

VILLAGE VOICE

NO. 61 MAY, 1996.

Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd.

Address: PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.

Administrator: Robin Brampton, 3/1a Tara Street, Woollahra, NSW 2025. Phone and Fax 362 0713.

West Woollahra is under threat again

• In its 24 years of existence, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has fought strenuously to preserve the architectural scale and character of the area.

A major victory was to persuade Woollahra Council to adopt, in 1985, the West Woollahra Plan. Among other controls, this set a 9.5m height limit for new buildings.

Recently, the Association has had to battle, sometimes fruitlessly, to oppose development applications which contravene either the restrictions or the spirit of the plan.

Other development applications are in hand or looming which we believe threaten the architectural individuality and amenity of the area.

The following analysis was prepared by a local architect to guide the Association's Directors in their consideration of new developments. However, at this stage, it is purely a discussion paper, and the Association would naturally welcome feedback from local residents.

IN the wake of a much lauded Development Control Plan and Woollahra Council decisions, emphasising environmental responsibility, West Woollahra faces a new wave of infill development.

Led by institutional property owners rationalising their considerable holdings in the precinct, current proposals pose a real threat to an established community.

Whilst not without precedents – the area having experienced major sub-divisions in the 1880s, 1890s and 1960s – projects currently before Council are of concern due to their size, replacement of community facilities and sterilisation of large parcels of the neighbourhood into essentially walled 'Dead Zones'.

The latter in particular, whether refined but aloof townhouses such as allowed for Tara Street, or repetitive economical structures as proposed for the grounds of Brougham in Nelson Street, highlight a major flaw in the new planning controls for Woollahra. This is a failure to

maintain the essential character of a much desired area which the new inhabitants of these structures are presumably seeking to enjoy.

The fault would appear to lie partly with Woollahra Council's inability or unwillingness to consider the developments as a group, characterised by common impact on this defined community.

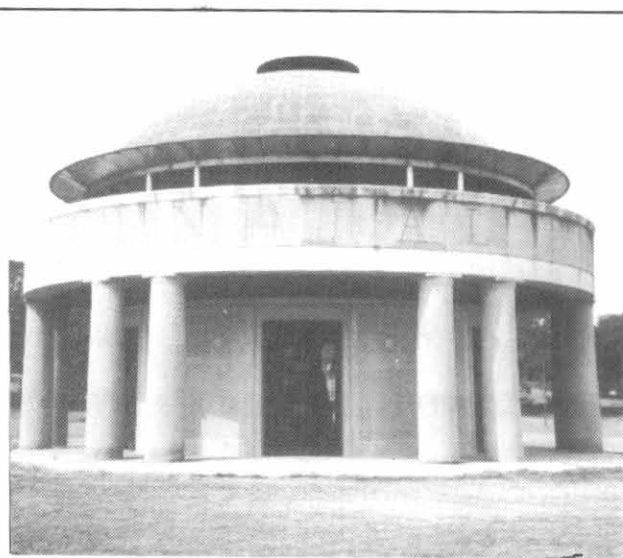
In isolation

Whilst in its defence, Council argues that it is unable to quell a demand-led residential building boom, it is able to insist on projects meeting requirements of compatibility. These cases require an assessment based on a broader context than that of adjoining properties.

Council planners have agreed that proposals for Brougham, Sir Phillip Baxter Centre, Holdsworth Galleries, Tara Street and Jersey Road have to date been assessed as proposals in isolation.

Surely this approach must be amended to include

Continued overleaf



All local residents are invited to the
ANNUAL MEETING
of the Queen Street and West
Woollahra Association Ltd

TUESDAY 28th May
at 7pm

at Fred Pazotti Pty Ltd
64 Moncur Street, Woollahra

WHAT'S GOING ON AT CENTENNIAL PARK?

Our guest speakers will be two officials of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust, Lauren Templeman, Park Planner, and Paul Sandells, Manager of Visitor Services. They will discuss recent developments regarding the two parks and a management plan which has just been drafted.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN QUEEN STREET?

