

The Original Village Voice



PAINT QUEEN STREET
Artists get ready to
paint a picture of your
favourite Queen St
building!
\$5,000 in prize
money. See p 10

Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd No.126 August 2019 www.qswwa.com.au

2019 QSWWA Dinner



Top Row: David Lennie, Andy Rowlands and Helen Lennie; Tatiana Mitchell, Alan and Irene Smith; Matthew Ely and Sara Gresham

Second row: Linda Cox and Michelle Macarounas; QSWWA Committee members John Knott, Alan Smith, President Ken Gresham, Susie Willmott, Michelle Macarounas, Ian Mansell, Richard Banks and Phillip Mitchelhill; Sharad and Shalini Loomba

Third row: Geoffrey Willmott, Mike and Dizzy Robinson; Peter Falk and Susie Wilmott; Irene Smith, Jill Mansell, Narelle Hills and Lesley Wild

Fourth row: Rekha Amott and Robert Burton; John Knott, Tony Sunman and Lia Tsimos; Bal Bahra and Shalini Loomba



President's Report

I would like to mark the passing of Graham Freudenberg who has been remembered as a great Australian and Labor speechwriter. Less well known was his work with our Association, joining the committee in 1991, serving as President from 1993 until 2000, and stepping down from the committee in 2002. I was a "freshman" of only two years as a committee member when Graham took the reins and together with Robin Brampton, the first editor of this publication, rebuilt the association to a new prominence in our community. He was a wonderful character who with charm, intelligence and wit made the association an influential and significant organisation on the local scene.



On Wednesday 24th July my wife Sara and I were invited to Canberra along with around 400 community members to attend the maiden speeches of our new member of the House of Representatives for Wentworth, Dave Sharma and New Senator Andrew Bragg (also a local). About half of the invitees travelled down on two buses from Edgecliff. As it turned out we felt that we were lucky to be amongst the bus trippers. I was happy to attend and was surprised at the diversity in the group attracted to hear them speak.

Certainly not all Liberal supporters - I noted, but will not identify, eastern suburbs personalities who are strong Labor supporters. Many unaligned community representatives from various religions and businesses were also seen.

The speeches were a strong indicator that these two gentlemen are headed for long, successful careers in politics. They were however very different speakers with

Senator Bragg starting out commenting on policy issues particularly superannuation.

Dave Sharma however spoke more of his experience as a Canadian born son of an Indian father and Australian mother. His father was born in the West Indies, one of a family of nine. He did jokingly reassure the Speaker that he was 100% an Australian citizen! He also observed that, having been Australia's ambassador to Israel whereas most in the "house" look forward to a possible ambassadorship when they leave politics, he had just reversed the process!

Our annual dinner at Chiswick was once again a lot of fun with many local residents and traders eating the superb offerings and completely overwhelming our drinks budget. Luckily most being locals walked home! Special thanks to the team lead by Susie Willmot and of course our friends at Chiswick Restaurant.

*Ken Gresham
President QSWWA*



Become a QSWWA Member

Ensure the Association continues to be an effective resident and local business community group by becoming a member. A Membership form is on page 15 or download it from www.qswwa.com.au

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46th Queen Street & West Woollahra Association AGM

For the second year in a row, cold and rainy weather coincided with the Association's AGM held on the evening of 4th June, at the National Council of Jewish Women's Hall. Although the poor weather kept attendance down, we were fortunate to have Mayor Peter Cavanagh and Councillors Marano, Elsing & McEwin attending as well as a number of brave locals who ignored the inclement weather, and, of course, all available committee members.

Association President, Ken Gresham opened the meeting, speaking about the history of the association, and the successful events held during the past year, especially the annual Christmas Carols event, which had a record attendance of around 500.

Election of office bearers was held, there being nine positions available. It was sad to see Rosemary McDonald retiring, with her good work being acknowledged by Ken Gresham and Treasurer Alan Smith. A new member was elected, Michelle Macarounas, who has an interior design business in Woollahra.

