

Village Voice

Your community news
magazine for West
Woollahra/Paddington

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

No. 64 - July - September, 1997

Oxford Street hospital site bid "excessive"

THE Paddington Society has objected to the draft amendment of the development plan for a shopping and commercial precinct on the redeveloped site of the Royal Hospital for Women.

In letter to Woollahra Council, the Society says the proposal would be "out of scale, excessive and inappropriate in the urban form of Oxford Street".

A major concern is that buildings on the site - bounded by Brodie Street, Oxford Street and Young Street - could rise to heights of between 12m and 16.5m.

The scheme also includes a tower on the corner of Oxford and Brodie Streets which the society considers very inappropriate.

Following the relocation of the hospital to Randwick, the site is to be redeveloped by the Stockland Trust Group which won a tender to buy the site from the Benevolent Society of NSW for \$35 million.

The scheme on which the tender was based was for retail and commercial development on the Oxford Street frontage in a scale with its heritage surroundings, together with townhouses and apartment buildings on the rest of the site.

The new proposal for the Oxford Street precinct, which the Paddington Society considers excessive, is contained in a proposed amendment to the draft development control plan for the area.

Disbanded

This control plan resulted largely from the work of the Community Reference Group which has been disbanded, believing it had achieved its objective of creating a scheme acceptable to the community.

The group consists 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.

Architects Bill Morrison and Cedric Carle, who represented the Paddington Society on the group, said in view of the new

proposals, the group should be reinstated.

"We felt good about the rezoning of the site, from special use as a hospital to medium and high density residential development with a small commercial component and public open space," said Mr Carle.

"Now we are dismayed because the commercial precinct would become a suburban shopping centre.

"That's the only way to describe it.

"Alarm bells are ringing in our heads. We see this as the thin end of the wedge.

"Fight coming"

"Each precinct in the development has a different zoning. If this draft amendment is any indication, we can see a fight coming for every piece of it."

Mr Carle said that the commercial development should be limited to a height of 10m, in conformity with the largely two-storey development of shops on the north side of Oxford Street.

In its letter to Woollahra Council, the Paddington Society said the draft amendment to the development control plan did not take into account the expressed views of the community generally or Woollahra Council's Urban Conservation Advisory Committee.

"The amendment appears to relate to the exchange of Council-owned land fronting Oxford Street which allows the redevelopment of the site to be expanded to the Oxford Street frontage," the letter continues.

"It is unacceptable that Council enter into an arrangement to dispose of Council-owned land which results in a development which is out of scale, excessive and inappropriate to the urban form of Oxford Street."

The letter said it should be recognised that this area of Paddington is one of the most historic.

It is opposite Victoria Barracks and adjacent to Little Paddington Village which grew up to service construction of the barracks.

Continued page 2



Council spared that tree

WATCHED by Councillor David Leach, of Woollahra Council, Craig Malouf, principal of Dial-a-Paver, puts the finishing touches to the first stage of the Queen Street refurbishment scheme.

The pavement between Moncur Street and Spicer Street has been given a new tile treatment and four tree gardens established, with seats at each end.

At the request of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, the stretch of pavement will be called Banjo Paterson Walk as a memorial to Australia's great national poet who once lived in Queen Street.

Each of the seats will have a

plaque depicting one of his poems, with artwork designed by Heather Smith of the Arden Galleries who is a director of the Queen Street Association.

When the pavement was dug up for the work in Moncur Street, it was found that the roots of an advanced camphor laurel tree outside Queens Court were causing so much damage to a drain, the Council announced it would remove the tree.

However, following local disappointment at the announcement, council relented and found a way of keeping alive the tree which Councillor Leach describes as "not beautiful but significant."



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Village Voice

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

Watchdogs on development

IF the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, it is also the price of preserving the wonderful and distinctive architectural character of Paddington and West Woollahra.

The fundamental need for residents' action groups, such as the Paddington Society, is shown by its protest, on behalf of the local community, to the proposed over-development of the commercial area of the Royal Hospital for Women site, right on Oxford Street.

The Paddington Society and its friends have created a sensible draft development control plan for the site, designed to be acceptable to local residents, which appeared to have been adopted officially. This would have created a largely residential estate in keeping with the heritage character of its surroundings.

Now comes an unwelcome proposed amendment to increase development of the shopping and commercial precinct to a scale quite out of keeping with the character of Oxford Street. We support the Paddington Society in its objection to Woollahra Council, and share its fear that this may be the first of several such battles to preserve Paddington's distinctive environment.

Meanwhile, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association is keeping careful watch on development proposals which do not comply with the architectural values laid down when it inspired the Environmental Plan for the area, adopted in 1985.

In this issue, we report approval for a pair of new terrace houses in Wallis Street which will rise to a height of 10.9m instead of the 9.5m limit in the Environmental Plan.

It is certainly welcome to see terraced house taking the place of the carpet warehouse which was so out of keeping with its residential neighbours. And in this instance, the height exception probably is warranted. It might be unreasonable for the roofline of two new homes to be inconsistently lower than that of their neighbours due to slavish adherence to the Environmental Plan.

Nevertheless, such situations must be carefully watched. It would be a tragedy if the occasional and justifiable exemption were allowed to become the general rule.

Robin Brampton, Publisher

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Waiting at the church...

LOCAL residents are concerned that, after two years, work still has not started on a scheme to convert the burned out Uniting Church in Jersey Road, Woollahra, into four townhouses.

The church and its surroundings are still in a derelict and untidy condition, and Councillor David Leach, a local member of Woollahra Council, told *Village Voice* that he feared further exposure to the weather might cause the walls to implode.

In 1995, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association supported the townhouse development scheme designed by John Oultram of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners who specialise in sensitive restoration work.

Subsequently, Woollahra Council granted development

approval to the owners, Calquid Pty Ltd of Annandale, who had bought the property for \$1 million.

Following our inquiries, Councillor Leach contacted Mr Edward Bonser of Calquid who assured him the project was to go ahead. However, the company has been involved in other projects which had caused the delay.

Councillor Leach and Woollahra Council are asking Calquid, in the meantime, to tidy up the overgrown outside area of the building, especially near the bus stop.

Councillor Leach said Mr Bonser had undertaken to do this and also to contact the architect about any possible danger to the fabric of the building through continued weather exposure.

Raising the roof allowed

DESPITE objections from a number of residents in the immediate vicinity, Woollahra Council has approved the building of a pair of three-storey terraced houses at 42-44 Wallis Street, West Woollahra, extending to a height of 10.9m.

