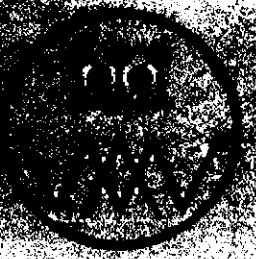


SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR MONICA.

Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association • No. 71 November 2000

Welcome to the revamped *Village Voice*.

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association have resumed the publication of this magazine which until 1999 had been the endeavour of Robin Brampton, foundation member of the Association. Robin has produced 70 issues of the magazine over a 27 year history, but now due to poor health, he has retired from his many positions within the community groups into which he has put so much effort. We wish Robin a speedy recovery.

There have been many changes to the Association in the past two years and now an enthusiastic group of local traders and concerned private citizens are keen to address the problems confronting our neighbourhood.

This new *Village Voice* will be the most visible of the efforts of the Association and through this publication, it is hoped to bring news of current and future issues of concern, local interest news, information about the changing face of the commercial enterprises, and general topics as required. The main focus is to keep the people of Queen Street and West Woollahra informed.

The *Village Voice* will be published three times a year in March, July and November. The format will continue on the same lines as the past, but there will be a greater number of contributors to look at the various issues that present themselves and contributions are sought from the community.

This is the official journal of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association and it is also your community news magazine, together we can make this work.

Philip Johns



To be opened by the Mayor
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Tavernor Consort Choir
and

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The Parking Problem

Resident parking, parking meters or first come first serve

As more and more residents come from two-car or even three-car families, parking seems to be reaching saturation point. We welcome visitors to our area and want them to browse our shops, drink our coffee, keep our retailers in business and enjoy our area, but they all have to park somewhere. The increasing prevalence of four wheel drives, often parked on 'no standing' areas (or double parked) restricts the vision of motorists and is a danger to drivers and pedestrians alike. This is particularly noticeable on the corner of Queen and Holdsworth Streets - coming out of Holdsworth Street, to turn to right or left, you take your life in your hands.

At present parking in Oxford Street, Edgecliff Road, Queen Street, Ocean Street, Smith Street, Halls Lane and parts of Moncur Street and Holdsworth Street is policed by State parking police.

In Jersey Road there is resident parking on the Paddington side; this is policed by Woollahra Council parking officers, and unlimited parking on the West Woollahra side. Consequently there is rarely a spare parking space on this side of the road. To

alleviate this situation it might be better to have one-hour parking for non-residents (ie resident parking) on both sides of the road.

Most streets in the precinct have one or two hour resident parking in part. In Moncur Street, Holdsworth Street and Spicer Lane this resident parking is policed by Woollahra Council parking officers, who only check once a week. The problem seems to be that non-residents are taking advantage of this minimal patrolling. Walking along the streets you can see that most of the cars do not have resident stickers. If the streets were more regularly patrolled, and perhaps if the non-resident parking was restricted to one hour the parking situation might improve.

Although Queen Street parking is policed by State parking officers the patrolling seems to have been reduced. Perhaps parking meters in the Queen Street shopping centre would solve the problem.

Drew Robertson



Members of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association at a meeting with Mayor Andrew Petrie.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433



A resident's action group covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road, Oxford Street, West Woollahra. Affiliated with the National Trust.

Membership subscription rates:

Concession:	\$10.00
Individual:	\$22.00
Household:	\$33.00
Corporate:	\$55.00

Patron: Neville Wran

President: Heather Smith

V/President: Graham Freudenberg

Secretary-Treasurer: Philip Johns

Committee: David Collingridge, Ken Gresham, Alex Nettis, Mary Read, Drew Robertson, Annette Robinson, Alan Smith

STREETWATCH

Cleaning up our neighbourhood

During 1998 and 1999, the Association's Committee conducted a number of on-site inspections of the condition of our roads and footpaths. Our worst fears were realised - they are not in good shape!

There were 17 West Woollahra streets surveyed by our Committee and all of them had problems in one area or other. Issues we discovered included garbage not picked up for weeks on end, tree roots making footpaths and gutters unsafe (especially at night), pot holes and cracks in the concrete and bitumen. We actually pin-pointed 157 items like these and documented them in a table for easy reference by Council's road maintenance staff.

The information was sent to Council on three separate occasions, all without acknowledgment and, more importantly, many problems are still there - unfixed.

Some footpath and gutter maintenance money has been expended by Council in the last year, but many of the problems we identified are still not repaired. Some dangerous and unsightly footpaths problems have not been fixed since we first alerted Council to them over two years ago.