The meeting will provide an opportunity for local residents to discuss the draft concept design for streetscape improvements which is currently on exhibition in the window of I and B Perryman, 100 Queen Street. Diane Stevens of Stevens Wallman Associates, who designed the scheme, will be available to answer questions.

COMPLIMENTARY BUFFET AND WINETASTING

The evening will include a buffet, kindly provided by *Simply Seafood*, and a glass or two of wine.

NOTE: The meeting is open to all local residents but only financial members of the Association for the year 1996 may take part in the formal business. Members may enrol or renew their membership on the evening of the meeting.

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178 Jersey Road, Woollahra

Ph: 362 4622

West Woollahra is under threat again

Continued

considerations of a more sophisticated nature than site ratios, parking requirements and token aesthetic compliance.

Any proposed sub-division of existing fabric in the West Woollahra village area should, in addition to demonstrating a positive contribution to the ward, take into consideration the following requirements essential to the preservation of a vital living environment:

Facilitation of walkways

To date, the development of pedestrian walkways and convenience shortcuts has been sadly neglected.

With an increasing number of aged institutions occupying new developments, shortest distance routes to shops and transport will be of increased importance.

These have always been a feature of closely developed communities, good examples abounding in nearby Paddington. To date only that to Edgecliff Station has been paid any attention.

Safe environment, day and night

Aspects such as passive supervision, effective lighting and segregation of vehicle and pedestrian movement are sadly ignored in Council assessments.

Encouraging a mixed population

During workshop sessions leading to the current Development Control Plan, the most poignant remark was from an elderly resident of Darling Point asking why there were no children in her suburb.

Planning should seek to maintain existing residential opportunities. This further contributes to security in providing watching residents rather than Neighbourhood Watch staffed by a uniformly aged or absent population.

Walls should be discouraged

Whilst security is a constant problem, walling of properties to the main street boundary only provides a screen for burglars and is not part of the aesthetic character of West Woollahra.

Other forms of privacy screening are amply demonstrated in established residences.

Assessing parking

Woollahra streets already carry parking spillover from Paddington, Edgecliff Station and the growing cafe enclave in Queen Street.

Street parking is a finite resource and has obviously not been recognised as such when the impact of so many new sub-divisions upon an already over-taxed parking situation was not questioned.

Preservation of laneways

The small byways and lanes of

West Woollahra serve as more than rear service access. Many incorporate small residences or have a substantial pedestrian function.

This is repeatedly overlooked in planning approvals which accept substantial vehicle access via such laneways.

Contributions to open space

Requirements for the provision of open space, or contributions for such, should be realised in meaningful areas made available to the neighbourhood and not in the form of strip or fringe planting.

Preserving traditional landscape

Where elements of existing landscape characteristic to the area are in existence, these should be preserved and their extension encouraged.

Community benefits register

A register of perceived community facilities should be compiled and where deletions are foreseen, Council should encourage their retention or replacement through existing planning mechanisms.

These are but a few of the considerations that should hold sway in weighing the benefits of new sub-divisions for West Woollahra. Given the reasons why people want to live in the area none are particularly onerous.

Without their incorporation in the design and planning process, West Woollahra will soon complete a transformation to an expensive but soulless dormitory of childless professionals and housebound elderly unable or unwilling to venture beyond their walled compounds.

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: Colin Brady, David Heimann, Ursula King, Trish Langford, Mary Read, Heather Smith, Warwick Mayne-Wilson.

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.

LOCAL TABLES

"Tasty" touch of Greece

NOSTIMO
113 Queen Street,
Woollahra
Telephone: 9362 4277

COMBINE a lighter style of Greek cuisine with very fresh ingredients, stunning decor, and friendly attentive service, and what have you got?

Answer: Nostimo, Queen Street's newest culinary success story.

Nostimo (Greek for "tasty") is the concept of Arthur and Marianne of the Hatzis family, longtime owners of the Queen Street Deli.

the former Australian S... Chair shop, they have created an inviting ambience with light coloured walls to create the illusion of space; and fascinating colour accents in green, yellow and frosted glass.