The modern carpet warehouse on the site will be demolished.

Alexander Tzannes, a prominent architect responsible for a number of local developments, has designed the project for local resident, Sabina van der Linden, who plans to live in one of the two houses.

Objections from Wallis Street residents have generally been to the scale and bulk of the proposal, the allegedly excessive height, and lack of setback to the side and front boundaries.

However, the Council's assessment planner, Anthony Rowan, says the proposed development is considered generally acceptable in its location.

It comprises a contemporary infill development that satisfactorily balances the integrity of the adjacent streetscape with current architectural expression, he said.

Because the proposed maximum height is greater than the 9.5m limit set down in the Local Environmental Plan, Council will support an application for an exemption order.

Mr Rowan said the 9.5 limit would be unnecessary and unreasonable as the proposed height would be compatible with that of the adjoining homes, reinforcing the continuity of roofline.

Oxford Street hospital site bid "excessive"(cont)

Council's Urban Conservation Advisory Committee said a 16.5m height limit on Oxford Street would be "excessive and inappropriate".

In its letter, the Paddington Society also speaks of the need to widen the footpaths in Brodie Street and Young Street which it claims has been ignored.

"It would appear that the

extensive community consultation process undertaken by the Benevolent Society is now meaningless if Council chooses to disregard the extensive concerns submitted, and overturn its own planning report and recommendations without further reference to the community," the letter says.

"The situation does not augur well for the ongoing redevelopment process for the remainder of the site."

Traffic build-up a growing hazard

by Penny Carle
President of the Paddington Society

HIGH volumes of commuter traffic present a growing environmental hazard to the Paddington and West Woollahra communities.

Unless they are halted in the very near future, the area will become so degraded as to be almost uninhabitable.

Under the Roads & Traffic Authority guidelines, Glenmore Road is designated a collector road.

Residential amenity begins to decline noticeably if such roads carry greater than 5000 vehicles a day.

A recent traffic report prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz for the new owners of the Royal Hospital for Women site has found that Glenmore Road to the east of Brown Street carries more than twice this number of vehicles - between 10,142 and 15,212 per day!

Given that RTA guidelines do

not distinguish between inner and outer suburban areas, these figures are even more alarming when applied to the residential amenity of Paddington with its small separation between the terrace houses and narrow 19th century roads.

Combine these figures with the expected traffic fall-out from proposed large scale developments at Bondi Junction and it is no wonder that Paddington and West Woollahra residents are up in arms about commuter traffic.

Widening plan

Another group of consultants, Arup Transportation Planning, is currently conducting a West Paddington Traffic Study for Woollahra to examine the projected impact of widening Barcom Avenue at Oxford Street to allow two-way traffic.

Originally intended to relieve through traffic pressure on local streets, the widening proposal has been overtaken by the Fox Studios development and the Eastern Distributor as likely traffic generators using Boundary Street as a non-tolled alternative.

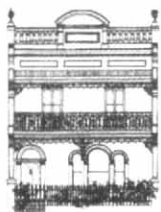
A working party has been set up including Clover Moore; Woollahra Councillors Medcraft, Normyle and Robertson; street representatives from Brown Street west of Boundary Street; the Paddington Society; Woollahra Council officers Peter Hanning and Wayne Rylands; and Ian Thompson from South Sydney Council.

A resolution was passed at the second meeting of the working party "that the West Paddington Traffic Study be recognised as part of an integrated traffic study to look at ways to substantially reduce the present high volumes of commuter traffic using Darlinghurst, Paddington and West Woollahra as a through route, by removing the through-way conditions which facilitate such volumes".

In another move, as reported in April-June *Village Voice*, the Paddington Society, and Queen Street and West Woollahra Association are jointly asking Woollahra Council to arrange such an integrated traffic study of the whole area.

Following a meeting between the two residents' groups and the Council in May, it was decided to arrange a local traffic forum involving both experts and concerned residents.

A date had not been set when *Village Voice* went to press.



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.

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Secretary: Nick Eddy.

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

Editor of Village Voice: Robin Brampton.

Queen Street area "under threat"

"It is very important to preserve the fundamental architectural character of Queen Street and West Woollahra."

Robin Brampton, a founder of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association and editor of its news magazine, *Village Voice*, asserted this at the association's annual meeting in May.

He said that in its earlier years, the association had to fight very hard to avoid any compromise to the Local Environmental Plan 24 for the West Woollahra area before it was adopted in 1985.

Largely inspired by the association, the plan was "the very heart of what the association is all about".

It placed a conservation zoning over the whole area and limited the height of new buildings to 9.5m - effectively no more than three floors - to preserve the present scale of development.

"At the time, the association believed the rules were mandatory - nobody could do any building construction which in any way infringed them," said Robin.

Disillusioned

"It has been very disillusioning in the past two or three years to find this is not so."

A developer or Woollahra Council could apply for an order which would override the Environmental Plan.

Mentioning instances where this had happened, such as the

end face of a townhouse group coming to the edge of the pavement in Jersey Road without full setback, Robin said: "I am concerned that if exceptions are allowed, they become the general rule."

"It's up to all of us to watch very carefully because I am certain that in the next few years, there is going to be a lot more residential development in the area."

Service shops

Robin, who wrote the association's constitution and has held office since it was founded in 1972, was speaking on "25 Years in Queen Street".

He said how delighted he was that in the past few years, service shops and other businesses to serve residents' basic needs had returned so strongly after an era in which antiques dealers and real estate agents were predominant.

Queen Street now had elegant fashion shops; marvellous restaurants; a new food emporium in Moncur Street; a bookshop; even a little theatre.

"And the delightful thing is that they are top class in service and value," he added. "Things have turned full circle and it's a new golden age of development in Queen Street."

In addition to the adoption of the Environmental Plan in 1985, Robin listed among the associa-

tion's triumphs the recent start on the Queen Street refurbishment scheme, the preservation of Waimea House and Queen Street Fair which ran from 1972 to 1985.

"The Fair was one of the most exciting and exhilarating projects I have ever been associated with," he declared. "I will always remember it with affection. It put Queen Street on the map."

The association's major disappointment had been that it had been able to do so little to solve the traffic problem.

Through traffic still poured down Ocean Street to an unwarranted extent and the promise that the Eastern Distributor would solve the problem had proved false.

New Offices

Robin was introduced and thanked by the association president, political speechwriter Graham Freudenberg who was re-elected along with the secretary, solicitor Nick Eddy, and the treasurer, book dealer Tim McCormick.

