

# The Original VILLAGE VOICE



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

No.104 July 2012

www.qswwa.com.au

## QSWWA Annual Dinner 2012

The QSWWA held its Annual Dinner on 7 May 2012 at Chiswick in Woollahra. It was a fantastic success with attendees enjoying the excellent food, the fabulous prizes and the opportunity to meet and connect with their neighbours. Below are a few photos taken on the night by local photographer, Naomi Hamilton.



Top row: Janine Bavin, Sally Psaltis, Richard Osborne; Jill and Ian Mansell; Maria Pace. Second row: Heather and Giles Edmonds; Scott Koopman, Jodie Baker; Shane Wood; Patricia Connolly. Third row: Stephen Price and Luise Elsing; Peter and Martina Parker; Margaret Moore, Rehana Box, Nic Feteris; Tim Whiteley, Harry and Arthur from Nostimo; Ken Gresham and Jenny Garber; Gary Sands.

## What's on

- Inaugural Diogenes Sinope with key note speaker Dr Ida Lichter at Nostimo on 8 August at 7.30 pm (see page 3). Entrance is \$20 per head. For bookings please contact [ian.mansell@yahoo.com.au](mailto:ian.mansell@yahoo.com.au)

- **H o l d s w o r t h** Community Centre will be a polling booth for local government elections on 8 September and the staff and volunteers will be running a cake stall. *Pictured right Mayor Susan Wynne with her children Sasha and Chloe*



- All Saints' Concert – 16 September at 2 pm - a concert of beautiful lieder, organ and choral music followed by afternoon tea, with Jassen Rose, Director of Music and the Choirs of All Saints and di Canto. Entrance by donation to support the All Saints' Choral Scholarships Program ([alsaints@bigpond.net.au](mailto:alsaints@bigpond.net.au))
- National Council of Jewish Women NSW (Div) is hosting its fifth *Pink Sunday* event on 21 October (10 am to 12) to raise awareness and fundraise for Breast Cancer Network Australia at Fanny Reading Council House, Queen Street, entry from Dorhauer Lane. Fundraising activities include pre-sponsored individuals and teams on stationary exercise bikes, a *Pink Pooch* competition as well as music and food (pink of course!). Prizes will be awarded for a number of categories and pre-registration is required. For further details on how you can get involved and as a community, raise funds for this worthwhile cause please contact [admin@ncjwnsw.org](mailto:admin@ncjwnsw.org)
- All Saints' Historic Tour – 28 October at 11.30 am - a tour with Jassen Rose focusing on the All Saints' windows and organ (including a short performance of its range). Entrance is free of charge ([alsaints@bigpond.net.au](mailto:alsaints@bigpond.net.au))
- Woollahra Festival in Queen Street will be held from 15 - 18 November. ([www.woollahrafestival.com.au](http://www.woollahrafestival.com.au))
- Carols at Chiswick Gardens on 11 December at 5.30 pm. For further information or offers to volunteer or donate please contact Alan Smith ([ireneal.smith@gmail.com](mailto:ireneal.smith@gmail.com))

The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Association or its members

## West Woollahra: A Magnet For Buyers

Queen Street and the surrounding streets of West Woollahra will always be a magnet for buyers because it is the perfect spot for enjoying the Sydney lifestyle. Not only can you live just minutes from both the beach and the city centre, you can surround yourself with a sensational selection of boutiques, bars, cafes and restaurants. For many locals the biggest benefit is having Centennial Park as their backyard. For some it's the perfect place to enjoy time with the kids. For others it's about keeping in shape by running laps or emulating Cadel Evans on their sleek carbon fibre road bikes. While only a few properties boast big gardens, the proximity of Centennial Park more than makes up for this.

Most people who choose West Woollahra really value their time and by being so close to everything they know, they can make the most of it. For many, the biggest joy is not having to get in the car every time they wish to go out. While parking is at a premium in the area, I've known many couples who've moved in and quickly discovered they no longer have any need for a car. One of the great aspects of the area is that it offers an excellent selection of properties. There are a significant number of elegant period apartments, which provide excellent opportunities at the affordable end of the market.

