

# The Original VILLAGE VOICE



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd No. 112 April 2015 [www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au)

Do you have an opinion on the new Queen Street seats? Don't just sit there! Come along to the AGM, join QSWWA and be involved!

**Queen Street and West Woollahra  
Association Annual General Meeting  
6 pm on Tuesday 19th May  
at the National Council of Jewish Women, 111 Queen St, Woollahra  
Participate in this important Village Community event  
Voice your concerns for Woollahra  
Come and meet our Deputy Mayor and Cooper Ward Councillors  
Light refreshments provided**



## President's Report

This will be my final article for the Village Voice as President of the Queen St and West Woollahra Association as I will not be standing as President at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in May.

The organisation was established 43 years ago and this past year was my 25th year on the committee and I have been President for two periods totalling 14 years.

The past 25 years has seen enormous changes in both residential and commercial properties and the style has indeed changed. Many locals discuss the area as if it is immutable and unchanged, let me remind you of some of the changes.

At the start of my tenure we had a very different Queen St shopping precinct with three bank branches, a large post office, no take-away shops, few restaurants and coffee shops, village style shopping and the centre of antique shops supplying both Sydney and Australia. Almost no chain stores, most were one-off family run businesses in shops that were either owner/operated or on relatively moderate rental. Parking turnover has changed and many more short-term spaces are now utilised for the take-away pick up or a quick coffee.

The residential element of our area has also changed substantially. We have avoided the high-rise elements of local planning with a three-storey height limit retained. The desirability of the area as a place to live and bring up a young family has increased real estate values to such an extent that the demographics of the area is younger families with more money to spend and less of the older population. Twenty-five years ago it was unusual to see prams and strollers in Queen St - that is now a common sight. The median age in the area has dropped by over 15 years in the intervening period.

Two decades ago it was an area of small cottages and terraces on relatively small plots. New residential property owners maximise the floor space by building rear extensions. They often rebuild and add lock up garages built to the full extent that the rules allow. In most cases they retain the streetscape at least in scale.

The Woollahra Hotel once the watering hole for locals now attracts a younger, hipper patronage. Certainly, less people driving to and from the pub.

The heritage zone that includes our area requires continuity of the scale and style of the streetscape and yet many old houses have been completely demolished to be replaced by large residences of a completely different style. I suppose it is

all a matter of taste and in some cases Woollahra Council has exceeded the floor space ratio for the property with approval.

Woollahra Council itself has changed, whereas in the past the councillors were changed by the voters from time to time, at the last election 9 of the 15 councillors were new. Undertakings and relationships could not be maintained which made it more difficult for local precinct organisations such as ours to get our message heard.

Regardless of change and difficulties, your association has achieved much and we are proud of our record of representing both residents and businesses. The *Village Voice* itself is a testament to the hard work of the committee and it's supporters.

I will be continuing to give the new President and her committee all the support and advice they seek.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank all the committee members and Mayors and Woollahra councillors that I have worked with over the past 25 years and to all the hundreds of members who support their local neighbours and shops in keeping the area a haven in which to live and work.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Annual General Meeting to welcome the new committee.

*Ken Gresham, President*

## Street Watch

Many footpaths in the area need urgent attention Please contact us via email at [streetwatch@qswwa.com.au](mailto:streetwatch@qswwa.com.au) with details, street name and number and a picture if possible.

Details of many abandoned vehicles in Victoria Ave and John St were reported to Council in February. Council has responded and let's hope this is not an ongoing issue.



## Visitor Parking Permits

A reminder to residents that they can purchase 10 Visitor Parking Permits a year at a cost of \$2 per permit.

**VISITOR Parking Permit**

Resident's name, year, month and date. Please tick on the left hand side of vehicle's front windscreen in clear view. Cost \$2 per permit for validity of one year.

YEAR: 2014 2015 2016

AREA: PATN 4

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## John Street

The recent paving and gutter work by Woollahra Council in John Street looks wonderful. Residents please spare a few drops of water between rain showers to ensure the survival of the grass.



