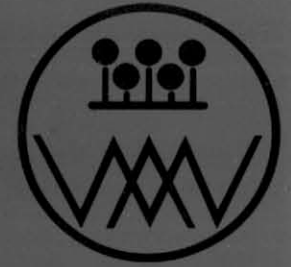


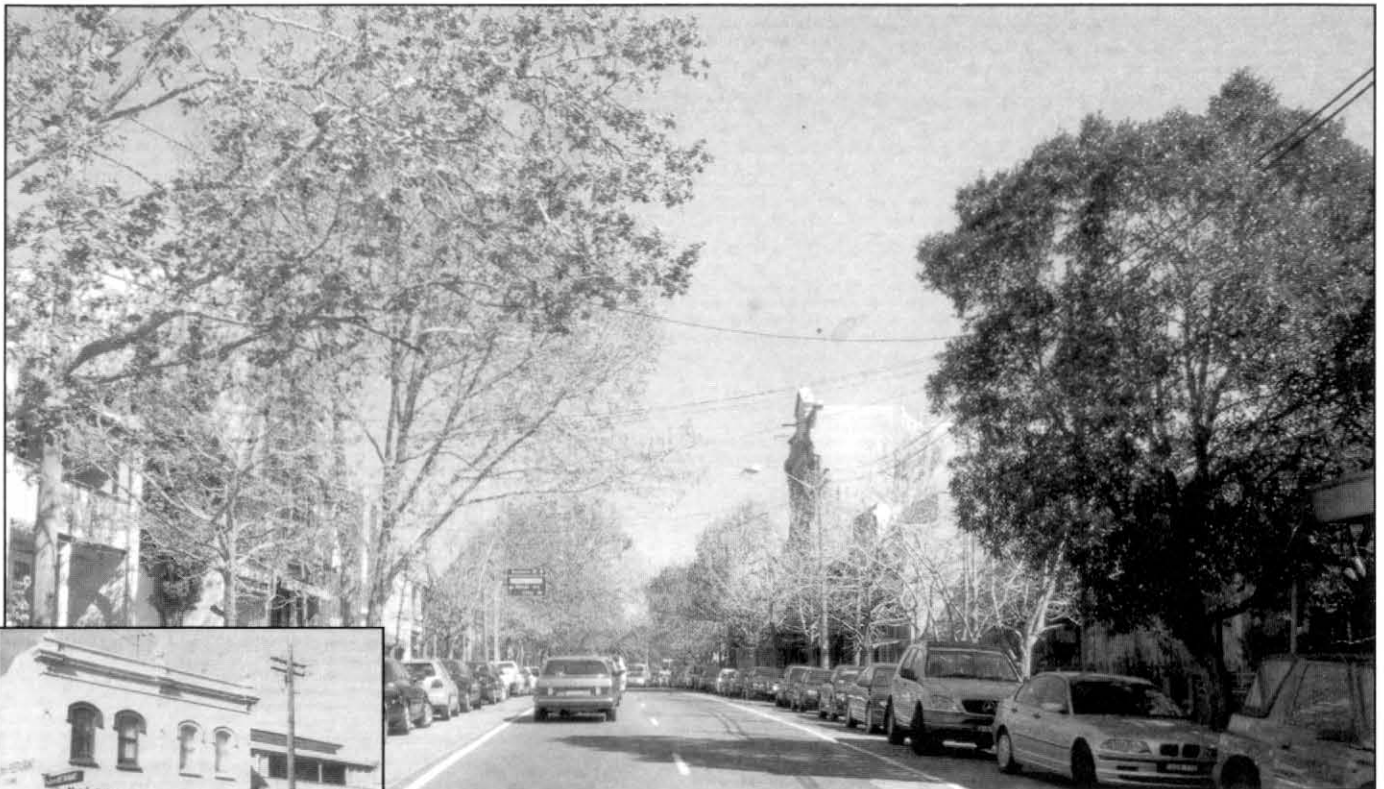
Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 76 September 2002

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association



For thirty years the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has helped to preserve and beautify our unique area. Left inset, shows the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street in 1966 with no trees.

