

VILLAGE VOICE

No. 57 JULY, 1994

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

Concerned about Ocean Street traffic?

Then don't miss your last chance to learn about the calming measures proposed by OSNOF (*Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway*) to reduce the intolerable level of traffic. Also to make your views known.

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, July 20th, at 7pm
Woollahra Public School, Forth Street
(See report page 5)

THE MAN ON THE TEN DOLLAR NOTE

The author of *Waltzing Matilda* and *The Man from Snowy River* lived at West Hall, 135 Queen Street, for five years after his marriage in 1903. Later the family lived at The Grove, off Queen Street. The Queen Street Association plans to create a permanent memorial in Queen Street to commemorate both the life and work of its famous resident, Andrew Barton ("Banjo") Paterson.



BANJO PATERSON MEMORIAL DINNER

Presented by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association to launch its project for a Banjo Paterson Memorial in Queen Street, Woollahra.

Principal Speaker NEVILLE WRAN

Former State Premier and Patron of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

GADEN RESERVE HALL

Corner of Queen Street and Edgecliff Road

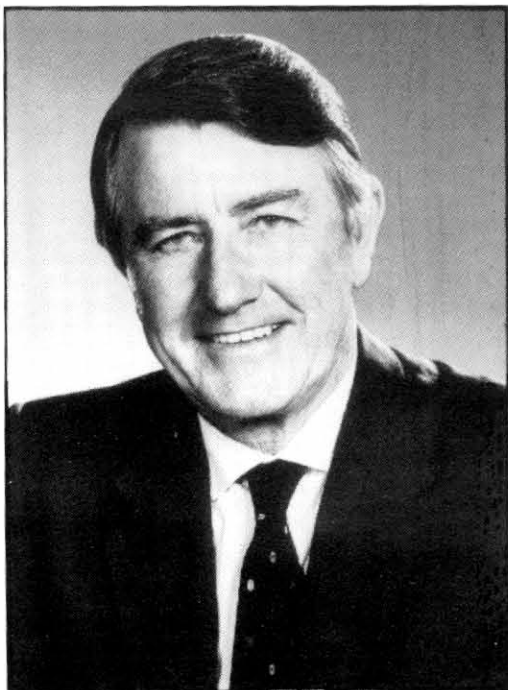
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9th, AT 7pm.

Auction

Banjo Paterson memorabilia and other good things will be auctioned in aid of the memorial fund.

Banjo Speaks

Various personalities present will entertain us with their favourite Banjo Paterson verses.



TICKETS \$30 EACH

Ticket price covers three-course meal, including spit roast beef main course, and coffee. Please bring your own alcoholic or other drinks. Glasses will be provided. Book at Orson & Blake Collectables at their new address, 83 Queen Street, or by writing to the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, Freepost 40, PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025. (No stamp required on envelope.)

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

Yes, Ursula King Travel of Jersey Road was voted Australian Travel Agency of the Year in last month's industry awards.

Proud? Of course we are.

But there's something else we're proud of - being part of the West Woollahra community and offering our acclaimed service and courtesy to local people and businesses. There is even a special discount for local residents.

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LOCAL TABLES

A hearty night at the Nelson

THE NELSON BISTRO
Nelson Hotel,
232 Oxford Street,
Woollahra
Telephone: 389 6032

HAVING heard good reports of this eatery, just outside the Association's area, we went along as a threesome on a recent chilly winter's evening.

The cuisine awaiting us was just right for the weather, hearty, delicious and good value for money. I can understand why the bistro filled so quickly.

Also top marks for the speed with which the food arrived from the semi-open kitchen behind the bar, stretching along one wall.

Service was efficient but the ambience is somewhat basic. The bistro appears to be a roofed over beer garden, with furniture to match. The most lively touch was an open fireplace with logs burning away merrily.

The menu is wide ranging, with some enterprising touches. Entrees are priced from \$6 to \$8.50 and main events from \$12 to \$13.50.

For entree, our friend Marjorie went for the Jerusalem Artichoke Soup (\$6) which she felt needed its sprinkling of pepper to bring it to life.

