

A century of firefighting

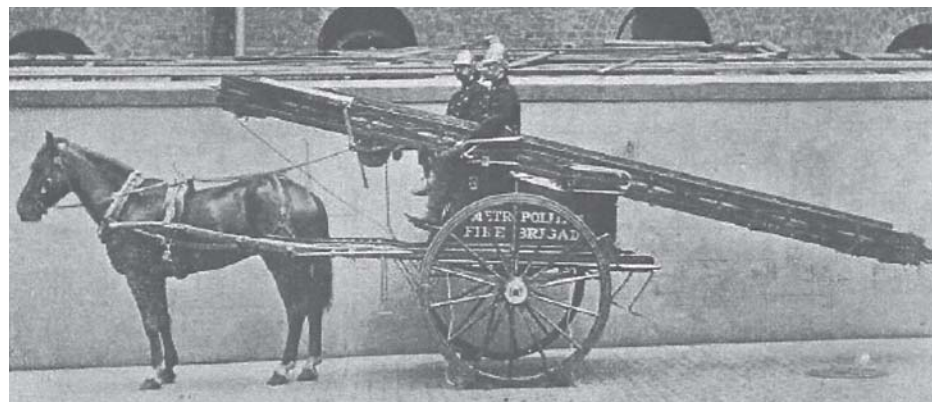
We no doubt sleep more soundly in our beds knowing that Woollahra fire station is manned 24 hours a day, with two pumping engines, one equipped with a 30-metre ladder, ever at the ready.

In November last year, the fire service celebrated the centenary of the present premises in Forth Street, Woollahra, completed at the cost of the sterling equivalent of \$5700.

But it was much earlier, in 1875, that Woollahra Fire Brigade was established by Woollahra Municipal Council which covered a wide area of the Eastern Suburbs. It had a second hand, horse drawn manual fire engine, costing the equivalent of \$55 and rented premises in Moncur Street.

The brigade had a great tragedy in February, 1901, when First Class Fireman Edward John Roberts lost his life when timber supporting joists gave way at a fire at a produce merchant's premises in Parramatta Road, Leichhardt.

Perhaps the most costly local fire in recent times was at Bellevue Hill Bowling Club on New Year's Eve, 1975. Firemen from five stations attended but



their work was hampered by lack of water pressure and the cars of spectators.

Woollahra fire station's centenary was marked by a street exhibition involving antique fire engines, the NSW Fire Brigade Band, a sausage sizzle and attractions for children.

More recently in April, the Woollahra brigade took part in a State Fire Brigade open day aimed at making people aware of fire hazards in everyday life.

ALARMS COMPULSORY

Hopefully the risk of serious, even fatal, fires has been reduced because from November 1 it is an offence for property owners not to have a smoke alarm in every storey of all houses and other shared accommodation in which people sleep.

And you must make sure the alarm always has live batteries. Worryingly the State Fire Authority has found that one in four smoke alarms are without batteries or the batteries are dead.

Another worrying statistic is that one in four children is allowed to cook without an adult present. They should always be closely supervised.

Some other points:

- Never leave cooking unattended in the kitchen. Hot oils soon catch alight.
- Keep lighters, matches and candles out of the reach of children.
- Have an escape plan. Accidental home fires, by their very nature, catch people unawares.

Further information

Email www.fire.nsw.gov.au/community.
Or your local fire station.



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Village Voice



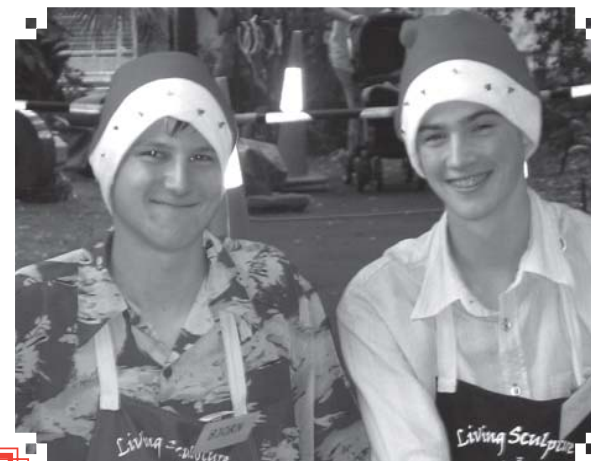
Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No.87 November 2006

Come to the Queen Street Association's



Christmas Carols Evening

6pm Tuesday 12th December
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The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir with Woollahra Philharmonic Brass Ensemble

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We are always buying good porcelain, glass silver and jewellery

Since 1987, traffic on Ocean Street has operated in a band between 31,000 and 35,000 vehicles per day. Since the Cross City Tunnel opened it has settled around 31,000 vehicles per day.

