

VILLAGE VOICE

No. 54 AUGUST, 1993

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

Win for residents in Jersey Road

By Graham Freudenberg

President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

BORDER disputes are notoriously intractable, and Jersey Road has proved no exception.

Characteristically for such disputes, both sides appealed to history, and both could legitimately claim that they wanted "no change".

This dispute arose when Woollahra Council decided last year to recommend to the Geographic Names Board that the western (ie Paddington) side of Jersey Road be classified as belonging to Paddington.

It must be pointed out that the recommendation was in line with the existing municipal division of Jersey Road. The boundary between Paddington and Cooper Wards.

Furthermore, the western side is listed as part of Paddington in the Register of the National Estate.

On the other hand, Australia Post has long recognised the whole of Jersey Road as being in Woollahra; and the clear majority of property owners expressed their wish that this should continue.

The matter was raised by local residents at the Association's annual meeting on May 25.

Support for residents

In response to the views expressed there, the Association authorised me to write to the Town Clerk in these terms:

"Our support for the residents is based on three grounds:

1. The proposed change is opposed by the overwhelming majority of the residents and ratepayers directly involved.

2. No persuasive case has been presented to justify a change so strongly opposed by those most immediately affected.

3. The change could tend to reduce property values on both sides of Jersey Road.

"We emphasise that our support for the residents' wishes is based on the maintenance of the **status quo**. We share their view that if it is not necessary to change, it is necessary **not to change**."

No to recommendation

In response to a residents' petition, the Council again considered the matter on June 15. By a majority of 13-2, it decided to stick to its original recommendation.

However, a week later, the Geographic Names Board announced that it had rejected the Council's recommendation, and that the whole street would be named Jersey Road, Woollahra.

There the matter stands, at least for the time being.

I must emphasise that the involvement of this Association was limited to an expression of support for the wishes of the majority of the residents.

I am particularly anxious that there should be no suggestion of some territorial conflict, or any dispute, between us and the Paddington Society.



Find out what's going on around you at a

FREE COFFEE MORNING

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Burned out Uniting Church

Corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street

Sunday, August 15th, at 10.30 am

What's Going On at the Burned out Church?

The building has been bought by the Asia Pacific Arts Foundation which plans to turn it into a "creative crucible" and community centre. The Foundation will explain the scheme.

What's Going On in Queen Street?

The Queen Street Association plans to enlist the co-operation of Woollahra Council and the community to create a memorial to Banjo Paterson who lived in Queen Street. A concept will be on show and two of Banjo's poems which inspired it will be read.

What's Going On in Jersey Road?

The Uniting Church is submitting amended plans to Woollahra Council for its scheme, approved in principal, for five town houses and a new manse at the corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street. A model will be on view and the scheme will be outlined by architect Alex Tzannes and Uniting Church property consultant Carol Baker.

No tickets . . . just come along.

Complimentary coffee and cake. Live music.

NOTE: As yet there is no roof on the church. If the weather is wet, the morning will be postponed and a new notification published.

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LOCAL TABLES

Slightly brash with tempting fare

BISTRO MONCUR

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(No phone bookings)*

DAMIEN Pignolet is to be congratulated on his new addition to Sydney's dining scene. As an encore to Claude's, a few hundred metres away on the edge of West Woollahra, his bistro in the Woollahra Hotel displays a stylish change which deserves the packed houses to which he has been playing since opening night.

The atmosphere of Bistro Moncur is both casual and lively, with friendly service that remains attentive even while catering to the throng.

On the noisy side it is also slightly brash, "an atmosphere for disclosing secrets rather than keeping them", according to one of our number.

To the Food.

Grilled sea scallops served with witloff; or a salad of baby spinach, walnuts and cauliflower and "sauce moutarde creme" were the pick of the first courses, at \$9.50 each.

Main courses which followed included a lamb steak, a crisp-skin ocean trout and Tripe Lyonnaise, all at \$17.50 a serve.

The best main course was the sirloin and chips, surely the true test of any bistro worthy of the name.

Desserts included a caramel glazed apple tartlet and a frozen coffee and chocolate parfait.

The "bistro" label of this well-reviewed restaurant has attracted some attention. The breezy informal atmosphere and even the inability to make bookings give it the air of a bistro.

However most of the food is rather more serious (and better) than casual bistro fare.

The price are also on the high side of casual, and that applies to the wines as well.