The room seats some 40 people and a long illuminated glass counter along one wall displays cakes and other mouth-watering comestibles.

We have been twice since Nostimo opened in mid-April, once for just a cup of the excellent coffee which you can also buy in ground form, and later for lunch.

The place was packed with the movers and shakers of Queen Street when we arrived for our lunch visit, and for a short while we had to queue outside.

Once seated, my wife ordered the Mezethes mixed plate (\$10.50) while I opted for the Grilled Haloumi and Taramosalata with Tomato Salsa (\$10.50).

Delicious

The mixed plate comprised Eggplant, Ricotta and Olive Tapenade Sandwich, Dolmathes, Tzatziki, Rare Roast Beef and Baked Ricotta.

Both our choices were delicious, just the thing for a light lunch. And I particularly enjoyed the Taramosalata which was of the right consistency to be mopped up by the toast from under the salsa.

Other lunchtime possibilities included a generously sized bowl of Leek and Pumpkin Soup (\$7.50); Smoked Salmon, Creamy Ricotta and English Spinach on Bagel (\$9.50); and, for dessert, Kadaifi, a shredded pastry wrapped around almonds and walnuts in a light syrup (\$4.50).

The all-day menu includes a selection of Pide (\$8.50 and \$9.00), toasted sandwiches (\$5.00) and what is proudly described as "real" Greek salad (\$8.00).

At present, Nostimo is open from 7am to 6pm and until 11am offers a breakfast menu including a special of eggs, pancetta and sundried capsicum in Vienna bread (\$6.50).

In addition to several different coffees, the extensive beverage list includes Greek Mountain Tea and Penelope Sach Teas. You can also take in your own wine.

Following Nostimo's highly successful debut, Arthur tells me he has plans from June to open in the evening with a limited taverna menu of perhaps three main dishes to round off the day.

Harvest produces a sound crop

HARVEST RESTAURANT
152 Jersey Road
Woollahra

Telephone: 328 1939
Open for dinner, Wednesday-Sunday, and Sunday lunch

ALTHOUGH not a vegetarian, I enjoy going to a well-run vegetarian restaurant to see how it meets the challenge of creating imaginative and appetising dishes without animal flesh.

In this area, full marks to Harvest which has ended the long, depressing closure of the premises which started life as the distinguished Patricks and, more recently, has been a Japanese restaurant and the Bagatelle.

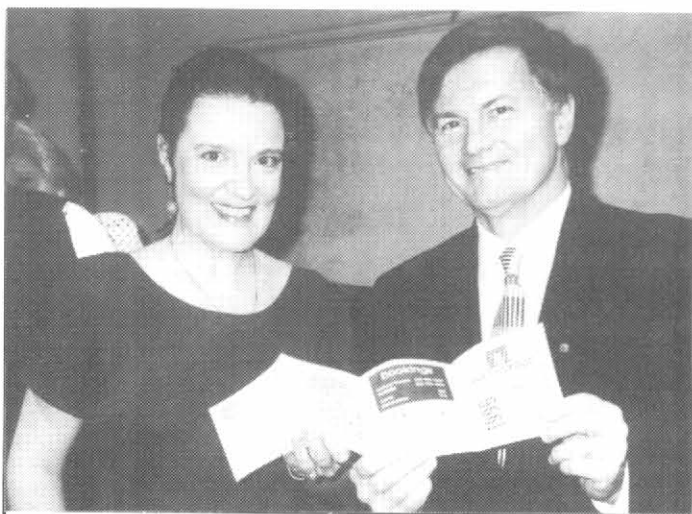
Harvest works in tandem with a similarly named 20-year-old vegetarian restaurant at Rozelle. I understand from chef Adam Death that setting up a Woollahra branch follows an enterprising change of ownership.

Our local Harvest was packed when my wife and I made our Sunday lunch visit to celebrate Mothers' Day without our distant brood.

