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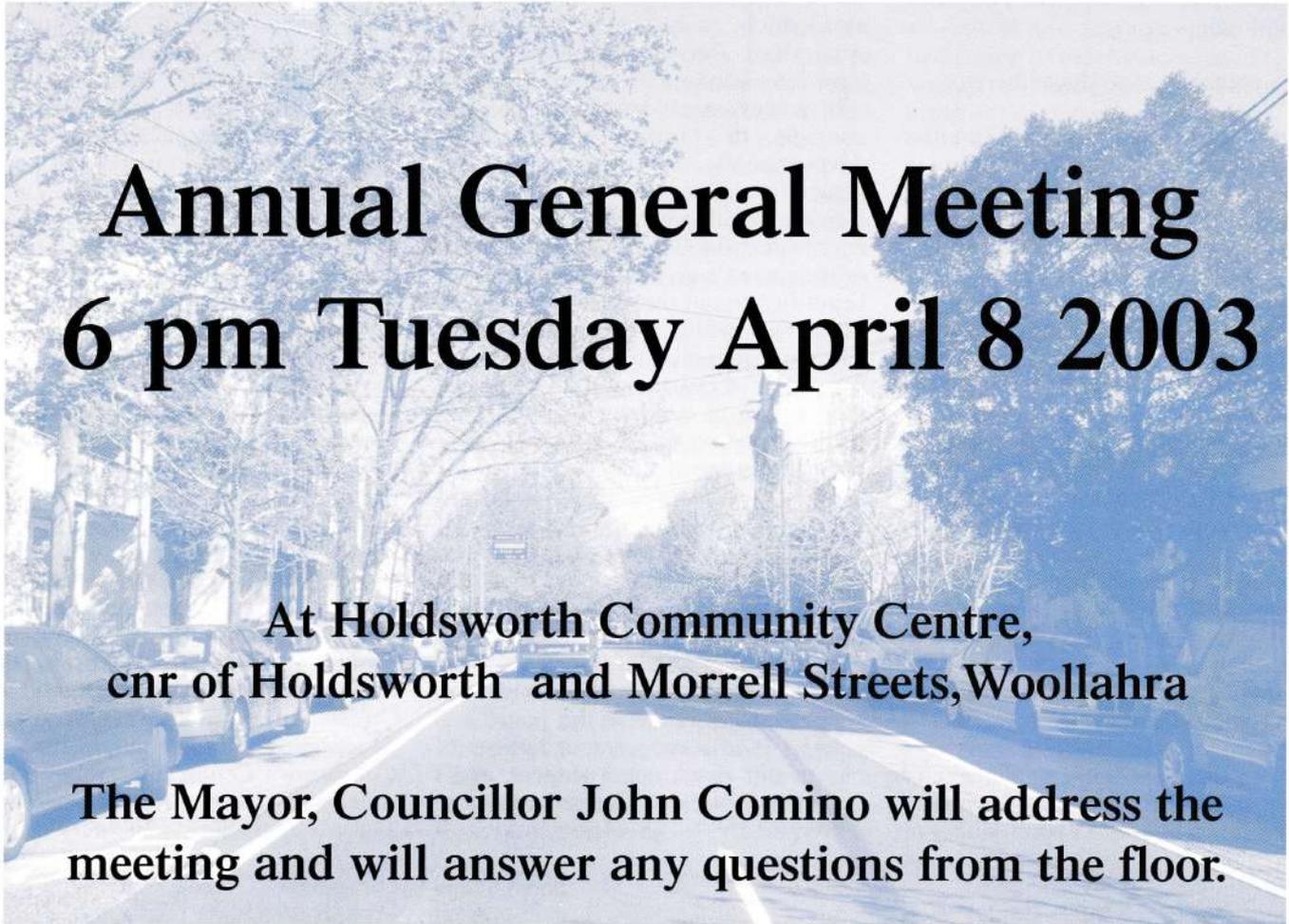


Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 78 April 2003

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association



Annual General Meeting 6 pm Tuesday April 8 2003

At Holdsworth Community Centre,
cnr of Holdsworth and Morrell Streets, Woollahra

The Mayor, Councillor John Comino will address the meeting and will answer any questions from the floor.

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West Woollahra in Canberra?

Well not really, but a speech made by local Federal Member, Peter King, in Parliament last year, highlighted the continued good work of our local community groups, The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association and the Holdsworth Street Community Centre. It is great that the efforts of these organisations have received due recognition.

