

## Towards a finer Queen Street

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association plans to take the leadership in evolving a scheme for the upgrading of Queen Street in a completely distinctive manner. But to make it a success, we need the support of business houses and people living in the area. To set the ball rolling and invite public discussion we are holding

## A Special General Community Meeting

Queens Court, 118 Queen Street  
Wednesday, December 7th, at 5.30 pm

The meeting is open to everybody interested in the future of our area. Come along and let's hear your ideas about improving your surroundings.

Both before and after the meeting we will be interested in written submissions, ideas and comments. They should be addressed to The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.



The Queen Street and West  
Woollahra Association

invites all local residents to

## A CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SONGS

By the Taverner Consort  
conducted by Sandy Newman

Queens Court  
118 Queen Street, Woollahra

Tuesday, December 13th, at 6.30 pm

ADMISSION FREE

Including a glass or two of bubbly (or  
orange juice) to celebrate Christmas

# Awareness Day a success for Neighbourhood Watch

By Robyn Pinkstone  
Area Co-ordinator, Group C37

THE Neighbourhood Watch programme was revived in the Woollahra Triangle in March.

Since then, committee members and residents have been enthusiastic and hard-working in their efforts to make this community a safer and more secure place for themselves and their property.

The success of Neighbourhood Watch depends on vigilance; sensible attitudes to personal and property security; cooperation with the police; and, most importantly, a community caring about its residents.

A positive attitude was demonstrated to community caring when a community awareness day and garage sale were held at Holdsworth Street Centre in August.

Neighbourhood Watch Group C37, Holdsworth Street Centre and Police Community Relations combined to make this a very successful and happy occasion.

## "Sausage sizzle"

The police entertained local children with the police motorcycles and vehicles, and discussed security matters with residents.

Holdsworth Centre provided a delicious "sausage sizzle" at their pleasant but unfortunately windy venue.

However, happy, cooperative attitudes were not blown away but rather encouraged by the dusty gusts.

The sale of generously donated preloved items raised some \$1200, sufficient funds to financially sustain Neighbourhood Watch for about two years.

The event also engendered a really great community spirit of goodwill, good humour and cooperation.

Particular thanks for the success of the day go to Jennifer Everard who conceived the idea and worked so hard with her committee to make it work so well; Sue Sellars for her attractive posters and leaflets; and all those who worked tirelessly on the day.

## Generous help

Special thanks are due to Jane McGregor, Holdsworth Centre co-ordinator, for her enthusiastic support.

Local businesses which made generous donations and are thanked are the House of Edward Bear (Virginia Rose), the Park Inn Hotel (Mr and Mrs Neubler) and Eastpoint Cheese Shop (Jennifer Everard).

Hopefully this occasion will be only the beginning of many such cooperative community ventures.

Neighbourhood Watch plans soon to work with Holdsworth Centre on a Neighbourhood Aid programme under which neighbours will be encouraged to keep a friendly eye on, and offer practical assistance to, frail and elderly residents.

A Victims of Crime Support Group is also planned whereby victims of robberies, bag snatches, assaults, etc will have a sympathetic hearing as they come to terms with their sense of violation.

Meanwhile only careful security measures, common-sense and vigilance will keep down the crime rate in our area.

# NEWS FROM OTHER LOCAL GROUPS

Neighbourhood Watch plaques should be displayed on all houses and units. Residents should engrave their valuable items with their car licence number and display an Operation Identification sticker when this has been done.

Engraving pens are available from your Neighbourhood Watch street co-ordinator or from Paddington police station.

Regular Neighbourhood Watch newsletters will give local crime statistics and information on how to improve both personal and property security.

Residents who see any suspicious activities should phone Paddington police promptly on 32 3444. (Do not phone 000 for local non-emergency matters.)

If you require any further information about Neighbourhood Watch in this area, please contact James Furber (daytime 326 2898) or Robyn Pinkstone (evenings 32 3810).

# Lively activities at Senior Citizens Centre

WOOLLAHRA Senior Citizens, whose association's centre is on Gaden Reserve at the end of Queen Street, have had a very busy year with many outings and functions.

Their newly formed bush band was a big hit when it made its "world debut performance" at Woollahra's Grand Bicentennial Community Concert at the end of October.

November activities included a Melbourne Cup Day lunch, a talk on flags, and a candlelit dinner in period costume.

December will be party month with the Annual Christmas Party given by the management committee on December 3, the members' own Christmas Party and a special Christmas Lunch for members without any other plans on Christmas Day.

Membership is open to all residents of the municipality of mature age. There are activities every weekday from 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a hot lunch is served at noon for \$1.20c.

For further details, ring the supervisor, Mrs Anne Wotherspoon, on 32 5957.

# Centre needs drivers and handymen

HOLDSWORTH Street Centre which provides such wonderful help for so many different people in the community, currently needs two types of voluntary helpers.

People with cars and a little time during the day are wanted to take frail elderly people to medical appointments; and amateur handymen (and women) are needed for a new programme to help old and disabled people with home maintenance.

Centre co-ordinator Jane McGregor wishes there were more places in Woollahra

where children of single-parent families could go until mum (or dad) returns. The centre provides this facility for about 85 children, and has a big waiting list.

The centre has this year acquired a new \$32,000 bus for its community transport work but another \$9000 is needed to modify it to carry disabled people.

The centre's annual carol concert will be on Friday, December 16, at 6.30 pm.

Inquiries and offers of help to the centre on 32 1513.



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*A dramatic change has taken place since this picture of the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets was taken in the late 1960s. Now further improvements are planned for Queen Street.*

## Queen Street refurbishment scheme proposed

QUEEN Street Association is considering evolving an ambitious plan to refurbish Queen Street in a completely distinctive manner from Oxford Street to Ocean Street.

Such a scheme would be expensive and require a great deal of support from the local business community to ensure its success.

Woollahra Business Group has indicated support and a special community meeting to sound out reaction has been called for Wednesday, December 7. (See announcement on front page.)

Some possible elements of the plan, suggested by Duane Norris, president of the Queen Street Association, are:

- Entirely new paving for the footpaths with some sort of distinctive modular treatment.

- New street lighting, street signs and special street furniture, including seating, which would reflect Queen Street's individual character.

