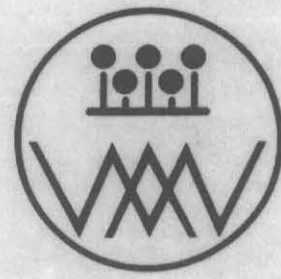


# Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 75 April 2002

## The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association Annual General Meeting

Delivery of Village Voice  
delayed because of production  
problems



The Mayor of Woollahra Councillor John Comino  
spoke at the meeting held Tuesday April 6, 2002  
held at Holdsworth Street Community Centre cnr Holdsworth  
and Morrel Streets Woollahra

Thanks to Honorary Auditors Baskin Clark, Woollahra, for the recent audit of the accounts.

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# A call for help

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association continues to represent this significant area of Sydney through consultation with the community, dealing with Council, conducting community events and publishing this magazine.

The Association is looking for people who are interested in becoming involved by sitting on the committee or acting in some capacity that will help with the planning and running of the various activities now undertaken throughout the year.

For many years now, there has been talk of establishing a business group for the area. A meeting was held last year at Zigolinis which was well attended by the many local business interests. Unfortunately, a follow-up to that meeting has not been organized due to other activities and not enough people to assist.

There is an obvious need for a business forum and we would like to hear from persons that can assist in getting this off the ground. The groundwork has been done, it now needs suitable people to drive it forward.

It must be remembered that it was the Association's endeavours that has seen the repaving of the footpaths in Queen Street that are now

being enjoyed by the many shoppers to the street as well as the cafés offering outside dining.

The community carols is getting bigger every year and is now a major undertaking. The planning of this event has already started but we need further assistance to continue the success of this great community event.

The Streetwatch program needs the input of every resident. The letters we receive about the street and footpath conditions are very welcome and this needs to be co-ordinated and presented to Council on a regular basis.

The feedback on the newlook Village Voice has been very encouraging. But advertising needs to be obtained, articles written and then it needs to be distributed. Thank you to all those people that have helped but a few more hands makes it easier for everyone.

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Association and with your help and support, it can continue to make a difference to the West Woollahra area.

*Call secretary Philip Johns on 9328 1154 or post to PO Box 16 Woollahra 1350, with any suggestions or offers of assistance. The Association looks forward to your response.*

## Mayor or Nightmare

Are you aware that the Mayor of Woollahra is elected annually by Councillors?

There appears to be a rotation system whereby each Councillor is almost sure to be elected Mayor regardless of capability, suitability or commitment. A term of one year is insufficient time for anyone including this Association to build a rapport and bring local issues to the Mayor's attention with little if any time left for action to be taken. Under this system, there is no continuity and very little responsibility or accountability. A longer term would surely be beneficial for Woollahra and bring a sense of achievement for a dedicated Mayor.

The current Mayor, Councillor John Comino, is just over half way through his term of Office. His accessibility, enthusiasm and commitment has been impressive and therefore the term of one year should be reviewed.

What do you think?

*Heather Smith*



### The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433

A residents' action group covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road, Oxford Street, West Woollahra. Affiliated with the National Trust.

Annual Membership subscription rates:

Pensioner	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Corporate	\$100

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**President:** Heather Smith  
**V/President:** Graham Freudenberg  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Philip Johns

**Committee:** Ian Angus Lyndall Crisp,  
 Ken Gresham, Alex Nettis, Drew Robertson,  
 Annette Robinson, Alan Smith



Village Voice is published by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

**Editor:** Annette Robinson

**Advertising:** Philip Johns

All correspondence to Box 16 P.O. Woollahra 2025

Ph: 9328 1154 Fax: 9328 1157

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## LAND VALUATION DEBACLE

ACCORDING TO the Valuer General values in Woollahra have plummeted six per cent. Yet this has occurred when property values are booming. Mayor John Comino said that nearly all challenges to the 1997-8 valuations achieved significant reductions and that 'silver-tail' Woollahra was unfairly targeted. He says that these 2002 valuations are now realistic.

But the problem is that land tax has already been paid by some owners on the hitherto unrealistic values and they are agitating for a refund.

