

Village Voice

Your community news
magazine for West
Woollahra/Paddington

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 65 – October – December, 1997

Modest proposals to reduce the "rat run"

WOOLLAHRA Council's plan to reduce commuter traffic speeding through Paddington and West Woollahra is reaching its final stages after intensive community consultation.

Both the Paddington Society and the Queen Street Association were well represented at the public meetings and three workshops in August and September.

The current scheme represents the consensus hammered out at these meetings, and a considerable compromise of earlier proposals.

Under the proposed plan, peak hour traffic would be concentrated on the main and regional roads where it belongs, according to Peter Hanning, the Council's technical services director.

The proposals are on view until November 24 at the Council Chambers, Paddington Library, Westpac Bank in Queen Street, Clover Moore's office in Oxford Street, the corner of Goodhope Street and Glenmore Road, and Chris's Corner at Lawson and Brown Street, Paddington.

Emotional reaction

Penny Carle, President of the Paddington Society, comments:

"Woollahra Council's scheme to reduce commuter traffic "rat running" through West Woollahra and Paddington seems to have generated emotional reaction quite out of proportion to the modest proposals now on public exhibition.

Whilst local support for reduction runs high, a vocal minority has invested considerable resources in a PR and advertising campaign to convince the wider public that it is being disadvantaged.

It would, of course, be churlish to think that the campaign may have more to do with perceived self interest than with concern for the welfare of the motorist at large.

Whatever the motives of anti-reduction campaigners, there has been considerable local confusion.

In an effort to dispel this, the Paddington Society recently letter-boxed all business and residential addresses within

Paddington. Judging by the positive response, there is strong support for traffic reduction and for the Society itself.

A considerable number of people have told us that they had previously signed petitions in local shops and would not have done so had they known that these petitions contained wrong information.

Model consultation

Many times over the years, the Paddington Society has been at odds with Woollahra Council. This time we congratulate Council on a model community consultation process in response to longstanding and widespread concern.

At a public meeting called by the Mayor at Paddington Town Hall in mid-August, there was overwhelming support from more than 350 West Woollahra and Paddington people for the reduction of through traffic.

Following this meeting, between 70 and 100 volunteer residents and local business representatives took part in a series of intensive community workshops.

A number of options were explored in these workshops and Option E, the scheme at present on public exhibition, is the result of consensus reached by participants with assistance from outside traffic consultants.

The scheme has been pronounced technically sound by Council officers. It will sink or swim depending on the level of public support it receives.

As a result of the Eastern Distributor, Paddington is required to undertake a Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Scheme.

The Paddington Society believes that Option E is an excellent beginning. We would like to see it combined with internal streetscaping to privilege pedestrian movement and safety.

Unsympathetic devices such as roundabouts, designed to keep traffic moving, are replaced with urban design which recognises Paddington's heritage environment and urban village character."



Queen Street Association president, Graham Freudenberg, with artist, Heather Smith, and one of her comical plaques for Queen Street, illustrating Banjo Paterson's poems.

A Great Day for Queen Street

QUEEN STREET, Woollahra, is at last getting its memorial to Banjo Paterson.

On Saturday, November 22, at 11am, the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Greg Medcraft, will name the newly refurbished footpath between Moncur Street and Holdsworth Street, "Banjo Paterson Walk".

The memorial project was conceived some years ago by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, and several alternatives were considered before the present scheme was adopted in association with Woollahra Council.

The famous national poet, A.B. ("Banjo") Paterson, popularly known as "Banjo", lived at 135 Queen Street from 1903 to 1908. Later he lived at The Grove, off Queen Street. (See article, page 3).

The section of Banjo Paterson

Walk between Moncur Street and Spicer Street was refurbished earlier in the year. The second section, between Spicer Street and Holdsworth Street, is expected to be completed in time for the ceremony.

The Mayor will unveil a plaque, naming Banjo Paterson Walk, on the wall of Queens Court, near Moncur Street. He will also dedicate eight humorous plaques with illustrations from Banjo's poems, including of course "Waltzing Matilda".

These were created by Heather Smith, of the Arden Galleries at 26 Queen Street who is a director of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

After the ceremony, the Queen Street Association will hold a luncheon, to mark its 25th anniversary, at Prunier's Garden Restaurant.

THANK YOU, QUEEN STREET!

We appreciate your tolerance and friendliness while we paved the second stage of Banjo Paterson Walk. Think of us when you need a home paving job such as a driveway or patio. We'll give you the same high quality we did in Queen Street.

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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.

Subscription rates: Individual \$18, Pensioner \$10, Family \$25, Corporate \$50, Life \$150.

Address: Box 16, PO Woollahra, NSW 2025.

Patron: Neville Wran.
President: Graham Freudenberg.
Vice-President: Patti Graham.
Treasurer: Tim McCormick.
Secretary: Nick Eddy.
Committee: Gail Booth, Colin Brady, Robin Brampton, David Collingridge, Philip Johns, Heather Smith.
Editor of Village Voice: Robin Brampton.

