

The Original VILLAGE VOICE



Official journal of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd No.119 November 2017 www.qswwa.com.au

Queen Street and West Woollahra
Association invites you to
Carols in Chiswick Gardens
5.30 - 8.00 pm Tuesday 5 December
Ocean Street, Woollahra
BBQ, Refreshments,
Bouncy Castle, visit from Santa
Bring the kids! Fun for the whole family!





President's Report

Woollahra Council elections are now over and we are back to trying to progress the "Queen St Upgrade Plan" which your association had negotiated over almost a decade of meetings. Just to remind everyone the plan drawn up by an independent consultant at great cost to the community over seven years ago was for the upgrade of the streetscape of Queen St. This included street furniture, trees and planters, paving etc.

The plan was then referred to the community and after two very well attended community meetings an agreement was reached for the upgrade to go forward. After four years of bureaucratic and funding issues the old seating was removed but the new seats installed were not as agreed by your association and the community instead a series of small impractical seats were installed. Following the seat installation and much press comment it was agreed that these dreadful little seats would be replaced. Our constant follow up with council about the new seats always has the same response "they are being manufactured and will be installed in a couple of weeks".

The planter boxes were installed this year and although some people did not like them we think they are an improvement on the exposed tree roots and the complaints have certainly subsided. There is much still to come from the original plan and we will continue to pressure council to progress the balance of works.

Street maintenance is another issue that we have been asking council to deal with. We have recently reintroduced our Streetwatch program and ask that if you are requesting council to repair any infrastructure that you copy us in on any notifications or emails so that we can follow up the repair. streetwatch@qswwa.com.au

The past couple of years the Woollahra Council had been dealing with the merger threat and we congratulate the past councillors for their service to the community in fighting and defeating this on our behalf. This period of

uncertainty caused many changes in staff and seemed to create difficulties for those dealing with council. Now we hope that with some new councillors joining the team that it is time to get back to the business of looking after the maintenance and cleanliness of our beautiful and unique environment.

*Ken Gresham
Acting President*

2018 QSWWA Membership now open

Ensure the Queen Street West Woollahra Association continues to be an effective resident and local business community group by joining the Association, and helping foster a sense of identity with the QSWWA area and a pride in its individual character. Membership forms for 2018 can be downloaded from qswwa.com.au

Calling for contributions to the Village Voice

Are you an aspiring journalist, writer or photographer with a passion for communicating? We are always looking for new ideas and articles in the Village Voice. If you'd like to contribute an individual article, a series of articles, a comment on a previous article or an opinion on a topic relevant to the area, please contact us on admin@qswwa.com.au. There's no shortage of local topics of interest to *Village Voice* readers, from local history to modern design, from children's articles to advice for senior citizens. The *Village Voice* is delivered to 5,000 homes and businesses in the Queen Street, West Woollahra and East Paddington areas, so it's your chance to communicate with your neighbours. Please, don't be shy, get in touch!

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ABN 98002872433

P.O. Box 16 Woollahra 1350 email: 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: Ken Gresham Treasurer: Alan Smith

Committee: Ian Mansell, Richard Banks, John Knott,

Phillip Mitchelhill, Giles Edmonds, Susie Willmott

Village Voice: Editor Giles Edmonds, Layout: Eric Scott.



French Week in Queen Street!

Get ready for an “Ooh La, La” in Queen Street, Woollahra in March 2018. “*French Week in Queen Street*” has been funded under the auspice of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association through the Woollahra Council Placemaking Grants Program. Save the dates from the 18th – 25th March 2018.

Local businesses will be offering a range of exciting French cultural, gastronomic and arts events. The program is being developed now with the events and dates above being subject to confirmation. “*French Week in Queen Street*” will run in parallel with the Alliance Française French Film Festival.

Local businesses will sport window displays with a French theme. There will be an opening French Cocktail Party on the 18th March and a closing French themed dinner with music on the 25th March. A traditional French barrel organ will be in Queen Street along with a roaming accordionist. Don't miss the wine tastings, a baguette and cheese trivia quiz, art talks, champagne lunch, travel talk or the cooking class.

If you have a suggestion to help make this a very French affair contact John Knott on 0413 328 815 or Alan Smith on 0417 446 748 or email John@lswollahra.com.au

Calendar of proposed Events to be held during French Week Week commencing 18th of March 2018

(All events are subject to amendment and confirmation)

Sunday 18th:

Opening French themed Cocktail Party - Hotel Centennial

Monday 19th:

Showcasing French wine, tasting night - Woollahra Hotel.
French Travel talk Luxe Café - The Classic Safari Company

Tuesday 20th:

The French Garden, afternoon tea talk - Parterre Garden Cafe.
French trivia quiz with French wine and cheese - Plane Tree café

Wednesday 21st:

Champagne lunch with accordion music - Hotel Centennial

Thursday 22nd:

French book launch and talk by Lesley McKay's Bookshop

Friday 23rd:

French children's games - Holdsworth Community Centre.

