Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 80 March 2004

### The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Annual General Meeeting

6pm Monday 19 April at Holdsworth Street Community Centre Cnr Holdsworth and Morrel Street, Woollahra

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# QSWWA joins Paddington Society & OSNOF to fight for traffic justice

he Queen St & West Woollahra Association together with OSNOF and the Paddington Society has lodged a joint submission to Woollahra Council to fight for local road and traffic justice.

Mayor John Comino and Councillors Andrew Petrie and Cynthia Wrubluwski have met with the representatives of the three organizations and Council officers are at this time analyzing the facts in the submission so that the matters can be referred to and negotiated with the NSW State Government.

The bringing together representatives of these three community-based groups has kick-started the debate on local traffic rights for the whole area. They share the problem and need regional solutions.

The joint meetings have brought together years of knowledge and experience in local traffic issues and enabled them to highlight the anomalies and inconsistencies in the State Government's assertions and calculations.

The need of the local community is to take steps now to reduce the volume of traffic entering Ocean St. This will then reduce the "rat run" traffic through Paddington and Woollahara...

Traffic heading to the CBD & Harbour Crossings from the area, Dover Heights to Coogee, is directed to the top of Ocean St. It then has two choices:continue along Oxford St, Moore Park Rd to the Eastern Distributor with a \$4.00 toll or use Ocean St, New South Head Rd & William St for free.

When the CCT is opened the choice will be the Eastern Distributor for \$4.00 or Ocean St & the CCT to the Harbour Crossings for \$1.10 or to the CBD & ANZAC Bridge for \$2.50.

Traffic chooses Ocean Street because it is cheaper and/or more convenient than Oxford St or the Eastern Distributor.

The final Director General's Report Department of Planning (December 2002) indicated that traffic would probably divert to Ocean St to access the Cross City Tunnel. The report predicted daily traffic at 25 490 in 2016

before any traffic diverts to the CCT. It also noted that the "rat runs" through Padding ton would get worse under the revised modified proposal.

One condition limits the volume of traffic on Ocean St to 25 490 per day, recognising that this is the maximum acceptable level the street can bear. However, the Minister's figures are already being exceeded before the CCT tunnel has even opened. Traffic has started to divert and Ocean Street carries 28 839 vehicles per day NOW. [Woollahra Council Aug 2002]. Historically Ocean St carried 35 000 plus vehicles per day through the 1990s!

The RTA may have an incentive to underestimate their figures. Under the Freedom of Information Act a copy of the Project Deed between the RTA & The Consortium building the tunnel was obtained. The following information was found:-

-The RTA receives a percentage of the toll money if it exceeds predictions. This gives a strong incentive to underestimate traffic figures & push as much traffic as possible through Ocean St & Paddington.

-There is a strong incentive to delay any mitigation work to divert traffic from Ocean St or Paddington. Additional work on the Cross City Tunnel cost the RTA 38 million dollars out of the payment it received from The Consortium. Additional Toll revenue would help make up some of this loss.

Generally, if we can contain Ocean St volumes to around 26 000 vehicles a day and give diverted traffic a viable alternative, it gives us an opportunity to work on strategies to reduce rat run traffic & other traffic issues within Woollahra & Paddington.

There should be physical measures to reduce the ability of traffic to enter Ocean St. The Director General's report [para 6.6, Dec 2002] said that "given the predicted traffic reductions on Moore Park Rd——there is potential for some through traffic to be divert-

ed to this road". In 1994 Ocean St commissioned Lyle Marshall, Traffic Consultants, to survey the traffic problems. Council has implemented many of his suggestions.

Suggestions still outstanding are:

- Divert York Rd traffic away from Ocean St
- Reduce the right hand turns from Oxford St into Ocean St to one lane
- Reduce green time at traffic lights for vehicles turning into Ocean St from Oxford St
- Put the green lights out of sequence at Oxford & Ocean Sts, so traffic has to stop at Queen St after entering Ocean St.
- Reduce the toll for motorists entering the ED at 'Drivers Triangle', giving motorists an incentive to divert.
- Tolls are \$4 for the ED & \$1.10 h
  CCT, to access the Harbour Bridge.
- There is still time to build access to the CCT from Moore Park Rd / ED for regional traffic diverted from Ocean St.
- Pedestrian operated lights along Ocean St, with pedestrian priority
- Roundabouts at John & Wellington Sts
- · Bicycle lanes to narrow traffic lanes further
- · Remove clearway restrictions
- Reduce southbound lanes at New South Head Rd to one lane

The issues are obviously complex, however, the solutions can be found if submissions can filter down to the decision-makers in Macquarie Street. If so the future lifestyle of the populous inhabiting the areas which have the misfortune to be in the path ( or should we say road ) of commuter traffic can be saved.