Paddington society condemns politicking on flight paths

THE Paddington Society is objecting strongly to a new allocation of flight paths from Sydney Airport which it claims will send seven jets an hour over Paddington and thence to Double Bay and Darling Point.

"We have already had a taste of coming attractions with an ear-splitting test run a few weeks ago over Cascade and Windsor Streets," says the latest issue of the Paddington Society News Bulletin.

"It is simply untenable that aircraft flight paths have been allowed to become a political football, with noise shared out

according to whether electorates are Liberal or Labor."

The Society is behind a series of petitions to the Federal Transport Minister, Mark Vaile, urging him to carry out a "proper and responsible" assessment which allows community input.

The Society urges local residents also to make their objections heard by writing, phoning or faxing the Minister for the Environment, the Minister for Transport and Regional Development, and the Prime Minister.

Also, Woollahra Council has filed an application with the Federal Court for a review of the Federal Government's decision because of the substantial negative impact aircraft noise will have on the area.

Further information and offers of assistance: The Paddington Society, ph 9328 7068; Geoffrey and Patricia Henwood, ph 9328 7036 or 0411 172 397, fax 9327 3479.

"Dogged" with success!

THAT other kind of "doggy bag" provided to take away "doggy do" by civic minded residents of Holdsworth Street, Woollahra, was a talking point at a meeting of Woollahra's new Animal Advisory Committee.

The committee has been established to encourage exactly that sort of thoughtfulness and responsibility by dog owners.

The presidents of both the Paddington Society (Penny Carle) and the Queen Street Association (Graham Freudenberg) have agreed to serve on the committee.

Its main task will be to develop an Urban Animal Action Plan, as a basis for community participation in responsible pet ownership. The emphasis will be on co-operation and consultation.

Inaugurated in July, the committee will meet quarterly under the chairmanship of Councillor Drew Robertson.



Christmas Gift Ideas from Marian

Looking for an original gift to bring the sparkle into somebody's eyes at Christmas? Marian's Collection specialises in elegant and useful jewellery from an earlier age to delight both men and women.

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4 Gold toothpick, Hallmarked 1909.	\$265	9 Cufflinks, sterling silver and blue enamel. c.1920.	\$145
5 Pencil in gold case. Hallmarked 1895.	\$260	10 Gold lapel pin. Map of Tasmania.	\$60

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Banjo Paterson with his wife, Alice Emily, baby daughter, Grace, and pet dog in the front garden of their Queen Street home in 1905. (Picture by courtesy of the Paterson Estate).

When Banjo lived in Queen Street

by Robin Brampton

ANDREW Barton Paterson, popularly known as Banjo, Australia's greatest national poet, came to live in Queen Street, Woollahra, in 1903, at the age of 39.

He had just married the handsome Alice Emily Walker of Tenterfield, and the solid stone house called West Hall which they rented at 135 Queen Street was their first family home.

By this time, Banjo had written the works for which he was most famous - *Waltzing Matilda*, *Clancy of the Overflow* and *The Man from Snowy River*.

Shortly before his marriage, Banjo had been appointed editor of the *Evening News* and the five years he spent in Queen Street were a period of great activity as well as domestic contentment.

His two children were born during this time, his daughter Grace in 1904, and his son Hugh Barton in 1906.

Grace started at the dame school at the corner of Queen Street and Ocean Street run by a Miss McNab.

Hugh Paterson was still living in our area, in Ocean Street, up to his death in 1977.

The Queen Street in which the Patersons started their married life was at the zenith of its prosperity, with such stores as Macdonalds hardware, Latimers drapery and Churchills butchery serving a vast area of Woollahra, Paddington and Bellevue Hill.

Tram to the city

To get to the city, Banjo could choose between the tram service or the handsome cab which operated from a rank near his home on the corner of Queen Street and Ocean Street.

During his first years in Queen Street, Banjo revitalised the *Evening News* with poetry and literary contributions, many of which he wrote himself, and intro-

duced political cartoons by his friend Lionel Lindsay.

If he could come back to Queen Street today, Banjo would hardly recognise West Hall as it differs so much from the building in the 1905 photograph reproduced on this page.

The paddock at the rear where Banjo kept his horse has long disappeared and so has the carriage drive.

Also the frontage has been extensively remodelled, giving it a bland face instead of the rugged Victorian grandeur of the original.

While he lived in Queen Street, Banjo also for a while edited the *Sydney Mail* and a weekly magazine; compiled a collection of local ballads; and published his first novel.

Went Bush

Any wonder that his health became strained and in January, 1908, he resigned from his editorship and went to live on the Coodra Vale Station in the Wee Jasper district of the Upper Murrumbidgee.

A few years later, Banjo made his home at a house in The Grove, off Queen Street, which he rented.

Towards the end of his life, he still lived not far from Queen Street in a house in South Street, Double Bay.