Saturday 24th:

Original French barrel organ music - corner Moncur & Queen Streets

Sunday 25th:

Guillaume Brahimi Dinner as the final “French Week in Queen Street” event - Bistro Moncur

Other proposed events: Talks in cafes on French topics including cuisine, art and travel; French accordion music around various venues in Queen Street; French themed painting in Queen Street in conjunction with the Waverley Woollahra Art School.



Design sails into Queen Street

VELA – Sydney’s newest destination for luxury design has opened in Queen St, Woollahra boosting the precincts design offering.

Drawing on inspiration from world-class furniture concept stores, VELA will provide customers with bespoke, handcrafted items, which celebrate the very best in Australian and international design.



Part concept store, part art gallery and creative space – VELA fills the gap in the Australian market, meeting the demand for the highest quality products, including exclusive pieces from renowned international designers such as Oskar Zeita, Faye Toogood and Alexander McQueen.

Experienced designer and decorated yachtsman, Troy Tindill, has spearheaded the creation of VELA (which is Latin for sail), and the concept is a fusion of Tindill’s two lifelong passions - sailing and design.

A veteran America’s Cup participant and sailor on the celebrated Australian SuperMaxi, Wild Oats XI, Troy grew up in New Zealand, designing sails and constructing boats. It is this combined experience, which provided Tindill with a unique understanding of superior craftsmanship.

Upon retiring from professional sailing in 2014, Tindill devoted himself to researching the concept for VELA and since then has dedicated his time to curating and creating bespoke furniture designs.

“The key driver behind VELA is to celebrate Australian and international design and craftsmanship, giving recognition to the creative visionaries behind it. We want to showcase furniture and life accessories of all shapes and sizes, share the design stories behind them - and inspire our customers through a unique retail experience. Most importantly, all of our bespoke design items will be constructed by some of the finest craftsmen in Australia.” Tindill says.



To bring VELA’s space to life, Tindill honed his skills alongside Australia’s own Jonathan Zawada and architect Kelvin Ho to transform a dormant bakery on Queen Street into an energised and welcoming showroom.

VELA works with some of Australia’s most prestigious architects and interior designers to produce custom made furniture and high-end cabinetry to individual specifications.

All bespoke pieces stocked at VELA are handcrafted within a short turnaround of four weeks by its own workshop in Queensland, ensuring that all items deliver on VELA’s promise of quality and exceptional design. VELA’s workshop now employs 20 people and also supplies bespoke joinery for Superyachts and high end residential and commercial fit outs.



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3/41-45 Wallis Street, Woollahra
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24 Stafford Street, Paddington
\$2,175,000



65 Queen Street, Woollahra
\$2,850,000



29 Nelson Street, Woollahra
Whole Block of 12 Apartments
Price Undisclosed



403/170 Ocean Street, Edgecliff
\$2,750,000



6 Hopewell Street, Paddington
\$2,640,000

A well-schooled, well-travelled lady with a close Italian connection

Barbara Rose Sanders has lived in and around Queen Street for the past 20 years. A well-educated, charming lady, completely disarming, chatty and always as busy as a bee. Born in Point Piper on the 20th July 1931, Barbara's family consisted of sister Susan, mother Florence (nee Bowker), born Jamberoo NSW, and father Alan Graeme Potter, born England, who later became Sir Alan Potter and President of the AJC. Speaking of her family heritage Barbara loves to remark *"I have a convict on one side of the family and a Queen's pirate on the other"* the latter with reference to the life of her great grandfather.



Following University, Barbara held various positions with architectural firms in Sydney. At the age of 24, Barbara gained a position with the ABC. Her very clipped, clear English accent caused some consternation among some employees who sported a more Australian sounding accent. It was this very English accent that led her to become the first ABC radio presenter in New South Wales and only the second female ABC presenter in Australia.

Barbara's education took place across a variety of private educational establishments, the first being at Fairfield School in Bellevue Hill. At age seven, her parents decided to move to the U.K. for business reasons, so farewell to Fairfield and off to a boarding school at Taunton, in the West of England. Two years later, on their return to Australia, her parents enrolled her at Ascham School. With the war on at the time, she attended various Ascham campuses including Edgecliff, Berridale and Blackheath.

After so many changes of school in her young life, Barbara was more than happy to settle into her final school, Frensham, in the Southern Highlands. There she stayed for the next five years until the completion of her schooling. Before university her parents thought it wise to take the "big trip" and the family went off travelling across Europe and India. It was during these travels that Barbara first encountered and fell in love with Italy; a love that was later to be passed on to her son Rob.



On their return, Barbara chose to study Architecture at Sydney University. Studies allowed for winter breaks on the ski fields where she became a keen skier. Ski racing took her to high level competition where she had hopes of representing NSW. This was brought to an abrupt end after a nasty accident left her with two broken legs.



