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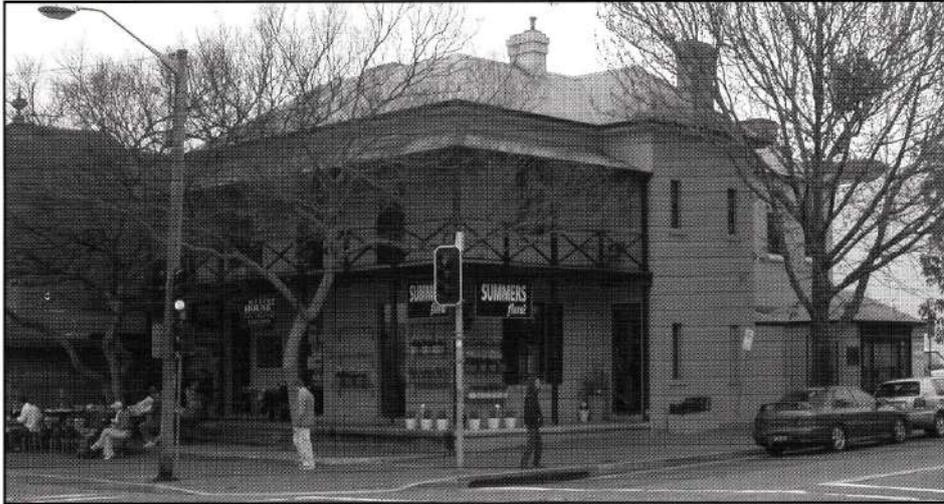


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Village Voice

Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 79 September 2003



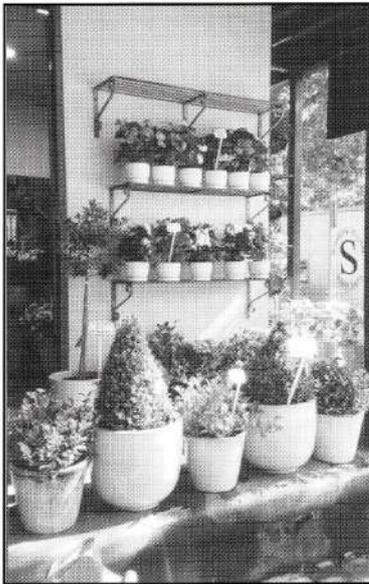
Queen Street has undergone many changes in recent years and mostly for the better. One of the better changes that occurred was the removal of the less than attractive shops on the corner of Queen Street and Moncur Street to reveal the magnificent two storey house with prominent balconies all round.

To add to the beauty of this corner has been the operation of Summers Floral since 1994. The setback from the intersection and the array of flowers on the verandah make for an inviting and pleasant appearance for all Queen Street shoppers.

Summers Floral is owned by Mark and Fleur Vander Straaten and they find the warm village atmosphere that Woollahra has to offer a bonus for their business. Running a flower shop is not all about pretty flower arrangements because a visit to the markets at 4.00am three or four times a week can make for some fairly long days as well as test your resolve on those recent cold mornings.

A wander through the verandah and the front part of the shop shows an abundant display of fresh seasonal flowers and plants overflowing the room. The experienced and very attentive staff will create beautiful arrangements for any occasion be that a simple gift or fresh flowers for the home. Of course weddings are a specialty.

Above, Queen and Moncur Streets showing the magnificent two storey house. Left, How the same building looked during the early 1960s.



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Report on the Eighteenth AGM

held on Tuesday April 18 at the Holdsworth Centre

Heather Smith, President of the Association for the past three years informed the meeting that she would not be standing for re-election. She spoke of the achievements of the Association particularly noting the growing popularity of the Christmas carols in the community. Five years ago about 30 people attended; in 2002 over 400 adults and children joined the celebrations. The annual dinners have also been most successful with interesting speakers from the community adding to their appeal. Village Voice has brought community issues to the notice of its residents and has agitated to retain the unique quality of our area.

The new President Ken Gresham took the Chair and thanked Heather for her enthusiasm, innovation and effort during the past three years. He assured the floor that the Association, through Village Voice, would continue its good work keeping the community aware of issues such as the pending DCP, the Streetwatch program, traffic, parking and street maintenance.

The Mayor, John Comino then spoke. He discussed the growing problem of development in West Woollahra and the need for stringent zoning controls. The long-awaited DCP was to be released in May for public scrutiny in June and July and would hopefully be adopted in August. The increase in traffic congestion is being continually addressed by Council and community meetings are welcomed for feedback. The controversial Di Jones DA in the old church on the corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street was rejected by Council as inappropriate. The car park at 109 Queen Street is being investigated for develop-

ment to increase available parking. Illegal parking should be reported to the parking officers by phoning Council. Footpath upgrading continues; the next section to be attended to will be between Moncur Street and Halls Lane. Ramp access is being addressed. The Council is aware of the parking problems in the very narrow Spicer and Alton Streets.

A number of questions on various issues were addressed to the Mayor from the floor. These issues included footpath and street maintenance (including Davies Reserve), the difficulties for the aged and infirm on the streets, illegal parking (including resident parking in Jersey Road), and the impact of the Cross City Tunnel on our roads. Specific questions included the demolition of Woollahra Galleries, inappropriate 'no stopping' signs in Holdsworth Street, the closing of the library at the Holdsworth Centre, Wallis Street parking and tree planting and the heritage value of 265 Edgecliff Road. One pertinent question asked what controls existed to prevent unacceptable DAs being approved before the West Woollahra DCP comes into force.

The mayor noted the issues raised and followed this up on May 5 by sending the President a list of those issues he had taken up with members of the Council staff.

To date we have received confirmation from the Mayor that parking patrol officers have been instructed to enforce all parking and no stopping restrictions. Woollahra Galleries is not listed as a heritage item as the substantially altered Federation warehouse is later than the key period of conservation

significance. Therefore demolition was supported and the new application approved as an appropriate design for the site. Approval has already been granted for the demolition of 265 Edgecliff Road. The detrimentally altered building was considered not to have sufficient heritage significance to warrant its retention.

Until the Woollahra Heritage Conservation Area DCP is adopted Residential DCP 1995 will continue to apply to development within the Woollahra Heritage Conservation Area.

We await the comments of the mayor on the other issues raised.
Annette Robinson

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Annual Membership subscription rates:

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

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President: Ken Gresham

Vice President: Drew Robertson

Treasurer: Philip Johns

Committee: Ian Angus, Peter Benjamin, Lyndall Crisp, Ian Mansell, Annette Robinson, Alan Smith, Heather Smith

Association Website: www.queenstreetassoc.com



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A message from the new President, Ken Gresham

My recent election as President of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has prompted me to reflect on the place of such organizations in the big picture of an international city of four million.

When I moved with my family into West Woollahra some twelve years ago, we had made a lifestyle choice based on the environment, atmosphere, facilities and location. In addition I believed then as I do now that this area is unique in this city, with an indefinable charm and village atmosphere reflecting an elegance, whether planned or accidental, in which city living is made complete.

An early realization of the threats to the preservation of the lifestyle into which I had purchased prompted me to become a member and later a director of our Association.

The increasing pressures of over development combined with increasing commuter traffic needs to be addressed on an ongoing basis if we are to maintain our community interest.

Over development of our gener-

ally small sites with the attendant intrusion into our streetscapes and privacy are of concern. That is why our Association has been pressing Woollahra Council to fast track the new Development Control Plan (DCP) which will more clearly define and give clearer development direction to maintain the unique scale and style of West Woollahra.

The Council has spent time and considerable sums of the ratepayers' funds to fight the good fight but has not always succeeded as the existing DCP does not have sufficient clarity in its form, leading to some unfortunate decisions in the courts allowing buildings to be out of scale and style for the area.

This all has to be rationalized as we must accept that people do not spend the high cost of buying into this environment without wishing to live in the twenty first century and so provision must be made for air conditioning, swimming pools etc provided that this does not visually impact on the environment.

