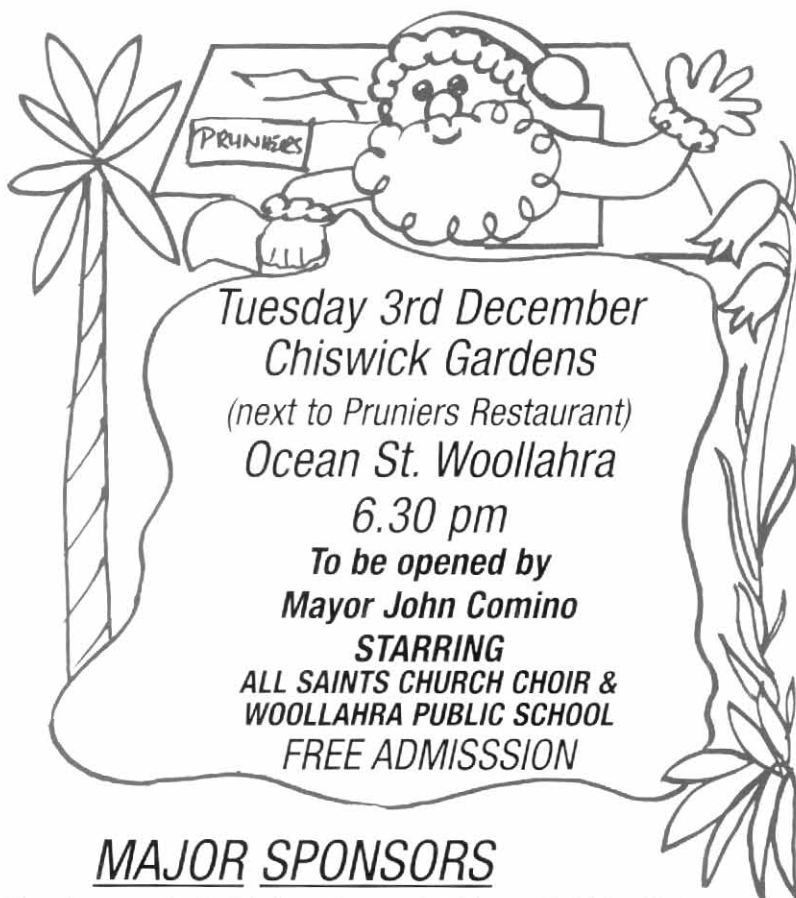


Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 77 December 2002

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association presents *COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS*



Tuesday 3rd December
Chiswick Gardens

(next to Pruniers Restaurant)

Ocean St. Woollahra

6.30 pm

To be opened by

Mayor John Comino

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Working Together

I recently attended the Annual General Meetings of the Woollahra Senior Citizens Association and the Holdsworth Street Community Centre. Quite significantly, these organizations have stood the test of time and reflect the needs of the community.

The Woollahra Senior Citizens Association has provided for 45 years a wide range of activities, social outings and events for local seniors. The Holdsworth Street Community Centre celebrating its 30th birthday this year covers care and excursions for the broader community including child care, disability services, family support and transport. We are very fortunate to have so many resources available in our area. The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has always supported and enjoyed a strong relationship with these organizations over the years and together we strive to keep the community heart beating.

On the subject of heart beat, it is time to raise the issue of policing and protection for our beautiful area, its residents and businesses. I met with Constable John Rowe of Rose Bay Police, regarding the establishment of a Neighbourhood Watch program in this area. Paddington has already a program

in place as a result of numerous cars being vandalised. It seems logical therefore to form a united front against 'the dark side'.

Shopkeepers in Queen Street have spoken to *Village Voice* about the alarming increase in stealing from shoppers in recent months although there has always been the stealing of staff handbags, wallets and cash from shops and offices. In these busy weeks leading up to Christmas it is very easy to be distracted and thieves rely on this, so please be warned and vigilant. An example of how we can help our police to help us is by having any possessions of value (videos/DVD/sound systems for example) engraved with a driver's licence number (prefixed with NSW) or a personal identification to assist identification of stolen goods. Engraving machines can be purchased at outlets such as Dick Smith for around \$25.00, or you borrow an engraver from Rose Bay Police. They will of course be able to track you down if you don't return it.

