

# The Original VILLAGE VOICE



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

No.95 July 2009 [www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au)

## QSWWA MID-YEAR CHARITY EVENT

Supporting Down Syndrome NSW



14 Queen Street Woollahra  
29th July 6:30pm

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

# From our President, Elizabeth Gervay

I stand again as the President of the QSWWA and am pleased to welcome two new Members to our Board. Rosemary McDonald has joined us with the special duty of residents' representative. Rosemary's mother was one of the original founders of the QSWWA. Well-known identity Mary Read from Reads has joined the Board again, this time as Business Representative. Mary's amazing energy has already stimulated great interest from businesses and residents in our area.

Annette Robinson has again taken up the position as editor of *Village Voice*, ably aided by Dianna Dennison whose writing skills certainly add panache to our little magazine. We encourage you to have your say in *Village Voice* by writing to or emailing editor@qswwa.com.au.

I would like to say a big thank you to Robin Brampton for the enormous effort he has put into the Association over so many years as an original founder and then editor of *Village Voice*. We



*QSWWA Committee with Mayor Andrew Petrie*

know that we will be hearing from him regularly as a contributor, and expect to see him at our mid-year charity event, with Dorothy at his side.

Phillip Mitchelhill is now your Streetwatch representative. Streetwatch was first started by past President Ian Angus who patrolled the area with his trusty dog Chester. If you have any complaints about your street, or the cleanliness of our parks, about graffiti or rubbish, contact Phillip at streetwatch@qswwa.com.au and he will relay your concerns to Council.

Remember this is your village and the Board members and myself volunteer our time to addressing West Woollahra issues. Visit our website [www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au) to see for yourself what we do.

I would like to thank Mayor Andrew Petrie for his constant support and care for the West Woollahra precinct. We are now onto lobbying for an upgrade to Queen Street – Five Ways Paddington is completed, Rose Bay Harbourside is completed, Double Bay is in the process. QSWWA is asking for underground cables, heritage fenced garden beds, change of stone benches and fairy lights.

## **Are you a member of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association ?**

Support your Association so we can support your village and ensure that West Woollahra continues to be the most beautiful village.

We're back better than before - keep an eye out for the new QSWWA Community News Noticeboard adjacent to Dorhauer Lane.



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# Robin Brampton OAM



A member of the QSWWA since its inception in 1972, Robin Brampton has variously assumed the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and

Secretary. He was the founding editor of *Village Voice* and continues to contribute editorial copy and to look after the advertising. Over the years he has dedicated much time and effort in promoting the Association, producing the *Village Voice*, and increasing the membership.

After working in circuses in England (not as a performer) in his twenties, Robin came to Australia in 1957 as a migrant journalist, sponsored by General Monash's daughter. Landing in Melbourne, he found that one of the city's three morning newspapers, *The Argus*, had folded, leaving many journalists out of work. Seeing little chance of a job there, he came to Sydney and landed a job with Consolidated Press where he worked for 11 years. He then formed his own business,

Media House. More recently he has been involved in voluntary work, including the development of the Tiko Community Centre in Zambia.

An inveterate traveller, Robin has a passion for books and words, and as a *bon viveur*, is fond of food and wine. He belongs to an association of corkscrew collectors, and is currently trying to think of a collective noun for a group of the above. (*A spiral, a twist?*)

Six years ago he was awarded an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for community development work, pending his naturalisation. So after half a century of living here, Robin finally became an Australian citizen. We remain grateful to Robin for the valuable contribution he has made to the QSWWA.

## NEW HYDROTHERAPY POOL FOR WOLPER HOSPITAL



Woollahra residents are indeed fortunate to have a wonderful rehabilitation and hydrotherapy treatment centre right here on our doorstep. Wolper Jewish Hospital at 8 Trelawney Street opened a new and greatly enlarged hydrotherapy pool in May.

The "Wolper Convalescent House" opened in 1953 after a bequest from Gertie Stone and in 1961 merged with the NSW Jewish Hospital to become The Wolper Jewish Hospital.

It consisted of 37 hospital beds and one operating theatre. By the 90s it had expanded to 71 beds, two operating theatres, a rehabilitation unit and a

physiotherapy room. In 2000 the first hydrotherapy pool was built. However the hospital was not a financial success, particularly the operating theatre. So realizing there was a crying need for rehabilitation facilities the decision was made to convert the operating theatres into a rehabilitation gym with a huge purpose-built physio treatment centre. The hospital beds were also refurbished. Wolper has never looked back. New hips, new knees and mended shoulders need care and encouragement and the firm but patient physios know just how far their often elderly patients should be pushed. The huge new hydrotherapy pool

will allow Wolper to double the intake of patients. Wolper's accredited day rehabilitation program must be referred by a doctor. A rehabilitation specialist at the hospital decides how much treatment each patient needs. Wolper's policy is to give equality of access and services for all patients irrespective of their religious faith and financial circumstances.