The menu informs that Harvest Restaurant uses no animal products. Cheeses are rennet free, eggs are free range and organic. Where possible produce is organic.

We were spoiled for choice among the 10 entrees (all \$7.90) and 10 main dishes (\$16.90 and \$17.90) including three daily specials in each category.

For entree, I had a well-presented Salad of Top Paddock Washed Rind Cheese and Rocket with Harvest's orange and thyme dressing.



Keeping a sharp Lookout!

State Opposition Leader Peter Collins came to Queen Street in March to officially open the 1996 season at the Lookout Theatre. Mr Collins, who is also Shadow Arts Minister, is seen with the theatre's director, Diana Denley. Since it opened in 1990, the 30-seat "chamber" theatre has staged some 40 productions including several controversial works. A strong programme is being undertaken this year. See Round Robin, page 7.

My wife went for the Potato Paillassons, patties of potato and onion, crisply pan fried and served with apple and dill yoghurt sauce.

I had the Paillassons for main course, while Mrs B enjoyed a hearty Moussaka made in the conventional way with layers of potato and baby eggplant enfolding tomato and cheese and covered with Bechamel Sauce.

Our only disappointment was with the wine. Harvest has a promising and varied list of 27 conventional wines from five Australian States plus France, Italy, New Zealand, Chile and South Africa. Prices range from \$15, to \$65 for a bottle of French Champagne. You can also BYO.

However, neither of the wines we attempted to order from the list was available. As it was a day of celebration, we settled for a quite acceptable, if somewhat dry, bottle of Jansz Cuvee Brut from Tasmania (\$32).

Then wanting only single glasses to finish our meal, we found we were restricted to a non-alcoholic wine from California. It was a first time experience and we called for the Cabernet Sauvignon. Um... an acquired taste, perhaps.

However, dining at Harvest was a delightful and somewhat unusual experience - and we'll be back.

And in brief...

COSMO and Toni Psaltis, who bought the Centennial Hotel on Oxford Street last year for \$2.5 million, are about to fork out another \$1.5 million to give it a complete renovation.

The two bars will be reduced to one, and the back area enlarged to become a 100-seater restaurant with the emphasis on Mediterranean cuisine, including Greek, Italian and Moroccan.

Experienced restaurateurs, Cos and Toni formerly operated the Balthazar Restaurant in an old National Trust building in York Street.

The transformation will take some three months but Cos hopes the new restaurant will be up and running by Christmas.

Also, I note that the Queen Street area also nearly had yet another coffee shop. This would have been combined with a new delicatessen to be created by building alterations to the ground floor of the Newton Building at the corner of Moncur and Rush Streets.

However, following opposition from local residents, Woollahra Council is insisting that the 12-seat coffee area be deleted from the plan and only the delicatessen allowed to proceed.

Restrictions include 7pm closure on weekdays, 4pm on Saturday, and no liquor to be served.

R.B.

◆ MICHAEL GREENE ANTIQUES ◆

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After discussions with Councillors, David Leach and Andrew Petrie (Cooper Ward), we propose to use these already committed resources for a memorial similar to the Dorothea Mackellar memorial in Chiswick Gardens, Ocean Street.

Later this year, it is intended to place this memorial near the Association's notice board on the Queen Street face of the Dorhauer Lane carpark.

Annual Dinner

OUR main social event of the year, a Festive Mediterranean Dinner, was held at the Centennial Hotel, Oxford Street, on November 28.

An attendance of 70 and generous support from Queen Street and other local businesses enabled us to raise \$1921 for general funds.

We are especially grateful to Heather Smith, Dorothy Brampton and Tim McCormick for their help in making the occasion so pleasant and successful.

Business Group

AT the beginning of 1995, the Association contacted every business in the area to ascertain if there was any interest in reviving the local business group or any combined local business initiatives.

The mixed reaction reflected the very mixed character of local commercial life. As a result, the Association feels that any revival would best be generated from within the business community rather than by the Association.