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Association Website –

www.queenstreetassoc.com

The long awaited Queen Street & West Woollahra Association website is up and running. This site has been established to draw attention to the Association's activities and also to recognise the various commercial and retail businesses that trade in the area.

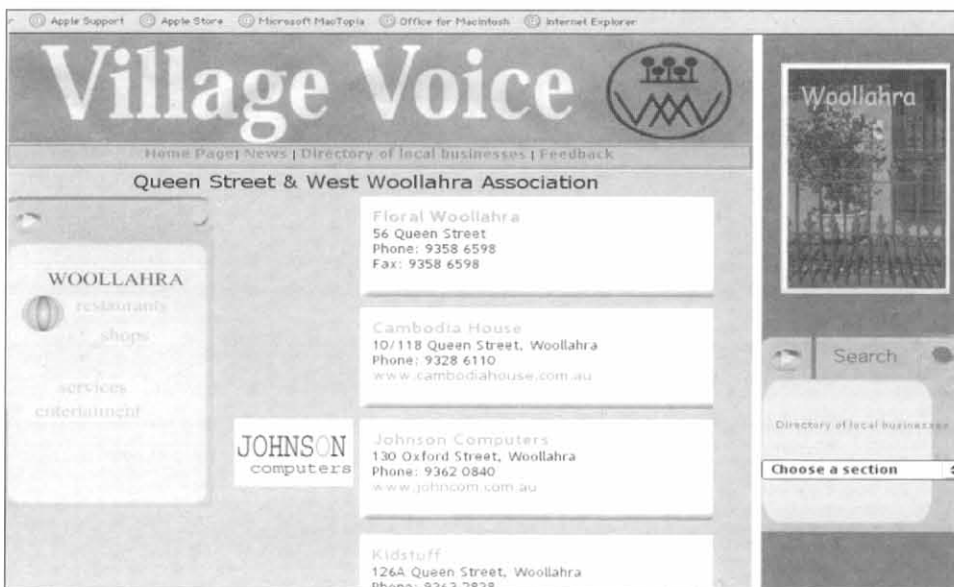
The site will hold historical aspects of the West Woollahra area and contain information of local importance. Events such as the Queen Street Fair get a mention, along with street happenings, coming events and local news.

Whilst every business will get a listing on the website, it is only the corporate members of the Association that will have a

complete information box. These corporate members can add email addresses and website links for a comprehensive coverage of their business activities.

Of course we are looking for an increased level of support for the Association's activities and this can be given by becoming a corporate member. Corporate membership is just \$100 for this year and it will give you a prominent entry on the site. There is also the opportunity to advertise on the site and an example is shown by Johnson Computers who created the site.

Contact Philip Johns on 9328 1154 to find out more about the website or to become a corporate member.



Adopt a pole

THE ILLEGAL PRACTICE of placing bill posters on telegraph poles and street lamps continues despite the best efforts of the Council. It is virtually impossible to prosecute unless the person placing the poster is caught in the act. This is not unlike graffitiists who also cannot be prosecuted unless caught in the act.



Now that these posters have started appearing in Queen Street, we are urging local residents and traders to adopt the pole in front of their premises and remove the poster as soon as it appears. It is well documented that the immediate removal of graffiti and posters soon deters the vandals that disfigure the environment.

Philip Johns

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

A residents' action group covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road, Oxford Street, West Woollahra. 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



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

Email: info@queenstreetassoc.com

Carparking Dilemma

One of the biggest problems facing the West Woollahra area at present is that of available car parking for residents, shopkeepers, and patrons.

All residents should be able to park near to their house. The introduction of the residents' parking scheme a few years ago has helped the residents to some extent.

Ideally, shopkeepers want to park near to their place of business, but parking right out the front of their business all day actually reduces the parking spaces available to their patrons. Not only is it selfish but it is counter productive for their turnover.