At a meeting in Council's Chambers before the Olympics, the last Mayor, Cr Petrie, finally acknowledged that each of the problems we identified would be investigated by Council staff. We will keep knocking on Council's door to try to get some action for this neighbourhood of ours.

If you have problems in your street or want to get some help dealing with Council on footpaths or gutter maintenance, drop a line to our Streetwatch Coordinator David Collingridge, QSWWA, PO Box 16, Woollahra, 2025.

David Collingridge

Village Voice is published by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

Editor: Annette Robinson

Advertising: Philip Johns

All correspondence to Box 16 P.O. Woollahra 2025

Ph: 9328 1154 Fax: 9328 1157

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To say that 2000 has been a very full year is to state the obvious. However in case you have forgotten, the year was seen in by the spectacular millenium celebrations and concerns for a bug that didn't eventuate. Then we had the 'best ever' Sydney celebrations of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Locally, Graham Freudenberg retired as President of our Association at the AGM held on March 28 when I was privileged to be elected as his successor. We all greatly appreciate Graham's contribution over the last seven years and are delighted that he continues to serve as Vice President.

Village Voice has been in limbo for the past few months following the retirement of its editor Robin Brampton. Robin has been at the helm of Village Voice for 27 years and to mark this commitment a memorable 'Thankyou Robin Brampton' dinner was held at Arena Restaurant, Fox Studios. The highlight of the evening was the address by well-known local identity Leslie Walford. Leslie reminded us of the rich history of our district and the Association's contribution to it.

This was the first time we have held a function outside our immediate area. Its success and the great enjoyment of all who attended will ensure that we have more social functions if for no other reason than fun.

A surprise contribution to Association funds was the generous donation of a fabulous cashmere stole by former well

known resident and estate agent Dorothy Rosewell. Dorothy has such fond memories of the area that she wanted to make a positive contribution to our future. Thank you Dorothy.

Your new Committee is committed to the continued production of Village Voice which is a forum for the Association and a voice for all its members. Your contributions, addressed to the Secretary, are welcome. Members are also encouraged to use the Notice Board located in the heart of the village at Dorhauer Lane car park, next to Zigolinis. Contact Alan Smith at Istral Gallery, 162A Queen Street.

The Association's principal function is to let you know what is happening in your precinct and to lobby Council in your interest. We are particularly focussed on Traffic, Development, Parking, Street Maintenance and Noise. We have maintained a good relationship with Woollahra Council and the Councillors and this year have had five meetings with former Mayor Andrew Petrie. Topics discussed were Streetwatch, Queen Street refurbishment and the proposed Woollahra Development Control Plan.

We look forward to enjoying the same level of Council accessibility next year and to working closely with our new Mayor, Councillor Christopher Dawson and our three Cooper Ward Councillors, Andrew Petrie, Geoff Rundle and Cynthia Wrubewski.

Top priority for 2001 is the proposed new Development Control Plan (DCP) for West Woollahra. At our last meeting with the Mayor we were advised that a Brief would be sent to the Association to consider, before it is given to the various Consultants. This will enable us to identify the key issues which will affect both residential and corporate members. Issues such as precinct identification, lights, signage, street furniture, conservation, environment as well as the all-important height regulations, setbacks and floor space ratios of new developments. We will keep you informed through Village Voice.

On behalf of the Association I am delighted to welcome our new members as well as those new to the area and thank all members for their support.

Plans are now well under way for our free Community Carols Concert to be held at Ozanam Villa, 121 Queen Street at 6.30 pm on Tuesday December 5. We will be entertained by the very popular Taverner Consort Choir and the talented young singers from Forth Street School. There will be an auction and excellent Christmas gifts will be on sale. We look forward to welcoming you with a glass of sparkling or orange juice (or both) and cake. So come along to sing your hearts out and enjoy our unique village atmosphere.

Until then, very best wishes

*Heather Smith
President.*

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ART & ANTIQUES

Galleries

Eva Breuer's opening on September 13, *A Tribute to Graeme Bell*, exhibited seven stunningly vibrant new oils by esteemed artist **John Coburn**. A long-time friend and fan of Bell's band, Coburn says Graeme 'has often said my paintings were like jazz so I decided to do a series of paintings based on jazz.' The paintings certainly sing and resonate in a dynamic arrangement of shapes and colours - electric blues, mellow yellows and bold earthy reds. It was great to see both maestros at the gallery looking fit and happy.



*Graeme Bell, Eva Breuer and John Coburn
(Photo courtesy Norman Nicholls)*

We welcome a new art gallery, **Beowulf Galleries** 23 Queen Street which opened in August. The gallery specialises in erotic, ritual and ethnographic fine art, sculpture and antiquities. Its emphasis is on the exotic, the sensual and the unusual, often with a strong Asian influence. The gallery also boasts a permanent display of exotic bonsai trees. Gallery owner, Thor Beowulf offers expert advice on the care of these plants which are also for sale. Hours are from Wednesday to Sunday 11am - 6pm.



