

VILLAGE VOICE

No. 42 MAY, 1990

Newsletter of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

Neville Wran sends his regrets

THE Queen Street community was naturally concerned at the news of the illness of our distinguished fellow resident, the former NSW Premier Neville Wran.

Mr Wran underwent a heart by-pass operation on April 27. As a result, he had to cancel an engagement to be the guest speaker at the Queen Street Association's annual meeting on April 15. The new arrangements are announced below.

We wish Mr Wran a speedy and complete recovery, and look forward to very soon seeing him shopping again in Queen Street.

TOWARDS A FINER QUEEN STREET

*All local residents are cordially invited to
The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's
ANNUAL MEETING AND FORUM*

*with an exhibition of the plans and perspectives
for the Association's comprehensive improvement scheme*

QUEEN STREET 2000

Guest Speaker

LIBBY OZINGA

*Co-ordinator of the Main Street
New South Wales Programme*

*Libby has worked for 16 years with
the State Department of Planning.
As co-ordinator of the scheme to
revitalise strip shopping centres,
such as Queen Street, she has
spent some time in Canada, studying
the way more than 70 centres have
been revived in 10 years.*



*TUESDAY, MAY 15TH, AT 7PM
At Fred Pazotti, 64 Moncur Street*

*The meeting will include a general discussion
on the problems of our area and its development*

Complimentary wine tasting and refreshments

**VIBES
from the
TRIANGLE**

**Compiled by Jenny Dickerson
and Robin Brampton**

AFTER being a Queen Street landmark for 15 years, Wendy Slonin's Decor glassware shop at the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street has closed down.

The new occupant will be antique dealer Michael Green, previously next door with his entrance actually inside Queens Court.

Wendy had been at Queens Court since it opened and she is not going out of business entirely. Her second shop at Mosman is still running.

Wendy told us she was leaving Queens Street with deep regret, but the business just could not carry the 50 per cent rent increase demanded when her lease came up for renewal.

"I have been amazed at the number of people who told me how sorry they were that I was going," she said. One woman was in tears. It's very sad.

* * *

BACK from Paris with a load of fine goods, Appley Hoare is looking for the right house to settle close to the Queen Street shop with her husband, Warwick, and daughter.

* * *

THE Lookout Theatre Club in the upstairs area of the Woollahra Hotel, mentioned in our previous column, is due to open on June 24.

First memberships have been accepted and organiser Andrea Baker hopes to hear from more locals who would like to join.

For legal reasons, the theatre must operate as a club with a membership fee of \$20 a year, or \$8 per performance if you take out membership at the door each time. Tickets



Led by Sandy Newman and the Taverner Consort a number of young singers brought their own special contributions to the Association's annual Carol Concert at Queens Court in December.

for the performances will be a very modest \$12.50 each.

The theatre plans to put on intimate productions, using new directors and talent.

First production will be a double bill of *The Bay at Nice* by contemporary British playwright David Hare and *The Stronger* by August Strindberg.

This will be followed by a double bill of two contemporary plays from Russia, and a play about the American poet Emily Dickinson.

Hotel licensee Dennis Bouganey hopes that theatre-goers will have a special meal before the performance at the hotel's newly decorated restaurant.

Applications for membership should be addressed to Andrea Baker, Lookout Theatre Club, 116A Queen Street, Woollahra 2025.

* * *

BILL Bradshaw, one of Queen Street's most respected antique and clock dealers, is celebrating more than 50 years in the trade.

Bill remembers Dr Fiaschi, a local doctor who attended his mother and owned the only hansom cab in private use at the turn of the century.

Bill has a fine photograph of his mother and father in Centennial Park in 1908 in their brand new American buggy.

ENTERPRISING partners Janis Walpole and Cristina Martiensen, whose Faces Beauticare has been in Queens Court for 12 years, offer a "beauty special" every month.

In April, it was a face and make-up consultation, and further "specials of the month" will be offered in the window. They're well worth watching out for.

* * *

NEW address for the Re-entombed Gallery. It has shifted into 28 Queen Street, formerly for a few years the Meditation Centre.

Director Maurice Bottaro says he plans to educate Australians in the culture of antiques, something which is accepted in Europe.

That's something to meditate on!

In other art changes, Simon Storey of Artmet, the now closed Rivkin art gallery at the corner of Jersey Road and Paddington Street, has moved to a new position as manager of Rushton Fine Arts in the city.

* * *

CHARLOTTE Haussman of Bradfield and Pritchard is offering the home of Alison O'Connor at 71 Queen Street for auction this month.

A long time resident of

Queen Street, Alison is known for keeping a "sharp eye" on the street's developers and Woollahra Council.

When she finally leaves the street, who will fill her shoes?