Commuter traffic continues to

increase from and to our southern neighbours and yet Oxford Street remains an under utilized thoroughfare for city bound traffic. Instead the traffic design exacerbates the problem of commuter traffic through our smaller residential streets. The new threat of increased traffic accessing the cross city tunnel remains a future challenge and we are yet to be satisfied as to its ultimate impact.

In addition to protecting our lifestyle our Association is a communal organization, which among other things encourages local business and runs community events such as our Christmas Carols and annual dinner.

So, my message is "if you like your life in West Woollahra help the new Board of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association to continue to protect and enhance it".

The cost of *Village Voice* and the ongoing tasks are only paid for by membership of the Association and by local advertisers who we encourage you to support.

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street watch

Council is in the process of replacing the paved pram ramps in the Queen Street shopping centre with dove grey coloured concrete ramps. The reasons for changing to concrete are that the concrete grip is better, the concrete can be moulded to suit various angles and slopes (unlike pavers) and that the coloured concrete provides a visual contrast for those with visual impairment.

In response to many complaints about cars parking on both corners of Queen and Holdsworth Streets, making it impossible for drivers to see oncoming traffic, the Council installed 'no stopping' signs. Even this and assiduous fining by council officers has not deterred offenders. Soon landscaped kerb blister islands will be installed on each corner to prevent parking within the 'no stopping' zones. Will a coffee or newspaper stop be worth the resultant fine for parking on the blister?

On the Queens Court side of Queen Street a coloured line will be painted on the kerb within the existing 'no stopping' zone to alert drivers to the dangers of park-

ing on the corner and impeding buses from turning from Moncur Street into Queen Street.

Annette Robinson

OCEAN STREET TRAFFIC

Under the freedom of information act, we have discovered that the RTA will receive a share of the Cross City Tunnel toll money, for any vehicles in excess of the predicted number. A good reason to underestimate traffic numbers. The RTA figures say we have 19000 vehicles a day. Council figures say 28000 last August and up to 37000 during the Olympics.

However the Conditions of Approval for the Cross City Tunnel put a limit of 25490 vehicles a day on Ocean St. If traffic increases substantially the RTA is required to divert it.

The Queen St & West Woollahra Association, The Paddington Society & OSNOF are cooperating to get better traffic management for the benefit of us all.

For more information contact Keith Sole. Tel 93287131 email: keithkc@bigpond.com

LET'S HELP THE POLICE TO HELP US

As a representative of the QSWWA, I attended a meeting of the Police Accountability Community Team

(PACT). PACT provides an opportunity for us to work with the police to find local solutions to local problems.

PACT aims to make police more accountable to their local communities by providing a forum for the community to discuss and question the local police about policing strategies utilized to combat crime and to enhance the feeling of safety and security. Congratulations to the NSW Police for their willingness to hold their strategies up for public scrutiny.

The presentation covered crime statistics from 2000 to 2003, and all crime areas showed a downward trend.

The next public meeting of PACT will be held on 14 October from 6.15 - 7.00pm at Council Chambers. We all have a vested interest to attend and to work with our local police.

On a different aspect of community responsibility, you will be aware of the ongoing trend of party gate-crashing. Measures can be taken to limit the risk: notify neighbours, make parties 'invitation only', consider fire safety, security (a valuables safe), and your responsibility when you allow minors to consume alcohol on your premises. Contact Police Youth Liaison Officer: 9362 6399 or

Woollahra Council Youth Services Development Officer 9391 7170.
Heather Smith



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PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE NEW DCP FOR WEST WOOLLAHRA

The protection of the unique scale and environment of West Woollahra has always been a primary concern of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

Woollahra Council in consultation with our Association and other community representatives has over the past two years been undertaking a full review of the local Development Control Plan (DCP).

A new DCP now on public display was required owing to the Council's difficulty in fighting against over-development in the Land and Environment Court with a DCP that did not clearly define the community wishes and needed tightening up to better specify the standards based on the heritage nature of the area.

The DCP was required to control proposed development both in the private and public domains by firstly establishing what exists that makes the area what it is.