- A "village clock", perhaps at the intersection of Queen Street and Moncur Street, which would also add to the distinctive character of Queen Street.

### Victorian streetscape

Duane Norris, who is by profession a landscape designer, said he would also like to see replanting of vegetation in the street.

"The landscaping should be inspired by the Victorian streetscape which has been

maintained fairly faithfully in Queen Street," he said.

Already several local architects have been approached for their support and ideas.

Following the community meeting on December 7, it is hoped that a small committee, including architectural experts, will be established to develop the proposal.

It will also probably be necessary to find one person to be the general coordinator. Already an expert connected with the rejuvenation of Macquarie Street had expressed interest.

Also such an ambitious refurbishment could only be developed with the support of Woollahra Council which would be sought from the outset.

### Double Bay example

In considering such an ambitious project, the association has been inspired by the success of the scheme for the redevelopment of the central area of Double Bay.

This is going ahead as a partnership between local business interests and Woollahra Municipal Council.

Double Bay businesses have raised some \$800,000 for the scheme and it has a full time professional coordinator in Mr Kerry Fitzgerald.

Recently almost the entire committee of the Queen Street Association met Mr Fitzgerald to hear about the Double Bay scheme and discuss the possibility of a parallel scheme for Queen Street.

"We hope that if we go ahead there will also be plenty of business and local support for our Queen Street scheme," said Duane Norris.

"Although a lot of money might be involved, as with Double Bay, it would be an investment which would benefit the whole area."

Apart from calling a public meeting to sound out public

feeling, Duane Norris and the Queen Street Association committee would be interested to hear other ideas and reactions.

Duane Norris can be contacted by phoning 360 3489 during the day or writing to him c/- the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025.

## Restoration moves slowly on Waimea House site

NATURALLY, the association is continuing to take a strong interest in the restoration of Waimea House, the important Georgian residence in Waimea Avenue which was almost demolished by the Royal Blind Society in 1973.

When restoration work started in February, it was hoped it would be completed within a year.

However, looking at the shell of the building from the front this month, very little appeared to have been done except the site works.

A call to the friendly Tony Millar of the building company revealed that work had been going on unobtrusively with extensions at the back of the main building.

However, Tony agrees that the work had slowed down for some time, due to unforeseen circumstances.

He now predicts it will be completed in six months, "if we get a fair swing at it".

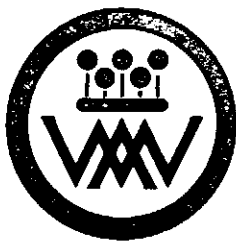
Also going very slowly is a start on the transformation of the decrepit Diamond Horse-shoe Nightclub in Oxford Street into a theatre school with auditorium for student training and performances.

Woollahra Council reports that the Local Environment Plan necessary from the State Government before such a non-complying project can proceed has now been gazetted.

The next step is for the applicant, Mrs Notaras, to put in a building application.

Mrs Notaras tells us that after so many years of trying to develop the site for some sort of cultural use, she is excited that the scheme is at last going ahead.

However, there are still several more hurdles and with the shortage of builders willing to take on new projects, she does not expect a start to be made until at least the middle of 1989.



## DO YOU BELONG?

Join the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Limited and have a say.

The Association is an action group formed in 1972 to protect the interests of local residents and business people. Through it, we can effectively voice opinions – and influence decisions of public authorities – on:

- Planning and development
- Preservation of architectural characteristics
- Prevention of properties falling into disrepair
- Beautification of streets and recreation areas
- The fight against pollution or disfigurement of the area.

In three VILLAGE VOICE newsletters a year, you can get information about local events, learn about new businesses and read items of historical interest. There are social functions and a Christmas Carols concert – opportunities for people to meet.

You do not have to reside in the area to join.

The annual cost of membership (January to December) is:

Individual	\$10
Family (two adults)	\$15
Corporate	\$20
Life	\$100

Fill in the form below and post with your cheque to:

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

## I BELONG!

I wish to become a member in the following category (please indicate):

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I enclose my cheque for \$.....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... Postcode ..... Phone .....

Please indicate if you would like to help in some way and how .....

## THE LAW AT YOUR DOOR

• In this column, a new feature of Village Voice, we invite readers to stroll through the maze of legal complexity constructed by our ever-thoughtful legislators. The writer is a practising solicitor who prefers to remain anonymous.

### Gazumping action favours buyer

IN West Woollahra, as elsewhere, real estate is "on the boil".

Those who have succumbed to recent price rises will now have a passing acquaintance with our new anti-gazumping laws. The legislation is nothing if not well intentioned.

Then what is gazumping?

If a buyer of property thinks he has made a bargain with the seller, spends time and money on surveys and valuations, organises finance and the like, only to find that the owner accepts a higher price from someone else, our hero has been "gazumped".

Occasionally the party who has the mat pulled from under him will not be the buyer but the seller.

Assume that he has a property for sale, goes to some trouble and expense in organising a sale and even (woe betide) commits himself to another purchase, believing his buyer's word to be his bond.

At the eleventh hour, his buyer melts away, with the sale unconsummated. That is not gazumping, it's ... bad luck.

#### One-sided

Unfortunately our new anti-gazumping law strikes at only one side of what is a fairly common problem.

Simply put, the question for the legislators was should a buyer or seller be entitled to change his mind, even though the other party had spent money on their "deal". And if the answer is no, at what point should either party lose the right to back out.

Our new anti-gazumping law tries to address the problem by tying a seller's hands with a preliminary agreement while giving the buyer an extra bite at the cherry before a further (final) agreement is made.

From the lawyer's point of view it does so quite brilliantly. Not one contract but two! With complex rules to follow, just in case anyone wants to play the game without an expensive legal minder.

The game goes something like this:

– Vendor issues contract Number One. Purchaser negotiates, signs and sends it back to vendor who can either sign, or gazump the purchaser as before by signing with someone else. Assume he does not gazump but signs. A preliminary deposit, the greater of \$100 or 0.1 per cent of the purchase price is paid to the vendor.

– Within five business days of the date of contract Number One, vendor serves contract Number Two on purchaser, unless an extension of time is agreed.

