

# The Original VILLAGE VOICE



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd No. 116 November 2016 [www.qswwa.com.au](http://www.qswwa.com.au)



## Christmas Carols

Queen Street and West Woollahra Association invites you to  
Chiswick Gardens, Ocean Street, Woollahra  
Tuesday 6 December 5.30 - 8.00 pm  
Bring the kids - fun for the whole family!

Barbecue  
Chairs

Jumping Castles  
Drinks

Face Painting  
Santa Claus

## President's Report

Welcome to another edition of the Village Voice. We hope you enjoy reading the articles and for those new to our area and wanting to support our community, you can find a membership form on the second last page.



John Knott has written an article about Diana Fisher, one of our long term members. Diana has been a great supporter of the community and the Association as you can see in the photo, taken in 1973 during the community's fight to preserve Waimea House. I would like to personally thank Diana for her advice and support in our recent fight with Council about the small seats.

The latest information we have from Woollahra Municipal Council is that they plan on replacing the small seats early in the new year. I have been told that around this time they also plan to start work on the tree pits, from Ocean Street to Oxford Street, and install garden beds in some of the pits. This treatment will greatly enhance the look of the street and is long overdue. Since the trees were planted nearly 40 years ago, the only work that has been done is to enlarge the tree pits.



Our Annual Community Christmas Carols will be held on Tuesday 6th December beginning at 5.30pm at Chiswick Gardens. This is a major highlight of the year and I look forward to seeing many members of our community there. Besides singing carols there will be activities for the children, a visit from Santa and again a wonderful sausages sizzle put on by the chefs of Chiswick Restaurant.

A big thank you to the members of our committee and their families for all their hard work and volunteering their valuable time and to our businesses for their support in ensuring this wonderful event can take place again this year. Our major sponsors are Woollahra Municipal Council, Chiswick Restaurant and Di Jones Real Estate.

We are also planning to hold the second Clean Up Woollahra and Neighbour Day on Sunday March 5th, 2017. We have again registered our event with the Clean Up Australia Organisation.

After cleaning up local streets and green spaces, we will meet back at Moncur Reserve, next to the Holdsworth Centre for a Neighbour Day BBQ. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbours whilst enjoying a complimentary sausage sandwich. More information about these two events can be found in this edition of the Village Voice.

Season's greetings and a happy 2017 to all.

*Rosemary McDonald*

### **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 in 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: Rosemary McDonald

Past President: Ken Gresham Treasurer: Alan Smith

Committee: Ian Mansell, Richard Banks, John Knott,

Phillip Mitchelhill, Giles Edmonds.

Village Voice Layout: Eric Scott.

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

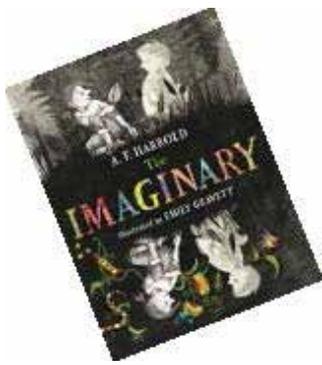


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## To See or Not To See . . . Not all invisible friends are imaginary!

It's possible that all people can be divided into two groups: those who have an imaginary friend ... and those who wished they did!

The recent release in cinemas of the remake of 'Pete's Dragon', no doubt had many readers remembering with delight Jimmy Stewart, starring in the role of Elwood P. Dowd, in 'Harvey'. For those not familiar with Harvey, he was an imaginary six-foot rabbit!

Two years ago, Emily Gravett's eye-catching artwork on the cover of English author A. F. Harrold's 'The Imaginary' made it a book too irresistible to pass by. Opening the book, the introduction posed the question as to what happens to imaginary friends when they are forgotten, or worse! If one's imaginary friend could be seen by others, then surely they are not imaginary, merely invisible?

