

Village Voice

Your community news
magazine for West
Woollahra/Paddington

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

No. 63 – April-June, 1997

Two areas join to urge traffic action

FOLLOWING increasing traffic problems in Paddington and West Woollahra, the two areas are combining in an approach to Woollahra Council for action.

"Everyone has had enough," said Cedric Carle of the Paddington Society. "The traffic build up is the greatest environmental threat since the proposal of putting a freeway through Jersey Road."

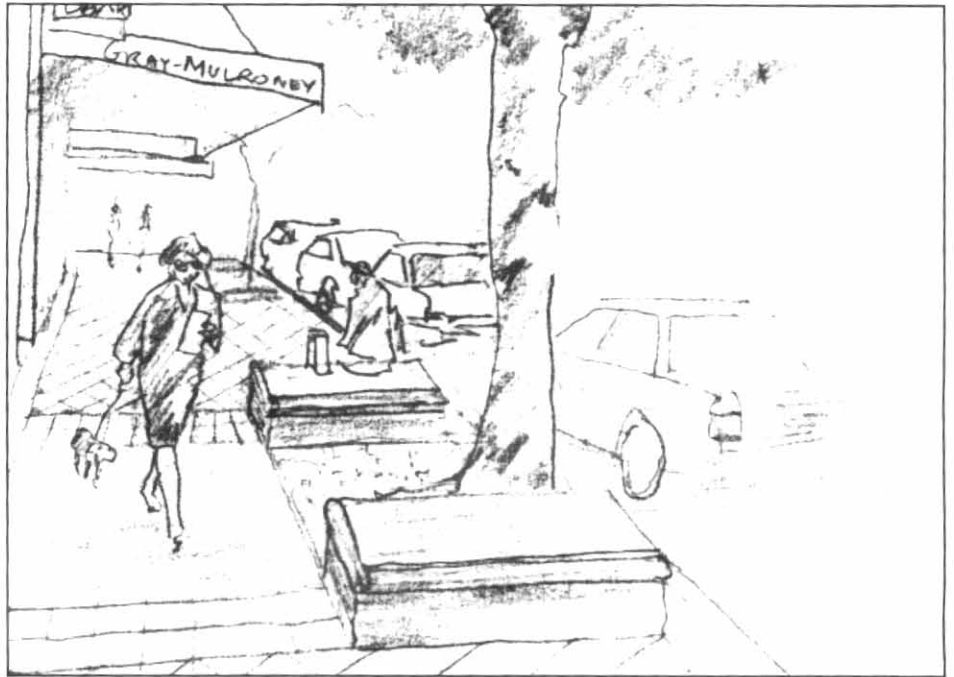
And traffic activist Nick Eddy, secretary of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, said local residents were intensely disappointed that the Eastern Distributor proposal would do nothing to reduce traffic density in Ocean Street, as promised.

Both associations were represented at a meeting with Councillors John Normyle (Paddington) and Stephen Davies (Cooper Ward) at Woollahra Council on May 14.

Cedric Carle suggested that the two associations should ask the Council for a comprehensive traffic study of the whole area, perhaps using a proposed State Government allocation of \$200,000 for network studies.

As a first step, it was decided to arrange a forum on Paddington and West Woollahra traffic, involving both experts and concerned residents, on Saturday, July 12.

Participation will be by invitation.



Banjo Paterson Walk in Queen Street renewal!

IT is hoped the first stage of the Queen Street refurbishment scheme, to be started before the end of July, will be called Banjo Paterson Walk.

Covering the area of footpath between Moncur Street and Spicer Street, stage one will involve the laying of a new paving of reconstituted granite tiles in a warm colour. The four existing trees will each be given a spacious tree garden with a bench at each end.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra

Association proposes that as a tribute to our great national poet, Banjo Paterson (1864-1941), who lived in Queen Street, a memorial plaque be placed on the adjoining wall. Also that each bench would include a character drawing from Banjo's work.

Woollahra Council's technical services department has confirmed that the scheme is practical. Further news should be available at the Association's annual meeting (*see below*).

25 Years in Queen Street

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association invites all local residents to help celebrate its Silver Jubilee at the

**ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 27th
at 7pm**

at Fred Pazotti Pty Ltd
64 Moncur Street, Woollahra

A talk on the recent history of Queen Street and the Association will be followed by a discussion on the problems of the area.

Complimentary Wine and Savouries

NOTE: Although the meeting is open to all local residents, only financial members of the Association may take part in the formal business. Members may enrol or renew their membership at the meeting.



Our Speaker

In 1972, ROBIN BRAMPTON helped to found the Association by writing its constitution. He has been associated with its work ever since as President, Vice President, Secretary or Administrator. For 25 years, he has also edited its newsletter, Village Voice. Robin will talk about the challenges, triumphs, disappointments and humour of life in our lovely neighbourhood.

Village Voice

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

About ourselves

ALTHOUGH you may be reading *Village Voice* for the first time, we are not a new publication. *Village Voice* started life in 1972 as the newsletter of the newly formed Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

From this issue, it is being expanded in size and reach to serve not only West Woollahra but the whole of Paddington. The two areas have much in common. Most especially, their residents are strongly interested in heritage issues and cultural activities including travel, and wining and dining.

With a total circulation of more than 4,500 copies, *Village Voice* will be letterboxed to every home in its circulation area. In addition to being the official journal of the Queen Street Association, it now has the support of the Paddington Society in covering its interests and activities.

As ever, *Village Voice* will be alive to any threat to the local environment, particularly to buildings of heritage or historical value; and any proposal, private or public, which threatens the amenity of any part of the neighbourhood.

In the past, Paddington has had several delightful, but unfortunately short lived, publications, such as *The Paddington Paper* and *Terrace Times*, which reflected the individuality of the area. We hope to revive this tradition but perhaps be more enduring.

Our decision to expand *Village Voice* has been greeted with enthusiasm, and we would particularly like to thank the many advertisers who are supporting us. We believe advertising should be created and planned to be lively and noticeable. It should complement the editorial content to produce an attractive publication, without any loss of editorial independence or integrity.

We also hope to involve our readers. Please write if you have any comment on local issues which you would like published. However, as *Village Voice* is a quarterly, we would prefer comments on continuing rather than immediate issues. And as space is precious, no longer than 200 words, please

Robin Brampton, Publisher

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ADVERTISING RATES

	One Issue	Next two issues (per issue)
Full page	\$850	\$800
Half page	\$450	\$420
Third of page	\$350	\$310
Quarter page	\$255	\$240
Eighth page	\$160	\$150
Trade card	—	\$110
Insert	\$450	—

Refurbishment

THIS is the report of the President, Mr Graham Freudenberg, AM, to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd on Tuesday, May 27th.

IT is a special privilege to present the President's Report on the occasion of the Association's 25th anniversary.

Most appropriately, our 25th year will be marked by the implementation of the first stage of the Association's Queen Street Refurbishment Project.

The Association's representations to Woollahra Council for our overall plan for Queen Street extend over more than a decade, beginning with our ambitious Queen Street 2000 proposals.

The present scheme received a major impetus in 1995 when the Association and the Council jointly sponsored a design from Stevens Wallman Associates. The author, Diane Stevens, a distinguished landscape architect, lives and works locally in Jersey Road.

Ms Steven's design was exhibited publicly at the Westpac branch during March and April and at the premises of I. and B. Perryman in May, 1996. We are grateful to the many residents and business people who submitted thoughtful and constructive comments.

Working party

In October last year, Council agreed to set up a small working party to implement the scheme, with representatives of both the Council and the Association.

A meeting of the Council's Urban Planning Committee on December 9th, 1996, was addressed by the Association's representative, Mr Robin Brampton. He was strongly supported by Councillor David Leach (Cooper Ward).

This meeting agreed to recommend to Council an allocation of \$700,000 over four years, with an immediate expenditure of \$50,000 for paving of the "Village" section between Moncur and Spicer Streets.

Coinciding with the Association's 25th anniversary, we plan to incorporate our long-standing proposal for a memorial to A.B. "Banjo" Patterson within the first section of the refurbishment. (See page 1)

In achieving what should be at least a partial realisation of a longheld vision, I particularly thank Robin Brampton for his unflagging enthusiasm, sustained against years of disappointments and sometimes indifference; and David Leach, our staunchest advocate on the Council.

PRESIDENT'S

Conservation

A REAL estate advertisement last September invited potential buyers to renovate or demolish the unique weatherboard residence at 18 John Street.

