



VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

NOVEMBER, 1983

All set for the Fair

THIS year's Queen Street Fair next Saturday (November 26) has turned out to be the most popular ever – with all stalls booked out since early October.

Again some 30,000 people are expected to throng Queen Street during the day, and the street will be completely closed to traffic.

More than 200 colourful stalls will be selling everything from ocarinas to bonsai, antiques to natural loofahs, felt parrots to Canadian native art.

The theme of this year's fair is "Christmas in Queen Street", and seasonal merchandise will include plenty of Christmas trees, wreaths, hangings and traditional Christmas puddings.

A plaque will be awarded for the best dressed shop in Queen Street on fair day.

The fair will again provide an abundance of music and free entertainment from four stages along Queen Street.

Attractions will include pop star John Paul Young, the Australian Theatre for Young People, guitarist Chris Freeman and a group of Ukrainian dancers. Band music will



be provided by the New South Wales Police Band, the Lufthansa German Band and the Coogee-Randwick Pipe Band.

The busking championship, which proved a popular feature of the 1982 fair, will be held again on the bandstand near Moncur Street, starting at 3 pm.

Contestants will be selected from groups performing in the street during the day, but additional entries will be considered by the organisers if they apply outside the Madame Defarge Restaurant at 2.30 pm.

Preliminary notice

RESIDENTS' FORUM

Holdsworth Street Centre

Thursday,
February 23rd,
1984, at 7.30 p.m.

The latest moves on the Ocean Street traffic problem and other local topics will be discussed.

The Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman J. MacCallum, and other local aldermen have been invited to attend and answer questions.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN !

Sorry, but residents' vehicles must be kept out of Queen Street from dawn on Queen Street Fair day, Saturday, November 26. We ask residents to cooperate by not leaving cars in Queen Street, the surrounding lanes and intersections after Friday evening. The street closure begins at 5.30 am on Saturday and any cars still in the street at that time will be towed away – to protect them from being damaged by the crowds. And in the evening could you please help us by not bringing cars into Queen Street until it has been cleaned thoroughly.



Ocean Street traffic campaign continues

MUCH positive activity has taken place on Ocean Street traffic since our last report although there are no tangible results at this stage.

Residents can be assured the problem has been thoroughly ventilated in those areas we feel can be most effective in producing an acceptable solution.

Actions can be summarised as follows.

1. As a result of consultation with the Community and Environmental Planning Committee, a number of resolutions were adopted by Woollahra Municipal Council.

Notable amongst these were representations to the State Authorities on the need for the Eastern Distributor; the implementation of reduced "green times" in the signal phases at both ends of Ocean Street; and the installation of traffic signals at the Trelawney Street intersection.

In addition, a Council motion was accepted to propose the designation of Ocean Street as a "feeder collector" road in the Traffic Authority's Preliminary Short Term Sydney Hierarchy Plan.

The Association is still in touch with Woollahra Council on some unresolved items but much depends on the Council's ability to progress the actions at State Government level.

After a long period of expressing support of the Association's views, we expect some real benefits to ensue from the Council's endeavours as was evident from the changes effected in the Paddington road system in recent years.

2. An extremely central issue to the matter is the defined road use category of Ocean Street in the Hierarchy Plan. It is essential to the wellbeing of local residents that this be as a "feeder collector".

This objective requires maximum support from all concerned and a petition form is included in this issue of Village Voice to enable residents to express their view.

Our traffic consultant, Professor W. R. Blunden, formerly Foundation

One of the Association's principal activities continues to be agitation to reduce the level of traffic in Ocean Street which has become intolerable for the comfort of local residents. In this article, Association president NORMAN PRESCOTT discusses the current programme.

Professor of Traffic Engineering at the University of New South Wales has provided us with a report which fully expounds on this aspect. A copy has been provided to Woollahra Council.

3. During September, the Premier of NSW announced the injection of an additional \$150 million per year into roadbuilding funds.

The associated statement of major road construction plans made absolutely no reference to the planned, and partially cleared, Eastern Distributor which would provide valuable relief to many Eastern Suburbs residents as well as those on Ocean Street.

We have written to Mr Wran expressing our views and await responses.

4. We have again approached the State Parliament member for Bligh, Mr Fred Miller, who arranged an interview attended by a senior representative of the Department of Main Roads.

This enabled a frank discussion to take place but only served to highlight the intransigent opinion of the road authority that traffic demands must receive priority consideration.