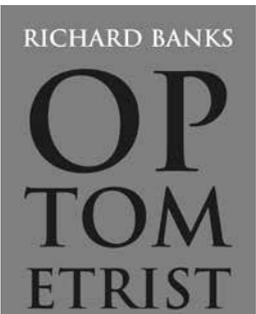
Treasurer Alan Smith gave the financial report, which had been distributed to all members prior to the meeting. He acknowledged the support of Woollahra Council in providing grants, which help subsidise the expenses of events such as the Christmas Carols and French Week.

Mayor Cavanagh spoke, highlighting the success of events such as the Christmas Carols, which was testament to the work of the Association committee. He also spoke of the new seats and footpath landscaping on Queen Street, which forms part of the Queen Street Masterplan of upgrades on the street. In addition, a new parking plan for the area has been developed, which has created an additional 38 resident street parking spaces.

To finish, the meeting was opened to all for general discussion, the main topic of conversation being the poor quality of street lighting in Queen Street side streets. The councillors were able to explain that, whilst Woollahra Council could pressure Ausgrid to upgrade the lighting, it was ultimately a decision for Ausgrid, and that council could not take it upon itself to replace lights, or to decide on the style and type of lighting.

At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone was invited to socialise with drinks and finger food provided by the association.

Alan Smith, Treasurer,



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QSWWA Annual Winter Dinner

The Queen Street West Woollahra Association held their Annual Dinner on Monday 17th July at Chiswick restaurant on Ocean Street, Woollahra. On a cold evening, 82 guests attended the evening, which had a wait list for the first time in several years (sorry to those who missed out, make sure to book in early for next year!). As the cover photos show, it was a very happy evening with both neighbours and local businesses meeting and mixing, reconnecting with old friends and making new.

A glass of bubbles started the evening and warmed us all up, accompanied by delectable canapes. Large tables made the evening a very friendly affair with delicious dishes, each matched with a wonderful selection of wine. Guest's dined on 'Barra in a Bag' (barramundi) and Chiswick's signature slow cooked lamb, which just fell off the bone, served alongside an array of salads and vegetable sides, with a rich, moorish chocolate tart to finish it off, all beautifully presented by new Head Chef Francois Poulard.

President Ken Gresham welcomed everyone and thanked them for the support they give to the Association throughout the year, helping protect the wonderful community we have. He then announced a lucky door prize, kindly donated by Chiswick.

Our thanks go to the management of Chiswick and the help they gave us in making the evening such a happy occasion. They have very kindly given us the recipe for their famous slow cooked lamb shoulder to share with you to try cooking at home, or you can just go to Chiswick and let them cook it for you. Our thanks also to Eric Scott who was the official photographer for the evening, as usual, a great job. We hope to see you all again next year.

Susie Willmott, QSWWA Committee Member

Calling for contributions to 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 *Village Voice*. If you'd like to contribute an article, a comment on a previous article or an opinion on a topic relevant to the area, please contact us on admin@qswwa.com.au.

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 Members: Ian Mansell, Richard Banks, Michelle Macarounas, Phillip Mitchelhill, Giles Edmonds, Susie Willmott, John Knott
Village Voice: Editor Giles Edmonds, Layout: Eric Scott.

Chiswick's Slow-Roasted Moran Family Lamb Shoulder

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 kg lamb shoulder on the bone trimmed
- 2 garlic cloves smashed
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 2 Litres chicken stock (liquid)

Brine

- 300 g salt
- 200 g sugar
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 8 juniper berries
- 6 cloves
- 4 Litres water



1. To make the brine, crush the Juniper berries, cloves and black pepper in a mortar and pestle. Place all the brine ingredients in a heavy-based saucepan filled with 4 Litres of water and bring to the boil over high heat.
2. Remove from the heat, strain through a fine-meshed sieve and store in the fridge. Do not use until cooled completely.