In 1956, during her time at the ABC, she met up with Robert (Bob) Sanders, a senior production director who worked there. Married with two children, Robert was not exactly in favour with Barbara's father. In the hope of breaking their relationship, he arranged for Barbara to depart the ABC and go travelling overseas. However, their romance continued and despite this interruption, during which Robert obtained a divorce from his first wife, they were married in 1963. Barbara was 33 years old at the time and their marriage lasted 25 years, sadly ending with divorce in 1988. Robert passed away this year at his family home in Ardrossan, South Australia. According to Barbara his last utterance being 'A glass of red and some scrambled. eggs please'. Still, Barbara holds his memory dear, talking of his great intelligence, wit and worldly sophistication.

Barbara has two adopted children Shena and Robert. Both are very outgoing, gregarious individuals, with Shena in the world of theatre and Rob having spent many years in marketing. Something which has brought Barbara's longstanding love of Italy back to life is Rob's purchase, some four years ago, of a Masseria in the Puglia region of Southern Italy. For those who don't know, a Masseria is where olives were pressed following the harvest from surrounding olive plantations. Rob has transformed the 16th century farmhouse into a sophisticated nine-suite hotel with walled gardens, pool and hundreds of orange and lemon trees. Barbara is proud of the transformation of Masseria Trapanà

Barbara is proud of the transformation of Masseria Trapanà

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by her son. It comprises spacious luxury lounge and dining areas with high stone walls and arched ceilings. The grand and traditional accommodation is exquisite. Dining is in most part *al fresco*, as it rarely rains in Puglia. In the orange groves and grassed gardens there is a massive pit fire where guests revert for pre-dinner aperitifs.

The serene swimming pool is surrounded by daybeds and shaded by plum trees with attentive, courteous staff pandering to guests needs. One of the deciding factors on Rob's original purchase of the property was the mature eucalypt tree growing at the entrance and the beautiful and original chapel, dedicated to who else, but Saint Barbara.

This incredible place is located some 20 minutes from the beaches on the Adriatic coast and close to the



historic town of Lecce. It is no wonder Barbara has spent so many weeks there with her dear son Rob loving every minute of it! Masseria Trapani has recently been listed as the place to go by *Conde Nast Traveller*.

Barbara's life's diary is full of social engagements, romance, travel and the love of her dear parents. Her father, Sir Alan Potter, was an institution in business, hotels and horse racing. For many a year he was one of Sydney's most notable identities. Barbara looks back fondly over the people and places she has known over the decades and sums it up quite neatly with the words, "*I wouldn't change a thing*".

Articles on local people of note by John Knott

Major changes to the Development Approval process in 2018

Next year will see the introduction of major changes to the planning approval process, including a greatly diminished role for councils in determining Development Applications (DAs) over \$5 million in value. With the QSWWA's long history of fighting inappropriate development in the area, this is a change which should be of critical interest to members, as it takes decision making away from local elected councillors to unelected panel members.

From March 2018, all councils in Sydney and Wollongong need to have set up an Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP), an independent panel which is not subject to the direction of the council or the Minister. These panels will consider DAs over \$5 million (but less than \$30 million, as these will be decided by regional planning panels) and other DAs which meet certain criteria eg. more than 10 objections from different households; have a higher risk of corruption; are DAs for councillors, council staff, state or federal members of parliament etc.

Each panel will consist of a Chair, two other expert members and a community representative. Expert members must be qualified in at least one area of: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government

and public administration. The Chair will be appointed by the Government, and the two expert members will be appointed by the council, from a pool of independent, suitably qualified persons provided by the government. The community representative will be appointed by the council, and, in councils such as Woollahra, where there are wards, the council can appoint a representative for each ward, who will assume the role on the panel for applications made in their ward. Councillors, property developers and real estate agents cannot become IHAP members. Panel members can only sit for three years at a time.

The stated intentions of the changes are to reduce the opportunities for corruption in planning approvals, and to ensure that the task of assessing a DA becomes a technical matter of assessing the application's merits against the rules that council has set. What this means for Woollahra remains to be seen. On the one hand, a panel that strictly sticks to the council's Local Environment Plan (LEP) would be welcome in countering inappropriate development. On the other hand, a panel that ignored local council and community concerns in favour of its own planning ideology could be disastrous for Woollahra's ambience and charm. Only time will tell and the QSWWA will be watching with keen interest.

See the website <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Independent-Hearing-and-Assessment-Panels> for further details.

Bombs on Woollahra

Reminiscences of my father's war time experience



My father, Eric Cook, was raised in Woollahra and enlisted in the AIF in July 1939, just three months prior to Prime Minister Menzies' 'melancholy duty' to declare war.

