



VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

MAY, 1984

Ocean Street traffic trial largely abortive

THE problem of traffic intensity in Ocean Street dominated discussion at the annual meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association on May 17.

Immediately before the State elections in April, the then Minister for Roads, Mr Pat Hills, announced a trial scheme to reduce the volume of traffic.

From April 2, the westbound traffic wishing to turn right from Oxford Street into Queen Street has been limited to one lane, instead of two previously.

In a press release, Mr Hills said that Ocean Street "should not be required to carry other than local traffic."

But association president Norman Prescott told the annual meeting that the trial appeared to be largely abortive, due to the omission of any ancillary changes to make it effective.

Mr Prescott said in his annual report that the reduction of Ocean Street traffic was the association's most frustrating task.

This was because action on the views of the local community was resisted by the road and traffic management authorities on both State and local government levels.

The annual meeting was attended by the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Jock MacCallum; the Town Clerk, Mr Michael Regnis; and the Municipal Engineer, Mr Dennis Cafe.

Alderman MacCallum agreed that the reduction in traffic lanes was not proving effective.

He said the Department of Main Roads had admitted at a meeting of the local Traffic Committee that "green time" had not been reduced at the traffic lights.

As a result there was time for the same number of cars to move into

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OUR SPEAKER

Mr Terry Sheahan, 36, was the youngest member of the NSW Legislative Assembly when elected for the seat of Burrinjuck in 1973. He became Minister for Planning and Environment after this year's State Elections and has previously been Minister for Housing, and Minister for Energy and Finance. We have asked him to speak on planning matters affecting communities such as ours and hope he will discuss the West Woollahra Planning Scheme and the future of Waimea House.

All local residents are cordially invited to
A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
 of The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

WOOLLAHRA INFANTS SCHOOL

Forth Street, Woollahra

Tuesday, June 5th, 1984, at 7.30 pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Terry Sheahan, BA, LL B, MP
Minister for Planning and Environment

Followed by free refreshments

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Immediately before Mr. Sheahan's address, an extraordinary general meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association will be held at which members will be asked to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution.

"That the assets, undertakings, goodwill and liabilities of the Association be transferred to a company to be known as THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION LIMITED upon its incorporation.

CHALLENGING YEAR AHEAD

The following is the annual report on the Association's work in 1983-84 presented at the annual meeting on May 17 by the President, Norman Prescott:

AS we enter the second decade of the Association's existence, we appear to have reached a significant phase of review and development of the Association's role in the community.

The committee has discussed some fundamental concepts of future planning and, in one major aspect - incorporation - has progressed the matter to a conclusion for ratification by the members.

It is hoped the groundwork will have been laid for a challenging year of progress by the incoming committee for 1984-85.

During the year we have been concerned with a range of traditional activities for the Association and have seen some goals accomplished whilst progress in others has been disappointing.

This is, perhaps, to be expected in the affairs of any community action group. The following is a summary of our work and projects for the year:

Queen Street Fair

The popularity of this community occasion was maintained, the weather was kind, and, apart from being judged a success by all who participated, it was financially successful and exceeded budget calculations.

A proposal to hold the fair on a

Sunday, rather than Saturday, has been considered and rejected on a number of grounds. However, some detail changes will be made to alleviate congestion problems which are inevitable with such events.

Appreciation must be expressed to our committee member, Pixie Nolan, for her excellent organisation of the fair. Also to John Sweetapple for his practical dexterity in having all the facilities in place on the day.

West Woollahra Plan

This definition of town planning regulations for the area has been finally approved and released.

We are generally pleased with the results, which have removed the earlier risks of incompatible development, and hope the plan will be administered in such a way as to benefit West Woollahra residents.

Incorporation

In recent times the committee has given much thought to the scale of our activities, primarily related to the Queen Street Fair, and after making thorough enquiries, has considered it prudent to recommend to the member body that the Association be reformed as a company limited by guarantee but not having a share capital.

This will provide appropriate commercial protection for its officers and members without interfering in any way with our fundamental aims and objectives.

"New blood" on the committee

THE committee of the Queen Street Association has had an infusion of "new blood" as a result of the elections at this month's annual meeting.

Of the four new committee members, three are strong activists on the Ocean Street traffic problem - Michael Crossman, Neville Kitto and Dr John Morton.

At the Residents' Forum in February, Dr Morton came up with some very interesting research on the effect increased traffic pollution in Ocean Street could be having on the health of local residents.

Old stagers remaining on the committee include president Norman Prescott, vice-president Robin Brampton and honorary treasurer Mollie Lenthall - all of whom were re-elected unopposed.

The opportunity has been taken to effect some minor changes to the objects of the Association to more accurately conform with our current activities, and it is believed we will achieve acceptance by the Commissioner of Taxation as a charitable body on the basis of this charter.

