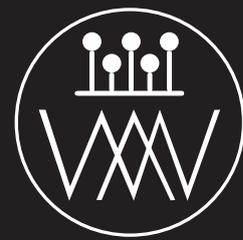


The Original Village Voice



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association
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No.93 November 2008

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Watchdogs sniffing out street defects

THE Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has received a very positive response from residents for our streetwatch program, but as yet not all streets in our area have a watchdog.

We propose to send a list of “fix it” complaints regarding potholes, exposed tree roots, dumped rubbish, inadequate lighting, garden bed upkeep, poster removal, graffiti, abandoned cars etc to Woollahra Council at regular intervals. I have been assured by the general manager that the complaints will be attended with alacrity

At present the streets that have a watchdog are Alton Street Weldon Lane, Forth Street, Holdsworth Street, Nelson Street and Lane, Pickering Lane, Ocean Street, Kilminster Lane, Waimea Ave, Queen Street, Spicer Street and Lane, Victoria Ave, James Street and Lane, Bowden Lane, Wallis Street, Woods Ave and Wellington Street.

So if you live in one of the streets *not* mentioned above I urge you to contact me at mikediz@ozemil.com.au or 0417326419 to offer your time. You only have to walk up and down your street once a month and report the problems to me. I will follow up with Council.

Obviously those streets without a watchdog will not get the best attention. Remember the wheel that squeaks the loudest gets the most grease.

And to those good citizens who have reported problems, be assured we are getting on with it. If you've agreed to be a watchdog and you have a complaint please let me know.

Annette Robinson

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Local link with Eleanor Dark

FOR three years to 1917, the poet and short story writer Dowell O'Reilly (1865-1923) lived at 24 Queen Street, Woollahra. Not only was he a close friend of the major Australian poet Christopher Brennan (who lived on and off in Paddington) but also Labor member of Parliament for Parramatta. Dowell O'Reilly introduced the first bill for women's suffrage to Parliament in 1895.

Today O'Reilly is better known as the father of Eleanor Dark, author of the timeless land trilogy and a major figure in Australian literature. Although a boarder at Redlands School, Cremorne, Eleanor spent school holidays and weekends in Woollahra.

Dowell O'Reilly's letters to the cousin in England who became his second wife in 1917 were all written from 34 Queen Street and are collected in “Dowell O'Reilly from His Letters” edited and published by Marie O'Reilly in 1927. In one letter, dated 30/10/1916, Dowell O'Reilly wrote,

.....Do you still dream of coming to Queen Street?... indeed I should love to have you here for a week- just to let you peep with me, through my petunias at this quaint street. Of course all humanity's streets are just as quaint, but Queen Street has never yet found the place it deserves in literature. (p214)

It is pleasing to note from *Village Voice* that Queen Street is drawing its literary and artistic associations together. Currently I am working on the PHD thesis on Eleanor Dark at the University of NSW.

Yours sincerely

Helen O'Reilly

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Mayor's support for Association issues

THE newly appointed Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Andrew Petrie, has quickly established a firm and constructive relationship with the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

Councillor Petrie, Liberal, was elected as Mayor at the Council meeting following the September, 2008 Council elections. He is one of the members for the Cooper Ward, which includes the Association area.

This is the third time Councillor Petrie has been elected Mayor but on the previous occasion, 2005-2006, he suffered all year from a serious illness and most of his duties were performed by his deputy, Councillor Marcus Ehrlich.

Soon after his 2008 election Councillor Petrie attended a Queen Street Association open meeting and answered a number of queries from members.

Mayor Petrie then organised a meeting between himself, Queen Street president Elizabeth Gervay, vice president Ken Gresham, and the Council general manager, Warwick Hatton.

One of the most important concerns was the inconvenience caused to the general public by drinkers spilling out from local hotels to drink on the pavement.

It was agreed that the Woollahra Hotel, at the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street, with its strong security presence, presented few problems to residents and traders. But other local hotels caused congestion on the pavement, even when barriers were put in place by the hotel.

Other issues addressed were:

HOLDSWORTH Street The possible construction of traffic islands near Holdsworth Community Centre to slow traffic which has become a real a safety issue for children and parents.

Halls Reserve The replacement of the inaccurate sign in Halls Reserve. (This was mentioned in the July issue of *Village Voice*.) Council agreed that the sign would be replaced with correct history and wording.