For a Neighbourhood Watch program to work, we must be vigilant and neighbourly. It is in all our best interests. Please call the Secretary on 9328 1154 if you are prepared to help with this initiative, it is very,

very important.

On a brighter note, the Committee and I hope you will join in the fun at our Annual Community Carols on 3rd December – just remember to look after any personl belongings.

Warmest best wishes.

*Heather Smith
President*

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Affiliated with the National Trust.

Annual Membership subscription rates:

Pensioner	\$10
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Corporate	\$100

Patron: Neville Wran AC QC

President: Heather Smith

V/President: Philip Johns

Secretary-Treasurer: Philip Johns

Committee: Ian Angus, Lyndall Crisp,
Ken Gresham, Ariel Marguin, Drew Robertson,
Annette Robinson, Alan Smith

Association Website: www.queenstreetassoc.com



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Woollahra 2025

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Carols sponsors

The Annual Community Carols has developed into a great community event with over 300 people attending last year. This year we are hoping for an even bigger attendance and plenty of hearty singing.

This event could not happen if it were not for the generosity of the many local businesses that donate cash and product and services that are auctioned off.

Richardson and Wrench Woollahra has been a major sponsor for the five years that the carols have been conducted. Joe Abboud and Louise Snowden, principals of Richardson and Wrench Woollahra, have been long time supporters of the Association and we thank them for their generous support.

Pruniers became major sponsors last year and again have supported the carols with a major sponsorship. Where else can you get 5 star chefs doing the sausage sizzle? Thanks to Michael Milne and Bridget Seaman.

Kidstuff has donated the gifts that will come from Santa's bag. Each gift will be individually wrapped and co-ordinated for the age of the children.

The Phoenix Hotel is a new sponsor this year and has donated the refreshments (wine and soft drinks) which are needed to keep those singing voices lubricated.

The silent auction items this year are very good value and some healthy bidding should ensue. Look out for the Industry Hair \$200 voucher for a hair treatment and facial, the Lord Dudley premium dozen of wine, Susan Avery Floral Decorators gift voucher, the Hughenden overnight stay with breakfast, dinner for two at Bistro Moncur, Ma Maison en Provence toiletries, Agostini's lunch, book voucher from Lesley McKay's Bookshop and Afghani reed baskets from Perryman Oriental Carpets.

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- Kidstuff
- Industry Hairdressing
- Lesley McKay's Bookshop
- Lord Dudley Hotel
- Lynwood stores
- Ma Maison en Provence
- Reads of Woollahra
- Susan Avery Floral Designs
- Woollahra Hotel
- Zigolini's
- Port Phillip Estate (Mornington Peninsula) & The Art of Wine & Food
- Istral Gallery
- Richard Banks Optometrist
- Di Jones Real Estate
- Tibet Gallery
- Orson & Blake
- SOS Communications
- The Phoenix Hotel
- Michael A Greene Antiques
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Cross City Tunnel

The drama of the Cross City Tunnel continues to hot up with many action groups being formed to either stop the tunnel all together or to make sure that there is no impact in their particular area.

The QSWWA has joined with the Cross City Tunnel Action Group (CCTAG). This group is made up of many interested groups from Centennial Park, Moore Park, OSNOF, Paddington Society and including the apartment blocks above the current Kings Cross Tunnel. Local Member for Bligh, Clover Moore, has also entered into this debate by arranging several meetings with Planning Minister Andrew Refshauge and a number of community meetings for affected parties.

In principle, the group agrees that the Cross City Tunnel is very necessary and the sooner the better. Unfortunately, with such a diverse group and location interests the 'not in my backyard' approach is starting to surface. This will hamper constructive input towards the modifications sought for the latest proposal for the tunnel.

Whilst not wanting to go over the whole project here, suffice it to say, the QSWWA is concerned that the inevitable


increase in traffic to meet up with the new tunnel will over extend the capacity of Ocean Street. The consequence of this would be an increase of traffic through the streets of West Woollahra and Paddington.

The problems associated with the M5 tunnel give an indication of what could happen with the Cross City Tunnel if the environmental concerns, pollution control and portal placements are properly addressed. No one wants a chimney billowing questionable air quality into their area so the above items need careful consideration.