I had no reservation about the excellence of the Warm Baked Field Mushrooms (\$7). Actually it was a single giant of the breed, cooked in garlic and parmesan and served with a tomato and onion coulis and a fresh fennel salad.

My wife by-passed the entree and had as main course a stolid Rack of Lamb with Jerusalem artichokes and herb cous cous, served with tomato and olive coulis (\$12.50).

Mercifully Mild

Marjorie was happy with the flavour of her Grainfed Victorian Sirloin with braised mushrooms and onions (\$11) but felt the serving could have been more delicate.

For the sake of variety, I went for the Panfried Chicken Breasts with Cajan spices. My stomach likes me to go easy on spiced dishes but the flesh was tender and the spices mercifully mild, adding savour to the dish.

Billed as "Yummy Bits" on

the blackboard menu, and all priced at \$6, the desserts are a delight.

Marjorie's Chocolate Mousse was superbly presented and although my wife enjoyed the Rhubarb and Pear Crumble with icecream she found the serving a little overpowering in size.

I went for the French Brie, served with grapes and raisins on the stem. The serving was so generous that I had to ask for extra bread and was favoured with a piping hot roll, straight from the oven.

Though small, the bistro's wine list is excellent with plenty of choice of grape variety and maker, including many from the better small wineries. Prices are around those of a good bottle shop.

Although tempted to lash out on a bottle of Penfolds St Henri at \$28, for a red we chose the intensely flavoured Rouge Homme Cabernet Sauvignon 1990 at \$18.50. Our white was a real bargain, St Hallets Poachers Blend at \$11.

Altogether a good evening. My only warning is that the high noise level created by the music and your fellow diners make for a jolly rather than intimate experience.

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: Gail Booth.

Treasurer: Tim McCormick.

Secretary: Nick Eddy.

Membership Secretary: Mary Read.

Committee: Tanya Atkins, Colin Brady,

Lynda Hayden, David Heilmann,

Ursula King, Trish Langford, Mary

Read, Heather Smith.

Administrator and Editor of Village

Voice: Robin Brampton.

Village Voice is always pleased to receive letters and contributions commenting on matters affecting the community. However, items published in Village Voice do not necessarily represent the official view of the Association.

Council advised to reject glass dome scheme for church

THE fate of the Asia Pacific Arts Foundation's controversial scheme to envelop the burned-out Uniting Church in Jersey Road in a giant glass dome was still undecided this month.

However, the project has received the thumbs down from Woollahra Council's Urban Conservation Advisory Committee to which the Council submitted the planning application.

Last month the committee told the Council it believes the conservation and restoration of the church must be first priority for any works on the site. And it understands that urgent structural works may be required.

"The large temporary structure does not, in the committee's view, satisfactorily resolve the above or complement the heritage value of the building or this precinct," the committee says.

Recommending rejection of the application, the committee suggests that the Asia Pacific Arts Foundation be asked to submit a schedule and detailed programme for conservation works.

Independent report

The Council's next step is to seek an independent conservation report from an expert nominated by the State Department of Planning and Environment.

The Foundation proposes to spend \$967,565 on the glass structure which would cover 930 sq. m.

It claims the dome would provide an attractive and aesthetic solution to protecting the inside walls and capping from further rainwater damage; and keep out vandals, squatters and other undesirables.

We understand the Foundation feels considerably frustrated by the Council's actions in seeking advice, believing them to be designed to temporise and deliberately create further delay in reaching a decision.

It hopes to commence further dialogue with the Council.

The Queen Street Association has felt that the implications of the scheme are so important that local residents should have plenty of opportunity to examine it and comment.

To this end, at the Association's annual meeting in May, the Foundation's secretary, Harris Madden, was invited to present a model of the scheme and explain its details.

However, this does not mean that the Association endorses the proposal. In fact, the Association's directors have some reservations which we know are shared by others in the community.

To help the Association define its attitude, the directors have asked for a report from architect Colin Brady who lives in Rush Street near the burned-out building.