Patrons, of course, want to be able to park right out the front of their intended destination. This may not always be possible in a congested area such as Queen Street and consequently, will drive many potential patrons away from this shopping area.

How many legitimate parks are in Queen Street between Oxford and Ocean Streets?

Answer - 146. There is also approximately this number in the surrounding streets of Moncur, Spicer, Holdsworth and John Streets. Of course this figure could be doubled if it includes all of the dangerous double parking, parking on corners, parking across driveways and parking in the bus zones.

The Association has identified 158 businesses in the West Woollahra area. Now if just one person from each of those businesses drives to work, over half of the available car parks have been

taken. Look at many of the businesses and the number of employees and it can be seen that two or three cars from many businesses would be added to the carparking dilemma. On top of that, it has been calculated that the residents need another 120 car parking spots.

The above calculations come to well over 300 cars parking in the area and this is even before the poor patron decides to come to shop, have coffee or conduct business in West Woollahra.

It has been pleasing to see increased vigilance from Council parking officers in recent weeks booking the offending drivers who are acting irresponsibly. With parking fines now going to the Council coffers and an increase of parking officers in the Woollahra area, it can be expected that this vigilance will continue.

So what can be done to improve carparking availability in this area? Well not much really. The erection of multi-storey car parks as in Double Bay and

Crows Nest will not happen. Increasing the number of car parks is limited to introducing angle parking in streets such as Wallis Street.

The real solution may lie in the easy option of;

- Residents with off street parking, using it
- Shopkeepers who live in the area, walking to work
- Parking in Centennial Park and walking to the street
- Residents walking to the shops

What better way to start the day than parking in Centennial Park and strolling to work through the beautiful park with the trees and birds and arriving at your place of work relaxed after a ten minute contact with nature.

So come on, let us all do something to improve the accessibility to the street and at the same time enjoy the area more.

Philip Johns



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Street Pride

Some would say that the Woollahra Council's introduction of their new local waste management plan was poorly implemented. There was minimal advertising and mail out to residents, before all these brightly coloured bins appeared on the doorstep.

Is it in protest against the introduction of this environmentally conscious program that some residents are leaving their recycling bins on the street permanently, or is it sheer laziness? For whatever reason they create a very unattractive streetscape which must be endured by the rest of the community. Surely, it cannot be too hard to stack the bins in a corner of the back yard until pick-up day.

Woollahra Council is also fed up with this action and has threatened to impound bins if they are continually left outside a property. The

Council will not collect waste left in bags or other boxes and can fine offenders for doing so. A maximum fine of \$1,500 can be imposed, with the added impost of an administration fee of \$320.

A free designated clean-up service is available to residents four times a year and is widely advertised. If you require household goods to be picked up at other times phone the Council and it will arrange a pick-up for \$27.50 per item. So there really is no excuse for the lazy, irresponsible and thoughtless dumping of debris in front of your neighbour's house.

Council are asking for the assistance of the public to 'dob in a dumper', so if you see a dumper call 9391 7000. The reward for this action will be to keep the streets of west Woollahra clean and attractive.

Philip Johns



IN AN UNPRECEDENTED move, Woollahra Council workers have been very conspicuous in the West Woollahra area attending to problem footpaths and walkways.

The Queen Street shopping village has received special attention. A permeable cover has been placed around the trees which will not only protect the tree roots but allows easy access for water. Shoppers are no longer tripping over the raised concrete borders and the areas do not become a refuse for dog droppings and people's rubbish. The footpath is now wider for easy access for all patrons, especially prams. The seats have also been given a clean.

Residents at the Oxford Street end of Queen Street are also applauding the

Council for the long overdue work on broken footpaths. According to locals, these footpaths have been broken for over two years and until now have received no action whatsoever, despite repeated requests from frustrated residents.

It would appear the Mayor, John Comino, was listening at the Association's AGM when all of these points were raised. This is another reason why we will continue our campaign for his re-election as Mayor for another term. A politician who listens is quite a bonus.