The speech is reproduced here:

'Many members are no doubt familiar with the suburb of Woollahra in Sydney, whose residents I have the privilege of representing in this parliament. Its rich heritage and village atmosphere make it a unique and well-known part of Sydney.

When you visit Woollahra today and admire its residences, tree-lined streets and thriving small businesses, it is hard to believe that not too long ago many of those features that are now taken for granted were under threat from plans for major road expansions and development proposals out of step with its character. The fact that Woollahra has survived, and flourished, is a result of the dedication of its residents, who have fought to improve and protect the area.

Tonight I want to pay tribute to two organisations that have celebrated their 30th anniversaries recently and have been, in different but complementary ways, at the forefront of community efforts to make Woollahra a better place for those who live and work in the neighbourhood.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association was formed in 1972 following attempts to convert

Jersey Road to a freeway – a proposal that would have, as the campaign said at the time, destroyed Paddington.

The Association was successful in that campaign; I suspect not least of all because it had as its inaugural president, one Leo Scholfield.

Since then the society has been a guardian for the local community and the wonderful heritage values of the area which, as a former chair of the Australian Heritage Commission, I have long admired.

Its achievements are many; planning controls to prevent inappropriate developments; the saving of Waimea House from demolition; action to stop a sports development that would have encroached on Centennial Park – one of the nation's greatest parklands – the beautification of the streets; the Queen Street Fair, which ran for two decades; and the installation of the fountain, on the corner of Queen and Oxford Street, that motorists continue to admire on their way to work. That was installed during my time as a councillor.

Just a few weeks ago, one of the society's longest serving members, Robin Brampton, enlisted my support to save a grand residence at 115 Queen Street. It was the childhood home of Dame Joan Sutherland and is, sadly, now decaying rapidly. I hope the State government will seriously consider our suggestion to purchase the house and convert it to a museum in honour of one of our finest opera singers, and I hope that Woollahra Council acts more determinedly to investigate what it might be able to do.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the work of the current committee of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, including

the president, Heather Smith; and Philip Johns, the vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

I also want to congratulate the Holdsworth Street Community Centre on its achievements over the thirty years since its establishment.

The centre was established in response to the concerns of the parents of the Woollahra Public School, who were worried that students were becoming latchkey kids. With the support of the Woollahra Council, the centre began providing services for local young people, such as holiday programs and after school care.

In the 1970s it expanded to become a neighbourhood community centre, and the range of services it provides has grown in every decade since. Its services now assist its original constituency of young people along with older Australians, people with disabilities, families, carers and those who need transport assistance. The chair of the centre, Ariel Marguin, and the director, Pam Goodwin, now ably lead the centre.

These two organisations work together well, and I was delighted to be able to attend a community party at the Holdsworth Street Community Centre recently to celebrate their achievements. Most importantly, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association and the Holdsworth Street Community Centre have reinforced a sense of community in the area. Their activities have brought neighbours together, and that sense of community in our highly urbanised areas is something that is as difficult to protect as are our fine buildings.

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, Drew Robertson, Annette

Robinson, Alan Smith

Association Website: www.queenstreetassoc.com



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President's Report

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has gone from strength to strength, with increased membership both corporate and individual and gained a higher profile through a variety of functions. Throughout the year, the Association has created an opportunity for locals to meet and exchange ideas and also to have fun with family and friends.

To recap, the Annual General Meeting, held at the Holdsworth Street Community Centre, was very successful with guest speaker Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor John Comino. Councillor Comino was very thorough in addressing issues raised by interested and concerned residents alike.

The retirement of Immediate Past President, long serving committee member, local identity and speech maker extraordinaire Mr Graham Freudenberg, was celebrated in May at the Hughenden Boutique Hotel with a Gilbert & Sullivan musical evening. Opera Australia's Stuart Maunder and Ann-Maree McDonald gave a delightful performance, with the finale, an especially witty tribute to Graham written by Stuart Maunder. Certainly, laughter was the best that evening.

The Association's 30th birthday and

Annual Dinner was an elegant occasion held at Pruniers with the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer, Senator the Honorable Helen Coonan. The Senator gave a lively and anecdotal talk and spent considerable time mingling with guests.