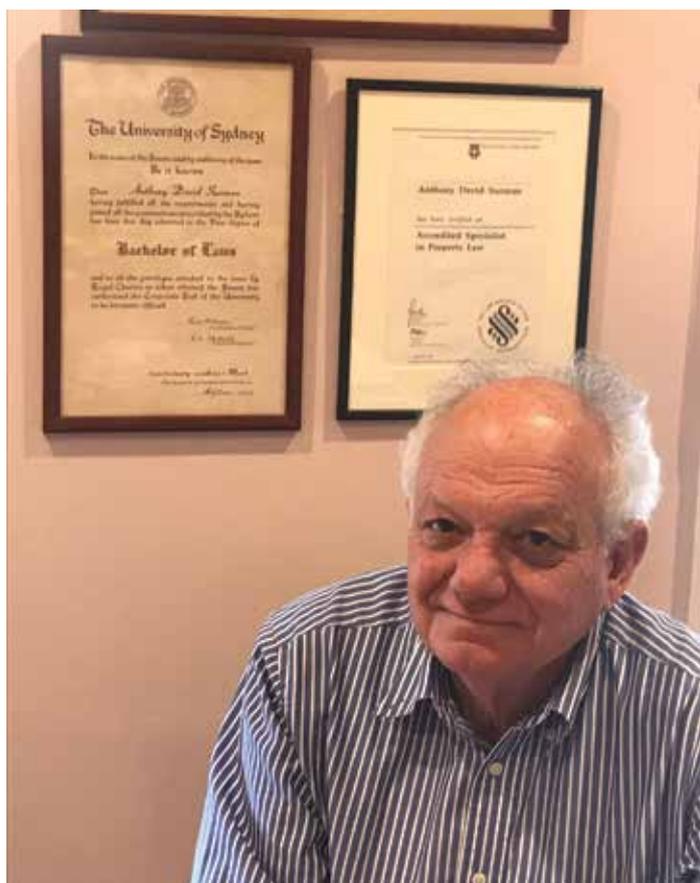
Mint salsa

- 1 garlic clove roughly chopped
- 1/4 bunch flat leaf parsley leaves only
- 80 ml grapeseed oil
- 1 1/2 tbs chardonnay wine vinegar
- 1 pinch salt and pepper 'to taste'
- 1 bunch mint leaves only

Ganish

- 1 yellow squash
- 1 Lebanese cucumber
- 1 bunch of mint
- 1 zucchini

3. Place the lamb in a container, pour over enough brine to cover, then cover with plastic film and place in the fridge for 3 hours to lightly brine. Remove the lamb and pat dry with a paper towel.
4. Preheat the oven to 110°C. Place the lamb in a casserole dish with the garlic, rosemary and chicken stock. Cover with foil and braise for 3 1/2 hours, or until the meat is falling off the bone. Remove the cover and turn oven up the oven to 200°C and cook for a further 10-15 minutes, or until the top has become golden brown and crisp. Remove the lamb from the oven.
5. To make the mint salsa, place the garlic, parsley, mint and grapeseed oil in a food processor and process until smooth. Transfer to a bowl, stir in the vinegar and season with salt and pepper, to taste.
6. Cut the cucumbers into chunks and ribbons, and season them with a bit of salt, pepper, olive oil and fresh mint.
7. Serve the lamb with the mint salsa and the fresh salad on the side.



Local Identity Tony Sunman

Tony Sunman (pictured left) is Queen Street's local solicitor. Tony is the only solicitor in the heart of the Street and the only solicitor with Queen Street in his heart. This mild mannered, thoughtful individual resides during business hours on the upper level of the heritage listed 'Woollahra Post Office' on the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets. The first-floor level was originally the Post Office Manager's apartment but, in 1988, Woollahra Council gave approval for the space to be used as commercial offices. Since that time, it has been the business address of Sunman & Walker, Solicitors and Attorneys, strategically placed overlooking the commercial heart of Queen Street.

Tony was educated at Sydney Grammar and in 1970, graduated in law from Sydney University. Born in Coogee, Tony has lived locally since the age of 10. In 1972 Tony married his charming and delightful wife Jane. Jane worked as a paediatric social worker with the Prince of Wales Hospital for many years and has a great interest in art history and is a Master of Fine Arts.

