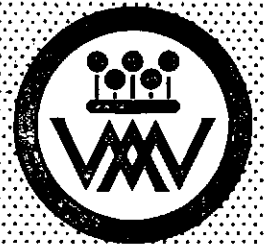


# VILLAGE VOICE



News Bulletin of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

PO Box 50, Woollahra, NSW 2025

November, 1973

## QUEEN STREET FAIR

Saturday, November 24

The great Queen Street Fair on November 24th is already a sell out! Every one of the 170 stalls we can squeeze into the street is booked -- and there's a waiting list.

This year there will be even more to do, buy and see than in 1972 when 20,000 people rolled up for our great carnival and shopping spree.

You'll be able to buy everything from burglar alarms to Christmas trees, bread boards to lead light toys. And this time there will be much more food -- to take home or eat on the spot -- including such exotic commestibles as vegetarian curry and Malayan sate.

Entertainment? We've arranged a non-stop programme of bands and performers on a stage at the end of Victoria Street.

If that palls, watch glass being blown or blow your mind with an astro-graph analysis of your future; impress your name on a T-shirt or your seat on the galloper of an old Victorian merry-go round.

It will be the greatest day Queen Street has ever seen, if the weather is good. And if it isn't, the Fair will be held the following Saturday.

So come !!!

### AN APPEAL

Queen Street, between Moncur Street and Oxford Street, will be closed from 6 a.m. on the morning of the fair. If you live in this part of Queen Street, would you please not park your car in the street overnight on November 23. Otherwise it will be trapped among the stalls and the milling throng.

### AND ANOTHER

The association is having three stalls, selling books and records, sample bags and lucky dips. The proceeds will be used for our work on behalf of the local community. Donations of books and records will be welcomed (ring 357-1488 for collection). We would also welcome volunteers to man the stalls and help with the fair generally. Ring Vivienne Sharpe on 929-5344.

# HELEN KELLER STALEMATE

What will be the final fate of Helen Keller Hostel

which was snatched from the demolishers' bulldozers at the eleventh hour earlier this year? As we went to press, the answer was still unknown.

Following the outrage at the attempt by the Royal Blind Society to demolish the fine Victorian town house in Waimea Avenue, off Queen Street, a preservation committee was formed on which our association is heavily represented.

Several very substantial offers have been put to the Royal Blind Society for the purchase of the house, the surrounding land, and properties which it owns in Waimea Avenue and Woods Avenue.

The offer most favoured by our association came from a development company which would have presented Helen Keller Hostel itself to the National Trust, and developed the surrounding area very sympathetically with town houses.

The Royal Blind Society has been exasperatingly uncooperative about this offer, and the company making it has become completely discouraged.

At the beginning of this month The Royal Blind Society still owned the property. It says it wants to sell, but despite all offers and negotiations has made no firm agreement to do so.

Meanwhile, our association has spent more than \$800 on the building - on publicity and providing a tarpaulin over the partly stripped roof to protect it from the weather.



## ARBORIAL PROGRESS REPORT

Early in September last year, the association submitted a tree planting scheme to Woollahra Council.

Council adopted the scheme at its meeting on November 30, 1972. Since then, the association has asked in writing and verbally about the progress of the scheme.

The only aspects of the scheme which have been carried out so far are the additional planting in Moncur Reserve and the planting in the Dorhauer Lane/Queen Street car park.

This latter planting along the western wall is not exactly what we originally asked for, but it helps an ugly situation. It's green and it grows, so don't let's look a gift tree in the leaf.

Our main attention was on Queen Street itself, and the Council has not referred to this at all.

Our original suggestion was for Jacarandas and Illawarra Flame trees planted alternately. Even if something less attractive was adopted, it would be very possible to improve on what exists, or doesn't exist, in Queen Street at present.