Patti Graham was elected vice-president, an office she had held previously before leaving Sydney for a while.

The association has a new director in Philip Johns, co-proprietor of the Arden Galleries in Queen Street.

A full list of officers appears on this page.



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“Queen Street - just like living in Knightsbridge”

CAROLYN McDowall, a lively bundle of energy and enthusiasm who lives and largely works in a roomy Moncur Street terrace house, has two great passions in life.

One is studying and teaching the history of art, architecture and antiques, a passion which led her in 1992 to found the Australian Academy of Decorative Arts which is enjoying ever increasing success.

In pursuing this passion, she believes it is vital to understand how the ideas, philosophies and moral concerns of each age have impacted on design in architecture, interiors and the objects which people create.

Her other passion is living in the Queen Street area. She fulfilled an ambition eight years ago when she and her investment banker husband, Len, came to live in their present home after bringing up three sons on the North Shore.

“I’ve always loved West Woollahra because of its village atmosphere,” she said. “The charm of this area is that the residents and shopkeepers are so much together.”

“It’s a bit like the back of Knightsbridge in London. You walk out the door and there is Harrods. Well, in our case, there are those lovely specialist shops.”

Carolyn has had a bewildering succession of professional experiences since she became interested in the decorative arts at the age of 26. She has been project manager on building projects, remembering fondly those involving restoration of heritage houses.

But she also recalls with horror that when she started in the 1960s, many heritage buildings were being totally destroyed and their architectural integrity lost in the rush of expansion. “It upset me greatly,” she says.

How she started

She has studied the decorative arts academically; run her own interior design business; worked in fashion retailing; travelled widely in Europe, the United States and England; even taken a Cordon Bleu cookery course.

In the 1980s, she worked with the English decorative arts expert, Anna Clark, whom she admires, helping her run classes in Sydney. After these folded in 1988, it left such a gap that Carolyn was persuaded to start her own academy.

This has proved so successful that she now runs a one-year foundation diploma course; a two-year advanced course; and a number of short courses covering different aspects such as “The Evolution of Country Style”. The diploma course is comprehensively titled, “The Arts of our Civilisation - Antiquity to the Contemporary Age”.

Altogether, her students have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of 35 lecturers, including Queen Street antiques identities Martyn Cook and Anne Schofield.

A surprising variety of people come to the Academy to learn - doctors, lawyers, accountants, computer salespeople, real estate agents and secretaries.

A new development this year is overseas study tours. The first will be in September when Carolyn will lead a group to visit some of the lovely country houses and gardens in England. Next year it will be Italy and Turkey. Her son, Ross, who majored in tourism for his degree, is handling this side of the business.

Carolyn’s interest as a collector lies in early English lead glass and Delft china, both of which she admires for their craftsmanlike simplicity.

And does she have any favourite period for antiques?

“Many favourites but I love the 17th century all over Europe,” she replies. “It saw Europe coming out of the renaissance and the rebirth of new ideas. I would have liked to have been on the ground in that particular period, particularly after the restoration in England.”

“The 18th century to me is the refinement of the 17th century. English furniture, and particularly French furniture, reached its pinnacle of refinement in the 18th century. It was in proportion and in harmony with the shapes.”

“My very favourite period would be at the death of the 17th century going through to Queen Anne and George I. Give me a Queen Anne walnut chair any day!”



“I love the 17th century all over Europe”... Carolyn McDowall with one of her antique Delft plates”

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Wine choice Bristol fashion

ONCE when my wanderings took me to the fascinating old city of Bristol, I lunched on venison at the restaurant which boasts England's largest wine list.

It's part of the home of the famous old English wine shipper, Harveys, with its cellars crammed with such nobility as Latour, Mouton-Rothschild, Margaux and d'Quem, as well as many upstart Australian and other non-Gallic wines.

If the extensive wine list at your table leaves anything to be desired, you can wander through the cellars to make your choice.

I was reminded of this experience a few weeks ago when Mrs Wanderer and I lunched more modestly, but no less satisfyingly, at the Royal Oak Hotel in North Adelaide which claims the largest wine list in Australia.

The trick is the same. If you fail to be enticed by the short wine list, you can meander through a turnstile to the bottle shop and choose from 3500 possibilities. (I quote the figure I was given. I didn't count!)

The Royal Oak is a delightful survival of the Victorian coaching era, very roomy with rough cast walls decorated with wind instruments, large open fires and friendly staff.

At lunchtime, for a modest \$8, you get a main course, some delectable bread and a glass of "clearskin" wine.

Our choice was a lovely cream of leak, potato and seafood soup, almost a meal in itself. Mrs W followed with kangaroo kebabs while I ordered the pasta. Both dishes were interestingly sauced.

Light and bright

The Royal Oak visit was part of two recent holiday breaks in South Australia when we richly sampled its old and new opportunities for folk like us who enjoy their food and wine.

Foremost should be mentioned the recently opened Magill Estate Restaurant, a light and bright building perched on a hill on the outskirts of Adelaide

TRAVEL DIARY with THE HAPPY WANDERER

in the vineyards which gave birth to Grange Hermitage.

The decor is starkly simple; the service of high international standard; the food excellent without being fussy; and there is no dreaded background music to spoil good conversation.

Also the view is breathtaking even at night when the famous lights of Adelaide stretch before you.

Hallowed ground

Because the restaurant stands on such hallowed ground for Penfolds, they supply all the wine, including such famous names as Bin 389, Bin 707, St Henri and, of course, Grange Hermitage itself.

Many are available by the glass. If you are in a self-indulgent mood, a glass of 1988 Grange is yours for \$50.

On the other hand your first glass at dinner is free. A sparkling pinot followed by a delicate savoury of bone marrow on a crouton are both complimentary.

Another welcome arrival on the South Australian restaurant scene is d'Arry's Verandah Restaurant at the d'Arenberg Winery of d'Arry Osborn's family in the McLaren Vale. Again a new building providing a striking view.

On our lunchtime visit, the menu offered plenty of originality such as garfish with scrambled eggs and roasted peppers.

Traditionalists who love South Australian whiting could get it with olive oil potatoes, asparagus, bouillon and oysters.

Prices are a uniform \$30 for a

two-course lunch; \$40 if you stretch it to three courses.

Back in central Adelaide, the Red Ochre Grill in Gouger Street is still pulling in the crowds and I understand its concept of sophisticated cuisine with typically Australian ingredients is branching out to other states.

Yabbis, Moreton Bay bugs, kangaroo, emu and even possum are all on the menu, together with several unusual cheeses, but the magic is in the way they are prepared.

And with each dish, the management thoughtfully suggest a suitable Australian wine by the glass. For instance a Peter Rumball Shiraz (\$5.50) is recommended with the emu pate, chutney and damper entree (\$8.50).

And for the wine enthusiast, great pleasure awaits at the Universal Wine Bar at the end of Rundle Street. Its proprietor, the noted wine expert, Michael Hill Smith, was pleased to find time for a chat on our recent visit.

The Universal offers several hundred pedigree wines with many small makers represented. A useful selection is available by the glass (\$4-\$8). In fact Michael claims to have pioneered this blissful innovation.

Though the menu is small, it provides variety and interest - a salt cod Brandade, for instance, with garlic chips and cucumber (\$10).

Local ingredients

Moving north, we made a new discovery just outside the Clare Valley, the Mintaro Mews at Mintaro, a former grain store built from slate mined nearby.

Although the Mintaro Mews is a guesthouse, it also has an excellent restaurant run by Christine Craven and Neil Oram.

Chef Neil's small but varied menu makes strong use of local ingredients such as homemade sausages of local goat, braised in shiraz with juniper berries and served with mash. Although billed as an entree (\$9.50), we found it well worth promoting to main course.

Finally, two interesting upcoming events in South Australia for the wine and food lover:

- Tasting Australia, from October 5-12. More than 60 internationally known chefs, TV presenters, producers, and food and wine writers are coming to Adelaide to do their stuff. The excitements include a seven-course gala dinner with 14 of Australia's finest wines.

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Favourite local destination: Western Australia, particularly Margaret River. The people are extremely friendly and there is less stress.

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A CENTURY OF CARE IN PADDINGTON

IN JUNE, the Royal Hospital for Women, moved to a new site at Randwick, ending a 96 year association with Paddington.

These photographs are from a photographic exhibition at Paddington Branch Library which Woollahra Library has just held to mark the event.

The exhibition was created with the assistance of the Benevolent Society of New South Wales which administered the hospital from its foundation until 1992, when its operation was handed over to the State Government.

The first building on the site used as a hospital was a house, Flinton, which served as a temporary maternity hospital from 1901 until the main wing was constructed in 1904-05. A second large stage of the hospital was built in 1926.

Early in the century, nurses at the Royal worked long hours for little pay. In training, they were expected to work up to 12 hours a day, six days a week with only one week's holiday a year.

The hospital has always taken a key role in nurse training until last year when the final class of midwives graduated. Training is now handled by the University of Sydney's Faculty of Nursing.

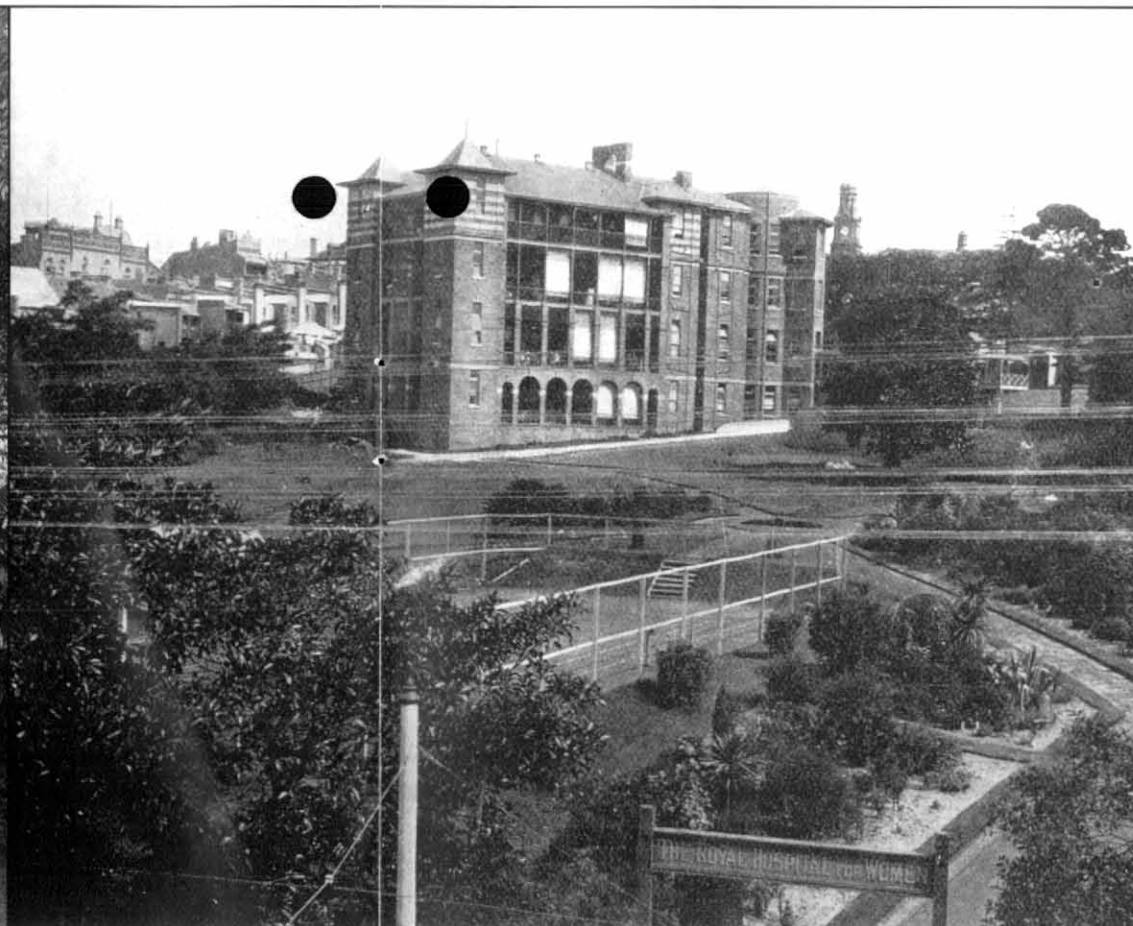
When it closed, the Royal had 180 beds and was always popular with women having babies. The site is to be redeveloped with houses, shops and a park on the Glenmore Road side.



ABOVE: The hospital's 100,000th baby, born at the Royal in 1950. By now births had increased greatly from the 547 in 1906.

BELOW LEFT: Matron Major West, who served as matron for 25 years from 1924, with the Ladies Committee. BELOW RIGHT: The Hospital in 1910.

