



Want to know our aims?

What are the aims of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association? Why does it exist?

These questions are often asked and the answers are to be found in our Memorandum of Association laid down in 1985 when the Association became an incorporated body.

Some of the most important aims are;

(1) To foster the preservation of the individual architectural characteristics of the Queen Street and West Woollahra area.

(2) To foster amongst the public at large, and in particular the people of the area, a sense of identity with the area and pride in its individual character.

(3) To foster the provision of the highest standard of local amenities whether provided by government, semi-government or private organisations.

(4) To seek to prevent properties from falling into decay either through neglect or unreasonable delay in redevelopment and to discourage unsympathetic development in the area.

(5) To press for the beautification of streets and recreation areas by an intensive and co-ordinated tree planting scheme.

(6) To fight strenuously against the pollution, disfiguration or spoiling of the area through the emission of smoke and fumes; erection of ugly advertisements, poles, wires and unseemly structures; and /or the creation of harsh and unreasonable noise.

(7) To seek to ensure that at all times the quiet of the area is preserved for the benefit of residents and visitors.

(8) To ensure the safety and convenience of pedestrians and vehicles using the streets in the area.

(9) To organise fund raising and other activities either solely on its own account or jointly with another or others.

(10) To make donations to charitable and community service organisations.

The Leaders

Since it was founded 35 years ago, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has had 13 presidents (formerly known as chairmen). For various reasons, some did not complete the year for which they were elected.

Leo Schofield, 1972-76 and 1978-79.

Robin Brampton, 1976-78, 1979-80, 1981-83 & 1985-86.

Tom Wilhelm, 1980-81 & 1986-88.

Norman Prescott, 1983-84.

Duane Norris, 1988-91.

Ron Osbourne, 1991-92 (resigned during year)

Charles Lloyd Jones, 1992-93 (resigned during year)

Cynthia Gregory-Roberts 1992-93 (acting president)

Graham Freudenburg, 1993-2000.

Heather Smith, 2000-03.

Ken Gresham, 2003-05.

Ian Angus, 2005-07

Elizabeth Gervay, 2007 (acting president)

Robin Brampton has the greatest record of service to the Association, having been at various times chairman, president, vice president and secretary. He was the first editor of *Village Voice* and still plays a large part in its production.

attic

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Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No.88 April 2007

Queen Street and West Woollahra Association ANNUAL MEETING

Holdsworth Street Community Centre

Tuesday April 17th at 6pm

All residents and traders welcome



Meet your Mayor, Keri Huxley, (above)
and your local councillors

Do you want parking meters?

Do you want reduced garbage collection?

Do you want increased housing density?

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Association committee members**

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Susan Obery
FLOWERS AND EVENT STYLING

Special Feature Page 2

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Flowers we like in Woollahra

"In the Woollahra area, customers tend to prefer European style flowers," says Susan Avery. "They like the floral classic style, for example a single type of blooms en masse.

"There is a move towards more textured and organic foliage and a growing interest in simple, Asian influence design.

"In containers, the preference is for glass bowls or vases."

Susan gives these tips for handling flowers so that they last:

"There are three absolute musts:

1. Cut stems at an angle immediately before they are placed in water.
2. Use a clean vase and clean water. Change the water when dirty.
3. Keep the water topped up. Flowers drink a lot when they are blooming, and use a flower preservative."

First choice

Susan says that there are many reasons why clients prefer to buy their flowers from her expert, local and proven business.

"Firstly we go to great lengths to buy the first choice, freshest flowers from the market, hand chosen for our customers," she says. "Fruit shops and bulk sellers tend to get seconds.

"Also we source unusual and innovative flowers so that we can fill specific requests. We also present our flowers beautifully for a gift or pre-arrange them for a special occasion at home

"Lastly we buy flowers that are in season and preferably from local growers. Some flowers will be imported, example orchids, but for softer blooms, the less they travel means the longer they will last.

"Often our flowers are picked in the evening so that they are in the shop for purchase first thing in the morning."

Happy Birthday to Susan Avery

Susan Avery Flowers and Events Styling of Jersey Road, Woollahra, has just celebrated its 21st anniversary.

"I am delighted to have reached this milestone," said Canadian born Susan Avery who established her beautiful iconic store in 1985.