Mr Miller undertook to make further representations to enable submission of our case and possible resolution.

5. An opportunity was taken also to acquaint the Opposition party with the facts of the Ocean Street problem. This was through the assistance of the Liberal Party nominee for Bligh, Mr Michael Yabsley.

Our submission received favourable

MAKE YOUR VIEWS FELT!

Are you as angry as we are with the lack of government action on the traffic problems in Ocean Street? Help us to make the views of residents known by signing the petition forms opposite to be sent to the State Government and Woollahra Municipal Council. The petitions call for simple, practical steps to reduce the traffic burden. Your petition form can be returned in the enclosed envelope, which needs no stamp. Alternatively, you can leave it at Noel Pinter Real Estate, 44 Ocean Street, or the Carillon Bookshop, 37 Ocean Street. But please do it today.



and sympathetic reception, to the extent of a subsequent consultation with the Shadow Minister for Main Roads.

6. A good deal of background work is entailed in progressing these matters and it is gratifying to report a major contribution from a number of Ocean Street residents.

This resulted in the formation of an Ocean Street Traffic Action Group, working under the auspices of the Association.

More concentration of time and effort on the subject has been possible and particular mention must be made of the contributions by Mr Neville Kitto and Mr Michael Crossman. Their enthusiastic approach is ensuring that the attack on the reduction of traffic volumes, noise and pollution on Ocean Street will be sustained very strongly until the authorities produce an acceptable solution.

To: *The Premier, Minister for Transport, and Minister for Main Roads,
Government of New South Wales*

PETITION ON OCEAN STREET TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

As resident/s of Woollahra, we express concern at the high rate of increase in traffic volumes on Ocean Street in recent years with consequent serious effects on noise, pollution, safety and access in this residential street. We request the following actions be taken as a means of preserving the environmental status, shopping and community facilities, and heritage of Ocean Street:

1. Ocean Street to be designated a "Feeder Collector" road in the Traffic Authority's Preliminary Short Term Sydney Hierarchy Plan.
2. Implementation of the planned construction of the Eastern Distributor between the end of the Cahill Expressway and Taylor Square.
3. Installation of "Stop" signs in Ocean Street at Trelawney Street as a more appropriate alternative to traffic signals for the control of traffic speed and safe access.
4. Reduction of the "green" times in the signal phases allowing turning movements into Ocean Street at each end and/or the elimination of the second turning lane at these locations.

Name Address

Signature Date

Name Address

Signature Date

Name Address

Signature Date

Name Address

Signature Date

Please complete both petitions and return to:-

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association in the enclosed reply paid envelope (no stamp required).
Alternatively, completed petitions may be left at Noel Pinter Real Estate, 44 Ocean Street, or the Carillon Bookshop, 37 Ocean Street.

To: *Woollahra Municipal Council.*

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A Victorian fountain for Queen Street

A MAGNIFICENT Victorian ornamental garden fountain has recently been presented to the National Trust on the understanding that it will become a central feature in the Davies Reserve at the corner of Queen Street and Oxford Street.

The Association arranged the removal of the fountain from its former location, and it is now being stored by Woollahra Council.

The next stage is to develop a new landscape design for the reserve which will make best use of the fountain.

The Association has engaged two talented landscape architects – James Broadbent and Michael Lehany – to prepare a scheme which should be ready by the end of the year.

* * *

Sadly we can report no further progress in putting into effect the architectural “master scheme” for the area, the West Woollahra Action Plan, which places great emphasis on conservation.

Early in the year, Woollahra Municipal Council had encouraging discussions with the State Department of Planning and Environment, and it was hoped to organise a further exhibition to seek resident comment in July or August.

It did not happen and this month we discussed the situation with the Mayor, Alderman MacCallum.

He shares our concern that matters



Knightsbridge gets a facelift

WE have been delighted to see in recent weeks that after many years of presenting an abandoned and unkempt appearance to the world, Knightsbridge at the corner of Queen Street and Nelson Street is being tastefully rejuvenated.

We understand this has happened as the result of negotiations between the Heritage Council and the owner.

Knightsbridge is a magnificently large terraced house, and its rundown appearance was particularly disturbing because it has a prominent position on two street frontages.

Meanwhile we continue to be concerned by the fact that 10 years after the attempt to demolish it, there is still

no sign of restoration work on Waimea House, the magnificent Georgian-style home which faces down Waimea Avenue.