Probably the best value in the wine department was a Cote de Rhone St Esprit at \$19.50 from the fine 1989 vintage.

One day a bistro will pick up the idea of serving a wide selection of wines by the glass, as they do at a very special bistro in Green Street, Soho. But that's another story.

Being picky, an over-abundance of cream and oil (olive oil to be sure) in many of the dishes might deter the more health conscious from dining regularly at Bistro Moncur.

With careful selection, this problem can be overcome. It would be even better if M. Pignolet did the selecting on our behalf.

The impression I would like to leave you with is that you can eat very well indeed at Bistro Moncur, whether or not it is aptly named.

Chances are you might find yourself going back, perhaps to dispel any initial reservations, but more than likely to choose some of the dishes you couldn't get to eat first time around. M. Pignolet does know how to provide a tempting menu in lively surroundings.

R.O.

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.

President: Graham Freudenberg.

Vice-President: Patti Graham.

Treasurer: John Cunningham.

Secretary: Nick Eddy.

Membership Secretary: Mary Read.

Committee: Gail Booth, David Heimann, Trish Langford, Tim McCormick, Mary Read, Jason Robinson.

Tribal Elder: Robin Brampton.

Administrative Assistant: Suzie Graham.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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ASSOCIATION REPORT

"We're all in the tourism business," Mayor tells AGM

A STRONG attendance of some 50 people at the Queen Street Association's annual meeting in May again demonstrated what a keen interest local residents take in their area.

Our guest speaker was the Mayor of Woollahra, Andrew Briger, an architect whose strong experience in local government includes a term as Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney.

Speaking of his vision for the Woollahra municipality where he has lived for 25 years, the Mayor said that while some development should be encouraged, it should be with due respect for the environment.

And he spoke with disapproval of schemes, such as for a 17-storey hotel complex, which would have led to an insinuation of scale at Double Bay.

To be shared

The Mayor also believes the fascination of the Woollahra area is something to be shared with other people.

Tourism had become very important to the Australian economy and "everyone of us is involved in tourism".

The Mayor's address was followed by a question and answer session, after which came lively informal discussions over a delicious seafood buffet, generously provided by Simply Seafood.

Earlier in the meeting, Graham Freudenberg had taken over as president from Cynthia Gregory-Roberts who did not stand again as a director.

Cynthia became acting president last August when Charles Lloyd-Jones moved overseas, and Graham paid tribute to her for following through with great energy and determination.

A local resident, Graham Freudenberg is well known in political circles as a speechwriter to leading politicians and for his biography of former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

The committee elections were again conducted without bloodshed as only the required number of nominees offered for each post.



Among guests at the Association's annual meeting in May were Woollahra Council member David Leach (left) and State Parliamentary member for Bligh, Clover Moore. They are seen with the Association's new president, Graham Freudenberg.

Antiques dealer/accountant John Cunningham and solicitor Nick Eddy will continue to bring their professional talents to the posts of treasurer and secretary respectively.

However, the Association has a new vice-president in Patti Graham who has been a director for several years. She runs an active agency in Woollahra providing domestic and other help.

The general committee has four new members who will be bringing a welcome element of youth to its work.

In the case of Queen Street resident Jason Robinson, he will also be providing much needed planning skills. Jason is currently studying for his master's degree in landscape architecture.

Making his mark

The other newcomers are travel consultant Gail Booth; couple and family therapist Trish Langford; and retailer David Heimann. David has very quickly made his mark on Queen Street with the Orson & Blake Collectables store he founded last year jointly with his mother, Mandy, and more recently by establishing his own fashion outlet, Orson & Blake a la Mode.

From the previous committee, book dealer Tim McCormick and women's fashion retailer Mary Read continue for another year; but Kate Buckingham

decided not to re-nominate and John Haymes has moved from the area.

John and his sons now operate their book dealing business in a wonderful old warehouse building in Surry Hills where John has kindly agreed to continue to maintain the Association's membership records on his computer.

Come to Queen Street

ONE of the first decisions of the new committee was to again hold a Come to Queen Street Day to focus attention on the attractions of the street.

The date chosen is Saturday, November 27, and a committee consisting of David Heimann, Tim McCormick and Mary Read is organising the event.

Last year's pattern is expected to be followed, with street entertainment, a shop window dressing competition and a number of street stalls between Holdsworth Street and Victoria Avenue.