"I am so proud of my team and our product, and I feel that as group we are truly unique.

"We are experienced, multi-skilled artists, striving every day to create beauty. And in so doing we bring joy to the people around us.

"Our aim is to exceed the expectations of our clients and the thanks we get make all the hard work worthwhile."

Among her notable customers over the years, Susan lists the Queen on a visit to Australia, the Dalai Lama, President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, Elle McPherson, John Travolta and Billy Crystal.

Her floral work was featured in "Moulin Rouge", "Mission Impossible", "Return to Eden" and other films, television shows and commercials.

Her track record over the 21 years includes more than 3000 weddings, 9000 corporate functions and 7000 private functions. In all her company has made more than 250,000 arrangements

Started at 15

Born in Canada, Susan arrived in Sydney 27 years ago with \$9000 in her pocket. She had been working in flower shops since she was 15 years old mostly in Toronto but also in Winnipeg and London.

In Australia she started her first business at home in 1985. Three years later she opened her landmark shop in Woollahra.

She claims that she was an instant hit with her innovative approach because the predominant style at the time in Australia was generally so dull.

Susan has always been inspired by the beautiful fresh flowers available in Australia. She is known for careful buying of only the best and most interesting varieties.

Vogue Australia has described her as "the person who changed the face of floristry in Australia".

Susan has recently introduced a website to give her a virtual shop on line so that customers can see the flowers they are buying, www.susanavery.com.

ADVERTISING FEATURE FOR

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LEFT: Jill, from Liverpool is the charming waiter person at the Print Room. RIGHT: Outside the Durty Nelly's sign is accompanied by nostalgic old Guinness posters.

sausage and mash with peas and onion gravy at a modest \$17 to char grilled sirloin steak with green beans (do they come in any other colour?), home cut chips, roast garlic and herb butter at \$29.50. For cheapskates there is a Caesar salad at \$13 or \$17 with chicken.

I settled for the grilled pork cutlet with croquette potato, spinach and peach chutney (\$26). Though the potatoes nestled beneath the cutlets rather than coming out into the open, the dish was excellent.

Select wine list

A small dessert menu of three dishes included a delicious strawberry meringue with vanilla ice cream, which we shared.

The Print Room has a well selected wine list entirely from small independent vineyards in five Australian States and New Zealand. Fifteen come by the glass, ranging from the de Bortoli red or white at \$6 to the magnificent Mitchelton Shiraz 03 at \$9.

A couple of French champagnes include a piccolo 200ml Moet et Chardon which would do nicely for a couple having a special celebration but not very thirsty.

Ireland is not forgotten in the drinks department. The fortified Galway Pipe Old Tawny Port comes at \$8 a glass and there are four Irish whiskeys, including the Bushmills 10 year old single malt at \$9 a glass.

But I wonder if some proprietor of an Irish restaurant in Australia may one day introduce wines from Ireland itself. There are several vineyards in the south of Ireland which enjoy the warmth of the Gulf Stream and their product, which I have tasted, is very acceptable.

Incidentally, a delightful feature of the Village Inn is the famous old Guinness posters on the front wall including one featuring a Toucan which has swallowed a bottle of Guinness.

Once this carried a verse reading:

*How grand to be a Toucan,
Just think what two can do!*

Has the verse been censored for 2007?

NOTE: The dishes, wines and prices were as we found them in February. There might have been changes since.

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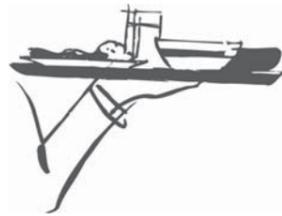
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LOCAL TABLES

Bill's to open in the evening

THE open courtyard at bill's restaurant in Queens Court is so popular that many local people are wondering when it will start opening at night.

The intention is there but there has been a delay. The latest word is that evening opening will start in May and about the same time a new retractable roof canopy will be constructed over the courtyard.

Meanwhile bill's is now licensed but is serving only wines, not beer.

Across the road there has been great building activity at the Woollahra Hotel and Moncur Bistro complex. I understand a new serving area is being built for the hotel with a new bar.

The hotel has instituted a programme of wine and food tastings, starting on Wednesday, May 30th with a Southern Italian wine and food tasting, hosted by Peter Bourne.