– Within five business days of receipt of contract Number Two, purchaser must offer to enter into an agreement which will bind both parties. If he does not choose to do so, he just loses his preliminary deposit. If he does wish to proceed and offers to enter into a final agreement...

– Not later than the next business day following the end of the second period of five business days, the vendor is required to enter into a contract (the final and binding one) with the purchaser.

The game is slightly more complicated than the outline given because extensions can be negotiated by either party at nearly every step.

However, you get the idea: two contracts instead of one, lots of rules, dates and doubts.

And for vendors only, a delicious period of uncertainty in which to contemplate at leisure the difference between 0.1 per cent and 100 per cent!

### Advertise in Village Voice

THE Queen Street and West Woollahra Association plans to produce three issues of Village Voice in 1989 – Autumn, Winter and Spring.

It's a great medium for local advertising. You have a choice of an entry on the directory page we are starting; or display adverts of a sixth, quarter or half a page.

Rates are very reasonable. For further information or to book space, phone Monica McDonald on 32 4407.



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*The design of the special wrapping paper for Queen Street shops.*

## Business Group launched to promote shopping

WOOLLAHRA Business Group, established in March, has made an excellent start in finding ways to promote the attractions of shopping in the Queen Street area.

Among the initiatives coming to fruition are

- A special feature in the December-January issue of *Vogue Living* covering 25 Queen Street businesses. An extra 9000 copies of the self-contained feature will be run off for the businesses to use for promotion.

- Special coloured Queen Street wrapping paper available to all local shops from December. The design is of the names of streets in the area, alternating with street-scapes.

- Opening of Queen Street shops from noon to 4 pm on the three Sundays before Christmas - December 4, 11 and 18. All shopkeepers are being asked to cooperate.

- Christmas carols and possibly some form of Christmas lighting in the trees in Queen Street just before Christmas.

### Cocktail party

The Business Group was also involved in a cocktail party and music and wine evening at the Woollahra Galleries on November 24.

As an ongoing initiative, the group has employed a public relations consultant to

promote the personalities, products and aims of local businesses.

The objective is to get as much media coverage as possible for the businesses and their merchandise.

The Business Group is a sub-group of the Queen Street Association, but there is no financial commitment between the two.

Aims of the group are to:

- Promote the businesses of the Woollahra area.

- Promote Woollahra as a unique shopping area.

- Be involved in maintaining and improving the physical appearance and environment of the Woollahra business area.

- Give the businesses a unified voice and representation.

- Provide support for the inspiration and ideas of the proprietors.

The group also fully supports the Queen Street Association's plan to develop a scheme for the refurbishment of Queen Street.

The group's committee consists of Leonie Furber (Elle Effe), John Haymes (Haymes & Sons) and Mary Read (Reads).

A major concern of the group is the increasing number of break-ins in the area.

As a result, a security guard has been engaged to patrol the

street seven days a week, and already one break-in has been forestalled.

The group points out that if all businesses support the cost of special security, the individual cost can be reduced or the area extended.

"We hope that all residents and proprietors will appreciate the benefit being provided by the few and will assist in meeting the cost of protection which rubs off on us all," said a committee statement.

## Duane Norris becomes our president

ALTHOUGH it is some time after the event, we should record that the Queen Street Association has a new president, Duane Norris, elected at the annual meeting in May.

A landscape designer, Duane operates a successful garden shop in Queens Court.

Immediate past president Tom Wilhelm has become vice president while former vice president Robin Brampton is now secretary.

However, some secretarial duties are shared with long-standing committee stalwart Monica McDonald and new committee member Robyn Pinkstone.

A teacher, Robyn is also Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch in our area.

If you would like to be part of the business group's activities, ring Mary Read on 328 1036.

Said Mary: "Any ideas, help or involvement are greatly appreciated."

"We all have businesses to run and time and effort are limited. So the more involvement and help we can get, the more successful the group will be and Woollahra will continue to be a wonderful place to live and work."

Another newcomer to the committee is Dee Dorgan, a documentary film producer, and solicitor Ron Osborne has rejoined the committee after a temporary absence.

## Can you help?

OZANAM Villa in Queen Street is always in need of volunteers to assist with such tasks as preparing tables for meals and helping with serving - all in the daytime.

Ozanam Villa is a hostel run by the Society of St Vincent de Paul for elderly people in need of a home who are still mobile.

If you can help, please ring Agnes West on 328 1244.

