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**HELP WANTED**

The Queen Street Association needs volunteers to help with the Christmas Carols at Chiswick Park, on the evening of Tuesday, December 12,

Contact Keith Sole, ph/fax 9328 7131,  
mob 0419 608 609, email keith ke@bigpond.net.au

Your advertisement could be here too. Phone Robin Brampton 9326 1257

# Village Voice



Official Journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association No. 86 August 2006

## The battle to rid our area of



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association has recently taken the initiative by writing to Woollahra Council about the amount of graffiti in our area, reporting specific instances.

Most have been removed but unfortunately some have reappeared. A particularly black spot is the side wall of a Queen Street shop in Halls Lane, facing up Queen Street.

Another bad area is in Kilminster Lane by Queen Street.

Unfortunately large areas of blank wall have a particular attraction for the graffitist.

One particular graffitist must be at work in our area because his (or her?) individual tag appears at several neighbourhood locations.

### Giant business

Curiously graffitists the world over have a common style to their work which must cost millions to eradicate. In fact, graffiti eradication has become something of a giant business.

Various approaches have been tried to discourage or control wanton graffiti, such as allocating graffitists an area where they can work legally.



This fails because the whole essence of graffiti is to be extraordinary which is why graffiti appears on such inaccessible spots as the sides of bridges and railway carriages.

An imaginative approach has been adopted by the RIF RAF store in Oxford Street which has a side wall which would be very tempting to the graffitist.

So the store has created a giant mural

**This graffiti defaces a wall at the beginning of Halls Lane, facing up Queen Street. It is obviously the work of several graffitists and at least one of their "tags" appears among graffiti in other parts of the West Woollahra area.**

Continued next page

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The battle to rid our area of

# GRAFFITI

Continued

which proclaims its name, something after the style of graffiti but more orderly and artistic (see picture).

### Removal methods

If you spot graffiti on public property, the authority which owns it is responsible for removal and should be informed directly. Or you could inform Woollahra Council on 9391 7000 and they will pass the message on.

If you see graffiti on private property and would like to see it removed, inform Woollahra Council who will send the owner a copy of their excellent graffiti directory.

Hopefully this will prod them into removing the graffiti. Unfortunately some owners and occupiers take no notice.

If you are responsible for removing graffiti, there are several effective methods:

**PAINT IT OUT:** Remove as much of the graffiti as possible then paint over the surface with a dark colour.

Marks are less likely to show through and the dark colour will make the site less attractive to other graffiti vandals.

**CHEMICAL REMOVAL:** Specialist chemical products, available from your local hardware store, are made specially to remove graffiti.

If aerosol spray has been used to create graffiti on brick or porous walls, it is important to remove it chemically as soon as possible, otherwise it penetrates the brickwork and makes it difficult to remove.

**MECHANICAL:** If you have extensive graffiti on an unpainted surface, it may require sand or water blasting. Graffiti removal contractors are listed in the yellow pages.

Incidentally stores will not sell aerosols which can be used for graffiti to people under 18. This has had little apparent effect.

Getting graffiti removed takes a bit of effort but it is worthwhile to improve the environment.



**If you can't beat them, join them! The RIF RAF store in Oxford Street, Paddington has created a sign inspired by graffiti, but much more artistic, to discourage wanton graffiti. A store at Bondi Junction has taken a similar approach.**

## Pat Thompson Park name soon

By Robin Brampton

In 2003, Woollahra Council agreed to my suggestion that the grassed area at the corner of Holdsworth Street and Morrell Street should be named Pat Thompson Park.

This would honour environmentalist Patricia Thompson (1912-87) one of the founders of both the Paddington Society and the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association. The naming has been approved by the Geographical Names Board but no sign has so far appeared.

Earlier this year, Council's open spaces manager, David Shiels, told me that a sign would be part of an upgrade of the park, estimated to cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. We hoped the upgrade would be allowed for in the Council's 2006-7 financial year.

Unfortunately there are no funds for the upgrade in this financial year, though it is a possibility for 2007-8. However, David assures me the sign alone will soon be erected. Also, if the cost were donated, there is no reason to delay erection of a plaque recording Patricia's life and achievements.