This prompted the Association to raise with Woollahra Council our concerns over the deterioration of significant non-registered buildings in the area, for example 115 Queen Street, former home of Dame Joan Sutherland.

The Association is also concerned that a trend towards denser local development is leading to departures from the planning principles established by the Woollahra Local Environment Plan, gazetted in 1985.

The Association had to fight hard to establish this plan which is designed to preserve the character of the area and prevent out-of-scale and unsightly developments.

Among other things, it established a conservation zoning over the whole area and set 9.5m, roughly speaking three stories, as the upper height limit for new development.

Unfortunately in a recent controversial case, we were not able to consider the proposal before the development application was approved.

We therefore ask members to contact us immediately if they know of any proposed development which is contrary to the best interests of the area.

Overhead cabling

THE Association strongly supported Woollahra Council objections to Optus overhead television cables in the Municipality.

While acknowledging that undergrounding may involve financial cost, the Association put the view that cable operators had special obligations in regard to declared conservation areas such as West Woollahra and Paddington.

We have also put this view to Optus management, emphasizing that West Woollahra is a conservation area.

Jersey Road

IN 1994, the Association successfully supported the residents' petition against the rezoning of the west side of Jersey Road to include it in Paddington.

However, we were notified in June last year that the Geographical Names Board had reversed its decision and had decided that the boundary separating Paddington and Woollahra should follow the centre line of Jersey Road.

starts at last

REPORT

I protested to the Minister for Land, Mr Yeadon, on behalf of the Association and residents. The Minister replied that the new determination was "supported by the Council, historical societies and the wider community".

I am very disappointed at the failure of our efforts in this matter.

Night at the Ritz

OUR end-of-year function for 1996 took the form of a highly successful dinner at the dining room of the Ritz Hotel (formerly the Light Brigade).

Thanks to the generosity of local business and other donors, the traditional auction raised \$2,000 for our general funds.

I thank especially Dorothy Brampton and Heather Smith for their assistance in the arrangements for this excellent function.

Finance and Membership

AT the beginning of 1997, the Association had 218 members – 110 ordinary members, 102 life members and 6 honorary members.

Our accounts show that after several years of losses, the Association made a small surplus in 1996.

The main reason was that we did not incur some expenditures of previous years including fees for consultancy, administration and donations.

My hope is that the fiscal discipline of the past will enable us to renew our civic generosity.

Advertising revenue for

Village Voice was up but membership subscription revenue was down. In both cases, this was partly due to the way the figures were brought into account.

At the end of 1996, the Association's assets were \$9925. However, this included \$2054 in the special account earmarked for a memorial to Banjo Patterson. This will be expended in 1997.

Our total assets are quite modest, considering that an Association such as ours always has to have money ready to fight any unexpected threats to the amenity of the area.

Directors

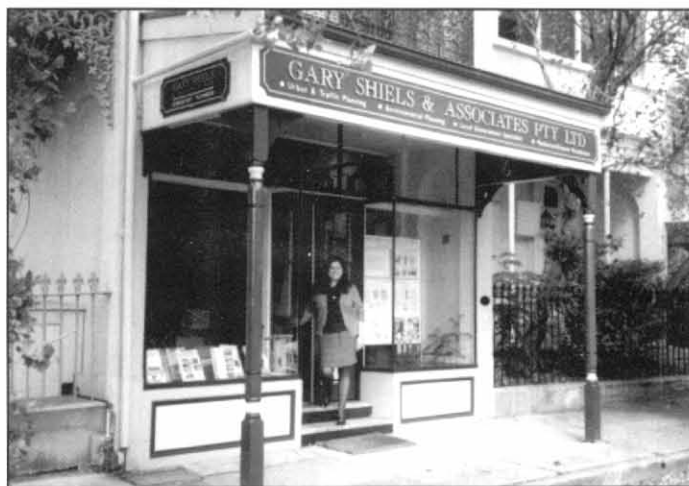
I WOULD like to thank two colleagues who retired during the year, Warwick Mayne-Wilson and Trish Langford.

In addition to being the Association's Vice-President, Warwick was the local community representative on the Centennial Park and Moore Park Community Consultative Committee which he chaired. Unfortunately through pressure of work, he has had to relinquish both roles.

A social worker, Trish Langford was very much the Association's social conscience and it was through her influence that we started finding ways of helping local community organisations.

Also, I understand that long-standing director, Mary Read, will not be seeking re-election as she is devoting more time to study. Proprietor of a successful Queen Street boutique, Mary had also devoted a great deal of time to fostering the interests of Queen Street traders.

My gratitude to these personalities extends also to all the



Gem of heritage restoration

IT TOOK two years of dedicated effort for planning consultant Gary Shiels to gain approval, and then construct, a new Victorian-style timber awning for his premises at 53 Jersey Road, Woollahra.

Finished in heritage red and green, the awning is a visual delight and a characteristic contribution to the Jersey Road streetscape.

Gary's aim was to assert the cultural significance of the premises, originally built in 1880 as a home. Soon after, it became a general store and more recently was the office of Goodhope Realty.

While the original shop undoubtedly had a solid awning, this had long disappeared when Gary and his wife bought the premises, and there was only a "pull out" canvas awning.

With no picture of the original awning to guide him, Gary based

the design on pictures of other shops of the period.

However, it is no longer allowable for a shop awning to be supported, as originally, with steel struts reaching diagonally down from the building to the front of the awning.

As a result, the new awning is cantilevered with large angle beams penetrating the building and bolted to the internal walls. This caused considerable internal disruption; and new ceilings and extensive timber work were needed to restore the building's internal appearance.

The awning is made of Western Red Cedar and Oregon over a metal frame. As no ready made timber posts were available, the posts had to be separately designed, then individually hand turned.

Gary was so pleased with the awning that he gave it a champagne launching late last year.

Directors who have given time to the Association through the year.

I hope other people of equal calibre can be found to help us with the tasks ahead.

Village Voice

THE Association's newsletter *Village Voice* remains the most important, successful and sustained effort of our first quarter century. The Editor, Robin Brampton, plans to expand its coverage to include Paddington with which West Woollahra shares so much in common.

The 63 numbers of *Village Voice* so far comprise a priceless record of the life and times of this very special part of Sydney over the past 25 years.

Even for a district as old as ours, a quarter century is a long span in the life of a Sydney suburb, especially in the light of the immense changes and pressures affecting the whole city.

In the increasingly difficult and complex task of preserving the character and enhancing the amenity of the area, I believe the Association has played a valuable role and will continue to do so.



The first footpath area of Queen Street, Woollahra, to be refurbished will be between Moncur Street and Spicer Street. Councillor David Leach, local member for the Cooper Ward (left), is seen discussing the plans with Queen Street President, Graham Freudenberg.

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, NSW. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, PO Woollahra, NSW 2025.

Patron: Neville Wran.

President: Graham Freudenberg.

Vice-President: Vacant.

Treasurer: Tim McCormick.

Secretary: Nick Eddy.

Membership Secretary: Mary Read.

Committee: Gail Booth, Colin Brady, Robin Brampton, Mary Read, Heather Smith.

Editor of *Village Voice*: Robin Brampton.

Welcome mat out in Tasmania

If you spend some time in Tasmania, as I have in recent months, you quickly learn not to say you come from the mainland.

To the sensitive Tasmanian, it's the "Northern Island". But if that sticks in your throat you can get away with saying you are from "the other part of Australia".

Such niceties aside, the local travel industry is putting out a bigger welcome mat than ever. Keen that prospective visitors should not be put off by the Port Arthur tragedy, they are providing some very special values.

Mrs Wanderer and I had a lovely experience in the Apple Isle recently, staying at Prospect House, a classic Georgian mansion at Richmond, built by convict labour in the early 1830's.

A pleasant half hour's drive from Hobart (even nearer to the airport), Richmond boasts a graceful stone bridge, the oldest in Australia, and the nation's oldest Roman Catholic church.

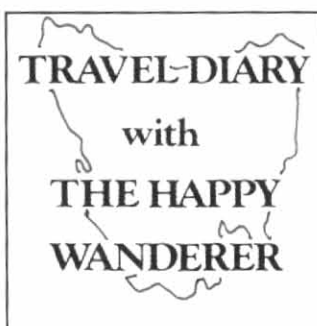
Other worthwhile attractions include a miniature township and maze, toy museum and historical jail.

At Prospect House, the mellow Victorian furnishings of the candle-lit dining room create a romantic atmosphere which I am assured has inspired several marriage proposals.