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# The ever expanding

The services provided by the Holdsworth Community Centre are many and varied and we as residents of West Woollahra are indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful community establishment on our doorstep. The Centre provides a range of recreational, respite and support programs which promote the wellbeing of residents of Woollahra and those in surrounding areas.

Help extends especially to older people and to those living with disability and to their carers and to families with young children.

A famous and vibrant play group for young children and their parents/carers operates weekday mornings during school terms. Parenting courses are held with the aim of giving parents management strategies to make parenthood and childhood more enjoyable. The Centre can also be hired out at the weekend for children's parties.

For older folk the Centre provides such activities as discussion groups, movie matinees, weekly bus outings to parks, museums, galleries and clubs which have lunchtime entertainment. There are day programs for older people with memory loss.

Shopping buses go to Edgecliff and Bondi Junction and assistance is given with carrying shopping. Low cost individual



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service is available to take people from their homes to the doctor or specialist services - a boon to those who are frail or have mobility problems.

An after school program for children living with disabilities operates in the late afternoon. Programs for these children also operate on Saturdays and in the holidays and recreation programs for adults run all year. A Carer Services program supports those taking care of family members who have disabilities, memory loss or other issues.

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# g Holdsworth Community Centre

The Centre's latest service is a free community bus which travels continuously on a set route in the Woollahra municipality to link people with their homes, shops and medical centre. It also has a fleet of five buses and three cars and is about to purchase a mid-size 'people mover'.

The land on which the Centre is built was originally a swamp. In 1940 it was given to the people of Woollahra and its administration and building construction was undertaken by Woollahra Council. In the mid 1970s, Holdsworth employed a neighbourhood Centre Worker and a broad range of information and activities were developed for the wider community - the frail aged and house bound, transport, an Out-of-School Hours programs and the playgroup.

It became an independent incorporated Association (Holdsworth Street Community Centre Woollahra Inc) in the 1980s enabling it to receive funds from various sources and extended its services to include programs for people with an intellectual disability. In 2008 it became a Public Benevolent Institution and donations (which are always welcome) are tax-deductible.

From modest beginnings the Holdsworth Centre has grown so that today its annual budget is over two million and it employs about 50 people, permanent and casual. Today about a half of its revenue comes from the state and federal governments, a third from Woollahra Council and the rest from fees and membership.

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## The Original *VILLAGE VOICE*

Published by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

Editorial: Annette Robinson & Diana Dennison

Correspondence: PO Box 16 Woollahra 1350

Email: [admin@qswwa.com.au](mailto:admin@qswwa.com.au)

Designed and printed by Waverley Press Pty Ltd  
236 Bronte Road Waverley 2024 Phone: 9389 3211

# Two new Incentives from Mary Read

## A new business website opens for Woollahra Village

What is [www.woollahravillage.com.au](http://www.woollahravillage.com.au) ?

Woollahra village.com.au is the newly launched Woollahra business website. It provides a unique opportunity for businesses of Woollahra to showcase their products and services as well as other community groups and other local activities.

This was an initiative of Mary Read, committee member of the QSWWA to support the fabulous traders we have in Woollahra, to promote the wonderful and unique area we live and work in and link our community.

Over 30 businesses have become members of Brand Woollahra and are also business members of the QSWWA.

The website also has a monthly newsletter where businesses and communities can inform a growing membership list of news, events, what's on, specials and articles of interest relevant to Woollahra village.

We do invite articles for this enews from the local community. Do you want to do a restaurant review, write a story on the baristas of Woollahra or let us know of local choirs, groups and networks? We would love to have this information. Please submit any articles to [business@qswwa.com.au](mailto:business@qswwa.com.au)

If you would like to sign up just go to [www.woollahravillage.com.au](http://www.woollahravillage.com.au) and you will receive the monthly enewsletter.

All enquiries or to have your business listed please email [business@qswwa.com.au](mailto:business@qswwa.com.au)

## Woollahra Festival - November 2009

It's about community, it's about us, it's about our ideas, thoughts, interactions with others, it's about film, art, literature and much more and it is in Woollahra... probably the first community ideas festival in Australia!