I hope the Queen Street Association and the Paddington Society will jointly come forward with the money. Then the plaque could be inaugurated, with due ceremony, by early next year.

Patricia Thompson, who lived in Holdsworth Street, was the widow of poet John Thompson, also a local activist. Her two sons are film star Jack Thompson (adopted) and broadcaster Peter Thompson.

### 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 and 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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**President** Ian Angus

**Committee** Robin Brampton, Diana Dennison, Elizabeth Anne Gervy, Ken Gresham, Phillip Mitchelhill, Annette Robinson, Alan Smith, Keith Sole

Correspondence to Box 16  
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## Village Voice

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**"Beautiful handcrafted food delivered to your door"... Lyn Pointer with a serving of her Posh Pies**

baking schedule and you will be told when she will deliver.

Your order must be at least a dozen at \$6 a pie but they keep very well in the deep freeze. Bring them out to room temperature in the morning and heat up for 20 minutes in the evening ready to serve. Very convenient if you are out all day at work and do not want to do too much cooking when you get home

A posh pie is enough for one person's main course with perhaps salad accompaniment

We put in a mixed order of beef pies and Toulouse-style pork and ate two half pies each both scrumptious.

Contact Lyn on 9363 1541 or 0402 128 326 (mobile).

### New attractions at Pruniers

Pruniers Restaurant in leafy Chiswick Gardens has a new executive chef, Stewart Broughton, formerly of Liquidity restaurant on the Wharf. He is known to television viewers for taking part in "My Restaurant Rules" on Channel 7.

With Stewart's arrival, Pruniers has embarked on a regular series of appetising new activities:

- Pre-dinner cocktails and canapés from 6pm on Wednesday and Thursdays (\$19 per person).
- High tea with an assortment of sweet and savoury delicacies and champagne, recommended for birthdays and bridal showers, from Wednesday to Sunday (\$25 per person).

Brunch or lunch accompanied by the finest local jazz is still offered on Sundays.

Pruniers is now offering picnic hampers (in wicker, of course) including champagne (from \$100). Recommended as a special treat for football matches and other outdoor events.



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**"Say no to plastic bags"**

This is the theme of Woollahra Council programme to reduce the use of plastic bags which has been successful in the larger supermarkets.

Regular use of "green bags" has had quite an impact in reducing the quantity of plastic bags disposed of in the municipality.

Now Council is aiming it's campaign at the smaller retailers - local grocery and food/deli shops -- to support its programme.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association supports this initiative. As we do not have a retailers' association in West Woollahra, we have suggested that Council approach the relatively small number of local retailers who provide a plastic bag with almost every purchase

In most European countries, retailers expect shoppers to supply their own bags or pay the store for a bag. Aldi at Bondi Junction, which is German owned, already adopts this practice.

It's easy to keep a green bag in the car or pocket, so you will not be caught out if a store refuses to provide a bag.

And incidentally, if you are caught with a quantity of plastic bags, they can be recycled.

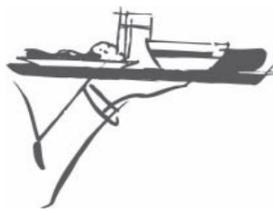
Coles at Bondi Junction and Edgecliff provide bins for collection.



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**LOCAL TABLES**

**Bottle shop turns left**

Woollahra Hotel's bottle shop has moved round the corner from Queen Street to 60 Moncur Street, the site once occupied by the TAB.

The fit-out is immaculate, from the recycled blackbutt floors to the Michael Fitzjames mural, which completes the "eat, drink and be merry" theme of the Fitzjames murals in the adjacent Bistro Moncur and Woollahra Hotel.

Managed by Gus Macauley who is well versed in matters vinous, Moncur Cellars stocks an impressive range of local and imported wine

"It is impossible to stock everything but we are happy to order in what you want," Gus told us when we asked for Amaro Montenegro, an Italian digestif. He spent last year working in wineries in France, increasing his breadth of knowledge and experience.