"Woollahra is the only municipality in NSW where there has been an average 6% reduction", said Mr Singer of David Lander Stewart, Solicitors. The director general of the NSW Department of Information Technology and Management says the property market has declined in the wealthier areas and risen out west where lower prices attract first home buyers.

After the debacle in February when 370 assessments were issued incorrectly much to the embarrassment of the Office of State Revenue, we are not confident in the voracity of this statement.

## Centennial Park

PLANS FOR parking meters in Centennial Park have been scrapped. The community reaction to this proposal was an unequivocal NO and Premier Bob Carr and the Centennial and Moore Park Trust have capitulated.

CYCLISTS WILL not be going against the car traffic in Grand Drive. This proposal was also rejected because of community pressure.

### Doggie Power

FEDERATION VALLEY is again off-leash for dogs for a twelve-month trial. To protect the pavilion they are prohibited in the area marked off by the stone circle. The Dog Minders Association has volunteered not to walk dogs in the valley, so it is now restricted to individual dog owners. Seems like a sensible solution all round.



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# Overhead cables

It's about time that leafy Woollahra put its power lines underground. Energy Australia's recent Sydney-wide butchering of trees by cutting out the central canopy has been well documented. The horrific February storms wreaked chaos over Sydney and added to the problem.

At last Councils all over Sydney are looking for a better solution. Some, such as North Sydney, Sutherland and Waverly Councils are considering 'bundling' four or more cables together to make one thick one. Energy Australia charges councils \$990 for each 40 metre span. This seems to be a very temporary and unsatisfactory solution. Who wants unsightly big black cables festooning the streets of Woollahra?

In an attempt to appease public anger at their appalling tree 'trimming' Energy Australia has come up with a list of trees suitable for planting under power lines. Too late for Woollahra, and anyhow we like our great trees shading the streets. What would Queen Street be like without its magnificent trees?

The only solution is to put the cables underground. The mayor of Ashfield has called for a Sydney-wide levy on each household to pay for this. Clover Moore agrees that the only viable long-term solution for mature trees at risk is underground cables.

Come on Mayor Comino. Your one-year term is nearly up. Make a real aesthetic contribution to Woollahra before you leave your post by getting the ball rolling. Start agitating to get the cables underground. The Council spent \$14 million of ratepayer's money on the new Council Chambers. We know there'll be some sort of levy, but allocate some of our rates to pay for something we really need. You'll go down in Council history.

Annette Robinson

*Village Voice would welcome readers' comments on this article. Village Voice is your voice.*

## LAND AND ENVIRONMENT COURT

When Councillors start scrapping amongst themselves about Development Application approvals what chance the poor ordinary resident? Councillor Mark Watts, a member of the Liberal team, and his wife Alison Cobden Jones took action in the Land and Environment Court to try to overturn the DA consent to a \$14 million story building next door to their home in Guilfoyle Ave, Double Bay.

They claimed that the approved building broke the size limits of the Council's own local environment plan (LEP) and development control plan (DCP) by writing special urban design guidelines for the site. "The developer rewrote the rules" said L&E Judge Terry Sheahan seeking to clarify the case against the Council.

The judge ruled for the Council, and it looks as if Councillor Watts and his wife will be out of pocket for legal costs. In September 2001 Councillor Watts resigned from the liberal team and is now an independent.

## PARKING METERS

PARKING METERS will be installed in April in Oxford Street, Paddington and Double Bay's commercial centre. The Council has accepted a solar powered model with a smart card facility. The charge will be \$3 per hour including GST. The cost will be \$600 000 in Oxford Street and \$50 000 in Paddington. An alternative, without meters, was rejected at this stage as the NSW Government does not permit the issuing of electronic infringement notices.

Judging by the incredible degree of damage to meters in the Bondi Beach area it would seem prudent to speed up an alternative to meters. The cost to Waverly Council for fixing this constant vandalism must be more than they receive in revenue.