### **The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd**

ABN 98002872433

P.O. Box 16 Woollahra 1350 email: [admin@qswwa.com.au](mailto:admin@qswwa.com.au)

The QSWWA is 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 Street, Leswell Street and Oxford Street between Leswell Street and Jersey Road.

President: Ken Gresham

Vice President: Ian Mansell

Committee: Rosemary McDonald Richard Banks, John Knott, Jane Nutter, Phillip Mitchelhill, Alan Smith and Jeanette Knox

Village Voice is published by the QSWWA

Editor: Jane Nutter; Layout: Eric Scott

## Christmas Carols at Chiswick Gardens 2014

For Woollahra residents travelling along Ocean Street or looking up at the balcony of DI Jones Realty, Queens's Court, it is abundantly evident that Christmas is approaching when the red banners go up to advertise the annual forthcoming Carols event, traditionally held at Chiswick Gardens. This community highlight has been celebrated by locals and their friends for several decades and is growing in popularity each year.

Thanks to the efforts of the enthusiastic team of directors of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, the event comes together seamlessly in the 2nd week of December. The focus remains the gathering of choirs who entertain the crowd with the singing of familiar and much loved carols. In 2014 we welcomed the Woollahra Pre-School as well as The *Woollahra Sings* Choir from the Holdsworth Community, striking a lovely balance between the junior and senior members of our local community.

Furthermore, the tiny tots relish the opportunity to have their faces professionally painted, let off steam on either of two jumping castles and receive gifts from Santa. Meanwhile their parents picnic on rugs and enjoy sipping wine and eating the enormous gourmet hot dogs superbly prepared by the friendly chefs from Matt Moran's Chiswick Restaurant.

QSWWA is indebted to our major sponsors Woollahra Council and Chiswick Restaurant for their generous support of this event. We also appreciate the contributions from many of our local businesses who readily donate vouchers or goods to be raffled off. There were four lucky winners last year who went home with a basket of products to the value of more than \$1,000 each.

The Christmas spirit is reflected in the way in which the local community comes together. The lawns of Chiswick Gardens are filled to overflowing by many hundreds of families who turn up prepared to have fun. QSWWA provides carol sheets to encourage everyone to sing along, ably cheered on by MC Susanne Gervay, a renowned children's author and owner of the Hughenden Hotel.

What makes Woollahra Village such a special place? Community Events of this kind which celebrate the uniqueness of our area and the spirit and goodwill of its locals.

*Alan Smith  
Treasurer QSWWA*



*Cooking up at Christmas Carols*

## Rose Scott Memorial Plaque

To honour the life and work of Rose Scott a plaque was unveiled on Wednesday 11 March 2015, at 294 Jersey Rd, Edgecliff. This was the site of her home, Lynton. Today it is the location of Goodwin Village.



This is the latest plaque to be unveiled as part of the Woollahra Council Plaque Scheme. Any member of the Municipality can nominate a worthy recipient for the Scheme. Four plaques a year are installed.

Rose Scott was a strong advocate of legislation to improve the lives of women and children. She was the secretary of the Womanhood Suffrage League from 1891 to 1902 when its aims were realised with the granting of votes to women in NSW. She was involved in many other issues such as the children's court, old age pensions, shopping hours and animal protection. More information about the life of this great Australian can be found at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/scott-rose-8370>



The plaque was unveiled by (left to right in the photo) Doreen Garrick (nominator of Rose Scott plaque), Mayor of Woollahra Toni Zeltzer, Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Jim and Dr Janet Merewether (relatives of Rose Scott). Other attendees included Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney, Goodwin Village Committee members, Dr Christine Jennett, President of the Women's Club and past mayors of Woollahra Municipal Council, Cathy Lemech and Isabelle Shapiro.