At the back of the shop and down several steps is a room where structured tastings are conducted in small sit-down groups on Thursday evenings. Informal walk-in tastings held in the Cellars on Saturday from noon.

Opening hours: 10am-10pm Mon-Thurs. 10am-10pm Fri and Sat. Noon-10pm Sunday. Ph 9362 0299

**Eaten up?**

Our area is suddenly the poorer for the closing of two restaurant sites.

The premises on the corner of Jersey Road and Windsor Street which were Buzo before it moved up Jersey Road are no longer a restaurant. They are the new home of jeweller Robert Clerc (see Chat Street).

And when we went to press, the first floor restaurant at the Light Brigade Hotel had "gone dark" and the area had become a cocktail lounge. However a full restaurant menu was still available in the bar area.

We were told a restaurant may open in the future but when "nobody knows".

**Pies the essence of Posh**

AUSTRALIA is a pie eating nation. But it is such a pleasure to find occasionally something far more delicious than the ubiquitous "industry" meat pie, short on meat but almost overwhelming on slightly repulsive flavouring.

So our compliments to Lyn Pointer, local resident who has added Posh Pies to her establish catering service.

Lyn describes Posh Pies as "beautiful handcrafted food delivered to your door".

The range of speciality pies includes Toulouse-style pork, savoury cabbage and Dijon mustard and Gardine la Camarque which is beef, red wine, olives and herbs. For non meat eaters, there is tuna and fresh dill; or fresh fish and French tarragon

**ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

**President emphasises role as an area "watchdog"**

Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's importance as a "watchdog" to check development applications, and to encourage street improvements was emphasised by the president, Ian Angus, at the annual meeting in May.

The association was also available to represent residents at "the next big issue", whatever it might be

Ian reminded the meeting that the association was formed for such a big issue, to preserve Jersey Road from becoming a freeway which would have "destroyed" Paddington.

"It did this very successfully," he added.

Ian also noted real improvements in local streets, although Wallis Street still needed attention. He thanked the Council for its positive response to complaints.

**Five councillors**

The meeting was notable for the attendance of five members of Woollahra Council, councillors John Comino, Claudia Cullen, Christopher Dawson, Geoffrey Rundle and David Shoebridge.

Coun. Shoebridge suggested that the association should examine individual development applications as they came up to see if they "rang alarm bells" and needed particular input from the association.

Among other topics raised at the meeting were:

**PLASTIC BAGS:** Coun. Comino said the Council would hold a "focused meeting" with shops and supermarkets regarding the use or non-use of plastic bags,

**GRAFFITI:** Coun. Cullen suggested that a "watch group" would be a positive way of controlling this problem. The Council would follow this up with the association.

**PARKING:** Coun. Comino said it was important that this issue be addressed. One-hour parking signs were discussed and it was suggested that "no standing" signs were too far from the kerb, unnecessarily eliminating parking spaces.

Tim McCormick, a Queen Street antiquarian book dealer, pointed out that many traders were lessees who did not live in the area and parked in Queen Street themselves.

**SPEEDING:** Association member Diana Dennison drew the councillors attention to the high speed at which cars were driven in narrow local streets, particularly Spicer Street, Alton Street and Peaker Lane.

She suggested that these streets should be for dual car/pedestrian use. Coun. Rundle said this would be a problem with the RTA with which the Council had to work.

**STREET SWEEPING:** Association



**At the annual meeting Ian Angus (right) welcomes Phillip Mitchelhill as a new member of the committee**

member Phillip Mitchelhill queried why mechanical leaf sweeping had been discontinued in John Street.

The committee elections resulted in Ian Angus continuing as President and Phillip Mitchelhill joining the committee. Phillip, who lives in John Street. Is the proprietor of an engineering supply company.

No nomination was received for vice president. Other committee members are listed on page 2.

The association has a new honorary auditor, Rosenfeld Kant and Co (Mr Garry Williams) of Bondi Junction.