* * *

THE restaurant at 88 Queen Street which originally opened as The Woollahra Eating House has had a number of identity changes over the years

It has now been revamped as Legends Cafe with a bright young manager, Sue Fowler, and is capturing the antique dealers at lunchtime.

Rex Irwin has his regular takeaway and eats among the masterpieces of his gallery.

Meanwhile Zigolinis, in the centre of the village, is a meeting place of artists and locals. Seen there recently were artists Stanislas Rapotec, jetsetter back from Paris, and Tim Storrier, now living in Double Bay.

Tim's father, Austin, deals in smart country properties from a Queen Street real estate office.

Alex and Lynn de La Vega who started Zigolinis have opened successful sequels — one in the old Poor House building in Double Bay, now renamed Rodeo Plaza, and the other in Australia Square in the city.

Joint working party on Queen Street 2000

SEVERAL initiatives are in progress to get up and running Queen Street 2000, the Queen Street Association's scheme for upgrading Queen Street.

The scheme was described in the November Village Voice and an exhibition was held in Queens Court on December 12, the day of our Carol Concert.

We were delighted that the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Hylda Rolfe, and a number of other aldermen and Council officials came to see our plans.

Their comments were encouraging, a good sign as the implementation of the scheme must be through a partnership between the Council and local interests.

The Mayor is a member of a joint working party set up for the scheme. The other Council representative is Alderman John Darling.

The Association's own representatives are Duane Norris (President), Ron Osborne (Treasurer) Robin Brampton (Secretary), Cynthia Gregory-

Roberts (Director) and John Haymes (Director).

Naturally, financial considerations will loom large in any discussions on the scheme.

So, together with the Association, Council officers are preparing indicatives costings, estimates for the working party to have before it when it meets for the first time.

In another move, the Association has applied to the Australia Council for a townscape improvement grant to provide funds for the detailed planning.

We were grateful that the Council supported this application though it had to be made clear that this did not indicate the Council's early approval of the scheme or any aspect of it.

Apparently, the Australia Council liked the way our application was presented and we hope to know the result this month — possibly by the Annual Meeting on May 15.

Gutted church building not to be demolished

MORE than a year after fire gutted the former Congregational Church in Jersey Road, the Uniting Church is still deciding its future.

However, Carole Baker, a property consultant engaged by the Church, has given an assurance that the building will not be demolished.

"Investigations are being made about future options and costs," she says in a letter to local residents.

"The Eastside Parish is conscious of its obligations to the heritage buildings it owns and is considering the best ways to ensure their upgrading and preservation."

However, the Eastside Parish has apparently decided to demolish the church hall in Jersey Road, at the

present being used as a child care centre.

It proposes to develop the site with seven town houses, designed by architect Alec Tzanes.

Carole Baker says that members of the Heritage Council who inspected all the Eastside Parish properties expressed the opinion that the parish hall building did not merit any preservation order.

So there did not appear to be any reason why it could not be demolished.

Apparently there is no intention to include in the demolition the very pleasant single story manse building on the opposite corner of Jersey Road from the church which is used as a day centre for the frail aged.



Whatever its general architectural merits, this is undoubtedly the Queen Street building most at odds in design with its neighbours in a boulevard where traditional styles so harmoniously predominate. The premises are the home of the National Council of Jewish Women who have recently remodelled the frontage to provide two large shops. They are now looking for tenants. Although the Queens Street Association was given no opportunity to comment on the change, we feel most people would take the view that the nothing is lost by bringing a little commercial liveliness to the front of the building, particularly if the shops can be of the kind that serve day-to-day local needs, such as a fish shop or small supermarket, and not become yet another real estate agency.

Restoration work starts again at Waimea House

IT is now more than two years since restoration work began on Waimea House in Waimea Avenue, the regency style residence almost destroyed by the Royal Blind Society in 1973.

In March the Queen Street Association wrote to Dr Bill Kelly of Parks Development which owns the building, expressing concern at the slow progress.

The building company which started the restoration is no longer involved, and a new builder has been engaged.

Although he has not replied to our letter Dr and Mrs Kelly have told a member of our committee that work has started again.

This is confirmed by activity on the roof where waterproof membrane has been placed, presumably in preparation for tiling.

The Kellys also told our committee member that the work will definitely be finished in time to integrate with the Association's Queen Street 2000 scheme.

Let's hope so

How you can help us

IF you are reading this and you are not a member of the Queen Street Association, please support our work for the local community by joining us.

The subscription is still only \$10 a year for an individual, \$15 for a family (two people), \$20 for a corporation and \$100 for life membership. Next year it is proposed to increase subscriptions, so life membership may be a good investment.

To join, just send your cheque to the Association at PO Box 16, Woollahra 2025. Or come along to the Annual Meeting on May 15 and sign up with our Membership Secretary, John Haymes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AS the Association enters a new decade, I am happy to report that the past 12 months have been rewarding and productive.

