



# VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

JUNE, 1985

## Protest against this "pea and thimble trick"

THE next few weeks could be critical in turning the tide on the Ocean Street traffic build-up and starting to get a reduction in the intolerable traffic volumes which have so damaged the quality of life in the area.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association is working hard to this end—but we can only do so much.

At this stage we ask for the cooperation of everyone in the area in impressing on officialdom the extent of the problem and the degree of concern we feel.

Exactly how you can help is explained at the end of this article.

A critical point has been reached in our long drawn out campaign because we have at least halted the planned abandonment of the trial reduction to one lane of traffic turning right into Ocean Street from Oxford Street.

At its meeting on November 15, 1984, the Traffic Authority recommended that the right turn restriction at Oxford Street be removed and the status quo restored.

It also recommended that parking provisions endorsed by the Technical Committee be proceeded with.

The Minister for Roads, Laurie Brereton, asked the authority not to go ahead, pending a meeting on the issue between the State Government and Woollahra Council on March 14.

The president of the Queen Street Association, Robin Brampton, also participated in this meeting.

He and the coordinator of the Ocean Street Traffic Group, Neville Kitto, also met the local Traffic Committee on May 1 to discuss the whole issue.

At this second meeting, a representative of the Department of Transport said that the situation was still that the Minister had forestalled any further action.

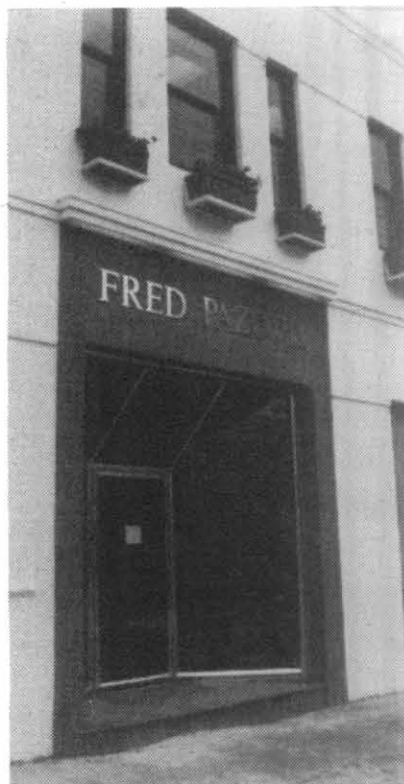
Continued back page

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited  
will hold a

### Wine and Cheese Party

at  
Fred Pazotti's  
Showroom  
64 Moncur Street  
Saturday, June 22nd  
5 to 7 pm  
Admission Free

For members only.  
However, new members  
may enrol at the door on  
the evening. See back of  
this newsletter for details.



During the evening, the President will outline the Association's recent activities and invite brief questions and discussion.

# From the President

JANUARY 29, 1985, was a very significant date for the association. On that day we became a company limited by guarantee under New South Wales company law.

The association was originally formed in 1972 as an unincorporated body which suited our needs in the early days when we were simply a group of concerned residents trying to ensure the best for our locality.

However, the growth of our activities, and particularly the scale to which Queen Street Fair has grown, has made it necessary to have a more formal legal and commercial structure.

Members agreed to this at an extraordinary general meeting on June 5 last year, when it was also decided that the assets, undertakings and liabilities of the old association should be transferred to the new company on its incorporation.

This has now happened, and one particular advantage is that individual members of the association are now protected from any possibility of liability for the legal consequences of the association's actions - exactly the same as shareholders in a company.

However, I would like to emphasise that the changeover has made no difference to the association's aims which boil down to making our area an even better place to live.

The objectives of the old association have virtually all been incorporated in the Memorandum and Articles of the new company.

The incorporation means that members joining or renewing their subscriptions this year become members of the new incorporated body.

In the case of life members, we have written inviting them to continue their membership with the new com-

## Incorporation — and changes to the committee

pany without any further payment. A very high proportion have done so, and we thank them for their continued support.

One result of the change is that we will not hold an annual meeting this year. The next annual meeting will be in 1986 - the first annual meeting of the new company.