We await with interest some of the other areas highlighted to Council, particularly Victoria and Wallis Streets.

Problems in your street, call Streetwatch co-ordinator, Philip Johns on 9328 1154.

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Association Anniversary

30 years on

by Robin Brampton

It all began on February 1, 1972, when some 120 local residents met in the hall of the Jewish Women's Association and decided to form what was to be known as the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

The need for such a residents' action group had recently become obvious when a disastrous scheme to push a freeway through the Jersey Road area was only defeated by a strong residents' action campaign. ('To destroy Jersey Road is to destroy Paddington')

Leo Schofield, who was to become the Association's inspiring first president, suggested that the fledgling Association should seek for the area the same 2g zoning which Paddington enjoyed. This emphasized preservation rather than ugly and out-of-scale development. The Association would also encourage sympathetic restoration of buildings and more intensive tree planting; the tidying up of back lanes; better garbage collection; and general beautification of the area.

Since that day in 1972, I have been proud to have taken a major role in the Association as author of the first constitution, president, vice president, secretary, administrator and editor for 27 years of *Village Voice*. Looking back, there is no doubt the Association's major achievement is the preservation of the charming, distinctive atmosphere and scale of the area.

In its earlier years, the Association had to fight very hard to avoid any compromise to Local Environmental Plan 24 for West Woollahra before it was adopted in 1985. Largely inspired by the Association, the plan was at the heart of what the association is all about. It placed a conservation zoning over the whole area and limited height of new buildings to 9.5 metres – effectively, no more than three stories – to preserve the scale of the existing development.

Of other Association

achievements, the one that gave me the most excitement and satisfaction was the Queen Street Fair, held from 1972 (the Association's inaugural year) until 1985. This started as a modest homespun effort and grew until had over 300 stalls, three bandstands, and closed Queen Street from Oxford to Ocean Streets. It ceased largely because it became a victim of its own success, but it inspired many similar street fairs. And before it died, it had achieved one of its main aims – focusing attention on Queen Street.

Other achievements have included:

- Persuading Woollahra Council to start an upgrading of the Queen Street footpaths and creating the Banjo Paterson Walk as a fascinating pictorial memorial to the famous Australian poet who lived in Queen Street.
 - Providing the magnificent Victorian garden fountain which forms such a notable landmark in Davies Reserve at the Oxford Street end of Queen Street.
 - Snatching Waimea House in the nick of time from being demolished; this magnificent Georgian House in Waimea Street has now been completely restored.
 - Publication in 1987 of *'Queen Street and District – a History and Guide'* to set down the area's fascinating story.
 - A series of original social events to bring the people of the area together. These have included the annual carol concert, lively entertainments and meetings with distinguished speakers.
 - Publication of *Village Voice*, delivered to all homes in the area to inform local people of association activity and alert them to local problems.
- As to the future, I believe the association's main focus must remain to preserve the character and scale of our areas against any attempt to

compromise it. This is particularly important with the Woollahra Council instituting a new Development Control Plan for the area and the State Government advocating what it calls urban consolidation (a euphemism for overcrowding).

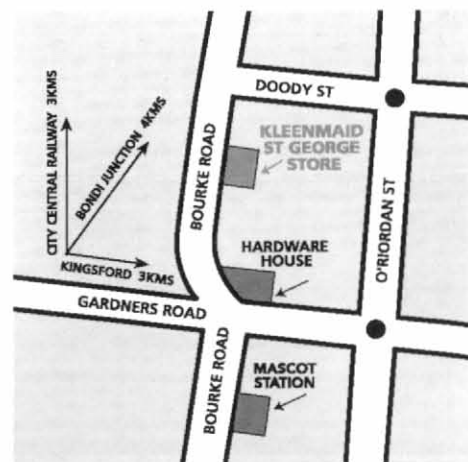
And I have a personal dream – to see 115 Queen Street no longer being allowed to rot but gloriously restored as a memo-

rial to Dame Joan Sutherland who lived there as a girl and young women. At the time of writing, I had got the Federal member, Peter King, interested enough to make an inspection of the house in the company of the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor John Comino.