The QSWWA will continue to liaise with relevant authorities to monitor the cross city tunnel project to keep you informed but we urge the community to take a very real interest in this issue. Your feedback is required so that we can speak for the whole community.

Philip Johns

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CABLES MUST GO UNDERGROUND

Everyone agrees that electricity poles, wires and cables are an eyesore. Imagine Woollahra without these ugly poles, with no multiple wires, no thick black cables, no unsightly yellow and black bundles looming above us and disfiguring our environment. Just our beautiful trees in full leaf, no longer butchered, and overhead lights designed to be in keeping with our heritage precinct.

A dream? No! It can be done. All it costs is money. Someone or some body has to pay.

QSWWA supports the undergrounding of cables on aesthetic grounds alone. But there are many other advantages

- * No more horrific accidents when a motor car slams into an electricity pole
- * No more damage to houses hit by poles during a storm
- * No more risks to emergency workers clearing up after a storm
- * A significant reduction in associated compensation and health costs (\$105 - \$160 million per annum according to government analysis)
- * Increased employment opportunities
- * Reduction in air pollution because of increased number of trees
- * Possible increase in property values
- * Increased reliability, i.e. less blackouts
- * A consequent reduction in costs through spoilt food and lost income etc.
- * Reduced costs for tree pruning and maintenance of cables and poles

The Carr government was originally committed to burying aerial electricity cables across the State. But after eight months of analysis by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW (IPART) it has announced that the costs outweigh the

benefits and that it will not proceed with the project. The government is only willing to bury the cables if communities are willing to pay.

MP Clover Moore pointed out in her April report to IPAC that Energy Australia's profits of over \$300 million plus an additional windfall of \$120 million should at least in part be returned to the community who funded it.

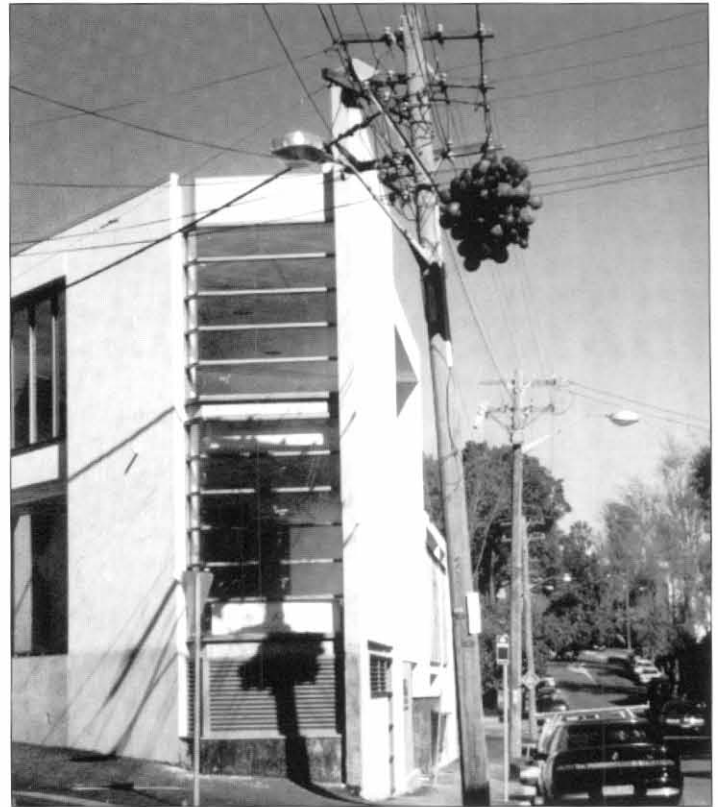
Woollahra Council supports the undergrounding of cables in principle. But now the State has said it won't pay Woollahra Council has not offered and has deferred discussion on the matter.

IPAC estimates that the cost of underground electricity cables is \$1800-\$3000 per household. Sydney Cables Downunder advocates a weekly household charge of about \$1.60 over 30 years. Whether that will be made via the electricity bill or Council levy is not yet clear, but Peter Downey of Sydney Cables Downunder says with the right funding scheme the cost would be affordable. One problem is that some areas in Sydney already have underground electricity and residents will not welcome a levy for what they already have.