Eric was a man like many of his generation, who only ever spoke of the ironic or amusing anecdotes of the war, rather than its true sensational horror. He would amuse us all by relating to us the story of his

posting in October 1939 to guard the Hawkesbury River Bridge at Brooklyn in NSW and the bombing of Woollahra in 1942

He recounted that his army great coat, which had been issued to him a month prior, still had an unrepaired bullet hole in it from the First World War. Similarly, in the pocket of the same coat, his army ration of 'bully beef' had the year 1917 stamped on the lid of the tin. He was certainly glad, during that posting, that the Japanese or Germans hadn't decided to sail up the Hawkesbury River because instead of rifles to guard what was then the main arterial road north of Sydney, they were given pick handles painted black. During that time, he and his comrades often amused each other by yelling out "Stop! Or I'll fill you full of termites."

His next posting to Port Kembla, near Wollongong, was marginally improved in terms of better equipment, as during the months later known as the 'phoney war' they had actually been issued rifles. However, when surprised by a superior officer whilst on guard duty on the wharf, the captain said, "Do you realise private, if I were the enemy, I could have shot you?" He promptly replied, "As far as I'm concerned Sir, you still can ... this rifle has no bullets!" (This also earned him three months kitchen patrol.)

The war came home to Australia in late May and early June 1942, with the shelling of the Eastern Suburbs from Japanese midget submarines, most notably the sinking of the Kuttabul, and on land, the destruction of a dwelling in Woollahra. In spite of the prohibition on reporting by the government, word rapidly spread and the then single lane road over the Blue Mountains was quickly congested with



vehicles from the city laden with all worldly possessions and chattels, from pianos to pot plants, heading west. My father recalled for the first time in living memory real estate prices in Katoomba were higher than those in Double Bay. A situation which unfortunately didn't last beyond the war.

Quentin Cook, with thanks to Peter King

Photos: Corporal Eric Cook on active service in Rabaul, 1944 - At last a real gun, with real bullets
A crowd looking at the shell hole at 1 Small Street, Woollahra on 8 June, 1942.

Management changes at Holdsworth

After more than 10 years leading the team at Holdsworth Community, CEO Michael Ryan has retired, finishing up on 20 October. During his time as CEO, Michael has been able to grow the support that Holdsworth has been able to provide to the community. Staff will miss Michael for the care and friendliness that he has shown to so many in the community whilst Holdsworth has been under his charge.



Ruth Kestermann, Executive Officer will be stepping up into the CEO position following Michael's departure. Ruth joined Holdsworth in 2014 after 14 years working as a project manager, engineer and consultant in the private, government and not-for-profit sector. Ruth has been working alongside Michael for the last three years and is looking forward to building upon his legacy at Holdsworth.

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What next for the Queen Street Master Plan?

Have your say

Now the elections are over and the Council will remain independent, with its own budget, Village Voice is keen to know what you think should be the next priorities for implementing the Queen Street Master Plan, a question also addressed by our recently elected councillors in "Meet your Cooper Ward Councillors".

A bit of history. The Queen Street Master Plan was developed in 2013, including extensive community consultation, and approved by the Council in 2014, but unfortunately there were no funds available at the time to start implementing it. The plan included a full tree management program, enhanced street furniture, and, the most expensive item, a full a footpath upgrade, including installation and restoration of tree pits with planter boxes around the base of trees. Total estimated cost at the time was \$2.6 million.

With no budget allocation to start the program in the FY15 and FY16 Council budgets, in early 2016, former President Rosemary McDonald, working closely with then Cllr Katherine O'Regan, presented a submission from the QSWWA to Council urging it to start work on the Master Plan and suggesting that the street furniture and the tree pits and planter boxes should be a priority. The QSWWA was very pleased when the Council allocated funds for these projects. Subsequently, in March this year, the QSWWA made a submission to Council requesting it to allocate a further \$300,000 for FY17-18, the current financial year, for the next phase, which was adopted by Council.

Where are we today? The street furniture is still a work in progress, with some hiccups on the way, as mentioned in the President's report. Hopefully by the time this goes to press, the remaining seats will have been installed. The major program upgrading the tree pits and planter boxes was completed in June. At the time, there were both positive and negative comments, but as the timbers have started to weather and the plants to bloom, your correspondent considers them an excellent start to bringing an attractive and unifying streetscape for the length of Queen Street.



Historical footnote: The trees in Queen Street were planted in 1977 when the QSWWA gave the Council a \$2,000 grant towards the \$6,000 total cost. (see photo on left) The original QSWWA proposal was for jacarandas and Illawarra flame trees but the final Council choice was a mixture of liquid amber and fraxinus pennsylvanica.

Right: Planter boxes helping unify the Queen Street streetscape.

It's good to see the Council watering them in this time of low rainfall and the Village Voice encourages all residents and commercial operators with a planter bed outside them to look after their planter bed and encourage the plants to thrive and bloom.

So, what should be the Council's next priorities? The QSWWA submission included developing a lighting strategy to update, improve and enhance the lighting in Queen, including the feasibility of underground wiring, and removing, relocating or replacing the remaining street furniture identified in the Masterplan, including bins, bike racks and seats. However, priorities can always be changed, so please mail your suggestions to admin@qswwa.com.au and we will collate them and pass them on to our Cooper Ward Councillors.





