

The Original  
**VILLAGE  
VOICE**

Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association  
No 91 • March 2008



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association acknowledges the Goethe Institut's courtesy in allowing their premises (pictured above) to be used for its annual meeting

Do you feel strongly about local issues? Then come to our

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

**Wednesday 9th April at 6pm**

Goethe Institut, Corner of Ocean Street and Jersey Road, Woollahra



Coun. Geoff Rundle, Mayor of Woollahra, who will be present at the meeting with other Woollahra Council members

- Should we have parking meters?
- Is garbage collection to be less frequent?
- Road congestion, especially in Ocean Street
- Do we need better control over housing density?

These are some of the topics on which you can voice your concerns to the association and local councillors

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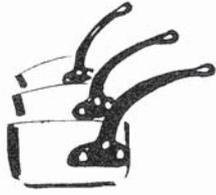
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## The Bay Tree has moved

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## Ocean Street traffic worse than ever

OCEAN Street traffic has increased so dramatically that northbound traffic is at times banked up from New South Head Road almost to Oxford Street.

In February, 2006, the last time for which we have a figure, traffic was up to 19,152 vehicles a day.

Anybody who lives on Ocean Street knows from simple observation that there has been a considerable increase since and the current figure is believed to be well over 31,000 vehicles a day.

Keith Sole, a former committee member of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association who takes an interest in the problem, reports that an RTA re-assessment is due in August when the Cross City Tunnel will have been operating exactly three years.

If traffic volume has increased because of the tunnel, the RTA will be obliged to take some action.

Under pressure to get the tunnel approved, the RTA accepted that a figure of 25,490 vehicles a day was appropriate for Ocean Street.

It became a condition of approval of the tunnel that measures would be taken to bring the numbers down if traffic volume exceeded 25,490, although the RTA has disputed having agreed to this.

### BATTLE LOOMING

So a battle may be looming between the RTA and the parties interested in containing traffic.

Of course, it will not be easy for the RTA to come up with an acceptable solution.

The volume of traffic in Sydney streets is increasing much faster than the ability of the highways and infrastructure to accommodate them

Nevertheless it is up to the authorities to make every effort to see roads take no more than their fair share of traffic.

One possible approach might be to prevent traffic emerging from York Road from going down Queen Street to Ocean Street.

The Queen Street Association has been fighting for the containment of Ocean Street traffic almost since it was founded in 1972.

A separate group which is still in existence was formed called OSNOF, standing for Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway.

The quest has always been to make traffic use other side streets to gain access to New South Head Road.

This naturally has upset residents of the streets concerned, particularly in Paddington where residents see an increase in traffic as contrary to their wish to preserve their area as an "historic precinct".

Such a move might also have an adverse effect on real estate in the areas concerned.

### QUEEN STREET AND DISTRICT A History and Guide

The Queen Street Association would like to obtain a copy/copies of this book, published in 1987 and distributed round the area.

Contact Robin Brampton ph: 9326 1257

## Year of activity includes move to assist traders

The following report on the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's 2007-08 year is by the president, Elizabeth Gervay:

AT the 2007 annual meeting I was elected president after being associated with Queen Street and West Woollahra Association since 1992.

My aim as president is that the association should represent the community and be a voice for both residents and traders.

Throughout 2007 the committee has held meaningful meetings with the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillors and Council officers who all acknowledge the unique heritage of our area and the need to maintain its special character.

### UNIQUE CHARACTER

AS with any community it is natural to grow, and some changes are inevitable. As we nurture business growth, we encourage businesses to endeavour to maintain the unique character of Queen Street and West Woollahra.

We are proud that our area is the largest conserved area of Victorian architecture in Australia. Its tree-lined streets and charming village shops offer an experience of yesteryear with today's modern community facilities— best coffees, exciting fashion houses, best toyshop, wonderful bookshop to mention only a few.

The lively outdoor cafe life, enhanced by upgrades of Pruniers, Woollahra Hotel and the Light Brigade, makes our area a "little Paris" in Sydney.



**At the meeting which inaugurated the traders sub-committee, the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Geoff Rundle, with association president, (right) Elizabeth Gervay and Jennifer Rose-Nettis of Zigolini's**

IN 2007 we joined in community events with the Holdsworth Community Centre, Centennial Park, Woollahra Public School and Woollahra Senior Citizens.

### CLEAN GREEN DAY

ON our Clean Green Community Day on 17 November, Pat Thompson Park in Holdsworth Street was named and dedicated by Pat's sons, Jack and Peter.

We also celebrated the finally up- and-running Queen Street fountain. The occasion was graciously attended by Sir Roger Burrell's wife, Margot, and her dog. The fountain originally stood in the Burrell's garden

Malcolm Turnbull officially opened the revamped Dorahauer Lane Carpark.

