

The Original
**VILLAGE
VOICE**

Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association
No.94 April 2009 www.qswwa.com.au

How green is Woollahra?

Surprisingly as many as ten areas of greenery are in or touching the Queen Street Association's area. They are identified on a map on pages 4 and 5.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

Wednesday 8th April at 7pm

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

- Do you want heritage signage?
 - Do you want parking times and limits to suit residents and traders, but not people who are away on holidays?
 - Are you interested in a Woollahra Festival?
 - Should the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association become the Woollahra Association?
 - Do you want to stop trucks and other heavy vehicles using Queen Street?



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

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

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Oxford Street, West Woollahra

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Vice President: Ken Gresham

Committee: Richard Banks, Robin Brampton,
Diana Dennison, Phillip Mitchelhill, Annette
Robinson, Jennifer Rose and Alan Smith

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COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 29th

Association Cabaret
Evening,
Hughenden Hotel,
14 Queen Street, Woollahra

Tuesday, December 8th

Carols Evening,

Our View on Parking

THE right of vehicle owners to park in certain streets for an unlimited time, say, when they were away on holiday, has ended unless they have a Woollahra Council resident parking permit. After much consultation with residents, traders and Council, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association supports:

- New 15 minute parking zones near busy intersections
- That 53 currently unrestricted parking spaces to be changed to 3 hour limit during business hours except for residents with permits

But the Association still wonders why the Mail Zone (two parking spots on Queen Street near the post office) does not permit at least a 15 minute stop during trading hours - the mail van only comes once a day - and also wonders why walkway blisters at Holdsworth and Queen Streets are not placed in Holdsworth to give more parking.

Has anyone thought about a TRADERS PARKING PERMIT STICKER during business hours only, 10am to 4pm ?

Streetwatch still Active

THE Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's Streetwatch programme is still very active.

Under the scheme residents are encouraged to report street and pavement defects, such as potholes or breakages to the Association.

If you have a defect to report contact Annette Robinson at mikediz@ozemail.com.au or 0417 326 419.

New to the Committee

TWO prominent Queen Street individuals have been added to the committee of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association in an assistant capacity, viz

- Mary Read, prominent retailer and proprietor of Reads and Cambodia House, who is strongly engaged in leading and co-ordinating the interests of local retailers.
- Rosemary McDonald, daughter of Association founder and official, the late Monica McDonald. Miss McDonald has been made the Association's membership officer, responsible for keeping membership records and encouraging the recruitment of new members.

Both new assistant committee members are expected to stand for full committee membership at the Association's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

President's Report 2008/9.

THE Queen Street and West Woollahra Association continues to be our community voice with membership numbers growing.

Also, the year 2008 was marked by the invaluable renewal of the relationship between traders and residents.

It has been my aim as President that the Association should be a voice for both residents and traders.

This year as President I must acknowledge your elected committee who give their personal time freely to be a voice for you.

Years of local knowledge is brought by Ken Gresham (Vice-President), Robin Brampton (Editor of The Original Village Voice and founding member of the Association) and Annette Robinson (Streetwatch Programme).

Treasurer Alan Smith provides our non-profit organisation with a solid platform to continue. Richard Banks, long-term trader member, brings a welcomed balance and new view to issues at hand.

Further thanks go to committee members Diana Dennison, Jennifer Rose and Phillip Mitchelhill. The Association committee are all unpaid.

Please do visit www.qswwa.com.au and take the opportunity to make a difference.

Changes Inevitable

AS with any community it is natural to grow, and some changes are inevitable.

Members, both residents and traders, are our priority. The Association tries to find the middle road with issues such as parking meters, parking zone times, development applications for house/business extensions, garbage collection, a dedicated community notice board and revival of a Woollahra Festival.

Our community is made up of traders and residents. I would be unhappy to miss out on a good coffee at Zigolini's; browse in Queen Street, Jersey Road, Moncur Street; or have dinner and a drink just near work or home. The flavour and unique nature of the area is brought and maintained by the residents with their patronage and love of the area. Together traders and residents make our community.



DESECRATION!
In Pat Thompson Park, created through the Association's initiative, some thoughtless person mistakes it for a rubbish dump.

Events Success

THE Association's community events continue to be a great success. The mid-year Charity Event raised over \$2000 for Diabetes Australia NSW. This year, on Wednesday 29th July at the Hughenden Boutique Hotel, a Musical Soiree will be supporting Down Syndrome NSW.

Our Annual Christmas Event, officially opened by the Mayor, Andrew Petrie, was enjoyed by over 400 people with carol choristers from the Gay and Lesbian Choir, Woollahra Senior Citizens and Woollahra Pre-School. Kidstuff provided the gifts and the Association ran out of sausages!