When you're not in a good headspace, what helps you feel better?

Music, running, patting the cat, sleeping, singing, doing handstands, martial arts, venting to a friend, gossiping about the Bachelorette with girlfriends, comedy, having a cup of tea, chocolate. These and many more answers came from the many people who engaged with the headspace Day theme, showing that anyone can take action to look after their own mental health. Check out the Facebook page, *headspace* Bondi Junction, for more tips.

So what is *headspace*? If you are aged 12-25 (or know someone who is), and are anxious, feeling like you aren't coping, or just need some new strategies to deal with what life's throwing at you, *headspace* is your space.

headspace offers FREE and confidential support around mental health and physical health (doctor, sexual health, and dental health), drug and alcohol counselling, family counselling, vocational support, and even a Justice of the Peace. *headspace* is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, with over 100 centres across Australia, providing support for people aged 12 to 25 who are going through a tough time.

How to find headspace

20 Bronte Rd, Bondi Junction NSW 2022, and online at www.headspace.org.au/bondijunction or Facebook, *headspace* Bondi Junction, and Instagram, *headspace_Bondi_Junction*.

Report Card

In the 16 months since opening, *headspace* Bondi Junction has received more than 1600 referrals, and provided individual support to more than 800 young people. They spoke to students at over 20 schools and universities. The Youth Reference Groups (pictured) have met over

30 times, and over \$20,000 has been raised for *headspace* – thank to UNSW's Kensington Colleges, Skyzone and other supporters. You can donate to *headspace* Bondi Junction at <http://bit.ly/2xzZuPR>.



headspace celebrated Mental Health Month this year with a jumping day at Skyzone, breakfast for *headspace* Day, watching "What if it works", presenting at numerous school events, and participating in an Elders Yarn.

What's on in the Bondi Junction Centre

To ask a question or make an appointment, call 93668800. Medicare card required for most services. Counselling & Support, JP Services: 9am-5pm, Mon, Wed, Fri, 10am-6pm Tues and Thurs. Doctor: 11am-2pm Tues, 10am-5pm Thurs. Drug & Alcohol Counselling, 9am-5pm Wed. Employment & Education Support: Mon 1pm-5pm. Sexual Health Nurse: Mon 1pm-5pm, Wed 2pm-6pm. No appointment or Medicare card needed. Free STI checks, contraception etc available. Groups currently running include Triple P Parenting for Teens, and HSC Stress Less.

eheadspace

Anyone who can't or won't come into a centre can speak to someone 9am-1am, 7 days a week, via online chat, email or phone. See eheadspace.org.au, or 1800 650 890.

Holiday Season

headspace wishes everyone a wonderful festive season – with best wishes to all celebrating Christmas, Hannukah, Bodhi Day, Pancha Ganapati, Summer solstice and New Year! For those wishing to access support at this time, *headspace* will be closed from 22 December to 3 January. Please call Lifeline on 13 11 14

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Streetwatch

The Association has recently received advice that work in respect to drawing the attention of drivers and cyclists to the fact that Halls Lane is a shared thoroughfare has commenced. Work has initially involved the installation of a new asphalt base, following which a brick paved roadway will be installed together with signage highlighting the fact that the lane is in fact a shared zone.

Regretfully the adjacent Halls Lane Reserve remains neglected with the only action undertaken by Council, since the condition of the Reserve was highlighted in the last edition of the Village Voice, is the removal of the inoperative solar lighting installation which occurred shortly following publication. The seating which was removed to accommodate the solar installation remains absent.

Another reserve on the Corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street also exhibits signs of neglect with the paving and general landscaping requiring attention.

On or about September 25, notices were affixed to a number of trees in Rosemount Avenue advising of the intention of Council to remove such trees. Subsequently these notices were removed by Council. We further understand that Council is currently reviewing the proposal and seeking further expert advice. The Association has asked Woollahra Council to keep it informed of the results of this review.

On the other hand, Woollahra Council, should be complimented on the recent outstanding landscaping of the reserve located at the intersection of Brown and McDonald Streets Paddington.

Please remember, if you are requesting council to repair any infrastructure, please could you copy us in on any notifications or emails so that we can follow up the repair. streetwatch@qswwa.com.au .



Top: Halls Reserve still neglected

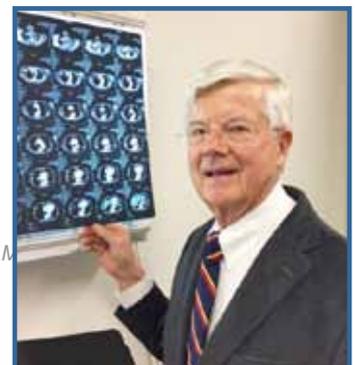
Bottom: Corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street needing some TLC



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Meet your Cooper Ward Councillors

With the elections for the Woollahra Council completed, Village Voice asked each of the three councillors elected for Cooper Ward; Cllr Luise Elsing, Cllr Anthony Morano and Cllr Megan McEwin, to provide a brief summary of their background and ties with Woollahra, and their priorities for continuing to implement the Queen Street Master Plan.