Whichever way it is funded it is inevitable that the user will have to pay something. And it has to be done. Major international cities such as London, New York, Rome and Paris have underground cables. London had underground power 120 years ago.

It's up to our small community of Woollahra to support Sydney Cables Downunder and all other bodies who are agitating to rid us of these unattractive, unreliable and dangerous cables that are polluting our environment. We should lobby our Council and the government to make sure it happens.

Remember Callan Park and the extensive lobbying by Balmain and Leichhardt



Even bright balloons cannot hide the ugliness of these power poles outside the new Maunsell Hughes Gallery on the corner of Holdsworth Street and Jersey Road.

to retain it as open space. The government capitulated. We do have a voice. The QSWWA has a great record in agitating for the good of our area and the preservation of our environment. Let's keep it up so that in another thirty years we can still be proud of our achievements.

If everybody concerned agreed to contribute a portion of the cost it could be done. That means Energy Australia, the various Councils, the major users such as supermarkets, insurance compa-

nies who will have less claims, and of course the individual households.

As for Telstra and Optus cables, that's another story. Telstra claims most of its cables are already underground with the exception of optic fibre. Optus claims it would go out of business if it had to foot the bill alone. And then there's Foxtel.

So residents of Woollahra, keep agitating for underground cables or we'll be underground before they will.

Annette Robinson

We were surprised to learn that one street in Woollahra has had underground cables installed without having to pay any levies. Manion Avenue in Rose Bay has wonderful street lights without an overhead cable to be seen. A little bird has told us that a resident of this area was so insistent and demanding that to shut her up the Council agreed to install these lights and put the cables underground. We also hear that this influential resident was a friend of one of the Councillors. Plus *ça change!*

*Manion Avenue,
Rose Bay.
Tasteful street
lights and no
power pole to
be seen.*



A Year of Celebration

THE QUEEN STREET and West Woollahra Association celebrated its 30th Anniversary throughout this year by holding some very special events. It was pleasing to see so many local residents, Woollahra Council ward councillors and many others supporting the Association's efforts.

AGM

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held at the Holdsworth Street Community Centre with special guest speaker, Mayor of Woollahra Councillor John Comino. Interested Association members and local residents were able to speak to the Mayor directly about those perennial problems of traffic, parking, garbage, street maintenance and development.

The Mayor responded well to all inquiries and took particular note of some problems that needed urgent attention. (Maintenance to footpaths and commercial garbage have since been attended to).

In thanking the Mayor for his attention to our concerns, President Heather Smith also acknowledged the Association's support of extended Mayoral terms due to the problems of continuity with one year terms, and hoped the Mayor was successful in the coming elections. (He was, so congratulations!)

Gilbert and Sullivan and Cocktails

A SPECIAL NIGHT was conducted in May as part of the anniversary celebrations and also to pay tribute to Graham Freudenberg, retiring Immediate Past President. Graham, had served on the committee for over twelve years of which seven of these were as President. His contribution to the community during this time could not go unrecognised and being a man of words, an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan was entirely appropriate.



Gilbert & Sullivan in the form of Ann-Maree McDonald, Graham Freudenberg, Stuart Maunder, Heather Smith.

The Hughenden Boutique Hotel was the ideal location for Gilbert and Sullivan and with cocktails and canapés served to the guests throughout the evening, a memorable night was had by all.

Patron of the Association, Neville Wran AC QC, attended the evening and his speech highlighted some wonderful moments shared with his friend and colleague, Graham Freudenberg. Mr Wran then presented Graham with a gift



A presentation to Graham Freudenberg by Patron Neville Wran.

from the people of Woollahra. The Mayor of Woollahra, John Comino also spoke of Graham's contribution to the community and presented him with a token of appreciation from Woollahra Council.

The performance of Gilbert and Sullivan was by Opera Australia's Stuart Maunder and Ann-Maree McDonald. In a delightful show, many Gilbert and Sullivan favourites were performed with the finale, a specially written tribute to Graham.

The night would not have been complete without a few words from Graham, who regaled us with stories of the fun times and hard work involved, and of the people he had the privilege to meet along the way. Graham stated his legacy was in the current good health of the Association and the unearthing of the delightful current President, Heather Smith to take the Association into the new millennium.