Finally, my 30 years association has been rewarding; given me many fine friends; and, yes, often been great fun!



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The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association turns thirty this year

How did the Association begin?

In the fifties and sixties the formerly vibrant and bustling Queen Street had become a bit sad. Although a smattering of shops and houses were being restored many were derelict and the street looked down-at-heel. It was virtually treeless. The area was ripe for voracious developers to move in and change its character forever. High rise flats and commercial developments promised great financial rewards.

But help was at hand. Robin Brampton's article on page 5 outlines the formation of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association. Rezoning of West Woollahra to 2g status, restoration of historic buildings, intensive tree planting, cleaning up of back lanes, better garbage collection and general beautification of the area by means of a sympathetic planning scheme were to be the Association's top priorities. Local residents

were canvassed to get their support and input.

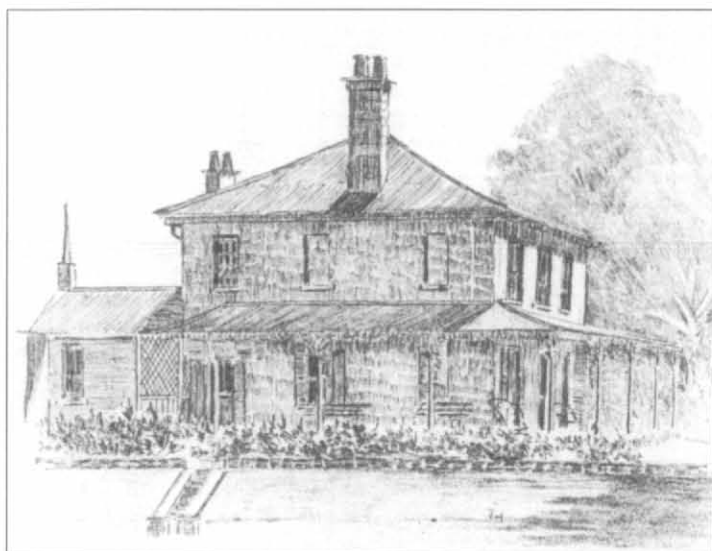
The Association's first fight was to oppose a State government proposal to build a sports complex which would encroach on Centennial Park. The Association collected 500 signatures opposing this in Queen Street alone, a huge rally was held in Centennial Park and the proposal was dropped.

Next came Waimea House. The Royal Blind Society had used this historic sandstone building as a hostel for the blind and were now proposing to demolish it to make way for a new development. Although the Association and Woollahra Council strongly opposed the demolition the Society sent in the bulldozers. Local residents persuaded the BLF to black ban its demolition, but not before the verandah, windows and most of the roof had been ripped off. A protest meeting was held on the site and a rally organised by the Association was held in Queen Street. The Blind Society stopped the demolition.

The Association supported a tree planting scheme for Queen



Volunteers from the Queen Street Association putting a temporary iron roof on Waimea House after the Royal Blind Society's unsuccessful attempt to demolish it in 1973.



Waimea House as it looked in early 1940s

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Council worker planting a tree in Queen Street in 1977.
Free planting partly funded by Association.

Street. In 1977 it donated \$2000 towards the planting of super advanced *liquidamber styraciflua* and *fraxinus pennsylvanica* which now enhance our lovely boulevard today.

However a sympathetic planning scheme was needed for the whole area. With the involvement of local architects in 1974 the Association submitted its own draft action plan to Woollahra Council. In 1976 this plan was substantially adopted by Council only to be unacceptably revised in 1978 to allow four and six storey blocks of flats in Oxford Street, facing Centennial Park. The Association and residents protested at a public meeting and the Council reversed that decision. Today's West Woollahra DCP now incorporates height provisions and conservation zoning as envisaged by the Association.