However, we were pleased to lend the Association's support when a handsome brochure/guide to Queen Street antiques shops and galleries was produced at the end of 1995. This was organised through the enterprise of Michael and Victoria Greene, and Ian and Belinda Perryman.

The Association made sure the brochure reached every home in the area by including it as an insert in *Village Voice*.

Village Voice

TWO issues of the Association's newsletter, *Village Voice*, were produced in 1995, one an enlarged edition with a special feature to mark the 25th anniversary of Goodwin Village.

The direct costs of *Village Voice* were more than covered by advertising revenue. We would like to thank the local businesses whose advertising support enables us to produce such a lively publication.

Financial

THE year's activities resulted in a loss of \$3735, following a loss the previous year of \$4019.

During the year, we had a number of special calls on our finances. These included payment of the Association's share of the costs of the new refurbishment plans for Queen Street; and the survey of local businesses to ascertain whether there was any interest in a revived business group.

On the revenue side, it was pleasing to see an increase in membership subscriptions revenue from \$2687 to \$3669, reflecting a strong and increasing membership.

However, the Directors have decided that a halt must be called on the drain to the Association's reserve funds by trimming the costs of administration.

Administration

TO our infinite regret, Robin Brampton has indicated that due to his other commitments, he will be unable to continue as administrator.

In the two years since he accepted this addi-



As its community project for the 1995 year, the Queen Street Association gave \$700 for the purchase of a new television set to the Woollahra Senior Citizens Welfare Association. The set has been installed at the Senior Citizens' Centre on Gaden Reserve. The gift was acknowledged when the Queen Street Association president, Graham Freudenberg, visited the centre this year. He is seen with Iris Snell (left), president of the members' committee, and Ann Wotherspoon, president of the management committee.

tional burden, the affairs of the Association have been placed on a much sounder basis, the main purpose for which Robin accepted the appointment.

The good news is that Robin will continue his close links with the Association and, most importantly, will continue as editor of *Village Voice*, in many respects the most vital of the Association's activities.

I thank all my fellow directors for their work in the past year and also for their understanding of the difficulty of my position in relation to the Showground issue.

More mail delivery improvements soon

GREAT changes at Queen Street Post Office which is now a spacious postal shop, selling stationery and other post-related products in addition to handling mail.

The change probably was necessary to ensure Australia Post remained in Queen Street. Unfortunately, it has also meant that mail is no longer sorted locally and has been arriving as late as 5pm in some parts of the area.

Following Association protests, I had a visit from Peter Gillham, manager of the local delivery network, who promised improvement following a new industrial agreement and the employment of a night sorting shift.

Certainly things have got better recently, and Peter, the postal shop manager, tells me that the day's mail will soon be in the private boxes by 8am.

The aim also is to have mail for Queen Street business addresses delivered by 11am and to the rest of the district by 1pm.

We'll keep watching!

Robin Brampton, Administrator

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Report of the President, Graham Freudenberg AM, to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd on Tuesday, May 28.

SIGNIFICANT progress has been made during the year towards making your Association's long efforts for improvements to Queen Street a reality.

Although less ambitious than the original Queen Street 2000 project, I believe that our current proposals would substantially enhance the Street's amenity while preserving its character.

Members who attended last year's annual meeting will recall that I reported that the new scheme had received its impetus from a meeting at Woollahra Council Chambers early in 1995. This was attended by the then Mayor, Councillor David Leach; Council officers; the Association Administrator, Robin Brampton; myself; and our design consultant, Diane Stevens of Stevens Wallman Associates.

Subsequently, Council provided \$6000 and the Association \$1500 to commission Ms. Stevens to develop a concept, the first version of which she presented at last year's annual meeting. The design continues to be revised in the light of suggestions and/or objections from interested residents and organisations.

The plan was presented in detail at a Neighbourhood Coffee Morning at the Holdsworth Centre on Sunday, November 12. Recently it was also exhibited at the Westpac Bank branch in Queen Street and the premises of Ian and Belinda Perryman.