## Not plain fare at Plane Tree

The former Zigolini's café has reopened as 'Plane Tree Cafe' at 107 Queen Street under the new management of David Cullen and Alexis Ortado. 'Plane Tree Cafe' is open for coffee, breakfast and lunch, 7 days a week with a focus on fresh, seasonal and local produce. The exquisite cakes and muffins are cooked by David who has a fine reputation as a top chef. Pop in and say 'hi' to David and Alexis.



*Welcome to Alexis and her team at the Plane Tree Cafe. It is wonderful to see business return to this site. Drop by for a muffin, coffee or a chicken sandwich - we can recommend all three.*



## Letter Editor's Report

Having been allocated the onerous task of editing the letters and emails that come into the association, I am struck by a theme that seems

to permeate much of this correspondence and the verbal input that we receive from the local community. Notably, there is much dissatisfaction with the activities of local council, and in particular, the lack of action by the elected 'representatives' who allegedly look after our interests in this important 'third arm of Government'.

Extracts from a long letter, received from a local resident of forty years summarises some of these issues and the article in this edition of 'Village Voice' by Rosemary McDonald, highlights the abysmal record of Woollahra Council for over forty years of stewardship in this precinct. Our letter writer has provided his name and address and the following notes are a precis and summary of the key points.

"As a long-time resident of Queen Street, for over 30 years, I am frustrated and saddened by its general tawdriness, especially regarding the constant amounts of rubbish in the streets, and gutters, especially takeaway coffee cups, plastic and glass bottles (usually empty beer bottles), leaf detritus, paper, plastics etc. I am cognisant that Queen Street is a busy commercial zone and try to do my bit by collecting flotsam and jetsam and placing it in bins. However, it is very frustrating and disappointing to note the failure of the council to do its bit. It is clear that expensive machines are not the answer and the only solution to this problem is that adopted by other councils in Sydney, namely manual sweeping". Our writer goes on to point out that compared to similar precincts in other major international cities, Woollahra rates a poor second in its amenities and also raises the plaintive question "Where do our rates go?"

Where? Indeed! He also describes the lanes behind the Queen Street shops as reminiscent of a third world destination, and looking at the general state of garbage collection in Woollahra, you would have to say that his description is apt.

Looking back on decades of Association Minutes and correspondence, one is struck by a recurring litany of complaints received by us from unhappy residents and the subsequent inaction by Council to remedy such problems. One would imagine that in this era of political correctness, there would be an atmosphere of co-operation between your precinct association, council officers and the current batch of elected office-bearers, but clearly this is not the case. Just look at the seating arrangements in Queen Street.

Having attended a recent DCC meeting, it reminded me of 'Yes Minister'. Well-considered presentations were made by local residents and business owners against the Sunday morning Artesanal market which takes place in, of all places, our only public carpark. Were they treated with respect at this meeting? Was there any considered debate? In one of the worst displays of obscurantist obfuscation that I have ever witnessed, the Council Officers and elected aldermen and women spent most of the meeting exchanging asides 'sotto voce' and tittering amongst themselves like adolescent school children on a playground lunchbreak. Quite obviously, the issues had been lobbied and we were reduced to a ridiculous charade to satisfy some obscure procedural process. Franz Kafka would have recognised the meeting for the non-event that it was.

So here we are, once more heading towards the AGM of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association. The perennial conflict between development and the needs and wishes of local residents and businesses is heating up again. The introduction of Vintage Wine Cellars and Woolworths into the Queen Street shopping precinct has a potential to change the Village

feel of the small shopkeepers that formerly typified this area. It remains to be seen whether or not this is a positive development or simply the evolution of just another suburban 'strip-mall'.

Are you feeling furious about the local environment? Do you feel that your needs are being well-represented? How do you react to newspaper speculation about council amalgamations? Do the words of the convenors of the original Boston Tea Party, ring true after almost 250 years? Of all our political institutions, the one that impacts most directly on our daily lives is that of Local Government. It doesn't have to be the 'plaything' of the latest political ginger group, NSW Government 'would-be if they could-be', or a self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

Make your voice heard. Bring back 'power to the people'. Join your local association and participate in our on-going efforts to 'beard the dragon'.