Our social event, Barry Crocker's "Banjo of Queen Street", held in July at the Hughenden Hotel, was also an unqualified success.

The annual Christmas Carols on December 11th in Chiswick Park, continued the spirit of goodwill in our community.

It was sponsored by Robyn Cosgrove Rugs, the Hughenden Boutique Hotel and

Pruniers Restaurant.

Later in the evening Carollers of Queen Street coordinated by Alison Stovkovich (Jo Malone) and Victoria Green (Green's Antiques) were a wonderful addition to this community event.

Three issues of our news magazine, *The Original Village Voice* were produced during the year to keep the local community in touch with the association's activities. The cost was largely met by advertising revenue and we are grateful to local businesses for their support.

The year 2008 started with a meeting which has led to formation of a sub-committee to foster the interests of traders. This meeting was sponsored by Zigolini's, with the Mayor, Geoff Rundle, attending.

The traders sub-committee is chaired by Alison Stovkovich from Jo Malone, and its creation will make the association truly representative of our whole community.

A particular issue which has always concerned the association is the unduly high level of traffic in Ocean Street, currently heavier than ever. The association will be making further efforts in the coming year to secure a reduction.

Other issues on the association's wish list are pedestrian safety in 40km zones; the need for safety barriers at main junctions; the upkeep of refuse and recycling bins; the maintenance of gardens and parklands; the elimination of graffiti; and parking.

In 2007 it became clear that Woollahra Council supports the maintenance of a green-clean local community and the need to recognise the history and heritage of the area. We look forward to the Council's continued dialogue with the association.

### The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98 002 872 433

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

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Annual Membership subscription rates:

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

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**President:** Elizabeth Anne Gervay

**Vice President:** Ken Gresham

**Committee** Richard Banks, Robin Brampton, Phillip Mitchelhill, Annette Robinson, Jennifer Rose-Nettis and Alan Smith.

Correspondence to Box 16

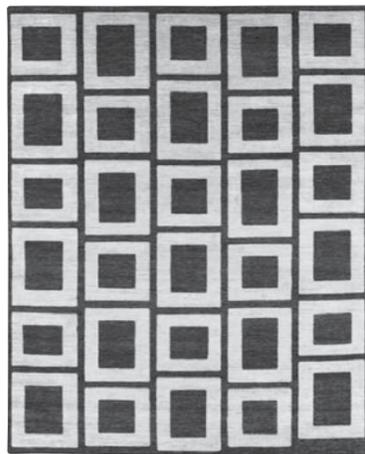
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by Annette Robinson and John Northfield

### Yes you heard right!

FROM May, Woollahra Council will reduce its twice a week waste collection service in West Woollahra and Paddington to only once a week - which day varying from area to area.

Before this happens, residents will be given the choice of having one 120 litre bin or two 55 litre bins for their rubbish.

Council says the new weekly service will enable the Council to reduce the number of waste compactor truck movements in the area which will reduce noise, lower pollution and traffic congestion.

"The new weekly service should prove to be more user friendly, with less confusion of collection days as well as encouraging recycling and helping to divert waste from landfill," the Council affirms.

We of Chat Street don't like the idea which has obvious advantages to Council in reduced costs but is potentially going to make things unpleasant for residents with overflowing rubbish bins and having cumbersome 120 litre bins to manoeuvre about.

The introduction of the once-a-week service is taking place in autumn. We hope that we do not have to hold our noses when next summer comes around!

### Artists in Touch

ART Gallery Touch (pronounced "t & ch") has moved from the Rocks to 124A Queen Street, in the former premises of Michael Carr, art dealer.

Their first exhibition in March was entitled "Wales to Warhol" featuring the water colours and lithographs of the Prince of Wales and silk screens of Andy Warhol.

Artists whose work will be exhibited later include Dali, Chagall, Matisse and Picasso.

### John and Lynette's new address

WE were disappointed when John Cunningham and his wife Lynette recently closed their "his and hers" business in the roomy premises at 80 Queen Street where they had been for 15 years.

Lynette deals in Oriental antiques and John's Art of Wine and Food company was a useful source of items for Robin's collection of antique corkscrews.



**Sally Beresford whose Queen Street store specialises in antiques she imports from France, pictured at a function to launch a local traders organisation with the Mayor of Woollahra, Coun Geoff Rundle (right) and her husband, Chris Hardie.**

John and Lynette now have a warehouse and showroom at 16 Green Street, East Botany, which they have refurbished. However, for the moment, it is only open strictly by appointment.

The pair are maintaining their mailing list and continue to publish their delightful newsletter which combines travel and antiques.