Our last function of the year was the Community Carols held in Chiswick Gardens. The weather was very kind as were all our terrific sponsors the local retailers, businesses, and residents who supported the event in a big way and whose generosity enabled us to include a jumping castle and face painting. Thanks must also go the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra and the Choir of All Saints for donation of their time.

In between organising all the above, the Committee has been pursuing ongoing issues such as our Woollahra Development Control Plan, inappropriate development applications, the Queen Street refurbishment and traffic and parking with representation to Council. Our Street-Watch committee has been monitoring and liaising with Council on safety issues with pavements, curbs and tree roots.

The forthcoming AGM will see the completion of my third term as President, but I will not be seeking re-election for this position. My time as

President has been thoroughly enjoyable, however, it is important to keep developing objectives and ideas to preserve our beautiful suburb of Woollahra and it is therefore important to have new energy at the helm. My thanks to the committee for all their dedication, support and work in their various areas of expertise. A special mention to Philip Johns for his support of myself and the committee and his dedication to the Association. My best wishes to the new President and committee, and hope you will give them your utmost support – after all, it is your Association.

My thanks also to the Mayor, John Comino, whose door has always been open and to Council staff who are a mine of information and both willing and enthusiastic in its imparting. Finally my thanks to you for your support

With warmest best wishes
Heather Smith
President

Correction

The last issue of *Village Voice* contained a short article on the undergrounding of cables in Manion Ave Rose Bay. It appears that our information was incorrect and we apologise for the error.

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It's good to see the footpaths in Queen Street receiving some attention, however a number of other concerns have been brought to our attention.

There is an increasing number of elderly people who are using motorised scooters to get around the area and they are having difficulty in getting onto footpaths. Quite a number of footpaths do not have access ramps. We have identified many of them but if you have noticed a problem please contact us.

The drought is causing severe problems for all gardens, but Davies Reserve is a shambles. The planting of flowers during the Olympics made this a very agreeable area but through neglect there are only some hardy plants left. The accumulation of pizza trays, beer bottles and other rubbish is just adding to the overall poor appearance of this once pretty park.

The fountain appears to be an ongoing problem and has not worked since December.

The Queen Street Refurbishment program appears to have stalled. The next stage is to be the upgrading of the footpaths around the Woollahra Hotel and the Post Office. An allocation of funds was in the last budget but there is no sign of when to expect work to begin.

The porous surrounds of the trees in the village area of Queen Street are starting to deteriorate and the seats in the area are becoming very dirty. Unfortunately, patrons of the food shops are using the area as a rubbish tip although bins are nearby.

Surely the shop owners could help clean up this area.

The 'no stopping' signs erected at the Queen Street and Holdsworth Steet corner have just meant less parking spaces and therefore more illegal parking. This corner is still just as dangerous as before the signs were erected. The area should be regularly policed by parking officers and illegal parkers fined.

The elderly and not-so elderly are having trouble crossing Queen Street safely. The double parking and traffic speed is creating a dangerous situation. Soon someone will be hurt. The installation of a narrowed road pedestrian crossing is being investigated.

Are there other problems out there? Let us know about them and give us feedback on the above problems.

Philip Johns

Energy Australia says trees trimmed for safety reasons

Speaking at the invitation of Woollahra Council, Energy Australia's manager of contract operations said that the intensive tree lopping was done in the interest of safety. He said that in the past tree trimming was done by local councils and that some councils had allowed trees to interfere with lines to the point that they did not comply with Australian safety standards. Cr Andrew Petrie said the pruning was 'butchery, not trimming'. All the more reason for undergrounding cables.



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letters

to the editor

Council Officers need a lesson in common courtesy

Three months ago the gas company was called in to our neighbour's property to install a gas line. They cut a trench in the pavement outside our property to connect their new line to our existing one, only to find that a gas line already existed outside their property and had been disconnected. They filled in the trench but did not repair the footpath. We asked them to repair the footpath and were told that they could not do so as this was the responsibility of Council. They would inform Council. A yellow line was marked around the area for repair. After a month and no repair I telephoned Council. They would get back to me. No reply. My wife again telephoned Council and was informed there was no record of the previous call but they would now contact her. No contact. She again telephoned. Yes they would get back to her. No contact. My neighbour then telephoned. On her third call she was able to get onto the person in charge. Yes they knew about it but it was not high priority. What do we have to do to get our pavement repaired?