The islands of Sicily and Sardinia are included and participants are invited to "discover the spicy aromatic whites of the south and the bold brooding reds that instantly appeal to most Australian palates.

The evening runs from 6.30pm to 9pm and booking is essential

Great pub for the Irish

BUILT in 1850, the Village Inn at the top of Glenmore Road probably was part of the real estate explosion that followed the building of Victoria Barracks which it faces.

Today it is imbued with an Irish flavour, introduced by the owners some 10 years ago.

The ground floor bar has the wonderful name of Durty Nelly's, taken from a famous pub of the same title at Bunratty in County Clare. Durty Nelly was apparently a lady of amorous reputation who was toll keeper of a local bridge.

Upstairs at the Village Inn, things are infinitely more respectable. A restaurant called the Print Room has walls covered with authentic prints of famous Irish personalities of the past and an excellent menu with several interesting touches.

We dined there on a balmy night in February to celebrate our 47th wedding anniversary and, at the suggestion of Jill, the lovely waiter person, were seated on the commodious balcony.

Black Velvet

For the sake of good old Ireland, which I love, we decided to drink Black Velvet, a mixture of Guinness and sparkling wine/champagne, reputed to have been introduced in Victorian times to mourn the death of the Prince Regent. Jill served this most elegantly in wine glasses

The Print Room has six well varied entrees (\$14-\$15) with freshly sucked natural oysters at \$15 for six, \$28 a dozen.

An Irish flavour among the entrees is supplied by the Irish whiskey cured ocean trout, asparagus and baby herbs with a citrus dressing which my bride of 47 years had as a main course. Another interesting entrée is the quail with black pudding, watercress, and apple and cider reduction.

The seven main dishes vary from traditional grilled pork

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Combining growth with concern for our heritage

The following report on the Association's 2006-07 year is by Elizabeth Gervay, acting president of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

IN 2006 I was delighted to accept the position of acting president while Ian Angus was recovering from illness.

I have lived all my life in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs and often visited Queen Street for a fine coffee, a browse or 'that something special' from the shops.

In keeping with this interest in the area, my sister and I restored the Hughenden at the gateway to Queen Street, establishing a boutique hotel with arts and heritage as its focus.

The Association represents the concerns of people of the West Woollahra area to Woollahra Council, other local associations and businesses in the locality.

Our aim is to work towards an integration of growth and heritage. The Association always welcomes comment with this aim in view.

The Association maintains a website for you to voice your concerns, be informed of developments or join. Do visit it on www.qswwa.com.au

Achievements

During the year achievements have included:

--The upgrading of the electrical sub-station in James Street to stabilise electricity supply.

--Woollahra Council's adoption of its anti-graffiti policy, resulting in reduced graffiti and unauthorized posters.

--Publication of three issues of "the



Federal MP Malcolm Turnbull chatting with young constituents at the Association Carol Concert

original" *Village Voice*, first published in 1972. Local businesses support *Village Voice* with advertising.

--Maintenance of the streetscape, walkways and pram ramps.

--The Community Carols in Chiswick Gardens in December, opened by the Mayor of Woollahra, Keri Huxley, and our Federal MP, Malcolm Turnbull. Our thanks to the major sponsors, Prunier's Restaurant and Robyn Cosgrove, and to raffle prize donors.

Pencil in Tuesday, December 11th, when this year's Community Carols will be held. The International Gay and Lesbian Choir will entertain for the third year.

Councillors met

On March 14th, the Association's committee met with our Cooper Ward councillors, Andrew Petrie and David Shoebridge. Claudia Cullen sent

apologies

One of the principal issues was the gateway landmark fountain in Davies Reserve, installed through the influence of the Association. For some years it has ceased to be operational.

Subsequently, on March 26th, I was told by Bruce Rann, the Council's manager for parks and trees: "The fountain has been tested and is working. It can be turned on as soon as the pond stops leaking".

Speed zone?

Other matters discussed at the March 26th meeting were:

---The establishment of a 40 km/hr zone throughout West Woollahra.

---Further upgrade of footpaths throughout the area

---Maintenance of community parklands.

---Council's support of heritage plaques on local buildings and streets.

---The moving and lighting of the community notice board.

---The upgrading of Dorhauer Lane carpark and appropriate lighting and walkway.