The menu is strong both on local produce and originality. After the parcels of fresh vegetables in filo pastry and the spectacular rosettes of Atlantic salmon poached in white wine with king prawns and salmon caviar, I hope you have room for the "famous" tart of Tasmanian blueberries.

The extensive wine list has a special Tasmanian selection. We especially enjoyed a flavoursome Moorilla Riesling from the nearby Derwent Valley.

If you stay at Prospect House, don't fail to make the acquaintance of its handsome pair of peacocks with their family of chicks. The proud lovers are called Andrew Peacock and, you guessed it, Shirley.



Other recommended Hobart experiences:

The surprisingly inexpensive three-course Harbour Lunch in the gently revolving restaurant atop the West Point Hotel. Wines by the glass and superb views of the Derwent Estuary. High quality food and expert advice. Please yourself whether to have a flutter at the ground floor casino on the way out. (Ph 6225 0112).

A visit to the Cadbury Schweppes chocolate factory at Claremont. Goodies included in the admission price. Booking essential. Weekdays only, and not public holidays or during factory shut-down. (Ph 6249 0333). You can combine this with a river cruise. (Ph 6234 4032).

A visit to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in Macquarie Street which holds first rate exhibitions. On our recent visit, an extensive Tom Roberts retrospective was opening in Tasmania before moving to the National Gallery of Victoria. (Ph 6229 5150).

Tour of Cascade, Australia's oldest brewery, on the slopes of Mount Wellington. Not for the weak or disabled as there are flights of stairs. Booking essential. Get in early as tours are sometimes booked out. (Ph 6224 1144).

Sunday cruise on the Derwent River with lunch and a glass of premium wine at the pioneering Moorilla Estate winery, established in 1958 by the noted musician, Claudio Alcorso. (Ph 6234 9294).

And for a quiet moment, it's worth dropping in to the superb St David's Cathedral in the city

centre. Dating from 1868, it makes interesting use of local timbers. A corner is set aside to remember and pray for the victims of Port Arthur.

Further details: Tasmanian Travel Centre, 149 King Street, Sydney 2000. Ph 9202 2022. Or your travel agent.

There's no business like...

COMPARATIVE newcomers to the travel industry, but not to overseas travelling which they both love, Diana Dean and James Anderson are the principals behind the National World Travel office which has just opened in West Street, Paddington.

Before they switched to travel in 1994, Diana was in the glamorous world of showbusiness with a company providing sets and other services, while James was a civil engineer.

Diana still has many entertainment clients. For instance, National World Travel is undertaking the complex travel arrangements for large television crews, both Australian and from overseas, shooting television commercials in offbeat places around the nation.

Diana and James also operate the National World Travel agency in Chifley Plaza, but have branched out locally to make it easier for Paddington residents and businesses to use their services.

Although they have a strong corporate business, there is plenty to offer the individual traveller, the kind Diana defines as "somebody who wants something a little out of the ordinary".

It takes all sorts...

URSULA King's excellent *Travel Grapevine* newsletter assures us that passengers on Celebrity Cruises of the USA have actually asked these questions:

"Does the elevator go to the front of the ship?"

"Does the ship generate its own electricity?"

"Do the crew sleep on board?"

"Is there water all round the island?"

"What time is the midnight buffet?"

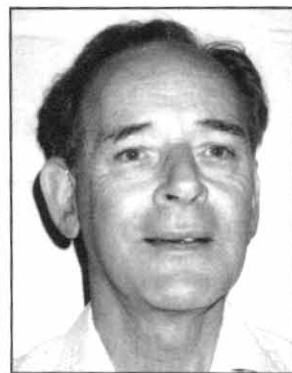
"How will we know which photos are ours?"

Setting a Cracking Pace

BUSINESS for Kathy Waugh and her partner, Joanne Tait, literally started with a bang when they opened their Blue Skies travel agency in Jersey Road in February.

The window of the premises, with its frontage tastefully decorated in two shades of blue, was cracked a few days later by blast from the Tara Street explosion

Travel Personality



Andrew Coroneo
Manager of Woollahra Travel, Edgecliff Road.

Formerly a retail pharmacist.

Favourite overseas destination: Istanbul for its architecture, history and culture. Wonderful mixture of Christian and Moslem tradition. Rewards a longer stay. Make sure you visit the Grand Bazaar.

Favourite local destination: Tasmania. Absolutely fascinating for its natural beauty and people. Easy to get around. Comfortable even in peak season.

Favourite carrier: South West Airlines of Texas for value, number of US destinations served and remarkable policies. (No meals, but you do get a pack of peanuts!)

Travel tips: Try to travel light. Always check your travel documents and reconfirm with your travel agent.

What do you always pack?: The Lonely Planet guide to my destination. Published in Australia. Good summary of information and easy to carry.

and had to be quickly replaced.

Kathy describes the essence of her business as meeting people's special individual needs "to create that magical holiday experience".

The agency's strong point is inexpensive holidays in the United States, particularly to the Rocky Mountains and Yellowstone Park, where she has often been with husband, Alec.

Kathy and Joanne have access to scads of tourist information on the Internet. With the help of Alec, something of a computer whizz, they plan soon for Blue Skies to have its own Internet home page.

The Happy Wanderer makes most of his travel arrangements through Ursula King Travel, Jersey Road, Woollahra Ph: 9362 4622

National World Travel

Tasmania Special Winter Offer!

The perfect base to explore Tasmania's south. 3 nights at Prospect House at historic Richmond plus 3 days car hire including return airfares flying Qantas.

Only \$467 per person twin share

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Serving the Paddington & Woollahra Area



ANSETT AUSTRALIA HOLIDAYS

Ursula King Travel and Ansett Australia Would like to send you on holiday!

It's time to get away and shout yourself a holiday! And who better than Ursula King Travel – Award Winning Travel Agency in Woollahra – and Ansett Australia – The Airline of the Year – to make all the arrangements for you. All you have to do is take the plunge and give us a call. Here's a list of suggested destinations and prices to get you tempted:

GOLD COAST From \$349 for 5 fantastic nights.

SUNSHINE COAST From \$389 for 5 sun drenched days and nights.

NORFOLK ISLAND From \$789 for 5 relaxing nights.

COFFS HARBOUR From \$289 for 3 nights quick getaway refresher.

HOBART From \$339 for 2 nights – great idea for a weekend.

PERTH From \$669 for 3 nights – perhaps catch up with friends.

ADELAIDE From \$399 for 2 nights – just enough time to visit the Barossa.

MELBOURNE From \$289 for 2 nights and days of fantastic shopping.

BALI From \$979 for 5 nights of fun, sun and relaxation.

HONG KONG From \$1359 for 4 nights to see the sights and shop 'til you drop.

The team at Ursula King Travel pride themselves on Service, Customer Satisfaction and offering the Best Value for Money.



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Prices are per person, twin share and based on two adults travelling. Prices are subject to change without notice and certain restrictions apply. Taxes not included. Additional rates available upon application.

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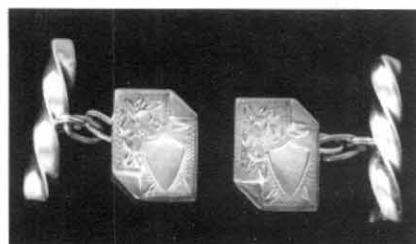
THE RING OF ROMANCE

SPECIAL JUNE EVENT



Elaborately designed betrothal ring in 18ct gold, hallmarked, made in Dublin in 1892.

In 1870, an 18 year old bride laboriously hand stitched this wedding dress on her voyage from England to marry in Australia. Tragically, she died in childbirth less than a year later.



For the bridegroom... pair of Australian-made gold cufflinks with unusual turned-over corners, circa 1900.

Since ancient Roman times, lovers have exchanged tokens to symbolise their devotion and seal their marriage vows. Throughout June, Marian's Collection presents an exquisite display of classically beautiful rings and jewellery associated with romance and betrothal from two centuries. The exhibition also includes beautifully historic wedding gowns, treasured by Sydney families for generations, and quirky bits of wedding jewellery, male and female. If you have a romantic heart - or a strong bump of social curiosity - you must come and see it!

Marian's Collection

Woollahra Antique Centre
160 Oxford Street, Woollahra

Tel: (02) 9363 1928

Open 7 days 10am - 6pm



Just me and my radio!

SEVEN years ago, the enterprising little Lookout theatre over the Woollahra Hotel in Queen Street was launched with the Strindberg play, "The Stronger", starring Jacqy Phillips.

The distinguished actress is back this month with what sounds a fascinating German one-hander, "Request Concert", in which there is no dialogue, only action. (Easy to translate!)