Cllr Luise Elsing

I arrived in Sydney from Melbourne over 40 years ago when I was 16! I have lived the eastern suburbs most of that time except for 17 years when I lived in Newtown. We moved to Queen Street, Woollahra in 2004 to be closer to our children's schools – Cranbrook and Kambala.

Our children are well grown up now 27, 25 and 22 and with some comings and goings we still call Woollahra home.

I became involved in Council when I retired from my role as an Executive General Manager Listings at ASX in 2011. I now work with Andromeda Partners providing advice and services to the financial markets sector.

In 2012 I was elected as a Councillor and wrote the "Woollahra: A Short History of Queen Street and West Woollahra"; I am also a Director on Holdsworth Community and REELise Film Festival (a film festival for youth) and have been actively involved in Council initiated community events and activities eg Plaques Committee.

I am excited that my experience on Council equips me to deliver outcomes including improved community services and amenity. I have successfully pushed for the toilets in Chiswick Garden and the shared pedestrian zone paving in Hall Street. With the support of Cooper Ward Councillors, we can deliver the seating, paving and planting set out in the Queen Street Masterplan in a prompt time frame. My focus is on maintaining trees and improvements to street cleaning, footpaths, roads, traffic and parking, enhancements to facilities and supporting local businesses whilst best managing their impact on residents.



Cllr Anthony Morano

I have been a Woollahra resident my entire life and have been a Councillor representing the Cooper Ward for the last five years. I was educated at Cranbrook School and grew up in Rose Bay and have also lived in Double Bay, Woollahra and Rushcutters Bay. I am passionate about

preserving everything that makes the area so unique, in particular our heritage buildings, our parks and trees. I have fought fiercely to keep Woollahra independent for

the last two years and will never allow Woollahra to be amalgamated. I am a strong advocate for good design and sensible development that blends into the streetscape and respects its environment. I chair the Woollahra Council Small Sculpture Prize and am keen to promote arts and culture in our local area.

Now that we have won the amalgamation battle and the election is over, I am working closely with my fellow Cooper Ward Councillors to speed up the implementation of the Queen Street Master plan and we have just approved the installation of the seats that will wrap around the trees, to be positioned outside the Hughenden Hotel and other spots along Queen Street. Our engineers will also be starting on footpath upgrades outside residential areas shortly, where repairs are needed the most.

I am also very keen to see the preservation of the Paddington Bowling Club site as a park or open space and not turned into a development site.

I am very proud to have been re-elected as a Councillor for the Cooper Ward and I am looking forward to working closely with my fellow Cooper Ward Councillors who are both extremely capable.



Cllr Megan McEwin

A former telecommunications executive, I have resided in the same house in Edgecliff since 2003 which we have carefully restored and renovated. I love the quiet tree-lined streets in Woollahra and, in particular, the wonderful parks throughout the area. I am a frequent user of the Holdsworth Community Centre and regular shopper

on Queen Street. I will bring my business background and love of nature to the Council and work collaboratively with my fellow Councillors and residents to ensure Woollahra is even better at the end of our term on Council.

My vision for Woollahra is to see the quiet character of the area strengthened through plantings and, where possible, street modifications to stop vehicle rat runs through the area. I want to encourage residents to stroll and cycle through the area instead of driving their car.

For the Queen Street MasterPlan, I have already met with Council staff and my fellow Cooper Ward Councillors, Luise Elsing and Anthony Morano, to set immediate priorities on the next stage of the Queen Street Masterplan. You will be relieved to hear that 22 trees on Queen Street slated for removal will now be retained.

We all felt that the trees give the street its character and any removals were an unnecessary waste of money which would be better spent on landscaping and street furniture. So, the priorities are for street furniture and plantings at appropriate intervals along the length of the business side of Queen Street and footpath repair (where required) on the residential side of Queen Street. This is in addition to the shared zone/traffic calming improvements to Halls Lane which will be undertaken shortly.

Part 2 of the Pescetarian's Pilgrimage to Paddington



Dear Reader,

As promised in my previous travelogue I have recently revisited *Saint Peter*, (i.e. the restaurant in Oxford Street, Paddington, and not – thank heavens that big doorkeeper at the famous gates). Before getting down to basics, I would briefly refer to that great philosopher of food, Auguste Escoffier who said after an extraordinarily long lunch; “Good food is the foundation of genuine happiness”. For me, this is the ‘alpha and omega’ of the matter. The rest is often pretentious blather regarding the latest fad in dining out.

Those of you who follow such matters, will be aware of the accolades that have been heaped on the proprietor and head chef of this relatively new addition to the local eating scene, so I want to focus on the simple experience of eating in that rarity in Sydney, a specialist high-class fish eatery. From my perspective, there are three elements that ring the dinner bell for me. Firstly, the food, secondly the service and lastly the ambience.