This required a lengthy process of classifying every building and public asset in the various precincts established to try to break up the zone onto logical elements.

A copy of the house-by-house listing is attached to the proposed DCP and is worth inspecting to appreciate the efforts that have been expended.

The first architectural consultants were the same as those used for the Paddington DCP and they stated that they were surprised by the diversity of style of the Victorian houses in West Woollahra. They managed to describe typical heritage dwellings in Paddington in a dozen sketches while in West Woollahra they needed over fifty.

The objectives of the DCP are:

1. To facilitate the implementation of the objectives and provisions relating to heritage conservation contained in the Woollahra Local Environment Plan 1995 (LEP).
2. To acknowledge and conserve the heritage significance of the Woollahra Heritage Conservation Area.
3. To encourage the retention and appropriate development of significant items.

4. To provide controls and guidelines to protect the identified heritage values and significant character of Woollahra and encourage contemporary design that responds appropriately to that character.

5. To enable appropriate and expert consideration of proposed development to be made by applicants and the Council.

6. To encourage and promote public awareness, appreciation and knowledge of heritage conservation.

7. To integrate planning, design and decision making associated with development initiated by the public and private sectors.

8. To enhance amenity and heritage values with the Woollahra Conservation Area (HCA).

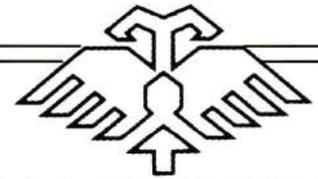
The heritage of the area is not only determined by the individual buildings and public assets but a scale and atmosphere which must also be maintained so that the real village life of the area is not diluted by excessive inappropriate commerce or development in this delightful and human scale location.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has been at the forefront of the Community Consultation Group. The Association President Ken Gresham and Vice President Drew Robertson have attended all the meetings with council over the past couple of years.

The DCP covers too many issues to discuss in this article including many of our favourite problems such as: alterations and additions to existing buildings, road works associated with footpaths kerbs and gutters, traffic management and developments in parks.

The Association recommends that everyone in the area inspect the proposed DCP on public display and make their opinions known to Council.

For your comments please write to Ken Gresham, QSWWA Box 16 P.O. Woollahra or email ken@greshamworld.com



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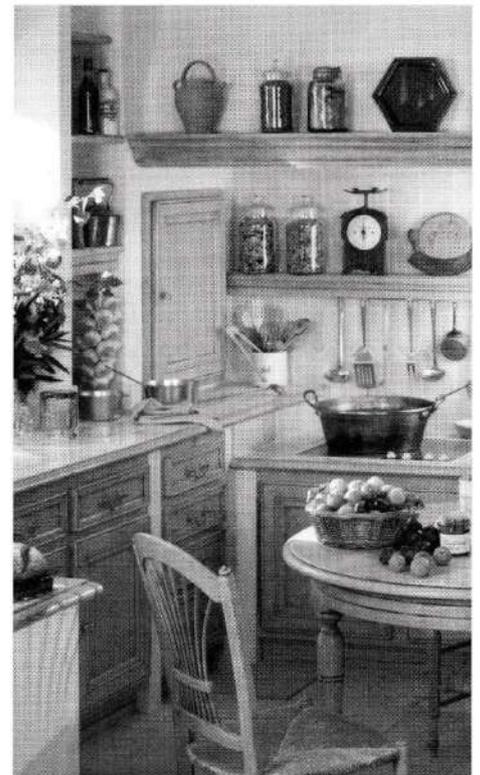
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chat street

A cosmetic clinic **Essentially Bare** has opened in Victoria Avenue, in a discrete terrace location just around the corner from TLC drycleaners. The clinic specialises in the latest technology and techniques promising painless permanent laser hair removal, laser facial and leg vein treatments as well as Botox for wrinkles and micro dermabrasion. Owner Dr Buddy Paul Boaini and technician Liz Richardson will soon offer liposuction, isologen and restylane treatment. Phone 93635999.

Tony Ward's **Printique** at 82 Queen Street closed its doors on July 5 after a retirement sale. A selection of their antique of prints and maps is available at Mittagong Antique Centre phone 02 4872 3198. The shop is up for lease.

