



LONG LIVE THE QUEEN!

QUEEN VICTORIA'S QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

Queen Street began its life in the 1820s as Piper Street, named after Captain John Piper who owned huge tracts of land covering most of what is now known as the Municipality of Woollahra. The name was changed to Queen Street in late 1870s in honour of Queen Victoria.

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837–1901, at a time of increased affluence with the rise of the middle class and social justice movements. There was a new search for knowledge – suffragette, anti-slavery, rights of children, challenges to class structure, the vote, and the origins of life with Darwinism. It was a golden age of writers with the publication of works by George Eliot, Joseph Conrad, William Butler Yeats, Emily and Charlotte Bronte, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll, Charles Dickens, Rudyard Kipling, Louisa May Alcott and Mark Twain.

Queen Victoria's reign spread across the globe. Queen Street would reflect this influence with a vibrant mixture of shops, trades, terraces, schools and gracious homes. St Kevin's at 117 Queen Street, which became the home of former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, was originally built in 1892–93 for Dr Patrick Collins based on the designs of John Bede Barlow. Vine Cottage at 115 Queen Street eventually became the home of Dame Joan Sutherland from 1932 to 1951.

Waimea, a Regency-style residence was built for Thomas Barr in 1858 and has been all but demolished. The Hughenden (c.1870s) at 14 Queen Street was built by Dr Frederick Harrison Quaife, who brought the first x-ray to the colony. The residence of Dowell O'Reilly (1865–1923), poet, short-story writer and father of writer Eleanor Dark, was at 124–128 Queen Street. The Queen Street shops were established by William Latimer, Member of State Parliament 1901–1934 and Mayor of Woollahra 1900–1910. Australia's much-loved poet Banjo Patterson lived at 135 Queen Street between 1903–1908.

In 1881, when the steam trams commenced operating from Liverpool Street in the city along Queen Street, it further fostered the creative, social and business life of Queen Street. The importance of education of girls was evident with several schools operating in Queen Street, and The Rivlere College at The Hughenden which educated future pioneer women in the fields of medicine and education.

The National Trust classified Queen Street and its environs as an area of historic and architectural importance. It is at the gateway to historic Centennial Parklands and Paddington–Woollahra, with the largest expanse of Victorian streetscapes in the Southern hemisphere.

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