Although interesting commercial stalls are allowable, the Association likes to see plenty of stalls provided by charity and community service groups.

If you would like notification when stall bookings open, contact Tim McCormick, Book Dealer, at 53 Queen Street, phone 363 5383, fax 326 2752.

continued page 7

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The Dorhauers and Konneckes – a page of Queen Street history

Queen Street Association is always pleased to receive pictures and reminiscences of Queen Street and our area in earlier days.

Many were incorporated in *Queen Street – a History and Guide* which the Association published in 1988.

However, we have recently received from their descendants some interesting new information about two pioneer commercial families, the Dorhauers and the Konneckes, whose premises were on opposite sides of the Queen and Moncur Street corner.

Our information about the Dorhauers comes from Leonard Norman of North Tamborine in Queensland whose grandfather, Heinrich Gottfried Dorhauer, is recorded as a Queen Street builder in the John Sands Directory of 1858.

Our researches indicated that Heinrich Dorhauer's yard probably extended from Moncur Street to what is now called Dorhauer Lane, fronting onto Piper Street as Queen Street was then called.

Mr Norman writes: "Since I am now 81 years of age, it is high time I recorded some of the knowledge I have of my grandfather and grandmother, and their Queen Street, Moncur Street and the Dorhauer Lane property.

"Heinrich Gottfried Dorhauer lived in the corner house, 99-101 Queen Street, which he built for his first wife, Marie Weber, who died on February 10, 1878, aged 57, without issue.

"In 1878, he married Margaretha Heinz and they lived in the lovely timber house at 109 Queen Street which Margaretha called Lorelei after the Rhine rocks near her native Budenheim.

"My earliest photo shows a 'Builders and Cabinet Makers' sign at the front gate and on the rear alignment was a two-storey brick building.

"The upstairs of this was the large workshop, accessed by a wide open staircase, where the cabinetmaking took place, and the doors and other joinery were made for his buildings.

"Beneath the large workshop were a number of bays used to house two horse-drawn vehicles.

"He used one of these when he went collecting rents and took his favourite daughter (my mother) with him. The other was used to take the family on day-long picnic excursions on Sunday to La Perouse.

"The remaining bay was a cellar where he bottled and stored his wine. I believe he liked his liquor . . .

By Robin Brampton

"On one occasion when my grandfather was bottling wine, my mother got stuck into the driptray and went staggering down to the house.

"My grandfather picked her up and carried her down to Margaretha saying, 'My little daughter, she is drunk'. He was amused but grandma was not.

"You are probably correct when you say in the book that the builder's yard went from Moncur Street through to Dorhauer Lane but whether it fronted Piper (Queen) Street is questionable.

"That would depend on the year in which grandfather built the house and shops at numbers 99 to 107 Piper Street.

"The house at number 109 (Lorelei) I believe he built for my grandmother. She lived there from her marriage in 1878 until her death in 1929."

Fortune from gold

Mr Norman says that his grandfather was 32 years old when he arrived in Australia in the ship *Hanover* in September, 1854, with his wife and younger brother, Christian.

Heinrich Gottfried's second wife, Margaretha, was the daughter of a German emigrant, John Heinz, who made a fortune on the Hill End goldfields and took Margaretha to Europe three times before she turned 21.

John Heinz, who lived near them at 25 Moncur Street, started the Anchor Brewery and built and owned the Cliff House Hotel at Bondi.

In addition to being a builder, Heinrich Dorhauer was a skilled carpenter and wood carver.

Mr Norman says he possesses all the furniture which his grandfather made for his grandmother, together with his tools, "piano maker's" bench and many other items from his grandmother's house at 109 Queen Street.

Post office site

We have also recently received a letter from Mrs Kit Wilkerson of Swanbourne, Western Australia, with two interesting pictures of commercial activity in our area towards the end of last century.

The picture on the opposite page is of the

butcher's shop of Frederick Konnecke which stood at the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street until 1905 when it was demolished to make way for the post office.

Like Heinrich Dorhauer, Mr Konnecke was a German emigrant, having been born in Hanover. He had 14 children, most of whom were born in the upstairs area of the Queen Street Shop.

A health hazard

Mrs Wilkerson tells me she believes Mr Konnecke is the man standing second from the left in the foreground, and no doubt the children hovering in the background are some of his large brood.

But where is Mrs Konnecke? And what would a Woollahra Council health inspector of today make of sides of meat hanging in the open?

