

The Original VILLAGE VOICE

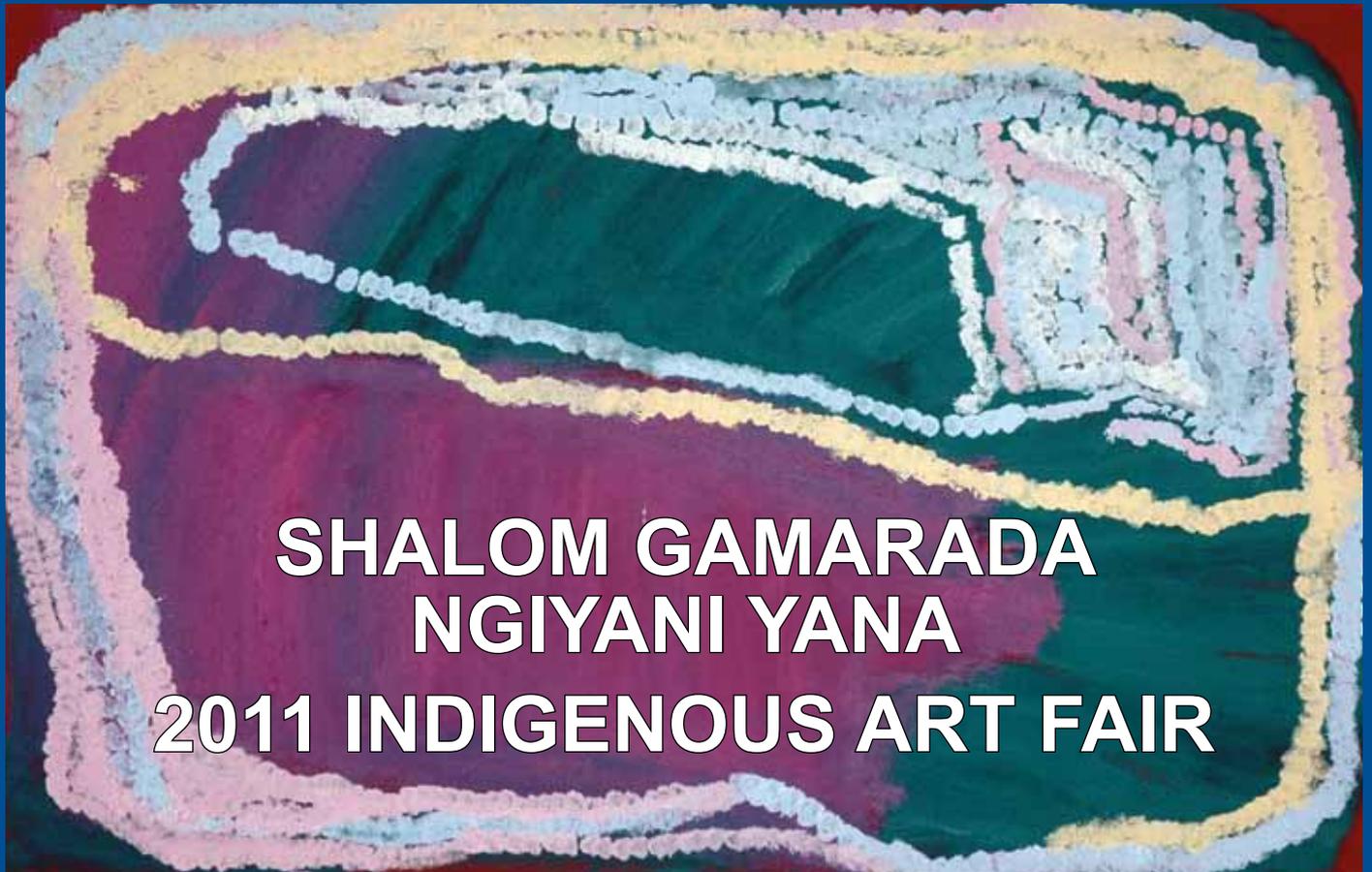


Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

No.101 August 2011

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SHALOM GAMARADA NGIYANI YANA 2011 INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

Image courtesy of Jan Billycan and Short St Gallery

Funding Residential Scholarships for Aboriginal Students
Saturday 17 – Sunday 25 September 2011
at 111 Queen Street Woollahra

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President's Report

OVER THE YEARS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH WOOLLAHRA Council Mayors has always been cordial.