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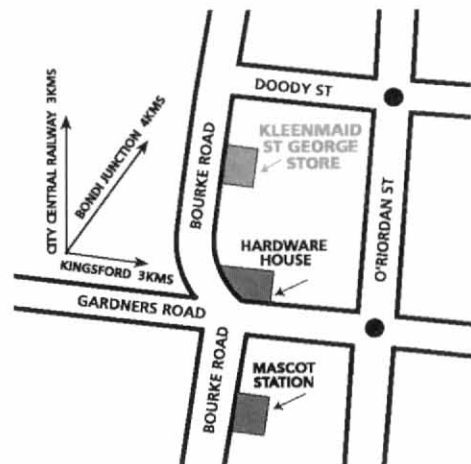
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# OCEAN STREET SHOPPING VILLAGE

While a lot of attention is focused on Queen Street, it should not be forgotten that there are the other shopping precincts in the West Woollahra area. This month we are taking a look at the delightful Ocean Street Shopping Village.

In the fine dining stakes there is the celebrated **Pruniers** which has been providing great food and service to diners for over 30 years. Although many people will remember fondly the attentions of Aldo Zuzza during the 80's and early 90's, there has been a few changes of late. A refurbishment of the dining area has opened the restaurant up to all that natural light of the afternoon and early evening and a stroll through Chiswick Park before and after dinner helps to set the scene for a memorable occasion. New Manager, Tony Milne from Windows on the World on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre in New York, looks forward to continuing the **Prunier's** reputation of good service in this unique setting.

There is also **Ninos Café** which has been serving a loyal local clientele for many years on the freshest of fish almost straight from the ocean.

**Treats of Woollahra** continues to get many a young man or forgetful husband out of trouble with its gorgeous array of chocolates, fudges and candies. It was doing a roaring trade when VV had to slip in for a recent Valentines gift. The girls behind this venture are Julie and Kate and they will be able to provide many gift box options of chocolates included with perfumes or champagne and packaged in delightful baskets, boxes and hampers. You can also stop for coffee and a light lunch while you indulge your senses and pick out your favourite chocolate.

Looking for that special hat for race day or next important function then **Axel Mano** is a must to visit. Not only will you find a great hat but you can also team it up with a handbag, scarf and belt.

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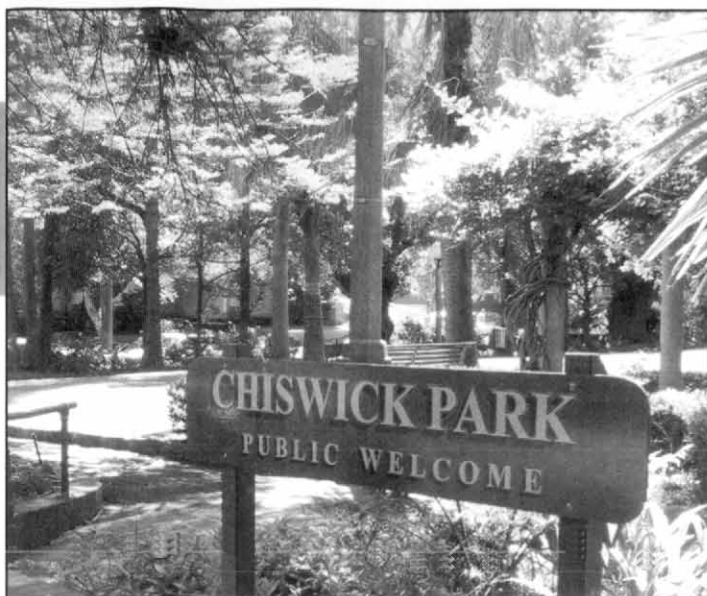
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Anyone who enjoys wearing fine clothing knows that it is essential to know a good drycleaner and **Woollahra Dry Cleaners** are establishing a reputation for providing quality service at a realistic price. Frank took over the business only two years ago and the revamped shop and regular clientele indicate a well run operation. With winter around the corner it is now time to freshen up those bedspreads and doonas and winter woolen wear.