Since its beginnings thirty years ago the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has endeavoured to preserve the unique character of the area. We are continually negotiating with Council to oppose unsightly or inappropriate overdevelopment, we keep a watchdog eye on approved developments to make sure they comply with the DCP.

In recent years we have agitated Woollahra Council for the paving which now beautifies Queen Street.

We were instrumental in the installation of the beautiful fountain in Davies Reserve. We are vigilant in notifying Council of dangerous or uncleaned footpaths through our Streetwatch committee. We are mindful of the horrific parking problem in our area and the impossible traffic and are continually trying to find ways to alleviate it and to make meaningful recommendations to Council.

Another role of our Association is to let you know through this *Village Voice*, what is happening in our little bit of paradise. Council decisions, particularly development approvals or rejections, the decisions of the Land and Environment Court, dog walking rules, tree pruning or destruction, new shops and restaurants, and, of course, local gossip.

Why do you like living in this area? If you're a long-time resident have you supported those who have worked so hard to preserve your precinct? If you've recently moved here, con-



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No 115 Queen Street where Dame Joan Sutherland grew up is now sadly neglected and in disrepair.

sider why you have chosen our area. Is it the shops, the convenience, the history, the ambience?

The QS&WWA is working hard to preserve this. But we need your support. At the very least join the Association. The work of the committee of the QSWWA is entirely voluntary, but we can't operate without enough funds.

Don't be apathetic and think that others can pay to look after your interests. Your small annual subscription can make a difference. Join the Association now.

Phone 93281154, fax 93281157,
email info@queenstreetassoc.com,
write Box 16 PO Woollahra 2025.

I & B Perryman Oriental Carpets – 100 Queen Street

Ian and Belinda Perryman have lived in Queen Street since 1990, plying their trade of buying, selling and restoring old rugs. Operating from small premises in 1990, they soon found that they had to move to accommodate the beginnings of an expanding family and a growing business.

Two moves later, the Perrymans can be found at 100 Queen Street, a building with a fascinating history. It began life as a private residence in the mid 1880s. The façade, which is unique to the street, was in fact a later addition and the shop front was added around the turn of last century. It is believed to have been an apothecary at this time and the old lantern, which still adorns the front of the building, was to advertise the business. During recent renovations, much needed maintenance to the under floor area, turned up numerous old bottles of

varying shapes and colours, some still filled with strange looking substances of that era.

The building has been used for various purposes during the 1900s. An old card was found detailing the opening times of "The Little Gem Library" and this was confirmed by a visitor to the shop recently who had lived here as a boy when it was a bookshop.

Between the two world wars, the building was used as a boarding house and even had the room numbers still on the doors when the Perrymans moved in.

For thirty years it was the home of "Etcetera" a gift shop which is still fondly remembered by many. The shop was closed in 1995, whereafter, Ian and Belinda moved into 'that pretty shop at 100' they had always admired, with their two children Alex and Holly.

The front two rooms of 100 acted as the showroom for Perryman Oriental Rugs but it soon became apparent that this space was inadequate for their needs, sadly forcing the family to live elsewhere to allow expansion of the business into the upper levels.

A major extension has now been completed which has doubled the size of the ground floor showroom, leaving the upstairs rooms for restoration and cleaning of rugs.

Belinda states they love dealing in old rugs. The old pieces have a 'soul' not



found in the mass produced pieces of today, and the old tribal pieces particularly, have a history of the people who wove them that is fascinating. When decorating a room, an old carpet adds a layering which gives depth and character and like antique furniture, old rugs have a patina; the wool gets a

shine, and even wear enhances the design, making it crisper. Some pieces in stock will look even better after a further 20 years of use!

All stock is personally chosen and no container loads are purchased. "Old, beautiful and interesting" is how Belinda describes their criteria and the hardest part of the business is finding suitable stock.

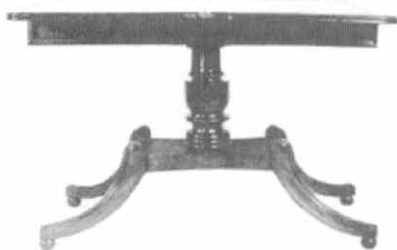
In addition to the old, on offer are contemporary pieces that are handmade using antique designs, vegetable dyes, and high quality wool, they are woven using traditional methods.