Meeting regularly with the Mayor of the day and appropriate officers has afforded us the opportunity to bring matters of infrastructure issues and improvement in our precinct to the notice of council at the highest level.

Our results have been mixed with some notable successes but our failures are more significant. These are generally unable to be carried out, as, while they were agreed to be desirable, insufficient funds were available.

The old problem that the limits on raising of rates were only sufficient to cover essential council works of road maintenance and rubbish removal with nothing left for infrastructure improvement let alone the inflation from previous years. The annual increases were only 2 or 3% so we were grateful for any funds found to deal with the West Woollahra's specific issues and understood the limitations.

Now the 2011 IPart decision has given Woollahra Council increases in rates totalling over 25% over next two years.

So now can we arrange some improvement to the facilities and infrastructure appropriate to our beautiful heritage area?

The most recent meeting held in early June with Mayor Isobel Shapiro and Tom O'Hanlon – Director of Technical Services was prior to the I Part decision and struck the usual budget issues. Will things now change?

The matters discussed were

- Kerbs, gutters and roadways post the Energy Australia work and the proper repair of the damage caused.
- The replacement of old florescent lighting which is above the tree line in many streets (such as Holdsworth St) with heritage- style light fittings commonly seen in parts of London and other cities.
- Speed and traffic calming in Jersey Rd between Moncur and Ocean Streets (previously approved).
- Cleaning and maintenance of the eating area and the seats in Queen St. (although it was suggested that the food take-aways as the beneficiaries could take some responsibility in keeping the area clean and clear of rubbish).
- Installation of garbage bins in Thompson Park and Halls Reserve as soon as possible (agreed).
- Generally an upgrade to the broken infrastructure around the West Woollahra area.

It is interesting that as you travel around the less affluent suburbs of Sydney that the infrastructure seems to be better in quality and maintenance.

Even more so when you travel internationally to countries we are told are going broke and yet these local government issues seem to be well maintained and of high quality with appropriate street fitting and furniture.

In our area people upgrade their homes, spending millions, and yet live on streets with broken footpaths and poorly maintained roads.

The Queen St and West Woollahra Association has been for many years operating a "Streetwatch" program advising council of dangerous and damaged infrastructure. If you wish to be our eyes and ears please contact us with any issues of that kind that need attention even if you have already advised council we can follow the matter up on a regular basis.

We can all watch with bated breath to see how the additional money in rates will be spent. I for one am more than willing to pay higher rates provided it is reflected in our environment and it's maintenance.



KEN GRESHAM,
QSWWA President

Rates Up in Woollahra

ON JUNE 10 THE INDEPENDENT PRICING AND Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced that rate rises proposed by Woollahra Council had been approved. Long standing government policy in NSW limits the increase in rate revenues in line with council costs. In December the rate peg was set at 2.8%. The special rate variation process allows councils to seek to increase rate revenue by more than the rate peg.

This is the first year IPART has had the responsibility for determining council special rate variations, which allows councils to address their individual circumstances.

IPART Chairman Mr Rod Sims said that the rate peg set for all councils does not allow for a lift in council services to meet growing expectations of communities nor does it allow for expenditure needed to address accumulated backlogs in infrastructure maintenance.

Woollahra Council applied for a special variation by 9.82% in 2011/12 and 10.41% in 2012/13. The proposed increases represent an annual average increase of 7.2% above the estimated rate peg over 2 years. Council estimated that average residential rates will rise by \$44 in 2011/12 and \$47 in 2012/13. Existing environmental and infrastructure levies will expire over the same period.

On approving of the rate rise Mr Sims said " We placed a particular emphasis on councils consulting adequately and openly with their community..... Council consultation must involve clear disclosurecommunities need to see that revenue from these rate increases is spent as intended.