The plot concerns a woman listening to request music on the radio when something happens to break the ritual of the evening. Producer Diana Denley says the play is so popular it has been running somewhere in Germany since it was first performed in 1972.

"Request Concert" is currently playing at The Lookout, continuing until June 15.

Historic cottages doomed as Council backs down

TO the disappointment of the Paddington Society, Woollahra Council has decided not to oppose an appeal for the demolition of two historic timber cottages dating back to the 1850s.

The Council originally refused a demolition application for the adjoining artisans' cottages at 490 and 492 Glenmore Road, near New South Head Road.

However, Council has now decided not to defend an appeal to the Land and Environment Court which inevitably will be successful.

Paddington Society President, Penny Carle, said Council believed the money the appeal would cost would be better spent defending Paddington's 55 remaining historic timber homes.

Also, Council had been advised by noted conservation architect, Clive Lucas, that very little of the original fabric of the cottages was left.

Penny still believes the cottages are of heritage importance, pointing out that larger historic buildings were often preserved while smaller buildings were forgotten.

"One of the shortcomings of heritage and conservation is that buildings often are looked at for architectural value rather than

their importance on social history," she said.

"We believe in the preservation of Paddington as an intact entity, rather than a collection of buildings to be measured individually on the heritage scale."

In its letter to the Council in January opposing the demolition, the Paddington Society said the cottages were part of Paddington's colonial history.

They were the sole survivors of a flourishing commercial and domestic precinct serving the Glenmore Gin Distillery and the houses of the Rushcutter Valley gentry.

While withdrawing its opposition to the demolition, Woollahra Council will impose a number of conditions, most of which are acceptable to the applicants, Michael Hesse & Associates.

These include:

- Provision to the Council of a complete architectural and photographic record of the building before it is demolished.

- Demolition not to be carried out until building approval is obtained for a new development and construction is ready to proceed.

- A qualified archaeologist to be present on the site when the ground is disturbed to inspect for relics.

Homemaker Village in Ocean Street Woollahra

THINKING of improving the look of your home this autumn? Then take a stroll down the fascinating little area of Ocean Street, Woollahra, between Forth Street and Queen Street.

Suddenly it is more alive than ever with stores for the discriminating home lover. All have appeared, sometimes as offshoots of shops in other areas, because of the strong interest in home decoration among the good folk of Woollahra and Paddington.

The seven homemaker stores include several recent arrivals. All offer something distinctive, with the accent on quality. And of course, all provide great service.

Thank you, mothers both!

"WE both have clever mothers," is the unexpected reason Meg Kimpton gives for the success of the engagingly colourful PIGOTT'S STORE for home accessories which opened in Ocean Street in September.

Meg is from Manhattan and met her Australian husband while working for Westpac Bank in New York. Her partner, Nan Sefton, formerly was a Qantas flight attendant.

Both have a passion for craft work which is why most of the stock at Pigott's is entirely original. Their aim is to be both decorative and affordable.

With the opening of Pigott's, which has become a colourful landmark at the corner of Forth Street, the partners have closed a second store at Mosman which Nan started before the partnership began.



Once a corner supermarket, the shop at the corner of Ocean Street and Forth Street has been dazzling transformed to a store selling handpainted woodware and other original gift items.

During the day, one or other usually can be found busy with the paintbrushes in the workroom at the rear of the shop. "Our skills are interchangeable," they tell you.

From their deft hands emerge appealingly decorated breakfast trays, silk cushions, bedside tables, bookcase units, wastepaper bins and noble obelisk-shaped shelves which are in the shop for sale and display.

All items are designed as well as painted by the partners. The girls also ensure that products they sell from other sources are unique, travelling often overseas in search of curiosities.

Unusual ceramics, for instance, from Christine Viennet of France – plates decorated with porcelain vegetables so realistic, you feel like calling for knife and fork.

Then there are slippers from Istanbul, made from old Kelim carpet. And smart cufflinks with precise cartoon animals and other designs, made by an Australian artist. (Yes, cufflinks are making a comeback!)

Says Meg: "If a small business is to survive, it must offer something new, something original, something the customer cannot buy elsewhere."

Never satisfied – that's Setty

THERE'S a fascinating migrant success story behind the tiny showroom of MAISON PAUL, recently opened at 46a Ocean Street to display the superb original furniture of Setty Bordin.

A furniture craftsman all his life, 59-year-old Setty brought his talents to Australia from Italy in 1970 and eventually took over the company for which he worked.

Now, with a small team of four, he creates exclusive furniture only to order from a Lansvale workshop. And it is Setty who does all the design work as well as the more intricate cabinet making.

Among his exquisite pieces are china cabinets for family treasures with elaborate coloured inlays. And he also offers some unusual occasional furniture.

Although his skills are traditionally European, Setty loves to work with Australian timbers, particularly Queensland maple.

Maison Paul opened in Ocean Street because so many customers live in the West Woollahra and Paddington area. But the showroom is only open at weekends or by appointment.

Manager Christine Harvey has a not unexpected admiration for Setty's creations, describing him as a "true craftsman who loves his work". But Setty himself is never completely satisfied, saying: "I always feel I could do better".

Looking around the showroom, you would wonder how!

CASTONE

Antique stone plus

THE wonderful perfume of lavender greets you as you step into the transformed old general food store, the oldest shop in Queen Street, on the corner of Ocean Street. The old stone building has now become the home of Castone, a unique Australian-made composite stone product with the personality of antique architectural stone.

A full range of flagstones, steps, pool copings and stone furniture is available.

Centrepiece of the showroom is a stunning rectangular table inset with hand-made ceramic tiles. Round tables with handforced iron bases, in various sizes, are also on display.

Although Castone is the main feature, many other treasures tempt the buyer, from Spanish rush wood basket to hand-made lavender soap from the Hunter Valley.

Continued next page

DO YOU BELONG?



If you are reading this and you are not a member of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, here are a few good reasons to join:

- The Association provides an effective voice to influence the decisions of public authorities, including Woollahra Council, on matters that affect the people of the area. These include planning and development; beautification of streets and open spaces; and the prevention of pollution and disfigurement.
- The Association keeps the people of the area informed of issues affecting them through its annual meeting and forum, open to all residents, and its lively publication, VILLAGE VOICE.
- The Association aims to promote the highly individual business community of Queen Street and supports other local community groups.
- Together with Woollahra Council, the Association developed a plan for streetscape improvements in Queen Street which forms the basis for work due to start in 1997.
- The Association takes a strong interest in the history and heritage of the area, such as its encouragement of the memorial to Dorothea Mackellar in Chiswick Gardens and its scheme to dedicate the first stage of the Queen Street streetscape improvements as Banjo Paterson Walk, with lively memorials to our great national poet who lived in Queen Street early in the century.
- The Association can be fun! We have at least one dinner a year to bring the people of the area convivially together.

HOW TO BELONG

Just complete the form below and tuck it in an envelope with your cheque (or you may pay by credit card) addressed to Freepost 40, The Secretary, Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd, PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025. (No stamp needed.)

Please enrol me as a new member ☐

Renew my membership ☐



Tick appropriate circles

I BELONG!

In the following category Individual, \$18 ☐ Pensioner, \$10 ☐ Family, \$25 ☐ Corporate, \$50 ☐ Life, \$150 ☐

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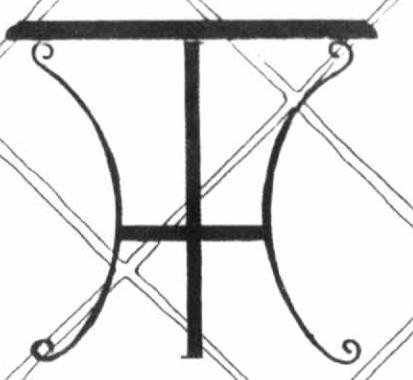
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Are you prepared to help in some capacity?

If so indicate what _____

If you are a new member and would like a copy of the Association's book, QUEEN STREET AND DISTRICT, A HISTORY AND GUIDE, please tick ☐

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Ph: 9969 7846

HOMEMAKER VILLAGE IN OCEAN STREET, WOOLLAHRA



Home thoughts from abroad

IT gladdens the heart of antiques dealer Robert Manning to see the increased interest in antique furniture and decorative arts as Australians travel ever more overseas and read lifestyle magazines.

"The main problem is to find stock," he said. "So I travel overseas five times a year, mainly to France, Italy, Spain and England."

And currently France is proving a particularly happy hunting ground for European antiques.

