

Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association • No. 72 March 2001

What is *Village Voice*?

Village Voice is the official journal of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association. The magazine is published up to three times a year by the Association and is proudly supported by the many businesses in the area who advertise their products and services to the local community.

The *Village Voice* is distributed free to every residence in the West Woollahra area and is also available at the businesses advertising in the magazine. The West Woollahra area is loosely bounded by Oxford Street, Jersey Road, and Edgecliff Road and total circulation figures are 2,500 copies.

Issues covered are those of importance to West Woollahra such as the Ocean Street traffic trial, parking, street maintenance, graffiti, heritage buildings, development – and over-development – as well as Council decisions and happenings. We also promote the businesses within our area and inform readers of new shops, galleries and restaurants.

The aim of the Association and this magazine is to continue to raise awareness of the unique atmosphere and amenities of the village-like Queen Street precinct and surrounding areas. To assist us with this aim we welcome relevant articles of interest from the local community which will be included in future publications.

Village Voice is currently being hand delivered by the hard-working voluntary committee and we are looking for street monitors who may be able to assist its delivery. If you would like to help us with delivering in your street, please call Philip Johns on 9328 1154.

Philip Johns

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*The Mayor of Woollahra,
Councillor Chris Dawson
to discuss
Development Control Plan,
Traffic, Refuse, Boundaries*

When:
*Tuesday, 27th March
6.30pm*

Where:
*Fred Pazotti
62 Moncur Street
Woollahra*

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Membership of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association

The lifeblood of any interest group is the level of interest it can generate.

In the QSWWA we have generated heaps of interest – from running big issues like the very successful Queen Street Fair of the 1970-80s to the little day-to-day things such as helping residents deal with Council over a local problem. We now have more than 200 members on our books – that is 200 households, individuals and business people who have an interest in our local community and want it to be represented by an Association such as ours.

We have held membership fees very low – as you will see elsewhere in this *Village Voice*, membership can be as low as \$10 for concessions and \$33 for households. That is a bargain – to fund this journal, to get an active Committee looking after community interests and to have a local resident or trader dealing with the Council on West Woollahra issues.

We received \$2,000 from membership subscriptions last financial year. The cash is not flowing into the Association's coffers. We want more people to pay their fees annually so that we can fund what we do best – represent your interests in this area.

We have fewer than 10 financial Business Members and are very keen to get more, so that most of the traders in West Woollahra become financial Business Members. Whether their particular business is food, fashion, antiques or a gallery, we want them to join us – and contribute to improving our lot in West Woollahra. If we were to get 25 more Business Members – at \$55 per business – we would double our membership takings.

Our goal is to make the Association more financially resilient and better able to fund its day-to-day operations, from an active membership base. We would like to have 10% of our residents and most of the businesses as members of the Association – that is 250+ members – all financial.

Please make a difference and pay your subscription this year.

The Association's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 27th March 2001, will be the place to have your voice heard – and to pay your dues. Or, if you can't attend the meeting, ring 9328 1154 for a membership form – and be counted!

David Collingridge

STREETWATCH *Queen Street*

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association have an ongoing project with Woollahra Council for the refurbishment of Queen Street. The paving and street furniture on the north side of Queen Street from Moncur Street to Holdsworth Street is evidence of that project. At a recent meeting with Council officers, it was agreed that up to \$50,000 would be spent on the Moncur Street to Dorhauer Lane and down Moncur Street to the carpark exit.

This work would include footpath paving stones, removing the vehicle entrance to the carpark across the footpath, extension of the landscaping on the Queen Street side of the carpark and modifications to the spoon drain and storm water drain near the carpark.

It would then be of some surprise when Council workers were noticed doing a touch up job to this very same area. The laying of bitumen around the storm water drain and along Queen Street in front of Zigolini's and Richardson & Wrench would be along way short of the original \$50,000 authorised.

Or is it that, the Council has wasted valuable street maintenance money on a job that will be properly done as part of the Queen Street refurbishment project?

Resident Reaction

Since the last issue of *Village Voice*, there has been a surprising response from the residents in the West Woollahra area regards to the lack of action from Council to clean up the streets. This is despite a continuous stream of letters and phone calls to the Council, often accompanied by photographs of the appalling conditions.

The lane behind the shops in Queen Street is in a disgraceful state with the accumulation of boxes, containers and food refuse attracting flies and rats. The resultant stench is dreadful.

There is also intense opposition to the daily special collection of rubbish at 5.00am. Why can't the collections be after 7.00am in line with Council regulations to jack hammers etc on building sites?

Maybe the current study of Council boundaries will wake up Woollahra to attend to the needs of its rate payers, or maybe we would be better off with Sydney City Council!