Principal features of the design now include:

- Upgrading of the footpaths.
- Making the Queen Street-Moncur Street intersection a visual focal point, including below-ground cables.
- Landscaping Dorhauer Lane carpark.
- Improved treescaping throughout.
- New street furniture.
- Improved traffic flow, for example by having one-way traffic in Spicer Street.

The response from businesses and residents, and the co-operative approach of Council, augurs well for the successful implementation of the general concept, if not all its individual features, in the year ahead.

We welcome the recognition by the Council that attention must be paid to one of the municipality's unique assets.

The Showground

THE NSW Government's decision to lease the Showground for use as film studios and an entertainment complex has aroused great concern among residents of the adjacent areas.

At our Neighbourhood Coffee Morning on November 12, addressed by the member for Bligh, Clover Moore, opposition to the proposal was strong, comprehensive and virtually unanimous.

I informed the meeting that I personally felt a conflict of interest in view of my official position as an adviser to the Premier, and vacated the chair for that part of the meeting.

I am particularly anxious that my personal position should in no way inhibit the Directors or the Association in their approach to this matter.

At my request, the Directors have authorised our colleague, Warwick Mayne-Wilson, the Association's representative on the Centennial Park & Moore Park Community Consultative Committee, to act as our spokesman on the issue.

Residential Development

YOUR directors have continued to keep a close watch on developments affecting our area.

Representations were made to the Council on proposals for the burned-out Uniting Church in Jersey Road; town houses at 111 Jersey Road and 1a Tara Street; and the Ronald Coleman Lodge at 88 Wallis Street.

There seems little doubt that West Woollahra is facing new pressure for denser development. The Association is concerned that this pressure will lead to a gradual erosion of hard-won standards, designed to regulate such development.

Banjo Paterson Memorial

THE Directors have come to the conclusion that our original proposal for a memorial wall to commemorate A.B. (Banjo) Paterson's association with Queen Street in the early years of this century is not achievable.

We believe, however, that we have an obligation to make appropriate use of the \$2050 raised specifically for this purpose, as well as provisional financial assistance voted by Woollahra Council.

Also we have received a generous offer from Mr. Rod Christie of Wee Jasper to provide a stone for the base of a plaque from Wee Jasper Creek in the area where Banjo went to live when he left Queen Street.



The boulder in Wee Jasper Creek which it is proposed to use for the memorial to Banjo Paterson in Queen Street.

ROD SMART & ASSOCIATES

- REAL ESTATE -

West Woollahra resident Rod Smart, brings valuable local know-how to the business of selling Real Estate in the area.

His fresh approach has achieved major successes in marketing property for above expected prices.

Satisfied clients are keen to voice their happiness.

"The way you handled the entire sale process of our property has been nothing other than highly professional ... your initial estimate of the sale price was achieved, despite it being considerably above our general expectation and also more than our own valuation."

L.R. Woollahra, 1995

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rod Smart is pleased to announce that well-known Woollahra personality, Charles Widdy has joined the Agency as a Consultant. Charles has served the Woollahra municipality for 10 years as an Alderman, including two years as Mayor. He now brings those years of valuable local experience to Rod Smart Real Estate as an Associate to the Agency.

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QUEEN STREET ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 28.

All local residents welcome.

See notice on page 1



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Busy months at the Parks

• Warwick Mayne-Wilson, a member of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust who is also the West Woollahra representative on the community consultative committee, reports on recent events:

SINCE my last report, there have been many developments affecting Centennial Park and Moore Park.

These include new appointments to the Trust, activities concerning the future use of the Showground, other initiatives, and regular park maintenance work.

Appointments

MS Lynn Ralph, Deputy Chairperson of the Australian Securities Commission, has been appointed new Chairperson of the Trust, and there are two other new Trustees, Jill Hager and Richard Cobden. As Ita Buttrose recently tendered her resignation, due to other commitments, two vacancies on the Trust remain to be filled.