An antiques dealer for 26 years, Robert moved from Melbourne to Sydney in 1980 and opened a shop in Mosman under the name of MANNING & MANNING (the other Manning is his wife, Ann).

Now, because half his customers are from the West Woollahra and Paddington area, he has decided to save them the trip across the Harbour and this year opened a second outlet at 40 Ocean Street.

Formerly a real estate agency, the showroom is surprisingly roomy, enabling some spectacularly ornate pieces to be displayed, along with elaborate chandeliers.

The shop is managed by Lynda Kerry, a friendly Californian interior designer who has done a lot of interior design work around Los Angeles and even in Mexico.

Partly because of Lynda's expertise, Manning & Manning also offers an interior design service. It also sells a range of high quality replica dining room and other furniture made in a Mosman workshop, principally from imported timbers.

Before moving into Ocean Street, Robert says he was continually asked why he didn't have a shop in the area. Since making the move, the response has been "magnificent".

Fabrics a long time purchase

"YOU can't afford to make a mistake in choosing furnishing fabric. You're going to be looking at it for a long time!"

That's the advice of Lee Ipkendanz, manager of the showroom of REDELMAN FABRICS AND WALLCOVERINGS at 37 Ocean Street. It is for this reason that Lee finds the taste of people in the Woollahra-Paddington area tends to be conservative. But they also love quality.

The Redelman company is something of an institution in the Sydney home furnishing world, established 51 years ago by the father of the present owner, Shya Redelman.

Its headquarters are at Rosebery and there is another showroom at St Leonards. From its enormous stock and contacts, the company can offer a staggering choice of 10,000 different fabrics for windows, wallcoverings and upholstery.

Most of the fabrics are imported from the United States, France and Italy, with only a small selection from local sources.

And it is an indication of Redelman's importance that it is the largest dealer in the Southern Hemisphere for the famous American fabrics of Robert Allen.

With its hundreds of pattern books ranged neatly along the walls, the large showroom in Ocean Street offers plenty of opportunity for leisurely selection.

But Lee emphasises that Redelman is not a retailer. It sells only to recognised interior designers. Their clients are welcome at the showrooms to make a choice, but they cannot buy direct.

LEFT: Meg Kimpton (with paintbrush) and Nan Sefton at work creating original handpainted furniture and giftware for their Pigott's Store.

ABOVE: Setty Bordin, the Italian-born furniture craftsman who says he is never completely satisfied with his creations.

Tiny shop, great selection

ACROSS Ocean Street from Redelman at number 44, the bijou BLIND AND DRAPE STORE of Leona Szeto and Stephen Bonnichia is of a different type.

Blind and Drape also can offer a huge range of window and wall covering fabrics - "everything available on the market", claims Leona - but this includes a strong selection of locally manufactured fabrics.

The partners also offer an expert making up service, handled by Stephen from a separate workroom, so direct customers are encouraged.

In operation for 25 years, the business came to Ocean Street five years ago, taking over the shop of interior decorator Cornelius Horgan, now in partnership with Leslie Walford.

Leona agrees with Lee Ipkendanz that the local taste is conservative. But her personal taste is contemporary.

She and Stephen love to travel overseas to see what is offering, "always looking for things that are new and viable".

It's so cool to be green

PARTICULARLY on a sweltering summer's day, it's a great joy to wander into the PARTERRE GARDEN SHOP at 33 Ocean Street.

A cool oasis of evergreen shrubs and other stunning greenery, the shop leads into a lovely paved garden of classical statuary. Holding court at the end, the figure of the nature god, Pan, holds aloft a flask from which water cascades.

Landscape gardening experts Annie Wilkes and Richard Haigh created the Parterre Garden (literally, a garden of pots) in 1986 at what formerly was a run-down plumber's shop.

The venture has been so successful that they now have a second shop, appropriately Parterre Encore, at Mosman, another great area for the home gardener.

Parterre Garden aims to carry a comprehensive range of garden furniture, ornamentation, statuary and garden antiques. Most is from Europe and the United States, especially France and Italy.

You can, for instance, buy enormous ceramic pots with classical decoration for the courtyard; fascinating lions' heads and figurative panels for the garden wall; and cute nesting boxes for your feathered friends.

Advanced shrubs are offered in pots or tubs, usually evergreens although Parterre Garden also offers some deciduous varieties and smaller potted plants such as mondo grass.

Manager, Lynn Hovey, who has been with Parterre Garden since its opening is a great gardening enthusiast and loves to help customers with their choices.

And in addition to the retail side of the two businesses, Annie Wilkes and Richard Haigh offer a full garden design, landscaping and maintenance service.

This is so expert that they have clients throughout Australia and even as far as Hong Kong.



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Lunch Monday to Friday

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LOCAL TABLES

A special touch returns

PRUNIER'S RESTAURANT

Chiswick Gardens
65 Ocean Street, Woollahra
Telephone: 9363 1974
Dinner Monday-Saturday;
lunch Monday-Friday.

IS there anywhere a more gregarious and likeable restaurateur than the veteran Aldo Zuzza who came out of retirement in October to breathe new life into Prunier's?

Dating back to 1947 and named after a famous Parisian restaurant, Prunier's has suffered lately from a lack of an owner with quite the flair of its founder, the late Tony Gemenis.

Not any more!

It was my wife's birthday when we dined as a foursome, noting that the adjoining table was dominated by Bart Cummings, no doubt still celebrating his 1996 Melbourne Cup win.

Although he has an efficient staff, Aldo makes a point of taking your order personally, accompanying the task with warm personal greetings and sensitive guidance.

The menu is Northern Italian with various cosmopolitan touches. And traditionalists will be pleased to note that Prunier's Steak Diane ("the original") is still on the menu at \$25.50.

The birthday girl made an enterprising start with a nice solid minestrone from the day's specials (\$10.50). Not over spiced, she noted approvingly.

"Hay and Straw"

Our friend Sabina's entree was a well presented sashimi of tuna, kingfish and salmon with ginger and wasaby (\$14.50). Her other half, Kel, he of the hearty Scandinavian appetite, started with a light gnocchi (\$12.50). ("Potato gnocchi", says the menu tautologically.)

I opened with a generous serving of fresh asparagus (\$12.50) in a parmesan cheese butter so delicious I called for a roll to mop up every drop.

This I followed, as did Sabina, with the day's pasta special, the Paglia e Fieno (literally "hay and straw"), a light tagliatelle with firm slices of mushroom, truly al dente.

Kel's ox tongue (\$24.50), also a special, came in a rich wine sauce with a separate plate of creamy potatoes and spinach. Noting my envy, he directed a slice over to me and ordered me a plate of that delicious mash.

After the hearty minestrone, my ever loving decided in lieu of a main course to have the entree mussels (\$14.50), served with fresh tomato, garlic and cream. She pronounced them delicate and delicious. As a birthday indul-

gence, she also nibbled her way through a dish of french fries.

Prunier's was not interested in letting us order dessert. Instead, out came a lovely light liqueur cake topped with my wife's name in icing. Somebody must be doing a roaring trade. After ours, two others appeared for neighbouring tables.

Maintaining another great Prunier's tradition, the wine list makes fascinating reading. If you are celebrating winning the lottery (or the Melbourne Cup!), you would probably think nothing of ordering a bottle of the Louis Roederer Cristal Champagne 1989 (\$270); then be spoiled for choice between the Chateau Ausone St Emilion (\$600) and the Penfolds Grange Hermitage 1971 (\$555).

Own Vineyard

We impoverished mortals ordered glasses of an unnamed Australian sparkling (\$8.50); an excellent bottle of Bridgewater Mill Sauvignon Blanc made by Brian Croser (\$27.50); and a quite acceptable Merlot Cabernet Franc 1994 from Aldo's own Adina vineyard in the Hunter Valley (\$26.50).

With the birthday cake, we reluctantly decided against ordering a bottle of the Chateau d'Yquem 1982 at \$650 but still went to France for the Vin de Paille Henri Maire at a less heart-stopping \$7 a glass.

The total bill for four, bearing in mind that three of us had a second entree instead of main course, was in the region of \$260. Probably about right considering the high standard of food and service.

Aldo's innate love of food and people pervades Prunier's, making dining there a real pleasure. My compliments also to his veteran chef, Enzo Cesta, who has such a light touch with traditional favourites.

R.B.

HELP!

The Publisher of *Village Voice* needs a few hours a week of soundly paid assistance from someone with initiative and an interest in the area. Duties include typing, banking, simple financial record keeping and liaison with advertisers and others. Also to hold a watching brief on the office when he is overseas. Some media experience is desirable but not essential. Hours by mutual agreement. Might interest someone semi-retired, or with strong family carer commitments.