Those seeking our votes at the updang council elections will hopefully address the issue.

Ken Gresham Email ken@greshamworld.com for further information

#### The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433

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

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## CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2003







What a wonderful evening. In spite of the threat of rain over 500 attended this great community event he in Chiswick Gargens, and all –

men, women and especially children - had a fabulous time.

The carol singing was led by the All Saints Choir under the direction of Walter Sutcliffe and was brilliantly accompanied by the Woollahra Philharmonic Brass Ensemble, Mathius Rogala Koczorowski leading them with resounding oomp-papa. Children from Woollahra Public School, in Santa Claus hats, accompanied by Deputy Headmaster Ross Newman, helped to keep the heartily singing picnickers in tune.

The rain held off – most of the time. Umbrellas went up and the revellers sat on their rugs and munched the delicious sausage and onion in-a-bun expertly barbecued by the Pruniers staff (where else do you get top class chefs cooking a \$2 barbecue?) washed down with a drink or two. The littlies loved the jumping castle and the face painting and excitedly welcomed Santa (courtesy of Pruniers) who distributed presents thankyou Kidstuff.

In all a very successful community event. So many local traders contributed with donations of goods, food hampers,

banners, drinks and vouchers which were either raffled or displayed as prizes in a silent auction. Both raffle and auction were well patronised and congratula-

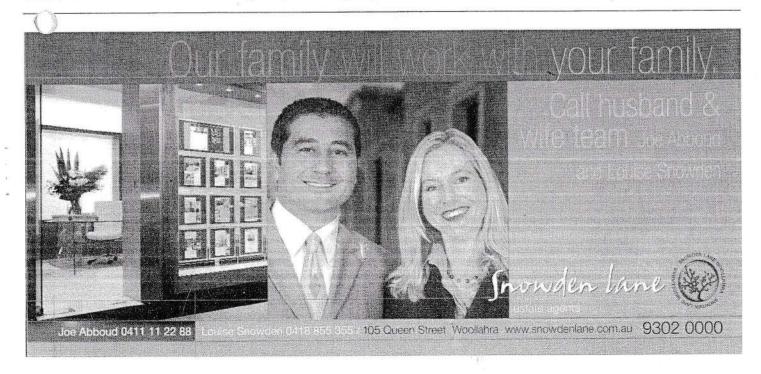
tions to the winners who scored some real bargains.

The proceeds from the auction and raffle paid for insurance and for the jumping castle and a few extras. What was left over goes towards the design and printing of your *Village Voice* over the year. Be assured that your hardworking committee is entirely voluntary, and to organize the Carols there is a lot of hard work behind the scenes and on the evening. We'd love more help so if you have the time please contact me or the president.

We'd also welcome any suggestions to improve the night. Next year we will see that Santa is not swamped by excited kids and we will definitely order a fine and balmy night!

A huge thankyou to the traders who sponsored the carols, particularly Pruniers and Snowden Lane, and a gigantic thankyou to you, the community, who made the whole night worthwhile.

Annette Robinson





The Association has been active over past years coordinating street inspections on a regular basis, noting problems and providing suitable information to council regarding street, pavement and associated issues that in our view require Council action.

We have had some level of success, noticeably the greatly improved pavement in the Moncur/Queen Streets intersection area, but generally speaking the pavements in our area are in poor condition, mainly caused by tree roots. However there are many instances of "patch work" repairs to previous digging activity that make the walking surface uneven and possibly dangerous to pedestrians. These danger spots are the areas we will concentrate on in our reports to Council.