Banjo died on February 5, 1941, of a heart attack in a nursing home while waiting for his Alice Emily to take him back to his beloved home and family.

A man of many talents, physical and intellectual, he was described by the famous Bulletin editor, J.F. Archibald, as "the most outstanding personality Australia has yet produced".

We can be proud that he once chose to live where we do.

(This is a condensed version of an article which appeared in *Village Voice* in June, 1991.)

footloose

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City of "the nicest people"

WHEN Oscar Wilde attended Trinity College, Dublin, he was interested in only one sport, at which he excelled. What was it?

The answer, surprisingly, is boxing – an odd bit of trivia I discovered in July when I joined the Jameson Literary Pub Crawl in the heart of the Irish capital.

Two Irish actors, who obviously love their work, take parties of 30 or so visitors round Dublin's best known literary watering holes while favouring you with excerpts from the work of Joyce, O'Casey, Yeats and Behan.

And to keep you involved, they ask questions with a prize at the end of the tour for whoever proves the most erudite. (It wasn't me!)

Perhaps along with Paris, I would rate Dublin the most beguiling city I have ever visited. Both have so many artistic fascinations and are wonderful places to eat and drink.

I note that in a series of world-wide accolades, leading US travel writer, Gary A. Warner, nominated Ireland as having the nicest people. (Our Kangaroo Island is his world's top nature spot; Bondi his favourite beach.)

The Irish certainly love visitors, and when you have satisfied them that you are not one of the dreaded English, a great welcome awaits the Australian visitors.

Ideal for walking

One of the delights of Dublin is that the comparatively small city centre, bisected by the waters of the Liffey, makes for easy and fascinating walking.

You can even easily retrace the steps of James Joyce's Leopold Blum in the novel *Ulysses* with plaques laid into the pavement.

Joyce is also superbly commemorated with a lifelike statue just off O'Connell Street, near the historic General Post Office where the tragic Easter Rising of 1916 began. You can still see the marks of the bullets on its columns.

Another lovely piece of recently erected Dublin statuary

TRAVEL DIARY

with
**THE HAPPY
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"Alive, Alive oh!"... the statue of Molly Malone in Dublin.

is the figure of Molly Malone near Trinity College, complete with the barrow which, according to the song, she wheeled through streets broad and narrow, crying "Cockles and Mussels, 'Alive, Alive oh!'"

If paying homage to Molly gives you an appetite for seafood, you can eat very inexpensively nearby at the long-established Beshoff restaurant, with its famous old world atmosphere like a Victorian oyster bar.

To ensure quality, Beshoff buys its fish directly from the trawlers as they come in, and grows its own "tatties" for the chips at Tipperary.

Another fascinating eating experience is to sample, at Gallagher's Boxty House in Temple Bar, the traditional Irish potato padcake (their spelling). Called the boxty, it is cooked on a griddle with a choice of fill-

ings such as beef, lamb, and bacon and cabbage.

Drinking? That's something the Irish take very seriously. So naturally we spent a morning at The World of Guinness exhibition at the company's vast old brewery at St James Gate.

This graphically tells the whole story of the history and making of the world famous stout, including its distinctive advertising.

Just as fascinating to us was to drink stout with large, lush Dublin oysters at the Porter House, near the Liffey in Parliament Street. This is a brewery and pub so intricately combined that the copper brewing vessels and pipes are all around as you eat and sup.

Dracula author

Literature? We particularly enjoyed the Dublin Writers' Museum in Parnell Square with its memorabilia of Swift, Congreve, Shaw, Wilde, Synge, O'Casey and Stoker.

Stoker? Yes, it's not forgotten that the creator of *Dracula* was a Dubliner.

Jonathan Swift, who wrote *Gulliver's Travels*, was Dean of the ancient St Patrick's Cathedral which is well worth a visit, as also is the rather tucked away St Marys Pro Cathedral, built in 1816 with French architectural inspiration.

The theatre? We were lucky while in Dublin to catch a lavish and much admired Abbey Theatre production of Dublin's favourite play, O'Casey's "Juno and the Paycock".

Dublin's other famous playhouse, the Gate, also had a popular attraction by one of Dublin's own, Oscar Wilde's own *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

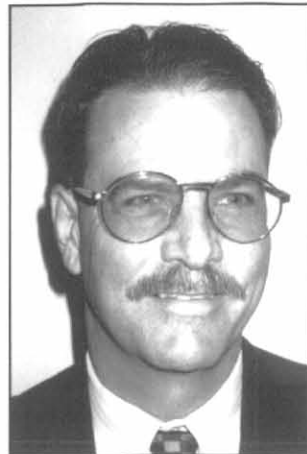
We also spent an enjoyable evening at Jury's Irish Cabaret, packed with coach parties, where the food was surprisingly good and the entertainment obviously geared to an international audience. Not one popular Irish song was left out!