Following an inquiry at which the Association made a strong appearance, a permanent conservation order was placed on the building early this year, which means that it cannot be demolished.

We are now pressing both the Heritage Council and Woollahra Municipal Council to try to use what constitutional powers – or powers of persuasion – they possess to encourage the owner at last to get down to the task of making the building again one of the architectural glories of our area.

show little sign of progressing and has promised to bring some influence to bear to get things moving again.

* * *

The Association continues to take a great interest in the welfare of our civic trees.

Some of the promised new planting of “infill” trees in Queen Street has

not taken place, but the Council has been more active in cultivating existing trees and fixing the pavement pushed up by tree roots.

Meanwhile we are happy to report some trees we thought were dying have revived in our rainy spring. It's a great environment, Queen Street.

* * *

Congratulations your worship

OUR congratulations to Alderman Jock MacCallum, leader of our group of ward aldermen in Cooper Ward, who was elected Mayor of Woollahra in October.

A few weeks earlier, many local residents were confused about whether they should vote in the Woollahra Municipal Council elections – particularly as voting in local government polls is now compulsory.

The situation in Cooper Ward was that the three retiring ward aldermen – Jock MacCallum, Susan Collett and David Wilson – all stood for re-election and were returned unopposed.

Our compliments to them. They are entitled to take this as a vote of confidence from the local people in the attention they give to local issues.

Your Association is strongly supporting Woollahra's Bicentennial Community Committee which includes two members from the Association committee – Robin Brampton and Pixie Nolan.

This committee is arranging a stall at Queen Street Fair on Saturday, November 26. It will be near Kaleidoscope and one of its features will be to collect recipes from local residents which it is hoped later to incorporate into a book.

Can you help?



Oxford Street rejuvenated

By Tom Wilhelm

I HAVE been watching that thin line of some 52 buildings that fronts Oxford Street along West Woollahra's southern border for some seven years now.

I recall a conversation I had with the Woollahra Council's Town Planner in 1978, when he made the claim that the old houses along Oxford Street would never be renovated.

As proof, he cited several houses in the row of five – numbers 38-46 – that had a building application in to the Council, but on which no work had been done in two years.

My answer to his comments was that such things take time and in time all those houses would be renovated.

Of course, those five houses have all, long since been renovated.

Small scale

The number of buildings that have been completely renovated is quite large, well over 15 of the total of 52 buildings.

There are many more that desperately need loving attention – for example No's 98-106, or 80 (the "Horseshoe Theatre"), but in time . . .

The Association has long argued that the overall nature of West Woollahra is best served by small scale development.

The Council has proposed, in the past, six storey buildings along Oxford Street – and we continue to press for a three-storey maximum height limit.

We have been waiting for years to

get a finalised three-storey zoning for Oxford Street and still we wait!

In the meantime, I find that "market forces" and people's desires for "historic" buildings and inner city living are having the right effect.

Regardless of what Council had proposed in the past, those old buildings, that thin line, is being rejuvenated for yet another generation – wonderful.

Just think of 82-86, the great dolls' house, the way it is today (even if it is not exactly to **your** taste!) and the way it was four years ago!! Miraculous!

And what of 114, or 126 or 128 or 52? Work goes on, but it all takes time.

(well partly!)

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: Norman Prescott.

Vice-President: Robin Brampton.

Secretary: Monica McDonald (32 4407).

Treasurer: Mollie Lenthall.

Committee: Joe Albert, Sacha Badran, Douglas Gordon, Monica McDonald, Pixie Nolan, Grant Roberts, Tom Wilhelm.

Honorary Committee Member: Leo Schofield.

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon.

Village Voice is published approximately every six months. Letters and other contributions on local topics are invited. The editor is Robin Brampton (331 1188 day, 326 1257 evening and weekends).

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Please Join Us!

The Association needs all the help it can get in its fight for the best interests of the local community. If you are reading this and you are not a member, please join us. For individuals, the cost is only \$5 a year.

Family membership costs \$8 (two people); corporate membership is \$10; and life membership \$50.) Just fill in the application form below and post it, with your cheque, to the secretary at the above address. Many thanks.

THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

Please enrol me as a member in the category of (tick box)

Individual member

Family member

Corporate member

Life member

I enclose a cheque for \$.....

NAME

ADDRESS

POST TO:

The Secretary,
Queen Street and West Woollahra Association,
PO Box 16,
WOOLLAHRA, NSW 2025.