Annual Dinner

AS BEFITTING A 30TH anniversary, the Association's annual dinner was held at the wonderful Pruniers Restaurant. We were also very fortunate to have Senator the Honourable Helen Coonan as the special guest speaker.



Mayor John Comino, Senator Helen Coonan and President Heather Smith at the annual dinner.



A view of the activity of carols in Chiswick Gardens.

Pre-dinner drinks allowed guests to mix and socialise with local residents, retailers and dignitaries while sampling the tasty canapés from the Pruniers kitchen. With everyone dressing up for the evening and the background piano music filling the air, this proved to be a very smart occasion. The professional service of the staff and the thoughtful menu along with an excellent wine list only added to the evening.

The Senator, who is Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, and also happens to be a local resident, spoke of her time prior to gaining the Senate position and the interesting times since. The events of the past twelve months have enlivened what could normally be a very dry portfolio. During the evening, the Senator very graciously spoke to many of the guests and answered their questions from GST on.

The President thanked the Senator with a beautiful bunch of flowers, kindly donated by Susan Avery Floral Designs, and a gift from the Association. The evening concluded with a birthday cake and sparklers and a piece of cake for everyone to take home.



Mayor of Woollahra, John Comino presenting Graham Freudenberg with a community gift.

Community Carols

THE FINAL EVENT for the year will be the community carols which will again be held in the picturesque Chiswick Gardens. Now in its fifth year, the carols continues to grow and is a wonderful community event. So come along and help to celebrate the Christmas spirit with your neighbours and friends.

Philip Johns



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letters

to the editor

Carparking Dilemma – Catch a bus?

Though I understand that parking concerns so many of us, I am worried that your Vice President, Philip Johns ('Carparking Dilemma'), expresses a point of view that would turn Wallis Street into an ugly parking lot, for that is what angle parking does to any street.

How did Mr Johns miss the point that parking is a problem everywhere in and around Sydney and that there are no magical solutions to solve this problem?

His article also treads on dangerous assumptions that homeowners who have garages should put their cars in them. It is not for Mr Johns to lecture who should use their garages and when. That is the sole prerogative of the owner of that garage. Conceivably, a garage might be used for storage and it is not up to Mr



Johns to say whether that is right or wrong. If those who do not have one and are envious of those who do, perhaps they should buy new premises that have one.

The best solution to the problem is before all of us, if we care to acknowledge it and partake in it and it is the very good public transport system that already operates all around us in Paddington and Woollahra areas. The bus routes of 378, 380, 389 and 200 (during the week) can usually service all needs.

I would also like to comment on his references to all the illegal parking that goes on in our district. From many years of observation on my own street and others nearby, I find those who double park and park on footpaths as well as too close to corners at intersections do so entirely out of laziness. These parking habits have developed due to the drivers of these vehicles being too lazy to drive a few metres down a street or, heaven forbid, around a corner and on to a spot perhaps as much as a street away. Traffic Wardens need to be out there and fining these infringements far more often than they do at present. In doing so on a more regular basis, these habits will change and we won't have to comment on them anymore.

Parking is available, it's just not always so right outside of the premise you are visiting or shopping or living at. I see little value in Mr Johns appearing to make excuses for these kinds of socially unacceptable driving habits that too many drivers appear to take up and excuse it by saying there isn't enough parking available. I say, park a few metres away from your destination or take a bus (or taxi if money is not an issue for you).

Personally, I think it is a futile campaign to get involved in. Parking has become a privilege, in our day and age, not a right and certainly not one that anyone can claim ownership of.

Take a bus and keep our streets from

becoming parking lots, or take the time to find a spot a little further away from destination. The exercise could be beneficial.

Linda Wilhelm
Wallis Street

Centennial Park/ing!

I read Mr P Johns' startling comments in the article 'Carparking Dilemma' in issue 76 of the Village Voice recommending people park in Centennial Park.

How 'radical' this suggestion when compared with the other articles in this issue about the history of the Association. The article on the 30th Anniversary of the Association on page 6 states "...the Association's first fight was to oppose a State Government proposal to build a sports complex which would encroach on Centennial Park..." If my memory is not faulty, part of this proposal was to build a carpark in Centennial Park. If everyone follows Mr Johns' suggestion isn't this the logical next step – a little more thoughtfulness required perhaps? I wonder what Leo Scholfield and Robin Brampton think about this?