If the perfect piece still cannot be found in stock, orders can be taken for any size and design, from Zeigler designs to contemporary minimalist patterns with a wide range of colours on hand from which to choose.

A visit to I & B Perryman Oriental Carpets will not only be an enjoyable experience, the wealth of knowledge from Ian and Belinda may help you turn up that rug you have always desired.

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COUNCIL RATES TO RISE

Environmental levy approved

WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL HAS been granted a special variation to the rate rise of 3.3 per cent approved for all councils in April this year. An additional rise of 4.51 per cent has been granted to fund an environmental works program.

The levy will be used for stormwater management to improve water quality in the harbour, prevention of pollution and litter entering the harbour, and bushland vegetation programs.

This environmental levy will add between \$30 to \$40 a year to the existing rates.



Move to curtail shonky building approvals

Woollahra Council has made submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry into the State Government's building approval process.

The QSWWA has long questioned the practice, introduced in 1998, whereby developers could circumvent Council inspection by hiring a private operator to certify building works. This has resulted in a number of substandard buildings and an often catastrophic impact on neighbourhood properties.

Payment for Fast Tracking DAS deemed illegal

WE REPORTED IN our last edition that developers and owner builders would be able to fast track their applications for a fee. The State government has now deemed this practice is illegal and so everyone will have to take their turn in the queue.

South Sydney loses boundary takeover appeal

SOUTH SYDNEY COUNCIL has lost its attempt to stop the boundary takeover by the City of Sydney. The new mayor is now talking about compromise. Woollahra Council did not contest the takeover of Bondi Junction in the Court, expecting any appeal to be rejected, and incurring extra cost. It would seem the Council thought it would get a better deal if it accepted the recommended takeover and then asked for compensation. However it seems the ratepayers will cop it as the Council has requested a 3.5 per cent increase in rates to cover the boundary adjustment in Bondi Junction.

A possible rise of over eleven per cent

If all goes according to Council's plan ratepayers will be hit for the approved 3.3 per cent rise, plus the environmental levy of 4.51 per cent, plus the 3.5 increase to cover boundary adjustment.



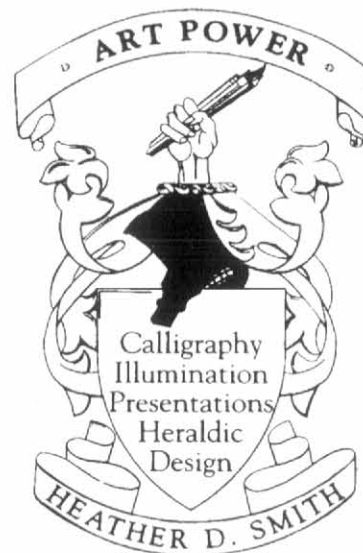
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→ WELCOME

arrivals, departures and relocations

Katie Davenport, daughter of the very successful clothes boutique owner Liz Davenport has opened her own boutique at 160 Queen Street. Called **Made in Heaven**, the boutique has wonderful one-off gear for girls and young women. Bridesmaid's dresses are a speciality. **Made in Heaven** has two other outlets in Melbourne.

Household Linens has opened its second Australian store at 94 Queen Street. The cool and contemporary looking shop stocks bed linen, sheets and accessories from all over the world as well as sumptuous merino wool blankets. The company is New Zealand owned. These Kiwis are not only good at rugby.

Designer Tim O'Conner has opened his first retail premises at 86 Queen Street. Tim's label is aimed at women between 25 and 35. "She's a sexy woman, confident in her role, a touch sassy and extremely classy", says Tim. Should add to the pleasures of the *passagiato* in Queen Street.

Chargrill Charlies in Queen Street has finally opened (a premature notice in the last VV) and is proving to be very popular.