Traders and residents turned on the fairy lights with Susan Avery winning the best display award with her silver and white theme.

I would like to thank the major sponsors – the Woollahra Municipal Council, Cosgrove Rugs and the Hughenden Boutique Hotel.

Do pencil in December 8th for this year's carol concert and come early with your picnic basket and rugs.

The Association continues to hold meetings with the Mayor, the Council's General Manager and Councillors and Council Officers.

Issues addressed this past year included on-street drinking by clients of hotels, Hall's Reserve signage, parklands upkeep and parking zones. The Association continues to advocate pedestrian safety with 40kph zones, Ocean Street traffic measures, safety barriers at main junctions, maintenance of facilities such as gardens and parklands, fairy lights, graffiti removal and signage for Woollahra Village and its historic buildings.

Looking forward to hearing from you and maintaining our Woollahra Village.

Elizabeth Gervay, President



Kidstuff Vamps Restaurant Reads
Cambodia House Zigolini's
Phoenix Hotel Woollahra Hotel Light Brigade
Lord Dudley Forrest Inn Hotel & Apartments Canberra
Susan Avery Florist Larox Caterink Catering
Richard Banks Optometry Holdsworth Community Centre
Woollahra Public School Michael Greene's
Bambusia Restaurant Orson & Blake
Lesley Mackay Books Sally Beresford Susanne Gervay
Piggotts Alan & Irene Smith
Art on Queen Tambourine
Zara Gresham Quaipe's at The Hughenden



Above: Chiswick Gardens, a mixture of shady trees, gardens and lawns

STUDDDED WITH GREEN

Diana Dennison visits 10 parks in the West Woollahra area



Above: Gaden Reserve, the gardens of Woollahra Seniors Centre

VISITING a high-rise in the consular belt of Fullerton Street, I was amazed to look down on the treetops of Woollahra – a sea of green we so jealously guard. Our patch, bound by Oxford Street, Jersey and Edgecliff Roads, is also home to a handful of tiny green parks, some well-known, others hidden havens.

Chiswick Gardens

In front of Pruniers Restaurant on Ocean Street, Chiswick Gardens is one of the largest of these, and the site of the annual carols event staged by the Association. A mixture of shady trees, gardens and open lawn, the area is easily accessed.

Pat Thompson Park

On Holdsworth Street, next to the Play Centre, this otherwise pleasant outdoor patch is still threatened by rhizomes of bamboo, which appear with monotonous regularity in the grass on their march from the stand of bamboo along the fence bordering the play centre. Steps at the right-hand end of the park lead down to **Spicer Lane Reserve** another grassy area with trees, and across a path to the Moncur Reserve.

Moncur Reserve

If your home faces east west, as do most side streets off Queen, the winter sun probably never enters your windows, but you can sit and enjoy it in this tree-lined park on the other side of the Holdsworth Street Play Centre bounded by Moncur and Morrell Streets.

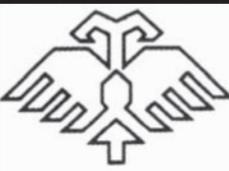
Elms Reserve

Close to the busy junction of Queen and Ocean Streets - in Kilminster Lane - lies a tiny park and playground with swings and things, unnoticed for a quarter century by this longtime resident of the area. How handy it would have been if I'd known it were there as a closer alternative to the playground at the top of Centennial Park, or even the play centre in nearby Holdsworth Street.