Other Dublin attractions which the visitor should make a point of seeing include Trinity College with the famous ninth century manuscript, "The Book of Kells"; and Dublin Castle, built in 1204 by King John, which has played such a role in Irish history.

And it's worth finding your way, as we did, to the National Gallery of Ireland in Merrion Square, to discover that Ireland has a rich tradition of visual as well as literary arts. It was there we discovered that the poet, W.B. Yeats, came from a family of distinguished painters.

The Irish Tourist Board has an office in Sydney where you can get plenty of help with an Irish holiday. The address is

Travel Personality



James Anderson

Director, National World Travel in West Street, Paddington, and Chifley Plaza, City.

Favourite overseas destination: For a tropical holiday, Fiji. For excitement, I like New York.

Favourite local destination: Noosa for its village atmosphere, very nice restaurants (ah, the coffee!) and interesting people.

Favourite carriers: Qantas for its reliability with timing and safety record. I also like to travel KLM.

Travel tips: On an overseas trip, don't try to visit too many destinations. You'll spend too much time at airports and on planes.

What do you always pack: Very little! But I'm still accused of taking too much. What I would like to take is a lamp with a 100 watt bulb to overcome the inadequate light in so many hotel bedrooms.

Favourite travelling companion: My wife, Diana. (Also a director of National World Travel.)

Level 5, 36 Carrington Street, Sydney 2000. Ph (02) 9299 6177. Fax (02) 9299 6323.

A Bit Fishy

WHERE would I be for trivia without the *Grapevine* newsletter of Ursula King Travel?

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ART GALLERY DIARY

It's the greatest show on canvas!

SOME of the world's greatest artists have been inspired by the circus, notably Renoir, Picasso, Toulouse Lautrec and, in England, Dame Laura Knight.

Among Australian artists who portrayed the circus, perhaps the best known were Francis Lyburner (1916-72), and Normand Henry Baker (1908-55) who won the 1937 Archibald Prize.

To mark this year's 150th anniversary of the first circus performance in Australia, the Circus Fans of Australasia organisation has arranged a national circus art contest with \$8000 in cash prizes.

The contest exhibition was opened at the Arden Galleries on Wednesday, November 12 by Circus proprietor Lindsay Lennon, president of the Circus Federation of Australasia. Entries include every type of artwork and all are for sale.

After the exhibition closes on November 29, the winning entries and a selection of others will be taken to Launceston, Tasmania, for an Art of the Circus exhibition at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

This will coincide with the actual 150th anniversary of the first Australian circus which was presented in Launceston on December 27, 1847.

THE recent exhibition of works by Sydney artist, Ken Johnson, at the

Christopher Day Gallery was so popular that 150 people attended the opening and 29 of the pictures were sold in the first two weeks.

Called "Three Continents", the exhibition included works inspired by the artist's visits to the Central Desert of Australia, Turkey, Greece and Italy. Prices were between \$100 and \$25,000.

ANDREW Shapiro, managing director of Phillips International Auctioneers and Valuers, and his experienced team of specialists, have moved a few doors up Queen Street, Woollahra, to number 162.

Formerly the home of Arkitek Fabrics, the two storey building provides Phillips with a handsome gallery on the ground floor and offices above.

"We are very excited to be expanding so quickly and look forward to introducing more people to Phillips' professional auction services for buyers and sellers of art and antiques", he said. The phone number is unchanged 9326 1588.

Arden Galleries

26 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 5296. Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm. November 13-29, The Great Australian Circus Art Contest exhibition. December 4-24, The Open Bite Printmakers.

Australian Galleries

15 Royston Street, Paddington. Ph 9360 5177. Monday-Saturday 10am-6pm. November 24-December 20, George Baldessin prints and Tess Edwards recent work.

Barry Stern Gallery

19-21 Glenmore Road, Paddington. Ph 9331 4676. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5:30pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. November 1-14, Pamela Griffith, paintings and prints. November 25-December 10, Annie Herron, paintings and sculpture.

Christopher Day Gallery

Cnr Paddington St and Jersey Rd. Woollahra. Ph 9326 1952. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm Sunday 2pm-6pm. Currently mixed exhibition including Janet Cumbræ-Stewart and Norman Lindsay. From December 3, Summer Collection with a number of famous Australian artists.

Coventry Gallery

56 Sutherland Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 4338. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-

"Stardust" at Concord, by Jose Gutierrez of Sydney, which won the \$4000 first prize in the Great Australian Circus Art Contest. The contest exhibition is now running at the Arden Galleries.

5pm. November 18-December 6, Ross Laurie paintings and June MacLucas drawings. December 9-20, group exhibition.

Eddie Glastra Gallery

40 Gurner Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 6477. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. Until November 29, Investment Paintings including Streeton, Roberts, Bunny, Nolan, Whiteley and Arthur Boyd.

Eva Breuer

83 Moncur Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0297. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. November-December, Fine Australian Paintings including Arthur Boyd, John Olsen and Sidney Nolan.