After almost 20 years of active service, the Association is alive and well and, entering into its third decade, has set itself a very busy agenda.

That is not to say that this past year has been quiet. On the contrary, the Association presented at Christmas a detailed submission of plans for the beautification and improvement of the Queen Street streetscape.

The project, named Queen Street 2000, was put forward by the committee to give ideas and impetus to the general improvement of amenities, traffic, parking and appearance of the area.

The plans were produced some 12 months after the original idea was mooted and were prepared by the local firm of Duane Norris Garden Designers.

It is the single most exciting idea to come forward yet from the Association and it will take tremendous commitment from everybody involved to see it through to completion.

Music Hall

As well as Queen Street 2000, the Association organised, together with the Senior Citizens' Association, the hugely successful Queen Street Music Hall, held on two consecutive nights at Gaden Reserve.

The success of this night was due largely to the efforts of our Secretary, Mr Robin Brampton, and Mr Cec Monkhouse.

It was an evening not to be missed and for the 200 or more people who attended it was a wonderful nostalgic evening.

Less successful was our Market Day in September. It was promoted as a giant garage sale where locals could sell their unwanted goods.

The Association managed to sell all 30 stalls available but the public failed

Report on the 1989 year by the President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited, Mr Duane Norris.

to support the idea. As a result, it sounded the death knell for any further Market Days.

The final social event of the year was the annual Christmas Carol Concert. Held at Queens Court with the Taverner Consort leading the vocals, it played to an absolutely packed house.

Well over 100 people attended together with the Mayor, Alderman Hylda Rolfe, and Clover Moore, our local MP.

Thank you all for making it a great success.

Local Watchdog

The Association has continued its role as a watchdog on local issues and has been involved in a number of important matters over the past year.

Firstly, it joined with local residents to vent its disapproval over Woollahra Council's intention to change part of the Code 24 to make way for parking bays in Peaker Lane.

Strong objections were submitted to Council and the action was finally dropped.

The Association has also maintained its vigilance on developments at Waimea House and the ongoing disputes between the Phoenix Hotel and Woollahra Municipal Council.

As I stated earlier, the plans for Queen Street 2000 present the most ambitious project that the Association has put forward in its existence.

The plans have been favourably viewed by Woollahra Municipal Council following a preview prior to Christmas.

It is envisaged that the project will be a joint venture between Council and the Association with community help and

involvement. A working party has been formed with members of the Council and the Association.

An application has been made to the Australia Council for a grant to help pay for the production of the final design details, the working drawings and the specifications.

Currently, the Council and the Association are doing a preliminary costing on the feasibility of the project, the results of which should be known by the time of the Annual Meeting.

Once this has been done, the concept plans will go on public viewing for four weeks. It is hoped that the Westpac Bank in Queen Street will allow plans to be displayed there.

Currently, the NSW Department of Planning is looking favourably on such street projects and has sent one of its staff members to view 70 or so such projects that have taken place in Canada.

A questionnaire is being prepared for local residents who view the exhibit and wish to make comment. The Association would appreciate hearing the comments of residents on the merits of such a project.

Firm dates for the display of the plans will be announced.