Surely the outstanding public transport system which serves the area is the solution which Mr Johns prefers to ignore. But if people ignore it and refuse to use it then you lose it – bank closures, and the threatened closure of the post office.

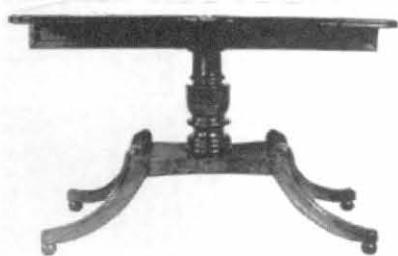
Mr Johns' comments about angled parking in Wallis Street infer he knows something that residents of the street as well as the Council know nothing about. Residents rejected such a proposal years ago. Before the Association prints such pronouncements perhaps it should consult residents.

I can only think Mr Johns' journalism comes from the school of Bob Ellis, Paddy McGuinness & co.

M McAlary

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One Way Traffic

In 1996 the Association sought feedback from the community about a proposed plan for the refurbishment of Queen Street and surrounding areas. Parts of that proposal have been implemented such as the paving of the footpaths in the commercial areas.

Other proposals including the introduction of one way traffic in Spicer Street and widening the footpaths to accommodate on street dining were soundly rejected.

It is therefore interesting to see that the Council is again investigating the introduction of one way traffic into Spicer and Morrell Streets. This is

alleged to be at the request of residents in the street and also Clover Moore has added her weight to the issue.

It is not clear which residents requested this change to traffic flows because some very active other residents have been campaigning to keep the status quo. The results of a partial survey of residents in Spicer and Morrell Streets indicate that 9 out of 10 households do not want one way traffic.

This matter is still before the traffic committee of the Council so stay tuned.

Philip Johns



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Beware

Shopkeepers in West Woollahra have spoken to *Village Voice* about the alarming increase in stealing from shoppers in recent months. This is a warning to everyone to be vigilant. Do not leave your bags unattended whilst looking for that extra bottle of milk or ripe tomato or you may find they have disappeared. It's a sad indictment of the society we live in.

Bali

The horrific bombings in Bali have saddened everyone in Australia. *Village Voice* extends its sincerest condolences to all families that have been touched by this tragedy.

New members

The response from the last *Village Voice* calling for support of this Association has been very pleasing. Many of you have acted by getting that cheque book out and sending in donations and membership subscriptions. Thank you to everyone who have acted so promptly and showing that the community does care about what happens to their neighbourhood.



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→ WELCOME



arrivals, departures and relocations

The new **Maunsell Hughes Art Gallery** on the corner of Holdsworth Street and Jersey Road is a wonderful and welcome addition to our precinct. On the site of the old Holdsworth Gallery it stocks interesting contemporary art and is managed by Elsa Moxham who has been with Barry Stern Galleries for 30 years. *Village Voice* attended the opening of the gallery in October where an exhibition of cast works in bronze and aluminium from the



Craig Koomeeta - Crocodile

Aurukun Community in Cape York was part of the display. Aboriginal master carvers from the remote community have their works cast in limited editions in a Brisbane foundry. This new art practice compares with the introduction of canvas and acrylic paint to Western Desert Artists in the 1970s.



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There is a new manager of that delightful shop, **Treats of Woollahra**, located in Ocean Street. Lin took over the reins in September and continues to stock the tempting range of sweets and chocolates. Also available are light lunches of sandwiches, pies, filo pastries, wraps and sushi. For those indulgent moments there are a number of cakes, sweets and handmade chocolates to choose while sipping a Santos coffee.

A range of floral herbal teas are exclusively imported at reasonable prices and of course milk, jams and butter are always available for your convenience.

New owner Jack Mitry at **Simply Seafood** is dishing out great fish and chips and more sophisticated seafood tucker.

We are sorry to lose **Cambodia House** which has now moved to larger premises around the corner at 445 Oxford Street. The brainchild of Mary Read of boutique fame, Cambodia House is a not-for-profit business and supports the poor, the disabled and survivors of landmine injuries. Over \$600 000 has already been raised.

