

Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 85 December 2005

Come to the QSWWA CHRISTMAS CAROLS

6.00 PM Tuesday 13 December
At Chiswick Park,
Ocean Street, Woollahra

Santa Claus..Jumping Castle..Face Painting
Barbecue..Drinks..Raffle Draw

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We are always buying good porcelain, glass, silver and jewellery.

QS & WWA TRADERS' GROUP

The Group has had three meetings. The individuals on the 'board' are enthusiastic and professional so we can expect some exciting developments. The meetings have been held informally at The Hughenden Hotel.

The Group has been established under the umbrella of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association. A similar group comprising of residents and businesses was formed when the Association ran the Queen Street Fair. Many of the original members of this group are still residing and trading in the area.

Today demographics have changed. Westfield is sucking customers to Bondi Junction and it is imperative that our area is promoted. How do we do this? Firstly we must have a common theme along the commercial parts of the streets, such as banners or flags, which could be changed for different promotions.

Secondly, the group is asking all traders to make a special effort this year to decorate their shop windows. A prize will be given for the best window.

Then there is the question of parking. If you have anything to say tell us. We will inform Council as a

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Christmas is coming. We need volunteers to help us with the Christmas Carols which are to be held on 13 December at Chiswick Park. If you can help us with organization beforehand, or by selling raffle tickets on the night please let us know. We would be so grateful. Phone Alan Smith at 94167954 mobil 0417446748 email istralia@yahoo.com.au

starting point for further discussions and consultations. There is a strong case to install parking meters along Queen Street to turn over the existing parking spaces. Do you have an opinion on parking meters?

Email Keith Sole keithkc@bigpond.com or write to 4/78 Ocean St. Woollahra 2025

THANK YOU CAROLS SPONSORS

The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association would like to thank the following sponsors. Without your support the Christmas Carols would not be held.

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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
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Correspondence to Box 16 PO
Woollahra 1350
Email info@queenstreetassoc.com
Website www.queenstreetassoc.com



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Editor Annette Robinson

Advertising Annette Robinson,

Diana Dennison

Phone 93623426 Fax 93623301

EFFECT OF THE CROSS CITY TUNNEL ON WEST WOOLLAHRA

Since the Cross City Tunnel opened in August, motorists have resisted using it because of the exorbitant toll. They also resent the RTA's attempt to force them to use it by closing alternative routes to the city. Charges for those without E-tags is another gripe. History shows that this resistance will disappear in time and that is what the RTA is banking on. Remember the RTA gets a cut on the toll revenue that exceeds RTA predictions.

What does this mean to us in West Woollahra? Woollahra Council predicts 48000 vehicles per day will funnel down Ocean Street to the tunnel. An indication of what will happen has been shown during the extended toll-free period. Ocean Street was in gridlock 12 hours a day. Side streets became rat runs with motorists trying to avoid the main intersections at each end of Ocean Street.

Why did this happen to our historic residential area? Politics and bad planning.

Politics

The Eastern suburbs are non labor seats, so the Labor government loses no votes here! However Western suburb motorists get their M4 tolls refunded by cashback at a cost of \$50 million per year to NSW taxpayers.

The Eastern Distributor/M5 toll is another example. The toll is collected in the city despite the distance you travel. If



you enter from Moore Park Road or Beverly Hills the toll is the same. Toll costs should be geared to distance traveled.

RTA bad planning

Traffic from Dover Heights to Coogee is funneled to the top of Ocean Street, where it has a choice: to date Ocean Street has been the best or cheapest route. The Cross City Tunnel reinforces the choice of Ocean Street, especially if lanes are reduced on surface routes through the city.

When Syd Einfield Drive was built many years ago, the RTA tried to use Jersey Road as a North/South route, but thankfully this decimation of Paddington was stymied by resident action. The RTA should then have found an alternative North/South route and we are now suffering the consequences.