Philip Johns

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433

A residents' 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



APOLOGY

In the last issue of *Village Voice* an excellent article was contributed by **John & Lynette Cunnington** about Queen Street Antique Dealers in the Arts & Antiques section which did not carry the authors' names. We apologise for this oversight.

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

I am pleased to present my first annual President's Report on the activities of your Association for the period commencing March 2000.

It has been a very active time for the Committee, monitoring the various issues confronting our neighbourhood and assigning appropriate priorities based on the limited resources available. The first priority was to ensure that the talents and enthusiasm displayed by committee members was used to the optimum, allocating responsibilities to suit interests and harmonizing for the advancement of all. This format seems to be working very well as you will see from the reports contained in the November issue of Village Voice and also the current edition.

With the retirement of Robin Brampton as Editor of Village Voice, it was necessary to re-evaluate how the Committee could best communicate with the membership and the wider community. There have been many favourable reports on the new format of the magazine – of course constructive input from members on both presentation and content will be welcomed.

With regard to membership, it was pleasing to note the increased numbers both in the household and corporate memberships. The Committee is conscious of the need to adequately balance and represent the interest of these

two groups. To this end, we are in the process of establishing a new 'Business Group'. Alex Nettis has been appointed to head the new sub-committee and is currently working on a new membership package, which amongst other things, will enable residents to identify businesses which support the Association. The idea is to promote harmony between residents and locals business concerns for the common good of our beautiful Queen Street and West Woollahra area.

The activities of Local Government have had the most immediate impact on our unique environment and we have worked hard to build on the relationship we enjoyed with the former Mayor, Councillor Petrie, who in his current capacity as member for Cooper Ward continues to maintain close liaison. The new Mayor, Councillor Chris Dawson, has recognised the valuable role that the Association plays as a conduit to Council for residents and businesses of the area.

We believe that apart from rate levels, ratepayers have two major immediate concerns and they are traffic issues and garbage collection. Accordingly, we have supported the activities of OSNOF and are closely monitoring proposals that might see garbage collection frequency reduced.

On a social note, it has been a most warm and friendly year. Many

enjoyed the Robin Brampton Dinner held at the Arena Restaurant in Fox Studios.

The annual Queen Street carol concert presented by the Association and held at Ozanam Villa is going from strength to strength. The participation of students of the Forth Street School was delightful and we look forward to next year. Thank-you to Vivienne Ellis and the staff of Ozanam for all their help. The support and generosity of the many local businesses and friends who supported and sponsored the event is most heart warming.

Whilst I'm in 'thank-you' mode, the Committee is particularly indebted to Richardson & Wrench, who as well as being a major sponsor, kindly make their boardroom available for monthly committee meetings.

Last but not least, a big vote of thanks to the Committee for all their enthusiasm and commitment. A special mention has to go to the Secretary and Treasurer, Philip Johns, whose untiring efforts keep us on the straight and narrow. On reflection, I believe the Association has had a successful and constructive year and look forward to your continued support to enhance our effectiveness in the coming year.

Heather Smith, President

TRAFFIC REPORT

25WVA Alerts Councillors Just in Time

In the last issue of Village Voice, we reported that we were outvoted in our opposition to the 'Option E' restrictions on left and turns from Ocean Street during peak periods. The QS&WWA representatives spoke strongly against the implementation of 'Option E' but were unable to convince the others at the meeting that they were acting improperly by failing to consult those most affected, ie Woollahra residents, and the motion was passed.

The main objective was to redirect traffic bound for the 'rat run' through Paddington so that it continued down Ocean Street, at least until Tara or Trelawney Streets at which time it would continue to add to the overburdened Ocean Street or more likely, double back up Jersey Road and rejoin the Paddington run.

What seemed to be happening was that Paddington Councillors along with Paddington pressure groups were trying to offload traffic onto their neighbours without giving them a say in

the matter.

No Cooper Ward Councillors were at any of the meetings of this group and although the Council officers concerned stated otherwise, Cooper Ward Councillors insist that they were not notified of the meetings.

Fortunately, we were able to alert Cooper Ward Councillors just in time and a Recision Motion was passed at the Council Meeting on Monday 26th February to stop 'Option E' going ahead. The signs directing the traffic were to be put up the next day, so it was a lucky reprieve. The Recision Motion was sponsored by Councillor Andrew Petrie and supported by the Mayor, Councillor Chris Dawson and Councillor Val Corrigan. We thank them for their speedy response.