Luxury buyers will also discover some of Sydney's finest terraces, many of which have been superbly renovated. Once you live in the area very few want to leave. For this reason there is always strong demand and values continue to push upwards. Owning a property around Queen Street is not only great for your lifestyle, it's also a great investment. In 2011/2012 clearance rates have remained steady due to the constant lack of stock. It seems 'Woollahra' and its attractions remain the flavour of the month and first preference as to where to live.

[georgiacleary@bradfieldcleary.com.au](mailto:georgiacleary@bradfieldcleary.com.au)

### The Queen Street And West Woollahra Association Ltd

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[www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au)

A residents and traders group covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Ocean Street between Jersey Road and Edgecliff Road, Edgecliff Road between Ocean Street and Leswell Streets, Leswell Street and Oxford Street between Leswell Street and Jersey Road

Patron: Neville Wran AC QC

President: Ken Gresham

Vice President: Mary Read (Traders Group)

Vice President: Ian Mansell (Residents Group)

Committee: Phillip Mitchelhill, Rosemary McDonald, Alan Smith, Luise Elsing, Aurelio Marano, Christopher Michaelides and Jeanette Knox

# All Saints' Anglican Church Ocean Street, Woollahra (built 1876)

Construction of the church designed by Edmund Blacket was completed in 1883. Its major benefactor was Henry Mort (1818 – 1900) an industrialist and member of NSW Parliament who travelled to Sydney with his brother, the 'father of Australian dairying', Thomas Sutcliffe Mort in 1840.

The organ in All Saints' is one of three manual instruments built by Messrs Forster and Andrews of Hull, England between 1881 and 1884 for buildings designed by Blacket. The first was for the University of Sydney (1881), the second, All Saints' Woollahra (1882) and then St Saviour's Anglican Cathedral, Goulburn (1884). The organ was extensively restored in 1989.

On Sunday 28 October 2012 at 11.30 am Jassen Rose, Director of Music at All Saints' will host - free of charge - a historic tour of the church focusing on the organ including a short performance of its range and the stained glass windows. Please contact parish administrator, Miranda Marshall on 9327 1468 for further information.

alsaints@bigpond.net.au  
www.allsaintschurch.org.au

## Out & About

### **Welcome to new businesses in Queen Street!**

*Nickolas Properties, Ray White, Village Home, Napoleon Perdis, Ecoya, Sharon Lee and the English Tapware Company* which is moving into the *Sally Beresford* building

### **Changes in Queen Street and West Woollahra:**

The *Newsagency* is moving to 105 Queen Street

*Wholefoods House* is moving To 112 Queen Street

The *Phoenix Hotel* is getting ready for the opening of *One Moncur*, champagne bar, in August

*Sally Beresford Antiques* is moving to Mount Ashby Estate, Moss Vale

*Aeria* has closed in Moncur Street

*John Cavill* and *Basquesse* in Queen Street are also leaving

### **Congratulations to:**

James Mo from the Queen Street grocer for providing postal services

*Sunman & Walker* for hosting the Woollahra Festival headquarters in their offices upstairs at the post office

# Diogenes Sinope On Queen Street

## **A community initiative endorsed by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association.**

Do you ever feel the urge to trash your twitter, dice your iPhone, flip your facebook and actually have a conversation with real, rather than virtual people? Now is your chance to engage in discourse with Woollahra locals and friends. Everyone is invited to meet on the second Wednesday of each month at Nostimo café. All topics including sex, politics and religion are fair game, conducted with the decorum expected of civilised discussion.

Featured speakers will address the gathering for a maximum of twenty minutes and then it will be open for contributions, questions, or complaints. There will be a time limit on this second phase of four minutes. This is to avoid anyone getting carried away with the exuberance of their own verbosity, unless encouraged to do so by popular acclaim. The time limit will be strictly enforced by a lictor waving an Ancient Greek Speaking Sceptre.

You may ask, why Diogenes Sinope? The answer is apocryphal in the sense that he was an Ancient Greek philosopher who was a renowned Cynic, with strong views about individual thinking. His alleged behaviour included: living in a barrel, disgusting personal habits and barking like a dog in response to philosophical discourse.

