

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 23 May 2023, 5.30pm for 6.00 pm

Queen Street Lounge, 1st floor, The Woollahra Hotel, 116 Queen Street Woollahra

Special Guests attending

The Hon. Kellie Sloane, State Member for Vaucluse (subject to parliament sitting)

Cllr. Luise Elsing, Cooper Ward Councillor

Cllr. Sarah Swan, Cooper Ward Councillor

Cllr. Nicola Grieve, Cooper Ward Councillor

Martin Cohen, President, Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra

Nicole Molloy, Woollahra Public School Principal

Members attending: a total of 48 financial members attended. The list is available in the members section of the website.

Apologies: Mayor, Susan Wynne, Federal member Allegra Spender, Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager of the Council

1. Minutes from the 2022 AGM

Giles Edmonds noted that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting, were available on the QSWWA website and hard copies were made available.

Mary Read proposed and Kerry Huxley seconded that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM be approved as a true and correct record.

The meeting unanimously accepted the 2022 AGM minutes.

2. President's Report

The Village Voice publication started in 1972 and is now regularly 20-pages and is delivered to 5,000 homes and businesses. Thanks to editor Christine Whiston, sub-editor, Deb Brown, graphic designer Kerry Klinner, photographers John Peel and Paul McGuire and Craig Morris for printing and distribution.

The Association has maintained our presence on social media with the **Woollahra Village Facebook** page run by Mary Read with over 1,600 followers. Thank you Mary for all your hard work. Our Instagram page **@woollahravillage_qswwa**, has over 1,200 followers thanks to our former committee member Steph Macindoe for running the Instagram account, now taken over by Committee member, Jennifer Stokes.

The **2022 AGM and dinner** celebrated 50 years of the Association. 80 members attended. The special guest was founding President, Leo Schofield.

Christmas Carols were a great success with over 500 attending. Woollahra Public School headlined the carols and thanks to Woollahra Council, Chiswick Restaurant for the delicious barbecue and all our local businesses for their raffle prizes, all the singers and musicians who performed so beautifully, and to everyone who supported us buying raffle tickets and finally to Alan Smith who organises it every year.

We held our third **Christmas Window Display Competition**. Over 60 entries were judged by Mayor Susan Wynne, Anthony Puharich and Alan Smith, and to the winners, including Marylou Sobel Interior Design who took first prize.

In March, we held a very successful **Meet the Candidates Forum** at the Double Bay Bowling Club, jointly hosted by ourselves, the Double Bay Residents Association and the Darling Point Society. The forum was attended by all four candidates for the Vaucluse electorate, who each gave their views on a wide range of questions to the audience of close to 100 local residents and media representative.

The QSWWA was also invited to participate in the **Woollahra Council Anzac Day Wreath Laying Ceremony** at Steyne Park, Double Bay.

We work with local organisations and have helped Holdsworth and the Woollahra Dementia Alliance find business partners for their **Let's Dementia Friendly Woollahra Week**. Congratulations to local businesses Tanora, the Woollahra Hotel, Reads, Luxe and Summers Floral.

We recently announced our art competition, **Paint Woollahra Village**. This is based on the format of our highly successful 2020 competition, Paint Queen Street, which attracted over 100 high class entries.

We continue to work with Council to improve our local environment. We are very pleased that, following meetings with the Association, the Council has allocated \$30,000 in the FY24 budget for planter boxes, street cleaning and townscaping for **Peaker Lane**, behind Queen Street. Peaker Lane has been a major eyesore and this will be a big step forward in increasing the amenity of the area. We are also looking forward to the Council increasing the **Christmas lighting in Queen Street which is only solar-powered at this stage**.

Other items of discussion with Council include **improving visibility of the pedestrian crossing in Queen Street by Holdsworth Street** and appropriate speeds limits for non-arterial roads in the area.

We have also continued to email members updating and alerting them to matters of interest or concern to the local community, including contentious DAs, the worrying increase of height levels proposed in the Council's Edgecliff Corridor Strategy, the licensing application and appeal for 136 Queen Street.

The proposed **Oxford Street cycleway** which is the responsibility of Transport for NSW (TfNSW) who own the Oxford Street roadway is a major concern. We are working with our Councillors, other local organisations, our former state member, Alex Greenwich, and the new member for Vaucluse, Kellie Sloane, to try to get TfNSW to re-open the consultation period which closed in late February before the Association and numerous local residents became aware it.