Originally residents became concerned when traffic was stopped from turning right into Crown Street from Oxford Street. This left Ocean Street as the only viable North/South Road.

We lobbied for the Eastern Distributor, which contained the natural increase and reduced the traffic heading for the harbour crossings.

The Cross City Tunnel promised to increase the traffic into grid lock so we lobbied again.

We won a reduction in traffic.

As a result the Cross City Tunnel, Woollahra Council predicted 48,000 vehicles per day. To get a sense of how bad it might get, stand on Ocean Street near New South Head Road on a Saturday morning around 12 noon. That's what it will look like all day every day.

Because of the grid lock, traffic will use local streets, especially along John, Queen, Moncur, Jersey and Trelawney streets to reach the "Paddington Rattruns". So the loss of amenity, the pollution, the noise and all the other inconveniences will spread.

During the approval process for the Cross City Tunnel, the Cross City

Ocean Street: We must keep up the pressure

By Keith Sole

Tunnel Action Group lobbied the State Government. We were a significant contributor to that group.

Under pressure to get the tunnel approved, the RTA accepted that a figure of 25,490 vehicles per day was appropriate for Ocean Street. It became a Condition of Approval of the Cross City Tunnel, that measures would be taken to bring the numbers down, if the volume of traffic reasonably exceeded 25,490.

TUNNEL UNDER USED

It is now 31,000 and rising. That's a 23 percent increase, which is more than reasonable. Don't forget that the tunnel is still under-used so there is more to come.

The RTA now say the figures were a mistake. We disagree and can prove it. We have technical and legal opinion that the 25,490 is legally enforceable.

The RTA will vigorously defend the case so the expenses could be in order of \$100,000.

We have a strong probability of winning the battle to reduce the traffic. Don't worry about where the traffic will go, there are sensible strategies available.

The years of work, with all the endless

meetings, the study, the fund raising, the lies and dealing with the RTA's disingenuous statements, are finished.

I do not have the necessary skills to take this forward. We need people to take up this issue and get involved to start the campaign rolling. It affects your amenity and your real estate values.

Did you know that Ocean Street has about a 20 percent discount on its real estate value compared to comparable houses off Ocean Street.

IS YOUR STREET/HOUSE NEXT? This is an important issue for the area. It is worth fighting for and we need your help.

Ring me on 9328 7131.

Email: keith.kc@bigpond.com.au

HELP WANTED

The Queen Street Association needs volunteers to help with the Christmas Carols at Chiswick Park, on the evening of Tuesday, December 12,

Contact Keith Sole, ph/fax 9328 7131, mob 0419 608 609, Email keith.ke@bigpond.net.au



Building Award for Cellars

The immaculate interior of the new Moncur Cellars attached to Woollahra Hotel in Moncur Street, showing its distinctive Michael Fitzjames mural. Moncur Cellars has won the Master Builders Association Excellence in Construction Award for a Commercial Building up to \$5 million. The prize, announced on November 8, was awarded to the builders, Beebo Constructions. Congratulations all round. (Photo: Diana Dennison)

the Spatchcock grilled with Rosemary and accompanied with a salad of Chickpeas, Roast Pumpkin and Preserved Lemon (\$29). His better half chose the Corned Wagyu Silverside with White Sauce, Carrots and Mashed Potatoes (\$27.50). Both echoed our sighs of appreciation.

We shared the desserts from the four delicious choices, all priced at \$14. Perhaps the most deliciously original is the Strawberry Frangipani Tart.

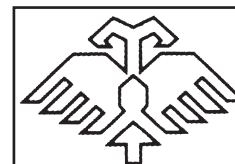
The wine list is not outstandingly large for such a sophisticated dining room but is very well chosen with a good measure of wines from smaller and medium Australian and New Zealand vineyards. Bottle prices go from \$21 for a Hardy's OP Cabernet Merlot to a breathtaking \$550 for a 1992 Penfolds Grange.

WINES BY THE GLASS

A selection of 14 wines come by the glass, ranging from a Hardy's red or white at \$5 to a Laurent Perrier Brut Champagne NV at \$18.50. (If they get an order for one glass in an evening, do they throw the rest of the bottle away?)

A small selection of dessert wines includes the acclaimed de Bortoli Noble One Botrytis Semillon at \$49 a 375ml bottle. Only one dessert wine is available by the glass, the Hollick the Nectar Botrytis 2005 at \$11.50. Fortified wines and cognacs are also available.

Matching the quality of the foods is the friendly efficiency of the service, on our night by a female threesome led by the hotel's licensee, Liz Bywell. It goes without saying that dining at the Bellevue is not for cheapskates or even people used to usual hotel dining room prices. On the other hand prices are fair for meals of this quality. RB



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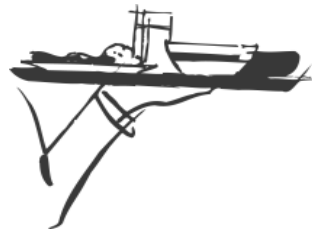
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LOCAL TABLES

The Pignolet touch at a pub

The Bellevue Hotel in Hargrave Street, once famous (I almost said notorious) as the stomping ground of Labor Party politicians, has recently undergone a culinary metamorphosis.

Today it is part owned by the redoubtable Damien Pignolet with the expected stellar improvement in the restaurant cuisine, though the bar area still retains the good old local pub atmosphere.

We dined there recently in a foursome on a dismally wet Friday evening but the restaurant was doing turnaway business. No wonder it advises that booking is essential.

The fare is a range of basic dishes with all sorts of delicious added flavours, some quite unexpected, in the Pignolet tradition, imparted to the skillful chef, Hamish Gilbert.

Prices of entrees range from \$15 for Crispy Soft Shell Crabs and Calamari with Aioli and Lemon to \$19.50 for Carpaccio of Beef Fillet

Main dishes are from \$18.50 for good old Grilled Sausages with Mashed Potatoes, Peas and Onion Gravy to \$33.50 for grilled T-bone Steak Burgundy, Eschalot and Parsley Butter.

I went for the Stilton Souffle (\$17) which brilliantly combined two of my favourite flavours, followed by Pickled Kurobuta Pork Belly with Kipfler Potatoes and English Spinach(\$28). This was notable for the delicacy of the meat.

TWO ENTREES

My wife, who usually spurns the main event and has two entrees, also had the Stilton Souffle and followed with Celериac, Fennel and Avocado Salad with Fresh Goat's Cheese and Walnuts (\$16.50). But for substance she followed her usual custom of ordering chips. These were of the shoestring variety (\$7).

Our male fellow guest adventurously chose as main course

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Councillors want fountain to flow once more

What does it take to get our most elegant fountain turned on?

Readers of Village Voice many recall that we have been agitating to have the elegant fountain in Davies Reserve turned on since 2001. It did work for a while in 2002 (in time for the marathon at the Olympics), but was turned off soon after.

In nearly every *Village Voice* published since then we have asked about its non-performance. In desperation we published a large picture of it on the front page of our September 2005 issue, pleading for its glorious resumption, but to no avail. A letter from its generous donor, Sir Raymond Burrell asking why it had been turned off was included.

In reply the Manager of Open Spaces at the Council wrote to us to say that it should not be turned on as it was a bad example to use water in these times of drought even though the water is reticulated! So evaporation is the only issue.

But at last we may have some action! This November we emailed every Woollahra councillor, pointing out that it was the only fountain in Woollahra, that other beautiful fountains in the city such as El Alamein and the Archibald are still bubbling away, and that the water was reticulated. We asked each councillor if they thought the fountain should be turned on and if grey or recycled water could be used.

By mid November we had five replies out of 12 councillors:

"I certainly have no issue with it. I'll raise this with staff for their attention"-

John Comino

"You have raised some good points...I will forward your letter on to our Manager of Open Spaces for him to address ASAP.