Queen Street Association director, Ursula King (left) with the Australian Travel Agency of the Year award won last month by her agency which operates from Jersey Road. With her, from left, are her senior international staff consultants Penny Taylor, Sharyn Kitchener and Roslyn Hakim. See the Round Robin column, page 6.

Longer hours at the Phoenix? We say no

THE Association is supporting local residents in their objection to an extension of trading hours for the Phoenix Hotel on the corner of Moncur Street and Wallis Street.

At present the hotel trades from 12 noon to 11pm, from Monday to Saturday. It has applied to Woollahra Council to increase these hours to 10am to midnight.

However, there would be no change in the Sunday trading hours of 12 noon to 10pm.

In a letter to the Council, our President asked if the application foreshadows a substantial change in the hotel's activities.

These would be contrary to conditions

and assurances obtained when the hotel was re-licensed that its activities would be primarily of a daytime and evening character.

If the Phoenix application were granted, we would have three late trading, multi-purpose hotels in a very small residential area – the Woollahra, the Centennial and the Phoenix.

Obviously, the three hotels could not be viable on local trade alone and it is understandable that the Phoenix would seek the same opportunity to attract night owls from outside the area as the other two.

However, the Association sides with local residents who are already suffering enough loss of amenity through the noise and parking needs of hotel patrons, and do not want any more.

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Buffet and plenty to chew over at AGM

THE Association's annual meeting in May turned out to be something of a marathon, covering many topics and lasting until after 10pm.

The two main speakers were:

— John Mant, lawyer and town planning expert, who conducted the Woollahra Strategic Planning Review and contributed to the development of the new Local Government Act.

— Harris Madden, secretary of the Asia Pacific Arts Foundation, who explained plans for a new temporary glass structure to cover the burned-out Uniting Church in Jersey Road which the Foundation plans to turn into a cultural centre.

Speaking on *Woollahra in the 21st Century*, John Mant said there were two strategic questions for the area to consider.

These were the quality of the public realm (municipally owned infrastructure) and its relationship to the private realm; and traffic management to provide for the people who wanted to visit Woollahra.

John also gave an interesting description of the workings of the new Local Government Act, explaining how it could revolutionise the management structure of local councils.

Harris Madden used a model to demonstrate the proposed temporary glass structure over the church which he said would be in place for two years. Total cost of the structure and eventual restoration of the building would be about \$2.5 million.

In discussion, Councillor David Leach of Woollahra Council said the Council would only agree to the glass dome proposal if it were "reasonable, sensible, safe and in the interests of residents".

Councillor Leach also told the meeting

that a proposal for angle parking in John Street, strongly opposed by local residents and the Association, was "a dead duck".

The evening also included the presentation by the Association of a cheque for \$1000 to the Holdsworth Street Community Centre, accepted by Jane McGregor and Tess Protey of the centre staff.

The money will be used to provide transport for young adults with intellectual disabilities when they attend training for the development of independent living skills.

During a break in the middle of the well-attended meeting, a buffet was served, kindly donated by Simply Seafood.

Ten minus one plus three on committee

AT the annual meeting in May, only nine people stood for the 10 positions on the Association's committee.

Political speechwriter Graham Freudenberg continues as President and solicitor Nick Eddy as Secretary. However, John Cunningham stood down as Treasurer and the position is again filled by book dealer Tim McCormick.

The Association also has a new Vice-President who was a director on the previous committee. Travel agent Gail Booth has taken the place of Patti Graham following her retirement to the country.

Other directors continuing from the previous committee are boutique owner Mary Read who is also Membership Secretary; retailer David Heimann and family therapist Trish Langford.

Newcomers are travel agent Ursula King, and retailer Lynda Hayden of Harlequin Trim. Both operate businesses in Jersey Road.

Following an appeal at the annual meeting for volunteers to fill the last com-

mittee vacancy, we were delighted when three local personalities came forward.

Colin Brady is an architect who is taking a great interest in developments at the burned-out church; Heather Smith is a partner in the Arden Galleries in Queen Street; and Tanya Atkins is a Queen Street resident and a descendant of the Dorhauer family who helped to pioneer the area.