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We want road closures to stop the rat runs, but more importantly we need a viable alternative to Ocean Street to access the harbour crossings. The most cost-effective way would be to make the toll lower on the Eastern Distributor than the Cross City Tunnel for Eastern Suburbs traffic to the North Shore. Thus there would be two levels of toll on the Eastern Distributor, one toll for those coming from the Western Suburbs and a lower toll for those entering at Moore Park. This would encourage motorists to use the Eastern Distributor to access the harbour crossings rather than Ocean Street and the CCT, and would probably stop gridlock for a few years, until a viable alternative can be found.

Keith Sole



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OCEAN'S

There are nearly a dozen businesses on the Ocean Street strip between Forth Street and Queen Street. These 11 retail and service providers are often neglected when Village Voice focuses its attention on Queen Street. They cover a spectrum from hats and hair, dry cleaning and laundry, to dining and liquor, but over half of them provide décor and design for the house and garden. The list of eleven does not include **Pruniers** in Chiswick Gardens or the **Goethe Institut** at the junction of Jersey Road, or the fact that there is **Ballet** and **Pilates** upstairs in St Columba Uniting Church, and an invisible hair salon, **Sloanes Studio**, in a white Victorian house, at 29 Ocean Street on the corner of Queen.

At **Pigott's Store**, 53 Ocean on the corner of Forth Street, 93628119 (10-5 weekdays, 10-4 Saturday) Meg Kimpton has created a look, which is a happy blend of American and English design influences with clean bright colours - very much East Coast USA (Nantucket and the Hamptons). When we spoke, Meg was just back from a buying trip to Maine. I discovered there is a lot more to the store than lamps and its signature cloth-covered boxes. Pigott's have just celebrated ten years in Ocean Street.

Woollahra Liquor Store, 41 Ocean, 93631626 (established as Woollahra Home Service in 1882) provided groceries for the better part of a century. It gained its liquor licence in 1958 when the Kennedys took over the business and the groceries disappeared. Specialising in boutique wines and reasonably-priced French and Italian imports, the shop is open from 11-8:30 Mon-Thurs, until 9pm on Fri & Sat, 11-7 on Sundays & public holidays).



Café Nino has been there so long that the telephone number on the window is 3272747 without the initial '9', but this has not affected business; they have been keeping customers happy with generous servings of Italian tucker for decades. Often full, bookings are recommended, if you can work out what to ring.

Next door at number 37, **Redelman Fabrics & Wallcoverings** (9-5 weekdays 93286413) is really a wholesaler but acts as a sort of library for the public. "They come in and borrow samples to take home and see how they look and then place their orders through a retailer" Sophie Stephens tells Village Voice. Their furnishing fabrics are local and imported, many from France and America. Redelman are agents for such labels as Decorative and Pot Pourri.

Across the road at number 44 is the recently renovated **Blind & Drape Store**. Open to the public as well as to interior designers and decorators, Leona and Stephen have been manufacturing made-to-measure window furnishings, bedspreads and cushions for over a decade using a range of fabrics - local, European, Thai silks and more. (enquiries: 0408284447).

Parterre Garden, 93635874 (10-5:30, Mon-Sat) after 20 years in the area have spread sideways into the corner shop on the corner of Queen and Ocean, enlarging their premises. They now have a double-fronted display of pots and urns, European antiques, crystal, water features and an eclectic mix of old and new which arrives in three shipments a year from France.



When the council visited **Robyn Cosgrove's** rug emporium after the glorious rebirth of the building a year ago, they remarked "It really is the gateway to Queen Street!"



The address is 168 Queen Street, but for the purpose of this article it is nevertheless firmly in Ocean Street as well. Robyn's rugs are different to what you will

ELEVEN

find elsewhere as she designs many of them herself and gets them made, hand knotted, in Pakistan, Turkey and Nepal. This is the place to order a bespoke rug, well worth the wait of at least five months for it to be created. "There are some old




Moroccans upstairs", Trevor Cosgrove tells me and I venture up imagining long-robed gentlemen sipping coffee. But it's just more rugs, and here there are modern ones, some almost shag pile and my favourites, the kilims, which Trevor prefers to see used as hangings. (168 Queen Street, 93287692, 10-5:30 Mon-Sat). In spite of all that glass, a visit will surprise you.