---Plastic community bins to be replaced.

---Traffic on Queen and Ocean Streets.

---Resident bin types

I would like to thank all committee members, their families and other friends of the Association for their work and efforts throughout the year.

I look forward to addressing your concerns, learning about your development plans and meeting you at the annual meeting on Tuesday 17th April.

This will be held at Holdsworth Street Community Centre starting at 6pm.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra

Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433



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Annual Membership subscription rates:

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

Patron Neville Wran AC QC

Acting President: Elizabeth Anne Gervay

Committee Robin Brampton, Diana Dennison, Elizabeth Anne Gervay, Phillip Mitchell, Annette Robinson, Alan Smith.

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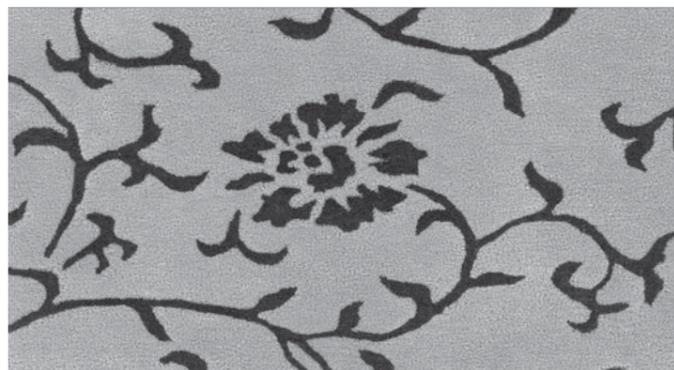
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CHAT STREET

by Annette Robinson and Diana Dennison

An upstart Village Voice

READERS of our *Village Voice* will have noticed that we have recently been duplicated by a big brother of the same name that is inserted into the *Wentworth Courier* every month.

We wish to make it clear that we are not part of this interloper which has taken our name. It is quite separate from our very local *Village Voice* and has very different affiliations.

Established in 1972, we are the voice of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, a voluntary organisation which represents the residents and traders of this special area.

Unfortunately we cannot hold copyright on the name *Village Voice* so anyone can use it. There are many village voices, the first one was an alternative news weekly published in Greenwich Village, New York in 1955.

Pompom Girls come to Woollahra

CHEERLEADER bunnies Amy, Amanda, Rhiannon and Amelia, four gorgeous girls who used to barrack for Russell Crow's South Sydney Rabitohs have moved their repertoire to the Phoenix Hotel in Woollahra.

Every Monday night, resplendent in miniscule black, white, purple and red outfits, and wearing their signature white bunny booties, they will hype up and entertain footie fans in the front bar.

Their appearance for the first Monday night league game was a roaring success. Each week they will decide which team to support...one assumes it depends on the loyalties of the patrons.

More than "doing the flowers"

IT proved quite bewildering to get together the feature about **Susan Avery** on page 2 and to realise the ramifications of her business.

It is far more than "doing the flowers" and often extends to what she defines as total event styling.

This means Susan and her team often create the total look of a function. This may involve the lighting, draping, table cloths, chairs and covers, candles, table numbers and prop hire as well as the actual flowers

Susan has won many accolades including being ranked in the "Fine Flowers by Phone", a showcase of the world's top 150 florists (there are only two in Australia).

In 2003 she was a finalist in Shine, the International Special Events Society showcase, but came second to a large American company.

Strong Growth in Real Estate

JOE Abboud of **Snowden Lane Real Estate** is very pleased with the success of his company's move across the road to 112 Queen Street above Gary Castles. Operations are now all on one

floor and there is space for weekly in-house auctions.

He forecasts continued strong growth for the local real estate market because of the attraction of Queen Street and its facilities. Recently Snowden Lane sold two residential properties in Paddington for \$3.5 and \$3.6 million.

Three new members have joined the sales team, Catherine Dixon, Kate Farley and Paul Cavarra.

Arrivals and Departures

GARY Castles the renowned shoe shop chain has moved into 112 Queen Street. It replaces the delightful Arte Flowers which in turn replaced the Commonwealth Bank. This revamped store stocks upmarket women's shoes ranging from the very "in" ballet pumps to a selection of gorgeous leather boots. A small selection of jewelry and perfumes is also available.