**Zigolini's**

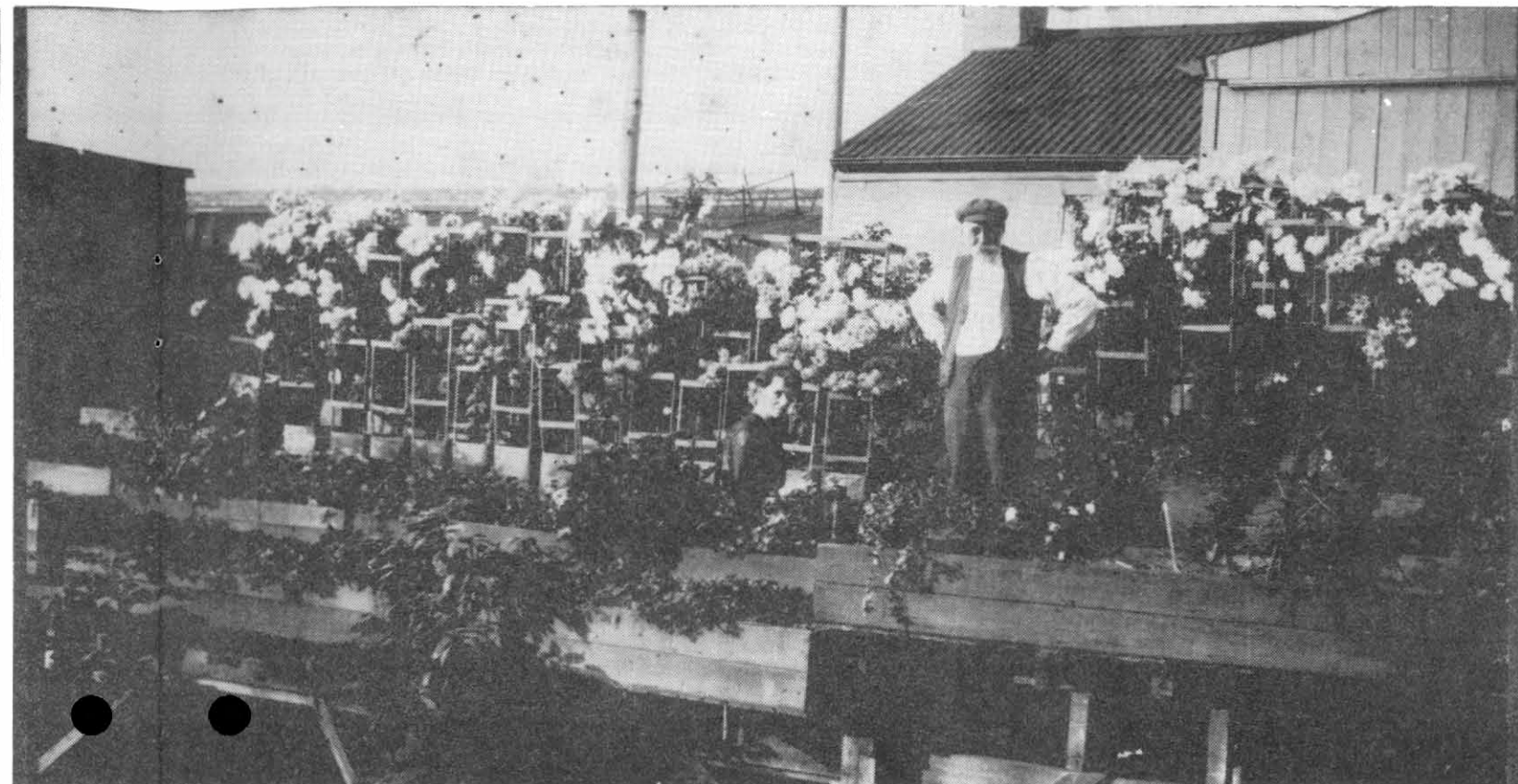
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ABOVE: A picture of the frontage of the W. H. Macdonalds' hardware store in Queen Street, taken in the early 1920s. In the doorway at the left is Perc Lomas who worked for Macdonalds for 56 years. In the doorway on the right is Hamilton Morrison Barlow who married the owners' daughter and eventually bought the business. The boy at the right is Harry Baldwin. ABOVE RIGHT: A picture taken by the Daily Telegraph of William Mason in the splendid garden he established over Macdonalds on scaffolding facing Moncur Street. The other figure in the picture is his wife.



## WHEN FLOWERS BLOOMED UP IN THE AIR IN QUEEN STREET



John Montague Flood with one of the family's hansom cabs in Centennial Park. The Floods also operated horsebuses from a depot in a building which still stands at the corner of Rush Street and Halls Lane.

PUBLICATION of *Queen Street and District - a History and Guide*, which I compiled jointly with Alison Halliday, has stimulated several people to get in touch with us with comments and additional recollections.

One of the most significant is Ron Barlow who went to work at Macdonalds hardware store in Queen Street in 1929. By the time the business closed in 1973, he had for many years been the proprietor.

Ron, who is 74, and his wife, Phyllis, now live in Cronulla in a house overlooking Burraneer Bay with extensive gardens which Ron tends as his major retirement occupation.

Ron was very pleased to help me with fuller and more accurate details of Macdonalds than appear in the book and also provided the interesting historical pictures on these pages.

The W. H. Macdonald hardware retailing business was originally established by William Hector Macdonald (not "John" as we had him in the book) and his wife Mary Jane (not "Sara") in 1879 next door to the bank at 112 Queen Street.

Probably because of the amount of building work going on in the area, Macdonalds soon expanded to the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street, now Queens Court, and the turn-of-the-century picture on page 39 of the book shows Macdonalds Corner as it was in its heyday.

A slight setback befell the company in 1904 when the building was badly damaged by fire.

Ron told me that at that time, the volunteer fire brigade had its quarters in a building behind the post office, and the firemen did not bother to harness the horses, dragging the fire engine across the road themselves to tackle the blaze.

### MORE PAGES OF HISTORY

by Robin Brampton

Although it is true, as we recorded, that eventually Macdonalds moved down from the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets because the trams rattled the crockery on display, the sales area did not contract as the book suggests.

Macdonalds did a little shuffle down the street by incorporating into its shop premises what had been an entrance for horses and carts in Queen Street.

The area which Macdonalds vacated right on the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets was not immediately taken over by the pharmacy of L. V. Solomon as the book suggests.

Originally a Mr Bulgin had a pharmacy there and he was followed by another pharmacist called Bevan. During this time, L. V. Solomon had a separate pharmacy at the corner of Queen Street and Spicer Street in the shop now occupied by Reads.

It was not until 1938 or 1939 that L. V. Solomon moved to the corner in the wake of Bulgin and Bevan. After the war he sold out to the well-remembered Alfred E. J. ("Ted") Robinson JP who now lives in retirement at Coogee.

Ron Barlow's own connection with Macdonalds began with his father, Hamilton Morrison Barlow, who married William and Mary Jane Macdonald's daughter, Mary Louise.

In the 1920s, Barlow senior became manager of Macdonalds but the offer of a job to 15-year-old Ron

in 1929 came about more through a quirk of fate than parental patronage.

Jobs were scarce in those depression years and although Ron had taken a technical course at the old East Sydney Tech, he wrote scores of job applications without success.

Then, one day, a lad employed at Macdonalds was summarily dismissed for dishonesty. Ron was only too pleased to jump in and take his place.

Eventually Ron's father bought the business from the estate of William Hector Macdonald's widow. When his own father died, Ron bought out the interests inherited by his brothers and sisters to become sole owner.

Ron has some colourful memories of Queen Street in the 1930s.

The contracting side of Macdonalds' business was run by William Mason. He lived on the premises and did not let their lack of a garden interfere with his passion for horticulture.

Mr Mason created a splendid flower and vegetable garden on wooden scaffolding on the roof facing Moncur Street. Every year he renewed the soil by running baskets up and down a chute into the street.