Frederick Konnecke was Mrs Wilkerson's great grandfather, but the picture was supplied by another descendant, Mrs Dulcie Wilesmith (nee Konnecke) of Redfern who apparently has quite a knowledge of the original family.

As he had 14 children, there are obviously many other descendants of Frederick Konnecke and on a visit to Sydney last year, Mrs Wilkerson discovered from birth certificates that there were a number in the Woollahra, Paddington and Waterloo area.

She also traced the death certificate of her great great grandmother, Frederick Konnecke's mother in law, Elizabeth Foot, who lived at 66 Moncur Street and died in 1902.

Coach and buggy works

Mrs Wilkerson has also sent us another old family photograph. This shows the coach and buggy works of Espular and Miller which once stood in Oxford Street, between Queen Street and Victoria Avenue, opposite Centennial Park.

Mrs Wilkerson's grandfather, William Miller, coachbuilder and wheelwright, is probably one of the four men in the picture. He married Helen Jane Konnecke, presumably one of the 14 children of the Queen Street butcher.

My own researches indicate that the Espular and Miller business closed down towards the end of the 19th century, presumably when houses were built on the site.

This ties in with Mrs Wilkerson's information that the Millers moved to Western Australia soon after their marriage and had a son, who was her father.

Unfortunately the Espular and Miller photograph is too faded for effective reproduction in *Village Voice*, though still clear enough to provide another fascinating visual record of our area in the last century.

(Copies of *Queen Street – a History and Guide* are still available from the Association at \$10 including postage.)

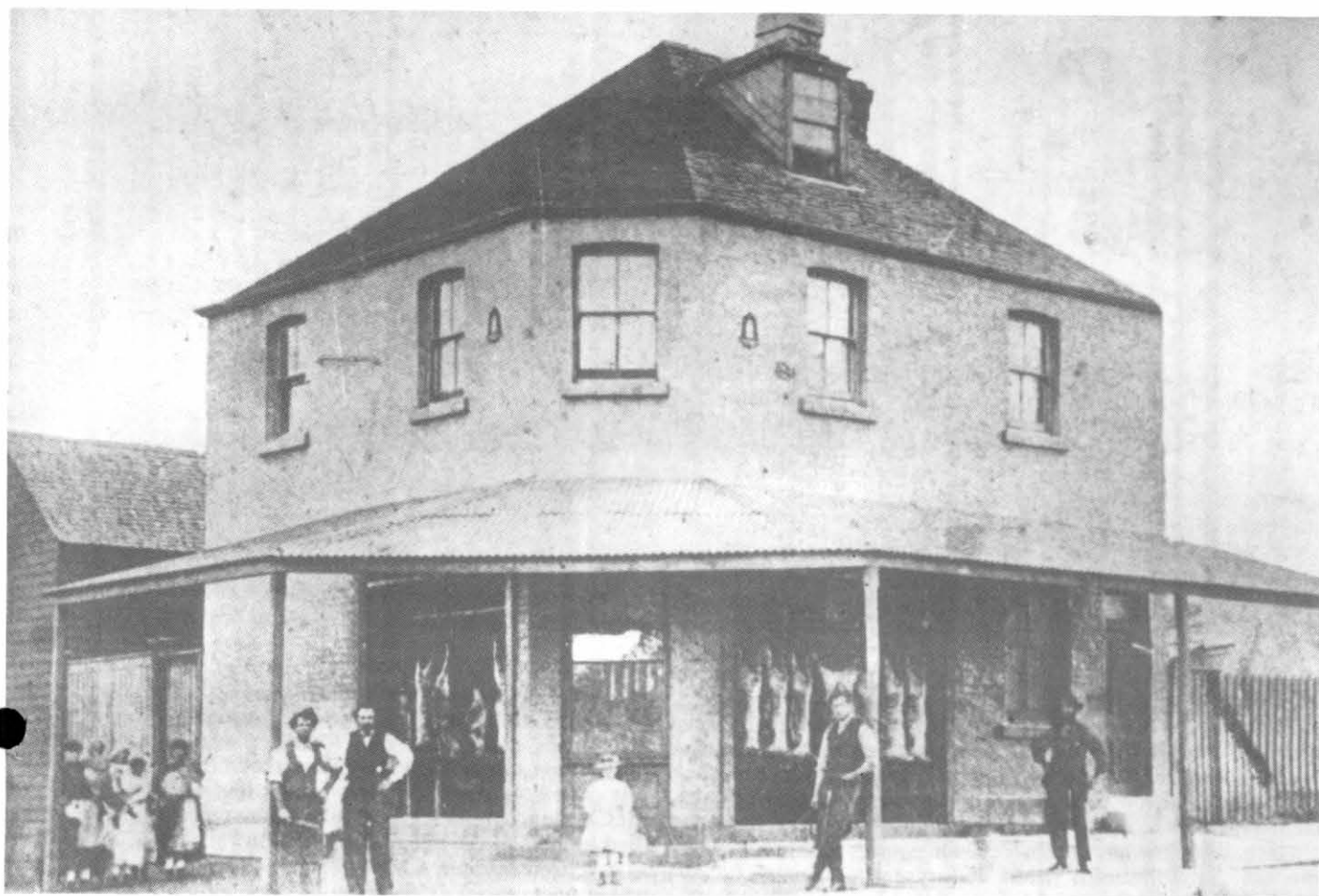
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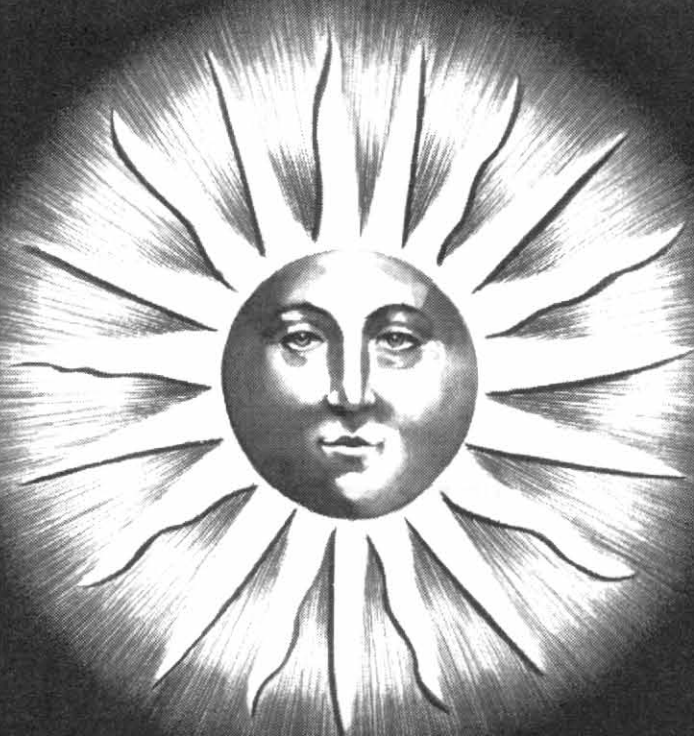