This year we will undertake a program to inspect all streets in our area. To date we have covered both sides of Jersey Road,

Trelawney and Holdsworth Streets and a report is being prepared for Council outlining problems, with specific emphasis on areas that we consider dangerous to pedestrians and need urgent attention. It is pleasing to note that Trelawney Street appears in good order with no real problem areas. Improvements are evident in sections of Jersey Road, however some problem areas exist and there is a need for access ramps on several intersections. Holdsworth Street, particularly the east side, is in poor condition with a number of pedestrian danger areas. These will be worse in the evening when street lighting is blocked by trees.

Contact has been made with Council to submit our first report and will also use this opportunity to raise matters of street cleanliness.

Over the coming months inspections will be made for other major streets and our objective is to have inspected and reported on all streets in West Woollahra by October 2004. If you have an urgent problem in your street please write to us with details. We will in turn keep residents informed of progress through Village Voice, but hopefully improvements will become self-evident.

#### OUR LOCAL ORCHESTRA – THE WOOLLAHRA PHILHARMONIC

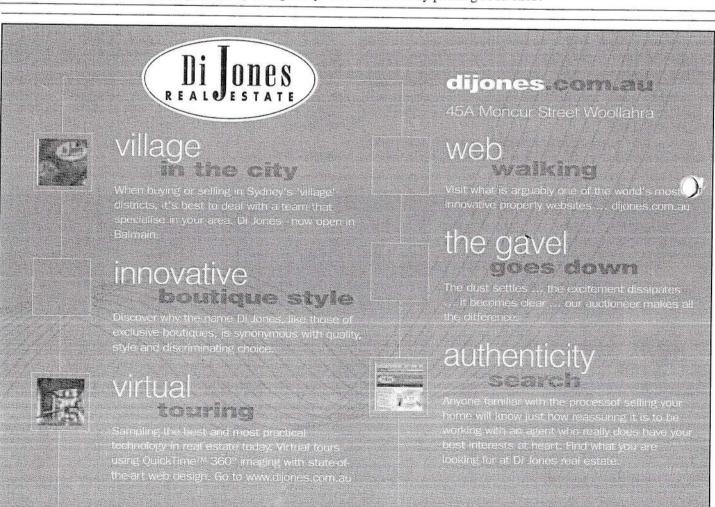
The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association owes a special debt to the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra. Their Brass Ensemble braved the inclement weather at our Christmas Carols on December 2 last year and played in rousing fashion, accompanying the carol singers, and entertaining us with solo Christmas works.

The Woollahra Philharmonic formed in 1996. The Orchestra draws on up to sixty players who come from all walks of life.

The wind and brass sections are particularly strong. They have

the performed blockbusters such as *Pictures at an Exhibition* and *Scheherezade*. The Polish/Austro-Hungarian extraction of founding conductor Mathias Rogala-Koczorowski has encouraged the playing of Eastern European music and masters so has Brahms, Mahler, Prokoviev, Wagner and Shostakovich form part of the Orchestra's repertoire. Australian composers such as Woollahra resident Peter Sculthorpe are represented.

The Orchestra performs on Sunday four times a year at 2.30pm at The Scots College, Victoria Road Bellevue Hill. Their performance dates for 2004 are 4 April, 27 June, 19 September, 5 December. Tickets are \$12 and \$6 (concession) at the door or in advance by phoning 9363 0203.



## Jewellery on Queen

Could it be that jewellery is getting the upper hand in a street formerly famous for antique shops packed with furniture, rugs, silver and objets d'art? Queen Street's well-established jewellery shops are now sitting pretty each supplying a particular niche in the market.

Towards the top of the street, at No.36, Anne Schofield, Australia's leading specialist dealer in antique jewellery, has been offering a very wide range of fine Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian, Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Retro jewels for over 30 years. Apart from dazzling emerald settings and other fine gems, there are pieces made of tortoiseshell, coral, amber, and more. Anne has special exhibitions from time to time, such as one of cameos and intaglios, and more recently, one of Indian Tribal and M ('iul jewellery.

Celeste, at No.48, can be seen working on-site. She makes her fine jewellery using gems, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral and turquoise and has won three de Beers awards for her work. Apart from stock, Celeste will make to order; the emphasis is on the use of traditional hand-skills, working with unusually-cut stones. She will also

repair good pieces.