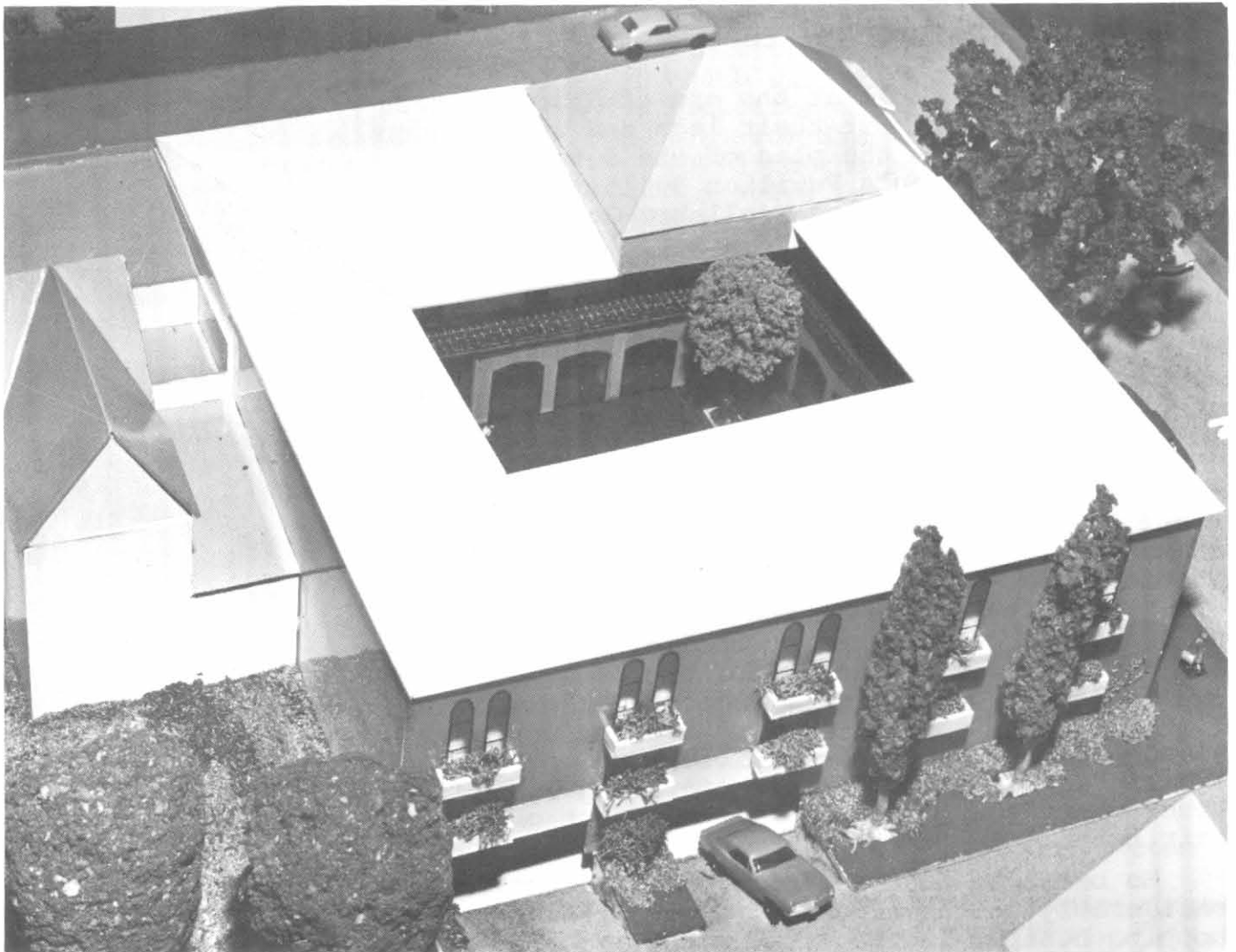
Some 94.5 per cent of residents in West Woollahra who answered the association's survey questions want more tree planting, and we must simply keep up the pressure on the Council.

And not just the association's committee — everyone who wants tree-planting.

When we see the beautiful trees which have been put in at Circular Quay leading to the Opera House, and how that extraordinary ugly stretch of road has been transformed by them, we can only hope that this good example will spread nearer home!

ROWAN BECKETT

# QUEEN STREET BOUTIQUE SCHEME



Our picture shows a model of the redevelopment scheme approved by Woollahra Council for the corner of Moncur Street and Queen Street.

The scheme provides for 11 boutiques on the ground floor, fronting on to a central piazza. The first floor will be a series of offices, totalling approximately 4,000 sq.ft., opening on to a gallery above the piazza.

The building will incorporate the former MacDonald's hardware store and Robinson's pharmacy, with new construction fronting Moncur Street and Peaker Lane.

Access to the shops will be reached from entrances in Queen and

Moncur Streets.

The pharmacy roof will be retained in its present form and the decorative parapet of the MacDonald's building will be duplicated on the new building fronting Moncur Street.

Queen Street architect David L. Morgan who designed the imaginative scheme said he was conscious of the wish of local residents for more food shops. However, it would be difficult to provide these within the scheme.

Our view of the model is taken from the Peaker Lane frontage where the building is set back 22ft. 6in. from the roadway. It is hoped the building will be finished in 1974.

# Queen St. Commentary

## SHOPPERS' HAVEN IN SPICER STREET?

A pedestrian mall at the end of Spicer Street where shoppers can rest their legs and enjoy a cup of coffee -- that's the plan of the five boutique-keepers in the Pagan's Pavilion Building.

They have petitioned Woollahra Council to close off the end of Spicer Street, leading into Queen Street, in front of their building and convert it into a mall.

In their petition, they say the proposed mall would improve the aesthetic value of the area and cause no disruption to traffic as people driving out of Spicer Street would turn left or right into Peaker Lane.

"The way would be open for someone -- not necessarily us -- to make application for the erection of umbrella-covered tables and chairs and provide a light refreshment service," the petition says.

"There is nowhere in the near vicinity where one can get a coffee, tea or cool drink, together with a piece of cake, sandwich, etc."

Mr. Cecil J. Zuber, of the Asian Gallery, told us he had been inspired to organise the petition by shoppers who came into his boutique and complained that there was nowhere along Queen Street where they could "take the weight off their feet".

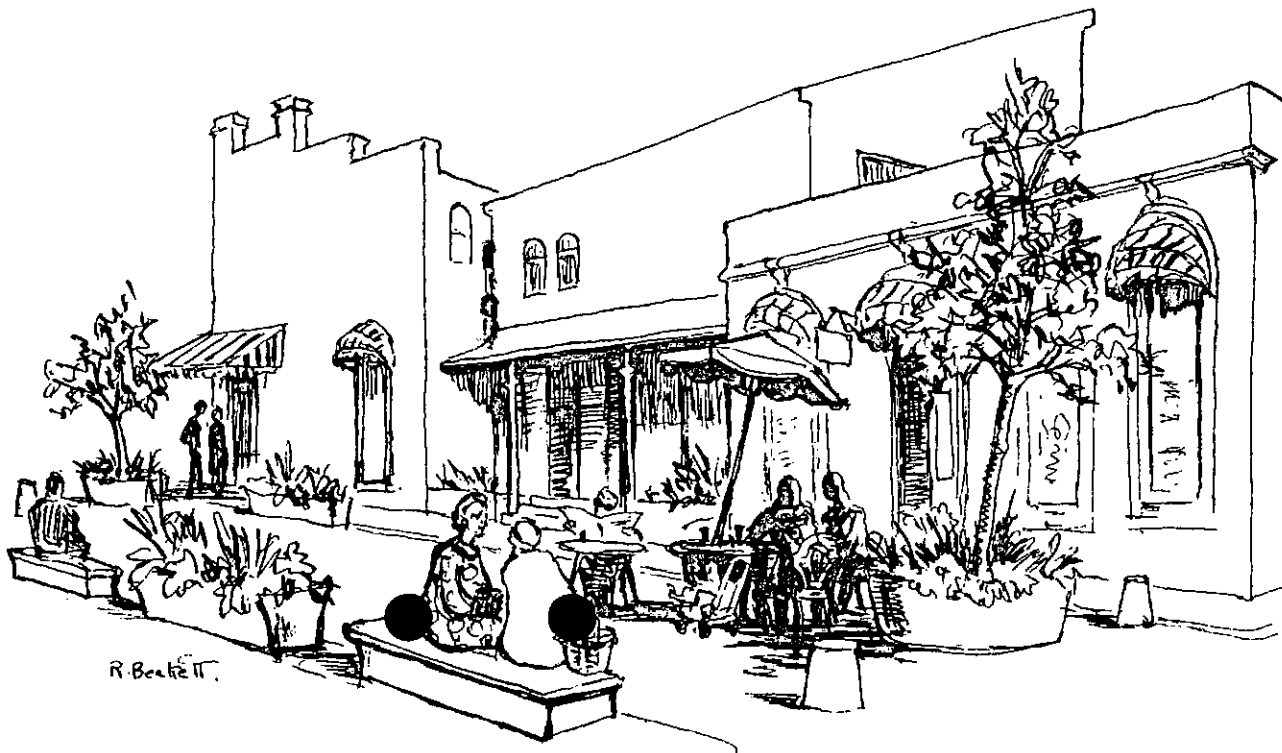
He believes that the proposed mall would add considerably to the appeal of Queen Street as a shopping centre, increase the amenities and cause no inconvenience to the residents of Spicer Street, some of whom actively support the idea.

Our association has been asked to endorse the proposal, but we believe we should not do so until the views of all Spicer Street residents are known. Comments are welcome.

Meanwhile, on this page we present an impression by Rowan Beckett of how the proposed mall would look.

## "SO THAT'S WHERE DORRIE AND HERB LIVE!"

Moncur Street is now a regular stopping point for tourist buses -- not, alas for the architectural charm of its buildings but so that the inhabitants of Moonee Ponds can gawp at the Moncur Flats, the exterior setting for the Number 96 TV series.



## VALE, ANTHONY VINCENT

The people of West Woollahra have lost a great advocate and watchdog of their interests through the tragic death of Anthony Vincent, of Holdsworth Street.

A young barrister, "Ant" Vincent leaves a widow, Penny, and 3½ year old daughter.

It was largely through his persistence and influence that Woollahra Council adopted the scheme for extending the Moncur Reserve to Holdsworth Street and improving Holdsworth Street children's playground. "Ant" Vincent himself found the architect who planned the scheme. "Ant" was also a conservationist who took an active part in the Myall Lake protests.

The former Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Tom Reynolds, recalled that "Ant" Vincent

continually came to him with ideas for improving the local environment and facilities for local people.

"He was a marvellous person -- a man of great intelligence who took an intense interest in the community," said Alderman Reynolds. "He will be very much missed."

## STILL MISSING

Queen Street is blossoming with sartorial splendour. Welcome to Briacci and Brooks, of high class shirts and other exclusive men's gear fame, who have moved into 146, and Fred Weissberger the tailor, who is hanging out his shingle at 108.

Meanwhile we still await the arrival of the three kinds of business which our survey among residents last year showed were most needed in Queen Street -- a fish shop, a cake shop and a supermarket

## EVEN MORE VICTORIANA

Jules Opit's "period piece" chemist shop in Ocean Street is about to be remodelled in a way which will further enhance its Victorian appearance.

The dispensary is to be moved to the back of the shop and Jules intends to introduce more of his collection of old pharmacy fittings and venerable medicine bottles and jars. The metal ceiling will be removed to reveal the lovely old wooden beams which have been there since the shop was built.

Externally, the building will have arched windows on the first floor and Jules has approval to incorporate a doctor's surgery into the building, with a waiting room overlooking a courtyard at the rear.

## ASSOCIATION'S NEW SECRETARY

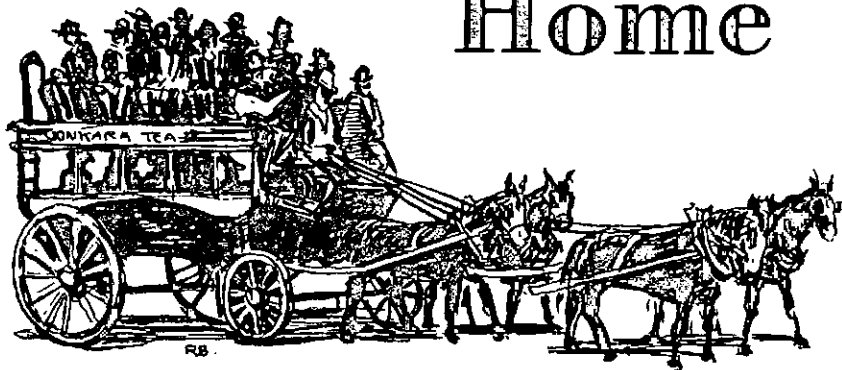
Queen Street and West Woollahra Association now has a new honorary secretary -- or rather two new honorary secretaries.

Erica van Aalst has become honorary secretary of the association to handle administrative and membership matters. Her telephone number is 32-1198.

A separate honorary secretary has been appointed to handle the very complex clerical work connected with the Queen Street Fair. She is Vivienne Sharpe, 929-5344.

## WIDER STILL AND WIDER

The association will next year seek the approval of members for a change in the constitution to extend the area we cover to Edgecliff Road. At present the boundary is Ocean Street. One effect of the change will be to bring the Helen Keller Hostel building officially into our area.



# Home for Lunch by Horse Tram

Mr. George Waite, of 69 Moncur Street, has lived in the Queen Street area since 1897 when his family moved from Parramatta.

He has supplied the following reminiscences to Rowan Beckett, a member of our committee:

In 1900, the bubonic plague broke out in Sydney. Mr. Waite, aged 10, was helping on a milk round.

The plague was spread by rats and when Mr. Waite had finished his milk round, he would collect dead rats for the council which paid a shilling each for them at the Town Hall — they were so anxious to get people to kill them.

There were three plague cases in this area. Jimmy Fagin who worked in the horse tram stables in Hargrave Street was taken ill, and they took off 20 men from the stables, drivers and stablemen, together with the trams, to quarantine at North Head.

As Jimmy Fagin was already ill, a coffin was put under his bed for future use, but he cried out: "Take that bloody thing away, I'm not going to die". And he didn't either!