ABOVE: Medical staff and babies in 1918. When it closed this year, the hospital had 300 nurses compared to 39 when it opened in 1901.



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and antique workshops
this Spring and discover
the decorative arts

Study Days

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interest study
days are filled
with visual
imagery, wonderful music
and poetry, bringing to life
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AUSTRALIAN
ACADEMY of
DECORATIVE
ARTS



THE ACADEMY



Just Opened

New restaurant and wine bar.
Open seven days for lunch and dinner.

THE CENTENNIAL HOTEL
88 Oxford Street, Woollahra
Ph 9362 3838

LOCAL TABLES

A restaurant? No a Restaurant!

a Restaurant

*Five Ways, Paddington,
220 Glenmore Road.*

*Dinner every evening.
All-day breakfast and lunch,
Saturday and Sunday.*

Telephone: 9361 6640

THE large Victorian building which dominates the south west corner of Five Ways is part of Paddington history.

Home of the feckless poet, Christopher Brennan, it was once a bookshop bearing his name. But for many years, it has been a restaurant with a bewildering succession of titles, none more curious than 34 Degrees which cooled off last year.

Now it is rather ambiguously called, a Restaurant, which caused problems when I phoned my dear friend, the Duchess of Sutherland, to tell her my wife and I were taking her to a Restaurant for dinner.

"Lovely!" she exclaimed. "But which one?"

a Restaurant has lasted a year now under the lively ownership of New Zealander Julia Bengtsson (front of house) and her Swedish husband, Michael (chef), and is showing symptoms of permanence. On the night of our visit it was packed.

Julia takes a pride in the constant changes of menu. With no particular national bias, it provides some unusual eating experiences.

One of the specials on our visit was a delightfully creamy soup with a subtle combination of Jerusalem artichokes and king prawns (\$12).

This was my wife's choice, while I settled for an excellent crab and rockfish bisque with rouille and croutons (\$9.50).

For main course, I opted for something I am always delighted to find on a menu, a souffle (\$12). No common or garden souffle either, a twice baked souffle with wild mushrooms, spinach and gruyere cheese.

Predictably with these ingredients, it was savoury rather than delicate and went down a treat with mashed potato and salad.

My wife also went for a personal favourite, mussels. ("Eden" Mussels - from the South Coast I take it, not Paradise.) These came with unusual concomitants, chilli sambal and coconut, resulting in a dish she pronounced excellent.

Having skipped entree, the Duchess ordered the roast rack of lamb with Nicoise jus and bacon (\$19.50).

Here, a slight disappointment it was well presented but a touch undercooked for her taste. Perhaps she was too well bred to

ask for it to go back into the oven for a few minutes. I'm sure Julia would have obliged.

However, we all had full marks for the dessert of creme brulee (\$8.50), beautifully creamy in a shortcrust pastry case.

The establishment follows the European system of providing vegetables on a separate order with two choices of potato (\$4) and/or steamed vegetables (\$4). Several different side salads are available (\$3.50-\$5).

I was particularly impressed with the varied wine list of nine reds, nine whites and a rose, all from Australian and New Zealand sources, including interesting boutique wines.

Practically all come by the glass (\$5-\$8.50) as well as the bottle (\$16-\$38) and there is even an organic wine from the Adelaide Hills. (No doubt we shall be seeing more of these.)

My particular pleasure was to taste, for the first time in Australia, a sauvignon blanc made by the heroic Jane Hunter in New Zealand.

Our sparkling pre-dinner thirst quencher was from the remarkable Tim Adams in the Clare, and nearer home I enjoyed an Allendale semillon from the Hunter.

To be frank, a Restaurant is in an awkwardly shaped building for a restaurant, and the high ceilings do not make for cosiness.

However, Julia and Michael have done their best, pouring loads of TLC into scrubbing and cleaning the walls before providing the simple, most welcoming decor.

Finally, my compliments to the Bengtssons on providing glasses of water without being asked, and I like their menu quotation from a Chinese notable of 225-209BC:

"The subtle changes that take place inside a cooking utensil are things that cannot be understood or told."

I'll drink to that!

R.B.

Vive les vins!

WITH so many changes in shops in West Woollahra, it is comforting that there is still one old fashioned retailer with a lovely family tradition of service to the local community.

The Woollahra Home Service Store at 41 Ocean Street has held a liquor licence since 1882, and for the past 40 years has been run by the Kennedy family.

Jack Kennedy, who bought the business in 1957, and is now retired, is remembered for his charming handwritten notes on the wines. They displayed a literary skill derived from his other



The Bellevue Hotel

BAR & RESTAURANT

159 HARGRAVE ST PADDINGTON PH 9363 2293

WOOLLAHRA HOME SERVICE LIQUOR STORE

Serving the community since 1882 with wines, spirits, ales and fine food.

41 Ocean Street, Woollahra Telephone: 9363 1626



OLYMPIC HOTEL

Paddington

RESTAURANT : bar

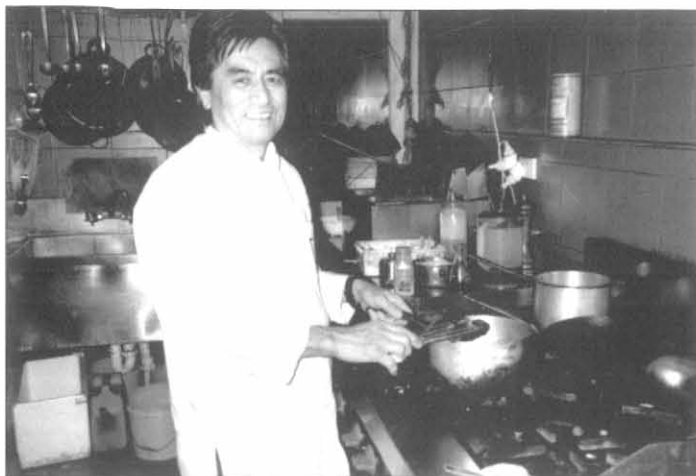
Dinner Tuesday - Saturday 6.30 - 11pm

JUST OPENED

Head Chef: Mark Jensen, ex Bennelong Restaurant, Opera House
Private dining room also available

BOOKINGS 9361 6315

308 Moore Park Road,
Paddington



MATU ... A nice dish of sushi or a paella for 30.
(Not to mention the pasta).

interest, as a fiction writer.

His son John, who now runs the shop, tells me there is a slight change. Nothing so revolutionary as installing a computer. But the historic store is to put more emphasis on selling French wines.