Lesley McKay has enlarged her popular bookshop in Queens Court by taking over the vacated Cambodia House area next door. Besides generally expanding selection in all areas she has a greater range of children's books and more on art and design.

Gaslight Antiques has relinquished one of its shops which is now for lease. Unfortunately the declining number of antique shops continues.

TOO MANY ANGLICAN CHURCHES IN WOOLLAHRA?

Max Raine, chairman of Raine and Horne says the Anglican church is holding on to far too many properties in the Woollahra municipality relative to the very small congregations. He spoke on this issue at All Saints' Church Woollahra on 30 October. Mr Raine said that the eight churches operating in Woollahra should be reduced to three and that the redundant church properties should be rationalised either by demolishing them and rebuilding them where they are needed or by using them for other means such as retirement centres or units, senior citizen centres or schools and kindergartens. The land could also be sold or leased for other uses such as galleries, restaurants, other religions and the money used to fund Anglicare, Youth on the Streets and other worthwhile causes. Mr Raine said the land was given to the Anglican Church by the government of the day and it was about time they gave some back to the community.

A kerbside assessment of the value of the rectories in Woollahra area is \$26 million, which Mr Raine called dead money. Mr Raine said that the fact that the church did not pay rates and land tax encouraged the trustees to be lazy and not make their assets work. All Saints Rectory was valued at \$3-\$3.25 million.

chat street

We keep harping on about **the fountain in Davies Reserve** but it's a joy when it's operating, and yes, it's working again! The fountain came from the grounds of Rosemont House and was given to the people of Woollahra by Rosemont House's owners, Sir Raymond Burrell Bt and Lady Margot Burrell at the suggestion of Leo Schofield, then President of the QSWWA.

The painters have been very busy in Queen Street recently. Originally **Oddfellows Hall** at 38, now housing art galleries, jewellery and marketing businesses, has had a delightful makeover emphasising the architectural features of the building. **Bill Bradshaw's** frontage at 98 and **Tibet** at 22 have both had a new lick of paint.

An application to build a two storey dwelling with basement car parking at number 12A Holdsworth Street has met with stiff opposition by residents of Spicer Street who are adjacent to the rear of the block. They are particularly concerned that the large rear windows will infringe on their privacy, that the proposed car lift and turntable will be noisy, and that the extensive excavation will be destabilize their houses. Council proposed that the applicants delete the basement gym, sauna and wine cellar, consult with the neighbours about the trees they wish to destroy

and revise their plans for the car park. The developer is Fivex Pty Ltd, owned by J.Berger, Councillor Berger's father. Councillor Berger represents the Bellevue Hill ward and has declared a pecuniary interest in the property.

A bouquet to Bill Taylor and his team from Woollahra Council. They look after the parks and gardens and are adding a splash of colour to the district with planters of bright flowers. Chiswick Gardens has never looked better and there is praise all round from delighted trades and residents.

Orson and Blake are celebrating ten years of trading in Queen Street. Mandy and David started in a tiny shop, then moved to a larger one and are now at their third Queen Street address. A total refit of the shop a few years back guaranteed that it would become one of the places to shop in Sydney.

A number of houses in Queen and Moncur Streets in particular have been auctioned off in a rush to capitalize on high prices and the uncertain future of interest rates. Some only changed hands twelve months ago.

We have received a number of complaints from residents who live near **our**

pubs about the rubbish left in the street by their clientele. They suggest that the pub cleaners do a cleanup of the surrounding area when they are tending to their own. After all it's their patrons who are making the mess.

In this drought affected year **Woollahra has scored the booby prize as the biggest consumer of water in Sydney**, an average of 404,000L per annum, significantly higher than the city average of 256,000L. Mayor Comino has blamed the 4000 pools and spas, large block sizes and gardens. Let's do our bit by not hosing down driveways, and turning off automatic watering systems when it rains. As a *Sydney Morning Herald* reader wrote: "Do water wasters from the wealthier suburbs qualify as members of our effluent society?"

The developers are really targeting this area of late. **12A Holdsworth Street** has already been mentioned but development applications for **194 Queen Street and the Woollahra Antiques Centre in Oxford Street** have the residents up in arms. These developments are well outside the parameters of the Woollahra Development Control Plan of 1985. Are they ambit claims or are developers ignorant of local controls?



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