The Showground

THIS has been a period of hectic activity for the Trust, necessitating the engagement of a new project officer specifically to handle all the complex issues that have arisen. These have included:

- Issuing last November of a Heads of Agreement between the NSW State Government and Fox Studios and the making of a State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP No.47) to subdivide the Showground site and lease 24 hectares to Fox Studios after the Royal Agricultural Society moves to Homebush Bay.

- Submission of a Statement of Concern by the Parks' Community Consultative Committee about these proposals to the Trust and the Minister.

- Publication by Fox Studios on January 8 of two Development Applications (DAs) for use of 24 hectares of the Showground.

- Submissions on the DAs by consultants appointed by Trust and by individual members of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

- Formulation of new procedures to enable Trustees and CCC members to make inputs into submissions on subsequent DAs affecting Trust land.

- Examination by the Parks Administration of the issues involved in taking over management of the stables, Royal Hall of Industries and Hordern Pavilion.

- Formulation, in consultation with the CCC, of a strategy

to manage future events within the Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries.

- Convening of a committee to advise on the future needs of the stables.

- Discussions with Fox Studios, and with the Department of State Development, on the urgent need to provide additional car parking spaces once Fox occupies most of the Showground site and takes over the present car park areas.

Other initiatives

APART from all these activities, the Trust's administration has been pursuing other initiatives, including:

- Discussions with the RTA on the impacts on park land of proposals to construct Eastern Distributor, including widening Anzac Parade and South Dowling Street, and relocating Frank Saywell Kindergarten at Drivers Triangle.

- Development of an Events Strategy for the holding of four small and one medium sized event in Centennial Park each year.

- Launching of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Friends scheme, and the unveiling by the Premier of the new Sir Henry Parkes sculpture on April 27.

- Approving a proposal by Sydney Water to construct a wetland in Centennial Park, below Carrington Road, as part of its reservoir maintenance works.

- Approving the design and construction of a ponds interpretative display feature.

Routine activities

WHILE all these new developments are going on, the Park Administration is continuing with its regular, mainstream functions including:

- Drafting a new management plan for Centennial Park.

- Preparing a traffic management strategy for Centennial Park (deferred until the traffic and parking issues created by the Showground proposals are resolved).

- Continued efforts to eradicate rabbits from the parks.

- Installing Stage 2 of the Centennial Park irrigation scheme, using water from Busby's Bore.

- Calling tenders for some of the pond remediation works.

- Refurbishing the Vernon-designed Shelter Pavilion near the Duck Pond.

- Designing a new forecourt for the Cafe Precinct.

Space does not permit me to elaborate on these developments in this column, but the Parks Administration would be able to provide further information on request.



SADLY, the high rentals now demanded for Queen Street shops are squeezing out the middle area of retailers.

By "middle area", I mean shopkeepers offering practical goods and services whose businesses lie between high volume food and service shops on one hand, and top drawer antiques on the other.

In my previous column, I welcomed the Momentum Gallery framing business of Arthur and Barbara Cook, and the lovely little garden accessories shop of Louise Glanville called Twigs.

Both have since closed. The Cooks have returned to Adelaide and Louise tells me she is abandoning retailing and going back to office work.

Also I know of others who have recently established successful Queen Street businesses, only to find to their dismay that the rents have been quickly and steeply increased.

However, there are still retailers happy to move into Queen Street and I bid welcome to Tony Healy, a specialist architectural antiques dealer, who has taken over the Momentum Gallery premises at number 47.

Tony arrived in Australia from Dublin in 1969, intending to be a jeweller. But in 1975, he switched to antiques, the business of his parents, and lives with his young family in Wallis Street.

His shop houses a sprawling diversity of statuary and furniture, including such treasures as the cistern which enclosed the antique fountain of the Garden Court at the Wentworth Hotel in the city centre. This came from England and dates back to 1721.

Nearby, Tim McCormick, the antiquarian book dealer who specialises in Australiana, is moving soon to 92 Queen Street which he has bought with Vivienne Sharpe.

The purchase was not without trauma. Built around 1940, the premises proved to be in such a dangerous structural state that urgent remedial work was necessary.