Gallery Savah

20 Glenmore Road, Paddington. Ph 9360 9979. Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm. November 6-26, Al Skaw major works - figurative oil paintings. November 27-mid December Christmas exhibition - The Art of Living - including works by Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman and David Rankin.

Hogarth Galleries

7 Walker Lane, Paddington. Ph 9360 6800. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm. November 4-22, batiks and prints from Utopia, NT. November 25-December 20, Warlukurlangu Artists of Yuendumu, NT.

Charles Hewitt

30 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9327 8185. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 11am-5pm. November 14-December 3, Aileen Brown - new linocuts. December 4-January, Charlotte Thodey - new works.

Istral Gallery

162a Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9362 0648. Wednesday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. November 9-December 24, mixed exhibition of Istral Gallery artists including Sally Joubert, Nannette Bassier, Peter McQueeney and Eva Hannah.

Josef Lebovic

34 Paddington Street, Paddington. Ph 9332 1840. Tuesday-Friday 1pm-6pm; Saturday 11am-5pm. October 25-November 29, 20th Anniversary Photographic Exhibition. Photographs from 1850 to 1990. December 6-mid January, Christmas Exhibition.

Martin Browne Fine Art East

72A Windsor Street, Paddington.

Ph 9361 0111. Monday-Saturday 11am-6pm; Sunday 12pm-6pm. November 1-December 21, Exhibition of 20th Century Australian Paintings.

Martin Browne

13 MacDonald Street Paddington. Ph 9360 2051. Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm. November-December, works from stock including paintings by Rosalie Gascoigne and Dick Watkin.

Queen Street Fine Art

34 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3358. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5pm; Sunday 1pm-5pm. November 19-December 7, Susan Cadby, Australian Landscapes. December 9-24, Christmas hang-ups incorporating works on and in boxes by gallery artists.

Rex Irwin

First floor, 38 Queen Street, Woollahra. Ph 9363 3212. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5:30pm. November 25-December 20, Jonathan Delafield Cook - Paintings and Drawings.

Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery

Soudan Lane (off 27 Hampden Street) Paddington. Ph 9331 1919. Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-6pm. November 12-December 20, Bronwyn Oliver - Copper Sculpture. And Julie RRap 'Prothetic Knight' - installation.

Savill Galleries

156 Hargrave Street, Paddington. Ph 9327 8311. Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm. Saturday 11am-5pm. Currently "Figures and Landscapes" by Australian artists Streeton to Jeffrey Smart. Until December.

Sherman Galleries

16-18 Goodhope Street, Paddington. Ph 9331 1112. Tuesday-Friday 11am-6pm. Until November 22, Chinese Australian artist Guan Wei. November 27-December 20, Imants Tillers - Selected Works.

Sherman Galleries

1 Hargrave Street Paddington. Ph 9360 5566. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm. November 18-December, Greta Cranston - Artbox.

Wagner Art Gallery

39 Gurner Street, Paddington. Ph 9360 6069. Tuesday-Saturday 11am-6pm, Sunday 1pm-5pm. Currently until November 28, John Borraack - watercolourist. December 2-24, Pro Hart - My Country Australia.

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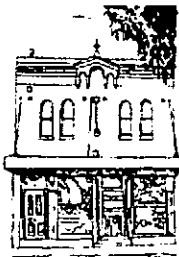
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FRENCH MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

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Private dining room also available

BOOKINGS 9361 6315

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Paddington

LOCAL TABLES

By Lucullus

Vamp-ed? No, gently seduced!

AU CHABROL
248 Glenmore Road,
Paddington.
Phone: 9331 2551
Dinner: Monday-Saturday

CREPERIE STIVELL
2B Heeley Street, Paddington.
Phone: 9360 6191
Dinner: Seven days a week
Lunch: Wednesday-Saturday

VAMP'S BYO BISTRO
227 Glenmore Road,
Paddington.
Phone: 9331 1032
Dinner: Monday-Saturday

ROYAL HOTEL
237 Glenmore Road,
Paddington.
Lunch and Dinner every day
Phone: 9331 2604

SITUATED at the historic heart of Paddington, Five Ways is well served with restaurants of several different styles and prices, offering much that is excellent.

Our thoughts turned there last month after disappointing experiences at two restaurants in other parts of the *Village Voice* circulation area which we had hoped to commend to readers.

Among the clutch of Five Ways cateries, we have a long-standing affection for Au Chabrol and its lovable Laotian-born proprietors, tiny Impon (front of house) and her husband Khamsouk (chef).

To some people, Au Chabrol's menu might appear to be in a time warp from the days when it opened in Glenmore Road some 20 years ago, and Australians had a taste for the more robust French-inspired cuisine.

However, such dishes as Coquilles St Jacques and Quail a l'Orange still appeal to old codgers like me and are even enjoying a new lease of life as "retro" cuisine.