A lovely selection of recently published books, exploring 'imaginary' friends have joined 'The Imaginary', a book suitable for 10+ years:

'Squishy McFluff, the Invisible Cat' is a delightful series, written in rhyme, suitable for younger readers. Young Ava uses Squishy McFluff to explain away mishaps, but learns that sometimes the tables can be turned! (5+ years)

'Crenshaw' tells of an oversized cat stepping back into a boy's life. Jackson is surprised by the reappearance and questions whether he is now too old for an invisible friend ... but discovers, irrespective of age, there are times when a special friend, who speaks with honesty, is really needed. (10+ years)

In 'Elizabeth & Zenobia', past events entwine with the present and both Elizabeth and her inquisitive 'imaginary' friend need each other when they find themselves in a perilous situation! This book is from Australian writer Jessica Miller. (10+ years)

These titles, and lots of equally delightful books, can be found in Lesley McKay's Bookshop, a bookshop that isn't imaginary but whose entrance is visible in Spicer Street, just next to the cafe!

Elizabeth Phillips

(...who is visible in the 'Children's Books' corner, in Lesley McKay's Bookshop, a couple of days a week!)



## A green and pleasant place

The 76 year old Holdsworth Community Playground has been extensively renewed with support from Woollahra Council, the Australian and NSW Governments as well as local businesses and families.

Open now for two months, the new playground is delighting local young children and families with brand new equipment including a pirate ship, nest swing and synthetic grass surface. The design also incorporated special sensory equipment to ensure the space is welcoming children living with disabilities and sensory issues.

The playground was re-dedicated to the community by Prime Minister and Member for Wentworth, The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich and Mayor of Woollahra, Toni Zeltzer. To mark the dedication,

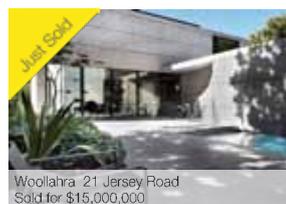


Holdsworth Family Services hosted a special pirate party for local families. Michael Ryan, Holdsworth CEO welcomed local families and officials to the Playground and said "We are thrilled with the results of the new playground and we are excited to welcome families from around the area to enjoy the space. We are especially pleased to be able to offer a space that is welcoming to children living with a disability from across the Eastern Suburbs."

### Ray White.

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# What is a Living Will?

A living will is not a will at all. Wills take effect only after death and are governed by specific legislation, unlike living wills which are actually “advance care directives” to apply during one’s life. Advance care directives specify the medical treatment you may wish to have or refuse and may include other personal care directives such as where you wish to live if you do not have the capacity, at the relevant time, to inform others.

In the absence of a living will, medical treatment may in an emergency be administered without your knowledge or consent, not only by doctors but also by ambulance staff and hospitals where your life is in danger without treatment.

In NSW the courts will support your right to make decisions about your own future medical treatment. A recent illustration involved a person suffering from quadriplegia who directed the hospital to disconnect the mechanical ventilation which had sustained his life for the past 19 years when his quality of life became increasingly intolerable.

If family members consider your living will was signed as a result of undue influence, or due to a lack of medical information, or if it is ambiguous or the signatory was lacking mental capacity when the living will was signed, they can apply to the court for appropriate orders.

A lack of medical information does not however mean that the signatory must have been aware of the specific

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circumstances of his or her condition. Nor need the signatory be fully aware of the specifics of the medical treatment because living wills are usually prepared well in advance of symptoms appearing.

To an extent, advance care directives are also recognised under statute law as well as common law. So in appropriate cases an application for assistance can be made to the Guardianship Tribunal under the Guardianship Act 1987.

There is no legally required form for a living will. However, often they form part of an Enduring Guardianship Appointment which should be prepared by a lawyer.

Ron Osborne B.A. LL.M  
Senior Consultant and Notary Public  
CMM Quay Legal Group  
(This article is for general interest and is not intended to be the provision of legal advice).

## Ken’s Corner: Occasional musings by a QSWWA ex-president

### Is it something we said?

In the period of three decades that I have lived within a few steps to Queen St I have often mused “ why is the suburb after which the whole municipality is named treated so shabbily?” Is it something that we said?

The poorly lit streets and the sad state of repair of it’s crumbling infrastructure is testament to this treatment. Queen St has been the subject of a number of “studies” over the past couple of decades all of which promised a renaissance of the area.