Witchery has also come to Queen Street in the premises formerly occupied by Snowden Lane. This store, like Gary Castles is part of a chain of stores, reflecting new trend in Queen Street. In the past individual boutiques have predominated. This new Witchery Store stocks shoes and handbags and one off jewelry, and a small selection of clothes.

Demand for larger antique carpets

BELINDA Perryman who is partner with husband, Ian, in an Oriental carpet store in Queen Street reports there is growing interest in the larger type of carpet which she sells.



Why? Perhaps people are moving into larger houses she says.

The Perryman's business has been operating for 17 years at its present Queen Street address, selling carpets, rugs and textiles from Asia, South America, Europe and the Pacific.

When we called recently, Belinda had on display a magnificent Hamadan carpet from North West Persia, circa 1900, and 5.5 metres long. She values it around \$24,000.

(She is pictured with it here)

In addition to selling carpets, the Perrymans offer owners of treasured old carpets an expert advice, restoration and cleaning service.

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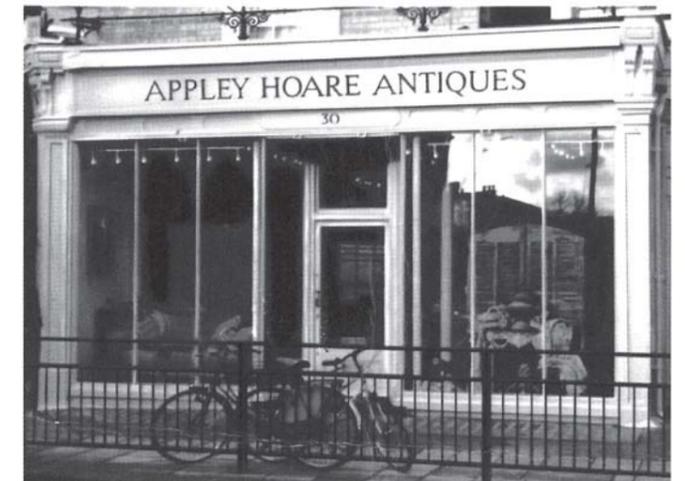
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**ROUND
ROBIN** Robin Brampton's
Queen Street
Commentary



Chelsea's gift from West Woollahra

IF the shopfront above looks familiar, it is because it duplicates one that once graced the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue. Appley Hoare moved to London from West Woollahra eight years ago and established her antiques store in Pimlico Road in fashionable Chelsea, selling French country furniture and unusual objects.

In fact Appley, who was born in Africa, is now so much of a Londoner that she has never been back to Australia. But she tells me that her daughter, Zoe, has made several return trips

Zoe runs a florist business next door to Appley Hoare Antiques. In fact the businesses are so close that they have a common rear room where mum and daughter can get together.

* * *

ALTHOUGH he is still occasionally seen in Queen Street, Philip Johns has transferred his activities mainly to the Hunter Valley where he is taking an interest in real estate. I'm told he is enjoying the move.

Philip is remembered for diligently combining several offices with the association --- secretary, treasurer and editor of *Village Voice* --- in the era from 2000 to 2004 when his friend Heather Smith was president.

His interest in the West Woollahra area was so intense that he stood for Woollahra Council, unfortunately unsuccessfully.

* * *

AS a lover of church music, I always tried to watch the BBC television programme "Songs of Praise" which the ABC has been televising on Sunday morning. So I was overjoyed that the ABC is now doing an Australian version called "Hymns of Glory".

The first local programme, seen last month, was made in our area, at St Francis Church in Oxford Street, with the superb singing of the Jacobean Singers from All Saints Church in Ocean Street, led by Walter Sutcliffe.

The speaking part of the half hour programme was provided by Rev Paul Weaver who is remembered as the former minister at All Saints and now works as a hospital priest.

Paul tells me that a second "Hymns of Glory" is being made at St Francis with the singers of St Francis and Temple Emanuel in Ocean Street. It is due to be broadcast on Sunday, April 15.

* * *

AND finally...congratulations to the doyen of Queen Street antique dealers, Bill Bradshaw, on two notable anniversaries—his recent 85th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his setting up his antiques business in Queen Street in 1957.

Bill is by far the longest established antiques trader in Queen Street and as active and spry as ever.