I hope Impon and Khamsouk are benefiting from the renaissance. Their menu offers both old fashioned quality and value, with entrees between \$8.90 and \$13.95, and main courses under the \$20 mark.

Supper spot

Another family favourite is the Creperie Stivell, just the place for a late evening supper on the way back from seeing a film in the city.

Creperie Stivell is entering its 25th year of serving appetising French style crepes, made fresh to order with names as tempting as the taste.

There are some nine styles of the smaller pannequettes for entree or a light snack; 13 of the more hearty galettes; and some 15 of the crepes sucres or blintzes for dessert.

Personal favourites are the Epinard pannequette with spinach and creamy mornay sauce (\$6.20), and the Marseilles galette encompassing a selection of seafood (\$11.80).

Among the dessert temptations, my wife cannot go past the traditional simple crepe with lemon and sugar; while my

sweeter tooth calls for the addition of apricot jam and cognac (both \$5.50). And with both we like a wanton blob of ice cream.

Creperie Stivell will toss you up a very respectable side salad to go with your crepe. Among its other pleasures are the friendliness of the waiting staff and the French and other memorabilia on the walls.

Special atmosphere

More recently, we have come to enjoy the very individual atmosphere of Vamp's BYO Bistro, run for the past 15 years with cheerful style by the waggish Tony Johansson and his chic French partner Veronique.

Our latest expedition was a late dinner after visiting last month's Antiques Fair, and we were favoured with a window table overlooking the passing show of Five Ways.

To me, one of the special appeals of Vamp's is that the kitchen is an open enclave in the centre of the restaurant so that you can watch and hear the staff at work. (No swearing or hurling dishes at each other!)

I can remember only one other Sydney restaurant where you could be so entertained. Edna's Tables at its old address in Kent Street.

As Vamp's is unlicensed and does not have to hustle wine, a welcome glass of water and bottle of replenishment appears on your table as soon as you do.

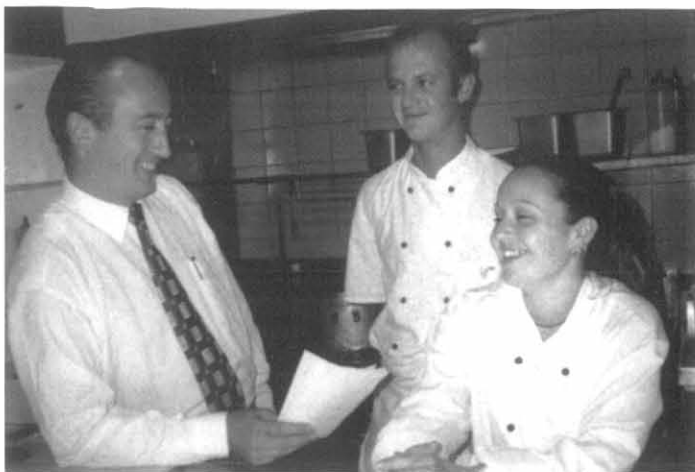
When we arrived that night, Tony was away and our order was taken by Veronique with admirable precision considering that she did not write it down. (I wonder, could she memorise the dishes for a party of 10?)

The short menu is best described as eclectic, with some fashionable Asian leanings and several quite adventurous sauces and accompaniments.

I decided on two entrees, starting with a decidedly al dente Tagliatelle suffused with flakes of leek, topped with fine smoked salmon and surmounted by a little nest of crisp onion strips.

Loving spoonful

Its successor was something of a novelty, Peking Duck Crepe (\$10) with which I ordered a



The Kitchen provides great entertainment value! Tony Johansson (left) of Vamp's BYO Bistro with chef Kellie Farr and assistant Jason Jamieson.

salad. According to my food dictionary, Peking Duck is a large white duck bred especially for the table.

Even if mine did not have such a pedigree, it was still commendably flavoured.

Feeling very empty after tramping round the Antiques Fair, my wife settled for the Artichoke Soup special (\$9.50) which she pronounced "full of flavour" and the Braised Pork Neck with Prunes and Apple at \$18 ("excellent").

Having solved her little internal problem, she decided to forgo dessert but could not resist taking a loving spoonful of my Passionfruit Creme Brulee with its toothsome crust and smooth filling (\$8.50).

The total bill was just over \$67.

Being an impatient fellow, I like the way the food arrives so quickly at Vamp's, possibly one of the benefits of a kitchen surrounded by the dining room.

Before the evening's end, Tony arrived back from some mission concerned with massage (of the respectable variety, I have no doubt) to gaze happily at the clientele and tuck into a hearty meal himself.

But this did not keep him from jumping up when we left, opening the door and sending us into the night with some pleasant words of farewell.

In fact that's another hallmark of Vamp's, service that is genuinely friendly. The food's not half bad either.

Choice of 300 wines

The three restaurants so far described are all BYO. And patronising them gives the excuse to visit the superbly stocked cellar of the Royal Hotel.

