



**Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the  
Queen Street & West Woollahra Association**

**Tuesday, 17 May 2022 Venue: Woollahra Hotel, Woollahra**

**Meeting opened:** 5.45pm

**Present:** Committee members Giles Edmonds, Richard Haigh, John Knott, Jaqui Lane, Alan Smith, Christine Whiston, Steph McIndoe and 65 local resident and business members.

**Apologies:** Richard Banks

**1. Welcome and President's Report**

Welcome to: Mayor Susan Wynne; Federal member Dave Sharma; Cooper ward councillors Sarah Swan, Nicola Grieve & Luise Elsing; Woollahra Public School Principal, Nicole Malloy

It's nice to see a, a big crowd here again tonight and we thank you of support of the organization. This is the 50th anniversary of the founding association before. I'd just like to go back a little bit to the founding of the organisation where we came from.

History

The Queen Street West Woollahra Association was formed in 1972 with Leo Scofield as the founding president with the aims of the regeneration activation of Queen Street shopping area and the promotion of Queen Street facilities, as well as the preservation of the charm of the streets in west Woollahra/

The goal was to act as a forum through its residents to raise voices effectively on matters and influence decisions of public authorities. This was a time when Woollahra had no real planning protections and the attractiveness of the Victorian of facades along Queen Street could have been demolished.

In 1973, the Royal Blind Society made an application to demolish Waimea House and sent in the bulldozers. This was really the best, first big test for the Association. And the action was swift and very effective through the action of the association and the Builder's Labourer's Federation was persuaded to put an immediate green ban on the work.

Unfortunately, the veranda windows and much of the roof had already been ripped off. A protest at the site attracted over a hundred attendees. And the following week, the Royal Blind Society decided not to continue with the demolition, leaving it up to the Association to fix the roof to keep out the rain and later volunteer labour to clean it up. Sadly, the building was then left direct until 1987 when the then new owners received approval for a full restoration approved by the Heritage Council of New South Wales and supported by this organization. Partly due to this the Association wanted a sympathetic planning scheme for the area, and in 1974 submitted a draft action plan to the Woollahra Council as a model for proposed planning and zoning principles as none existed at the time. This was adopted by the Council in 1980, its most important element being a height limit of 0.5 meters of new buildings and a conservation zoning over the whole area. However, it still took another five years, this, the planning scheme to be finalized and gazetted by the state parliament.

The Association was also instrumental in getting Victorian fountain surrounding pond installed at Davis Reserve in 1987 and funding for the restoration of the fountain

The association was also involved in drafting a tree planting proposal for Queen Street. The design included the planting Jacaranda and Illawarra flame trees however, it wasn't until five years later in 1977, that the council finally planted the trees having accepted a grant of \$2,000 from the association towards the costs. Sadly, the council changed the trees to liquid amber and fraxinus



Pennsylvania but lack of root barriers continues to adversely impact the pavements at Queen Street today.

When we were founded the first edition of the Village Voice was published. Now it's now up to Edition 137 and is very much part of the local community. 1973 saw the first street fair driven by Leo Scofield and the Association. These fairs were tremendous success and ran into 1985. We found an ABC video made in 1975 that is now on our website as well as YouTube.

Informationally, Woollahra Council has a number of archives for the Association which we have been working through and will be posting the more interesting documents and photos on our website.

50 years on we're still a community organization representing both local lessons and businesses. We remain focused on preserving and maintaining the unique vintage atmosphere of Woollahra and we are all about building and enhancing a strong community spirit and vibrant commercial environment.

### Membership

As of May 2022 we have 150 paid up individual and business members. We certainly want to grow this and are starting a membership drive. All members registered tonight should receive a shop local loyalty card offering discounts over a hundred dollars. Participating businesses include the Bodalla, Phoenix Hotel, Parterre and Pizza Moncur.

This is a trial, both to reward members and try to help drive local business. If successful, we will look to expand this with the more participating businesses in 2023. So please use this opportunity to suggest to any of your neighbours who aren't members that they should join us.

### Events

We had to cancel the Christmas Carols at the last minute due to a downpour which was extremely disappointing and cost the Association approx. \$5,000, but also meant loss of funds. We were able to conduct the Christmas window display competition and it proved very successful. There were 65 entrants showing great creativity and giving Queen Street and surrounding streets a festive flair. Thanks to our judges, Mayor, Susan Wynne and Anna Smith. Thank you also to Woollahra Council for the lights in the trees. And we're hoping that this year there will be more trees with more lights and powered by mains electricity as they are much brighter than the solar.

We have also upgraded the administration of the organization moving to an integrated membership management system and website. This has enabled us to provide much more information on the website, including our history and a large number of photos of previous events. If anyone does have any old photographs of Queen Street and the surrounding area please do get in touch as we'd like to be able to put those up as part of a historical archive system there.

We now have an automated our membership management, sending out renewal notices and reminders allowing members to join or rejoin and pay online, registration to events and purchase of items such as The Woollahra book. <https://woollahravillage.com.au/Sys/Store/Products/261218>

As part this upgrade we have changed the Association URL to: <https://woollahravillage.com.au/>

This is now consistent with the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WoollahraVillage/> and Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/woollahravillage\\_gswwa/](https://www.instagram.com/woollahravillage_gswwa/)

Finally, a few thanks. Firstly, to the committee who've been working very hard all year. Special thanks to our secretary Richard Banks, who can't be with us tonight who is standing down from the

committee this year. Richard has been on the committee for approx. 15 years so we thank Richard for all his hard work and we'll great greatly knowledge and experience.

