nightmare for the postman in the past few months with the number of businesses which have disappeared or changed address.

Happily we can also welcome some interesting newcomers.

Of the casualties, perhaps the greatest tragedy is that Ken Done was forced by lack of parking facilities to abandon his art gallery at Number 51.

Last year, Ken designed the Come to Queen Day poster and we were looking forward to him taking an enthusiastic part in local life.

Others gone but not forgotten are The Bay Tiling Company (144), The Cotton Boll (14a), Country Form Kitchens (80), Hannah's of Woollahra recycled clothes boutique (111-113), Kenneth Muggleston antiques (76) and the Woollahra Florist - A Touch of Love (103).

The Halliwell and Palmer upholstery shop (82) has also gone although Rosalind Palmer remains one of the oldest established of Queen Street antiques dealers at 104.

The thinning of the ranks has led to some Queen Street dealers moving laterally (and perhaps upwardly?)

Both Tony Ward's Printique print business and The Australian Squatter's Chair Company have seized the opportunity to occupy larger premises.

Tony has moved from 94 to 82, the former Halliwell and Palmer shop, while the Squatters Chairs (with many other outdoor living accessories) have moved from 103 to succeed Hannah at 111-113.

Meanwhile, husband and wife antiques dealers, Lynette and John Cunningham, have done a "double shuffle". Their "his and hers" businesses are connubially adjacent at Number 92.

John has moved his Art of Wine and Food business from Number 86 to Lynette's former shop, while Lynette's oriental antiques are now in

larger premises, formerly occupied by Simon O'Donnell the hairdresser.

Another lateral arabesque has been performed by Frank and Georgina Howell, now at 84 under the name of Howell and Howell. With the transfer from 110a, Peter Orlando has left the partnership.

And the Bradfield and Pritchard real estate agency has moved from 162 to the former Woollahra Florist shop at 103.

The new tenant at 162 is Dr Ali Hematyar, a cheerful cosmopolitan economist with a taste for history whose Jewels of the Loom specialises in antique textiles and Islamic art.

Born in Iran and brought up in Switzerland, Ali met his Australian wife, Kim, in Austria and arrived in Australia four years ago with only a suitcase.

Ali sees a future for offering Islamic art in Australia because the field has not been fully explored. But many of the treasures he is selling were locally acquired.

These include rich rugs and tapestries, 13th century Persian swords, and even a Buddhist helmet dating from the second century BC.

Equally cosmopolitan are the Armenian couple, Malcolm and Roma Sookias, who have opened at 86 offering antiques and collectibles from all over the world.

For many years, Malcolm dealt in antiques in Calcutta and established a connection with Australian dealers by supplying the Australian market before making his home here four years ago.

Also a word of welcome to four other new businesses:

GEORGINA BOTANICS, a first time retail venture at 103 for Georgina de George who has qualifications in both commerce and horticulture. Georgina is concentrating on selling growing plants - such as daisies, lavender, roses and topiary - rather than cut flowers. She also carries some novel garden accessories.



Queen Street newcomer Dr Ali Hematyar with two of his items - a 13th century sword and 19th century ceremonial costume, both from Persia.

ORSON & BLAKE COLLECTABLES, a fictional name for mother and son, Mandy and David Heimann, at 76. They specialise in decorative items for the home such as sumptuous cushions and soft furnishings, painted lampshades and bases, porcelain urns, candleholders, mirrors, prints and enticingly packaged toiletries.

JAMES MORLAND who has brought his interior design consultancy business, established in 1964, to 144. James offers an all round service of design, co-ordination, selection and acquisition of all that is necessary for a tasteful home or commercial interior, and the shop is full of colourful samples.

RICHARD J. WICHE ANTIQUES AND DECOR at 80, the new establishment of Richard Wiche, an experienced antiques dealer who has earlier operated from a shop in St Leonards and the Antiques Centre in in South Dowling Street. Richard specialises in decorative antiques of the 19th and 20th century.

WHO else believes, as I do, that it would add something to the excitement of Queen Street if its high class antiques culture was balanced with an open air market for humbler traders, perhaps on Saturday morning.

After all, many successful antiques traders started with market stalls.

So I applaud that on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6, Woollahra Antiques Centre will be running a Portobello style market offering all sorts of cheaper antiques from trestle tables.

It's all part of a Christmas Fair when the centre's 50 dealers will be offering special gifts for Christmas.

Other enticements for the visitor include a lucky door prize; tasting of champagne and new wine releases from Paddington Fine Wines; and a chance of a free ride in Centennial Park in the centre's Model T Ford.

It should be great. Opening hours are 10am to 6pm and the address is 160 Oxford Street.

CENTENNIAL END OF QUEEN STREET



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