Halls Reserve

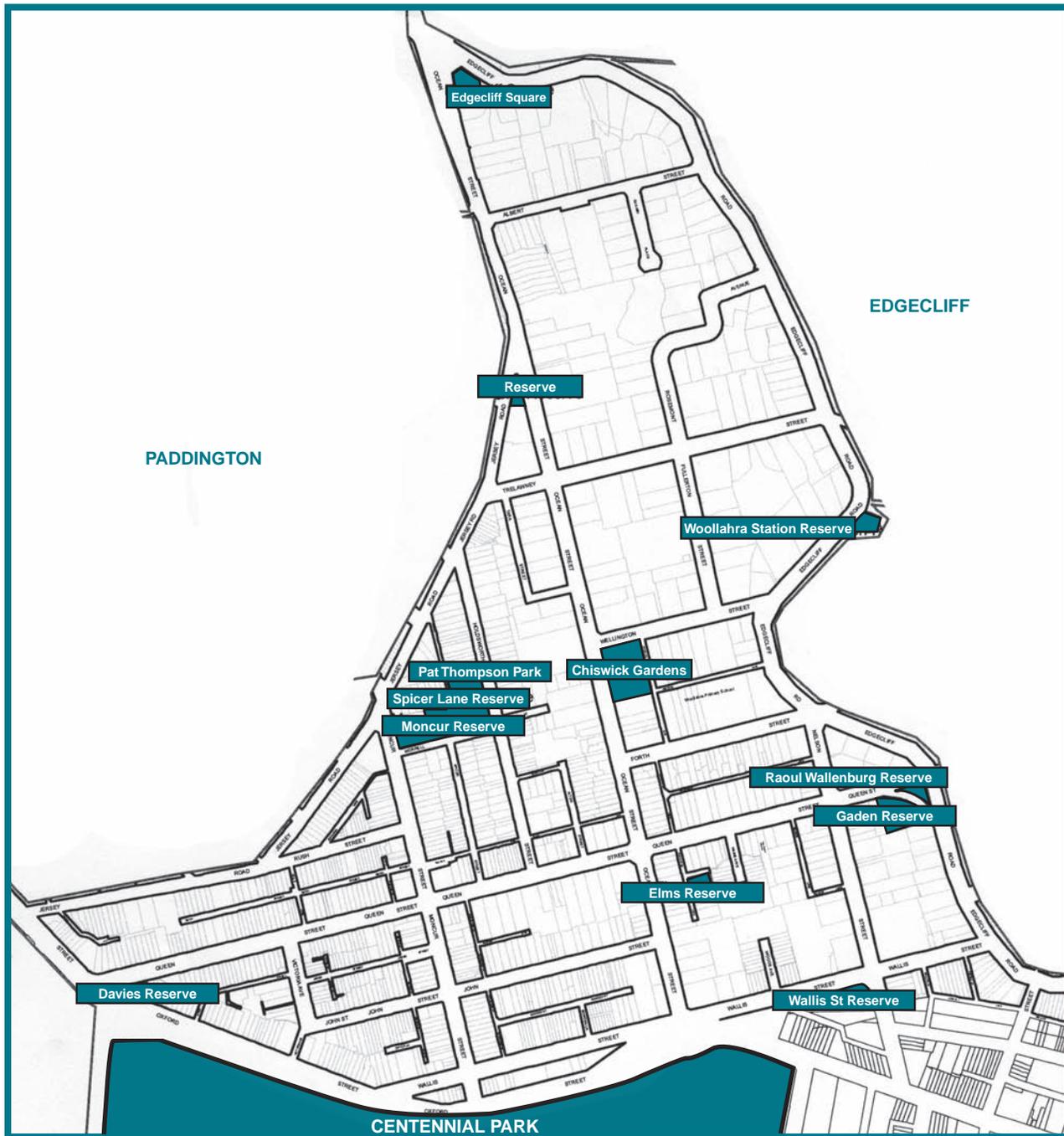
This narrow rectangular patch in Halls Lane was named for Thomas Arthur Hall, a butcher and produce merchant, whose premises occupied numbers 76-78 Queen Street. Given the nature of his huge and thriving business, Thomas Hall probably made full use of this convenient track and land for the stabling of horses and the parking of carts.

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Davies Reserve

Although not particularly green, we are proud of this small plot with its Victorian fountain bequeathed to us by the National Trust through the generosity of the late Sir Raymond Burrell of Rosemount. Pedestrians heading for Centennial Park can pause to appreciate it before braving the lights of Oxford Street.

The Raoul Wallenberg Memorial

Mainly ignored by passing traffic along busy Edgecliff Road at the bottom of Queen Street and opposite the Woollahra Senior Citizens' Centre, a triangular patch of greenery houses the bronze memorial to the Swedish businessman who saved at least 100,000 Jews from the gas chambers.

The Garden With No Name

In front of the Goethe Institut, which once housed the Woollahra Council Chambers, at the junction of Jersey and Ocean sits another triangular garden, bound by a fence and

traffic, opposite All Saints' Anglican Church. In the early days of settlement it would have been a pleasant stroll across the road to sit in the little park and have an unfettered view across to Sydney town. We may have an opportunity to name this garden. Send in your suggestions.

The Grove

At 153A Queen Street, a gate leads into The Grove, now apparently private property, once home to Banjo Paterson. Stone flags lead to the gates of 1, 2, 3 and 4, past meandering flowerbeds of camellias and hydrangeas under a sentinel ancient jacaranda.

Tompson Close

Few people realise that the garden at number 111 Jersey Road, adjoining the Tompson Close townhouses, is in fact a public space. Maintaining the garden for the public was part of the original DA when the old house in Jersey Road was knocked down to build the large townhouses. The garden is accessible through the gate at no 111.