2011 Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Indigenous Art Fair, Saturday 17 - 25 September

Exhibition open daily from 11 am to 7 pm

Featuring works by Lydia Balbal from Yulparitja Artists at Bidyadanga and a survey of the art of the APY/NPY Lands of central WA and northern SA

Proceeds fund Residential Scholarships for Aboriginal Medical Students

Venue: 111 Queen Street Woollahra NSW 2025

ART FORUM Sunday 18th September 3.00- 4.30 pm

Three perspectives on Aboriginal art - The Art Centre, The Curator and The Collector
Emily Rohr (Short St Gallery, Broome), John Cruthers and Pat Corrigan AM

Moderated by Jenny Hillman

DANCE PERFORMANCE Saturday 24th September 11.00am

Performance by Naisda Indigenous Dance Company

HEALTH FORUM Sunday 25th September 3.00 – 4.30 pm

In recognition of the achievements of the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana program Xstrata Coal has sponsored an annual award of \$15 000 for the best contribution of artworks from an art centre to the Art Fair.

All enquiries: Jenny Hillman 0410 648 859 jenniferhillmanftt@gmail.com, Suzie Spira 0411 583 602 suzie.spira@gmail.com

For further information about the Shalom Gamarada Sponsorship Program please visit the website www.shalomgamarada.org

SHALOM GAMARADA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES residential accommodation at Shalom College, Randwick to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying at the University of New South Wales.

In 2011 more than 20 indigenous scholarships will be offered.

The premise behind the scholarship is to make a contribution to closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students. Since the program's inception in 2005 twenty -four students have been assisted to study medicine, optometry and health science. The program has now expanded beyond medical and health science students to students studying other disciplines.

Indigenous students find it difficult to succeed at university because they often come from deprived educational and socio-economic backgrounds, and usually live far from campus meaning many hours of travel. Many have to find part-time work to support themselves. Living on campus alleviates these pressures.

THE ANNUAL SHALOM GAMARADA ART EXHIBITION was established to help fund the scholarship program. Held annually since 2005 the exhibition is curated by Waterhole Art and consists of indigenous artworks obtained direct from indigenous communities.

Prices range from \$100 to major pieces valued at \$70,000. One hundred works are exhibited, the total value being over \$1million.

The art exhibition is considered to be the flagship of the scholarship program as it

- * Raises money for the program
- * Generates publicity about the program
- * Promotes indigenous art appreciation
- * Raises the self esteem of the students
- * Provides funds to the art communities.

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The Original *VILLAGE VOICE*

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Notice to all QSWWA Members
Please send the Association your email address

Chiswick Gardens Restaurant Approved

THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR THE ALTERATIONS and additions to the existing restaurant including new kitchen, services and facilities and landscaping was approved by Council in June. The approval did not give consent to any live music or a dance floor. Traditional profiles and materials in the historic building are to be maintained.

Well known chef Mat Moran's company, Food Passions will operate the restaurant.

We look forward to another top restaurant in our area and are delighted that the once famous Pruniers will be resurrected, if under another name.

Proposed new bar in Queen Street

THE PROPOSED NEW BAR UPSTAIRS AT 144,146,148 Queen Street is awaiting assessment of the amended plans. The Small Bar Licences Bill introduced by Clover Moore is limited to premises catering for 120 persons or less and will permit the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. The small bars may also serve food and/or provide entertainment such as jazz or cabaret. Tables and chairs must be available for 70% of patrons.

Standard hours are 7am to 11pm Mondays to Thursdays and from 7am to 1.00am for Fridays, and for Saturdays from 10 am to 11pm. Further extension of hours may be applied for but the Court must be satisfied that this would not result in undue disturbance in the neighbourhood. Social impact assessments are not required.

Although time has passed for the public to have its say the application has yet to go to the Development Control Committee or the Application Assessment Panel and it is likely there will be a public meeting to discuss the application further. Check with Laura Beattie, Events and Communications, Woollahra Council.

Joan Sutherland's home still in limbo

THE FORMER CHILDHOOD HOME OF JOAN SUTHERLAND is again on the market, the original sale, rumoured to have been \$6.5million, having fallen through. The original house was a sandstone single storey dwelling built between 1856 -1863. Extensions were added by Joan Sutherland's maternal grandfather Richard Alston. Joan lived in the house for 19 years from 1932- 1951 when she was a pupil of St Catherine's school, Waverley.