M. Robinson Holdsworth Street

A bus user answers

I agree with Philip Johns that there is insufficient parking (VV July 2002) in our neck of the woods. Mrs Wilhelm (VV Oct 2002) states there is and people are lazy and do not bother driving around to find parking. M. McAlary (VV Oct 2002) claims people have cars and do not use public transport, and did not use the banks nor the post office so they closed. From my observation, people do use the post office rather a lot and they did use the both the Commonwealth and Westpac banks as much as they would allow.

An unused bus route was the 327, now replaced by the 200, along Ocean Street. This gave access to New South Head Road, otherwise denied to residents of West Woollahra and Paddington except by car. As the 327 was often late or early it was hard to catch. Most people also had to walk a long distance to its stops. Further it served an extremely expensive area where most people except the elderly and young have cars.

Why is there so little access to New South Head Road from here? Or anywhere near Oxford Street, Randwick, Surry Hills, etc?

Bearing this in mind, more parking is required for the selfish and lazy who will then not park illegally across your driveway or on your land.

Parking should be allowed along Oxford Street which should not be a clearway as it is largely residential and classified as 2A by Woollahra Council. Cars drive along there at 80-90kph which is illegal; allowable parking would perhaps stop that. Angle parking everywhere is a good idea.

S. Standley, Oxford Street

More parking places please

It appears the bus lobby has targeted Philip Johns' article in the Village Voice and says everyone should use public transport. The Government has been attempting to get people into public transport for years with little success.

The eastern suburbs is probably one of the better served communities in Australia for public transport. Buses, trains and ferries all service this area and are extremely well patronised.

What correspondents Wilhelm and McAlary apparently do not realise is that people from other areas park in our streets and take the bus into the city. Centennial Park is already used for all day parking. The Centennial Park Trust knows this and has tried to introduce parking meters for the privilege of easy parking. Which is probably fair enough. Parking in the eastern suburbs is now a privilege which unfortunately will cost the car drivers. If they want the convenience of parking out the front of their destination then they will have to pay for it. Toll roads are now an accepted way of life and so will be parking meters.

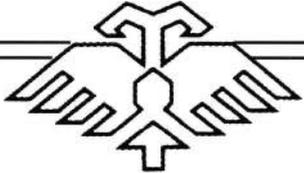
I would be quite happy to pay to park in Queen Street to do my shopping but it may mean that the shop owners will have to park somewhere else instead of in front of their shops.

J Power, Oxford Street

Wallis Street parking?

These is no parking in Wallis Street so bring on the angle parking

P. McKenzie, Wallis Street



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arrivals, departures and relocations

Queen Street continues to attract the big names in fashion retail with designer **Robert Burton**, the latest to move into the area. Located at 10A Queen Street, Robert Burton's boutique offers an eclectic mix of fashion and homewares. The popular Mavi jeans from Turkey, tailored shirts and shoes, stationery, bed linen and towels, glassware and Diesel baggage can all be found in this elegant store.

Edith's Place, Bookstore & Café, at 78 Queen Street, opened on February 24 with a huge crowd of book lover and coffee connoisseurs attending to chat and listen to some great jazz. Author Libby Hathorne, a local resident, gave the welcoming address. The shop, owned by Sandy Parr, brings back a little of the old Queen Street with its ambience, quality second hand books and private Mediterranean style courtyard. Customers are welcome to browse, buy or exchange a book or meet friends for a chat over lunch or a coffee. Delicious food is available at any time during the day. The café has a happy hour when coffee is available for just \$2.00.

The decline in antique dealers in the area continues with three dealers closing shops. **Andrew Simpson** of Simpson Antiques has moved from his bolthole at 38 Queen Street, **Carlborg Antiques** has closed its shop in Queens Court and **Gaslight Antiques** has closed one of its two outlets.

Juel, hand-made contemporary jewellery designers have taken over the Queens Court premises. Designers and owners Elsa McMahon and Tegan Arnold already have successful outlet in Balmain.

Gould Galleries has moved to bigger premises by taking the

afore-mentioned Gaslight Antiques shop at 110 Queen Street, which means that an empty shop now exists at 90 Queen Street.. Not for long.

It looks as if **Woollahra Galleries Antique Centre** fronting Oxford Street and Wallis Streets is going too. Planning approval has been given for a new apartment building on the site. Designed by Ercole Palazzetti the \$5.7 million project is for seven three-bedroom units including a penthouse. The Centre building dates back to 1893 and was originally the Parisian Laundry which operated until 1980.