Mailing address PO 632, Woollahra, NSW 1350. Ph 9363 2817. Email: artwinefood@mac.com. Website: www.artwinefood.com.au.



### Bay Tree building changes hands

A local landmark, 40 Holdsworth Street, Woollahra (above), was passed in when it did not reach the reserve at an auction on 26 March. However the listing agency, R&W Double Bay, has since negotiated a private sale.

The building was occupied for 39 years, until recently, by the giftware and tableware retailer, The Bay Tree, which has now moved to 40 Queen Street.

Situated at the corner of Morrel Street, the premises have had many occupiers over the years. At one time they were a pub, frequented by workers at the nearby quarry off Jersey Road.

### Thirty year Celebration

AERIA, formerly Country Floors at 28 Moncur Street is celebrating having been in Woollahra for 30 years.

In 1988 owner Victoria Murray imported a range of colourful Portuguese tiles to her then new showroom, Country Floors. They were an instant success.

After some time she increased her range to include travertine stone and over the years she has added floor tiles, glass mosaics, vitrified porcelain tiles and benchtops to her range.

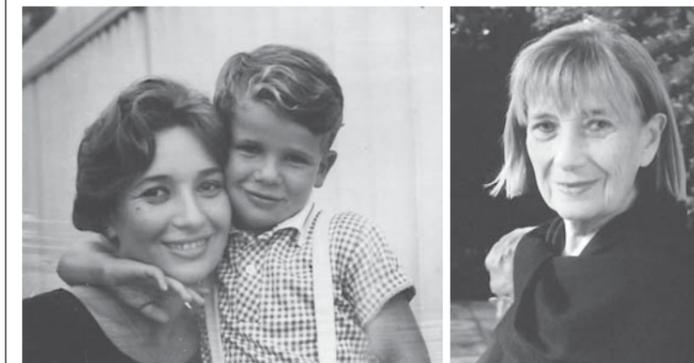
About five years ago she decided to change the name Country Floors to Aeria to show the depth of her vast range of products for architects, designers and the public. Seven showrooms later, in Australia and New Zealand, Aeria is going gangbusters.

On the opposite corner of Moncur and John Street, wedding couturiers Bacci & Hill have moved away. When we went to press the premises, with their great exposure, were up for lease.

Another Moncur Street change is that real estate agency Shields Gillman have moved from their Paddington address to 12 Moncur Street.

This family agency, run by husband and wife team, Sally-Anne Shields and Peter Gillman, has properties for sale and rent in the Eastern Suburbs and stretching as far as Darlinghurst and Glebe.

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



**The great survivor! LEFT: A picture of Sabrina van der Linden with her son Phillip taken in 1960. RIGHT: Sabrina as she is today**

### Amazing Story of Survival

IT was certainly one of the publishing events of the year in Australia when my friend and local resident Sabina van der Linden's memoir, "Destined to Live", went on sale.

I have never seen a larger crowd at a book launch and demand has been so great that the book went immediately into a second impression to satisfy demand from a New Zealand book club.

Writing under the name of Sabina Wolanski, Sabina tells the incredible story of how as a young Jewish girl in Nazi occupied Poland, she survived successive pogroms in which thousands of Jews were systematically murdered, including first her beloved mother and then her father and brother.

Since coming to Australia in 1950, she has been juggling a thriving design and later import business, her family of a boy and girl, and an unorthodox romantic life.

She has been back to Europe to give evidence at the trial of the German officer convicted of ordering the shooting of her father and brother. Then in May, 2005, when Germany opened its controversial memorial in Berlin to the holocaust victims, Sabina was chosen to speak as the voice of the six million dead.

Sabina aged 80, and her Danish fourth husband, Kjeld, live in a newly built house near Queen Street, designed to give her a sense of freedom.

("Destined to Live, One Woman's War, Life and Loves Remembered" is published by Fourth Estate and obtainable locally from Lesley Mckay's bookshop in Queen Street, Woollahra.)

### Treasures in Junk Mail

It may sound an odd taste but I enjoy sorting through what most people dismiss as "junk mail". Among the instantly discardable for recycling, I find the occasional gem worth following up.

Like the wonderful Japanese restaurant in Darlinghurst which has a hotplate on which delicious food is cooked before your eyes. A very lovely experience - and I would never have heard of it but for so called "junk mail".

In delivering *Village Voice*, I once found a house which had a notice that although it did not accept "junk mail", it welcomed free neighbourhood publications. Obviously they must have meant the *Village Voice*.

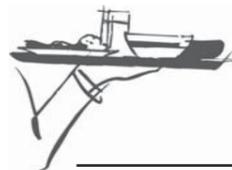
Quite frankly we take such a pride in *Village Voice* and the interest with which most people read it, that we ignore "NO JUNK MAIL" notices and still pop our publication in the box. I'm sure in most cases it's appreciated.