Expansion plans for the Holdsworth Community Centre

THE HOLDSWORTH CENTRE HAS LODGED A Development Application with Council to create some much needed additional office space.

The proposal is to enlarge an open-plan office area on the ground floor from approximately 50sqm to approximately 100sqm. The upstairs office area is already this size and there is currently an under-croft of approximately 50sqm open to the playground on the north side of the building. There will be no visible difference to the building from outside the site as all the works face in to the playground part of the site.

There will also be an all-weather awning constructed around the new office space on the eastern and northern facades at first-floor level. The front door to Reception will be re-located from the north to the eastern facade, but still within the playground area.

The external walls, doors and windows will be constructed in materials as similar as possible to materials used throughout the existing building. The same colour scheme will be used as on the current building.

An engineer's report has already been obtained indicating that the only major work to be undertaken is the construction of a new concrete slab.

The interior fit-out will be in keeping with the rest of the Centre. It is hoped the work will commence in late September.

The Centre has been growing rapidly over the last few years and now has about 70 staff and over 170 volunteers looking after over 2,000 people each year throughout south-eastern Sydney. In the last twelve months the Centre has won tenders for over \$500,000 of annual government funding to deliver additional day programs for frail seniors and for people with dementia, including an innovative new program for people under 65 who have been diagnosed with dementia. This is in addition to its existing long-standing services for young families, children and adults living with intellectual disabilities, carers, seniors, and community transport for people throughout Woollahra.

Some staff of the Centre are currently camped out at the EJ Ward Centre in Paddington, but are all looking forward to being able to work from under the same roof.

If anyone would like more information about the proposed building works or the services offered by Holdsworth, please contact the Centre's CEO, Michael Ryan, on 0438 338 581.

Michael Ryan, CEO
64 Holdsworth Street Woollahra NSW 2025
T: 9302 3600 M: 0438 338 581
E: michael.ryan@holdsworth.org.au
www.holdsworth.org.au

VALE

Ian Murray Angus OAM



THE ASSOCIATION IS SAD to report that our past President Ian Angus passed away on 24 May 2011. Ian was a Committee Member of the QSWWA and President from 2005 -2007.

Ian Murray Angus was born in Vaucluse on 26 August 1930. He spent his early years

in Melbourne, returning to Sydney's north shore and school

at Knox where he was School Captain two years in a row. He studied Economics at Sydney University and then traveled overseas where he met his Danish wife Hanne.

Returning to Sydney he joined the company, NCR for whom he worked for 37 years. He was a Director of NCR in Japan, the USA and MD in Hong Kong, Germany and Sydney.

Ian had many interests. He was on the Board of the State Library, joined the Opera House Trust, the board of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and John Bell's Shakespeare Company.

He was a valued and hardworking member of QSWWA and an exceptional President. He started the "Streetwatch" program, walking the streets of our area with his trusty black and white dog Chester and reporting problem spots to Council.

He is sorely missed.

In honour of his life the QSWWA has donated \$500 to the Heart and Lung Research Trust Fund, St Vincents Hospital, Sydney.



148 QUEEN STREET WOOLLAHRA 2025

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Peter Nield Departs the Woollahra Pub

AFTER 18 YEARS AS LICENSEE AND GENERAL MANAGER of the Woollahra Hotel, Peter Nield has decamped to Danks Street. Peter joined the Woollahra not long after the Bistro Moncur opened on the third of March 1993. He told VV how during his time at Bayswater Brasserie, where he worked for nine years, he got to know regular customer Damien Pignolet. When Damien told him that he and Ron White had taken over the Woollahra, Peter was soon lured our way to run it.

During his tenure the hotel has gone from strength to strength. From a somewhat run-down pub, the Woollahra emerged after a major refurbishment as a sparkling up-market hotel of many parts. The Front Bar on the Queen St side, frequented by affluent suits and perfect manicures is separated (only by a peninsula serving drinks to both sides) from the Back Bar with its comfy feel of pool and pokies. In addition to the well-established Bistro Moncur, there is now the Moncur Terrace upstairs plus a function room for cocktail parties, auctions or what you will.

Adjacent to the Bistro, the Moncur Cellars with its delightful sunken tasting room stocks a remarkable selection of Australian and imported wines.