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A picture probably taken in the early 1890s of Frederick Konnecke's butcher's shop at the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street. The building was demolished to make way for Woollahra Post Office, built in 1905 and opened the following year.



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With Robin Brampton

I HAVE always had a dream that the Queen Street Association should establish a memorial in Queen Street to Banjo Paterson who lived in, or just off, the street twice during this lifetime.

The task of coming up with a suitable scheme is being shared with the delightful sculptor, Gaye Porter, who this year married former Queen Street book dealer John Haymes.

Our ideas will be revealed at the Coffee Morning on August 15, mentioned on the front of *Village Voice*. But we will need the support of Woollahra Council and the local community to make them a reality.

Gaye, who now has her studio in a wonderful old Surry Hills warehouse building, is used to challenging commissions.

She has recently returned from Borneo where she and John went for the installation of nine larger-than-life bronze cat figures she created for a waterfront development at Kuching.

WE now have two former State Premiers in our midst with the arrival of Nick and Kathryn Greiner who have taken up residence in Ocean Street. The other, of course, is Neville Wran who is the Association's patron.

The Greiners have bought the former home of Ocean Street traffic reduction activist Reg Fountain who has gone to live opposite.

We trust Reg has had a bleat to Nick Greiner about the OSNOF (Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway) cause. And that Nick might have enough residual influence in Macquarie Street to help.

NEW to Queen Street are Brian and Francee Herbert who have established their School's Out children's clothing store at 111, formerly Michael Patane's lighting shop.

Brian and Francee own a similar store in Burwood, and a feature of both is that they sell only high quality Australian made garments.