However, we are seeking ways of bringing members together this year, the first occasion being a Wine and Cheese Party on June 22 about which a notice appears on page 1.

We hope to see you there.

## Committee changes

FOLLOWING the resignation of Norman Prescott, the committee has asked me to take over the chair until the first annual meeting next year.

In accepting the post I am very heartened that the committee has been joined by three new members who are already bringing a great deal of enthusiasm and skill to our work.

One of them, Ocean Street resident Margaret Lewis, has become vice president. She is very experienced in the legal and administrative field.

We also have a new representative of the local business community in David Ross, of Fred Pazotti Pty Ltd, and our third new member is solicitor Ronald Gouder who lives in Victoria Avenue.

The association's work is often very

complex and detailed and we welcome the willingness of all three to share in it.

## Library services

ONE of the great frustrations of local booklovers is the lack of reciprocal lending rights between Woollahra and Waverley Municipal libraries.

We understand negotiations are continuing to this end - and hope they will succeed.

Also, it would be a great service to the local community if we could have a branch library in our area, apart from the children's library at Holdsworth Street Community Centre.

One of our committee members believes we should be working towards the establishment of a branch library and small community hall a Bicentennial Year project.

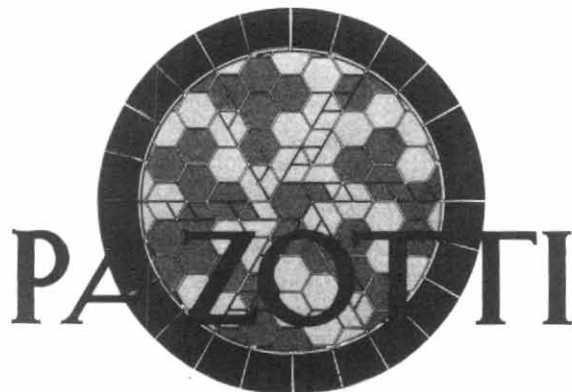
No decision has yet been made and we would welcome other views.

## Bicentenary project

OUR search for a suitable writer/historian to prepare a history of our unique area to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988 has produced some excellent candidates.

Several of them live locally, and the final choice is not going to be easy. However, I will be helped in the selection by our treasurer, Mollie Lenthall, and journalist Neville Kitto who is a member of the committee.

Our association is represented on the Woollahra Bicentennial Community Committee which we congratulate on an excellent local history seminar, held at the Goethe Institute in March.



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## Queen Street Fair was as bright as ever

OUR usual good luck with the weather held for the 1984 Queen Street Fair which attracted as great a crowd as ever on November 24.

Stage and TV personality Noel Ferrier, a local resident, who opened the fair was introduced by association official Robin Brampton, splendidly dressed as a town crier.

Although there was the usual wide diversity of merchandise, the organisers were disappointed with the overall standard of stall display. As a result no awards were made.

An attempt to encourage more craft workers by giving them a concession on their stall fees was only partly successful. Good craft work appeared, but some applicants were selling work which by no stretch of the imagination could be called genuine crafts.

Also we were disappointed that the Queen Street shops made less effort to dress their windows for the fair than in previous years. The exception was Fast Diva (now alas departed) which won the award for The Best Dressed Shop in Queen Street on Fair Day.

Planning has already started for the 1985 Fair, provisionally planned for Saturday, November 30.

Stall applications will be sent out in August. If you are interested, drop a line to the Fair Administrator, Pixie Nolan, at PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.

One speaker, historian Max Kelly, made the interesting point that Ocean Street is probably unique in the range of architecture of its buildings. Historically it has so much merit that it amounts to a museum of architectural styles, he said.

### Wimea House

ONE of the association's deep concerns is the condition of Wimea House, the wonderful old Georgian residence off Queen Street which is still unrestored following the unsuccessful attempt to demolish it in 1972.

Efforts are still going on in the background, and at high level, to try to secure some action, and the association has pledged its full support.

In the next few weeks we will be calling again on local residents to express their disapproval of the present impasse. We trust we can rely on universal support.