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# CHAT STREET

## Fast Food Heaven

Does anyone cook any more? Not if Queen Street can help it! Queen Street is fast becoming the takeaway mecca of Woollahra. Walk the line from Holdsworth Street to Moncur Street and you are dazzled with the variety of food offerings. There's **Pasta Pantry** with a huge selection of sauces and lasagnas, **Queen Street Deli** with a myriad of delicious takeaway goodies prepared by various local identities, **Aurora Caffe** (more robust takeaways), **Chargrill Charlies** with chicken, veggies and meats, all chargrilled and ready to eat, and a new one soon, at 148 Queen Street, the former premises of Pasta Pantry.

To be called **Relish** this new takeaway will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner meals for less than \$10 per serve. Relish has two other outlets, in Paddington and the Edgecliff Centre. The food is to be cooked at their Surry Hills catering arm, called Brothers, and transported to Queen Street.

After Pasta Pantry moved up the street taking its fixtures with it, no 148 was leased to another fast food chain, but it began fitting up without the required Development Application and was made to stop by Council. After some warnings from Council, a DA was lodged, then withdrawn. The present lessees have an approval.

## Goodbye to Adele

It's goodbye to **Adele Weiss**, one lovely lady and a popular and creative fashion trader. Chat Street will miss her interesting and imaginative flair. Another shop (clothes, what else?) will open on the premises. Adele will pursue her other love – painting. We wish her well.

## Latest Latte

The Spicer Street café that has worn several hats over the last decade, from Panda's to Adam's to Jaffa's, was reborn recently as **Something Italian**. There is something Italian about chef John-Paul Calvaruso and barista Vincent Foti - their surnames. The soccer-mad pair dish out light meals and Lavazza coffee with perfect crema in a convivial atmosphere. John Paul's special brodo makes his soups such as zuppa di ceci particularly



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by Annette Robinson  
and Diana Dennison

popular, as are his brother-in-law's homemade arancini. Breakfast is served as well as lunch - salads, panini, pasta and pastries.

Open seven days a week from eight till four (except after Italy's World Cup matches, when they simply didn't open at all!) the café's outdoor tables catch the morning sun in winter but are shaded by an awning in summer. The perfect spot for those who prefer not to be on display on the main drag of Queen Street; Something Italian is tucked away in Spicer Street between Ruby and Min and the Video Shop. Enquiries: 9326 2320.

## Sweet Smell of Success

**Jo Malone of London** has opened up its first shop in Australia.. Where? Queen Street of course. Jo Malone specialises in fragrances: colognes, bath and body oils and lotions, cleansers and linen sprays for men and women. Fragrances include amber, lavender, nutmeg, ginger, grapefruit and verbena. Jo advises combining a number of fragrances for an individual effect.

## Lachlan Makes a Move

In tandem with the enlargement of **Attic**, the boutique which is expanding into the space formerly occupied by the hairdressing salon. Also due to the desire for more light, space and privacy, **Lachlan Astle Hairdressers** have moved sideways to overlook Peaker Lane. Lachlan and his colouriste extraordinaire, Davina, have abandoned their purple premises in Queens Court for lighter brighter ones next-door, adorned by a large Paul Ferman C-Type print. Queen Street's Brunswig & Fils have supplied the yet-to-be-hung wallpaper for the lobby which, according to Lachlan, will be in the style of Nan Kempner: 'a New York social X-ray and glamour-puss, recently deceased', giving the salon a look that is very Upper East Side. Clients can relax in comfort with a bill's coffee whilst waiting for hair care. Appointments: 9363 5100, lahair@mpx.com.au

## Snowden Lane Crosses the Road

After 28 years, **Snowden Lane**, Queen Street's boutique real estate agency, has moved across Queen Street to modern premises on the upper floor of number 112. The ground floor of the building, formerly the Commonwealth Bank, is now **Arte Flowers**.

Snowden Lane originally was a branch of a national real estate group, operated by Joe Aboud. Joe now operates it as an independent agency in partnership with Adam Regan.

"The new premises give us more space for our expanded activities", said Joe. "In particular we will have a room where we can hold weekly auctions".

With the move Snowden Lane is now offering property management with a newcomer to the firm, Lara Ryan, as senior property manager. The phone no is 9302 0000.