Ring Robin Brampton on
9362 0713 or write to me at
PO Box 75, Woollahra,
NSW 2025.

Out of the box

AS the very first customer on the day Jones the Grocer opened in Moncur Street in December, I am pleased to report that partners Lindsay Jones-Evans and Rachel Peart are smiling about the reaction.

It was obviously a huge gamble to invest several hundred thousand dollars in creating a one-stop sophisticated food store somewhat off the main drag of Queen Street.

But the response, particularly from the locals, has been encouraging, seduced as we are by the enticing smells from the coffee bar which has become something of a popular morning rendezvous.

In fine tuning its merchandise, Jones the Grocer is now offering something not easily obtained elsewhere locally - organic fruit and vegetables, as certified by one of the three responsible bodies.

It also offers a hot food takeaway lunch and dinner service with the food presented in a stainless steel food box, so much better to retain the heat and less messy than paper or cardboard.

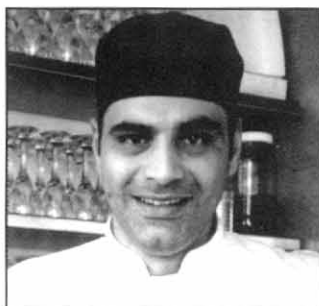
Jones the Grocer is now open from 8am for a light continental breakfast, and I understand there are plans to apply for Sunday opening.

Going Greek - again

I'M assured that "Peraste!", which loosely translates as "Come through; good to see you!", is the greeting heard at many Ouzeri, the form of Greek taverna dining where a group orders traditional dishes to share.

Australians have always enjoyed doing this at Chinese restaurants, and more recently at Spanish tapas houses.

And the gregarious tradition is part of the runaway success of



ARTHUR HATZIS . . . "Come through, good to see you."

Nostimo, the light and bright Greek restaurant opened last year in Queen Street by Arthur and Marianne Hatzis.

Primarily a dawn-to-dusk establishment, Nostimo now opens late on Friday for a taverna evening when the smaller individual dishes are supplemented by a more ambitious chef's dish of the night.

We've enjoyed the experience twice, the second time sharing with a noted Queen Street small businesswoman and her partner.

From the menu headed "Peraste", we started with dishes of Kalamanta olives (marinated in lemon, garlic and herbs) and a lovely gooey Taramasalata (fish roe and lemon).

Then we all plumped for the dish of the night, Arni Kokinisto, a delicious rich lamb casserole cooked in wine. Our communal dessert was the traditional baklava, a rich honey cake.

Nostimo is unlicensed. So you must take your own wine or, if you are more traditional, ouzo to drink with both food and coffee.

Our bill for four, including corkage, was just over \$111, great value for an evening of such good food and bonhomie.

(Nostimo, 111 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph: 9362 4277. Reservations only for Friday evening.)

R.B.

Happy is the bride . . .



. . . who gets a really unusual, possibly unique, wedding gift from Woollahra Antiques Centre. Lovely antique jewellery, perhaps . . . historic porcelain . . . stately Georgian silver. If you are about to have a wedding, it's something you will treasure all your life. Come in and see us to make a few choices. And we will note them in our new bridal registry for the benefit of your loving relatives and friends.

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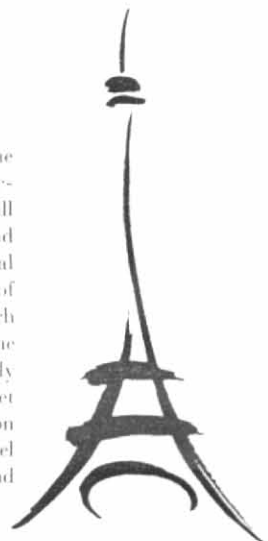
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Vive La Paddington!

Celebrate Bastille Day early at the Paddington Society's mid-winter function. The Au Chabrol Restaurant will already be en fete for Bastille Day and chef Kamsuk is preparing a special French Menu with choices for each of the three courses, plus coffee. French background music and prizes for the most elegantly and/or appropriately dressed madame or monsieur. Ticket price includes champagne cocktails on arrival, then it's BYO. The Royal Hotel opposite stocks some lovely French (and other) wines.



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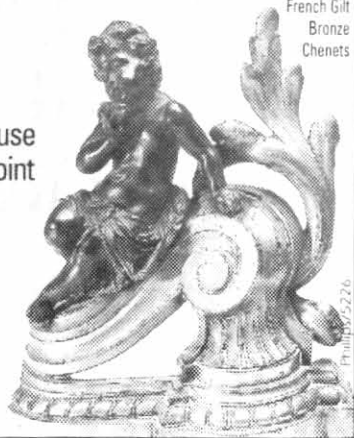
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ART GALLERY DIARY

30 galleries combine in Sydney Art Festival

THIRTY Sydney art galleries, including many in the Paddington - West Woollahra area, are combining in the first Sydney International Art Festival from July 15 to August 16.

Covering 500 years, from sixteenth century Tudor portraits to the most contemporary of modern works, the festival will feature both celebrated international and leading Australian artists.

It is planned to make it an annual event.

"Up until now, there has been no all-encompassing art festival in Australia, let alone Sydney, that brings together commercial galleries to display works under a particular theme," said festival co-ordinator, Josef Lebovic.

Among the Festival highlights:

- An innovative exhibition of works by renowned international artists including Cindy Sherman and Morimura at the Sherman Galleries.

- Works by Walter John Beauvais, described as a modern day Boudin, at the Christopher Day Gallery. Beauvais's inimitable impressionist style has received wide acclaim, and his paintings hang in two royal collections.

- Graphics by abstract expressionists such as Andy Warhol in The American Dream, an exhibition at the Wagner Art Gallery.

Inquiries to Josef Lebovic, Ph 9332 1840, Fax 9331 7431.

* * *

FOLLOWING its successful sale of 20th century design in March, Phillips will use the elegant setting of Lindesay in Darling Point for their next sale on Saturday, July 26.

This will cover 18th and 19th century furniture and decorative arts; and Australian and European paintings.

The offering includes fine Regency, Georgian, Victorian and oriental works of art.

Theme sales later in the year are "The Garden", Rouse Hill House, September 14; 20th Century Design, Justice and Police Museum, Monday, October 13; and Sport in Australia, Melbourne Cricket Club, Monday, November 10.

* * *

Arden Galleries

26 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 5296. Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Currently local artists - landscape, still life and naive.

Barry Stern Gallery

19-21 Glenmore Road, Paddington. 9331 4676. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5.30pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. Currently Henryk Sydlowski. 1-15 June Works on paper.

Charles Hewitt

30 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9327 8185. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. Currently Jeffrey Wright, June 5-25 Claire Leeuwink-Clark.

Christopher Day

Cnr Paddington St and Jersey Rd, Woollahra. Ph 9326 1952. Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm (temporary restricted days).

Currently Winter Collection. From July 16 also Walter Beauvais.

Eddie Glastra Gallery

44 Gurner Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 6477. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Currently stock exhibition. May 30-June 20 Sergio Agostini.

Eva Breuer

83 Moncur Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0297. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. Catalogue Show until July 14.

Hogarth Galleries

7 Walker Lane, Paddington. Ph 9360 6839. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. May 29-June 21 Paintings from Warlayirti artists, Balgont.

Istral Gallery

162a Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0648. Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. Currently "Italian Interlude", Jenny Elion In July Eva Hannah.

Josef Lebovic

34 Paddington Street, Paddington. Ph 9332 1840. Tuesday-Friday 1pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm. Currently 20th anniversary Print Show (1850-1980s). May 30-July 5 Roy Dalgarno drawings "Waterviews", 19th century Australian photography.

Martin Browne

72A Windsor Street, Paddington. Ph 9361 0111. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm.

Queen Street Fine Art

34 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3358. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. Currently Michael Schlieper paintings and drawings. June 4-25 Emerging Artists. July 2-21 James McGrath and Matt Rogers.

Rex Irwin

First Floor, 38 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3212. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5.30pm. Currently Graham Kuo to June 7.

Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery

Soudan Lane (off 27 Hampden Street) Paddington. Ph 9331 1919. Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm; Saturday 11am-6pm. Currently Lindy Lee "Utmost Causation"; Mandy Martin "Recent Work"; June 3 - July 12 Robert Campbell Jnr.

Savill Galleries

156 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Ph 9327 8311. Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm. Currently Arthur Boyd and John Olsen to May 31.