I'd also like to thank our Village Voice team led by Christine Whiston. The quality, look and feel of the Village Voice goes from strength to strength and continues to be one of our most powerful connections with the community. I do congratulate the team on all their hard work and the splendid job.

We also have a presence on social media. Mary Read is managing the Woollahra Village Facebook page and Stephanie Macindoe is managing Instagram. Thank you both.

I'd also thank Woollahra Council and the Mayor and our councillors for their ongoing support, particularly in financially in helping us put on the Christmas carols and other events and welcome/congratulate the new Cooper ward counsellors, Sarah Swan, and Nick Green.

We also thank the retiring councillors, Anthony Marano and Megan McEwin for their support during their time of office, both were very helpful and supportive. Also to Dave Sharma for his support in the last three years and acknowledgement of the association and the work we do with the federal parliament in June. And Alex Greenwich for his community recognition statement on the Association in NSW state parliament in February. Due to the upcoming shift in electoral boundaries before the next state election Alex will no longer be one of one of our two state members. Thanks to Alex for his support over the years.

Last but not least a big thanks to Woollahra Hotel for hosting us for this meeting again this year. We're very grateful their ongoing support and the complimentary drink that you've all received today. Thank you very much.

## **2. Minutes of 2021 AGM**

GE proposed that the minutes of the 2021 QSWWA meeting be approved

Seconded: Rosemary McDonald

The minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 8 June 2021 were unanimously approved.

## **3. 2021 Financial Report**

I'd like to add my personal welcome to our special guests.

QSWWA has had a close relationship with our auditors, Rosenfeld, Canton & Assoc in particular, Gary Williams, the senior partner of the firm.

The audited financial reports have been available to all members and there are copies here. As you're aware our Association is a not-for-profit organization and derives its income from four major sources: 1. memberships from our residents, 2. memberships from our business, 3. partnerships and advertising from the Village Voice and 4. Functions.

We usually hold several functions throughout the year include our annual Christmas carols event which attracts approximately 400 parents and children. Unfortunately, due to heavy rain on the 7th of December 21, we were forced to cancel the event at the very last minute. This was extremely disappointing. As the carols were also unable to be held the previous year due to COVID restrictions, we remain optimistic and are fully on board to bring this popular event to you on 13th of December this year We have organised a midyear community dinner on 14 of June.

In 2021, we repeated the successful Christmas windows display competition that was introduced in 2020, the local shopkeepers demonstrated exceptional innovation and enthusiasm in creating most innovative and original showcases. As one of the judges, I can attest to the fact that it was extremely difficult to choose a winner it's most rewarding to see the spirit of community that these occasions engender.

Looking at the auditor's profit and loss statement for this financial year ending December 21, we had total income of \$38,071 and expenses of 42,830 accordingly a loss of \$4,759.



Est 1972

**Queen Street & West Woollahra Association**

..... your community voice

**[www.woollahravillage.com.au](http://www.woollahravillage.com.au)**

This loss was a lot better than last year which was around 11,000.

Retained earnings at the end of the financial year, amounted to \$35,829. Subscriptions from memberships and Village Voice advertising amounted to \$28,541 up from \$16,700 the year before. Total expenses were \$42,830 which was up from 34,000 last year. In 2020, in 2021, income and expenses were both up from the previous year.

We incurred expenses in the planning of the Christmas carols event that did not bring in revenue due to the cancellation. The new look, 20-page Village Voice also resulted in additional costs.

**Proposed** that the audited financial report be accepted by the meeting.

**Seconded:** John Knott

The proposal to accept the 2021 financial reports and the appointment of Rosenfeld Canton & Assoc was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Election of Office Bearers and Directors**

GE noted that the Association had received nominations for Office Bearers and Committee Members equivalent to the number of positions available and, therefore there was no vote required.

GE proposed that all those nominated be approved as Office Bearers and Committee Members. The meeting unanimously agreed to the appointment of all Office Bearers and Committee members.

President: Giles Edmonds

Treasurer: Alan Smith

Secretary: Jaqui Lane

Committee Members: Susie Willmott, John Knott, Christine Whiston, Steph Macindoe, Richard Haig and Jennifer Stokes

#### **5. Appointment of Association Auditor**

AS proposed that Rosenfeld Canton & Assoc be appointed as auditors for our current financial year.

Seconded: Giles Edmonds

The proposal to accept the appointment of Rosenfeld Canton & Assoc was unanimously approved.

#### **6. Open Forum and General Business**

Dizzie Robinson asked about the Council approval of the funeral business on Ocean Street.

RH reported that a significant amount of effort, including securing legal advice, had been undertaken to object to the application in the Land and Environment Court. Over 1,000 signatures had been secured opposing the application. We outlined that we did not think this business appropriate for the fabric of Queen Street/Ocean Street precinct and that Bondi junction, which is a more semi-commercial area, would have been a more appropriate place for it.

The opposition to the application was based on the close proximity of residents, businesses and Woollahra school students using Kiaora Lane.

As a result, the funeral parlour will go ahead with hours between 8:00 AM and 10:00 PM, um, which. Um, unfortunately at this stage, um, I suppose we can just remain proactive. Um, and that's all we can do at the moment, but we did, we did take, um, serious objection to it and we did throw everything we could at it.

GE informed the meeting about the Association's Raffle tickets, the winner will be drawn on the evening of the Association dinner on 14 June.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$50 for 6. A book of 50 tickets is \$400. Tickets are available for purchase



Est 1972

**Queen Street & West Woollahra Association**

..... *your community voice*

***www.woollahravillage.com.au***

tonight and up until and including the Association dinner.

Thanks to the businesses donating prizes: Matthew Ely - \$5,000 prize, Parterre and \$560 of champagne from

**Meeting closed: 7.20pm**