## **Dr Ida Lichter will be the keynote speaker at the inaugural event at Nostimo's on 8 August at 7.30.**

Dr Lichter is a true 21st century exemplar of the enlightenment thinker. She is a multi-faceted intellectual, psychiatrist, accomplished musician and author. Ida is also a highly respected commentator on the plight of Muslim women and their struggle for rights in repressive societies. Her recent book '*Muslim Women Reformers: Inspiring Voices against Oppression*' reveals a struggle that is largely unsupported by so-called liberal voices in the West, who often seem more intent on facilitating the advent of reactionary Sharia Law into pluralistic societies.

Light refreshments, including wine, will be provided at a nominal cost of \$20 and prepayment is requirement. Please contact convenor Scribulus Maximus – Ian Mansell on 0416 233 447.

ian.mansell@yahoo.com.au

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The Woollahra Festival of Arts and Ideas is a festival which is produced by the community, for the community and the wider audiences of Sydney, and is held in the uniquely charming village environment of Queen Street. This is the third year of the festival, building on the success of the last two years.

The Festival is about building and celebrating community with a cutting edge ideas program involving some of Sydney's leading minds, a free outdoor performance program with a head-turning line-up of musicians, comedians and performance artists. The celebrated dinner will be held on Queen Street.

Not only is the Woollahra Festival an exciting weekend of events, it is a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to engage with the community and benefit from the estimated 10,000 attendees.

The festival dates are Thursday 15 to Sunday 18 November. The full program and booking will be available shortly on the web at [woollahrafestival@gmail.com](mailto:woollahrafestival@gmail.com).

### Volunteers Wanted

If you would like to get involved in your community, list your interests in an email to [admin@qswwa.com.au](mailto:admin@qswwa.com.au) or [woollahra\\_festival@gmail.com](mailto:woollahra_festival@gmail.com)

## Heritage Matters in Queen Street

In 1880 the residents of Queen Street were able to obtain water piped from the water tank in Centennial Park. Holding a million gallons (4.6 megalitres), the tank still supplies Queen Street residents today. The building of the tank in 1879 was eagerly awaited. A letter from the Town Clerk of Sydney at the time had promised "supply of water from Waverley Reservoir would be available next summer".

Before this constant supply of water was provided, residents could have obtained water from one of three sources. They might have collected roof water but there is no evidence of this. It is more likely that they relied on well water and at least five wells still exist on properties in Queen Street. Or they would have bought water, stored it in an underground tank and pumped it up as needed by hand. This water would have come from water carriers who were licensed to buy and sell water which they obtained either at the Hyde Park outlet or at the outlet near Victoria Barracks.

*"Queen Street and District. A History and Guide"* by Halliday and Brampton published by QSWWA

If you have a business in the Woollahra area you are invited to join the Woollahra Village website and email newsletter which promotes Woollahra as a shopping, business and entertainment destination, offering services to local residents and bringing visitors to the area.

Membership includes listing on the Association website [www.woollahravillage.com.au](http://www.woollahravillage.com.au) in an extensive directory of businesses in the area; inclusion in an electronic newsletter which is also mailed to thousands of shoppers eight times each year; promotion on the Woollahra Village facebook page at [www.facebook.com/woollahravillage](http://www.facebook.com/woollahravillage). Membership also includes business membership of the QSWWA.

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

## QSWWA would like to thank the following businesses which have given support to the Association

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aeria                      | Queens Court                |
| Amanda Garrett             | Reads                       |
| Axel Mano                  | Restorative Yoga            |
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| Buzy Bakehouse             | Richard Banks Optometrist   |
| Chargrill Charlies         | Robyn Cosgrove              |
| Classic Safari             | Ruby and Min                |
| Collette Dinnigan          | Sally Beresford             |
| Di Jones Real Estate       | Sunman and Walker           |
| The Hughenden Hotel        | Susan Avery                 |
| I and B Perryman           | The Woollahra Hotel         |
| Isherwood Antiques         | Tim Olsen Gallery           |
| L J Hooker                 | Trelise Cooper              |
| Light Brigade Hotel        | Vendome                     |
| Michael A. Greene Antiques | Victor Churchill's          |
| Moving House               | Wentworth Travel            |
| Napoleon Perdis            | Woollahra General Practice  |
| NCJWA                      | Woollahra Times Art Gallery |
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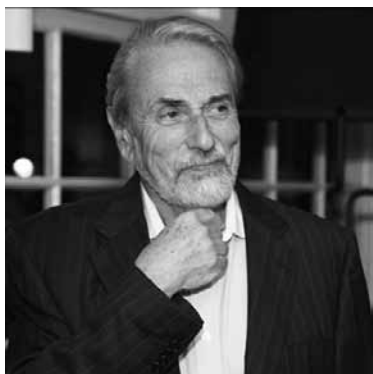
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## President's Report