All three have been drafted to help the committee in its coming year's work.

Landscaping expert on Centennial Park body

THE Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust has just set up a Community Consultative Committee to assist in exchanging information with the local community on the management and wellbeing of the parks.

We have an excellent representative for the West Woollahra precinct in Warwick Mayne-Wilson, a highly qualified landscape architect who lives in Ocean Street.

Warwick is also chairman of the National Trust's Parks and Gardens Conservation Committee and a frequent user of Centennial Park.

He has promised to keep in close touch with the Association and early this month attended a meeting of our directors.

Warwick tells us that the Trust's Director, Robin Grimwade, wants to make Centennial Park and Moore Park a centre of excellence in parks and gardens management.

However, at the moment the parks management is having a lot of problems with pollution in Centennial Park, and also wear and tear following the park's popularity at weekends.

Warwick would welcome comments and input about the two parks from local residents. His phone number is 327 1872, and fax 372 2183.

Town house to "nestle into the streetscape"

DESPITE the scale of the proposal, the Association has no general quarrel with the design of five new town houses and a manse which the Uniting Church will build at the corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street.

However, we share Woollahra Council's concern at the rather bald effect which would be created by the original plans where the end of the row of units abuts directly onto the corner without setback.

Although the Uniting Church has received development consent for four of the town houses, the question of the design of the corner house is still being resolved.

We understand from Brian O'Dowd of Woollahra Council that the Uniting church is redesigning the house to soften the architectural approach. A detailed scheme is expected soon.

Brian says the Uniting Church is making the plans more acceptable by having the corner house "nestle into the streetscape", making use of existing vegetation.

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Ocean Street traffic calming nearer

ANOTHER stage has been reached in the development of traffic calming measures in Ocean Street, agreed to in principle by the Roads & Traffic Authority and Woollahra Council.

Lyle Marshall & Associates, transport and environmental planners, have completed a report analysing the current traffic situation and suggesting measures to reduce traffic volumes.

This was commissioned by the OS-NOF (Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway) residents' group which recently received a welcome \$2000 grant from Woollahra Council towards its cost.

Five different types of measure are being suggested – traffic lights at the junction of Jersey road; mini roundabouts at the junctions with John and Wellington Streets; three flattop thresholds to slow traffic down; and additional pavement markings and signposting.

OSNOF is also considering asking for a speed limit in Ocean Street of 50kmh or even less.

The Queen Street Association has been campaigning strongly for a reduction in Ocean Street traffic since 1980, recently in support of OSNOF.

Meanwhile, the problem has got steadily worse, particularly with the opening of the Harbour Tunnel, and now some 37,000

vehicles a day pass down Ocean Street.

Nick Eddy, Secretary of the Queen Street Association and Chairman of OS-NOF, said: "What we are asking for is quite reasonable considering what has been done in every other street".

Survey result

In developing his report, Lyle Marshall has been assisted by a March survey in which Ocean Street residents were asked to show their level of concern about various traffic phenomena and indicate their preference for solutions.

Greatest concern was expressed about traffic volumes both at peak and off peak times and weekends. This was followed by traffic noise, heavy vehicles using the street and speeding traffic.

Lyle Marshall's report is largely in the form of diagrams which may be viewed at the supermarket on the corner of Ocean Street and Forth Street.

Local residents can also view these, and express their views, at a public meeting at Woollahra Public School, Forth Street, on Wednesday, July 20, at 7pm.

Following this meeting, OSNOF plans to make its definitive submission to Woollahra Council on the traffic calming measures needed for Ocean Street.

When Queen Street drank at Acklands

Our picture of the Woollahra Hotel in 1930 was kindly loaned by the hotel management and forms part of a display in the hotel bottle shop.

The hotel was developed some time around the 1870's and 1880's, and originally known as Acklands, after its owner, Henry Ackland.

Henry had been a horsebus owner before he started in the hotel business at the Coachmen's Hotel in Paddington.

A descendant, Jessie Ackland, was a noted singer who performed with Melba.