At No.66 Copeland and de Soos, who also sell furniture and objets d'art, specialise in strong, individual vintage jewellery made between 1870 and 1970 covering the radically different art movements of that century. You may find an 1870s jet brooch, a pair of Mexican mantilla pins, Bakelite beads from the 1930s, and other pieces using early plastics, wood, copper and silver.

oss the road, Orson & Blake have a pretty collection of costume jewellery, particularly earrings, and a lovely silver

range by Bouvier.

For 25 years, Michael Greene at No.108, has dealt in estate jewellery and silver as well as glass and fine porcelain. His shop is a collector's dream. It is also a good place to come looking for a napkin ring, only to find yourself distracted by the antique settings of precious and semi-precious stones.

At JUEL in Queens Court, (No 118) partners, Tegan Arnold and Elsa McMahon have a lovely uncluttered display of their work. They hand pick all the stones, working mainly in silver with a lot of pearls, amber, lapis, coral, onyx and more. They also work in gold and make to order, for example, engagement rings, using precious and semi-precious stones.

Arte Flowers at No.112 stocks pretty

ethereal work by Caroline Trask and simpler pieces by House of Shanghai - Ani. Nearby, Adèle Weiss (No. 126) stocks several local designers of costume jewellery, such as Merl and Maria, to complement her mainstay – clothing. Customers like to accessorise their outfit with a necklace or bracelet.

Other clothing shops, which make occasional forays into costume jewellery, are neighbours Ruby & Min and Reads on opposite sides of Spicer Street. In R.G.Madden, at No.82 contemporary pieces designed on aesthetic principles by Loop in W.A. rub shoulder with homewares designed by Alessi and Philippe Starck. There is even a small range of costume jewellery in the Hoglund Art Glass Gallery (No. 92).

At the end of the retail section of Queen Street, near Alton Street, Yasmine Germani is carrying on a family tradition following 24 years in the city. Yasmine's shop, Venus and Mars, (No.160) is crammed with a kaleidoscope of costume jewellery sourced from around the world – from Nepal, Zululand, Turkey, Morocco, and Burma. There is traditional Indian, a lot from Italy; unusual lacy crocheted silver from the north, pieces from Florence and Venice. There is also some of her own work.

If you are looking for adornment, several of these shops have 'something for everyone', but explore the full gamut and you must surely find something you adore.

Di Dennison

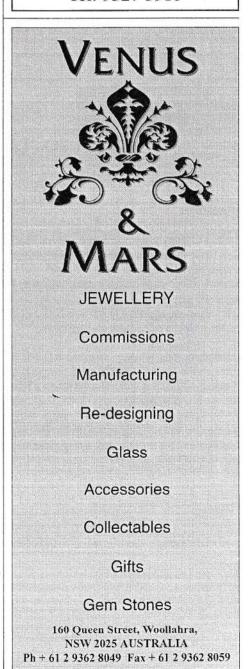




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# arrivals, departures and relocations

Kidstuff, much loved toy shop frequented by generations of grannies, great aunts, mothers and of course a multitude of children has a new owner. But Adrienne Blue who has run Kidstuff for over 30 years is still there helping the new owner, Chris Liberiou. Thanks to Adrienne's wonderful personality and unfailing eye for what attracts children – and their parents-Kidstuff has become the most popular toyshop in Sydney. Chris Liberiou is certainly keeping up the Kidstuff tradition of community involvement. The Kidstuff donation of Santa's presents at our annual Carols festival was much appreciated.

A new homewares shop has opened at 82 Queen Street. R G Maddon's extensive and exclusive range includes Alessi and Mandarina Duck and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Castone, homeware and furniture retailer on the corner of Queen and Ocean Streets is moving to Burke Street, Woolloomooloo. This delightful stone building epitomises what we hold dear in Woollahra. *Chatstreet* remembers its tenants of thirty years ago, a rather seedy mixed business operation. We were delighted when Castone moved in. Let's hope the next tenants are as classy.

Robyn Cosgrove's renovation of the building opposite is progressing. The carpet retailer should be open for business in a few months.

Edith's Book Store and Café at 78 Queen Street has closed down. A delightful spot to browse and eat, we suspect that its viable operation was beaten by current rents. A pity – it was great to have a book exchange close by. Orson and Blake have taken over the lease as an exclusive fashion outlet. Orson and Blake homewares will operate as usual across the road.