Some 300 different wines are available, varying from assorted bargain specials to a Bolinger nudging the \$100 mark and a very respectable Margaux at just under \$60.

Because it carries wines from so many smaller and less well known wineries, the cellar is a browsing paradise for the wine buff, as of course also are the Five Ways Cellars of the knowledgeable Ian Cook just up the

hill in Heeley Street.

The wine list, so strong on small makers, is also a good reason to patronise the Royal Hotel's bustling upstairs bar and grill. Another, on a fine day, is to be able to eat out on the balconies with a bird's eye view of Paddington.

On the list for our latest visit were two of my small vineyard favourites, Tim Adams Riesling from the Clare Valley (\$22.50) and the Peppertree Shiraz Cabernet Malbec from the Hunter (\$21.50).

Bangers and mash

Many of the wines are available by the glass at prices from \$4.20. For \$39.50 you can indulge yourselves in a half bottle of Veuve Cliquot.

The short menu offers plenty of variety and I am unashamedly addicted to the hearty Sausages with Glazed Onions and Mashed Potatoes (\$14.80).

A presentation of two dips with grilled bread and olives (\$7.80) is a companionable way for a couple to start the meal while deciding what comes next.

Service is swift and expert. My only quibble, as a potato fancier, is that the Chips (that's what the menu calls them) are hefty wedges rather than the delicate slimline French fries we adore.

I have even felt strongly enough to write a complaining letter to the management who replied that patrons prefer them that way.

Fair enough I suppose. But three cheers for the bangers and mash.

FOODNOTE: There are appropriately five ways I have recently dined well in Five Ways. The fifth was at the curiously named "a Restaurant" which I reviewed in the previous *Village Voice*.

I notice that a Restaurant has standardised its prices – all entrees \$8.90, all mains \$13.90 and all desserts \$7.50. A three-course meal is \$28 and a two-course \$21. Nothing standard about the food though!

Ah, there's nothing like fresh food

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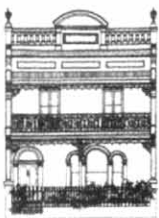


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Local real estate market still rising

THE real estate market in Paddington and Woollahra is still rising, according to Joe Abboud, licensee manager of the Richardson & Wrench office which covers the two areas.

"My belief is that the market will stabilise for a short period," he added.

"If we are going to have another boom, it will come late in 1998 and possibly continue into 1999."

He believes that after the Olympics in the year 2000, there will again be some sort of recession.

According to the Real Estate Institute of Australia, the average cost of buying a Sydney home has risen by almost 19 per cent in the past year.

Record price

Something of a local real estate record was set when a five-bedroom house in Stephen Street, Paddington, sold for \$1.95 million.

In Moore Park Road, a four-bedroom house with double garage fetched \$1.3 million.

Joe said the reason for high prices in Paddington and West Woollahra was that the area was already very built up and new homes could not be created.

If you had bought in the area in 1988, you could have doubled your money, he said.

In selling a home, Joe advised exploring every avenue of marketing but he believes the best prices are achieved at auction.

If you wish to buy, his advice

is to sit down with a real estate agent to discuss your needs. He or she may possibly know of something to suit you which has not yet come on the market.

And if you plan to both sell and buy, perhaps to achieve a bigger or better home, Joe believes strongly that you should "buy and sell in the same market" so that the money from your sale will enable you to achieve your aim.

\$1.53 million for burned-out church

ANOTHER chapter came last month in the continuing saga of the burned out Uniting Church in Jersey Road, Woollahra, when it was sold at auction by Richardson & Wrench for \$1.53 million.

The successful bid in a mortgage sale came from a real estate agent acting for an anonymous purchaser. The property sold in 1994 for \$1 million.

Village Voice has been told that the new owner intends to develop the building into four townhouses according to the

scheme devised for the previous owner by John Oultram of Clive Lucas, Stapleton & Partners.

The Queen Street Association supports this scheme for which Woollahra Council granted development approval in 1995.

John Oultram says he aimed to preserve the feel and sense of the original building.

The essential fabric would be retained. However, in replacing the burned out roof, a number of small dormer windows would be added.

In another important local real estate sale, the two-storey medical centre at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue, Woollahra, was due to be auctioned by L.J. Hooker on November 13.

Described as "a prime Woollahra landmark", it was expected to fetch in the region of \$1.4 to \$1.5 million.

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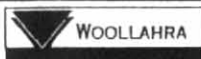
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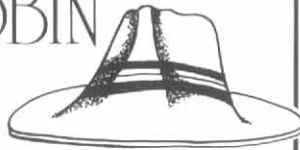
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ROUND ROBIN

Robin Brampton's Queen
Street Commentary



AFTER three years in Queen Street, Susie Carleton's Queen Street Fare takeaway has taken itself away – to the Roma Arcade in Double Bay.

Its departure has provided a great opportunity for Larry Gam and his partner, Hilton Block, who aim by the end of November to open in its place a PASTA PANTRY similar to their popular Italian takeaway in Rose Bay.