Another character was a Mr Gordon who, with his wife, ran a drapery store on the western corner of Queen Street and Spicer Street.

Mr Gordon went off to New Guinea in the gold rush and struck it rich. When he came back, he proclaimed his new found wealth with splendid clothes and by sporting a luxurious moustache, spats and walking stick.

"He was like the Count of Monte Cristo," Ron recalls.

continued next page

## WHEN FLOWERS BLOOMED UP IN THE AIR IN QUEEN STREET continued

Less scrupulous in his pursuit of wealth was a veterinary surgeon who set up his practice in a Queen Street shop formerly occupied by a tailor.

Ron was puzzled by the peculiar things the vet would buy – heating apparatus, ladles and lead ... hardly what would be needed to treat animals.

It turned out that the gentleman was making counterfeit coins!

Until his retirement, Ron Barlow lived all his life in our area. He was property steward of the Congregational Church in Jersey Road and it was here in 1939, that he married a local girl, Phyllis Flood.

Phyllis was the daughter of John Montague Flood whose father, also John Flood, had established a horsebus business in the area and also operated hansom cabs. The younger John Flood was also involved in the business.

Ron has provided one of the missing pieces in our local history jigsaw by telling me that it was the Floods who operated the horse bus depot in the building at the corner of Rush Street and Halls Lane, now the premises of de Poortere International.

As we record in the book, when Marcel Piat renovated the building in the early 1970s, he discovered an old horsebus destination sign in the upstairs loft.

\* \* \*

PUBLICATION of *Queen Street and District – a History and Guide* also brought an interesting letter from Susan Yorke, writing on behalf of a number of residents of Goodwin Village.

"We would like to thank you for the excellent and interesting book," she says.

Susan Yorke tells us that several Goodwin Village residents claim to live on the site of the now demolished home of Rose Scott, the great feminist. Rose Scott called her home at 294 Jersey Road "the dearest spot on earth".

In answer to our request for information on exactly where Rose Scott lived, Woollahra Council has dug

out an old block plan which shows that 294 was the third allotment in Jersey Road from Thorne Street.

"Number 294 was 100ft 9in from the corner of Thorne Street on the nearest measurement and 152ft 3in on the further side," the Council says.

I note that Rose Scott is included in the official Bicentennial Year list of The 200 People Who Made Australia Great. It would be a fitting gesture to place a plaque on the wall of Goodwin Village marking the spot where she lived.

\* \* \*

I WOULD also like to acknowledge an interesting letter from Meg Grimes of Riverside, Tasmania, daughter of Connie Schofield and granddaughter of the pharmacist, L. V. Solomon, mentioned earlier.

Mrs Grimes says the book brought back many memories of her life when she lived at Solomon's Pharmacy, 118 Queen Street, between 1948 and her marriage in 1960.

Mrs Grimes tells me that while on a visit to Sydney this year she spoke to Mr A. E. J. ("Ted") Robinson who took over Solomon's Pharmacy. He also has a lot of information on earlier days in Queen Street.

Mr Robinson was overseas when the book was compiled but we intend to take up Mrs Grimes' suggestion to interview him for a future article in *Village Voice*.

Another area where we hope to supplement the information in the book is by giving more history on the churches in the area. We are starting in this issue with a special article on All Saints Anglican Church in Ocean Street.

\* \* \*

MEANWHILE softbound copies of *Queen Street and District – a History and Guide* are still available at \$12.50 from the Queen Street Newsagency or from Haymes Bookshop at 43 Queen Street.

Both the softbound edition and a hardcover version at \$17.50 are also obtainable by writing to the association at PO Box 16, Woollahra, NSW 2025. But please add \$1 for postage.

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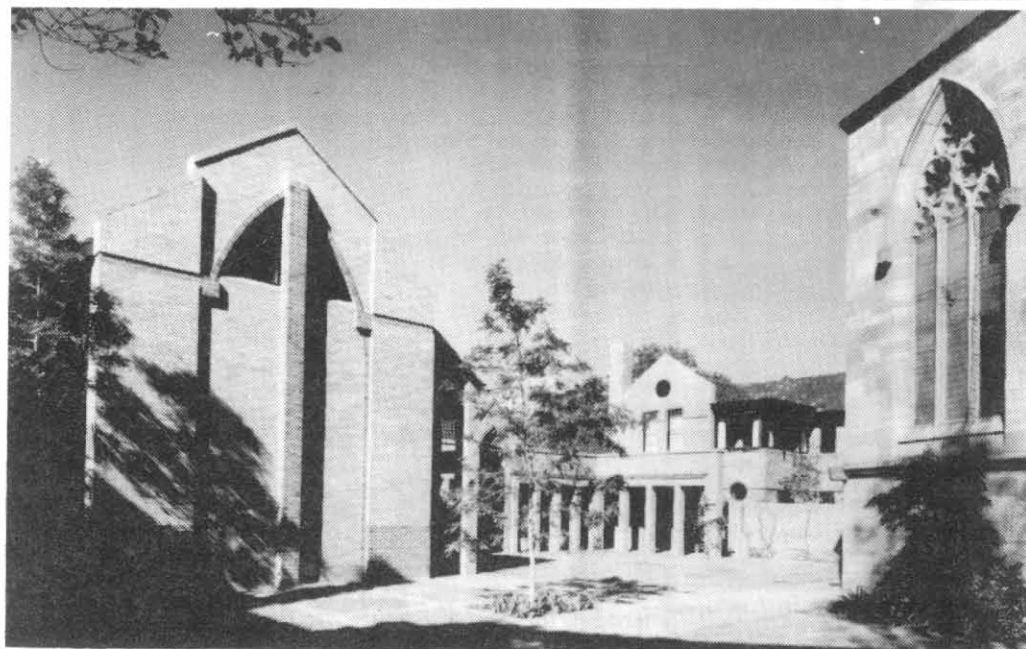
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## WEST WOOLLAHRA PROFILE

*The Anglican parish church of our neighbourhood is one of the most noble in New South Wales. This new rectory and parish hall complex at the rear of the Blakett building won two awards for architecture.*



### All Saints — the church inspired by a shipwreck

By Geoffrey Hemphill  
Parish councillor and lay reader

THE founding of All Saints Anglican Church in Ocean Street in 1874 was conceived as a thankoffering by the Hon Henry Mort for the rescue at sea of his wife Maria and four of their children.