OSNOF (Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway) held a public meeting on the day following the Council Meeting and if there was any doubt as to feeling of the eighty local residents present, in the minds of Council Officers attending, it was soon dispelled by OSNOF Convenor Nick Eddy, the three previously mentioned councillors, various residents

and yours truly representing QS&WWA.

The council officers' rationale was that the planned restrictions would redirect rush hour commuter traffic onto an under utilised Oxford Street - a creditable ambition - however, all at the meeting agreed that this would be best achieved by cutting the access south into Ocean Street to one lane and reintroducing a right turn into Crown Street from Oxford Street. Perhaps some effort by Council to protect their residents by fighting for a reduction in traffic would be more appreciated.

We will monitor with interest any further suggested changes and if necessary act to encourage action that reduces commuter traffic from our residential areas. We will also try to encourage Council officers to consult all community involved before taking action.

If you have any views that you would like the QS&WWA to consider as part of it's Traffic Policy please write to me C/o PO Box 16 Woollahra 1350 or E-mail direct on ken@posnet.com.au

Ken Gresham

ART GALLERIES

Fine Art is fair game on Queen Street

Along with good food and fashion, the big attraction of our boutique village scene is the feast of fine art and antiques on offer. Following is a selection of some of the exhibiting exhibitions to be enjoyed in the coming months – a testimony to the variety and diversity of our local galleries.

Christopher Day Gallery

The Christopher Day Gallery has been dealing in quality Australian and European paintings since 1979. Works normally in stock are by Allcot, Blackman, Boyd, Crooke, Dobell, Drysdale, Forrest, Heysen, Lindsay, Long, Olsen, Rees, Storrier, and Streeton.

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March : Brian Dunlop
"The Nearer Shores"
oils, gouaches & graphics.

April : David Boyd
"Europa in Australia. A Parable"

83 Moncur St, Woollahra,
phone 9362 0297
Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5

Dickerson Gallery

March: Victor Majzner
"Imagining the Night"
paintings

April: James Powditch
Wall sculpture

34 Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9363 3358,
Tues- Sat 11-6 Sun 1-6

Gould Gallery

"Modern Australian Art
Exhibition" –
featuring works from Howard
Arkley, Charles Blackman,
Arthur Boyd, Ray Crooke,
Donald Friend, Joy Hester,
John Olsen, John Perceval,
Albert Tucker, Brett
Whiteley, Fred Williams and
others.

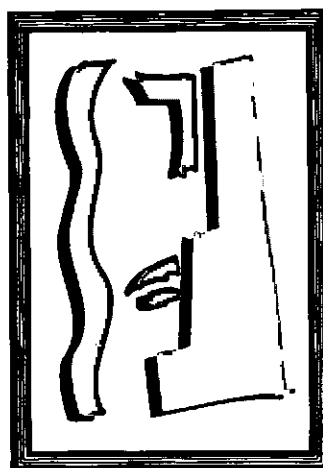
92 Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9328 9222,
Tues-Fri 11-6
Sat 11-5 Sun 1-6

Rex Irwin Art Dealer

March 6-31: Sean Scully,
works on paper. One of
21st century's most important
artists, first solo exhibition in
Australia.

April 3-28: "Important
Works on Paper" – a
selection of Australian and
international artists including
Brack, Freud, Campbell,
Connor, Matisse, Picasso,
Whiteley, Williams.

First Floor,
38 Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9363 3212,
Tues- Sat 11-5.30



Beowulf Gallery

March: Erotic Art

April: Talisman Exhibition

May: The Universe
Within, lithographic
exhibition by Anne-Maree
Hunter, exploring the
emotional and spiritual
transformation of pregnancy.

23 Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9362 5583,
Wed-Sun 11-6

Libby Edwards Gallery

March: Gordon Richards:
His distinctive style
produces bold, humorous
yet poignant reflections on
human form in all its frailty.

April: Keren Seelander's
Ainaugural Sydney exhibit-
ion, her spontaneous paintings
in mixed media on canvas are
infused with sheer energy.

47 Queen Street, Woollahra
2025, phone 9362 9444
Mon-Sat 11-6 Sun 1-5

Istral Gallery

March: Eva Hannah
"Recollection", vibrant
impressionist oil paintings on
canvas.

April: Judith White
"Desert Heart" mixed
media on canvas and paper.
New works from series on
Lake Eyre, Flinders Ranges.
Desert townships and
landscapes.

162A Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9362 0648,
Wed- Sat 11-6 Sun 1-5

Michael Carr Art Dealer

March: Sydney Ball,
Paintings with a view
to landscape.

April: Chris Antico,
Lyrical textured
paintings and works on paper
of the colours and sensations
of summer.