A history of over 30 years of battling to retain Queen Street and West Woollahra as a "human scale" area has seen the Association win more battles than it lost. Maintaining this area with the liveable

charm of a bygone era places us as a breather between the overdevelopment of Bondi Junction and the problems of Double Bay. The real charm is the eclectic nature of the dwellings and commercial properties making this a wonderful place to live and work.

Our continuing task is, in consultation with our members, acting on inappropriate development applications that are made to Woollahra Council. Most prospective developments in the precinct are of a relatively minor nature affecting one or two neighbours and we generally are not involved.

Just when you think there is no overdevelopment opportunities left, one turns up. 119 - 121 Queen Street is a case in point. The building previously known as Ozanam Villa and the heritage house alongside have been purchased by a developer who has submitted plans to council to redevelop this site.

The development incorporates a block of 15, two and three bedroom units as over 55s accommodation with underground parking and built to four stories at the rear. Additionally, the house will be renovated by the developer.

Concerns raised by residents with this development are many:

- height and bulk which imposes itself on residents in Queen and John Streets
- excavation into unknown rock and water courses
- greatly increased traffic in Morton Lane to access the carpark
- access to the site from Queen Street by large trucks during construction
- intensity of the development itself
- many other technical breaches

We have seen inappropriate development in the past and are aware that such buildings remain in the community for many decades.

On the basis of these facts the Association has registered an objection in an endeavour to force the developer to return to the drawing board to present a more appropriate development application.


*Now for the good news:*

For many years the Association has been lobbying Woollahra Council for a full study of Queen Street and West Woollahra to be undertaken to create a plan for our area to ensure that our streetscape and infrastructure is dealt with in a more appropriate manner for the most significant heritage zones in New South Wales. To that end a sum of \$70,000 has been allocated for the study to be carried out by an independent consultant in consultation with the QSWWA. The battle to maintain our precinct continues . . . .

Ken Gresham  
President QSWWA

### Aims of Queen Street and West Woollahra Association

- to foster a sense of identity and pride in Woollahra's unique character
- to preserve the architectural characteristics of the area
- to prevent properties from falling into decay through neglect or unreasonable delays in redevelopment, and to discourage unsympathetic development
- to press for the beautification of streets and recreation areas by tree planting, street furniture and signage
- to fight visual pollution of the area by ugly advertisements, poles, wires and other eyesores
- to ensure the quiet of the area is preserved
- to ensure the safety and convenience of pedestrians and vehicles
- to encourage appropriate businesses and services in the area and to foster in those businesses a sense of community involvement that will benefit residents and visitors
- to assist charitable and community service organisations through fundraising and joint activities



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RON OSBORNE B.A. LL.B., LL.M (Corporate and Commercial)

## QSWWA Committee Update

QSWWA invited the Mayor, Susan Wynne to attend its Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2012 at the Goethe Institute. The meeting was a terrific opportunity for the Mayor to get a handle on the issues facing local businesses and residents including the implications of the proposed developments on Queen Street, the state of Peaker Lane and the process for consultation and consideration by Council of DAs. We look forward to further opportunities of engaging with Councillors.

Following the AGM the Association appointed additional committee members: Aurelio Marano, Luise Elsing and Christopher Michaelides. Luise will be the Editor of *Village Voice* and we are particularly grateful to have on board, Aurelio who is preparing objections to Council.

The Committee would like to thank outgoing committee members including Dizzy Robinson for her tireless efforts as Editor of the *Village Voice* for over 13 years.

It is very important that we continue to maintain and grow memberships to support the Association in its aims including encouraging appropriate businesses and services in the area and fostering in those businesses a sense of community involvement which will benefit residents and visitors.