On returning from England, the family had been shipwrecked off the coast of Brazil and marooned on a coral reef.

Henry Mort, a brother of the wellknown Thomas Mort and member of the Legislative Council, donated £3500 towards the building of the church.

The balance of the total cost of £5400 was provided by friends and fellow worshippers including Maria Mort's brother, William Laidley. The architect was Edmund Blakett.

In accordance with Synod requirements, it was agreed that the first Rector would be Henry Mort's son, the Rev (afterwards Canon) H. Wallace Mort.

#### Accommodation doubled

In 1876, the first section of the building was opened by Bishop Barker. Comprising chancel, choir and three bays of the nave and aisles, with accommodation for 300 people (as required by Synod), the work was carried out by Messrs R. Kirkham and W. Slater.

In 1883, a further three bays were added to the nave and aisles, giving accommodation for an additional 300 people. The foundations were

also provided for the porches and spire.

The church is built in the geometrical decorated style (decorated gothic) and it has been recorded that "the whole feeling of the church is one of height... a more elaborately carved and richer interior than could usually be afforded for a church of this period".

#### Rich interior

All Saints was classified in 1976 by the National Trust with the following remarks: "The church possesses one of Sydney's loftiest and richest interiors, with lavish fittings. A beautifully designed and crafted parish church that has important historical connections with many famous Australian families."

One of the most strikingly beautiful features of All Saints is the stained glass windows in the chancel and aisles and the magnificent rose window high up in the western wall. Most of the windows were made by Messrs Heaton, Butler and Bayne of London.

In 1926, when the church was 50 years old, the Rector of the day, Canon W. Leslie Langley, began the building of the northern and southern porches and of the first floor of the church tower above the

northern porch. (Temporary wooden porches had been standing for 43 years.)

When Wollahra House was pulled down in 1929, the wall and gates were donated to All Saints and erected by the Longworth family in memory of their parents.

In 1946, when Canon G. A. Conolly was Rector, disaster almost overtook the church when the shingle roof caught fire. The entire roof of the nave had to be replaced and part of that over the northern aisle.

Considerable damage was done to the clerestory windows and rose window, while the magnificent organ suffered so badly from water, steam and smoke that it had to be completely taken apart and cleaned.

The organ of All Saints was built in 1882 by Messrs Forster and Andrews, of Hull, and installed in 1883. The greater part of the cost was raised by parishioners. This splendid instrument is considered one of the finest in Australia.

#### Organ restoration

In 1970, during the incumbency of the Rev Eric Mortley, urgent restoration work was carried out on the organ. However, in 1987 it was decided that, in view of

the value of the instrument, both musically and historically, complete restoration could no longer be delayed.

A contract was signed with Messrs Pitchford and Garside. The estimated cost is \$90,000 and already \$40,000 has been raised by the generosity and fundraising activities of parishioners.

An additional \$10,000 has been promised by the Heritage Council of NSW together with an interest-free loan of \$20,000 for two years. It is hoped the restoration work will be finished by Christmas.

For very many years, plans had been mooted to sell the old rectory at 81 Ocean Street and build a new rectory and parish hall behind the church. But it was not until the incumbency of the Rev Ralph Fraser that plans were finally drawn up and accepted and the old rectory sold.

However, it fell to the Rev David Davis, the present Rector, to finalise the plans, let contracts and see the work finished.

#### New rectory

The project was financed by the sale of the old rectory together with part of a bequest from Mr Sydney J. Burke of Edgecliff Road who left the bulk of his estate for the benefit of the Parish.

The architects, Campbell, Luscombe Associates, conceived a two-storey rectory and spacious hall complex

**continued next page**



# The writer who helped give Paddington its identity

● *Author Patricia Thompson, who died last year aged 74, founded the Paddington Society with her husband John and was a member of the Queen Street Association's first committee.*

*This review of her autobiography, Accidental Chords, published this year by Penguin Books, is by the association's vice-president, Tom Wilhelm:*

I WOULD have been put off by Patricia Thompson's autobiography if it were not for the last page! I shouldn't mention her last words, but she reveals herself as a woman without pretensions.

Patricia was born in Auckland, New Zealand, where she spent the first 12 years of her life.

Sadly, divorce and family breakdown entered her life and she was left in the care of her mother, a strong, attractive and demanding woman but not very intelligent.

In Patricia's own words, her mother "succeeded unintentionally in making rather a nonsense of my life".

Her father is never again mentioned after he left in 1920, though she speaks very highly of him. It is curious that a photograph in the book shows Pat with her father at 16 or 17, but no mention is made of him in the text.

Twelve years in Sydney, School, first years of work, first romance. Three years in England – and about a quarter of the book.

However, she met and married the Australian poet and broadcaster John Thompson, in England in 1938.

They returned to Oz at the onset of war – to Perth, five years later to Sydney at Collaroy, finally in 1951 to Paddington.

The last chapter of the book covers the early discovery of Paddington: the establishment some years later of the Paddington Society (modelled on the Chelsea Society); and the hopes and disappointments of life in the land of terraces.

The atmospheric descriptions of Sydney in the 1920s and Paddington in the 1950s would alone make this book interesting for most of us.

An accidental life, sort of, but with many twists and turns leading to true contentment.

## The church inspired by a shipwreck

continued

linked by a colonnade to give a delightful cloistered effect, with an open lawn forming a quadrangle between the church and new structure.

It is widely agreed that the new blends wonderfully with the old sandstone church, both in design and colour.

When the new buildings were opened in 1985, Campbell and Luscombe won an award from the Council of National Trusts for the "best new treatment of an old site".

They also received an award for a work of outstanding merit from the NSW



Patricia Thompson and her husband, the poet and broadcaster John Thompson, in the garden of their Paddington home. One of John's first successful battles in Paddington was against finance companies who refused to lend money on houses over 30 years old.

Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for the year 1986.

The builders were Winter-ton Constructions and landscaping was by J. and S. Coleman Garden Designs.