Libby Edwards Woollahra Galleries has just celebrated a very successful first anniversary on Queen Street. The gallery specialises in contemporary canvases, work on paper and sculpture by leading and up-and-coming Australian artists. The stable includes Esther Erlich (winner of the peoples choice award, 2000 Archibald Prize), Melissa Egan with her whimsical landscapes, the delicate abstraction of Keren Seclander, Gordon Richards and his quirky take on humanity, the three dimensional landscapes of Christopher Lees and the primitive sensuality in the

Gould Galleries has been involved in the Australian Art Market for over twenty year and has exhibiting premises in both Sydney and Melbourne. The gallery represents a select group of contemporary artists and has an extensive range of works for sale by some of Australia's most important 19th and 20th century artists including Arthur Boyd, Charles Blackman, Sir Russell Drysdale, Sir Sydney Nolan, Sir Arthur Streeton, Albert Tucker, Fred Williams and Brett Whitely. An exhibition of selected works by Charles Blackman is being held at the gallery from 14 November - 17 December. Hours are Tuesday - Friday 11am - 6pm, Sunday 11am - 5pm.

Queen Street Antique Dealers

Austria, Barbados, Bermuda, Hungary, Italy, Turkey and cities throughout the UK and USA, are some places that now have fine art or antiques purchased from Queen Street.

Bill Bradshaw, the best known antiques dealer in Australia, moved to Queen Street in 1957. He still remembers a local resident walking past 40 years ago muttering 'he won't last long'. Now there are 70 businesses related to art and antiques operating along the street, from Oxford to Ocean, or just off Queen Street.

Queen Street dealers are well up-to-date with technology and renowned for a depth of knowledge in their chosen field. They organize exhibitions, give lectures, do valuations, write newsletters, curate private collections - all aspects of the trade.

Their sources are no secret - a French chateau, a country estate in the UK, or foray into the Himalayas. Frequent overseas trips always ensure paintings, objects, jewellery and furniture of the highest quality arriving regularly. Within Australia it could be deaccession of a known collection, or from fossicking around the Sydney markets or auctions.

Twice this year there were articles published in The New York Times about Queen Street and the dealers - one in Travel Desk, the other in the Art and Leisure section. The International Herald Tribune also ran a feature about the area.

Many dealers have a 'props' hire business for TV commercials and stills photography. The proximity to Fox Studios has meant involvement on the films Oscar & Lucinda, Moulin Rouge, Mission Impossible II, South Pacific, Matrix and Star Wars II. This has added a new dimension with the bonus of meeting the names that you usually only see on film credits.

Famous faces from business and politics are regulars in Queen Street as well as celebrities from the entertainment world.

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TRAFFIC REPORT

Option E. Alive & Well

At a recent meeting of the Paddington Traffic Working Party, the Option E of the original traffic study was resurrected, all be it in a much diluted state. This new version proposes only four changes which are all included in the west Woollahra precinct.

They are

Driving south:

- No left hand turn from Ocean St into Queen St between 7-9am
- No left hand turn from Ocean St into John St between 7-9am
- No left hand turn from Ocean St into Peaker Lane between 7-9am
- No right hand turn from Oxford St into Wallis St between 7-9am

The most immediate result of these proposals is that it will push more traffic down Ocean Street, already a major traffic hazard. And there will be more left turns into Tara Street and Trelawney Street with the resultant traffic moving along Jersey Road, another traffic hazard.

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association argued strongly against the plan with the main reason being that the area to be directly affected was West Woollahra and the community was unaware of the changes proposed. The Association had not been invited to previous meetings on this matter and inadvertently became aware of this meeting. If not for their attendance, the proposals would have been pushed through with no representation from the area most affected.

The meeting was attended by all three Paddington Ward Councillors, Paddington Society, a representative for Clover Moore, RTA, and Woollahra Council traffic committee. **There were no Cooper Ward Councillors to represent the area and by chance Queen Street & West Woollahra Association attended.** It could be seen then that the Paddington area was solving their problems by implementing measures outside their boundaries.

The initial proposal was to begin a trial of the above changes in November 2000 but due to strong arguments from Queen Street & West Woollahra Association,

this was deferred until February.

A resolution was put to the meeting to adopt the above measures for a trial period of six months, beginning in February 2001. This resolution was carried although the two Queen Street & West Woollahra Association representatives voted against it. We do not object to the proposals per se, but unless we had objected at the traffic meeting, these changes would have been in force in November.