### Membership

If your membership is due or you would like to become a member of QSWWA please complete the form on the website at [www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au) and return to:  
PO Box 16, Woollahra 1350.

## STREETWATCH

### Massive Development Proposed For Queen Street

It is proposed that Ozanam Villa at 121 Queen Street and 119 Queen Street be developed to include 15 apartments with underground car parking for at least 19 cars.

This large and complex proposal will – if approved in current form - detrimentally affect the heritage streetscape and the amenity of residents and visitors to the Woollahra Village.

#### QSWWA arranges consultation with developer

The developer advised that serious efforts had been made in the DA to preserve the heritage and Village aspect of Queen Street and its immediate surrounds. However, local residents seem to take that message with a grain of salt and many objections are concerned with the loss of village atmosphere resulting from the construction of an overbearing four storey development.

#### Proposed development is too large

The proposed development is excessively large and is set far too close to Queen Street. Notably, its proposed height is four stories! An interesting matter for those of you who have tried to add additional stories to your homes and been knocked back by Council.

#### Goodbye leafy Woollahra

The DA includes a proposal to remove many trees, the most significant of which is the magnificent 20 metre high Hill's Fig. Categorized as Class A by the arborist the tree is on 119 Queen Street and is very visible from Queen Street. The developer also intends to remove all visible gum trees from 121 Queen Street. For this proposal to go ahead, the designers intend to 'murder' these long-time residents of our environment, for the sake of 'what'?

#### Queen Street historic water course

Locals are concerned that the excavation required for a two storey underground car park will disrupt an underground water course and dam the water which will flood into adjoining properties. While this may be good news for gondolas, it is no joke if you live next door.

#### Construction phase

During the proposed 18 month construction phase, trucks including 18 metre long ("B Doubles") will enter and exit via a temporary driveway between 121 and 119 Queen Street. This will result in congestion, dust and noise to Queen Street which will have negative impact on Queen Street's ambience and businesses. It may also have implications for the Woollahra Festival.

#### Ongoing loss of pedestrian amenity

There are serious safety issues regarding motor vehicle traffic both during construction and on completion. On completion of the development residents and services will access the proposed development through Morton Lane and Dorhauer Lane. For residents whose garages currently access Morton Lane, the already bad situation will be exacerbated. Anyone who uses these streets and lanes will know how perilous they are for pedestrians since in large part there are no pavements. The so-called traffic plan might more properly be titled 'Demolition Derby' during and after construction.

#### Woollahra village protests

The QSWWA has lodged an objection to the development focusing on its non compliance with Council requirements with respect to height and bulk and the implications for the Heritage Conservation Area of the Queen Street Precinct. If you care about Queen Street, get your head around the developer's attempt to create an inappropriate development in a place that doesn't need or want it in the proposed format.

[records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

QSWWA is always keen to listen to the comments of residents and businesses on developments. To notify QSWWA's *Streetwatch* of your issues in the community please email us at:

[streetwatch@qswwa.com.au](mailto:streetwatch@qswwa.com.au)

## Peaker Lane:

### There's something in the air

Residents have been complaining to the Council and to Streetwatch over the state of Peaker Lane, related overflow issues in Holdsworth Street and also Spicer Lane which experiences problem due to what seems to be inadequate drainage from the Moncur Reserve.

In Peaker Lane there is strong odour of sewerage especially during the evening and those in the know say the stench is of raw sewage. The lack of drainage particularly during rain results in water stagnating in the lane, which encourages the rat population.

Peaker Lane is also full of pot holes which may have been caused by the increase in deliveries to the very popular shops in Queen Street.

A site meeting with Council has taken place in Peaker Lane, arranged by the QSWWA, and the good news is that assurances have been given by Council that the Peaker Lane matter will be attended to shortly. It is hoped that further consultation will take place to address the remaining overflow issues.

## Woollahra Hotel

The Woollahra hotel has withdrawn its application for outdoor seating on the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets. There were several objections to this development from the community, which included the disruption to pedestrian access at a busy intersection in the village. It is always good to see the community voice being heard and actions being taken with respect to the issues raised.