**Piggott's Store** on the corner of Fourth and Ocean Streets is the delightfully colourful and welcoming store of Meg Klimpton and Nan Sefton. Stepping through the doors is like stepping back to another era. The array of beautifully hand made items of childrens clothes, cushions, trays, bedside tables, bookcases and other assorted pieces reminds one of a time when these interesting stores abounded. Thank heavens for Piggott's.

Fabrics are readily available in this area with **Redelman Fabrics** offering a wholesale business for the trade and a little further down is the **Blind and Drape Store**, which is exactly that with a huge range of window and wall covering fabrics are available.

In the oldest store in Queen Street, on the corner of Ocean Street, is to be found the unique **Castone**. They produce an Australian made composite stone product with the patina of antique architectural stone. There is a full range of flagstones, steps, pool copings and stone furniture available. Also to be found are a number of unusual items like heraldic fabrics, old chairs and a number of lamps.

Next door to **Castone** is the celebrated **Parterre Garden**. A wander through this store leaves everyone inspired to make over that garden and outdoor area.

John Kennedy's **Woollahra Home Service** is where a wander around rows of wine on display will turn up some unusual finds. The range is extensive and there is sure to be something for everyone.

**Imagine This** has the most amazing range of just about everything for the home on display. Tables, chairs, baskets, candles, candelabra and so much more.

The delightful Natalia Sayfi has established an oasis of tranquility in the form of **Saffron Rose**. In this setting you can relieve the stresses of Sydney living with therapeutic massage, aromatherapy and spiritual cleansing. The classes of yoga will calm the mind while easing the body.



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# letters to the editor

## Illegal Parking

I was delighted to read in the recent Village Voice that there were parking police booking vehicles on the corners of Queen and Holdsworth Streets recently, but will it prevent people from continuing what they have been doing for years.

It seems that no-one in a position to help will address this very serious problem, which I feel will result in some one being killed. On several occasions I have had to help elderly citizens manoeuvre past the illegally parked cars and in one instance a citizen was hit. Trying to cross Holdsworth Street on foot is dangerous and particularly so when there is no space for pedestrians due to footpath access being blocked.

We have approached Woollahra Council and the NSW Police Department over the years with absolutely no effect. I had given up writing letters and making telephone calls about this matter but I thought in light of the article in Village Voice you might have some way to approach the appropriate organisation.

Here's hoping!

P Zylstra

## Dangerous Crossing

Could you possibly draw the attention of the powers that be (I have notified Council) to the poor state of the pedestrian crossing in Queen Street where it crosses Nelson Street. As we have a Day Care Centre, a Retirement Village and a Nursing Home nearby, there are a number of people who use this crossing who chance being skittled every time they attempt to cross.

Motorists simply DO NOT SEE IT!

J Morris

## Streetwatch 1

Have no idea if you ever noted Wallis

Street between Moncur and Ocean Streets in particular as a street in bad need of repair. On both sides of the street the footpaths are awful and have been for 20 years.

The elderly and frail residents of Coleman Lodge Retirement Village have great difficulty making their way down the street using the verandah fences for balance to get past the ruts and depressions.

I personally called Council out about 8 months ago and they agreed the paths were awful. I asked to let me know if and when they would eventually get Council attention. No reply!

L Wilhelm

## Streetwatch 2

We would like to bring to your attention the abominable mess of accumulated debris on the footpaths in Ocean Street and around Trelawney Street. Trash, leaves, branches and seeds are an unsightly mess – to say nothing of the irregular and uneven pavement.

We would appreciate regular clean up as well as improved level pavement

H Hall

## Traders Group

Thank you for organizing the Association business meeting last year, there were some useful ideas raised. I thought the tree lights had the potential for 'prettifying' the street and distracting the eye from gutter and street grime.

I do believe there is merit in promoting Queen Street as a whole and revamping what has become like a grand but faded old lady living on past glories.

D McGowan



# New Look for Queen Street

A recent article by Terry Ingram in the Financial Review has highlighted the changing face of Queen Street businesses.

The closure of two antique dealer's show rooms, Hamish Clark and Andre and Cecile Fink, was due to a slow down in antique dealing and an unlikely change in customer's tastes or attitudes in the immediate future. The high rents of the leased shops adding to the problem with Mr Clark paying \$6,000 a month and Andre and Cecile Fink paying \$7,850 a month.