As to the prelude, we had a mixture of oysters; the scarily-named Coffin Bay Angasi and its cousin the Petit Clair. Both tasted ‘fresh-as’ with that wonderful titillation on the tongue from the subtle taste of brine that evoked memories of times spent in childhood, picking rock oysters off harbour pylons when there was still more seafood than mercury in the local waters. We followed up this promising start with the whitebait which is such a simple dish but one that Josh Nyland has endowed with his very own magic. I often find that restaurants that serve Neonata tend to deliver a result that resembles deep-fried horsehair, but these were juicy and lush.

For the main course, we shared an ironically-named Aged Eden Wild Kingfish served with accoutrements of fresh peas. Not a fried chip or roast potato in sight, but a delightful and refreshing meal in which the natural flavour of the fish was allowed to do its own thing, rather than being drowned in some moribund sauce. Last, but by no means least, a dessert of gluten-free chocolate slice, which seriously provided an early taste of that ‘genuine happiness’ so beloved of Escoffier. By the way, I should mention that all of this great food was washed down with just sufficient volumes of Ophelia Pinot Noir.

On the issues of ambience and service. Saint Peter is a small restaurant of a former retail shop which means that it is narrow and if you don't like the sensation of sharing your repast with others you may find it problematic. On the nights that we dined there, the atmosphere was convivial and the crowd well-behaved and clearly there for some serious eating and socialising. The service is very personable and willing to please, but like many contemporary venues, the noise makes it difficult to hear the subtle repartee, so there were a few glitches in the process. All in all, for a lover of good fish, this is a must-do on the piscatorial pilgrimage of Paddo.



Ian Mansell

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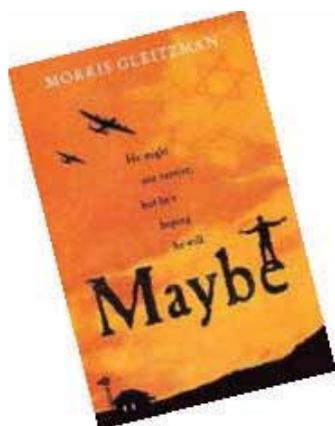
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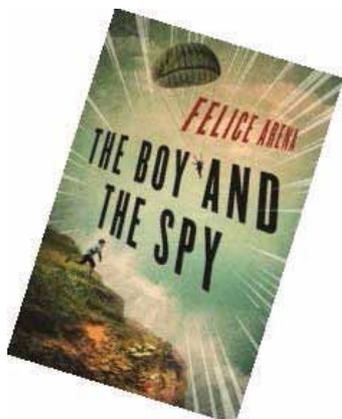
It's been said that the first generation writes the history, but the next generation rewrites it. As the number of people who lived through and survived WWII diminish there is another generation taking up their story with newly sourced information, and through fiction, telling the stories through a new lens.

There is a place within children's fiction for drama with war providing the dramatic backdrop. Good stories create believable characters and the reader becomes emotionally involved in the lives that unfold. Such emotional memories can remain with a reader for their lifetime, affecting their thinking and actions.

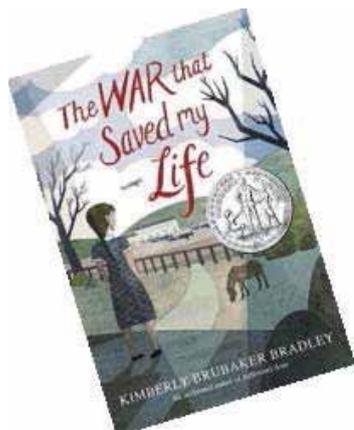
Recently published books that highlight the human qualities of resilience, altruism and determination while telling a riveting story include:



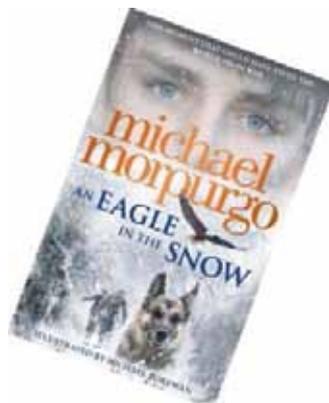
Morris Gleitzman's *Maybe*, the sixth instalment of the captivating and award winning *Once* series, which continues the story of Felix, a young Polish boy.



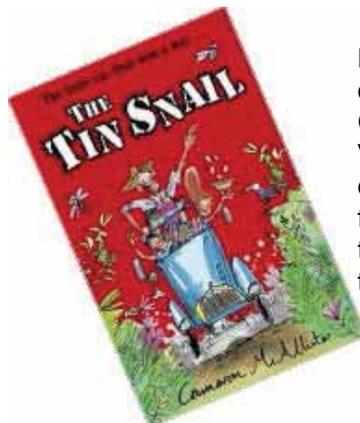
Felice Arena has stepped away from sport-based, present time stories to a drama set on the Italian coast in *The Boy and the Spy*, exploring friendship without borders and how familial ties are formed and strengthened by choice.