Sherman Galleries

1 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Ph 9360 5566. Tuesday-Friday 11am-6pm. July 15 - August 23 Forme Appliquee: functional objects by Arman, Cesar, Morimura, Segal, Cindy Sherman and Kiki Smith

Sherman Galleries

16-18 Goodhope Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 1112. Tuesday-Friday 11am-6pm. Silent Rhythm Group Exhibition (until June 7); Richard Dunn (June 12 - July 5); Imants Tillers (July 10 - August 2).

Wagner Art Gallery

39 Gurner St, Paddington. Ph 9360 6069. Monday-Saturday 10.30am-6pm. Currently "Verona, Venice, Salisbury and Wells" Graeme Inson.

"Out of scale" Scottish hospital plan dropped

FOLLOWING strenuous opposition in Paddington, a proposal for large scale redevelopment of the Scottish Hospital in Cooper Street appears unlikely to go ahead.

The scheme was proposed by Impact Health Pty Ltd which currently leases the property from the Presbyterian Church.

However, Paddington Society President, Penny Carle, said in May that she had been told officially that the site would now be sold to the church's Aged Care arm.

"If this is true, we would be delighted," she said. "It should ensure that any development would be low key."

Double area

The Paddington Society says the proposed new six-level private hospital building would more than double the hospital's floor area.

It would dwarf the original heritage building and intrude onto areas of high heritage significance.

In a pamphlet circulated last month, the Society said a development of this magnitude could not be accommodated without detriment to the sensitive heritage and environment character of the site.

The Paddington Society

Established 1964

Sydney's oldest residents' association, serving the community and heritage of Paddington. New members welcome. The Bulletin is distributed to all members and committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Society's rooms at the rear of Juniper Hall.

Address: Juniper Hall, 250 Oxford Street (PO Box 99) Paddington, NSW 2021.
Ph: 9360 6159

Annual subscription:
\$30 family, \$20 single,
\$10 non-wage earning.

President: Penny Carle

Vice Presidents: Ron Johnson,
Bruce Rankin

Secretary: Mary J de Merindol

Treasurer: Francis Walsh

Committee: Robyn Attuell,
John Fraser, Tom Magney,
Johanna Minogue, Bill
Morrison, Susan Tooth

Detriment would also be caused to the surrounding conservation area and the needs of elderly residents of the A.C. Mackie Nursing Home.

"The proposal is out of scale and out of character with Paddington as a designated conservation area," the Society declared.

"There are other options for the site which would better respect its residential character. These include aged care, aged or general housing, or a mix of these."

Penny Carle said it was disappointing that Impact Health had formulated its proposal without adequate community consultation.

Afterwards, a community reference group had been formed consisting of the Paddington Society; the Scottish Heritage Neighbourhood Association; and Clover Moore, State member for Bligh.

She contrasted Impact Health's action with the redevelopment scheme for the Royal Hospital for Women, between Oxford Street and Glenmore Road, where there had been considerable community consultation.

This had resulted in the setting up of a community reference group consisting of representatives of surrounding residents together with the Paddington Society, the Heritage Council, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, the National Trust and State member Clover Moore.

Site Sold

The reference group separately devised a scheme for the site which has largely been adopted, including a significant area of public space with trees in Glenmore Road.

"Unfortunately, with the Scottish Hospital proposal we could only react to an existing scheme," said Penny Carle.

"The modern idea of planning is that in a development, the community should be regarded as a stakeholder, not have something forced on it!"

• On May 9, it was announced that property developer Stockland Trust Group was the successful tenderer to buy the Royal Hospital for Women site from the Benevolent Society of NSW, at a price of \$35 million.

Over the next three years, it will develop the site into an estate including 53 townhouses and six apartment buildings with just over 100 home units. There will also be some eight shops on the Oxford Street frontage.

The mainly three-bedroom town houses will be designed in Paddington terrace style and sell for between \$550,000 and \$950,000.

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Picture shows Adrienne Blue and Alison Littlemore (front and right foreground) with their daughters, Hannah and Kezia, from the award winning team of the Kidstuff shops.

It's not child's play being Australia's best

AS well as a friendly welcome, you can also be sure of caring attention at our popular Kidstuff toy shop in Queen Street.

Owner Adrienne Blue puts the emphasis on quality and originality, and often the toys have great educational value. In fact, *Toy and Hobby Retailer* magazine describes Kidstuff as Sydney's leading educational toy retailer.

Adrienne's long association with our area started in 1969 when she opened Kidstuff in Paddington, moving to Queen Street in 1979. Then two years

ago, she started a second Kidstuff in Mosman with a partner, Alison Littlemore.

Now staff at both shops are jubilant at being chosen as Australia's best independent toy retailer for 1997.

Adrienne says the secret is imaginative and ever-changing selection of stock; the staff's product knowledge and enthusiasm; and such extra service as free gift wrapping.

"It all works together to make customers and their children happy," she says. "People keep coming back year after year".

WHEN I wrote this column, we in our cosy little suburban enclave off Ocean Street were still puzzled by the motives for the Great Tara Street Explosion which jolted us in February.

As a child in England in the second World War, I survived unscathed, with our home undamaged, while German bombs rained around us.

So it was ironic that I should wait more than 50 years, to a sleepy Sunday afternoon in Woollahra, to have half my windows blasted out!

Also, I was astonished by the widespread reaction to my "grab" of a few seconds on TV news. Sympathetic phone calls poured in from friends and acquaintances as far away as Perth. Some had not been in touch with us for years.

As in wartime England, the incident provoked both camaraderie and humour. I shall always treasure an entry in our visitors' book from a guest who arrived as we were cleaning up: "Thank you - for the evening was a real blast!"

AFTER being a prominent member of the Queen Street antiques community since 1992, Richard J. Wiche has been holding a giant Closing Down sale at his salesroom at No. 80, right on the corner of Halls Lane.

Richard specialised in the

SYDNEY'S MOST SURPRISING SMALL THEATRE.



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GREAT THINGS COME IN LITTLE PACKAGES THE 1997 LOOKOUT SEASON (Woollahra's award winning professional theatre)

From Germany
Franz Xaver Kroetz's
REQUEST CONCERT
starring Jacqy Phillips
directed by Diana Denley

In this play without words, we spend the evening with a woman listening to a music request program on the radio but, something happens that breaks the ritual of her evening - a voyeuristic journey, sometimes reminiscent of Alfred Hitchcock's *REAR WINDOW*. Now Showing.

From France
Michael Vinaver's
**DISSIDENT, GOES WITHOUT
SAYING & WITH NINA IT'S
DIFFERENT**

presented by Public Works Theatre Company
The first, a tragedy, work on an assembly line and a life that unravels. The second, a farce, two men, a girl, a bathtub, Chinese earthquakes, sexual harassment, a hairdo and a fondu! Opens June 23rd.

From England
Jack Shepherd's
IN LAMBETH
directed by Diana Denley

1971 - a magical moonlit night. William Blake and Thomas Paine in a tongue-in-cheek encounter set against the background of revolutions and anti-Republican mobs. The idealistic visionary and the principled pragmatist. Opens July 24th

From Iceland
HRAFNHILDUR HAGALINGUDMUNSDOTTIR'S

I AM THE MAESTRO
directed by Alan Docker

A lyrical and eloquent study of role models in the competitive world of music, examining the relationship between a young couple and their former teacher, "the Maestro", a classical guitarist. Opens September

From Germany
Esther Villar's
ISOLDE AND TRISTAN
A Harlos Production

A mystery after Richard Wagner - what really happened when Isolde and Tristan sailed from Ireland to meet King Mark?

Opens October (proudly sponsored by the Goethe Institute)

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FUTURE OF CENTENNIAL/MOORE PARKS AND JET PLANES OVER THE EAST

***A Community Meeting Organised by Clover Moore MP
For Woollahra and Paddington Residents
Monday 2 June 1997, 6-8pm***

At the National Council of Jewish Women's Hall, 111 Queen St, W'hara (enter via Dorhauer Lane)

PLAN FOR CENTENNIAL, MOORE AND QUEENS PARKS

The Centennial and Moore Park Trust has outlined its vision for the future of Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks in a Draft Plan of Management, and is inviting your comments by 6 June. Documents describing the proposals can be inspected at the Trust Offices in Centennial Park, or purchased for a fee of \$20.

These parklands are our most important recreational resource and yet.....