Included in the list promised by these expert reports was extended paving, tree rationalisation with new surrounds, new pedestrian crossings and new street furniture.

From the last report, that was accepted totally by council we were the recipients of some street “chairs” replacing the old concrete benches. Once installed even the council officers and the councillors, that were interested, agreed with us how ridiculous they were and promised replacements. The replacements have never arrived!

Thus far more money has been spent on reports than on works.

How good can a shopping precinct be? Is the council just not spending on other suburbs? Not true! Double Bay and Rose Bay have had their renaissance, bright shiny and new, while Queen St and West Woollahra continues to look like a poor cousin dwelling in another municipality.

Perhaps if we could be treated as part of Woollahra Council we would fare better? All this talk of mergers - does it solve the fundamental problem of being ignored?

It must be something that we said!

*From the neutral zone,  
Ken Gresham*



## 'Tis the season to be wheezin'

In my previous article for *Village Voice*, as Letters Editor, I mentioned a missive received from retired Colonel Fergus Whycoff? (ex Bengal Lancers) regarding the Bushmen of the Kalahari squatting over their fires in the cold of the desert, under a velvety black night, lit by the luminous stars and planets in a lambent sky, unspoiled by urban lighting. They had been pondering the choice of Plane trees planted in a densely populated municipality, already beset by the minute particles of pollutants caused by high traffic volumes in streets that are too narrow to cope with the number of vehicles. Phew! I can hardly articulate this sentence without wheezing! At that time, our streets were carpeted by sticky green seed balls which made walking in Queen Street an activity best-suited to cross-country skiers or people wearing snow shoes. However, just as the neighbourhood thought that this inconvenient natural phenomenon had passed, hey presto! The area is filled by fibres blowing off these very same trees, which on a windy day resemble flying snow in the high passes of K2, making our cars resemble snowmobiles.

Those of you, who have previously managed to read this column to its conclusion, will be aware that its author has a very dim view of the efforts made by the incumbent council on behalf of the residents in this precinct. This attitude is driven by the simply awful state of Queen Street, Woollahra. I could enumerate the condition of specific roads and pavements, pathetic lighting, inadequate garbage disposal, and traffic management but decided as a magnanimous gesture to try and look on the bright side. But...Dear local ratepayer, the question is why? What bright side? Notwithstanding promises made to rectify matters, we are still afflicted by the ridiculous seats, designed for petite pygmies. Our representatives on the council have spent a king's ransom in a fruitless attempt to kybosh amalgamation and when you visit the Double Bay precinct and see what is possible it makes you wonder, what is going on? Queen Street and its environs have long been considered an attractive destination by the State boosters of tourism in New South Wales. Why does Woollahra Council treat it in such a cavalier fashion?

Unfortunately, the answer to this and other questions that your association has been raising over the past twenty years is akin to the Zen koan about "one hand clapping". This begs the question of "why do you persevere?" since nobody at "Foggy Bottom" is taking the least bit of notice. Do you think that an amalgamated council would better represent our interests? Or will it be just another case of "ignore them and eventually the noise will go away"? Why don't you have your say, unleash your inner Donald and let the exuberance of your own verbosity flow like an unstoppable tide over the turgid waters of our council? Provided that your offerings are presented in a polite, indeed politic manner, we will publish them! Who knows? Perhaps a Pulitzer awaits you.

Ian Mansell



October was Mental Health Month in NSW. The theme this year was Learn and Grow. It encourages us to learn more about looking after our mental health and wellbeing

and use that knowledge to grow personally. Inaugural headspace Day was held on 11 October, and celebrated with a free breakfast at the Bondi Junction centre. The day's theme "Access All Areas" highlighted the need for young people to be able to access support and services, no matter where they live, or what their health concerns are.



headspace has received more than 500 referrals since its opening, provided support to more than 350 young people, connected with more than 15 schools, and presented to around 6000 students. The

community open day in July was a great success, with about 170 people from organisations and the community visiting. The Youth Reference Group is busy planning an open day for young people.