The proposal is to build a cycleway down Oxford Street to connect the Centennial Park cycleway with the city, including reducing the car lanes in Oxford Street from two on each side to one on each side. Business owners and residents in Oxford Street and Paddington have raised various

concerns about the impact on their business, reduced bus stops, reduced parking etc but we have a different set of concerns. Our concerns are that the current design will potentially:

- a) Increase traffic dramatically in Woollahra residential streets and greatly add to peak hour congestion in Queen Street as motorists look for alternative routes,
- b) Increase accidents and queues in Queen Street from an additional set of lights for cyclists in the already confusing intersection with Oxford Street, Moore Park Road and Lang Road.

Despite not being consulted in the first consultation period, we have managed to register our concerns with TfNSW.

3. 2022 Financial Report

The Treasurer Alan Smith presented the financial report and noted that they had been audited by Garry Williams from Rosenfeld Kant & Associates.

Alan noted that the Association raises income from four main sources: Advertising in the Village Voice, functions throughout the year (and raffles) – Christmas Carols, community dinner, Christmas Window display and Paint Woollahra competition; funding from Woollahra Council for the Christmas Carols.

Alan Smith noted that as on December 2022 income was \$55,245 and expenses \$56,488 resulting in a net loss of \$1,243

Retained earnings of \$34,375

Subscriptions of \$28,980

Total expenses increased to \$56,488 up from \$43,041 in 2021.

Key items to note that there was no annual dinner or Christmas carols in 2021 due to COVID/weather. This resulted in expenses for the carols with no income.

Alan Smith proposed that the Audited Financial Report be Accepted.

Seconded by Rosemary McDonald

Approved unanimously by the meeting.

4. Election of Office Bearers and Directors

Christine Whiston took over Chairing the meeting. Only one nomination for the position of President, Giles Edmonds who was approved unanimously by the meeting.

Giles Edmonds resumed Chairing the meeting and noted there was one nomination for the Vice President, Christine Whiston

Seconded by Jennifer Stokes.

Approved unanimously by the meeting.

Giles Edmonds noted that there were eight nominations for eight places on the committee.

The meeting unanimously approved the election of the following directors/officer bearers.

Treasurer: Alan Smith

Secretary: Jaqui Lane

Committee Member: Susie Willmott, John Knott, Richard Haigh, Jennifer Stokes

5. Appointment of Association Auditor

Alan Smith proposed that the Association reappoint the Auditors, Rosenfeld Kant & Associates for another year.

Seconded by Sarah Swan

Approved unanimously by the meeting

6. Open Forum and General Business

Susanna De Vienne raised the issue of general maintenance of the street including the footpaths, curbs, trees, tree root impact, lighting and street sweeping.

Sarah Swan informed the meeting that Council sweeping occurred on a regular roster.

It was proposed that Woollahra Council review the regularity, timing and days of sweeping, especially during autumn.

Giles Edmonds noted that \$100,000 had been allocated by Council for footpath upgrades and replanting of garden beds under the trees. This would be undertaken in the latter part of 2023 and early 2024.

Rosemary McDonald noted that Council would send sweeper if specific requests were made to Council on 9391 3000.

Mary Read asked about what had happened to the Master Plan that was developed in 2011 and approved in 2014, as it was apparent that the works on the footpath, trees, seats and curbs had not followed this Master Plan, including the all-important Tree management plan.

There was a general discussion about this and Giles Edmonds noted that while there was funding for the Plan itself no money had ever been allocated to implement the approved 2014 plan.

It was proposed that a meeting between Council and QSWWA members and community be convened to discuss the Master Plan and actions in relation to it going forward.

Giles Edmonds undertook for the Association to facilitate this.

Georgina Suttor raised the issue of the proposed Oxford Street Cycleway and its impact on Queen Street and surrounding residential streets. It was noted that individuals could object and asked what the Council and Association were doing.

Sarah Swan noted that it was a State Government initiative (along with the City of Sydney) and as such Woollahra Council had no control over the proposal nor input other than lodging its position.

It was noted that an Electric charging station was being installed in the small car park on Dorhauer Lane and this was negotiated between the Council and the provider, Evie. There would be a time limit on parking and cars would need to be charging otherwise could face traffic fines.

Precinct/Ward meeting. It was proposed that a Precinct/Ward meeting be convened to facilitate more in-depth discussion between Woollahra Council representatives and the community about a range of matters raised at this meeting.

Giles Edmonds undertook to organise this.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm