



VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

DECEMBER, 1981

Ocean Street battle continues

The association has continued to battle strongly through the year for a reduction in the disastrously high traffic volume in Ocean Street. Recently we were appalled when the Department of Main Roads quite arbitrarily reintroduced peak hour parking restrictions after we had fought successfully for their removal two years ago.

In the following article, Norman Prescott, the association's vice president and chairman of our traffic sub-committee, reports on the current situation:

SINCE our last report in *Village Voice*, the association's activity on traffic has been to make representations along two lines — to Woollahra Municipal Council and to the New South Wales State Government.

Following discussions with the Council — who have expressed full support for our proposals to ease the Ocean Street traffic burden — we were promised a written reply to our submission.

This was to coincide with the production of a road hierarchy study in late July. We have now received advice that the study has been referred back for amendment.

Meanwhile peak hour parking restrictions have been reintroduced on the west side of Ocean Street, between Oxford Street and Queen Street.

Woollahra Council tell us that this was done by the Department of Main Roads in accordance with its statutory powers and without Council's concurrence.

The Council has told the Department that it strongly opposes the new restrictions. Our association is consulting with ward aldermen on the best way we can support this objection.

On the government front, we have



FRED MILLER, MLA

Local Residents' Forum

On Thursday,
February 25th, 1982
7.30 p.m.

Holdsworth Street
Community Centre

Your chance to discuss the Ocean Street traffic build up and other topics affecting the welfare of people in the area.

Our new MLA, Fred Miller, has promised to attend. We also hope to have Woollahra Council representatives.

reached the elevation of receiving a considerate letter from the Premier, Mr Wran, but with absolutely no relief or helpful indications on the traffic problems faced by many local residents.

Both the Premier and the Minister for Transport appear to support the traffic planner philosophy of traffic flow at all costs, with no regard whatsoever for residential amenity.

Contradictory

Mr Wran's letter says that traffic management in Ocean Street is properly a matter for Woollahra Council as part of its wider responsibilities for the efficient movement of traffic throughout its area.

This statement is strangely at variance with the actions of the Department of Main Roads and makes

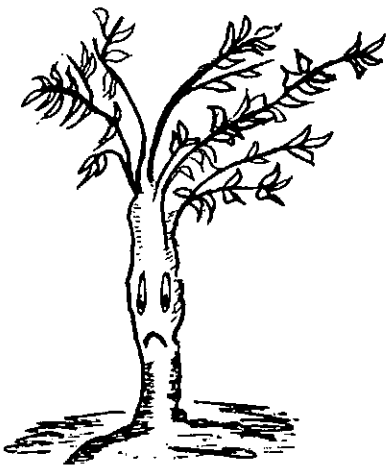
mockery of the function of the Area Traffic Committee.

We shall be interested to follow up with the new member for Bligh, Mr Fred Miller, his election platform which included "less heavy traffic in residential streets" and hope he can assist in turning words into action so far as Ocean Street is concerned.

In August, the association's traffic group met with officers of the Traffic Authority and Department of Main Roads as a result of representations by the former member for Bligh, Mr John Barraclough.

Whilst the traffic flow facilitation policy came across as expected, there were one or two pieces of information

Continued next page



Leaves something to be desired?

DESPITE new plantings in the past few weeks, we are still concerned about condition of trees in Queen Street and Woollahra Council's planting philosophy.

Rather than write peevish letters, we have suggested that a group of tree-loving committee members should have a meeting with a Council landscape official in Queen Street and show him where we believe things can be improved.

Through the good offices of our senior ward alderman, Jock MacCallum, we have arranged this meeting with the Council's Geoff Chapman, to take place in December.

Meanwhile, Alderman MacCallum tells us that the Council has developed a scheme for the improvement of Davies Reserve, at the Oxford Street end of Queen Street, and financial approval is likely early in 1981.

The association is checking the details of this scheme to make sure it is likely to meet the approval of residents.

Fair weather Fair — and the Council flags a welcome

IDEAL weather — not too hot and not overcast — made it an ideal day for the tenth Queen Street Fair on November 21, and the crowds were more gigantic than ever.

We estimate that well over 30,000 people came along to see the fun, and the variety of merchandise on the 200 stalls was again fascinating.

A new feature of the fair this year was the contribution of Woollahra Council which arranged colourful display banners in Queen Street for the week before the fair.

This followed the association's suggestion that the council might take a greater interest in the "creative" side of the fair, as well as handling the more mundane things like the clean-up and policing health regulations which it does so capably.

This year we also extended the street closure to a considerable area of Moncur Street where it crosses Queen Street, mainly to allow more breathing space for the thousands of people who combine a day at the fair with the pleasures of drinking at the Woollahra Hotel.

Lively entertainment

As usual, there was a lot of lively entertainment, official and unofficial, and we were again pleased to see so many buskers contributing to the informal spirit of the fair.

Perhaps this went a little too far when a stalker (male) appeared towards the end of the afternoon, but he soon finished up in police custody.

Stallholders generally were happy

with the financial result, and a Christmas auction and raffle stall run by the indefatigable Kerry Yates raised \$3040 for the Smith Family.

In judging the awards for participants, association president Robin Brampton and treasurer Mollie Lenthall decided that no stall was sufficiently outstanding to qualify for a display award.

Instead, they made two special awards for stalls considered to have made a special contribution to the fair by reason of the colourful and imaginative activity which took place on them.

Award winners

One of these awards went to Kerry Yates' Smith Family stall and the other to the Power House Museum which called attention to its display with an entertaining "one man band" (which actually had two players.)

The award for the best stallholders costumes went to William and Zena Pradhan with their colourful eastern harem garb.

Again the quality of shop display in Queen Street on fair day was very high, but the judges decided to make the award to Sperry Preece Antiques whose window had a gay carnival atmosphere.

Special mention was made of the windows of Decor Gifts, Etcetera and Tania of Woollahra.

In addition, the judges decided to award special rebates of \$50 each on their stall fees to five stallholders for their display contribution — Delmark Enterprises Pty Ltd (Bill Powell), Colombian Gold (Nick Johnson), Golden Petals Florist and Gifts (Linda Hawkins), Petals and Pieces (Gwynn Young) and Sheila Magazine (Pamela Noon).

(Pictures opposite by Mark Cherrington and Samantha Brampton.)

Ocean Street battle continued

offered which could be beneficial to curtailment of the problem.

These were:

— Oxford Street traffic light synchronisation will be completed by the end of this year. The attraction of improved flow on this arterial route should produce relief to Ocean Street if the advantages are publicised.

— There was no intention of using any more than the present two-lane thoroughfare of Ocean Street and there was no requirement for any further extension of the widening at its northern end.

— The planners agreed the question of traffic lights at the Trelawney Street intersection could not be divorced from the overall problem of traffic volume, cross flow, and local access.

We received a suggestion from one local resident that a Saturday morning walkabout on an Ocean Street pedestrian crossing might be the means of getting a message across.

We do not think this is necessarily the best or only way but do suggest more of us should make individual approaches to the ward aldermen, Woollahra Council, the local member of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister for Transport or the Premier, fully expressing their views.

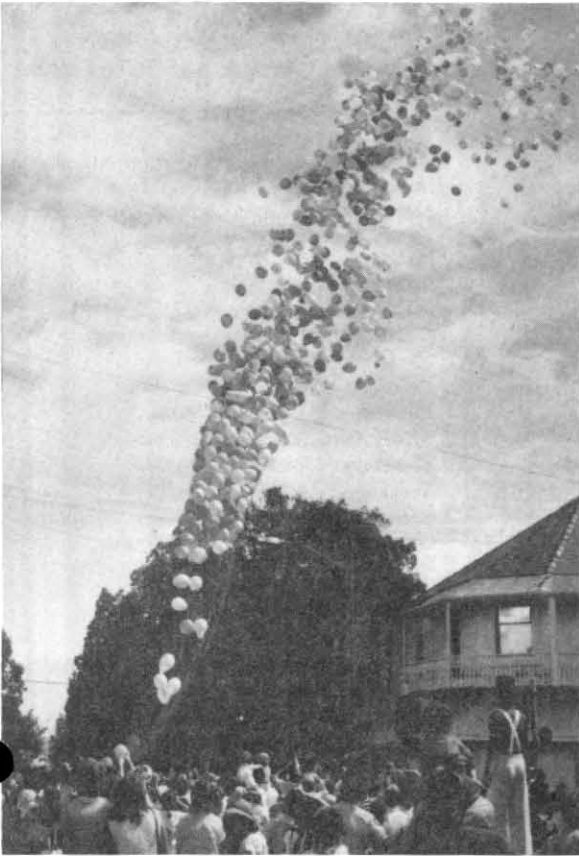
The association has "put the case" clearly in all these quarters and it requires the reinforcement of numbers to achieve results.

We believe the extra support is needed now at a critical phase of our representations.

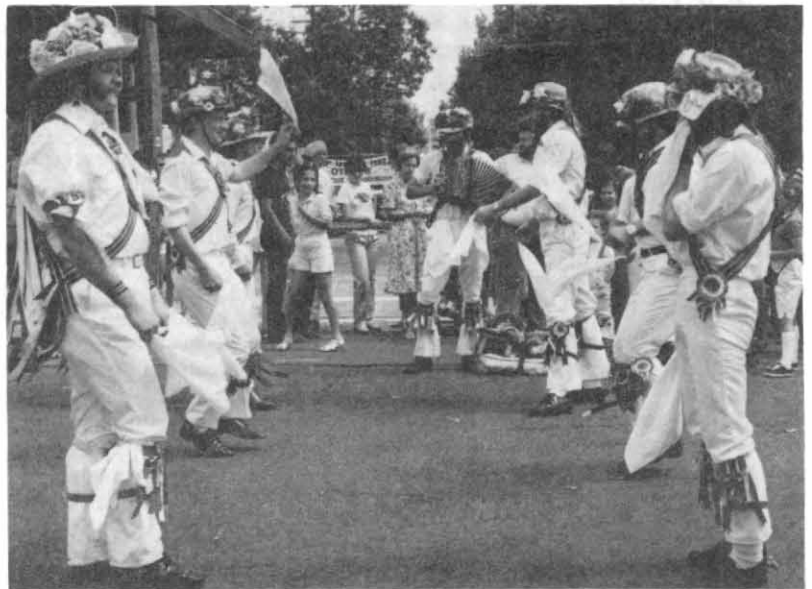
Leo Schofield "retires"

AFTER being a member of the committee since the association was formed in 1972, and president several times, Leo Schofield did not seek re-election at the annual meeting in May because he is now spending considerable time in Melbourne.

In recording its deep appreciation of Leo's work for the association over the years, the committee has made him an honorary committee member to enable him to remain in touch with our work.



**QUEEN STREET
FAIR 1981**



FAREWELL DILBHUR HALL!



IT appears that the battle of local residents to save Dilbhur Hall, a superb Victorian residence in Wellington Street, from being demolished to make way for an 18-metre high home unit block has been lost.

As reported in the previous *Village Voice*, the association has opposed the scheme and the Heritage Council placed a temporary Section 130 order on the building to prevent its demolition while its worth was being assessed.

Unfortunately the order was not made permanent and Woollahra Council has now granted the planning application, subject to eight conditions. Our association has sought details of these.

In fairness to the Council, they had little option but to allow the development. Under the Woollahra Ridge Scheme, a building height of 18 m is permissible on the site.

☆ ☆ ☆
The association is taking an interest in another large scale planning application for this area, a proposal to create a Georgian square providing 18 residences in Ocean Street.

The scheme, by Kimbo Development

Co (No. 3) Pty Ltd, of Randwick, would involve the demolition of all properties on four sites between Nos. 75 and 81.

Because some of the existing homes are rather gracious, the Heritage Council has again issued a temporary order preventing demolition.

Despite its large scale, the redevelopment proposal is certainly better than average in its conception, aiming to genuinely re-create the feeling of a Georgian square.

For this reason, the association is not making any strong objection at this stage, although we will be watching developments with interest.

☆ ☆ ☆
The association is still deeply interested in seeing a start made on the restoration of Helen Keller House which has been in its present bare state for eight years, after being snatched from the demolishers in 1973.

The owner, Mr Bill Kelly has some splendid plans for the building and has now settled his differences with Woollahra Council over the \$12,000 open space contribution.

However, there is now some slight planning disagreement about the new

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra, N.S.W. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

Subscription: Individual \$5 a year; Family \$8; Corporate \$10; Life \$50.

Patron: Dame Joan Sutherland.

President: Robin Brampton.

Vice-President: Norman Prescott.

Secretary: Monica McDonald.

Treasurer: Mollie Lenthall.

Committee: Julian Beaumont, Douglas Gordon, Howard Hilton, Monica McDonald, Pixie Nolan, Grant Roberts, Tom Wilhelm.

Honorary Committee Member: Leo Schofield.

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon.

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building construction and its relationship to the town houses Mr Kelly has built on the site.

He tells us he hopes this will be quickly resolved and work should then begin within six months.

☆ ☆ ☆
Interest in Juniper Hall, the historic home just off Oxford Street, Paddington, has been revived by a recent planning application to strata the building which horrified people interested in its preservation.

• The Paddington Society has now formed a committee to consider the long term future of Juniper Hall. At their invitation we have nominated our architectural expert, Douglas Gordon, as a member.

Association meets new MLA

ASSOCIATION president Robin Brampton and vice president Norman Prescott had a long meeting in November with the new MLA for Bligh, Mr Fred Miller.

We had sought the discussion to establish the same sort of sound and cordial relationship we enjoyed with the former member, Mr John Barraclough.

Mr Miller was most courteous and took a deep interest in all we had to tell him.

A lot of time was devoted to the Ocean Street traffic build-up and we emphasised to Mr Miller the importance the association places on the specific proposals it made in the middle of 1980 to help solve the problem.

Mr Miller asked to be provided with further information, including a copy of the study made by students of the

Traffic Engineering Department at the University of New South Wales.

We also told Mr Miller of our concern that the West Woollahra Action plan for our area, which was finally approved by Woollahra Council last year, now appeared to be delayed so badly with the State Department of Planning.

Mr Miller promised to investigate for us.

Mr Miller, a Labor member and former alderman of Sydney City Council, became our new MLA at the State elections in September when he defeated Mr Barraclough who had represented Bligh as a Liberal for 13 years.

We deeply appreciate all the help and support Mr Barraclough gave us through his years in Parliament and have written him a letter expressing our thanks.

Come and join us

The association depends for its strength in fighting for local causes on the support of its membership. If you are reading this and you are not a member, please join us. For individuals, the cost is only \$5 a year and you can join now for 1982. Family membership costs \$8 (two people); corporate membership is \$10; and life membership \$50. Send your application to the Secretary at the address above. Many thanks.