

# Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 83 April 2005



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

6pm Tuesday 19 April 2005  
at Holdsworth Street  
Community Centre  
Cnr Holdsworth and Morrel  
Street, Woollahra

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# TRAFFIC UPDATE - CROSS CITY TUNNEL

In the September 2004 edition of Village Voice we outlined the problem of increased traffic on Ocean St & the "Paddington Ratruns". At present the volume of traffic is unacceptable and it is expected to increase dramatically when the Cross City Tunnel opens. We outlined ways to divert this traffic & physically limit the amount of traffic on Ocean St.

We suggested:

1. No entry to Ocean Street from York Road. Traffic would then use the underutilised Oxford Street to the CBD & Moore Park Rd to the Eastern Distributor.
2. Access to the Cross City tunnel should be available from Moore Park and the Eastern Distributor.
3. Reduce the two turning lanes into Ocean Street to a single lane at Oxford Street and New South Head Road
4. Eastern Suburbs users traveling over the Harbour should pay equal rates on the Eastern Distributor and the Cross City Tunnel. This could be accommodated by programmed E tags.

The Minister for the Environment gave the go-ahead for the CCT in Dec 2002. An Environmental Impact Study for the CCT was done beforehand to assess the predicted increase in traffic. In his Conditions of Approval the Minister set down that the problem of induced (increased) traffic should be monitored. **He said that if it exceeded the predicted levels measures should be put in place to divert the traffic.**

Thus the Minister's Conditions of Approval for the Cross City Tunnel gives us the right to insist that the predicted level of traffic be adhered to.



*Cross City Tunnel exhaust stack, upper left, at Darling Harbour*

There has been some skepticism/confusion about the predicted level of traffic.

An independent Traffic Engineer dated 2/2/05 has assessed that the predicted figure for Ocean St is 25 490 in year 2016, based on the EIS & The Minister's Conditions of Approval.

Our senior legal team has also confirmed that 25 490 is the predicted level of traffic and that this level is enforceable in law.

The problem is that the predicted level of traffic has been disputed by the RTA.

It says this figure was a mistake and that real figure is 34 000 vehicles per day. **This level will mean gridlock.**

We know it is not a mistake, because under the umbrella of The Cross City Tunnel Action Group, we threatened to stop work on the tunnel with legal action, unless our demands were met.

Suddenly there was a "recalibration" of Ocean St figures "to better reflect reality, ie. the existing restrained traffic conditions".

DIPNR [Department of Industry Planning & Infrastructure] is responsible for administering the Conditions of Approval. Our job is to ensure that they enforce the Conditions. At the moment they are confused about the figures for Ocean St. & are just repeating the RTA'S figures. If necessary we will take them to court to focus their attention. But we cannot do that until after the gridlock starts. Only then will they start planning! The tunnel is scheduled to open at the end of this year, but word has it that it is ahead of schedule.

In the meantime we will continue to try to get DIPNR to adhere to the traffic figures in the Conditions of Approval, & confirmed by our experts. **And to start planning now.**

*Keith Sole*

## 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. Affiliated with the National Trust.

Annual Membership subscription rates:

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

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# PRESIDENTS REPORT

At this year's Annual General Meeting I will be stepping down as President of the Association.

It is with some satisfaction I look back on the past two years and in particular the last year.

During the past year the core group of the Committee have worked well as a team to drive the organization to achieve much. The quiet achievers that I must thank are in no particular order.

Annette (Dizzy) Robinson ably assisted by Di Dennison has been the Editor, Columnist, Advertising and Distribution Manager of the "Village Voice" which we are proud to deliver quarterly to every home and business in the area.

Ian Angus who took over our Streetwatch program a few years ago and has resulted in us being the eyes and ears of the community on maintenance issues. The program has resulted in alerting the Woollahra Council to dangerous and poorly maintained infrastructure and has redirected much of the council's limited resources to our area.

Alan Smith a long-time local business identity has recently been invaluable in taking up the slack in

the control and compliance as acting treasurer.

Robyn Brampton continues in his role as support in many areas including this year organizing the very successful "Night with Judy Glenn" at the Hughenden, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

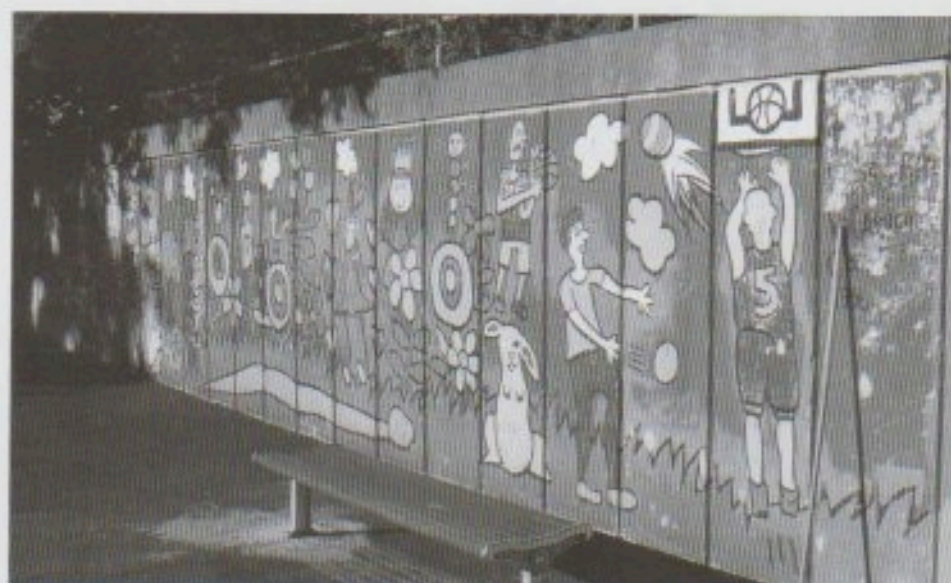
All the committee worked hard for our final function of the year, the communal carols and family night. Supported by the Committees and their