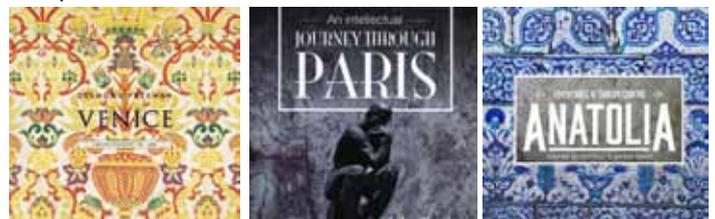
headspace Bondi Junction is holding a facebook campaign to reduce stigma and promote positive mental health. Visit [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au) for pictures of what mental health means to people in your area.

## A Tale of Three Cities

Local bookseller Lesley Mckay is hosting a trilogy of literary events at the Hotel Centennial to take you on a captivating journey through the history, culture and development of three great cities - Paris, Venice and Istanbul.

With the first two having been held in October and early November, you still have time to book for the Istanbul event on Monday 25 November at 6.30. Tickets are \$40 and include house wine or beer and canapes. Bookings via 9362 3838 or email [reservations@hotelcentennial.com.au](mailto:reservations@hotelcentennial.com.au)

All three books are available at Lesley Mckay's bookshop in Spicer Street.



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# Television's Champagne Lady

If any female deserved the name "Television's Champagne Lady" it is certainly Di "Bubbles" Fisher. Our dear local resident Diana Beresford Fisher OAM has lived in the area since 1964 and has been an active and outspoken member of the community, always striving to protect local heritage and amenity. I was very proud to have had the opportunity of interviewing her at home in Holdsworth Street.



Diana has been the anchor person for a myriad of television programs over the past 50 years, both in the UK and Australia. Perhaps best remembered here for her part in *Beauty and the Beast*, hosted by Eric Baume and later by the actor, singer, raconteur Stuart Wagstaff. Other loved programs were *Almost Human*, *The Inventors* and her now historic coverage of royal visits and weddings. These included the marriage of Princess Margaret to Lord Snowden, the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle and the marriage and later tragic death of Princess Diana.

While "Bubbles" has stuck as a nickname, first attributed by a Sydney radio host, Diana has had many well-known TV and screen stars offering their own versions. Brian Johnston, the famous cricket commentator, (Diana is an avid cricket fan), offered the nickname "Dizzy Di": Kenneth More, the English actor and good friend who played Douglas Bader in the film *Reach for the Sky*, termed her "Fishpots" and David Niven added "Instant giggle" to the list.

Diana was born in Southgate, North London and married at Lambeth Palace Chapel to Humphrey Richard Fisher, the fourth son of the Archbishop of Canterbury in July 1959. Humphrey was a senior producer and director with the BBC and Diana soon became one of the "Beeb's" most sought after commentators. For over eight years she covered, Wimbledon, royal occasions, show jumping and national events. Always one for variety, Diana followed this fascinating lifestyle by working for BOAC as a stewardess on their prestige North Atlantic run.

During this time, her husband received a posting to Australia as the BBC's ambassador. Diana followed on and they purchased a house in Queen Street, Woollahra for £12,500 which they held for many years until their amicable separation in the early '70s. Subsequently, both purchased houses in the close vicinity. Di's was a terrace in Windsor Street which she fastidiously decorated and furnished, laying the latest in-vogue pure white wool carpet throughout: all the go at the time!

After two years in Australia, Humphrey was posted back to London to head up the BBC Science and features division. Diana was asked by the BBC to return as their senior researcher for royal occasions and reviews. They returned to the UK together but both had fallen in love with

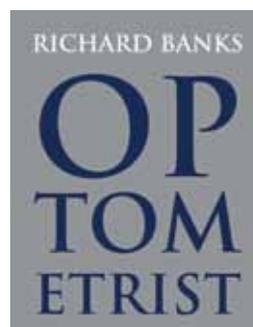
Australia and on their eventual return to Oz Diana jumped into a variety of fascinating roles and positions in the media. These included a twelve-year stint on the ABC's program *The Inventors*, eight years writing the social pages for *Woman's Day* and later for *Vogue* and *Woman's Weekly*. For over 20 years Diana was the social-pages columnist for almost every major Australian newspaper, including the *Wentworth Courier*.