### Never built

Alas, the projected tower and spire over the northern porch of the church, as designed by Edmund Blacket, remain unbuilt.

In 1874 the *Sydney Morning Herald* ecstatically reported at the time of the

laying of the foundation stone: "When complete the spire of the church will rise to an altitude of 200 feet. Its pinnacle will be higher than that of any other church or building in the colony."

Failing the advent of an open cheque, however, it looks as though the parishioners of All Saints, Woollahra, will have to achieve their glory by other means.

*\*The Blackets. An Era of Australian Architecture, by Morton Herman. Angus & Robertson 1963.*

## READS



130 QUEEN STREET WOOLLAHRA, NSW 2025, AUSTRALIA. TELEPHONE (02) 328 1036  
CAROUSEL CENTRE, BONDI JUNCTION, NSW 2022, AUSTRALIA. TELEPHONE (02) 387 4708



Compiled by Monica McDonald,  
Robin Brampton and Dee Dorgan

ZIGOLINI'S, the eating spot reborn where Madame Defarge, Folly and the Queen Street Brasserie successively languished, has turned out a great success.

Stylishly remodelled by its architect owners, Alex and Lynette de la Vega, it offers an excellent selection of light and more substantial seasonal food, making it attractive at any time of day.

We were intrigued by the Buffalo Chicken Wings which Lynette tells us are a speciality of the city of Buffalo in the United States.

Alex and Lynette previously designed and set up a similar style restaurant/coffee shop at the Brisbane Hilton, and are continuing their architectural practice from the upstairs area of Zigolini's.

In November, further renovations were taking place at the rear of the building to create a courtyard for outdoor eating in the summer months.

Zigolini's, at 107 Queen Street, is open six days a week from 7.30 am (for joggers) to midnight (for night owls).

As well as being a brasserie, it sells fine coffee and tea by the kilo and other gourmet products.

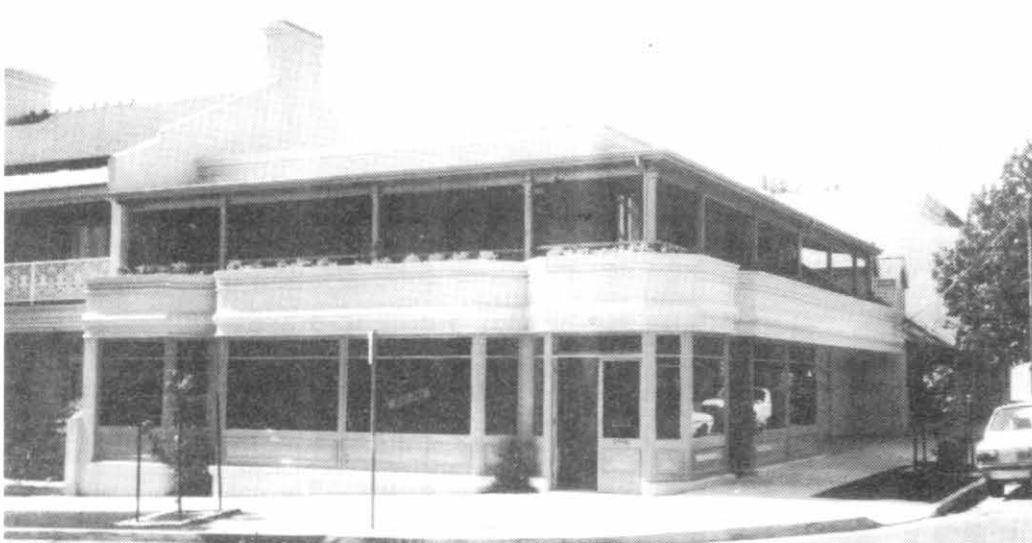
The telephone number is 326 2337.

ANOTHER change in local eateries is the opening of La Trattoria at 88 Queen Street, formerly Valentinos and previously for many years the Woollahra Eating House.

Managed by Clare Sonman with Stewart Wallace as chef, La Trattoria was formerly in the London Tavern hotel in Underwood Street.

Prices are inexpensive and La Trattoria has managed to bring many of its loyal customers with it from Paddington. The phone number for bookings is 32 1455.

HOWEVER, we can no longer look forward to eating at the premises at the corner of Jersey Road and Sutherland Street until recently occupied



Queen Street's new gallery, occupied by James Granger Antiques

by Mother Magee's bargain price family restaurant.

After Mother Magee's departure, a sign proclaimed that it would become an Italian restaurant.

But no. Second thoughts prevailed and as we write it was being converted into premises for an advertising design group and as additional space for the Bonython-Meadmore Gallery of Holdsworth Street.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our president, Duane Norris whose company, Duane Norris Garden Designers were Bicentennial Year winners of both the Landscape Construction of the Year Award and the Landscape Construction Award.

The awards were presented by the Landscape Construction Association of NSW at its recent annual dinner.

**THANKFULLY** the two-storey art and antiques gallery building which the enterprising Bill Shipton has built this year at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue blends harmoniously into the streetscape.

And we welcome James Granger and his wife Teresa who are occupying the whole building with their antiques business.

An Australian who has spent many years in the antiques trade in Britain, James was formerly at the Sydney Antique Centre.

"But we always wanted to move into Queen Street and this is such an attractive building we fell in love with it," he told us.

James Granger Antiques specialises in decorative and

provincial art from the 18th and 19th centuries. Eventually he hopes to use the attractive upstairs terrace to display antique garden furniture.

Meanwhile, we understand that Bill Shipton's next local restoration will be the former Welsh Pine Shop - once Floods Bus Depot - on the corner of Rush Street and Halls Lane.

**OUR** felicitations to the association's former secretary, Cathy Winters, and her artist husband Michael, on the recent birth of their daughter Zoe.

Earlier in the year, Cathy and Michael moved to just outside Bathurst but they are still fondly remembered in our area where Cathy was also chairman of the management committee of the Holdsworth Street Community Centre.

Another local personality who has recently left us is Pixie Nolan who has sold her house in James Street and gone to live in Tasmania.

Pixie was for many years organiser of the Queen Street Fair until it was discontinued in 1985 and brought her expertise to other events in Sydney through her company called The Arrangers.