The Community Noticeboard which the Council erected in the Dorhauer Lane carpark is much smaller than the noticeboard which it replaced. Council advised that a quarter of the noticeboard would always be used for Association notices with availability of another quarter area if requested. However the Association felt it should again have its own noticeboard which would provide space for members' special notices in addition to Association notices.

Garden Beds All agreed that provision and maintenance of garden beds in Queen Street should continue. It was noted they were very colourful and popular.

Queen Street Master Plan It was agreed that the Master Plan of 15 years ago for the Queen Street streetscape be revisited and consulted by Council and Council employees and the community.



Woollahra's third time Mayor, Coun. Andrew Petrie (centre), with the Queen Street president Elizabeth Gervay and the vice president Ken Gresham.

Queen Street ablaze ~ in silver and white

QUEEN Street Christmas festival lights will first blaze out on Friday, November 28. This year the lights will have a silver and white theme, at the suggestion of floral expert Susan Avery of Jersey Road. She would be happy to give design advice to any interested traders or residents.

"The 2007 late night shopping was a great success," said Association president Elizabeth Gervay and it is happening again on Thursday December 11.

Retailer Mary Read reportswe stay open until 8 pm, with many of our clients and passers- by calling in for a glass of complimentary champagne.the night was one of goodwill to both old and new customers....

The Queen Street Association has bought a number of sets of 200 fairy lights on a 200m cable suitable for indoor or outdoor use. These are free to the Association's trader members or to non-members at a cost of \$35.00. To purchase pop into the Hughenden Boutique Hotel or email admin@qswwa.com.au

The Queen Street And West Woollahra Association Ltd



ABN 98 002 872 433

A residents' and traders group covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra

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Website: www.qswwa.com.au

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Coming Attractions

Tuesday 9th December

Christmas Carols Concert,
Chiswick Park

Thursday 11th December

Late Night Shopping

Wednesday 8th April

Association Annual Meeting,
Goethe Institute,
Ocean Street, Woollahra



This picture of the row of shops in Queen Street, adjoining Halls Lane, in the nineteenth century was provided by Mr Arthur Hall of Darlinghurst. At that time they were occupied by Mr Hall's grandfather, Thomas Alfred Hall (1843 – 1921) a migrant from Liverpool who set up his business as a butcher and Chandler in the premises. He also owned land behind the shop and gave his name to Halls Lane.

Donna Hay opens February

A stunning opening is planned for the **Donna Hay** retail store at the corner of Holdsworth Street and Morrell Street.

It was originally hoped to have the store opened for Christmas but the extent of the rebuilding work has made this impossible.

The building first opened as a general store in 1890 and in recent years has been named the **Bay Tree** which has moved round the corner to Queen Street.

For Donna Hay the building has been completely gutted to get back to the original sandstone. This will lead to a more spacious environment for selling the Donna Hay ranges including homewares, glassware, confectionary and toys, all specially packaged and many exclusive.

A company manager said, "It will be a privilege to be at such a beautiful location and we want to be part of the community."



These newly released dessert plates from Genevieve Lethu are covered with a three-colour design taken from camembert extra cheese boxes. The plates are obtainable in Australia from the Genevieve Lethu store in Queen Street,



No Longer in Touch

WE are sorry to say **Touch Galleries** at 124a Queen Street will close after the current exhibition of works by Argentina born, US resident artist Fabian Perez.

The 40 pictures in his exhibition are mainly lush portraits, some rather sexy, on sale both as originals or limited editions prints. General manager Benjamin Cook tells us that after eight years, Touch will no longer have a gallery but continue to market the work of Perez in many parts of the world except the USA.

It seems only short while ago that Touch came to Queen Street from its former gallery at The Rocks and we were intrigued by its list of represented artists including both the artistically eminent, such as Andy Warhol, Salvador Dali and Marc Chagall, but also the less expected notables, the Prince of Wales and Nelson Mandela.

Now it's nothing Italian

TALKING of departures from the Queen Street, it proved a very short stay for ex-jockey Bernadette Cooper and friends who opened a daylong café in Spicer Street under the name of **Something Italian**. Our story in the previous issue must have been the kiss of death because when we went to press, the premises adjoining Cambodia House were deserted and looking for a new lessor.

Also looking for a new lessor were the premises of the ingeniously named **King on Queen** at 141 Queen Street café was not operating. And still awaiting somebody to give it a new lease of life was the imposing shop on the corner of Moncur Street and John Street formerly occupied by the fashion house **Baccini and Hill**. The retailer still has an outlet in Melbourne.