The Woollahra Festival will be held on 6, 7, 8 November 2009. A series of talks, interactive discussions, panel discussions, and much more will be held over 3 days in Woollahra. Opening night will be Friday November 6, and a series of talks, discussions and other dynamic events will be held around Woollahra on Saturday November 7 and Sunday November 8, 2009.

With the abundant talent in the area the Festival will prove to be a community event sharing our stories, enlightening us, making us laugh, making us think, relating with each other and of course have a great time.

Currently under development the festival will be launched early August with further information.

If you are interested in being a founding sponsor or donor, volunteering to help or just want more information go to [www.woollahrafestival.com.au](http://www.woollahrafestival.com.au)

Talk about it, think about it, help make it, be part of it, relate to it, join it, love it, do it, be in it. We look forward to your support, your ideas and your involvement. Woollahra festival.inc



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## Electricity Upgrade for Woollahra

Energy Australia contacted QSWWA in its capacity as a community organization regarding a significant upgrade in the Woollahra precinct. Five new stations will be installed in the area. This work will have considerable effect on residents and businesses for a period of 12 months.

The Community Liaison Officer is Emily Miller who can be contacted directly on [emiller@evergy.com.au](mailto:emiller@evergy.com.au) mobile 0400 334 581.

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# Robyn Cosgrove Woollahra Resident

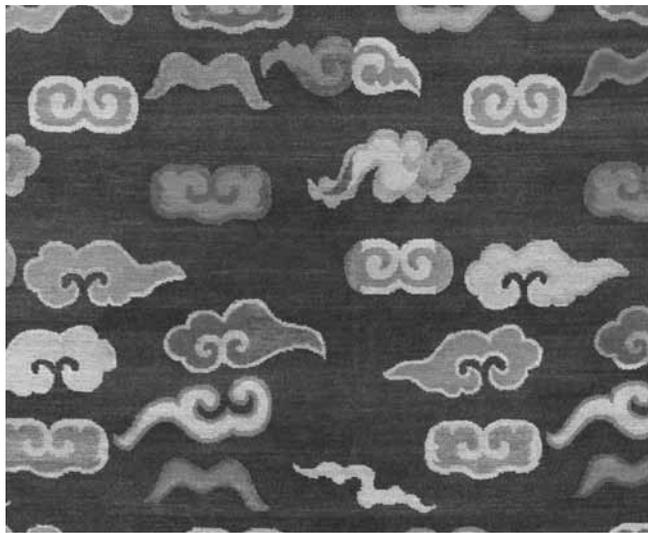
Passers-by would have noticed the construction work going on in the back lane behind the premises of Robin Cosgrove Rugs, on the corner of Queen and Ocean Street.

It's not that Robyn's business premises are expanding - the superbly designed shop was completely remodelled five years ago when she moved from Double Bay.



Now Robyn and husband Trevor have decided to live in our area and have made a new home for themselves over the shop.

The quietly spoken Robyn established her floor covering business 30 years ago. She imports from Pakistan, Nepal, Turkey, Romania, Morocco and China and many of the designs are her own. She caters for the domestic and commercial market and will do individual designs to suit clients' floor spaces.



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ROBYN COSGROVE

## Eureka, it's Euroka!

In the last *Village Voice*, we mistakenly described the triangular patch where Jersey Road merges with Ocean Street as **The Park with No Name**. On closer inspection, it is clearly named **Euroka Reserve**, an Aboriginal name it was given in 1971, claimed to translate as 'a sunlit corner'. The building fronting this reserve, now the Goethe Institut, was built as Woollahra Council Chambers in 1864. Council met there until 1947 when they moved to Redleaf, and leased the building. The German Government bought the building in 1976. All this time the park remained Council property, but they seem to have forgotten about its existence. (Perhaps it should be called **Hortulus Nullius** – Little Park Belong Nobody.) In a list of Council reserves in the suburb of Woollahra, Euroka does not rate a mention, but further research confirms that they do own it.

Entrance to the park is through three gates in fences badly in need of repair and a coat of paint. Mystery men in mufti mow the lawn. The plants clogging the pond conceal a fountain waiting for restoration, while another fountain is hidden somewhere up the pointy end of the triangle. Two stately trees provide summer shade, and two finely carved stone benches, the only seating. Where a timber table and benches once stood, there remains only a post. The staff of the Goethe keep the area tidy, but why is the Council shirking its responsibility regarding upkeep of this small but attractive outdoor area?