It's BYO seat time in Queen Street!

The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd



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## Fair's fair

It was another disappointing year in our quest to improve Queen Street's furniture. Like Dr Who, I decided to take a leaf out of history and look back in time using the *Village Voice* publications from the first issue in August 1972. A brief history of the street upgrades in the last 40 years makes depressing reading.

### 1977

- Tree scheme for Queen St. Funding provided by WMC (\$4000) and the Association (\$2000)

### 1988

- 'Queen St 2000' refurbishment scheme with a design funded by the Association.
- A joint working party was established in 1990 with Woollahra Council and included the mayor.
- Costed by Council at \$5million.
- Surprise - nothing eventuated.

### 1995

- A concept plan for Queen St. was jointly funded by WMC (\$4000) and the Association (\$1000)
- The proposed scheme would cost \$1.75 million and was to be implemented in 3 stages.
- A joint working party was established in 1996 with Woollahra Council. They agreed to recommend to Council an allocation of \$700 000 over four years, with an immediate expenditure of \$50 000 for paving and seating.
- New paving and seating were installed in 1997.
- None of the remaining allocated funds were used in the area.

### 2010

- Mayor Andre Petrie said, "...the Queen St and West Woollahra area was next on the Council's list to be upgraded."
- Nothing eventuated

### 2011

- After much lobbying by the Association Councillor David Shoebridge (Cooper Ward) succeeded in persuading the Council, to 'develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Council infrastructure and the public streetscape in Queen Street and the surrounding precinct'.

### 2013

- A master plan was developed by a design company chosen by Council.
- 'Consultation' meetings were held, but sadly, no money was allocated to the project.

### 2014

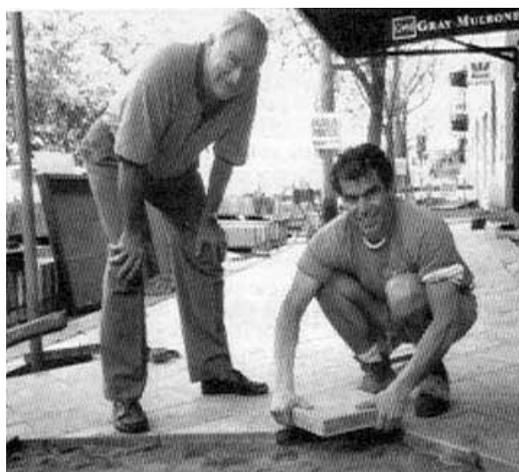
- Following yet more lobbying, the Council provided a small sum of money to replace seating. It should be noted that the style and placement of seating were decided by Council. As we all appreciate, the seats are unsatisfactory, and better suited to Mangbetu Pygmies.
- No other money has been allocated to the area.

### 2015

So, here we are in 2015. It is disgraceful that such a little amount of money has been spent on this area over the last 40 years. We call upon our elected Councillors Elsing, O'Regan and Marano to act on behalf of the area they represent and assist the Association in achieving this goal. What we need is a joint working party made up of the Association, which represents both residents and businesses, and the Council that will prioritise what is needed in the area and ensure that it is completed.

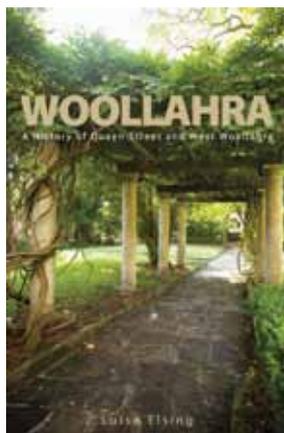
What do you think is important in the upgrading of our area? (we know the seats need to be replaced. Let us, the Association, know. Email the Association at [admin@qswwa.com.au](mailto:admin@qswwa.com.au)

Rosemary McDonald, QSWWAA Committee



Councillor David Leach watching Craig Malouf from Dial-a-Paver put the finishing touches on laying the pavement in 1997.