I personally believe that our gateway to Woollahra is looking very shabby and needs some work." Tanya Excell

I see no reason why we can't have the fountain working as long as no water is wasted...I will ask for reasons at our next Council meeting..."Anthony Boskovitz

..Perhaps if it is a reticulating system with a nice little solar powered pump, it would be a win win outcome." David Shoebridge

"Thanks for bringing this to Council attention....I agree the fountain should be turned on." Claudia Cullen

Let's see if the councillors can get things moving.



Is your home historic?

The association would like to see more homes in the area marked with plaques indicating their historic past or notable people who have lived there.

It is planned to present up to six such plaques at next year's Carols Concert in December. If your home qualifies, please notify the association, address below.

For your 2007 diary

The association's annual meeting will be held at the Holdsworth Street Centre on TUESDAY 17 APRIL AT 6PM

As usual it will be open to all local residents but only association members can vote. However, you can become a member by paying your subscription on the night.

Thank you Carols sponsors...
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CHAT STREET

Grandma's Little Darlings

by Annette Robinson and Diana Dennison

Our area has become a paradise for Grandmas who want to spoil their little darlings. The latest children's clothing shop, **Seed**, at 64 Moncur Street (where Pazottis tiles used to be) stocks the most exquisite range of clothes for littlies up to age ten or so. They also have bedspreads and a selection of toys.

Then there is **Mother Baby Child** which specialises in upmarket gear for mothers-to-be and babies, with a range of Australian and imported stock. Further up the street is **2Spot**, deliciously named after a Jack Russell puppy, which has a great range of zippy clothes for boys and girls (some girls clothes take in the 14 year-olds). The prices at 2Spot are "spot on", almost comparable to Target and the kids love the clothes.

Master and Miss children's wear at 111 Queen Street is another new shop, and has lovely gear for kids up to 16 years. They particularly specialise in christening and good party wear. Further towards Ocean Street at no 156, tucked away in a terrace is **Ollie & Max**, which stocks fabulously nostalgic clothes with a handmade and very French look; hailsports, gingham and polka-dot bikini for girls, paisley and gingham for boys, all in pure cotton. How could any Grandma resist?

And if clothes aren't your thing granny, try **Kidstuff** for a huge selection of toys for children of all ages. Now a large chain of shops, the latest being in Double Bay, Kidstuff started here in Queen Street and was run by the delightful Adrienne Blue.

Arrivals and departures

The very trendy and sophisticated **Artwear on Queen** has replaced Adele Weiss at 126 Queen Street. After successfully trading in The Rocks for twenty years, owner Lara Shaya has moved to our neighbourhood. Italian, Belgium and local designs all bear the mark of Lara's great eye for the unusual and exclusive. The window displays are fantastic.

Zambelli, another upmarket clothes retailer that opened in July had an unwelcome introduction to Queen Street. Having just launched its new range with a big promotion linked to the



Edible fare at the Bay Tree

There's a colourful excitement about the Bay Tree Kitchenware shop in Holdsworth Street as Christmas approaches. Proprietor Susie Loudon is shown with some of her imported exclusives. Colourful Sentou storage tins from France and luscious edibles from Belgium, Italy and Spain. Newcomers also include a lovely range of French jellies, and from Germany the famous marzipan from JG Niedressal. Susie travels every year to Europe to find new exclusive ranges which attract customers from all over Sydney



Dasha with a floral dash

The lovely Dasha Andryskova has arrived at her salon at 43a Queen Street from Czechoslovakia via London, where she did her advanced beauty skills training, and Amsterdam. Dasha provides several types of sophisticated beauty treatments, in addition to luxury skin care, and also offers gift vouchers, hand delivered. If you get one, there is an additional surprise - a bouquet of flowers.

Spring Racing Carnival, the store had its shopfront window was ram-raided and \$100,000 worth of stock stolen. To its credit the shop was trading again almost immediately. Zambelli's Australian-made classic range of women's and men's clothes have the reputation of taking owners "from office to bar", no need to change.

Isherwood Antiques and Interiors has opened at 90 Queen Street. This delightful little shop is a welcome addition to Queen Street. We do not want to be entirely swamped by clothes and food. English proprietor Nicola Isherwood has lived in France for a number years and the stock of French and Italian decorative antiques reflects her excellent eye for the most elegant.