After Ron White's recent untimely death, things were never going to be the same. The Woollahra Hotel has now been sold to John Ryan, owner of the Phoenix, and Peter has made the decision to move on. VV wishes him well, as we continue to enjoy the pleasant surrounds of our local on Queen Street.

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WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL UPDATE

THE SECOND WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD 11 – 13 November. After the success of last year's festival and feedback from the public the Festival Committee have employed an outdoor event coordinator and a transport adviser.

There were plans to close off Queen Street between Moncur and Holdsworth Streets from Saturday evening to Sunday evening and a DA to this effect has been lodged to Council. Roving entertainment, a community dinner and venue talks are envisaged. The Committee invites the community and retailers to become involved, sponsor events or volunteer. There will be a variety of events for all.

The QSWWA proudly supports this community festival and will provide sponsorship of \$5000.

PINK WEEK IS ON AGAIN

THE ASSOCIATION ALSO SUPPORTS QUEEN STREET Pink Week which will be held from 10 -16 October, culminating in Pink Sunday 16 October. Pink Week is run by Breast Cancer Network Australia which raises awareness for breast cancer. Last year shops dressed their windows in pink balloons silhouettes and ribbons and many locals and visitors dressed in pink. Pink week which promises to be an annual event is organized by the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia.



PROMOTING PUBLIC ART

MAYOR ISOBEL SHAPIRO HAS SHOWN ENTHUSIASM for a public art trust to raise funds for artworks in parks, commercial spaces and major developments. She says the Public Art Policy reflects the Council's strong commitment to design innovation and artistic excellence." We have so many wonderful open spaces that would provide a great platform for public art, encouraging residents and visitors alike to visit our local area."

The trust would allow residents and donors to make a tax deduction.

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

Patron: Neville Wran AC QC

President: Ken Gresham

Vice President: Mary Read

Committee: Bill Connolly, Ian Mansell, Phillip Mitchelhill, Rosemary McDonald, Colin Pannell, Annette Robinson and Alan Smith

Correspondence to:

PO Box 16, Woollahra 1350

Email: admin@qswwa.com.au

business@qswwa.com.au

Website: www.qswwa.com.au Phone: 0411 141 931

SALUTE TO PROGRESS

By Ian Mansell

I RECENTLY JOINED THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST Woollahra Association thinking 'what a good idea' since I have lived in this area for over twenty years and must surely count as a local by now. Although, I once stayed on a farm in the Lakes District of England and its owner informed me that his family had lived there since 1798 and were still considered to be strangers, so maybe I'm being presumptuous. Notwithstanding this conundrum, I determined to perform my civic duty, with the aim of improving the environment for its local denizens.

I began my quest with an earnest evaluation of our local milieu, since it seems to be the central issue that elevates the blood pressure of most correspondents to the Association. From an historical perspective, how has the locale changed? A once sylvan setting in which cart horses meandered along Queen Street and the early mornings were suffused with the unrequited and plaintive mating calls of the local currawongs. A chorus that was interspersed with the joyful twittering of lorikeets and silver eye, rather than the ubiquitous tweeting on mobile phones in restaurants when you are trying to have a quiet tête-à-tête?

Perhaps the experience of a friend recently visiting from the Mediterranean sums it up. After a very late night sampling the culinary wonders of Woollahra, including a rigorous tasting of the local wine offerings, I was looking forward to a good sleep-in with dreams of unrealised exercise and was mortified to receive a very early phone call from our friend with the frightening news, that some sort of monstrous machine with a strong whine, sibilant hissing and flashing lights (really like the machine in Dr. No) was slowly passing beneath her window at 5.30am. "Go back to sleep" I murmured in a soothing voice, it is merely the Council's street sweeping machine. We have been complaining to them for over eight years about this noisome excrescence on our environment and their response has been chorused by a mantra along the lines of 'How shocking, what a blight on the neighbourhood etc, we will deal with it'. In retrospect, how very Zen of them, as in the sound of 'one hand clapping' and about as effective.