## You Know Who You Are

A nearby local resident has sprayed white paint over the 'No Dogs Allowed' sign in **Euroka Reserve**. In fact, Goethe Institut's caretaker hinted that dogs are grudgingly accepted, but only if accompanied by owners with plastic bags who are scrupulous about 'Taking Care of Business'. When we visited, two dogs were happily chasing each other around the pond. The canine population of Woollahra is substantial and they are as discriminated against as smokers, but with less justification. Other pooch-attractive patches, such as Thompson Reserve fiercely announce **Dogs Strictly Prohibited**. In most areas of Centennial Park, untethered dogs run the gauntlet of the Rangers risking a ticket.

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# DOWN YOUR STREET

## Queen Street's Madama Butterfly in Chrysalis

Next to St Kevin's, the house at 115 Queen Street is currently cocooned by a tall black hoarding with signs heralding a long-overdue Conservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction after half a century of dilapidation by neglect. Famous as the home of our **Dame Joan Sutherland** for 19 years, the house was built as a single-storey sandstone home between 1856-1863 by her grandfather, Richard Alston. A second storey was added in 1891. After her father died, Joan and her mother moved into her grandfather's house in 1932, but the family sold the house in 1958. Since then a variety of tenants including thespians Noah Taylor and David Gulpilil inhabited a house left to crumble around them.

This writer was standing across the street one morning in the mid-1990s when the whole first-floor verandah sheared off the building landing with a thump and a pile of rubble.

Heritage Consultant, Ruth Daniell, explained to *Village Voice* that house is in a ruinous state, requiring extensive reconstruction and that the project may take about two years. The rear of the building will be contemporary but the original house will be restored to comply with heritage criteria.

## Halls Reserve Sign



At last there's a new sign in this narrow green patch next to Tim Olsen's Gallery. With information supplied by the Hall family, it explains how Halls Lane came into being, and the history of Hall's Butchery. Unfortunately when

*Village Voice* visited, they found the tiny park strewn with litter and the bin overflowing.

## New Café in Spicer Street

Under a striped awning and with a smart new fit-out, Arman, recently of Sugar, has opened **Spicer Street Café**. Arman serves breakfast till noon, then lunch, from a menu as exotic as his Turkish-Cyprian origins. Breakfast and lunch dishes include old favourites such as bacon and egg roll and Croque Monsieur, but most feature an original twist such as the addition of za'atar (a Middle-Eastern blend of spices - sumac, sesame seeds, thyme, oregano and marjoram). I tried his Agua de Jamaica - Iced Hibiscus Tea: a rose-coloured infusion with fresh mint leaves and a squeeze of lime - delicious and refreshing. Arman serves smoothies, frappes and Mexican Hot Chocolate, with vanilla, cinnamon & a hint of chili. His coffee is Grinders Giancarlo arabica. The café is pet-friendly; your dog may sit tethered to the railing if you sit in the winter sun at one of the outdoor tables. Open from seven till four (cash only).

## The Blade's the Thing

Stuck for a gift? Genevieve Lethu sells a myriad of French kitchen accoutrements such as these Laguiole pizza knives. After 120 years of knife-making, this famous firm has branched out producing a different knife for every purpose.



The resin-handled knives come in a rainbow range of colours and to avoid confusion with all those other special purpose implements, have PIZZA cut into the blade! But if it is a present, be sure to ask the recipient for a coin in return to avoid the bad karma associated with giving a knife.

## Streetwatch News

The newly appointed committee member for Streetwatch, Phillip Mitchellhill, wrote to the Mayor setting out a number of issues for Council attention and comment. Council has replied promptly (see italicized reply)

1. Replacement of trees in Queen Street and Moncur Streets.

*One tree has already been replaced and the other will be replaced soon.*

2. Installation of litter bins particularly outside takeaway coffee shops, hotels, the post office and bus stop.

*This has been tried without success as bins encourage illegal dumping.*

3. Regular cleaning of footpaths and street furniture in Queen Street.

*Queen Street gutters and footpaths are cleaned 7 days a week starting 6am. Street furniture is cleaned when necessary and coffee shops have been asked to throw warm water over the seats and pavement every day. Bins are emptied 3 times a day.*

4. Removal of barriers in James Street which have been there for six months.

*Barriers were left by the gas works contractor. To be followed up.*

5. Advice as to how residents or Council can facilitate removal of abandoned supermarket trolleys.

*Council Rangers will monitor the area and the stores concerned will be notified that trolleys must be collected or they will be impounded. Council should be alerted on 9371 7000 or the Council Rangers on 1800 641 497.*

***Residents' reaction to the above would be welcomed, particularly with regard to the cleaning of street furniture and the street cleaning by the coffee shops.***

**Email [philip@mitchelhill.com.au](mailto:philip@mitchelhill.com.au).**