This change, subject to the approval of the members, will become effective after the general meeting scheduled for June 5, 1984.

Ocean Street traffic

This topic has continued to raise considerable community interest and, at times, heated comment.

It is the Association's most frustrating task because acceptance of, and action on, the views of the local

Council would do its utmost to achieve a solution.

But he complained that the present situation was that "on one side we have a brick wall and the other people shouting at us."

This was obviously a reference to a Local Residents Forum, organised by the Queen Street Association in February, when local residents strongly attacked the Council for lack of action over Ocean Street.

More than 60 people attended the meeting which overwhelmingly passed a resolution of no confidence in the Council over the issue.

The resolution demanded "that the Woollahra Council take immediate positive steps to introduce proper traffic management in Ocean Street, consistent with the needs and rights of residents as requested of the Council on many occasions during many years of protests, petitions and submissions."

Ocean Street traffic trial

Continued

Ocean Street from Oxford Street as when two lanes were operating.

"We have written to the Minister for Roads to point out that the intention is not really being carried out," said Alderman MacCallum.

A reply was awaited.

In the past, Woollahra Council has often pleaded that it has virtually no power to change Department of Main Roads decisions.

However, Alderman MacCallum told the meeting that there was some hope for a change in this situation under new rules governing the operation of Local Traffic Committees.

As a result the Council was opposing an increase in parking restrictions recently imposed in Ocean Street at the insistence of the DMR.

The meeting questioned Council representatives at some length about

plans to improve traffic control and pedestrian safety at the junction of Ocean Street and Trelawney Street.

Both traffic lights and a mini roundabout have been considered, but Dennis Cafe told the meeting that the question was "still in the melting pot."

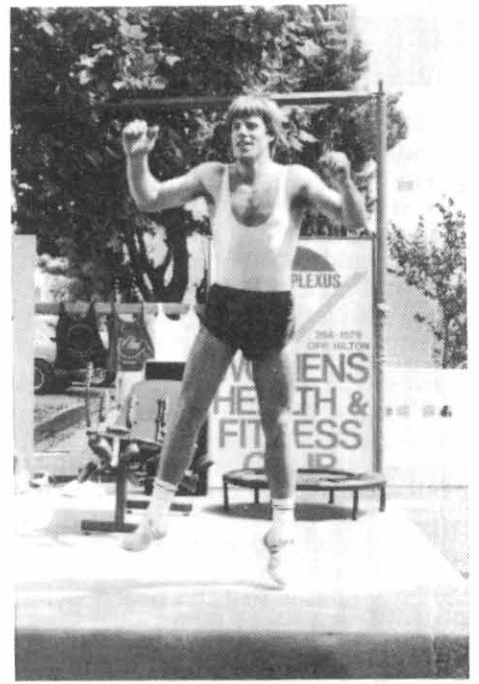
Mr Cafe was also questioned about the planned widening of Ocean Street in the vicinity of High Street to install a median strip.

He assured the meeting that this would be the minimum necessary to facilitate installation of the strip, and there would be no widening of the total width of the carriageway.

Mr Regnis gave an assurance that the Council would resist any widening of the carriageway to encourage an increase in traffic.

"It will be a long, hard slog, but I think we will solve the problem of Ocean Street," said Mr Regnis.

And Alderman MacCallum said the



Community are resisted by the road and traffic management authorities at both State and Local Government levels.

The committee has been assisted in this time-consuming task by a small group of Ocean Street members and hopes this effort can be greatly extended into the coming year.

Whilst it is, unfortunately, a task on which little progress can be reported, it is one on which we must not relent or give up.

To maintain the local amenity and boulevard character of Ocean Street is vital to the environmental wellbeing of West Woollahra.

The current situation is that, following a Council study and exhibition early in the year, we expressed great dissatisfaction with the conclusions and a petition containing some 260 signatures was presented to the Council and the State Government.

Other than the planting of some additional trees in Ocean Street, no tangible changes arose until the advent of the State election when the Minister for Roads ordered a trial reduction of traffic lanes entering Ocean Street at the southern end from two to one.

This is now in progress and appears to be largely abortive due to the omission of ancillary changes to make it effective.

Other imminent activity by authorities involves the Albert Street and Trelawney Street intersections.

The battle continues and intense vigilance will be necessary if we are to prevent the insidious inroads of the traffic planners.

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The Fair – never on Sunday!

THE weather was again kind for the 1983 Queen Street Fair which attracted the usual mammoth crowds in November.

Among the many attractions, the association again organised a buskers contest, won by the Dimensional Sound Theatre, a local mime group who made their performing debut at the 1982 Fair.