## Woollahra History Book



For over 100 years Woollahra residents and commercial businesses have lived side by side in a successfully developed urban environment or "village". A History of Queen Street and West Woollahra, recounts the background and events relevant to local people, economy and buildings.

Copies of the book are available for \$20 at the AGM or by completing the form online at [qswwa.com.au](http://qswwa.com.au)

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## A Man Of His Times:

**Bruce Petty, political satirist, cartoonist, author, animated film producer**



Bruce Petty is one of Australia's best known and loved political and satirical cartoonists. For the past 20 years, he has been the major cartoon contributor to 'The Age' newspaper. He has created at least a dozen animated films and written five books on all aspects of cartooning. As Bruce explains he is "politically a little left of centre, an attribute common to the cartoon fraternity, satirical cartoonists, of necessity have to confront authority".

Bruce was born in Doncaster, near Melbourne in 1929, and went to school at Box Hill High.

After completing school in 1948, he joined an animation company in Box Hill, eventually gaining a position with one of the Murdoch family companies, Colour Gravure, where he started on his first humorous drawings. Bruce grew in stature as a recognised cartoonist in his years there and in 1953 gathered up his portfolio of cartoons and travelled across the globe to the United Kingdom.

The post war boom in economic activity across Europe brought a wave of demand for new views and opinions. Europe was starting to shrug off the doom and gloom of war, food rationing had finished and people looked to a bright new future. London was alive, the arts community was re-establishing itself and it wasn't long before this free-thinking, wide-eyed Australian new boy on the block was noticed. Pretty soon Bruce began contributing to 'Punch' magazine, edited by well-known British raconteur, Malcolm Muggeridge. Shortly after, he extended his cartooning prowess by contributing to 'The New Yorker'. From that point on Bruce's career blossomed.

Many influences helped him stretch his animation, cartooning and political satire skills. Influences like the Russian film 'Battleship Potemkin', the book 'Candide', Richard Searle's British cartoon series 'Saint Trinians', and American satirical cartoonist James Thurber. These influences were set against the backdrop of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis,



Women's Liberation, and the rise of Black Power in the U.S. Bruce returned to Australia in 1961 and walked into the position of political cartoonist with Murdoch's Daily Mirror. In 1964 the first national newspaper 'The Australian' appeared, and with it came Bruce as the political cartoonist. However, during the Whitlam years of the early '70s, Murdoch, after initial support, went against the Whitlam government. That was enough for young Bruce to change his allegiance and he jumped ship to 'The Age' in Melbourne where to this day he is a contributing cartoonist. Bruce Petty is a trail blazer in the field of film animation. Using his Swiss made 'Bolex' camera he created animation by the continual single frame reshooting of micro amended objects.

Bruce won the first ever Academy Award presented to an Australian filmmaker for his animation film 'Leisure'. His many animation films include 'Plates Day' (a spoof on religion), 'Australian History', and more recently 'Utopia', 'Global Haywire', and an animated film of a live London City Council meeting, featuring the current Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Bruce is a charming individual who lives in Woollahra. He has plans to run a week-end workshop, with one or two of his many cartoonist colleagues, at the Waverley Woollahra Art School in Bondi Road.

*John Knott, QSWWAA Committee*

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## Walking Queen Street in the 60s

I have lived in or very near Queen Street since 1961....in six different houses. Now fifty years later I still walk and shop there. So many changes. Queen Street has been through the general store stage, then the antique furniture stage and now it is in the coffee takeaway and fashion shop stage. But some shops remain...the pharmacy, formerly Solomons, which has moved from the corner of Queen and Moncur streets, the butcher (wouldn't old Jack be amazed at Victors), the pub, Michael Greene antiques and the carpet shop.