Susan Avery's partner, Charles, who received her certificate for the best pre-Christmas window display, third from left. Also, from left, Britt Le Vin (judge), Andrew Petrie (Mayor of Woollahra) and Ken Gresham (Queen Street Association vice president).

Susan Avery Wins Display Award

SUSAN Avery who runs a flowers and events styling business in Jersey Road, Woollahra, won the award for the best pre-Christmas window display in the area in a contest arranged by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.

Second was the Queen Street fashion store Quincy and third the Queen Street fashion and furnishings store Orson and Blake.

The three winners received a plaque for their windows and dinner for two donated by Vamps BYO Bistro, Zigolini's Café Restaurant and the Hughenden Boutique Hotel.

Other winners were:

- Special Effort – The Grooming School
- Fairy lights, volume awards – Queens Court centre management and the Hughenden Hotel
- Fairy Lights blinking award – Celeste Jewellery
- Special Mentions – Lisa Ho for effort; Sally Beresford and Genevieve Lethu for their use of wonderful props.

The awards were presented by the Mayor of Woollahra, Andrew Petrie, at a lunch at the Hughenden Hotel in December.

The three judges were Ms Britt Le Vin (international PR and marketing director), Mr Neil Grigg (Paddington milliner) and Ms Glynis Traill-Nash (fashion and style editor of the Sun-Herald).

WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL

THERE'S talk in the street of a week-long festival to promote the work of creative locals and enhance a sense of community. It may be an art competition and exhibition, book readings, displays of hand-crafted items, live music, cooking demonstrations or what you will. The idea is still embryonic but your input and suggestions are important. Help us shape the festival with your feedback: what, when and where should it be?

Contact Mary Read : business@qswwa.com.au
with your ideas.



SHOPS come and go in Queen Street shopping area with the rapidity of a revolving door. When we went to press, **Churchills** butchery at 132 had disappeared behind a massive hoarding. By July, a bigger, better butchery, plus chacuterie, will be up and running. Rumour has it that it will be named **Victor Churchill** after the last of the Churchill family who worked there.

Kükthai is a welcome addition to Queen Street's selection of meals-on-the-run, filling a long-felt need for Thai takeaway. Chat Street spoke to Kük (pronounced 'cook'); she explained that in spite of her name she won't be wielding the wok, and that the unusual umlaut is to aid pronunciation! Open seven days, you no longer need to go to Double Bay, Paddington or the Junction for a fix of Tom Kar Ghai or Pla Goong. Phone: 9327 1199.

Newcomer, **Susan Holmwood**, at 26 Queen Street, has been a designer and manufacturer of an exclusive range of fine Italian linen and cotton shirts since 1991. The shirts are for women, never men, and Susan explains that the difference between a female shirt and a blouse lies in the fine tailoring. Susan started her business in the New South Wales country town of Canowindra and moved to Sydney in 2007. She is assisted by her two daughters, Alex and Kate. Phone: 9328 0011.

Riada's renovations have left it more streamlined than ever, all sleek marble floors and leather walls. **Reads** continues to supply the needs of Woollahra women of all ages. If the range of stock seems overwhelming, Mary and her attentive staff know where everything is, and will find you the perfect piece that eludes you, plus something to team it with. **Lisa Ho** has moved down Queen Street to number 43, almost opposite **Anne Schofield**, who has been exhibiting an exquisite range of jewellery made from antique beads from Bohemia. Jacqueline Lillie's designs draw influence from various sources ranging from the Bauhaus to the African beadwork of the Yoruba and the Masai.

Saba's move from Double Bay to the large shop on the corner of Queen and Halls Lane follows the trend started by **Robyn Cosgrove Rugs** (who have never looked back). **Saba** staff enjoy the change and the Woollahra village atmosphere. On the other side of Halls Lane, **John Cavill** has replaced the erstwhile **Orson and Blake** annexe. **Tim O'Connor** and **Nicola Finetti**

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QUEEN STREET

are still going strong, but between them, where **Zambelli** used to be, is (at the time of writing) a transitory 'pop-up' shop selling discounted designer gear, under a sign that says For Lease.

Fancy a pair of Manolos? Head up the 'Italian end' of Queen Street (think **Bruno Cucinelli** and **Niu**) to **Quincy**, a chic shoe and bag boutique stocking Mr Blahnik's trademark stunning stilettos, so favoured by fashionistas, (and *Sex and The City* tragics) as well as brands such as Emilio Pucci, Christian Lacroix, Von Furstenberg and Celine.