KA-International, a world-wide interior decoration company has opened at 76 Queen Street. Fabrics, upholstered furniture and accessories for decoration such as bed linen, wrought iron furniture, trimmings, wallpapers in the latest trends and designs can be seen at this delightful addition to our area.

Hoglund Art Glass Gallery has opened at 92 Queen Street. The gallery has a constantly changing exhibition of hand blown glass by renowned glass artists Ola Hoglund and Marie Simberg Hogland.

Lynwood Stores in Queens Court has been renamed **Margaret Fulton's Kitchen**.

The store will be substantially the same, precooked and packed in vacuum packs and includes soups, mains, risotto desserts, jams, pickles, sauces, pates and stocks.

Marie Clare Beauty Salon has moved from Jersey Road to 68 Queen Street. Call the charming and charismatic **Rosa Francisco** on 93273766 for a facial or nail treatment you will really blow your mind.

Andre and Cecile Antiques have closed down. The fine French furniture they imported certainly added to the Queen Street ambience and they will be sorely missed.

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Antique dealer, G.N. Auchinachie has bought the **All Arts Book Shop** which has become part of his antique shop at 43 Queen Street. The bookshop was formerly operated from the Woollahra Galleries and will now have a much more visible presence. All Arts Book Shop has a huge selection of specialist art reference books on the decorative arts, antiques, ceramics, collectables of all descriptions as well as Australian and Asian art. Website is www.allarts.com.au, phone 93286774.

Rex Irwin, Art dealer is opening a gallery shop directly beneath his upstairs gallery.

Ros Palmer Antiques at 30 Queen Street has been given a substantial makeover. It has morphed into **Ros Palmer Incorporating Brook Street Trading**.

Committee Member Alan Smith has closed his **Istral Art Gallery** after nearly nine years of trading. His aim in establishing the gallery was to create a space where both emerging and experienced artists could display their works in a friendly atmosphere. That he certainly achieved, and we wish him well in his retirement luck The premises has been taken over by the ever expanding **Shapiro's Auctions** next door.

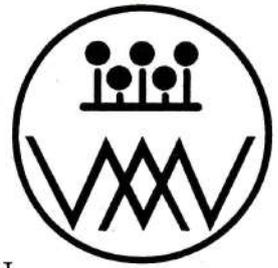
Beware of bag snatchers! During one week in April four women in Holdsworth Street had their bags snatched. The last one was unfortunate enough to hit on the head before her bag was grabbed from behind just outside The Bay Tree. On each occasion the offender, a man, jumped into a car and drove off with a woman accomplice. Presence of mind by two of the victims in getting the rego number was not rewarded as the car was found to be stolen in each case. The criminal may have moved on, as one more Holdsworth Street resident can attest. She had her handbag grabbed from her shoulder in the car park at Double Bay. Similar incidents have been reported at Glendon and Kiora Roads, Double Bay.

A follow-up from these bag snatching incidents. By the time the theft was reported to the police the thieves who snatched a bag in Holdsworth St had already used a credit card to try to access money from an ATM. They could not have got far because the theft was reported within 10 minutes. However because they were unsuccessful in getting any money the bank was unable to identify which ATM they had used. So the police had no chance of tracing their movements. **Surely the banks can program their computers to identify which ATM is being accessed.**

Woollahra Post Office, built in 1905 has been lovingly renovated by owner Bob Guth. Now painted in its original colours the renovation of this heritage Queen Anne Federation building cost more than \$100 000. The upstairs is still occupied by solicitors Sunman and Walker.

The Queen Street Deli has also undergone extensive renovations. We have all missed its outstanding produce and are delighted it is now back in business. The kitchen has been upgraded and the deli is able to offer a catering service to its patrons. The deli makes nearly all of its soups and pates on the premises. Phone 93287121.

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THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

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- **Over-development** – how will the Council's new Development Plan affect your street?
- **Parking** – do you want parking metres in Queen Street?
- **Street Maintenance** – are your streets cleaned and your footpaths hazard-free?

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