These come from some 15 different manufacturers and the reason is not purely patriotism. The Herberts believe the policy enables them to offer a wider choice.

The huge colourful stock covers everything from baby-wear to gear for 15 year olds, at which age children prefer to buy for themselves.

Of course, children's wear is very much a fashion industry these days, and Brian tells me that some self-sacrificing parents will spend more on fashion for their children than for themselves.

Across the road, I called on Alex Picalovski who has completely revamped and redecorated the Royal Regiment Shop in Queens Court since taking over the management this year.

The store is one of a group of four in Sydney specialising in classic casual clothes for men.

Alex is just getting in his summer stock, and believes polo neck tops will again be popular. These come in bright colours, traditional rugby stripes and sophisticated Paisley designs.

Below the belt, Alex is stocking classic drill trousers and shorts in white, beige, navy, kahki and green.

If you buy at Royal Regiment, you will be in good company. Alex told me proudly that the group has been chosen to provide the



Used to challenges . . . sculptor Gaye Porter.

casual wear for both the Wallaby national and Waratah state rugby union teams.

WE lost a great lover of our area when Charles McCausland of Jersey Road died in 1991 at the age of 71.

A retired teacher, Charles was a poet, social critic and tenacious supporter of artistic and environmental causes.

Charles is well represented in verse anthologies, especially for his war poetry, but his widow, Anne, this year published a book entirely of Charles' work, "60 Poems, 60 Years".

A poet friend in England to whom I sent a copy commented: "I don't think I have ever come upon a volume of verse which is so eminently readable wherever one dips into it."

What can I add, except to suggest ordering one of the few copies still left from Anne McCausland, 2/238 Jersey Road, Woollahra 2025? The price, including postage, is \$10.

MUCH as I love playgoing, I must admit to being one of the cynics who believed trying to establish a professional theatre in a room holding no more than 30 people over the Woollahra Hotel was a recipe for disaster.

So my congratulations to The Lookout Theatre which celebrated its third birthday in July after staging 26 productions, some quite magnificent, and providing parts for more than 50 performers.

The Lookout owes its survival and consistently high

standards to the tenacity of one person, artistic director and general dogsbody Andrea Baker who has also distinguished herself as an actress.

Andrea says the Lookout is unique in Australia as a "salon" theatre, so intimate that when the audience assembles it sometimes does not realise the actors are already in their midst.

Milestones over the years have included two critically acclaimed plays which Bogdan Koca both wrote and directed; and the box office success, *Abelard and Eloise*, with the distinguished actor Ronald Falk.

Currently the theatre is presenting probably the most famous play it has staged to date, John Osborne's verbal battlefield *Look Back in Anger*.

Future plans include *Secret*, a male and female monologue drama by my retired journalist friend, Guy Morrison; and a new Bogdan Koca play, so far untitled, about performers in a 17th century production of the Moliere comedy *Tartuffe*.

So things are very lively at The Lookout where members who pay \$25 a year for the privilege can still enjoy an evening of theatrical excitement for only \$10. (Others pay \$20.)

But Andrea does have a regret. With box office returns necessarily so small, the theatre cannot even afford to pay performers the very modest Equity minimum wage.

"What a difference a little funding would make," she sighs.

(The phone number of The Lookout Theatre, for bookings and inquiries, is 362 4349.)

**Susan
Avery**

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ASSOCIATION REPORT

continued

The Association has also decided to hold another Queen Street Dinner, at the Bistro Moncur on Monday, November 15.

This follows the success of the Queen Street Music Hall in March which was booked out, with many people unable to get tickets.

Round-up banned

IN previous issues of *Village Voice*, we have mentioned the Association's concern at Woollahra Council's continued use of the herbicide Round-up to control weeds on footpaths and gutters.

So we note with interest that Leichhardt Council has unanimously decided to stop all spraying with Round-up in the interest of public health.

An environmental activist, Toshi Knell, has claimed that studies in the United States have shown that Round-up could cause skin, eye and internal injuries.

However, according to a report in the *Glebe & Western Weekly*, a spokesman for the manufacturer, Monsanto, Nick Tydens, said: "There are a whole lot of studies that show Round-up is no more irritating than baby shampoo."

Leichhardt Council is not convinced. The Mayor, Larry Hand, said: "I am unable to reconcile the use of a product where the manufacturers recommend that children and pets be kept away from the sprayed area to avoid transference onto desirable plants."

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