families the occasion was a resounding success, thanks to all including our hosts "Pruniers" and the nearly 500 members of our community that attended this wonderful night.

The task of leading a diverse community organization such as the QSWWA is only made worthwhile by the support and friendship of that community and the results achieved.

Think Globally, Act Locally.

Ken Gresham



Colourful artwork by the children of Holdsworth Community Centre brightens the playground wall

Our family will work with your family.

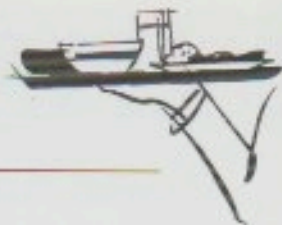
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# CAFÉ CULTURE



The Queen Street locale abounds in purveyors of caffeine. You can never have too many cafés; the competition is healthy and the need is great. Some serve take-away to shoppers and mums-on-the-run, but most supply seating, food and the daily papers to those inclined to settle in.

**Caffe Agostinis** in Queen's Court could be regarded as a full-blown restaurant, were it not for the name and the informal demeanor of the place. (No reservations, no tablecloths, no stemware: just Duralex glasses for your BYO). Margie Agostini has been feeding locals food of a consistently high standard for over a decade. Get there early to avoid a wait in the evening, but if there is a delay you can always cross the road to pick up a bottle and have a pre-dinner drink at the Woollahra. Excellent too for breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea with perhaps a slice of her signature orange cake, which the infamous Martha Stewart was brought to Woollahra specifically to try.

Nearby, **Pan D'Arte** with its multi-coloured bread window beneath Michael Carr's gallery, serves paper-thin pizza, cakes and Di



Lorenzo coffee, in the shadow of the ATM. Across the street next to Summers Floral, the mainly al fresco **Crème Anglaise** catches the sun all day in winter and serves a good range of light meals with their Toby's coffee

(but not much custard in spite of the name). **Zigolini's** is really a restaurant, but does café impressions along the window benches and at the small tables on the footpath, catering to the caffeine-hungry crowd with their own blend of Allpress coffee. Almost adjacent, **Nostimo**, run by Arthur (son of Queen St Deli's erstwhile owner, Jim) serves breakfast and light meals with a Greek slant, (faki, pastitsio), wine, Grinders coffee and dinner on Thursdays through Sunday. Takeaway special: coffee & bacon-&-egg s/w; \$5.

Back up past the pub, **Arte Flowers** seems to sell everything from soap to scarves, lamps, cushions, furniture, fake flowers, jewelry and gifts, but hidden behind all these goodies is an unsung café with an interesting menu (try their signature tomato tart) and Di Manfredi coffee.



King of the takeaway merchants must be the local branch of the **Pasta Pantry**, recently awarded the Best Coffee in Sydney award by listeners to 2WS, whom we are surprised to learn hang out in Woollahra. Their baristas do a roaring trade pumping out Aroma coffee to the assembled crowd next to the newsagent. Popular with the police and workmen from the many neighbourhood building sites is the local sandwich shop; mysteriously called **Twins** (there's no sign of a sign!) This is a true early-opener (5:30am) which offers value for money with their Aurora coffee & raisin

toast for \$4 and coffee with a bacon-&-egg roll for \$6.

Slightly off the main drag, in Spicer St, is newly-named **Jaffa's**, (better known as **Adam's**), which changed hands late last year. This cosy café has a coterie of customers who come regularly to meet and enjoy a hit of La Casa del Caffè coffee plus maybe breakfast or a light lunch (great homemade soup and more substantial offerings). Around in Moncur Street, and handy for Di Jones employees, **Jones the grocer** still offers the best deal in town for takeaways during their happy hour: (8:30-9:30am Mon-Fri); \$1.45 for a regular-size, \$1.95 for a large Grinders coffee. There are also \$5 coffee and muffin deals (eat in or takeaway). This large deli is well worth a visit for their ambrosial cheese room alone, notwithstanding their

range of bread, salads, sausages, cookbooks, chocolates and batterie de cuisine.

Down Jersey Road opposite the Dudley is **Flat White**, neat and steely clean, well away from the Queen St bustle. Famous for homemade cakes and chicken finger sandwiches. Legendary barista, Chris Cowan, (ex Jones the grocer) has been pulling Grinders coffee here since its opening nearly two years ago. Pooch-friendly, there is a bowl of water for your dog and a pole to tether her to while you enjoy the fare.

Diana Dennison