"I wanted a shop in Woollahra before we opened in Rose Bay," Hilton told me. "It has such an exclusive atmosphere."

Pastra Pantry serves some 400 customers a day, particularly in the evening, with practically every conceivable type of pasta. These come complete with the sauce, or with sauce and pasta separate to be joyfully mated at home.

Micro-waveability

The food is created in the company's kitchen at Tempe, with great emphasis on freshness, and also on "micro-waveability".

In addition to pasta, Pasta Pantry offers a number of other Italian specialties including dips, lasagna, gnocchi and such antipasto delicacies as olives, frittata and chargrilled mushroom or eggplant.

In other foodshop news, I sadly report the death in October of "Auntie" Raie Rosenberg whose homemade dishes were such a feature of her Ocean Street deli. Our sympathies to her husband and business partner, Ron, their three children and two grandchildren.

Bin there dumped that!



Obviously somebody who rented a skip to collect the debris from a large scale refurbishment did not welcome others making use of it. Picture taken in Holdsworth Street, Woollahra.

After being closed for some time, the store is now being run with sparkling and well – stocked efficiency by George and Jie Zhuo who arrived in Australia 10 years ago from Shanghai.

The Zhuos serve light food on the premises and also provide an enterprising takeaway service featuring a different dish each evening – Leek Tofu on Monday, Veal Goulash on Tuesday, etc.

Changes also at Queens Court where the ADELE WEISS fashion store has moved diagonally to larger premises, replacing the Accoutrement cooks' shop.

The former Adele Weiss shop continues in an upmarket tradition with the arrival of the COSE gift shop (it's Italian for "things") of sisters Sue Neilsen and Lu Mulligan.

The stock is elegant and original, with such items as handsome colourful glass vases, ostrich leather-covered photo albums and necklaces made by a Sicilian master goldsmith.

Although most is Italian, there is a touch of Australia in the original clocks made from Western Australian timbers.

"This is a fantasy we have had for 20 years," said Sue of this, their first retailing venture. "Now it's happening at last."

I would also like to welcome a new outlet for NICOLA FINETTI original evening and day wear at number 92 Queen Street. Nicola (he's a chap) also has a long-established boutique at Mosman.

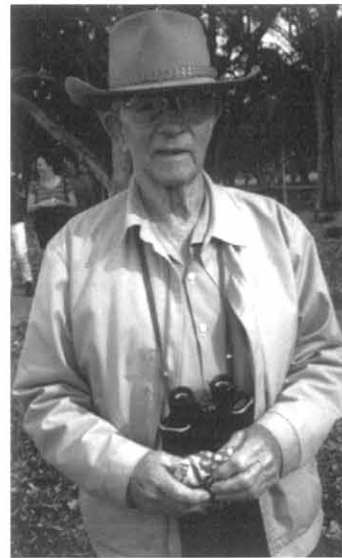
Formerly THE ART OF WINE & FOOD shop of John Cunningham, now at number 80, the premises have been considerably enlarged. The Nicola Finetti Shop is managed by Teresa Lopez.

Discovery on foot

AS an old fella whose only regular exercise (apart from jumping to conclusions) is footing it around wherever I might be at the time, I am delighted to report two interesting local walking initiatives.

Helen Morrison, of West Woollahra, has launched a programme of walks called Footloose Walking Tours; and Centennial Park Trust now provides guided walking tours to show off the Park's rich natural life.

When Helen's tours were introduced at a function at the Hughenden Hotel last month, the former teacher explained how she



Bird watching....Paddington watching. Ornithologist, Ern Hosking and terrace house lover Helen Morrison.

came to love our area after moving into Victoria Barracks in 1984 as an army wife.

She promises a variety of experiences and vistas, with emphasis on the area's rich vein of history and the development of terrace houses.

Helen also is holding a series of five different weekly walks along the Sydney Harbour foreshores, starting at the Harbour Bridge and finishing at The Gap.

I've yet to sample one of her walks, but it was worth getting up at dawn on a chilly morning last month to accompany octogenarian ornithologist Ern Hosking on a "Birdwatchers' Breakfast", a two-hour walk in Centennial Park, followed by "eats" and a discussion.

On any given day, a bird watcher can expect to see some 35 of the

120 different bird species known to frequent Centennial Park, many not common to the metropolitan area.

During the walk, after Ern had knowledgeably explained the differences between the many water birds, his sharp eyes spotted for us an unusual Tawny Frogmouth.

Ern Hosking will conduct another birdwatching experience, covering a different area of Centennial Park and different bird species, on Sunday, February 22, under the title, "Rise and Shine and Greet the Birds".

Inquiries: Footloose Walking Tours, 11a Moncur Street, Woollahra 2025; Ph and Fax 9326 2168. Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Locked Bag 15, Paddington 2021; Ph 9559 6699 (ask for Jackie Randles).



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