What happened to the Paddington Society's push for resolution of traffic problems in Glenmore, Boundary and Nield Streets? Why is it that one part of Option E is implemented and not the rest?

A delay until February will allow some community consultation to take place. This is an issue that will affect the West Woollahra area and the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association wants to know your views and to insist that the Council listen to them. Contact the Association through PO Box 16 Woollahra, 1350 or fax 93281157.

Philip Johns

EATING OUT

Having had a winning flutter in the Cup we decided to splurge on a good dinner. Where else but our favourite seafood local, **Café Nino**. Owned by chef Pia Maria and her son, maitre d' Claude, Ninos has been around for quite a while. The seafood is always absolutely fresh, the décor kitchy, the seating cramped, the prices high and the service professional. If you are in a large party and order different meals the service can be slow as nothing is precooked and the kitchen is tiny.

Entrees include barbecue or chilli king prawns, mussels (all \$15.30) and oysters (6 for \$13) from Nambucca Heads. We tried the blackboard special, guitarra spaghetti crab, cooked in a spicy chilli tomato sauce with plenty of shredded crab, the balance of

flavours was just right. The menu has a large range of pasta dishes with seafood, cream, and vegetable sauces.

We could not go past the other specials for mains; I chose the whole grilled barramundi (\$27.50), my partner veered from his usual choice of fried whiting fillets and tried the snapper (both \$32.90) which he proclaimed was just as delicious. My barramundi was enormous, its skin crisp and spicy, its flesh tender and juicy. Crisp pommes frites and a mixed salad to finish. No room for deserts although the strawberry pancakes (\$8.50) looked tempting.

Café Nino, 39 Ocean Street, Woollahra. Phone 93272747. Open Mon-Sat from 6pm. B.Y.O.

Annette Robinson



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WOOLLAHRA REAL ESTATE

by Joe Abboud - Principal of Richardson & Wrench Woollahra

The property market in the year 2000 post GST has continued with strength in West Woollahra.

In recent times we have seen an increase in the number of new developments just completed or under construction. These include; townhouses in Tara St; two new townhouse developments at 60 and 64 Ocean St; new homes at the Holdsworth Galleries site; two new homes in Jersey Road and new homes in Wallis Street.

I note with great interest that the newly constructed but unfinished townhouses in Moncur Street are finally having the interiors completed by their owners who have recently taken possession. It also appears that the Uniting Church development is approaching completion.

Prices in Woollahra are strong with record prices still being achieved. A new strata title townhouse in Ocean Street was recently sold by Richardson & Wrench for \$2.2m and a Torrens title modern

home in Jersey Road sold by Di Jones for \$3.5m.

The commercial strip of Queen Street has seen some change recently with the closure of Westpac Bank and the sale of the Commonwealth Bank building. The old Westpac site is undergoing major renovation and both properties are available for lease. We have seen the greatest number of commercial property available For Lease in Queen Street for some time. Traditionally a shigh sought after area, we hope that increasing rents do not push out our more established shopkeepers.

To some degree the strength of residential property in West Woollahra is attributed to the good mix of fine foods, fashion, antiques and essential services. It was disappointing to see Westpac close their ATM in Queen Street, lets hope the Commonwealth ATM remains in the street as promised.



The Uniting Church development in Moncur Street. The old burnt-out church will be converted into four apartments

Arrivals, Departures and Relocations

Westpac and the Commonwealth Bank have both deserted us - a great inconvenience for locals who do not have cars and for small traders who do not have internet banking facilities and may have no-one to mind the shop. It was okay to close for five minutes while they popped out to the bank - now the trip takes half an hour.



Use it or lose it! As far as we know the rumour that the **Post office** will be closing is not true. But unless we use it for more purchases other than just stamps it most certainly will go the way of the banks.. The Post Office has been operating since 1884 when the building was leased to the postal authorities by its owner, William Ford, draper.



The new boutique **Ruby and Min** on the corner of Queen and Spicer Street is a bright, colourful and exotic addition to the area. Proprietors Helen Haines and Jill Hutchison specialise in unusual and wonderful gear for the young and the young at heart.



We welcome **Industry Hairdressing** which has recently moved from the hustle and bustle of Oxford Street to the

new larger premises on the first floor of 80A Queen Street. With over 30 years experience between them, owners Kayleen and Francisco pride themselves on low maintenance, simple, creative and fashionable haircuts and colours. Beauty treatments in the Dermatologia range are also available from beautician Carrie Martin.



Gray & Mulrony Real Estate have moved upstairs to 128 Queen Street.. The entrance is in Spicer Lane.