After Peaker Lane and a row of townhouses, you reach Woollahra Dry Cleaning & Laundry, 93286909 (7-6 weekdays, 8-4 Sat). This business has been here a long time but greatly improved and brightened by Frank, the current owner, whose high standards draw customers from farther afield than on foot.

Imagine This, at number 40 (93276713) is a treasure trove of French provincial furniture, soft furnishings, crystal candelabras and objets d'art. Robyn and her friendly team welcome your visit and help you find what you want in their interesting collection. After a good decade, they have expanded, and like Parterre Garden, now have a double-shopfront to show off their attractive range; imagine that!


At number 42, **Element**, a grownup hair salon is nevertheless very child-friendly, with a special children's section out the back. Here, a tiny customer in a specially elevated seat watches the Wiggles, while owner, Geoff, cuts his hair. Unlike Wiggle Jeff, this Geoff seems wide awake, his customer transfixed making it an easy snip. In the front room, a baby sleeps



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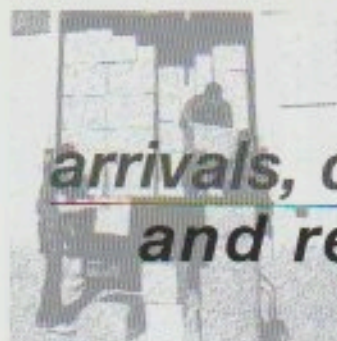
in a stroller while her mother's hair is styled; it's easy to see why the salon appeals to young mothers. (93273701).

Last but by no means least is Susie Meakin's eye-catching store, **Axel Mano**, at 46A Ocean. 93623756 (11-5 Mon-Fri, 10-4 Sat). Initially, Susie, a milliner, sold mainly hats, but now her design prowess has spread to handbags and clothes and she creates bags from unusual materials such as synthetic webbing. "It wears so much better than leather", her assistant, Molly, tells me, "and you just clean it with Sunlight Soap!" There's a shiny hot pink funky fluoro webbing handbag and silky grosgrain skirts as well as a range of hats that make me wish I were heading for the races or at least a wedding.

In spite of the high traffic volume, there are occasional lulls, plus two sets of lights for safe crossing; the lure of Ocean Street's snappy set of shops is enough to drive Queen Street shoppers around the bend!



Diana Dennison



arrivals, departures and relocations

With the closing of Queens Court Business Centre's general secretarial service, Claudine Michot has left after nine and a half years and taken another secretarial post, this time in Woolloomooloo. French born Claudine handled the difficult task of simultaneously working at the computer and dealing

with customers in an individualistic Gallic manner. Always she took a strong interest in local news and gossip. The many Queen Streeters who came to rely on her efficient service will miss her - and wish her well.

Rapsimo, a new bridal boutique has opened at Queen Street adding to the proliferation of up-market clothes retailers in our area. Proprietor Ann Christou has been in the bridal game for 23 years. Formerly in the QVB, Rapsimo prides itself on designing simple and elegant gowns for the individual

Lee Hardcastle Antiques has opened at 28 Queen Street. Go there for quality brown Scottish furniture and mounted antler heads.