May: Paintings and
sculpture: including
works by Nolan, Lanceley,
Raftopoulos, Harry,
Robertson-Swann.

124A Queen Street, Woollahra,
phone 9327 3011,
Tues- Sat 10-6 Sun 12-5

Compiled by Alan Smith,
Istral Gallery



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RESTORATION IN QUEEN STREET

by Gina Auchinachie, G L Auchinachie & Son - Antiques

After many years working overseas for Qantas, including a stint in London where we met, Ian and I returned to Sydney to rekindle his parent's antiques business which had been running for 50 years on the North Shore.

Looking for the right premises to house our business, we happened upon a large building that seemed perfect for our needs and the location could not have been better. An imposing three storey, Queen Anne revival building, rebuilt in 1905 as the Queen's Hotel, it would now become G. L. Auchinachie and Son - Antiques, established in the antiques heartland of Queen Street, Woollahra in 1993.

There was one snag, the building was in dire need of extensive renovation and at that time we were living in Auckland as Ian was still with Qantas. Fortunately, we had a friend who was an excellent builder and agreed to take on the project of the restoration. The work was carried out over six months with regular commuting to Sydney at weekends to monitor the progress.

The idea was to preserve the integrity of the building's heritage whilst bringing into the late 20th century comfort zone. Extensive research into the history of the building revealed a photograph from the archives as to how the building looked in the 1930s when it was the Queen's Hotel. Much care was then undertaken to restore the handsome facade from the details in the photograph.

The old mustard coloured paint work and render needed to be stripped back and the exposed brickwork re-pointed. The result was the discovery of beautiful red clay bricks under several layers of paint and lime wash. Further work included

the masonry that was painted to give the original sandstone appearance, lowering the street level shop windows so that passers-by could look in and the upper windowsills were renewed with sandstone. We also chose a weather sensitive awning where the original cast iron awning had once been.

One of the interesting facts about the building is that the hotel was one of Sydney's earliest steel span building. there are no pillars in the building - steel beams span across on all floors.

Another interesting feature is the pressed metal ceiling. The painter decided upon painting



relief patterns on the ceiling, and after seeing an example, we could not resist the lovely tones of pink, green, yellow and burgundy. The painted pressed metal ceiling is now a major feature of the shop and a great talking point.

The whole project was a meticulous family venture with Ian painstakingly researching, locating or making missing architectural details and ensuring the extensions at the rear were in keeping with the form of the building.

Eight years on and we still get immense pleasure living and working in this building. There have been many changes in Queen Street with the decline in the number of antique shops and the resurgence of fashion, gift and food outlets. However, Queen Street is a wonderful place to live and work and we hope we have done our bit to enhance the streetscape in lovingly restoring one of its landmarks.



LAND & ENVIRONMENT COURT UNDER REVIEW

At last something may be done to curtail the powers of the Land and Environment Court in development applications. A working party chaired by a retired judge of the Court has been set up to review this area of its operations. (A case of Caesar judging Caesar?)

The L&E Court was set up to hear appeals by developers against the decisions of consent authorities, usually Councils. On the face of it, it seems reasonable that aggrieved applicants have access to an independent review in cases where they feel councils have treated them unfairly.

One would assume that the function of the L&E Court is to review

decisions, not to make new ones. One would also assume that the Court should not overrule or disregard Council policy, but base its decision on the standards set by the particular Council, whose Counsellors have been elected by the ratepayers.

However the L&E Court has increasingly made judgements based on the values of individual judges, not on a set of standards. "Reasonable compliance" has often been seen by them as "good enough". These judges are not elected and are not accountable to ratepayers.

So developers, with the prospect of huge profits if they succeed in their

application will apply again and again to the L&E Court, forking out money to the best lawyers until they get a judge who accedes to their submission, while the Council, funded by us, the ratepayers, usually gives up. In the financial year 1999-2000 Woollahra Council spent over \$1.3 million on legal matters. And we still got Thompson Close and that Tara Street development, thanks to the L&E Court.

While we in the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association may not agree with Frank Sartor on all things we concur that something has to be done to restrict the powers of the L&E Court.

Annette Robinson



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THE COUNCIL BOUNDARIES WAR

The local Government inquiry was conducted by Commissioner Kevin Sproats and held in the Grand Lodge Room of the Masonic City Centre, with the hearing beginning on February 19, 2001 and concluding on February 23, 2001.

The highlights of the hearing were to hear the submission from Lord Mayor Sartor for the inclusion of all eight councils to be merged into one City of Sydney Council, and the other was to hear the Woollahra Council submission to maintain the status quo and lay no claim to adjoining territories. This was in stark contrast to six other councils, that whilst rejecting the amalgamations with the City Council, laid claim to fresh territory to enhance their respective boundaries.