*photo: Phil Quirk*

## Free Speech Or Mob Tyranny?

Who says that Woollahra is just another typical example of deep suburbia. June arrived with a blast of cold weather that would have made a Siberian feel right at home and on the chilly evening of the fourteenth, we were graced with one of our first political demonstrations in living memory. A group, which largely consisted of what looked like 'rent-a-crowd', mounted a street protest outside the National Council of Jewish Women Centre. This rally sought to make its point by mindlessly repeating a puerile and incoherent chant through a portable PA system and waiving a sign suggesting that a Socialist solution is the only answer for the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. I assume that they meant a National Socialist Solution or even more laughably one proposed by the Baathists.

Presumably, they were trying to disrupt a discussion that was taking place in the building. Now I should confess that I am a firm believer in the Democratic Process and particularly freedom of expression without which, civil liberty, one of the bedrocks of Democracy, is an impossible ideal. Having said that, it is worth recalling that free speech is a right that carries obligations, for example refraining from unnecessarily calling out "fire!" in a crowded cinema or preaching racial or religious vilification. However, when any group seeks to deny the right of others to carry on a discourse, no matter how unpalatable, by the process of infantile screeching or imitating a roving band of Howler Monkeys, I say that "enough is enough!"

This 'spontaneous demonstration' had been instigated via social network, and necessitated the attendance of a large contingent of police and security. The action of the demonstrators disrupted local businesses and inconvenienced residents going about their lawful activities. This is nothing to do with free speech and simply represents the tyranny of mob expression.

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# The Queen Street And West Woollahra Association Ltd

Your community voice!

## Holdsworth Playgroup

*Village Voice interviews Catherine Dynan who runs the playgroup at Holdsworth Community Centre*

**VV: Why is Playgroup so successful?**

**Catherine:** Playgroup creates a community feel where everyone is welcome. We have people from all over the east as well as families who have moved away but still come back – even from the north shore and inner west – because they love the Playgroup and the local shops!

**VV: What about the location in Woollahra?**

**Catherine:** Being so close to the Woollahra Village is a bonus. Most of the parents arrive clutching a takeaway coffee from their favourite cafe! Shops are kind enough to get involved in Playgroup and support fundraising. *KidsStuff* gives us loyalty points and *Donna Hay* is a Holdsworth Ambassador.

*Village Voice asks parents what they think*

**VV: What do you like most about coming to Playgroup?**

**Alison:** The warm, caring environment. The Baby Room and activities like Sports Fundamentals, Funky Moves and the farm animal days are brilliant.

**Emma:** The trees make this place special – the kids have so much space in which to play.

**VV: Is the social aspect important?**

**Angela:** Being new to Sydney it has been important to meet people who have become good friends

**Phil:** Definitely, it helps me to feel part of the community and my daughter gets to meet lots of kids.

**VV: What about the location?**

**Alison:** The location is perfect. I used to walk from Paddington but now that I am further away I drive because I love it here.

**Angela:** Being so close to the Woollahra Village allows me to shop before and after Playgroup. We often treat ourselves to lunch after a busy morning playing.

**VV: Is there anything else?**

**Alison:** I have been coming to Playgroup for over three years and I have loved every minute of it. Staff have blown me away with their enthusiasm, passion and genuine love of the job.

**Phil:** The safe environment gives children freedom to roam, socialise, explore and play.

## News at Woollahra Seniors

Holdsworth hosted an information evening on Monday 16 July at the Woollahra Seniors & Community Centre corner of Edgecliff Road and Queen Street. Michael Ryan, Holdsworth CEO, spoke about plans to create a community cafe at the Centre. This was an opportunity to see the 'before shot' and share Holdsworth's dreams for what can be possible in this fantastic space. Holdsworth is now managing both the Seniors Centre and Woollahra Meals on Wheels which offers a unique opportunity for building something special for our community. If you would like to contribute to Holdsworth's planning or would like to be kept informed of developments as Holdsworth and Council progress with a DA for the site, please email [cafe@holdsworth.org.au](mailto:cafe@holdsworth.org.au) or call Michael Ryan on 9302 3600



*Claire Wivell-Plater, Holdsworth Chairperson; Michael Ryan, Holdsworth CEO; Barbara Flynn; Gabrielle Upton MP; Giles Edmonds*

Susan Avery

FLOWERS AND EVENT STYLING

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