Although there is still room for more display flair by stallholders, the organisers found several stalls worth singling out.

Design prizes of \$100 each went to the Victoria O'Neill Cookery School, the Foster Parents Plan and DAPA (the performing arts designers' association).

And there were honourable mentions for the Benevolent Society of NSW and the costumes of Julia Brampton.

Our award for the best dressed shop window in Queen Street on Fair Day went to Designings, with honourable mentions to Decor and Fast Diva.

On the financial side, out of a turnover exceeding \$40,000, the association made a surplus of \$6153, most of which is being set aside for improvements to Queen Street.

However, at the association's annual meeting this month, donations from the surplus were handed to the Holdsworth Street Community Centre, Woollahra Senior Citizens Association and Woollahra Bicentennial Community Committee.

A presentation was also made to John Sweetapple who has handled the physical side of providing the Fair

facilities with great speed and accomplishment since the first Queen Street Fair in 1972.

Owing to other commitments, John will not be acting as Director of the next Fair.

Planning is already well advanced for the 1984 Fair. Subject to the consent of Woollahra Council, this will be held on Saturday, November 24.

A suggestion from Woollahra Council that the Fair might be transferred to a Sunday has been firmly resisted by the association. The traditional Saturday appears to us to have overwhelming advantages.

New features

This year we are hoping, in co-operation with the Council, to extend the marvellous flag decorations – and keep them flying until Christmas.

Two other new features we hope to introduce in 1984 are:

– A contest for Queen Street residents who decorate the frontages of their homes for the Fair.

– A limited number of stalls available to small craftsmen at the same concessional rate as charities. These will be allocated to individuals and family groups, either professional or amateur, who make everything they sell themselves.

Committee member Pixie Nolan is again acting as the Fair Administrator. If you are interested in having a stall at this year's Fair, write to her at PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025. Booking forms and information will be sent out in August.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued

Waimea House

The restoration of this historic property is still in a state of suspense with inaction by both Woollahra Council and the Heritage Council and a plea of lack of funds by the owner. The Association's role continues as that of watchdog on the matter.

Davies Reserve

A magnificent example of a Victorian ornamental fountain has been made available to the Association per medium of a donation to the National Trust.

We have offered to assist Woollahra Council with the cost of installation on the condition that this be in Davies Reserve, thus providing an appropriate decorative feature for the southern entrance to Queen Street.

Bicentennial Celebrations

The Association has a very active representation on the Woollahra Bicentennial Committee and consideration is being given to some special way in which a project reflecting the history of Queen Street and the West Woollahra area can form part of the celebrations.

In this respect also, we are pleased to be able to make a financial contribution to the current expenses of the Bicentennial Committee.

Carol Concert

Continuing tradition, a well-attended concert was held in the Kaleidoscope garden by courtesy of Grant Roberts.

Despite slightly cramped conditions, the combination of the highly appreciated singing of the Taverner Consort and the attractive, informal surroundings makes this a popular feature in our programme.

Finances

The honorary treasurer's report will indicate the satisfactory state of our funds. The more significant expenditures have been related to the drafting of plans for incorporation, the Davies Reserve fountain, and the Christmas Carol Concert.

We have also provided for donations to the Holdsworth Street Community Centre programme for intellectually handicapped younger people and to the Gaden Reserve Senior Citizens Centre to assist in the purchase of video equipment.

Aims and Objectives

The committee discussion has ranged over a number of specific matters which can be conveniently grouped under the following broad headings:

- Town Planning and controls.
- Environmental protection, including traffic.
- Historical preservation and awareness.
- Beautification of the area.
- Community activity and services.

It can be noted that current emphasis on these themes creates no need for any revision of the original aims and objectives of the Association.

What is needed is an increased capacity to cover the range of activity, a greater spread of community support, and more member involvement.

We are in the unusual situation of having only some 200 registered members with a funding structure much larger in proportion. Judging on attendances at forums, we obviously have some attraction for a greater body of concerned people.

We need to gain their participation in a more positive way and it will be a task for the new committee to plan and achieve development in this direction so that the Association can be most effective in reflecting the aspirations of the West Woollahra community.

Committee

Your president has been greatly supported by the committee members during the year and particular thanks must be expressed to Robin Brampton who provided so much entrepreneurial support, to Monica McDonald who never failed in secretarial duties, and to Mollie Lenthall who always had the figures right.

It appears we shall see some new faces on the next Committee and we look forward to this stimulus for the task ahead.

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.

Treasurer: Mollie Lenthall.

Secretary: Monica McDonald.

Committee: Michael Crossman, Neville Kitto, John Morton, Pixie Nolan, Douglas Small, Tom Wilhelm.

Honorary Committee Member: Leo Schofield.

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon.

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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.