Gillian Dibble of Oilily at 74 Queen Street has opened a new store at no 72. MBC or Mother Baby Child stocks the exclusive Citizen & Humanity maternity jeans which are worn by all the stars (being pregnant is certainly "in") and va as designer labels from Europe and the USA.



#### to the editor

#### Dear Editor

As a local resident of a very narrow street, I am often thwarted by cars parked illegally close to corners. The RTA's Road User's Handbook (see their website) states that you must not park within ten metres of a corner unless a sign allows you to park there. Such a sign occurs for example five metres from the corner of Spicer St & Peaker Lane. These signs are ignored more often than they are observed. The NO STAND-ING zones around the Queen Street area continue to be sought-after parking spots for shoppers-on-a-mission.

Council, in their wisdom, installed NO STOPPING signs ten metres from various corners of Queen Street within the shopping precinct. Parking in a NO STOPPING zone incurs a larger fine (\$152) than parking in a NO STANDING zone (\$68). This disincentive has toned down the entrenched devil-may-care attitude to illegal parking on the corner outside the Newsagency as well as the Queens Court corner, as well as enabling the driver of the 389 to negotiate the turn into Queen Street. Pressure has now been shifted from the NO STOPPING zones to the

NO STANDING zones such as the Queen Street corners of Spicer Street and Alton Street where cars continue to park right out to the edge making an exit from the street very difficult. Turning from Peaker Lane into Alton Street regularly requires a three-point turn and is often impossible.

Should you be having trouble getting around corners, ring Woollahra Council on 93917000 who will in turn ring the rangers on their mobiles and they will come and book the offenders. The rangers direct number is 93620555 but as they will probably be out on their rounds you may only get an answering machine. As for offenders, try parking legally a little farther away, and walk!

D. Dennison Alton Street



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We now know who will be our local member for Wentworth. After a hard campaign it's congratulations to Malcolm Turnbull.

Philip Johns, the former hardworking mainstay of our Association and its former secretary and treasurer has resigned. Philip's contribution to QSWWA has been enormous over many years and he will be sorely missed. He has decided to stand as an Independent for election to Woollahra Council. His running mate is Heather Smith, past president of our Association.

The annual dinner held at Pruniers Restaurant in August last year was a great success. Peter King, then sitting member for Wentworth spoke. His wife Fiona, a Woollahra Councillor and a number of other councillors attended.

Happy birthday and congratulations to

local resident Margaret Gelling-Goodman who turned one hundred in January this year.

The new playground at the Holdsworth Street Centre is now open and running. The \$110 000 makeover is a great improvement and staff, parents and children are delighted. Woollahra Council invited the Centre to be involved in the design and installation. The colourful new playground equipment would entice any small child to participate and make friends. The new surface incorporates a big, built-in chequers set and hopscotch as well as a road where children can drive cars and learn about stop signs to teach them road sense.

The playground promotes play for very young children which suits the family-support and playgroup children as well as older children in the after school and vacation care programs. It is designed to encourage exploration, cognitive, social and physical development and provides a wonderful environment for good healthy fun.

Inquiries 93631513

Woollahra Antiques Centre fronting Oxford and Wallis Streets is no more. From the enormous hole in the ground where it once stood will rise a four storey apartment block to be called 'The Conservatory'. Designed by Ercole Palazzetti the building will turn its back on Oxford Street with balconies facing the relative tranquility of tree-lined Wallis Street.

There will be six three-bedroom apartments, two per floor, with each apartment on a single level. The seventh apartment is a rooftop penthouse with open terraces. Garaging and storage is underground.

The developers claim that the Conservatory is styled like a grand mansion blending with its low-rise neighbours and in keeping with the streetscape. The building is scheduled for completion in November with an asking price of between \$3 and \$3.5 million

Company at The Classic Safari no156 is an exciting addition to Queen Street. This travel agency started by specialising in tailormade travel to Africa, preferring to support the smaller owner operated safari outfits. They now special interest travel also prepare itineraries to India and South America. Their 2004 trips include Chris Manfield's Moroccan Spice, a tour of Morocco focussing on landscapes and architecture and a gardener's tour of the Cape region of South Africa. Sounds like fun!





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