letters

to the editor

St Kevins Saga

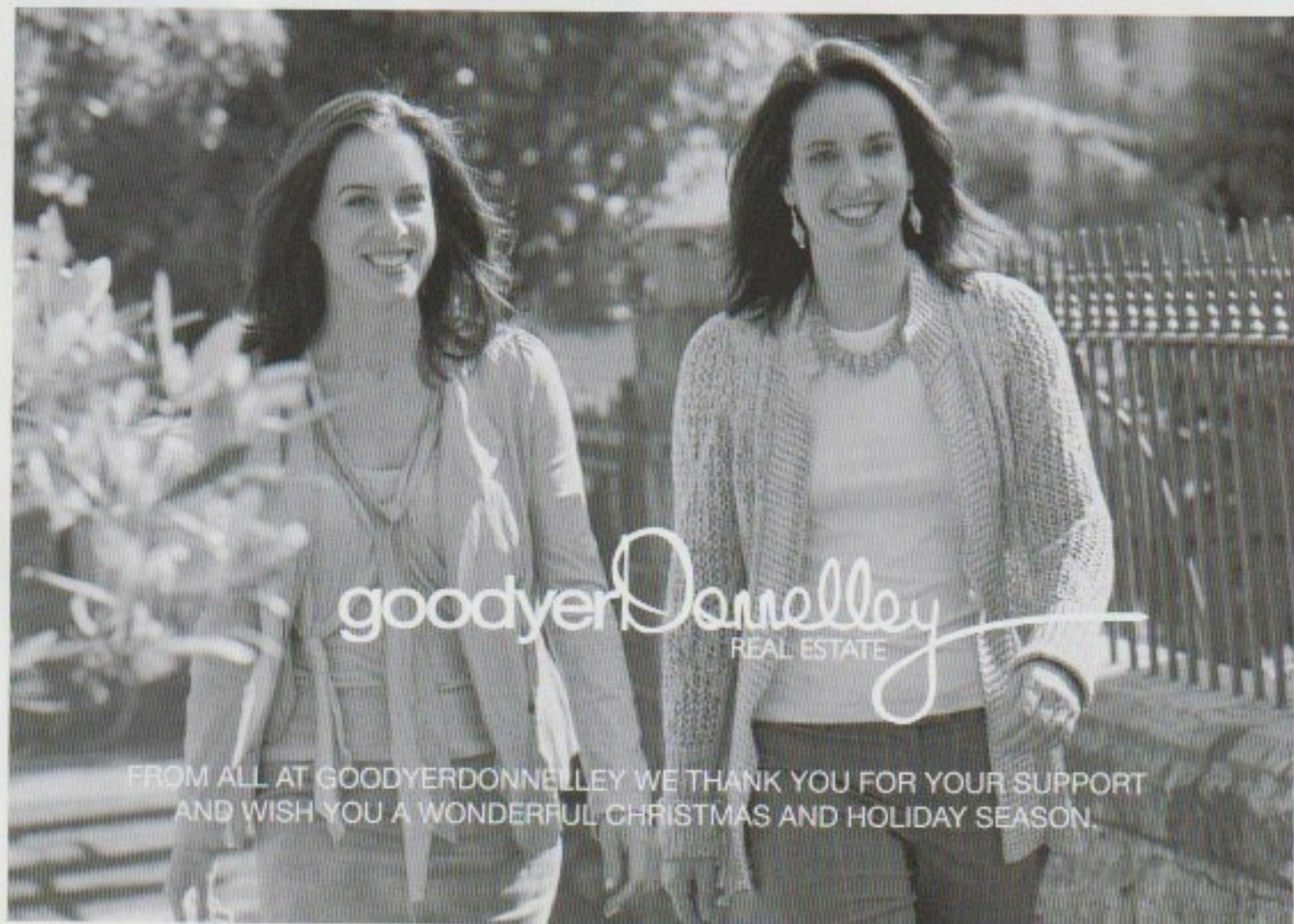
Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the letter of Mrs Wilhelm dated 4 April 2005 which was published in Village Voice No 84 in relation to the continued conveyancing of St. Kevins.

For the purposes of accuracy in reporting it should be noted that the often sold St Kevins was purchased from Leo Schofield by my parents Dr Ellen Campion and Mr Bruce Gardiner in 1985. Mr and Mrs Snelgrove purchased the property from my parents in 1988. So there were not two but three owners between Leo Schofield and Paul Keating.

I trust you will issue a correction in your next *Village Voice*.

Yours sincerely
Bridgid Gardiner
Darling Point



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