Ackland's hotel was rebuilt to become the modern brick building we know today around 1939-40. The bottle shop display includes an architect's impression and plans of the new building, dated July, 1939.

However, the new hotel was still known as Acklands. Only later did it become The Woollahra. Originally The Woollahra Hotel was at 43 Queen Street, now the premises of Auchinachie antiques.

In the picture above, the area to the right of the hotel is a cottage. This eventually became a beergarden, then a restaurant, originally half open and then bricked in.

Among the habitués of the hotel in earlier days was Queen Street resident Tom Alston who would recite poetry to his fellow drinkers and boast of the success of his niece, the young Joan Sutherland.

Under new owners, headed by Ron White and Damien Pignolet, the Woollahra Hotel was extensively remodelled by 1993 to include more modern bar areas and Damien's popular Bistro Moncur.

However, the hotel still has a cosy, old style bar to remind us of the wonderful tradition of our "local".

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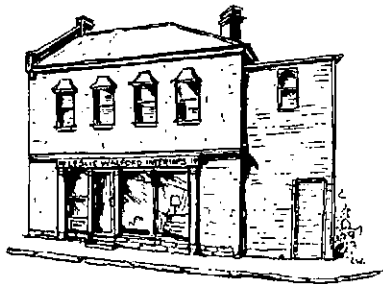
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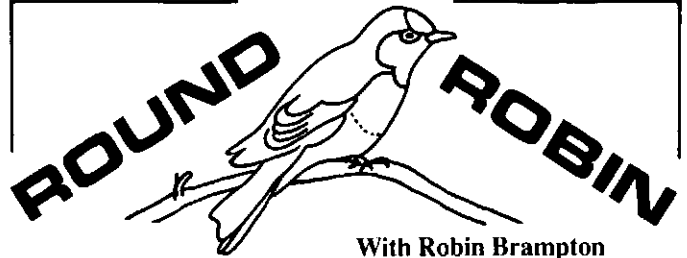


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With Robin Brampton

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The Travel Agency of the Year award was judged by the top executives of 150 travel industry suppliers including airlines and other carriers, hotels and wholesalers.

Said Ursula King: "It's fantastic that our small independent travel agency should be successful in competition with some of the biggest".

She believes the agency's success is due to the teamwork of her 14 staff; their courtesy both to clients and others in the industry; and a strong emphasis on staff training.

Ursula received the award from television personality Ian Leslie at an industry dinner last month at the Regent Hotel.

She moved to Jersey Road, at the corner of Hargrave Street, in 1990, having founded the travel agency four years earlier in Annandale.

The award quest was organised by Ansett Australia and the travel magazine *Travel Trade*.

Incidentally, Ursula has generously promised to donate a \$500 travel voucher for auction at the Banjo Paterson dinner on August 9.

ISWEAR it was the gremlins that got into my previous column after I had proof read it several times.

Would I really have written: "Departures from Queen Street are just as extensive, and in several cases mean saying goodbye to old fiends"?!

IT'S been a merry game of musical chairs among Queen Street shops in the past few weeks.

Mandy and son David Heimann's Orson & Blake Collectables shop has moved across the road from 76 Queen Street to Number 83, the former Antony Whitaker hairdressing salon which is

now in Oxford Street.

In the reshuffle, David Heimann has switched his separate Orson & Blake a La Mode fashion boutique to the former Orson & Blake Collectables shop at 76.

Meanwhile, I am pleased to note that Michael Greene was able to keep his fascinating antiques shop in Queen Street rather than move to the city as seemed possible when I wrote my previous column.

He has moved from Queens Court to Number 108, previously the fashion boutique of Fred and Magda Weissberger. Although the Weissbergers no longer operate a shop, Fred is still creating clothes from the workrooms at the premises.

In another move, Ian and Belinda Perryman and their two young children have moved both their home and business from Number 22 to Number 100, the former home of Margaret Thompson's Etcetera gift shop.

With its quaint flamboyant facade which might have inspired the cartoonist Sprod, the premises are giving the Perrymans more space to display their old, antique and decorative rugs, carpets and textiles.