ROUND ROBIN

Robin Brampton's
Queen Street
Commentary

GRAHAM Freudenberg's book, "Churchill and Australia" was most successfully launched by former Prime Minister Paul Keating at Parliament House in October.

And I was somewhat flattered that in his own speech, Graham referred to the fact that it was me who had reminded him that a 25-year-old Winston Churchill had met "Banjo" Paterson in 1900 when they were both engaged in the Boer War.

"Banjo" refers to Churchill in his book "Happy Dispatches", describing him as "a most curious combination of ability and swagger".

Graham Freudenberg of course was president of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association from 1993 to 2000 when he lived locally. He has now moved to Bribie Island in Queensland where his occupation is writing well researched books of Australian political history.

Paul Keating said of "Churchill and Australia" that "Graham's storylines are long and colourful, and crocheted as simply or complexly as the events they are describing demand."

It was fortuitous for Graham that in launching the book, Paul Keating made some very newsworthy remarks about the Australian attitude to the Gallipoli campaign in the first World War.

These were reported on television and in "The Sydney Morning Herald" with a picture of of Graham signing a copy of the book for Blanche d'Alpuget.

Keating dismissed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's vision of Gallipoli as the focal point of national remembrance of Australian military service abroad.

"The truth is that Gallipoli was shocking for us," he added. "Dragged into service by the imperial government in an ill conceived and poorly executed campaign, we were cut to ribbons and dispatched..."

"For this reason, I have never been to Gallipoli and I never will."

Although Graham could write such a fascinating book about Winston Churchill and Australia, Winston himself never visited our nation. Nor, I would hazard had anybody at the launching but me ever beheld the great man in person.

I saw him as an 11-year-old schoolboy during the second World War when he drove through my home city of Birmingham in an open car waving his famous homburg hat.

My reaction was surprise that such a towering figure internationally should in fact be so short.

"Churchill and Australia" is published by Pan MacMillan at \$55



Susanne and Tory Gervay, mother and daughter, authors of "That Is Why I Wrote This Song".

THE importance of children's and young adult literature is shown by the fact that it's best known exponent, J.K.Rowling of Harry Potter fame last year earned \$300 million.

Children's author Susanne Gervay of Queen Street's Hughenden Hotel, may not have reached such Olympian heights, but she is enjoying a satisfying amount of worldwide success.

Her books have been translated into Korean and Indonesian, and she is about to be published in the USA. Next year she will be flown to New York to speak about her young adult novel, "Butterflies", at a conference organised by New York firefighters.

That's right. The firefighters believe that the creative and moving descriptions in the work will inspire burns survivors, families and those involved in the world of burns.

And Susanne's "I am Jack" has been adapted into a play by Monkey Baa Theatre. This will open for a season at the Seymour Centre in 2009.

Susanne's most recent work, "That's Why I Wrote This Song", involves music and lyrics by her daughter Tory Gervay.

Among Susanne's honours, in 2007 she was awarded the Lady Cutler Award for her services to children's literature, and she is co-head of two children's writers' and illustrators' organisations based at the Hughenden.

Susanne also takes a great interest in the Queen Street Association of which her look alike sister Elizabeth is president.

ELSEWHERE in this issue, executive committee member Annette Robinson reports on the Association's streetwatch programme by which people agree to watch for defects, such as potholes, in individual streets. In Ocean Street where I live I found a particular horrifying stretch of inefficient upkeep on the western side, starting from immediately opposite Wellington Street to the junction with Jersey Road.

The main problem is the trees which flourish so gloriously in Ocean Street (thank God we don't still have double decker buses) have strong roots which push up the paving flags to create an uneven surface on which oldies like me are in danger of tripping. There's a particularly bad patch beside the lovely Goethe Institute garden.

Statistics shows that the major cause of hospitalisation of older people is falls rather than sickness. So anything Woollahra Council can do to eliminate causes of falls, the more money can be saved in hospital costs and human misery.

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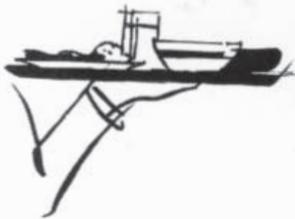
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LOCAL TABLES

Japanese, if you please

WITH the move of so many Oxford Street, Bondi Junction, stores to Westfield and Eastgate, some interesting ethnic newcomers are taking their place.