**ROBIN BRAMPTON**



ABOVE: Entertainment personality Noel Ferrier (left) who opened the Fair, chatting with Association president Robin Brampton and Queen Street Fair administrator Pixie Nolan. Robin dressed as a town crier to introduce Noel. BELOW: Buskers of every age again entertained the crowds.



## How to find out about your home

HAVE you ever been interested in finding out about your house, when it was built, who may have lived in it and what life was like in the days when it was built?

The Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences published in 1984 a booklet entitled "House Search", which explains just about everything you need to know when endeavouring to find out the "when, where and how" of your house.

The booklet takes you through the

meaning of a certificate of title; explains what the Register General does and how you go about finding your certificate; how the State Archives may be able to help; and suggests where else you should look and what else you should read.

This excellent and invaluable booklet sells for the very modest sum of \$1 and is currently only available from the Hyde Park Barracks.

(With acknowledgement to the Balmain Association News Sheet).

# Protest against this 'pea and thimble' trick

cont.

And Woollahra Council engineer, Denis Cafe, said the Minister would not allow the trial to be discontinued without further consultation with the Council.

Our wish is not only to see the restriction continued but also that it should be reorganised to make sure it is effective in reducing traffic volumes.

That the trial is not doing the job is admitted by the Traffic Authority in briefing notes with which the Association has been supplied. These show statistically that the reduction in traffic has been insignificant.

The reason is that there has been no change in "green" time at the traffic lights or other traffic control initiatives which should have been implemented at the same time.

## "Only local traffic"

Yet the intention of the trial was made very clear by the then Minister for Roads, Pat Hills, who said in a press release when the trial was introduced in March, 1984, that Ocean Street "should not be required to carry other than local traffic".

One plus for our campaign in the past year has been that the Mayor of Woollahra, Jock MacCallum, has been quite firm and vocal in calling on the State Government for action on the Ocean Street problem.

He took the chair at the meeting in March which was attended by the Deputy Director of the Traffic Authority, Bruce Hazel, and the Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister for Transport, Michael Egan.

Also at the meeting were the State Member for Bligh, Michael Yabsley, and the State member for Waverley, Ernie Page.

## "Not fairly conducted"

Alderman MacCallum told the State Government representatives that the trial had not been fairly conducted because there had been no change in the green time.

"We feel we have been fobbed off and fumbled around on this question," the Mayor declared.

The trial did not encourage traffic to go down Oxford Street, he said. Signs still encouraged drivers to go down Ocean Street.

Alderman MacCallum complained that although Ocean Street was classified as a local road, it was being used as a highway to channel traffic to the city from Randwick and other suburbs.

"It is most unacceptable as far as this municipality is concerned," he said. "We don't want to see the muni-

cipality cut in half by the Department of Main Roads channelling so much traffic into Ocean Street."

And the Town Clerk, Michael Regnis, said Woollahra had been the victim of a "pea and thimble trick" because the Minister had made explicit promises which were not being fulfilled.

## Oxford St alternative

Mr Regnis said solutions to the Ocean Street problem were available which had not been pursued by the Department of Main Roads.

"Everything is centred round Ocean Street as a route to the city," he said. "The Oxford Street route is the route we should be pursuing.

Michael Yabsley agreed.

"We should seek a solution which does not disadvantage another area," he said. "Oxford Street is an under-utilised major road."

So let us hope all this is not just rhetoric, and we will see a start to the solution this year.

You can help by protesting about the situation.

**Write to the Minister for Roads, Mr Laurie Brereton, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, telling him that the promises made about Ocean Street must be carried out.**

**And back the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman J. MacCallum, by sending him a strong letter of support at Woollahra Municipal Council, PO Box 61, Woollahra, New South Wales 2028.**

## 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:** Margaret Lewis.

**Treasurer:** Mollie Lenthall.

**Secretary:** Monica McDonald.

**Committee:** Ronald Gouder, Neville Kitto, John Morton, Pixie Nolan, David Ross and Tom Wilhelm.

**Honorary Committee Member:** Leo Schofield.

**Convener of the Ocean Street Traffic Committee:** Neville Kitto.

*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 \$.....

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POST TO:

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