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## LOCAL TABLES

### CLUB'S TOP CHINESE

YOU do not think of the design or ambience of a restaurant reaching the highest standards in a sporting club.

But the new Noble Court restaurant at the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club at Bondi Junction achieves a wonderful standard of eastern enchantment.

On two visits, we were intrigued by the modern Chinese architecture with its traditional touches of bird cages and bamboo streamers. (See picture, right)

Such design is intended to set you just in the mood for oriental cuisine and the food does not disappoint.

Noble Court claims to offer such authentic Chinese dishes as yum cha with a wide range of Chinese tapas. (Tapas? We thought they were Spanish.)

Alternatively you can dine by choosing from the a la carte menu which lists almost 100 dishes.

Prices range from \$6 per person for a mixed entrée of spring roll, prawn toast and chicken dim sim to \$96 for a sautéed fillet of coral trout with various accompaniments. A half size of this dish is \$30.

A two-course Peking duck is \$58 or \$30 for a half size. The first course is served wrapped in a thin pancake with spring onions, strips of sliced cucumber and a special sauce.

A la carte dishes are listed as appetizers; soup and broth; king prawns; abalone and seafood; poultry; and pork beef and lamb.

Main courses vary in price from braised egg noodle with barbecue pork ginger and spring onion at \$17.80 to braised abalone with Chinese mushrooms at \$53.

The extensive wine list blissfully includes offerings from smaller Australian vineyards, several priced at \$28 a bottle but rising to \$230 for a bottle of Torbeck The Factor shiraz from the Barossa Valley.

Nine by the glass offerings are priced from \$7.50 to \$13.50 and if you are really celebrating you can order a bottle of vintage Moët & Chardonnay at \$150.

Beers available include both Chinese Tsing Tao and Japanese Asahi Super Dry, both \$7.50.

We would characterise the service of the all oriental staff as particularly warm and entertaining, neither obsequious nor overbearing.

The Noble Court is open for lunch, Monday to Friday from 11am, and Saturday and Sunday from 10am. Dinner is from 5.30 pm every evening. Phone 9386 9180.

RJB



### TERRACE IN THE SKY

THE Moncur Bistro attached to the Woollahra Hotel now has a companion, the Moncur Terrace, for more informal and perhaps speedier lunching and dining.

It is on the upper floor of the Woollahra Hotel premises, reached from the Queen Street entrance and serviced by a lift.

In daylight the restaurant gets its light delightfully from an overhead glass roof. It also has an area where diners can eat adjacent to a bar if they wish to combine handy eating and tipping.

On two visits we found the staff particularly efficient and attentive. On our second, Mrs RJB looked askance at the metal framed chairs. So a cushion was quickly whipped up to protect her nether portions.

The menu is shortish but impressive with main dishes ranging from Wagyu Beef Burger with chips at \$23.90 to Grilled Aged Rump Steak with horseradish butter and chips at \$33.50.

A feature of the menu is a range of four pizzas, a Margherita and three other gourmet style. All we are assured are 28cm in diameter and priced at \$24.50.

The influence of Damien Pignolet on the restaurant is very apparent and one of the desserts is named Damien's Chocolate and Orange Cake, served with whipped cream at \$16.

Specials are offered every day, typically crispy skin ocean trout with various accompaniments at \$31.

The Moncur Terrace is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 6pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 3 pm.

RJB

# attic

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## QUEEN STREET AND DISTRICT A History and Guide

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# LATE NEWS

## Meeting on Pruniers' plans

SEVERAL local residents have objected to plans by the owners of Pruniers' Restaurant in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street, to make extensive alterations to the interior.

As a result, Woollahra Council has not granted planning permission, pending a meeting this month between objectors and Pruniers' interests. It is understood that an architect engaged by Pruniers will speak and answer questions.

The objectors fear that the changes will lead to more disturbing late evening noise.

Pruniers' management contend that moving the position of the band to a brick enclosed area will reduce the noise heard outside the building.

## Coming attractions

A note for your diary. This year's Queen Street Association Christmas Carols Concert in Chiswick Park will be held on Tuesday 9 December, with all the usual attractions for children, including Santa Claus, face painting and a jumping castle.

The association is planning to again hold a mid-year supper and entertainment, probably in June, with a well known personality. Detail in the next *Village Voice*.

And a reminder that a forum on local issues, arranged by our local state member, Clover Moore, will be held on Thursday 10 April at St Georges' church hall at 245 Glenmore Road, Paddington, starting at 8pm.

Speakers will include the Mayor of Woollahra, Councillor Geoff Rundle. Topics will include transport, pollution, parklands, policing, development and the environment.

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