As this issue goes to press **Garry Castle Shoes** is refitting the premises formerly occupied by Arte Flowers, an eclectic store we will certainly miss. Michel and Graeme were great salesmen and their stock was wonderfully tasteful and individual.

Lisa Gowing, the exclusive bridal shop has moved to 53 Queen Street from its original premises on the corner of Edgecliff Road and Ocean Avenue. It replaces the short-lived florist Xquisite.

Copeland & De Soos has shut up shop after 32 years at 66 Queen Street. Rodney de Soos and Frances Laverack's fine art collection of art nouveau, art deco, arts and crafts furniture, lighting, glass, ceramics and jewellery has delighted enthusiasts for over 40 years. Copeland & de Soos opened their first shop in Darlinghurst in the sixties.

Ethical Fair at the Hughenden

An Ethical and Organic Food Fair is to be held at The Hughenden Hotel, 14 Queen Street, on Saturday December 2 from 9am-5pm. Thirty stalls selling ethical and organic gifts just in time for Christmas. The Fair Patron Deni Hines will be there to sign autographs for her new album, Water for Chocolate.

ROUND ROBIN Robin Brampton's Queen Street Commentary

Village is missing the bus

The 200 from Bondi Junction, passing down Ocean Street to the city and then to Chatswood is a great convenience to people, like myself, who want to travel to the North Shore without the bother of changing in the city.

It was too good to last. The service has now been cut out completely at weekends and at midday between 9.42am and 2.57pm.

I understand this has caused particular unhappiness at Goodwin Village whose senior residents like to visit North Shore relatives and friends at weekends. Sad.

I was sorry to read of the death, aged 82, of Tony Ward who ran the Printique antiquarian print gallery in Queen Street with great flair and unflinching courtesy before moving to Mittagong.

Tony was a man of great versatility. He was best known for his role as the special agent John Hunter in the pioneering television series "Hunter". He also worked as a journalist, documentary maker and, believe it or not, banana grower.

As a lover of poetry, I was this year arranger, part-sponsor and an adjudicator of a very successful poetry contest for Seniors Week organised by Woollahra Council.

There were five separate sections and the Environmental class was won by Jersey Road resident Graham Hemphill. Just as worthy of congratulations was that with great versatility, he was the only senior poet to enter all five sections.

For Seniors Week 2007, the council is arranging a seniors (55 and over) contest for both poetry and prose. Details: Phone Naomi on 9391 7957



It is the usual lot of the political speechwriter to live anonymously in the shadow of his master. Graham Freudenberg (pictured above), acknowledged as the Labor Party's greatest speechwriter, is an exception.

And it was very gratifying, when I attended a launching of his memoir, "A Figure of Speech", to hear him pay tribute to the Queen Street Association for "bringing him out in the open". He was referring to his six years as our president, from 1993 to 1999, his first public office.

Graham was a speechwriter to Calwell, Whitlam, Hawke, Keating and Bob Carr and advisor to many other ALP leaders

A typical review says "Graham Freudenberg has written a surprisingly entertaining book that is part autobiography, part insider's account of Labor politics, part study of the fine art of political speech writing and totally assuming and modest".

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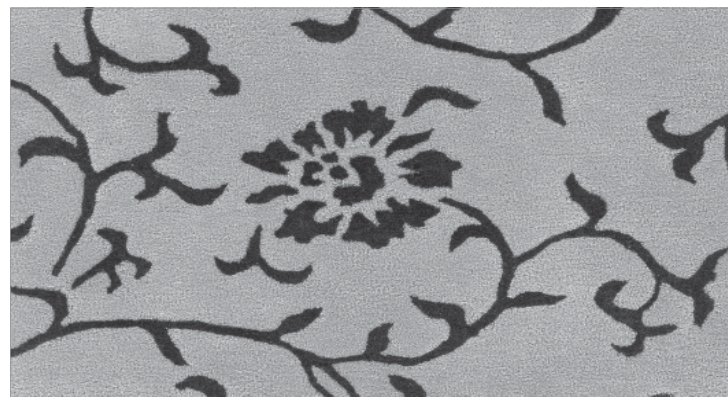
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