Mrs. Jennings, who had the butcher shop at the corner of Hargrave Street and Jersey Road, had the plague, and so did another woman in Jersey Road. But like Jimmy Fagin, they recovered.

Mr. Waite worked on the horse trams. There were at least seven tram owners in West Woollahra, and another three in Hargrave Street.

A pair of horses would pull the tram, and a pair would do two journeys in the morning and one in the afternoon. An extra horse would be put on to help the tram up

the hill in Hargrave Street, and at busy times a fourth horse would be put on to help the tram up Jersey Road.

The horse trams ran from Circular Quay to Ocean Street, near the old Council Chambers. A penny fare to Darlinghurst and twopence to the Quay. The time for the journey from Ocean Street to Pitt Street at the Quay was 11 minutes.

A special tram would bring people from the city home to Woollahra for lunch and take them back to work again — all within their lunch hour break!

Horse trams ran until 1917.

There was a smithy in Spicer Street where all the horses were shod. The young horses were broken in for tram work in Sutherland Street.

Steam trams ran along Oxford Street towards Bondi, but the horse trams went much faster. A driver of a horse tram, passing a steam tram, would hold out the butt of his whip and say "Take an 'old on this, and I'll give yer a tow!"

Ten people could ride inside a tram and twelve on top. In the early trams there was just a straight iron ladder up the back of the tram to get to the roof, but later on there was a circular stair.

Of course, there was no kind of cover for passengers on top of trams.

The area where the Bowling Club is now was known as Frog Hollow. It was a huge refuse dump for the Paddington area — and a great breeding ground for rats.

Mr. W.F. Latimer had a haberdashery shop on the corner of Spicer Street

continued back page

# WHEN WHEN WHEN ??

Pictures by Jim Anschutz



Despite the concern of residents there is no change for the better in the "disaster area" of Ocean Street between Peaker Lane and the laundromat -- only ever more dilapidation, fire danger and threat to the safety of children.

As we went to press, Woollahra Council was awaiting a reserved High Court judgement on its appeal against a lower court ruling that the owners, who wish to redevelop the site, had established existing commercial use rights.

The Council contends that commercial use rights had lapsed with time. Such a vital point of planning principle is involved that the Local Government Association supported the appeal.

Comment is forbidden. The matter is sub judice. We can only wait and hope that it may soon be resolved, at least to the point where the crumbling ruins no longer offend the eye and threaten the amenities.

HOME FOR LUNCH BY  
HORSE TRAM

continued

(where Pagan's Pavilion is now). He would never give a penny change -- he would always give a packet of pins instead.

He owned a lot of property all through West Woollahra and would never let his tenants sub-let. Anyone who did was put out at once.

Mr. Latimer stood for Parliament as Liberal candidate in 1916. Mr. Waite was on his committee.

There were four candidates, Independent, Independent Liberal, Labour and Mr. Latimer who won by 17 votes.

The Labour man would have done better, but he was roaring drunk at his meeting on the eve of the poll and lost a lot of support!

When Mr. Waite first knew Woollahra, there would have been hardly more than a dozen houses between West Woollahra and Bondi -- just sand, and rough grass on the sand, and bush and scrub.

There used to be masses of Christmas bush in Cooper Park. Mr. Waite remembers getting a Christmas bush for his daughter to have at school in 1920. But there wasn't much of it left by then.

The Queen Street and West  
Woollahra Association

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Rd., Ocean St. and Oxford St., West Woollahra, N.S.W.

ADDRESS : Box 50, P.O.  
Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025

SUBSCRIPTION : \$2 a year.  
Life membership \$25

CHAIRMAN : Leo Schofield

VICE CHAIRMAN : Robin Brampton

HON. SECRETARY : Mrs. Ericka  
van Aalst (32-1198)

COMMITTEE : Miss Rowan Beckett  
Mr. George Freedman, Mr.  
Michael Magnus, Mr. Neville  
Marsh, Mr. John Newton, Mr.  
John Spatchurst, Mrs.  
Patricia Thompson .

VILLAGE VOICE is published approximately every three months. Letters and other contributions on local topics are invited. The editor is Robin Brampton (357-1488 day, 32-4475 evening and weekends)

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

NAME .....  
(please state Mr. Mrs. or Miss)

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

Post, together with \$2 for first year's subscription to the Association at Box 50, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We're blushing with shame! In the handing over to our new secretary, some membership records have been mislaid. If you have paid a membership subscription for 1973 and not received a membership card, would you please contact the secretary, Ericka van Aalst (32-1198) so that the matter can be put right.