**COMINGS** and goings in the antiques world...

After 21 years of selling antiques in Sydney, first with the late Stanley Lipscombe and then on his own account, Peter Code is retiring to Noosa in Queensland.

There he plans to establish a superb garden on three to five acres of land, something which future generations will cherish.

Peter's antiques shop and separate residence at the corner of Queen Street and Victoria Avenue were due to go up for auction at the end of November.

However, he tells us he will be around for a few weeks afterwards to clear up his local interests.

And we will still be seeing him next year as a panelist on *For Love or Money* because the ABC television antiques programme is recorded well in advance.

Although Peter originally came from Queensland, he will leave our area with a pang of regret. The whole time he has been in Sydney he has lived in West Woollahra or Paddington.

Meanwhile in June, a new shop joined the steadily increasing ranks of Queen Street antiques dealers.

The former Brindles hair-dressing salon at 110 has been stylishly remodelled for Georgina Howell and Peter Orlando who visit France and South America each year to buy antiques.

In welcoming them, we congratulate them on getting rid of the light coloured brick frontage which made 110 so much at odds with its neighbours.

**SPURRED** on by the sorry state of Queen Street pavements, especially over the weekend, enterprising young bookseller Sam Haymes is organising a daily clean-up of the business area.

He already has 40 supporters who will contribute \$5 a week for the scheme.

That's the good news. The bad is that we still have to pay our rates, and they will be going up considerably next year.

## Night owls to take over at The Phoenix?

A SCHEME for development of restaurant facilities and extended trading hours at the Phoenix Hotel in Wallis Street is ruffling the feathers of local residents.

They see it as a grave threat to the amenity of the area, particularly as so little parking is available.

Protest petitions have been lodged with Woollahra Council as well as individual letters of protest.

A typical letter suggests that the result of the development would be noise, congestion, conduct, etc, of a kind and at a level quite intolerable in a residential area.

Unfortunately, the effect on local residents of the recent granting of similar facilities for the Windsor Castle Hotel in Paddington gives plenty of grounds for apprehension.

Here residents have contributed to a fighting fund to have the hotel's closing time brought back to 11 pm in line with other local hotels.

This would prevent drinkers from making a bee-line for the Windsor Castle at 11 pm to get in another hour's drinking and then behaving in what the locals claim is a disgusting manner.

The hotel has tried to tackle the problem by employing a security guard on busy nights to police the behaviour of people leaving the hotel.

### Association view

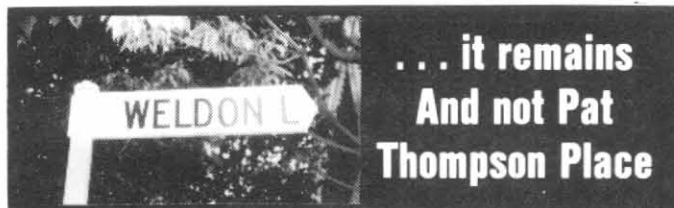
At the Phoenix, the Queen Street Association does not want to come out in complete opposition to the owners' plans.

With the right management and controls, the restaurant plan could result in a useful local amenity – as at the wonderfully refurbished Royal Hotel at Five Ways, Paddington.

However, we have written to Woollahra Council supporting local residents by requesting that no approval be granted which would undermine their amenities.

A copy of the letter has been sent to the Licensing Court which controls opening hours.

When we went to press, the matter was about to come before Woollahra Council's development control unit which has delegated powers to consider building applications.



A DISAPPOINTMENT for the association's former president, now secretary, Robin Brampton, is that Weldon Lane, between Holdsworth Street and Alton Street, is not to be renamed in honour of Pat Thompson.

An author and one of the founders of both the Paddington Society and Queen Street Association, Pat lived near Weldon Lane in Holdsworth Street.

After she died last year, Robin suggested to Woollahra Council that a new street name would be a suitable way of remembering her work for the area.

The renaming of Weldon Lane seemed to him an easy task as it had been without a street sign for many years and few people even knew it had a name.

However, this situation obviously had to change with the building of new town houses in the street, on the site of the former indoor swimming pool.

Although supported by the association and endorsed by a council committee, Robin's idea was knocked on the head by the full council.

And now the street is identified with a brand new Weldon Lane sign.

Who was Weldon, anyway?

According to Woollahra Library's research, the name Weldon Lane first appeared in the Sands Directory in 1880 when it had one resident, Mrs Z. Simons.

The only entry relating to the name Weldon which the library could find in the Sands Directories was in 1868 when a Samuel Weldon, painter, lived at 10 South Head Road (now Oxford Street).

### Pressing on

Robin's impish thought is that perhaps Sam Weldon painted the first sign for the lane and, because nobody could think of a name, used his own.

In rejecting the renaming idea, Woollahra Council decided to consider alternative means of commemorating the late Patricia Thompson.

Her husband John has a memorial – a fountain off Oxford Street, Paddington – and Robin intends to go on pressing for some sort of practical way of keeping Pat's name alive.



## The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

A resident's 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.

**Patron:** Dame Joan Sutherland.

**President:** Duane Norris.

**Vice-President:** Tom Wilhelm.

**Treasurer:** James Furber.

**Secretary:** Robin Brampton.

**Membership Secretary:** Monica McDonald.

**Committee:** Dee Dorgan, Ronald Osborne, Robyn Pinkstone, Ray Reynolds, Anthony Sunman.

**Honorary Committee Member:** Leo Schofield.

**Village Voice Editor:** Robin Brampton.

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Among the trees of Ocean Street, a new road surface is laid.

## No less traffic but a better surface

OCEAN Street is still bedevilled by its uncomfortably high volume of through traffic, although Department of Main Road figures are claimed to indicate a slight drop.

Some relief might come about with the building of the Eastern Suburbs Distributor but Council Engineer Dennis Cafe tells us that the Council is concerned about the new State Government's reluctance to start work.

Council itself has been active in Ocean

Street this month, providing a brand new asphalt surface between Queen Street and Trelawney Street which is certainly a joy to travel on. As we went to press, similar work was going on in Jersey Road.

Both streets were completely reprofiled which means that layers of old asphalt and concrete which have built up over decades were completely removed before new asphalt was laid.