Touch Galleries left their pitch above the **Buzy Bakehouse** before Christmas and headed for Goulburn, where they wholesale works by their Argentinian protégé artist. David and Margaret Boucher of French-sounding **Boucher & Co** snapped up the space to hold an exhibition of their bespoke furniture. The response was so good that they decided to stay on. Each piece is a work of fine art made in their Queensland workshops by master craftsmen and ebonists. They combine ebony, faux ivory, nickel silver, Moreno glass (for knobs) and rare veneers such as Macassar, Amboyna and Canadian quilted maple. One of the most beautiful materials they use is shagreen, which in untreated form is stingray hide. You need to see these tactile pieces for yourself to appreciate them fully. **Boucher & Co** is closed on Mondays. Enquiries: 0418 100 009

Donna Hay is ready to open in the old **Bay Tree** site in Holdsworth Street. This gift shop offers things you will buy for your girlfriend but wish you could keep yourself! All beautifully packaged, two thirds of the stock has been sourced from overseas – letterpress stationery and cards, glassware, ceramics, baby products and decorative fancy French sugars. The rest will be the familiar Donna Hay brand. A confiserie section will sell cakes and macaroons but alas, for coffee you'll have to head back to Queen Street or along to Flat White.



LEFT:
Elegant stitchcraft! Susan Holmwood with her daughter Alex.



MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE!
The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association presents

CATHY & PATRICK in their lively cabaret

Wednesday July 29th at 7:00pm

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KEEPING AN EYE ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION

THE Queen Street Association continues to be concerned about traffic congestion in Queen Street and Ocean Street, Woollahra.

In Ocean Street, congestion at most times of day stretches back from New South Head Road to the junction of Ocean Street and Queen Street.

In Queen Street there is a bottleneck at its junction with Oxford Street with traffic having to wait more than one change of traffic lights before it can move out of Queen Street.

The Association has written to the RTA (Road and Traffic Authority), the State Government body which controls traffic, pointing out that an assessment was due last August when the Cross City Tunnel would have been operating for three years.

Our understanding was that it was a condition of the tunnel's approval that measures would be taken to bring down the traffic volume if it exceeded 25,490 vehicles a day.

We feel sure that the current volumes in Ocean Street far exceed this and would be interested to know the actual figure.

Such congestion is particularly wasteful of vehicle fuel and causes damaging emissions as vehicles are idling instead of moving.

An alternative, surely, is to divert some traffic into less used streets, such as Old South Head Road.

Your comments would be appreciated as our members are very concerned about this problem.

The Association will keep watching the problem and report developments if any – in the next Village Voice.



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

Membership Application

	Annual Sub	5 Year Sub
* Individual	\$25	\$100
* Household	\$40	\$160
* Pensioner	\$10	\$40
* Corporate	\$100	

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LOCAL TABLES

Pub with Italian polish

FEW non-residential hotels could have a smarter dining room than the Centennial on Oxford Street.

It is large, light and airy, with just a few splashes of colour. The waiting staff are friendly and capable.

On two recent lunch visits, I have noted that executive types use its remoteness to entertain, and no doubt have private discussions with, colleagues and clients.

The menu has strong Italian leanings with special pasta dishes available as entrée or main, and a selection of pizzas from a woodfire. Dishes also include anti pasti, entrée and secondi (main dishes other than pasta or pizza).

To give some idea of price, anti pasti are \$8.90 - \$9.50; entrees are mainly \$19.90 with oysters at \$17.90 (six) and \$29.90 (twelve). Pasta are \$18.90 entrée and \$26.90 main. Pizza \$21.90 - \$28.90 and secondi \$33.90 - \$36.90. The Centennial has a selection of vegetable courses, all at \$8.90

Among the secondi, I especially enjoyed the crumbed veal cutlet with potato galette and tomato relish (\$35.90). Among the pastas, we liked the linguini with wild mushrooms, parmigiano and basil (\$26.90 main).

Desserts may sound expensive at up to \$15.80 but in our experience one will usually do for two. And there is a superb selection of three Italian cheeses with lavosh and quince jam at \$21.80. One of those with a glass or red wine would make a good light lunch.

The wine selection is extensive and well kept, including bottles from Italy, Australia and New Zealand. You can pay as much as \$199 for a bottle of '97 Mount Mary Quintet from the Yarra Valley but most prices are much less and wine by the glass is generally from \$7.90 - \$9.90.

The Centennial has bar areas, just as smart as the restaurant, where counter lunch is of the same gourmet quality.

Open seven days for lunch and dinner. Phone 9362 3838.

RJB