Hence, Lynette and John Cunningham had temporarily to get out of their "his and her" shops on ground level of 92 while the builders moved in, completely blocking the pavement with supporting scaffolding.

By early May, Lynette's Asian Art business and John's Art of Wine and Food were back brighter than ever, John's with new stock acquired while he was abroad during the enforced closure.

The Art of Wine and Food is possibly Australia's only – and certainly best – shop specialising in wine and food memorabilia. This includes antique corkscrews for which there is an ever-growing demand from collectors such as myself.

* * *

TALKING of collecting corkscrews, I found the other day that Queen Street can cater for another esoteric type of collector – folk who collect ceramic pie funnels.

Made mainly in England, these are inserted in a pie before it goes into the oven to support the crust until it is baked, and allow the escape of steam generated in the cooking.

Appley Hoare, at number 55, has a selection of both the plain type and the more interesting figurals, sometimes shaped like a bird with its open beak craning upwards to form the mouth of the funnel.

Naturally, the chosen bird is often the blackbird of which, we are told in the nursery rhyme, four and twenty were baked in a pie.



Celeste Careedy with one of her fine pieces offered for sale, a necklace with handmade pendant of white and yellow gold with 1.5kt diamonds, cabachon onyx and enamelling. This was a finalist in the most recent Diamonds Facets Awards sponsored by de Beers.

* * *

AT last! New life has come to the shop at 48 Queen Street, unoccupied reputedly since 1947, its decay such a depressing blot on the rejuvenated streetscape.

Celeste Careedy has given it a smart lick of apple green paint and moved in to satisfy her ambition to design, manufacture and sell jewellery from her own shop before she turned 30.

She comes to Queen Street with superb qualifications. After a four-year apprenticeship, she studied visual arts, gemology and silversmithing, and won an Australian Design Award in 1992 as well as several de Beers and Diamond Facets awards.

Celeste has some wonderful examples of her own work for sale, priced from \$85 to \$13,000. She also makes special pieces for customers, and of course handles repair and remodelling work.

* * *

THAT likable Queen Street veteran Jack Wallace is still active in the early morning around Churchills butchery which he managed so capably for many years.

When I found him outside sweeping up the autumn leaves, he stopped to explain his philosophy of continued activity, "I'd rather wear out than rust out!"

Good on yer, Jack! Please don't wear out just yet.

* * *

AS somebody who was admittedly cynical of the survival of Queen Street's 30-seat Lookout Theatre when it opened in 1990, I am delighted to report on its current robust health.

It seemed touch and go a couple of years ago when a founder, Andrea Baker, who kept it going so nobly in the earlier years, was

on the point of abandoning the venture.

But now it is really blossoming under the direction of Diana Denley whose performance as Emily Dickinson in a one-character play about the American poet was my favourite of the productions I have seen so far.

The 1996 season was launched in style in March by State Opposition Leader Peter Collins; and opened in April with an ambitious production of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* with seven actors. Excellent performances came from Michael Duggan and young Ben Scales in the key roles.

But personally I prefer it when the Lookout gives us productions with only one, two or at the most three characters, very suited to the intimacy of a theatre little larger than my lounge room.

So I particularly look forward later this year to the two-handed romantic drama, *La Musica*, which I remember from a successful television production some years ago with the late Margaret Leighton.

Other productions announced for 1996 include:

– 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, John Ford's bawdy 17th century classic set in Italy, concerning incest. (Opening May 27.)

– Dear Heart, an Australian love story, written and directed by Jenny Davis, based on the true life story of her aunt during the second World War. (Opens July 8.)

• The Lookout Theatre is at 116a Queen Street over the Woollahra Hotel. Ph 362 4349. Tickets may also be booked through Ticketek. Ph 266 4800.

By becoming a Friend of the Lookout, at \$25 a year, you are entitled to a discount on the ticket price of \$25, and invitations for special events.

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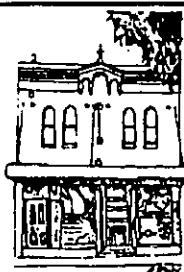
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