The variety of positions on Di's eclectic CV also includes, among many others; Charity fundraising with Peter Doyle for the Royal Alexander Children's Hospital where she excelled as was one of the Bollinger Belles, A Ring Master for Billy Smarts Circus, the first woman TV news commentator, hosting *My Kind of Music* for many years, and a film entitled *The Way to a Man's Heart* filmed exclusively in France. Currently she is Ambassador for Holdsworth Community's project, in partnership with Woollahra Council, to create a Dementia Friendly Community in Woollahra.

There are a few terms that Diana is remembered for and that are often used, one being, "Is it safe for children and does it come in other colours?" from *The Inventors* program. In conversation Diana is extremely articulate, there being so much to explain about her life. Often her tangential sentences are punctuated with "cut the cackle" so to ensure you get the nub of the point she is making. There is no doubt that Diana has lived and is still living a wonderfully vivacious and exciting life. One of the most welcoming and engaging people you could hope to meet, Diana is a local treasure who we as locals are proud to have among us.



*A series of articles on local people of note by John Knott.*



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| Business                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full voting rights to QSWWA</li> <li>• Listing on the QSWWA's website <a href="http://www.qswwa.com.au">www.qswwa.com.au</a></li> <li>• 10% discount on advertising in the Village Voice</li> <li>• Access to Woollahra Village Facebook page</li> </ul> |

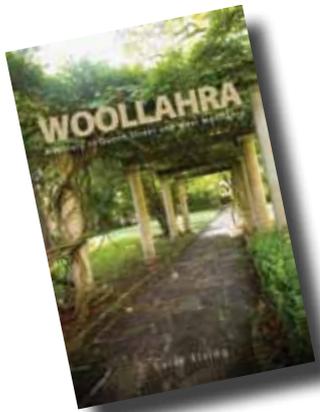
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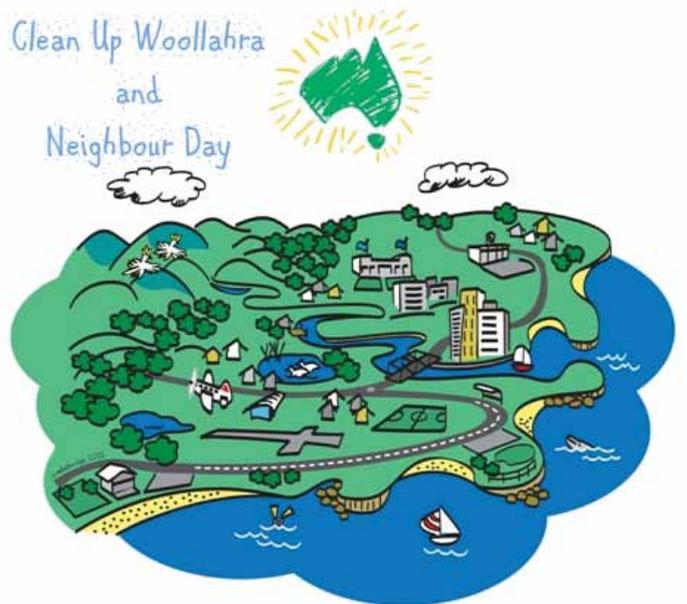
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## Woollahra: A History of Queen Street and West Woollahra

In this publication the intriguing tales of the people who lived and worked in some of our most iconic landmark buildings are revealed. You will learn about our architecture, our artists, our residences and residents. You will discover the narrative of our hotels and pubs, our schools and places of worship and how public health and war made a significant impact on the streets of our villages. A must-read for anyone who has ever lived in or loved Woollahra.

To purchase copies of *Woollahra: A History of Queen Street and West Woollahra* @ \$20 per copy please go to [www.qswwa.com.au/](http://www.qswwa.com.au/)



You are invited to join us on Sunday Morning  
**5 March 2017 10.30 am at Moncur Reserve**  
 (adjacent to the Holdsworth Centre)  
 Bring sunscreen gloves and long armed tongs or  
 pick up tool (optional) Bring the family!  
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 An initiative of Queen Street West Woollahra  
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