A stretch of stores near the corner by the Mill Hill Hotel is now very much an Asian centre with no less than three Japanese restaurants.

Liji at 69 and Wa at 63 are practically next door to each other while nearby is 07070, and another Asian eatery the Thai Yong.

At both Liji and Wa you can dine in the front room and watch the passers-by in Oxford Street or in a courtyard, covered overhead, at the rear.

And both have charming waiting staff, female and attentive.

Business is brisk. When we dined at the Wa on a recent Saturday evening, the front area was full.

The Wa entices you with colour pictures of its fare. Typically: "These wild brown tiger prawns are caught in the pristine environment of remote Western Australia's Exmouth Gulf. Eco-friendly, sustainable and restricted...the prawns caught in the area are premium selection."

That won me. I had them as sashimi but they are also served grilled.

The rest of the menu is some 50 choices of dishes including Terayaki Beef which my partner and I also enjoyed.

The rest of the menu is a wide choice of 52 dishes including sushi, tempura, teriyaki, noodle and vegetarian.

Wagyu specialty

Unlike the Wa, Liji is open for lunch which we have enjoyed several times from their delicious range of appetizers, sushi, sasimi and maki rolls.

But the Liji's *specialite de maison* is their Wagyu barbecue. The menu explains that Wagyu beef is bred by combining the Japanese Black Cow and the Australian Angus Cow. The result is claimed to be the world's most tender, flavoursome and succulent beef.

Six Wagyu dishes are included in the menu, ranging from Wagyu rump at \$23 ("almost as tender as tenderloin") to a Wagyu sampler at \$55 containing Wagyu scotch fillet, tenderloin, strip loin and oyster blade.

In the humbler ranges of the menu come such dishes as Agedashi Tofu at \$6 (deep fried soft bean curd served in Bobito broth), Sushi Platter (\$12.50 small, \$22 large) and Salmon Tatako Salad (lightly roasted beef sirloin served with garlic chip and orange soy dressing).

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Published by the
 Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd
 Editorial: Robin Brampton, Annette Robinson and Diana Dennison
 Correspondence: PO Box 16 Woollahra 1350 or
admin@qswwa.com.au www.qswwa.com.au
 Printed by Waverley Press Pty Ltd, 263 Bronte Road Waverley NSW 2024
 Phone: 9389 3211



A waitress at Liji places a bottle of sparkling wine in a tube holder that can sit on the table.

Liji provides set menus and sushi platters.

Neither Liji nor Wa are licensed but the nearby Mill Hill Hotel bottle shop has an extensive wine range and Liji does not charge corkage. At Liji we have always been most generously treated with complimentary soup and a little complimentary dessert of fresh orange pieces.

For white wines, especially champagne or sparkling white, both restaurants have a development I have not seen before. Instead of the traditional cumbersome ice bucket on a stand, they provide a narrow tube arrangement that sits comfortably on the table so you can pour your own.

Incidentally, we dined recently at Liji with a Japanese friend whom we encouraged to place our order in Japanese. The oriental waitress just looked puzzled. It turned out they were Korean!

R.J.B

US agony for antiques man

MICHAEL Greene is very happy to be presiding again at his Queen Street antiques store. A few weeks ago he was in New York with his wife, Victoria, celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary when he suddenly suffered a heart seizure.

Fortunately, Victoria had recently taken a course in SPR (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation) and knew exactly how to treat Michael until he could be taken to hospital. While there, he suffered six more heart seizures and was fitted with a pacemaker.

Michael says that Victoria's SPR knowledge probably saved his life and believes more people should study it. He is also grateful to have had travel insurance which covered the horrendous cost of hospitals in New York



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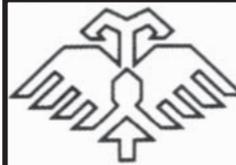
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Window Display Contest

THE Queen Street Association will again hold a window dressing competition to encourage local stores to put on their best faces for the Christmas sales season.

Every store in the area will be considered and there is no need to make an application. The judge will be a retail display expert from outside the association area.

It is not necessary for a window to have a Christmas theme to be considered a winner.

Three prizes will be awarded of a dinner for two at a local restaurant and a plaque to be placed in the winning window. The result will be announced in the next issue of Village Voice.

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