But many have changed. The convenience store (that's a new expression) on the corner of Queen and Ocean Street was my local. Selling cigarettes (everyone smoked then) overpriced fruit and veggies, milk, lollies and tinned food. Owned by an Italian family we were served by the two surly sons...the family lived upstairs. A far cry from the oh so chic Parterre.

On the opposite corner was the Doctors. Protestors bearing anti-abortion placards were continually patrolling the entrance. Anyone visiting the doctor got a good heckling. The fabulous Robin Cosgrove Carpets has replaced it.

Further down where Shapiro now is was Queen Street's first delicatessen. Two quite elderly sisters ran the shop. They cooked and sold exotic European food, still unfamiliar to most customers, and the most delicious sweets and savoury pies. Churchills was our local butcher. Sawdust on the floor, not as exotic as Victors. It was manned by Jack Wallace who knew all the locals, did home deliveries and would let you book on account. My kids realised this was a godsend and chalked up chops and sausages long after they'd left home.

The first fashion shop was Francis Stafford, the bikini queen, encouraging us to brave the beach inspectors of Bondi. Then Mary Read usurped her crown, and has been dressing the ladies of Woollahra and further afield ever since.

Near the corner of Moncur and Queen Street was McDonald's Hardware. What a great shop that was...you could buy a handful of nails, a mop, a broom and paint for your DIY job... No need to traipse up to Bunnings or brave the Westfield car park.

Many residents or ex-residents of our area will have wonderful stories to tell of former characters and businesses in Queen Street and West Woollahra. We would love to share your stories in the Village Voice. You can email them to our letters to the editor [villagevoice@qswwa.com.au](mailto:villagevoice@qswwa.com.au)

*Dizzy Robinson*



*The corner of Queen and Moncur streets then . . . and now*



## Arts Evening with Juliet Holmes à Court

The first of a series of Art Talks was held recently at the Waverley Woollahra Art School. The guest speaker was Juliet Holmes à Court, a well-known professional artist with a prestigious career spanning 25 years. The venue was packed and Juliet gave a fascinating presentation covering her life as an artist, her depiction style and how it had changed over the years. Following the talk there was a spirited discussion on the current state of the Arts in New South Wales and on recent cuts to Federal Arts Funding.

Juliet has lectured at the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the past 10 years and, until recently tutored at the Waverley Woollahra Art School. Her work has been the subject of four exhibitions with Australian Galleries, both in Sydney and Melbourne and there are numerous commissioned works hung in private and Government collections. Juliet has had entries in the Archibald, Portia Geach, Blake and Paddington Art prizes, and her thirteenth solo show will be held at the Manly Regional Art Gallery in May.

The evening was sponsored by the Queen Street office of *Laing + Simmons Woollahra*, and included wine and cheese. It was the inaugural presentation in a series of art talks and discussions planned for this year. The events are being run by the Waverley

Woollahra Art School to raise community awareness about current arts issues, and to introduce artists, their views and ideas to local people.

To find out more contact Shakila Aruman, events co-ordinator, on 0403 341 748; John Knott on 0413 328 815; or collect a flyer from Laing + Simmons Woollahra at 88 Queen Street, Woollahra. There is an entrance fee of \$10 if pre-booked through the School or \$15 at the door for all talks. The fee can be paid through the Art School office on 9387 2461 or email [info@wwas.org.au](mailto:info@wwas.org.au).



*Mr & Mrs Greene collecting their painting by Juliet purchased by silent auction at the recent Waverley Woollahra Art School evening talk*

### Wanted: Storage Space

Long term rental storage space needed. Must be secure and have easy access. Ideal space would be a lock up garage in Woollahra. Please contact Nicola 0478 757 876.



# The Queen Street And West Woollahra Association Ltd

Your community voice!

## Membership application

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Business name (if applying as a business member) \_\_\_\_\_

Website address if business membership \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership type:**    Individual \$25    Household \$40    Senior Citizen \$10    Business \$100    Business Premium \$500

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