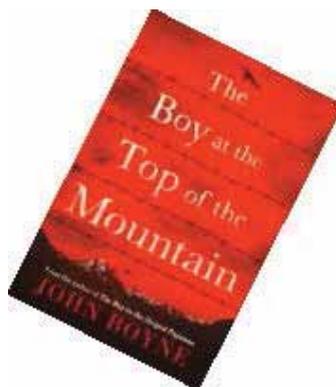
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberley Brubaker Bradley reveals that lives can be unexpectedly transformed from sepia into living colour while generosity of spirit can counter neglect.



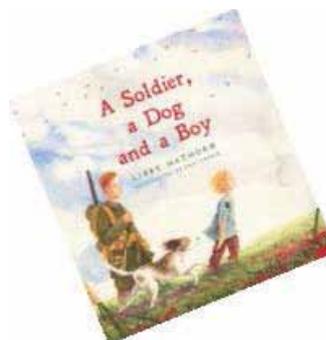
Michael Morpurgo's *An Eagle in the Snow* explores the ramifications of acting humanely and taps into the readers' philosophical musings, which it will undoubtedly inspire, while maintaining a masterful storyteller's lightest of touch.



The Tin Snail, by Cameron McAllister, wonderfully tells of the race between France's Citroen and Germany's Volkswagen companies to develop an economical car for families and farmers, seen through the eyes of the son of the Citroen designer.



Following his success with *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, John Boyne has written an equally engaging story titled *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*, but unlike the former book, the reader cannot predict the ending.



Some special picture books have the capacity to create and build layers that can be understood by different ages. Libby Hathorn's *A Soldier, a Dog and a Boy* is a fine and beautiful example.

These titles are found, along with many other fabulous books, in Lesley McKay's Bookshop, that is steeped in its own special history and has been part of families' reading lives for just on fifty years.

Elizabeth Phillips
Lesley McKay's Bookshop

Editor's note: Staff at Lesley McKay's Bookshop submitted two articles and as we had space available we were pleased to include both.

Gift ideas for Christmas at Lesley McKay's Bookshop

In non-fiction, we are big fans of *The Unfinished Palazzo* by Judith Mackrell. It is the story of Luisa Casti, Doris Castlerosse and Peggy Guggenheim and the Venetian palazzo they each, in turn, call home. We also love *The Sagrada Familia: Gaudi's Heaven on Earth* by Gijs Van Hensbergen - a wonderful ode to the famous Spanish building. Shashi Tharoor's *Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India* is also a great option for the history buff.

There are some terrific new biographies on David Attenborough and Simon Leys and autobiographies from Gail Kelly, Richard Branson and Hillary Clinton. In finance, *The Spider Network* by David Enrich is a wild story of financial scandal and Mervyn King's seminal *The End of Alchemy* is now available in paperback. For the cricket fan who could pass up the poetic, *Feeling is the Thing that Happens in 1000th of a Second* by Christian Ryan. Woollahra local, Jim Maxwell's *The Sound of Summer* is also now available in paperback.

In fiction, we are recommending Jennifer Egan's *Manhattan Beach*, Robert Harris *Munich*, C K Stead's *The Necessary Angel* and new novels from Alan Hollinghurst, Richard Flanagan, Michelle De Kretser and Edward St Aubyn.

New cookbooks include *Sweet* by Ottolenghi, *River Cafe 30* and a new Jamie Oliver cookbook, *5 Ingredients*. It is packed full of simple recipes for beginner cooks - the perfect gift for young adults moving into their first homes.

In children's books, *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls* by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo continues to be a worldwide success and will no doubt become a classic. It is a book that every little girl (and boy!) should have on their shelves and includes 100 tales of extraordinary women throughout the past and present. In picture books we highly recommend *Gus Dog Goes to Work* by Rachel Flynn and Craig Smith and *Nico Draws a Feeling* by Bob Raczka. Lower primary age children will love the latest addition to Aaron Blabey's ever-popular *Bad Guys* series and the second Pierre the Maze Detective book *The Mystery of the Empire Maze Tower*. It is a superbly-illustrated hardcover activity book that will keep the kids busy for hours over the summer holidays. For upper primary children we are excited about *Whimsy & Woe*, a new novel by Rebecca McRitchie. A beautifully bound hardcover book, it is a rollicking tale of mystery and mischief. Both boys and girls alike will love Australian author Jessica Townsend's debut novel, *Nevermoor: The Trails of Morrigan Crow* and Morris Gleitzman's, *Maybe*, the sixth book in his multi-award-winning *Once, Then, Now, After and Soon* series.

Lesley, Michael, Penelope, Elizabeth and Rachel look forward to assisting you in the bookshop with all of your Christmas shopping needs!



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