Their organic, free range chickens are very plump and actually have taste. A range of other meals is also available. The sensible closing time of 8.00pm, means that many a local has rushed in for a last minute dinner idea.

L.J Hooker who only recently opened a new office in Moncur Street, have already found the need for larger premises. They are on the move to offices in Jersey Road right next door to the Lord Dudley Hotel. Michael and Kristalla look forward to seeing you in their new office.

That little part of Oxford Street between Jersey Road and Queen Street which is part of this area, continues to see a high turnover of businesses. Another dress shop has gone, to be replaced by **Industrial Strength**, a shop catering for the young and hip.

Work has started on a \$500,000 scheme for restoration of All Saints Church in Ocean Street. The imposing building was designed by the celebrated Victorian church architect, Edmund Blacket.

To raise money for an appeal, on Friday, November 8, a dinner with band entertainment and an auction will be held at Paddington Bowling Club. Local businesses have generously offered superb items for the auction.

Inquiries about subscribing to the appeal and tickets for November 8 to Rev Paul Weaver, Rector of All Saints, 85 Ocean Street, Woollahra, phone 9363 1504.



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chat street

Camphor Laurel Saga continues. The owners of the retaining wall damaged by the roots of a camphor laurel tree growing on the footpath in Edgecliff Road won their appeal in the Supreme Court in April this year. The Court decreed that the damage done by the tree to the wall is the responsibility of Council and although the court cannot force Council to remove the tree Council will be liable for any damage to the wall and property. The owners claim that the issue is also one of public safety. If so damages could be enormous.

The fountain in Davies Reserve is still not working. Come on Council, get a plumber!

The three vacant shops 74, 76 and 78 Queen Street have now been sold. They were bought by Theo Onisforou, one of Jamie Packer's right hand men for the tidy sum of \$4.85 million. We hear he bought some property in Melbourne on the same day.

Two of the three shops from above have been leased with a bookshop and café in one. With the rent set at around \$1,800 per week, that is a lot of coffee to sell.

Real estate expert Max Raine of Raine and Horne has put a cat amongst the pigeons. He has suggested that the

Anglican Church should rationalise its assets. He points out that Woollahra Council has eight Anglican churches in the municipality and with the shrinking congregations some church property could be put to better use, such as retirement villages, charity or the building of new churches where they are needed. Mr Raine is a churchgoing Anglican

Residents have long become used to various picketers carrying anti-abortion placards on the corner of Queen and Ocean Streets. It seems as if the doctor's surgery has moved at last. In its place will be Robin Cosgrove Rugs who are relocating from their Transvaal Ave store in Double Bay. No protest about that.

Holdsworth Street Community Centre held a winter warm up and sausage sizzle on August 30 to celebrate the Centre's thirtieth birthday and the thirtieth birthday of the QSWWA. The Centre has been given a grant by Council to upgrade its playground so there was extra cause for celebration. All the community was invited and more than 250 people of all ages turned up to eat drink and dance. A real community event. Ariel Marguin is the Chair of the Centre and a member of our committee.


Congratulations to Woollahra resident David Aitkin who was awarded the



David Aitkin

Medal of the Order of Australia for services in the field of administration of medicine, health and aged care and as a board member and chairman of St Luke's Hospital in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. David is a staunch supporter of the QSWWA.

A return to Queen Street for Bill Bridges and sister, Shirley Cassim-Hole. Along with Shirley's son Michael Cassim, they head up Cassim Real Estate, upstairs at 101 Queen Street. Bill and Shirley sold real estate out of 82 Queen Street in the 60s and 70s before spending 20 years in Double Bay.



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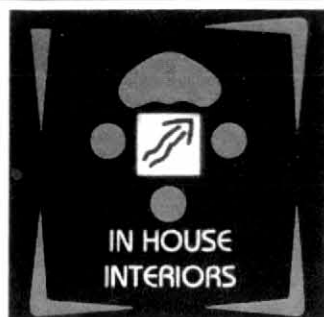
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