Botany wish to extend into Randwick and Randwick reciprocated with claims extending into Botany. Waverley desire the entire Bondi Junction region and Marrickville just want to extend its outer limits. Leichhardt are opposing the City Council take-over whilst South Sydney is resisting the re-alignment of its boundaries

with City and Randwick. Woollahra by making no claims for change have alienated that part of Paddington that is in South Sydney.

There is also a push by South Sydney/Paddington for alignment with the City of Sydney for all Paddington. Whilst the majority of Woollahra/Paddington residents wish to remain with Woollahra Council, there is concern that this area may be resumed by City Council.

The West Woollahra area would appear to be secure with its present boundaries.

However, it seems that very little will come out of this exercise as there are now so many actions being contemplated, but an educated guess at this time would be:

Kings Cross to return to City of Sydney and some redrawing of the Botany and Randwick boundaries.

This inquiry would appear to be an expensive exercise with little hope of real results. I humbly apologise if my predictions are wrong.

Drew Robertson

CHATSTREET

The Fountain at the top of Queen Street is still not repaired. We were told by Council that the pump was to be fixed pronto, preferably before the Olympics. The clean-up and spring planting in this little park looked great for the marathons, however the fountain was not working and is still out of order. Latest information is that it is being waterproofed. Why couldn't this have been done at the same time as the pump repair?

The criteria for painted cycle signs on roads are to make motorists aware that cyclists use these particular roads to link up with main cycle lanes which are wide enough to have designated bike lanes into the city. Motorists are to take care.

Attention dog owners. Dogs must be kept on the leash in Federation Valley (the site of the Federation Pavilion). You can pick up a map to show on/off leash areas from the Centennial Park Office. The dog policy is currently under review.

Jones the Grocer was refused an application for extra seating as the Council discovered that its original approval in 1966 was in breach of local zoning regulations. The grocers have now submitted a rezoning application for the site.

Further to our article on the possible introduction of parking meters, meters have been erected in Jersey Road on a trial basis.

Woollahra Council's waste collection is to be limited to 120 litres per household, and the domestic collections are to be reduced to once a week, with larger recycling bins. However in the densely populated QSWW area the pickup will still be twice weekly as there is no room to store bins in terrace houses. The Council is undertaking a survey of local residents to get their ideas as to how waste can be reduced. Any ideas? Let us know.

In our last issue we reported that the Heritage Council is considering what to do with **Dame Joan Sutherland's** house at 115 Queen Street, which has been allowed to run down. Now that **Peter King of the Heritage Commission** has won preselection in Wentworth will he find time for this important project? Over to you Peter King.

Paddington Bowling Club's St Trinians has deferred its application for a licence to provide live entertainment. It is now consulting residents to try to find a solution.

We reported in our last issue that the Holdsworth Street Community Centre had been attacked by the graffiti gang. The Council gave the walls a new coat of paint and within two days they were at it again! **Surveillance cameras are now being installed** and the graffiti signatures are now being photographed and filed, so hopefully the offending brats will be catalogued and caught.

Since January 1 2001 the State Government has regulated that developers who **carry out construction work outside agreed hours** can be slapped with an **on-the-spot fine** of \$1500 by Councils.

What is happening about cop-shop closures? Our nearest operational police beat station is Rose Bay. Paddington is only a base for detectives.

Woollahra Council is seeking legal advice to ascertain whether the **Eastern Suburbs Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC)** in Underwood Street Paddington can be flogged by the PCYC Board. Paddington Council gave the site to the then Police Boys Club in 1945 and money for the building was raised by the local community. The Council has formally condemned its closure and the Club president has resigned in disgust.

The \$35000 random telephone survey of 600 residents' opinion of Woollahra Council will soon be made public. The Council thought it was "a good way to get community views about the way the council is performing". It has promised to send QSWWA the results. Hmm, should be interesting.

Michael Carr, art dealer has moved from the city to 124A Queen Street, previously the first floor of Westpac. Completely renovated, the gallery has a wonderful airy space.

Rumour has it that the ground floor of 124 is to be occupied by an **Italian-owned chain of patisseries**. More food outlets in Queen Street.

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



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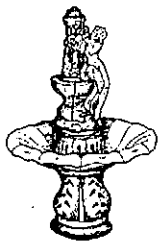
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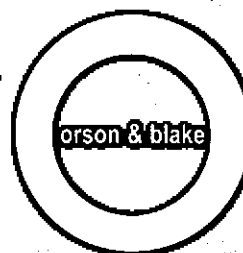
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