Other dealers in the street, Perryman Oriental Carpets, Howell and Howell, Bradshaw Antiques, Ros Palmer Interiors and GL Auchinachie and Son, have beaten the rent hikes by buying their own buildings but have had to pay up to \$2 million for the privilege.

Rents have risen hugely in expectation that Queen Street would become an extension of Oxford Street. Long-term commercial residents have expressed doubts that the rents being asked will be sustained by the new businesses being courted to pay them. A number of empty commercial premises currently in the street would lay testimony to that.

Auction houses have piggy backed on the street's success by establishing their Sydney head offices here and many members of the antiques trade believe that competition from the auction houses has

added to the down turn in business.

One dealer has stated that 'There is not enough foot traffic and more astute frock and olive shop proprietors have turned down premises in the street on that basis'.

This would be news to the café and coffee house owners. With the opening of Crème Anglaise under the trees at the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets and Pan Darte across the road, joining the established Zigolinis, Agostini's and Adam's, this new culture has brought many people back to the area. It was not long ago with the closure of the Queen Street banks that the street was very quiet and trade was down. The new cafés have not taken business away from the established premises and it would appear that Double Bay may be losing patronage.

The ever popular Orson & Blake and the newer arte flowers have also added to the increase of shoppers to the street. Their brand of homewares, fashion and gift ideas is very popular with their younger clientele and also the not so young.

While a transformation into the fashion dominated Oxford Street strip is undesirable, the current mix of antiques, art galleries, fashion, food stores, cafés, gift ware and essential community services appears to be the right blend of something for everyone.

Sydney's perfect day out is Queen Street!

## NEW PRE-DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SERVICE

Attention developers and owner builders. If you intend to lodge a Development Application and are not sure if it will be acceptable Woollahra Council now offers a new service to pro-

vide applicants with useful early advice

Applicants can meet relevant Council staff, including senior planners, landscape officers, engineers, heritage and health officers to determine whether

## street watch

COUNCIL HAS removed two of the concrete tree borders in the Queen Street shopping area and replaced them with a flat porous pebble mix. This cover will not only protect the roots of the trees but allows water to pass through thus ensuring the trees are well watered.

THE REACTION from regular shoppers has been very positive due to the removal of the hazardous borders which created quite a potential for trips and falls.

THERE ARE two garden areas covered in this trial to see if the surface is more satisfactory for passing pedestrian traffic. Your feedback will help to get the rest of the garden plots treated.

they should proceed with their proposal.

After the one-hour consultation they will receive written advice. Though this will not be binding it is hoped it will speed up the process and raise the quality of building applications. The cost will be \$330 for proposed values under 1 million and \$660 for those above 1 million.

We asked Council if this service applied to small renovations and have been assured that the normal advice of a duty officer was still available at Council Chambers for no charge. Hope it won't slow down the service for the ordinary home renovator.

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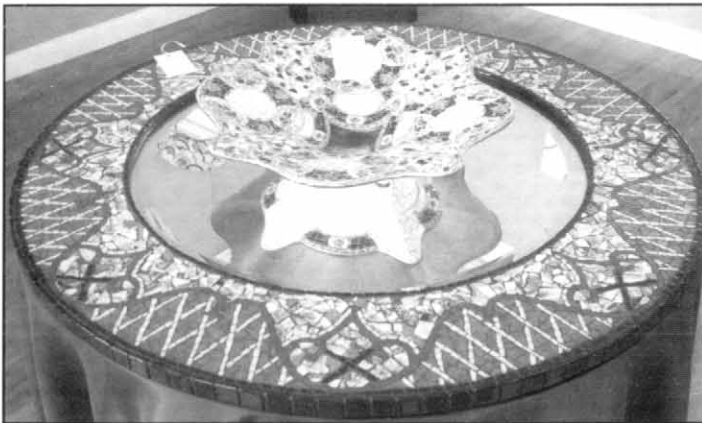
# arrivals, departures and relocations

**Hamish Clark**, who has dealt in English antiques in Queen Street for four years, and before that in William Street Paddington, is moving into the tile business. He has bought **Pazotti Tiles** in Moncur Street from David and Ann Ross.