"In the past 10 years, our Australian wines have gone up so much in price that wines which once sold for under \$7 are now around \$12," he said.

So French wines, with a respectable appellation du pays, selling for under \$10, have strong appeal.

The store now offers 55 different French wines, from six different French wine houses, at upwards of \$7.95 which buys a Moreau rose or white wine.

One of the whites, a Chateau Tetre de Launay 1995, was described by the American wine writer, Robert M. Parker Jun, as one of the world's greatest wine bargains under \$10.95 - the price here in Australian dollars.

Among the reds is a Robert Sarrau Beaujolais, also \$10.95, and in sparkling wines, a savoir brut from Varichon and Clerc at a modest \$12.50.

We've been trying them at home as an occasional change from our beloved Australian wines. And I agree with John - great value.

From Japan - Ole!

IS there an award for Sydney's most splendidly multi-cultural restaurant? If so, I would like to nominate Anastasia's Cafe in Oxford Street, Paddington.

"From Japanese, Spanish to Cosmopolitan," proclaims the menu and its friendly host, Matu from Tokyo, is just as expert in sushi or tempura as he is in Spanish omelette, or tapas plates, not to mention nine species of pasta.

We chose Anastasia's for this year's Mothers Day lunch, and I was almost overwhelmed by the generously sized bowl of tasty Chicken Katsu Don, deep fried chicken and omelette with lashings of rice.

But the real speciality of the house is sushi, available in many variations, even a sushi party for two or more people (\$29).

There's also a neat dinner menu of sushi, sashimi, rice and miso soup with either barbecued scotch fillet or tempura, all for a modest \$19.50.

Another speciality is the charm of its young waitresses, mixed in nationality like the menu. On our latest visit, she was from Yokohama.

Although Anastasia's is unlicensed, it is right next door to a splendid bottle shop for BYO-ing and has a special room for large parties.

For these it promises to provide a king paella for 30 people, courteously suggesting, "Prior ordering would be appreciated".

Well, yes.

(Anastasia's Cafe, 288 Oxford Street, Paddington. Open seven days, 11am-11pm. Takeaway and home delivery service. Ph 9331 7886.)

Olympic success

JUST as *Village Voice* went to press, a lively new restaurant and bar opened in two rooms at the Olympic Hotel in Paddington with polished youthful service and the kitchen in the accomplished hands of Mark Jensen, formerly of the Bennelong Restaurant at Sydney Opera House.

When we dined as a couple on opening night, we found the restaurant has an excellent black board menu with a select but well varied range of dishes.

Individually, the mains ran from Catechino (Italian sausage) with white bean stew at \$13.50 to roast rudder fish with red pepper sauce at \$17.50. Entrees were from \$7.50 to \$10.50; and desserts all \$7.50 with a selection of cheeses at \$9.

We dined together on delicious oysters with tangy balsamic vinegar and lime but divided for the smoked quail and some delicate sardine fillets; then came steamed ginger pudding and rum baba with honey cumquats.

The smallish wine list offers variety and interest with most wines available by the glass (\$4.50-\$9).

(The Olympic Hotel, 308 Moore Park Road, Paddington. Open for dinner, Tuesday-Saturday, 6.30-11pm. Bookings 9361 6315.)

JEWELLERY SHOW OF THE YEAR EXTENDED THROUGH JULY

Right: Gold, silver,
pearl and amethyst
wedding necklace



Below: Wedding dress
from 1870, hand-
stitched by the
18 year-old bride



Our Ring of Romance exhibition of fascinating wedding and romantic jewellery is so successful, we have extended it. Now you have until the end of July to see this remarkable collection of two centuries of beautiful wedding gowns and antiques. And after July? Marian's Collection is still always the place to go for a wide choice of quality antique jewellery and friendly and considerate services.

Marian's Collection

Woollahra Antique Centre
160 Oxford Street, Woollahra

Tel: (02) 9363 1928
Open 7 days 10am - 6pm

CHARLES HEWITT

As part of the Sydney
International Art Festival:

**"VUE d'OPTIQUE • AN 18th
CENTURY TRAVELOGUE"**

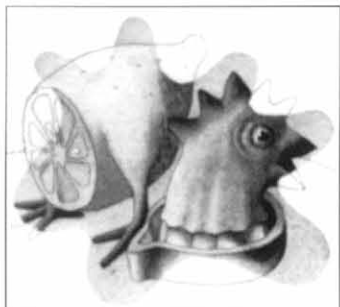
Over 100 rare, hand-coloured perspective
engravings from Germany, France and England.

July 16 - August 15



TASMANIAN ARTISTS

An exhibition of
new and promising
artists, including
Tom Samek,
Jacqueline Comer,
Christl Berg and
Nick Glade-Wright



"Lemon Chicken" Tom Samek

August 21 - September 10

KILMENY NILAND

**"HEAVENLY
VISIONS
EARTHLY
DELIGHTS"**

Water colours,
gouaches and
miniatures



August 21 - September 10

30 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

Tel 9327 8185

Fax 9699 1480

Gallery Hours: Monday-Saturday, 11am-6pm,
Sunday, 11am-5pm.

ART GALLERY DIARY

World of art comes to Sydney

SYDNEY International Art Festival, which opens on Tuesday, July 15, will be truly international, featuring only works by international artists or works by Australian artists with an international theme.

Thirty Sydney art galleries, many in the Paddington-Woolahra area, are taking part with individual exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photographs and other forms of visual art.

The organisers claim the event will provide the people of Sydney and visitors with a unique art show that it would otherwise be difficult to see outside Europe or America.

Among the highlights, in addition to those previously mentioned in *Village Voice*, are:

- "Vue d'Optique" - an 18th Century Travelogue", highly decorative engravings at the Charles Hewitt Gallery.

- International post-war paintings and sculptures by Henry Moore and others, the Sherman Galleries - Photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, Roslyn Oxley, 9 Gallery. - Tudor and Stuart portraits, including a master work by Sir Anthony van Dyck, Rex Irwin Gallery.

- Graphics by New York abstract expressionists, including Christo, David Hockney, Robert Motherwell and Andy Warhol, Wagner Art Gallery.

Co-ordinated by Josef Lebovic of the Josef Lebovic Gallery in Paddington, the Festival runs to Saturday August 16.

* * *

Arden Galleries

26 Queen Street, Woollahra.
Ph 9363 5296. Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Exhibition Programme July-September: Still Life, Oils on Birchwood, Alena Horak; Naive Paintings, Royston Pfeiffer; Mixed Media Country Scenes, Margaret Shepherd.