Adele Weiss has moved into the ground floor space vacated by Gray & Mulrony.



Mary Read has opened **Cambodia House** at Shop 10 Queens Court in the former Adele Weiss boutique. A not-for-profit business, products are sourced through humanitarian non-government organisations in Cambodia, working with the poor, those with disabilities and survivors of landmine injuries. For sale are exotic furnishings - cushions, throws and bedspreads - homewares, Christmas decorations, shopping bags and stone carvings.

Summers, our wonderful flower shop has been bought by Fleur Vander Straaten but is retaining its name. Fleur has worked in the shop for five years so we know it is in good hands.



Panda's coffee shop in Spicer Street has changed hands and been revamped. It is now called Adams, after its owner Adam Lopata..



Antique dealer Ros Palmer is relocating. Ros assures us her new shop is still in Queen Street.. We look forward to hearing of its whereabouts.



Penelope Sach has moved from Moncur Street to 162C Alton Street.



The editor would like to hear of further arrivals, departures and relocations.

After surrounding residents complained about noise late at night **Paddington Bowling Club's St Trinians** was forced to cease live entertainment in September as it could not produce an Entertainment Authority. The Club has now lodged an application with Council to provide live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights between 8pm and 1am and on Sundays from 1pm to 8pm. We heard on chatstreet that residents of Goodwin Village were the main complainants. Game point to Greypower.

When approving the Development Application for five townhouses at **60 Ocean Street**, Woollahra Council stipulated that **no construction vehicles were to access the site through Morrell Street**. This was in response to fears from residents living nearby that huge trucks and cranes would block Morrell Street, maroon its residents and hit cars parked there. **Developers totally disregarded Council's ruling and in spite of daily complaints to Council Morrell Street was used to access all construction vehicles. Why didn't the Council stop them?** Because the stipulation was in the form of a note attached to the DA and not part of the DA itself. Legal advice was that the Courts would therefore find the stipulation unclear and thus unenforceable. **Surely Council should know the correct procedure in these matters. Take note residents: Nothing is enforceable if it's not part of the DA approval.**

The same development released **sediment into the gutter in Morrell Street** on a number of occasions. This pollution flowed down into Holdsworth Street and eventually found its way into our harbour through the stormwater drains. We are pleased to report that in this case the Council was able to fine the developers to the tune of \$4500.

The proposed closure of the Police Station in Jersey Road would impact heavily on our residents. How long will it take police to get to our homes after a robbery if they have to come from a 'superstation' at Bondi Beach? Where will we be in the crime importance pecking order?

Don't always blame the Council for all the building disasters in our area. The townhouses currently under construction at the northern end of Jersey Road on the site of the old **Holdsworth Street Gallery** was knocked back by Council but upheld by that higher body, The Land and Environment Court. And **Thompson Close**, almost on the footpath, opposite the roundabout at Jersey Road was also knocked back by Council only to be upheld by - yes - the Land and Environment Court. We can only hope the L&E Court judge decides to live in the unit closest to the roundabout.

Did you know that Woollahra Council now has a web site? So all you computer literate residents can access the site for community information at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

Graffiti is a reoccurring problem in our neck of the woods. The graffiti gang recently attacked the Holdsworth Street Community Centre defacing walls and doors. We are pleased to report they did not touch the wonderful mural on the eastern wall which was painstakingly and superbly executed by the Centre staff and many of the children. The graffiti gang should take example from the Holdsworth Centre kids and paint something worthwhile. Incidentally the Council web site gives details of how to remove the graffiti or you can find out by reading their Graffiti Directory at the Library.

If you have news for our next edition of Chatstreet please contact the editor.



Developers paid no heed to the Council stipulation for no construction vehicles in Morrell Street

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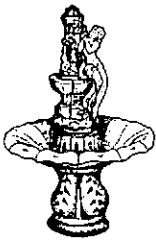
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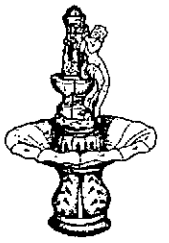
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Number 115 Queen Street, the former home of **Dame Joan Sutherland** has been allowed to run down to such an extent that the owner has now submitted an engineer's report stating that the building should be demolished. What a development site. Council has informed the owner that it 'does not support demolition and that it considers the building to be a rare and significant surviving example of a free standing mid-Victorian House with a Georgian character'. The Heritage Council is investigating.




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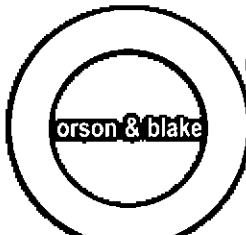
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