Coming Events

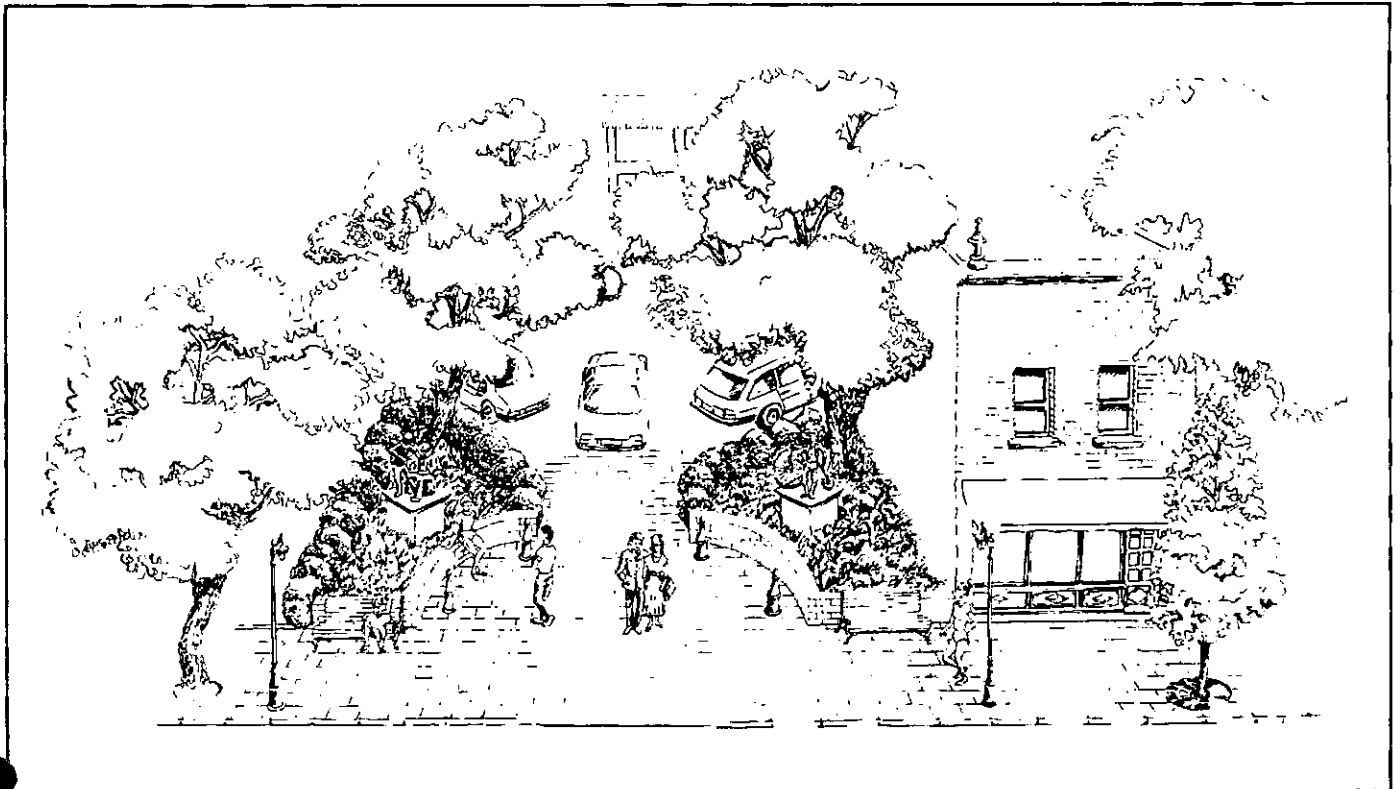
The most important meeting of the year for the Association is the Annual Meeting, being held on May 15.

This year we were delighted when Mr Neville Wran, former Premier of New South Wales and a local resident, accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker.

Unfortunately, as everybody would be aware, Mr Wran underwent heart by-



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How the Dorhauer Lane Carpark would look under the Queen Street 2000 proposals. Dorhauer Lane itself would be closed off and the front of the carpark landscaped.

pass surgery at the end of April and had to apologise for cancelling the engagement.

Instead, it was decided to concentrate the evening more strongly on our Queen Street 2000 plans and invite Ms Libby Ozinga of the State Department of Planning to be our speaker.

Libby is co-ordinator of the Main Street New South Wales programme. This seeks to revitalise strip shopping centres, such as we have in Queen Street, which now have to compete with the new regional shopping centres.

I would like to thank Libby for stepping into the breach at comparatively short notice. I am sure we will all be interested in what she has to say.

In addition to members of the Association, the Annual Meeting is open to all residents and prospective members.

The social calendar for the coming year will also see a return of the Music Hall evenings with an even more star studded cast. Tickets are expected to be \$25 which will be inclusive of dinner and the show. Great value in these hard times.

A Black Tie Dinner is to be held later in the year to raise funds for Queen Street 2000.

It is also thought we might arrange events and celebrations to honour a great Australian, Banjo Paterson, who lived in Queen Street.

Membership Drive

The Association has committed itself to a very vigorous membership drive in 1990.

We will be looking for financial members at the Annual Meeting as well as at the exhibition of Queen Street 2000.

You might ask yourself what can the Association do for me? I would answer, "What can you do for the Association?" The answer is simple. Join us now and be a part of Queen Street 2000.

At present there are vacancies for committee people. Members who would like to nominate should contact our secretary on 331 1188 during business hours.

Vote of Thanks

Finally, I would like to give a vote of thanks to all those members of the committee who have worked so hard and diligently for the Association over the past 12 months.

It has been a vigorous and active group and I wish to thank them all for their support, their hard work and their endeavour and concern for Woollahra. As President and Chairman they have all made my job a lot easier.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our Annual Meeting.

Duane Norris



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra, N.S.W. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

Patron: Dame Joan Sutherland.

President: Duane Norris.

Vice-President: Vacant.

Treasurer: Ronald Osborne.

Secretary: Robin Brampton.

Membership Secretary: John Haymes.

Committee: Alex de la Vega, Lynette de la Vega, Jennifer Dickerson, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts, John Haymes, Tania Mitchell and Virginia Rose.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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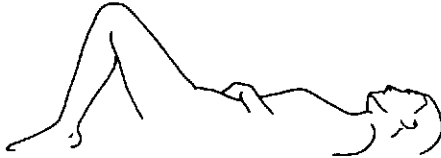
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