**Andre and Cecile Fink**, who deal in French 18th Century antiques are also closing their Queen Street doors.

Well known personality **Virginia** has closed her much loved take-away home-cooked food shop, **Pasta Rosa**. No more potato pie just like mother used to make, or wonderful sugar cured ham and plum puddings for Christmas. Virginia has been a trader in Queen Street for a long time; her shop was originally a wonderful children's clothing shop, Paddington Bear when great kid's clothes were hard to find. Time has moved on and Pasta Rosa will be replaced by a **charcoal chicken** shop.

A delightful studio shop, **Fine Mosaics**, has opened on the corner of Wallis Street and Bowden Lane. Proprietor Helen Stewart, pro-



duces functional homewares: platters, bowls, vases, mirrors and photo frames. These objects are exquisitely finished using fine porcelain and glass mosaic tiles. Helen's work is distinctive for the combination of strong modern shapes, delicate classical designs and subtle colours. Together these elements create a strong contemporary look which retains a flavour of the grand and antique. Visit the shop to check out Helen's work on display or you can commission that special piece.

Local real estate identity, Michael Stavrianos, is now flying the red and yellow flag at **L. J. Hooker Woollahra**. Joining Michael in his new business venture is sister Kristalla. Energetic and enthusiastic Michael and Kristalla, have property experience in residential, commercial and industrial real estate sales and property investment management. They have been inspired by parents Tony and Andriana, who successfully operated L.J. Hooker offices in the inner city and eastern suburbs over the past 30 years.

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**Charcoal Charlies**, the new business in the Pasta Rosa shop, has an array of chicken dinners, hot vegetables, lovely salads and assorted meal options from which to choose. A long overdue addition to the take away choices in the street.

**Penelope Randall's** old shop at 86 Queen Street has been leased and is being fitted out for fashion designer Tim O'Connor.

**Tibet**, the rug store come fashion house of Diki and Tim linkins, has opened again after a major refurbishment. With all that extra space to show off Diki's designs it is well worth a visit.

# chat street



A brush box has been planted in Moncur Street near Queen Street to replace the diseased camphor laurel taken out last August.

With the **Fox Backlot** closed and heaps of unused visitor parking available can we remove the unsightly parking from Moore Park? After all the Premier gave considerable financial incentive to the Backlot. It's failed, so lets use the available parking there and return the green space in Moore Park for parkland.

Police Commissioner Ryan and new Police Minister Costa have decided that there will be **no amalgamation of local area police stations in the City East Region**. Thank goodness! We want more police on the beat and more locally based frontline police.

The application for a backpacker hotel at 32 Queen Street was rejected by Council aldermen after an on-site visit. Its fate was sealed when the inspection was conducted in torrential rain and the Council minibus was unable to get through the cars parked in the back lane to gain access to the rear of the building.

This is where the backpacker minibuses proposed to drop off their clients.

VV was taking the 389 bus into the city recently when it was delayed up at the corner of Hargreave St and Jersey Road by an illegally parked removalist's van. Despite repeated requests to move the van the removalists continued to move the furniture to the house across the street. Luckily, the police happened to be passing and booked the van as well as getting it moved. A mobile phone call to the head office also expressed our annoyance at being held up.

Lo and behold on the return trip, the bus could not turn into Queen Street because of an illegally parked four wheel drive. Once again the bus driver was ignored by the lady in the four wheel drive as she continued her mobile phone call. Something needs to be done, the attitude of some car owners is selfish and arrogant.

**A change at Pruniers.** Michael Moore has resigned from Pruniers to concentrate on his company The Buzz Group. In his place will be Tony Milne as the new restaurant manager. Tony recently arrived in Australia from managing

Windows on the World on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre in New York, which is sadly no longer.

Tony and the team at Pruniers look forward to taking Pruniers into the future, capitalizing on its established reputation, good service and unique setting.



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