1. **The area of parkland is being constantly reduced, while population densities in surrounding areas are increasing.** Currently the Government plans to take 4.5 hectares permanently from the park; has leased 24 hectares for 50 years to Rupert Murdoch and another 5 hectares is to be used for the City-Airport Tollway construction purposes.
 2. **The Park is threatened by increased noise and pollution.** The proposed City-Airport Tollway will induce increased traffic volumes and more pollution and noise around the parklands, and the Federal Government plans to put a jet aircraft route right over the centre of Centennial Park.
 3. **The Show has gone but the parking on Moore Park remains.** No permanent landscaping of Moore Park can be achieved until car parking is banned, and greater patronage of public transport can only be forced if sports and entertainment venue car parking capacity is strictly limited and adequate public transport provided.
 4. **What does the Trust intend to do with the Stables and Royal Hall of Industries and Hordern Pavilions?** They are unaccountably excluded from the Plan of Management, yet their future usage could impact on the park.
 5. **An increase in commercial activities in the park is proposed and a scale of charges is suggested for facility usage.** Strict controls must be applied to ensure the primacy of public recreational pursuits over commercial and "cultural" activities.
- Q. ***Does the Centennial and Moore Park Trust's Plan of Management address these important issues and ensure the PASSIVE RECREATIONAL PRIORITIES for the densely populated surrounding communities.***

See over for JET AIRCRAFT OVER THE EASTERN SUBURBS

THE PROPOSED JET AIRCRAFT ROUTE OVER THE EAST

A decision soon.....

A decision is to be made soon by the Federal Government for new jet flight paths over Sydney. One proposal in the Long Term Operating Plan being considered by the Minister Sharp puts jet aircraft over Centennial Park, Bondi Junction, Edgecliff, Woollahra, Bellevue Hill, Vaucluse and Watsons Bay.

Federal Government proposals.....

- 7 jets per hour are proposed - one plane every 8 ½ minutes and a maximum of 112 aircraft per day. This number could vary up or down according to wind and weather conditions.
- In addition, 2 long haul jets per hour could be added if cross winds on the parallel runways exceed 25 knots. So there could be 9 movements per hour or one plane every 7 minutes. These heavier jets affect twice the number of residents.
- There are also reserved plans for another 7 jets per hour on this route as airport congestion and aircraft movements increase.

No environmental impact assessment of jet noise.....

The exemption from Environmental Assessment means our protection under the law has been cancelled, and the impacts of the Government proposals on our area and amenity, will not have to be assessed.

No response from Canberra.....

Despite the substantial impact on densely populated areas, never subjected to jet aircraft noise before, the Federal Government has failed to adequately inform and consult affected communities. All rights to environmental protection have been summarily removed, and efforts by Woollahra Council and myself to get satisfactory responses from Canberra about this important issue, have been ignored.....it's been like dealing with the Kremlin!

We are still waiting for a response from the Federal Government which said it was going to listen and consult.....

ALSO AT THE MEETING THERE WILL BE BRIEF UPDATES ON.....

THE CITY-AIRPORT TOLLWAY(EASTERN DISTRIBUTOR) PLANS

Current Government actions and processes will be explained, amended and alternative schemes reviewed, my actions and those of the community to influence an environmentally responsible outcome will be summarised, and the ongoing campaign for a better solution, outlined.

WESTFIELD DEVELOPMENT, BONDI JUNCTION

Traffic generation from the proposed large shopping development affecting surrounding residential areas emerged as the major concern from Woollahra Council's public meeting held to discuss the plans. Acceptability of the Development will depend on the effectiveness of traffic management in stopping through traffic from using residential streets.

COME TO THE MEETING

Be informed and voice your concerns and ideas for action about these important issues. Please call the Electorate Office on 9360 3053 for more information

ROUND ROBIN

Robin Brampton's Queen
Street Commentary



flamboyant and space demanding end of the antiques market, particularly gilt mirrors and French decorative antiques.

He has been telling people he is uncertain of his professional future, but will be seeking new avenues and challenges.

From June, another Queen Street identity, John Cunnington, moves into No. 80 with his specialist Art of Wine and Food antiques business, previously at 92 Queen Street.

John travels regularly overseas to buy wine related antiques and is looking forward to having more display space. He plans to open with a spectacular sale of some 60 French corkscrews.

And in October he will be joined by his wife, Lynette, who is moving her Asian antiques business to No. 80 when the lease runs out on her shop at 92 Queen Street.

I've also been welcoming several newcomers to the area.

Antiques dealer Hamish Clark, formerly of William Street, Paddington, is now ensconced at 94 Queen Street, previously the premises of Robert Roseman.

Hamish is interested in several areas of antiques, including gothic and oak furniture of which there are some fine examples in the shop.

Also to be found are silverware and attractive pictures including 18th Century engravings.

Meanwhile Penelope Randall tells me she first fell in love with Queen Street when she walked round the area as a schoolgirl at Sydney High.

"It's lovely to be here," she said as she started unpacking her stock at number 86, formerly the shop of Malcolm and Roma Sookias and now Penelope Randall Antiques.

Penelope specialises in silver, linen, china and small items, all attractively displayed.

For the past 20 years, Penelope and her husband, Colin, have been in the Hunter Valley where he worked as a mining engineer.

Meanwhile Penelope sold antiques at the Hungerford Hill wine village, and previously at Wyndham Estate. The enterpris-

ing couple also ran a guesthouse.

Colin is also in the antiques business, selling antique books at Sydney Antique Centre.

Another Queen Street newcomer is hair stylist George Giavis, formerly with John Adams in Double Bay, who has brought his scissors and combs to the first floor of number 110a.

George, comes from a Greek background, and also enjoys the reputation of having worked as a hairdresser at the famous Harrods store in London.

And it's a welcome back to Lorna and Keith Samway's Furnishings Paddington business which despite its name, has spent the past 10 years at an outpost in Randwick.

Lorna tells me their main market is in our Woollahra-Paddington area. So they are happy now to be more conveniently at 122 Jersey Road, the shop at the corner of Paddington Street which has seen many changes since it was so gloriously the home of florist Susan Avery.

In addition to their interior design service, the Samways offer attractive soft furnishings and occasional furniture. They also provide a custom-made upholstery service.

QUEEN Street really is a paradise for the shopper seeking something out of the ordinary. For instance:

Tibet Galleries (22 Queen Street) are offering dolls authentically dressed in the regional and ceremonial costumes of Tibet, some beautifully beaded, made by exiled Tibetan monks. The more elaborate cost \$500-\$600, the simpler but still attractive \$75.

Known for its French kitchenalia, Appley Hoare Antiques (55 Queen Street) is also selling unique bracelets and necklaces made from antique beads of Venetian glass found in Africa. I'm assured they are threaded by Lord McAlpine! (\$350-\$450).

Michael Greene Antiques (108 Queen Street) is offering an exquisite oak and wicker low chair from the Orkney Islands off



Diki Linkins of the Tibet Galleries with two of her dolls in Tibetan costumes made by exiled Tibetan Monks. Called Tenzin (a boy) and Dolma (a girl) they are priced at \$75 each.

the coast of Scotland, made at the turn of the century (\$1800).

Actually, I'm not sure that Michael and Victoria Greene are keen to sell. The chair is proving very comfortable for bottle feeding Charles Frederick Greene, born in January to the delight of Queen Street.

(If Charles was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, would it be antique?)

SABOTAGE? Last month signs at the corner of Jersey Road and Hargrave Street, pointing to the Five Ways and William Street shops, had been twisted round to point to Queen Street!

FASCINATING the things you can learn from Marian Clarke whose Marian's Collection antique jewellery business is such a showpiece at the Woollahra Antiques Centre in Oxford Street.

Would you believe that Queen Victoria's betrothal ring from her ever loving Prince Albert was a coiled golden serpent?

Although today snakes are

considered so sinister, in Victorian times they were widely held to represent eternity. It did not help poor Albert who died at the age of 42, leaving Victoria a widow for 40 years.

Such a betrothal ring will be among the fascinating collection of jewellery associated with romance, betrothal and even bitter disappointment which Marian will be showing throughout June in an exhibition, "The Ring of Romance".

Another curiosity will be an 8th century thumb ring. The flat-tened bronze band was worn on the thumb to signify a contract between two people.

As today, in Victorian days, weddings were a time for the bridal party to dust off their finery. The groom may have sported a weighty gold or silver watch chain, carried a natty retractable toothpick, and signed the register with a gold encased miniature pencil.

What did they look like? You can find out at Marian's exhibition.

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QUEEN STREET SHOPPING AND SERVICES GUIDE



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