Andrew Stuart-Robertson Oriental And Fine Arts

6 Goodhope Street, Paddington.
Ph 9360 7190 Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5:30pm. July 17-August 16, Mortimer Menpes (1855-1938).

Barry Stern Gallery

19-21 Glenmore Road, Paddington.
Ph 9331 4676. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5:30pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. July 15-31, Nike Arrighi-Borghese Views of Rome. August 15-31, Several Leading Potters. September 15-30, John Earle.

Charles Hewitt

30 Queen Street, Woollahra.
Ph 9327 8185. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. July 16-August 15, "Vue d'Optique", rare hand-coloured engravings from



Lloyd Rees (1895 - 1988), "Sobraon, Berry's Bay", pencil on paper, 23.6 x 40.3cm. Signed lower left. Dated 1931.

CHRISTOPHER DAY GALLERY

WINTER COLLECTION
16 July - 16 August

Monday - Saturday 11am - 6pm
Sunday 2pm - 6pm

Lloyd Rees and other fine works by Condor,
Streeton, Heysen, Lindsay and Beauvais

**Cnr Paddington Street and
Jersey Road Woollahra, NSW 2025
Phone 9326 1952**



A print by, Sir Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956) from the British Master Printmakers exhibition at Josef Lebovic Gallery during the Festival.

Europe. August 21-September 10, Tasmanian Artists. September 11-October 1, Kilmeny Niland.

Christopher Day

Cnr Paddington St and Jersey Rd, Woollahra. Ph 9326 1952. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 2pm-6pm. July 16-August 16, Walter John Beauvais, Impressionist images from around the world.

Coventry Gallery

56 Sutherland Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 4338 Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. July 8-July 26 Michael Nicholls, sculpture; Wang Lan, paintings. July 29-August 16, George Foxhill, Paintings.

Eddie Glastra Gallery

44 Gurner Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 6477, Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Until July 25, Blake Twigden. August 8-29, Egidio Scardamaglia. September 5-26, Patrick Shirvington. October 3-24, Paul Haggith.

Eva Breuer

83 Moncur Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0297. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. July 12-August 14, Brian Dunlop - "Out of Byzantium".

Logarth Galleries

7 Walker Lane, Paddington. Ph 9360 6839. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. June 24-July 19, Selection from Waringarri Arts, Kununurra; and Mangkaja, Fitzroy Crossing. July 22-August 16, Djambu Barra Barra and Amy Johnson, Ngkurr, NT. August 19-September 13, Daisy Napaltjarri Jugadai and Ikuntji artists, Haasts Bluff, NT.

Istral Gallery

162a Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0648 Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. July 15-August 16, Eva Hannah's Mediterranean Milieu.

Josef Lebovic

34 Paddington Street, Paddington. Ph 9332 1840. Tuesday-Friday 1pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm. July 12-August 23, Kalahari Bushman and British Master Printmakers.

Martin Browne

13 MacDonald Street Paddington. Ph 9360 2051. Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm. July 16-August 17, Selection of Post War International Painting and Sculpture.

Martin Browne Fine Art East

72A Windsor Street, Paddington. Ph 9361 0111 Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. Museum quality 19th-20th Century Australian and International Art - Rupert Bunny, Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman and Girolamo Nerli.

Queen Street Fine Art

34 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3358. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. Currently James McGrath and Matt Rogers. July 22-August 27, Stanislaw Frenkiel - Expressionist paintings. September 3-24 Jon Ellis.

Rex Irwin

First floor, 38 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3212. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5:30pm. July 30-August 30, Tudor and Stuart Portraits 1530-1660.

Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery

Soudan Lane (off 27 Hampden Street) Paddington. Ph 9331 1919. Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm. July 9-August 2, "A Constructed World", Geoff Lowe, John Wolseley, Esther Lowe, Robert Lowe; Autumn Song, John Conomos. August 6-30, Robert Mapplethorpe, Photographs and Polaroids.

Savill Galleries

156 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Ph 9327 8311 Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm. Saturday 11am - 5pm. July 19, September 13, Journeys by Australian Painters - Rupert Bunny, Charles Condor, Hilda Rix Nicholson, Sidney Nolan and Jeffrey Smart.

Sherman Galleries

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

Sherman Galleries

16-18 Goodhope Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 1112 Tuesday-Friday 11am-6pm. July 10 - August 2, Imants Tillers. 7-August 30, Allan Mitelman. September 4-27, Michael Johnson.

Wagner Art Gallery

39 Gurner Street, Paddington. Ph 9360 6069. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm. July 18-August 8, The American Dream.



Announce our auction devoted to

The Garden

Sunday 21 September 1997 at 1:00pm

Vaocluse House, Vaocluse

ENTRIES INVITED

The auction, a celebration of the Historic Houses Trust's "Wisteria Day", will include garden, verandah and conservatory furniture, statuary, fountains, ornaments and selected architectural fittings from High Victorian through fifties modern.

Enquiries (02) 9326 1588



A Colebrookdale Garden Bench, \$4,000 - \$6,000

158 Queen Street Woollahra NSW 2025

Eddie Glastra Gallery

44 Gurner Street, Paddington

invites you to an Exhibition of Paintings by

Blake Twigden

Until 25th July.

To be followed by

Egidio Scardamaglia August 8th-29th

Gallery hours:

Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: 9331 6477

Fax: 9331 7322

Penelope Randall

Antiques including linen, tableware, silver and glass

86 Queen Street, Woollahra 2025

Ph: 9328 1680

Fax: 9361 4912

Open 10.30am-5pm

Wednesday-Saturday

Or by appointment

School art show raises \$7000



Wendy Metry (centre) receives from the the curators, Francis Gottlieb (left) and Nikki Ginsberg one of the two paintings by Peter McQueeney she won in a draw at the 1997 Art Show at Woollahra Public School in June.

In the background is the famous mural painted in the late 1970's by Archibald prizewinner Gary Shead who opened the five-day exhibition jointly with Robin Brampton, editor and publisher of *Village Voice*.

Arranged with the co-operation of a number of leading art galleries in West Woollahra, the exhibition of paintings, ceramics and furniture raised \$7000 to upgrade the school's computer,

library and playground facilities.

Artists represented included David Boyd, Charles Blackman, Robert Dickerson, Judith Wright and the ceramacist, Jenny Orchard.

The second annual event, the show marked the completion of the Ocean Wall, designed by parent and the architect Lisa Hochhauser, which surrounds new play structures in the school playground.