## Trees poisoned in Holdsworth Street

Not to be outdone by New South Head Road, Holdsworth Street had its very own tree poisoner in April. Three golden

rain trees in the street were sprayed with a virulent substance that turned their leaves brown almost overnight. One of these trees has survived through diligent watering as advised by the Council arborist. The vandals also sprayed and killed a bush inside a neighbouring property. Holdsworth Street does not offer water views so such inane vandalism leaves us mystified and disgusted.

## Robert Clerc Finally Arrives

It's been a long time coming due to Council-caused delays, but at last it's happened - the much-heralded move of this renowned jeweller - after 25 years in the Strand Arcade followed by a decade in the QVB. The glass-walled gallery and showroom of the Robert Clerc building on the corner of Jersey Road and Windsor Street (where Buzo used to be) opened on May Day.

"We wanted our own building and for it to be a landmark, so we wanted a corner building," Robert's business partner, Michèle explains. "And after 35 years of working full-time in the City, we wanted to just be open five days a week," continues Robert. "I am now moving towards sculpture, and this is a space where we can really showcase the work."

Robert designed his Magic Stone Collection in 2000 inspired by indigenous art. He then introduced large-scale bronze sculpture to his collection of work. Poured in a foundry, the bronzes are finished in the Woollahra atelier to the standard of his fine jewellery.

With a large local clientele, Robert need not feel like a new kid on the block. "They are all ecstatic that they no longer have a parking problem, but can just drop in on their walk or drive here in no time at all." Opening hours: 9:30-5 Tues to Sat. 9328 4911 or visit [www.robertclerc.com.au](http://www.robertclerc.com.au)



"This is a space where we can really showcase our work," Robert Clerc at his new premises on the corner of Jersey Road and Windsor Street.



**ROUND ROBIN**  
Robin Brampton's  
Queen Street  
Commentary

*On strike? This magnificent clock has recently been installed prominently at the corner of Ocean and Queen Street. But it is permanently stopped at 9.23. Oh well, at least it is right twice a day!*

## For millionaire imbibers. . .

A staggering total of more than 2000 different wines are stocked at the Woollahra Hotel's new cellars. At the rate of one bottle a day, it would take more than six years to sample the lot.

I naturally asked manager Gus Macauley which was the most expensive.

"Chateau Lafite Rothchild at \$999 a bottle," he replied, adding with a grin, "But we only sell it by the dozen!".

\* \* \*

Observant colleague Annette Robinson tells me that there is a new sign in Centennial Park "DON'T FEED THE BIRDS"

Depicted is an ibis which in the past few years has become a real pest, scavenging the rubbish bins and defoliating trees. But the prohibition applies to all birds in Centennial Park, including swans and ducks.

Bread, so often saved for the children to feed the ducks, is bad for these birds as it is not part of their natural diet. This means that they become more susceptible to disease, and they also lose their ability to forage for themselves. But the "cockroaches of the air", pigeons and seagulls, thrive on these scraps as they are scavengers and they have become too prolific.

Another reason to avoid feeding bread is that it sinks to the bottom of the ponds and causes pollution. So a much loved children's pastime is no longer acceptable.

Perhaps the Centennial Park authorities could package and sell small bags of suitable food (dried fish?) to keep both our kids and the birds happy.

\* \* \*

For some reason our area is a magnet for abandoned cars, even from interstate. And getting rid of them appears very time consuming, even though they are taking up valuable street parking space.

Recently an old Volvo saloon has stood for weeks at the end of Morrell Street, by Holdsworth Street, with its registration plates removed. A call to the police revealed that they had removed the plates because the car was out of registration, but removing the car was matter for Woollahra Council.

So ... I told the Council about the car. A week later it was still there. Further call to the Council. This time I was told that a sticker would be put on the car, notifying the owner of impending removal but the car could not be removed for SIX WEEKS. Council also had to inform the owner by post, getting the address from the relevant transport authority.

One might reasonably ask whether the police inform the Council promptly when they take the plates from an abandoned vehicle. And why cannot the Council remove the car immediately the plates are off. Surely it could be kept in a Council garage to see if the owner claims it instead of letting it block the street.