The range is breathtaking, with examples from Europe, South America, Asia and the Pacific.

Rarest of the current offerings is a 1890 Gavin Morton Donegal carpet from Ireland, priced at \$38,000. On the other hand, for between \$10 and \$20, you can buy interesting carpet and rug fragments for cushion making.

For owners of old carpets, the Perrymans offer an expert advice, restoration and cleaning service.

Ian and Belinda arrived in Australia from Britain four years ago with the nucleus of their stock, and set up originally at Number 20 before moving to 22.

"We love living in Queen Street," Ian told me. "There's a lovely community spirit here," nodded Belinda.



SMART woman... lovely shop.

Alexandra McKenzie has moved from Adelaide with husband Peter, daughter Kate and Coco the cat to establish her interior decor business at 78 Queen Street, formerly the Lachlan & Ziles lighting store.

The shop is an exquisite showpiece for Alexandra's designing talents, with a background of soft royal blue and gold offsetting the bright colours of her stock of furniture, cushions, and decorative accessories.

Alexandra previously had a shop in King William Street ("the Queen Street of Adelaide") but has always hankered to bask in what she believes is the inspiring atmosphere of Queen Street.

Husband Peter is also establishing a local business. An audio and hi-fi equipment specialist, he is opening as Linfidelity, Living Music, at 122 Jersey Road, formerly Country Gourmet.

Also new to Queen Street are Tim and Diki Linkins who have established their Tibet Gallery at Number 22, selling Tibetan rugs, cushions, cushion and bolster covers, and traditional paintings.

Diki (her name means bliss) comes from a trading family in Tibet. Tim is a teacher and photographer from Brisbane. They met in Japan before

moving to Australia together last year and establishing their business.

Pride of Tibet Gallery's merchandise is an exclusive range of Gangchen rugs, "From the Land of Snows", handloomed and handspun, which originally were introduced to the West in New York by Diki's brother, Kesang.

Diki tells me that these have now been sold to 100 retailers in the United States, and she hopes that their original designs and fascinating colours will make them just as popular in Australia.

CHINTZ. Although the word evokes English domestic cosiness, chintz originated in India as did calico, gingham, seersucker and taffeta.

This goes to prove that the cotton industry owes much to its Indian origin as Association life member Joyce Burnard shows in her fascinating new book, *Chintz and Cotton, India's Textile Gift to the World*.

Although cotton had been grown, spun, woven and dyed in India for more than 4000 years, it was not until little more than 300 years ago that the fabric arrived in the West.

In this century, cotton has played a key role in Indian political life. Mahatma Gandhi encouraged the impoverished millions of India to spin and

LEFT: From Adelaide to the inspiring atmosphere of Queen Street... interior decor expert Alexandra McKenzie. RIGHT: Anything from a \$10 fragment to a \$38,000 antique carpet... Ian and Belinda Perryman.

weave cloth on primitive handlooms to make themselves independent of imported Manchester cotton goods.

He also made his followers wear the simple khadi of homespun "freedom cloth". When asked in 1931 about the suitability of wearing this to Buckingham Palace in mid winter, he replied: "It was quite all right - the King had enough on for both of us".

Though it might seem retrogressive, Gandhi's idea has triumphed. Today India has some 4-5 million handlooms producing around 4000 million metres of cloth a year, with a small but significant export market.

Joyce's well-illustrated book has an interesting Australian chapter. Indian cotton cloth

was imported as early as 1803 but today Australia has its own highly mechanised cotton growing industry producing a high quality cotton.

However, Australia still imports much of its cotton goods and cloth. Joyce's interest in Indian cotton began in the early 1970s when she began importing handloomed Indian furnishing fabrics as a sideline to freelance journalism.

The fabrics became so popular that her Ascraft Fabrics business grew to a successful nationwide company which she sold in 1988 to return to writing.

• *"Chintz and Cotton, India's Textile Gift to the World"*, is published by Kangaroo Press at \$29.95 (RRP). Available locally from Janet Niven Antiques, Queens Court.

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