Memories of Frank Mitchell

I WAS in nostalgic mood when I spoke on "25 Years in Queen Street" at the annual meeting of the Queen Street Association in May, mentioning some of the characters of earlier days.

There was Arthur with his little fan to chivalrously beckon ladies to cross the road before him; the raucous inhabitant of Holdsworth Street who would condemn the State Superannuation Board at the top of his voice at night; and George the Drunk who lived in a humpy in Trumper Park but shopped at the best stores.

More up the scale was Frank Mitchell who impishly called his ladies' fashion business "My Husband and I" when he moved into Queen Street.

Frank is very much alive, and my remarks prompted one of our original members, Joyce Burnard, to contribute this fascinating memoir about him:

"Frank's clothes were more than 'gear'. He was a couturier who made to measure beautifully cut clothes in the finest fabrics.

For a trip to England, he made me a long dinner dress in very fine French wool jersey. When I wore it to Glyndebourne, an Italian friend asked me if I had bought it in Paris!

But I was small fry compared with some of Frank's Eastern Suburbs customers for whom he made whole season's wardrobes.

Louise Valkenburg, who was his vendeuse for seven years, told me that many women would leave it entirely to Frank to design their clothes which would be original, beautifully cut and expertly made of finest fabrics.

Once for a woman going on an overseas trip he made nine outfits. At the height of the business in Woollahra he had 16 dressmaking assistants in his workroom.

Besides being such a marvelous dressmaker, Frank was also acclaimed as a jazz pianist even though he was self taught. He used to play at parties, and in bars and restaurants.

A man of many talents, he could also sing. Just after the war, he toured with a vaudeville company in which he was billed as "The Golden Voiced Crooner".

He had been an art student when war broke out and was drafted into the army, later changing to the air force. After the war and the vaudeville company, he ran a coffee shop in Brisbane, then came to Sydney in the 1950s.

So how did he come to get into dressmaking?

"I had always been interested in costume," he said. "I had four sisters who were always sewing and making something, and I used to get involved helping them."

In Sydney he got an introduction to Hanne Wilson, another legendary dressmaker, and trained

SYDNEY'S MOST SURPRISING SMALL THEATRE.



THE LOOKOUT

THEATRE

UPSTAIRS AT THE WOOLLAHRA HOTEL
116 QUEEN STREET

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:
Diana Denley

SEASON DETAILS

Performances:
Tuesday-Saturday 8pm.
Sunday 5pm

Ticket Prices: \$25/\$20 (Previews \$12.50)

Bookings: (02) 9362 4349 or Ticketek (credit card bookings).

Enquire how you can become a Friend of the Lookout and pay only \$10 a ticket!

WORLD THEATRE AT POPULAR PRICES

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

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 fondue! Currently showing.

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
HRAFNHILDURHAGALINGUDMUNSDOTTIR'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).

SPECIAL OFFER TO VILLAGE VOICE READERS

Bring this coupon to the box office to receive the following discounts:

\$15 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday Performances

\$20 Friday and Saturday Performances

ROUND ROBIN

Robin Brampton's Queen
Street Commentary



with her. Later he branched out on his own, working from home. His clothes attracted attention and he was persuaded to have a show.

Connie Robertson, the legendary women's editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, was much impressed and featured the clothes in her widely read Thursday fashion feature.

Frank's name was made as a dressmaker and he opened a shop at Edgecliff, later moving to Queen Street.

Louise Valkenberg as vendeuse ran a tight ship, organising the business side of things and protecting Frank from difficult customers.

"When things got too difficult," she told me, "Frank would go out and water the banana palms growing in the sunny back courtyard."

She said it was an exciting place to be as Frank had so many interesting friends who would drop in, such as artists Russell Drysdale, Donald Friend, Margaret Olley and many other painters and writers.

Now getting on in years, Frank is living at Kings Cross. He still has many friends, still loves parties and has returned to his original love - art.

He attends an interesting group class along with children of all ages.

Good on you, Frank! "

* * *

IN the mood for a romantic story?

When she was a 14-year-old schoolgirl, Faye Beavis of Malabar fell in love with a man whose face she could not see. It was swathed in bandages after a car accident and he was walking on crutches.

"He didn't know I existed for several years but I carried a flame for him in my heart," she told me.

Eventually true love won the day and when she married her Ronald, at the age of 19, he insisted she had a wedding gown that made her look "young and fluffy". So she wore a white satin dress with high neck Peter Pan collar, off the shoulder puff sleeves and a motif of embroidered roses.

That was 24 years and three children ago, but the dress exists in all its pristine glory to feature in the current Ring of Romance exhibition at the Woollahra Antiques Centre in Oxford Street.

Marian Clarke of Marian's Collection has brought together a

fascinating collection of wedding and romantic jewellery, but it is the collection of wedding dresses from the past which has created the most interest, including three television appearances.

You can catch the exhibition until the end of July.

* * *

THERE's a new name among Queen Street antiques shops if not exactly a new face.

The imported antiques business operated for almost 10 years as Andre and Cecile Fink is now run by Andre under the name of Antiques de France.

However, Andre has some high powered assistance from Christopher Davis who previously operated well known antiques businesses in Queen Street and Jersey Road.

To mark the change, the shop at number 102 has been elegantly refurbished and is concentrating on French antiques at very reasonable prices - genuine, not reproduction, Andre emphasises.

Meanwhile, Cecile has gone into the ladies' fashion business, opening a boutique selling high quality blouses in Centrepont where it will catch the business girl trade.

Cecile has called the shop Louise Vanlon, the name of her grandmother.

* * *

WHILE we are sorry to have just said goodbye to friendly Peter Clark, postal manager at Woollahra Post Office for the past year, it's a warm welcome to our new head "postie", Jian Ma.

Jian previously was postal manager at Paddington. (The reason the title "postmaster" has been dropped is that, like Jan, these days so many are women.)

Jan has something to live up to. In his brief time in Queen Street, Peter considerably upgraded the standard of counter service.

I hope I am not giving away secrets when I reveal that Australia Post is always having anonymous spies out to assess the courtesy, efficiency and even the appearance of counter staff.

Peter tells me that although Woollahra was averaging only a 55 per cent score before his arrival, it is now regularly scoring 98 per cent. And last October, it hit the jackpot with a 100 per cent rating which resulted in a special award.

Our best wishes to Peter, now postal manager at Coogee.



Faye Beavis with the "young and fluffy" dress she wore for her wedding in 1973, part of the Ring of Romance exhibition at Woollahra Antiques Centre. She is holding a wedding picture in which she is wearing the dress

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