Speaking of art galleries, **Michael Nagy Gallery** has opened at 53 Jersey Road, next door to **Susan Avery Floral Decorators**. The remodelled space has a great feel and currently there is an exhibition by Gary Shead.

A totally new addition to the street is **The Scheibner Centre**. Located at 87 Queen Street the centre is the first full time laser dermatology centre in the world and was founded in 1983 by Dr Adrianna Scheibner. It specialises in treatments for the rejuvenation of the skin, repairing sun damage and scar treatments.

The exuberant and exclusive **Dutch fashion label Oilily** has taken up residence at 74 Queen Street. Oilily stocks Europe's present season of children's wear and is the exclusive Australian retailer of Oilily women's wear. VV recently attended a wedding where the two tiny flowergirls wore identical Oilily white flower appliqué dresses. Gorgeous!

Richardson and Wrench has now changed names to become Snowden Lane. They have the same staff, the same premises and the same excellent service.

No 76 Queen Street is being refitted as this Village Voice goes to print but we can tell you that **KA International** will be moving in. KA International will be able to assist clients for all interior decorating needs. They will stock an exquisite range of textured woven fabrics, wallpapers and trims, as well as classical, contemporary and wrought iron furniture. An interior decorating service will be provided. The shop will be ready for business in late April.

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chat street

Woollahra was again well represented on the **Australia Day Honours List** with several locals receiving recognition for their valuable work in many fields. Congratulations to Ann Scholfield AM, Diana Fisher OAM, Richard Hein AM, Emeritus Professor Robert Nettheim AO, Richard Gulley AM, Professor Robert Andry AM, and Mark Taylor AO.

The sedate streets of Woollahra were recently under siege from a loud and aggressive young lady conducting a quite unlady-like phone call to her boyfriend. Locals and the guests at the **Hughenden Hotel** were bemused for twenty minutes before the young lady finally smashed a window in the phone box and stormed off down the street.

Congratulations to the local State Members of Parliament in the recent election. **Clover Moore** once again has kept the independent banner flying with a resounding seven and a half percent increase win in Bligh and **Peter Debnam** has been returned in Vaucluse. If only all the candidates were as quick as Clover to remove their pole posters.

Although **Dr Barri Phatarford**, the Labor Candidate for Bligh did not touch Clover for votes VV was impressed by the fact that Barri did a personal door knock in the streets of Woollahra.

The **Holdsworth Street Community Centre** has a new Director. Congratulations to Lynne Dalton. We wish her well in a most demanding and worthwhile job. The Holdsworth Centre is soon to be upgraded and the concept plan is on display at the Centre and at Council Chambers.

Well known local resident **Robin Brampton** sent in the following report about a book launch which is very close to Queen Street.

'*Mad about the Boy*, a new novel by British born Australian journalist and writer, Maggie Alderson, was launched late last year before a huge crowd in Queens Court. And with good reason. The book's heroine-narrator runs an antiques shop, quaintly called Anteesk, first in Moncur Street then in Queen Street, also she lives in Holdsworth Street.

The vivacious Maggie and her Penguin Books editor, Julie Gibbs, both made speeches far more lighthearted and amusing than is usual at such gatherings. As for the book itself, it is both lively and crisply written, if a trifle melodramatic in its denouement. Could Eastern Suburbs personalities really be as unprincipled and devious as portrayed?

The plot concerns one Antonia Heavringham whose aristocratic



Maggie Alderson and her Penguin Books editor, Julie Gibbs.

husband acknowledges his homosexuality and deserts her when they emigrate from Britain to Sydney. She finds solace and a great deal more of an intimate nature when she gets together with a superbly built, but enigmatic, instructor at Muscle City, the gym she attends.

The novel appears authentic in its detail of the wiles of the antiques trade and the muscle business. And the author has a fascinating character in Antonia's faded actor Uncle Percy, ever on the quest for another homosexual encounter.

And for a local touch, Antonia's comfort food when feeling neglected is the deliciously light orange cake at Agostinis in Queens Court. *Mad about the Boy*, a Penguin original is available at Lesley McKays Bookstore, also in QueensCourt, for \$22.95.'

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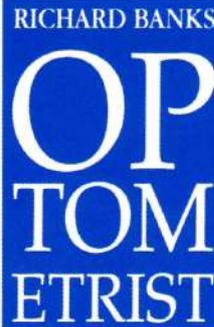
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