Notwithstanding this inauspicious beginning, I then turned my sights on to our physical environment and mused how a Government Authority can carry out changes in services and then leave previously well-paved footpaths filled with soft black gunk, which in many places is already breaking up and actually sinking into the sub-soil? The same post-modern technique has been applied to the kerbing and it is clearly just a matter of time until a serious accident befalls one of our more senior residents. With summer on the way, not to mention global warming, our sidewalks will soon revert to the pristine state of nature that applied in this area before pavements were invented. I can envisage toothless ancients trapped in the street like the prehistoric animals caught in the La Brea tar pits of Los Angeles, providing an unfathomable mystery for AD3000 archaeologists. And on it went; dogs' droppings in the lanes, streets in a permanent construction zone with trucks apparently chauffeured by escapees from local asylums, seemingly bemused by our irritation on being unable to enter or exit our garages, large SUVs driven by would-be Fancies, who can scarcely see over the dashboard, double strollers trundling like T34 tanks along the footpath – I could go on, but notwithstanding "la recherche du temps perdu", who would live anywhere else in Sydney?

DULCIE ELIZABETH WILESMITH (nee Konnecke)



DULCIE WILESMITH passed away peacefully on 10 April 2011, aged nearly 96 years.

Dulcie lived around the Woollahra area all her life – the city was in her blood. She was born in the family home at 21 Alton Street, and then the family moved to 132 Queen Street where they lived on top of the butcher shop where her father Albert was a butcher.

This shop is now the “famous” Churchill’s Butchers. They were happy times there for the Konnecke family and no one could make sausages like Churchill’s!!! Dulcie was removed from school at the age of 13 to look after her newly born twin brothers Leslie & Arthur. Sophie & Albert also had Reginald, Dudley, Edward & Joyce, who all lived in the Woollahra area for many years.

The Konnecke’s then moved to 57 Ocean Street Woollahra & when Dulcie was married to George after the war in 1946 she moved to a terrace house in Queen St again.

Dulcie often spoke of her younger years in Woollahra. She remembered fondly the old Post Office, which was originally a butcher shop where her dad worked & great grandfather owned & worked. The family has an old black and white photo of it as a butcher shop. She spoke of things like - the delicatessen that Mr Booth owned; the twins going to cubs at St Columbo’s church; Zink tailor’s at Taylor square (where the twins got their school jackets made); the twins playing in Spicer street with all the other kids; the Woollahra picture show; the day Sydney Harbour got bombed, war wardens & the papered walls in homes; the Woollahra Fire Brigade where Arthur worked; the Woollahra paper shop where Leslie worked; Leslie’s wedding at the Congregational Church Woollahra; the Royal Easter show at the old showground; Dr Small & Dr Roger Dunlop in Woollahra who tended to the family; soldiers marching from Victoria Barracks to St Columbo church (past their house in Queen St); and Dame Joan Sutherland living opposite their home in Queen Street (who apparently practised every afternoon).

Dulcie was a passionate Eastern Suburbs Football Club supporter – she had “Rooster” memorabilia all through her home. She loved the Eastern Suburbs and all it had to offer. Dulcie’s final years were spent in the Housing Commission flats in Elizabeth Street, Redfern.

Dulcie’s old friend Trixie (who is a Woollahra resident) sent me a copy of the *Village Voice*. What a wonderful magazine for residences and businesses in the West Woollahra area. I thought some of your readers may know Dulcie and the Konnecke family.

Susan Konnecke (niece).



Can you place this picture?

Susan Konnecke who wrote the obituary of Dulcie Willesmith has sent *Village Voice* this photo of the original butcher shop on Queen Street. She believes it then became the first post office. Can you place it today? If any of our readers have old photos such as this we would be delighted to publish them.

QSWWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association works on behalf of the residents and businesses in Woollahra Village.



Johnny Yungut Image, Papunya Tula

Joseph McDonald, 5th year Medical Student,
Shalom Gamarada Scholarship Recipient

"I have been living at Shalom College for 5 years. It has been a life-changing experience for me. I have had time to work hard at uni, in a racism-free environment in which indigenous students can live proudly. Without this scholarship it would be impossible for me to study medicine, as there is no way my family could afford for me to live in Sydney." – Joseph McDonald



Judy Watson, Yuendumu



Alma Granites, Yuendumu



Lydia Babal, Short St Gallery