This delightful couple have two daughters, both of whom went to school at SCEGGS and both are lawyers. Emily an in-house company lawyer and Lucy is about to submit her PhD thesis at Sydney University. Oh, let's not forget



the most important member of the family. Monty, the English Springer Spaniel who accompanies Tony and Jane to Queen Street's Plane Tree Café for coffee most mornings!

Of his various local residences over the years, one of the most interesting was his time living next to the renown local painter, the late Margaret Olley AC. This was between the

years of 1976-1991, when Tony would pop in to make sure Margaret was OK. During that time, they bought her self-portrait. Tony relates how sometimes he would pay a visit and the rooms would be full of fruit fly, attracted by the bowls of 'Still Life' fruit which sat rotting amidst the canvas and brushes. Another self-portrait Margaret completed is now with the Art Gallery of NSW, thanks to the dedicated work of the late Edmond Capon AM, OBE. It's worth noting that the artist Ben Quilty won the Archibald Prize in 2011 with his larger than life portrait of Margaret Olley.

The first offices Tony occupied were above what is now Ruby and Min, on the corner of Spicer and Queen. This is back in 1973, in what had before been a chocolate factory premises. I know the space well, as I opened my real estate office there in 2004, taking the office previously occupied by Jill Wran. Since that time, Tony has consolidated himself as the most informed and knowledgeable person on the Street in regard to legal affairs.

His wide-ranging local background has included being President of the Paddington Society for 3 years and serving several terms on the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association. He has been on the Juniper Hall Committee with Clive Lucas, set up by the National Trust to carry out the renovations in 1986-1987. He was appointed by Woollahra Council as the Community Representative on the Urban Conversation Advisory Committee serving on it for 12 years. In 1994 Tony gained Specialist Accreditation in Property Law from the Law Society of NSW, an accreditation which he still holds.



Tony's office above the old Woollahra Post Office



Tony's treasured Halvorsen Boat

Tony has had a life-long fascination with boats. He has been a member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron for 30 years and has sailed since the age of 12. In 2005, he purchased a Halvorsen Motor Cruiser, and shortly after, was one of the team of 6 who put their hands to building a Pram Dinghy, a Huon Pine clinker-built boat. After many months and the dinghy still incomplete, Tony finished all the work himself and purchased the boat outright and now uses it as a tender for the Halvorsen. He is very proud of this beautiful piece of craftsmanship.

Diagonally across Queen Street sits the premises of Victor Churchill Butchers, owned by the Sunman family for the past 13 years. The previous owner, Jack Wallace, asked Tony to buy the premises when he retired. He knew that Tony would retain the building as a butcher shop, to keep the local retail strip viable. Tony and Jane ran the shop through a manager for almost 2 years, during which time they got approval to redevelop the building and an agreement with Anthony Puharich of Vic's Premium Quality Meats to take over the premises when rebuilt and open 'Victor Churchills'.

The historical significance is notable, the building was erected in 1876 and operated from then as a butchery initially by James Churchill and then 2 or 3 further generations of Churchills, including a Victor Churchill. Albert Churchill sold the business to Jack Wallace in 1950 and Jack bought the building for the Cooper Estate when the 99-year lease expired in 1957. 'Victor' is also the given name of Anthony Puharich's father and mentor, Victor Puharich, which effectively joined the past with the present.

Another article on local identities by John Knott

Classics in the Park

If you enjoy classical music, put Sunday, November 3 in your diary. Centennial Parklands and Sydney Youth Orchestras have teamed up again to present a concert for all ages featuring some beautiful classical and romantic orchestral repertoire with some Disney blockbusters amongst them.

Pack a picnic and bring the whole family (and even the four-pawed children) and drink in the beautiful sounds of orchestral music against the backdrop of the stunning Federation Valley. Children under 3 years do not require a ticket. Entry from 3.00 pm.

See www.centennialparklands.com.au for further details.

Telephone Scams Increasing

Telephone scammers are increasing in frequency of attempts and the sophistication of their approaches. This is not just me noticing it, but companies such as the NBN reporting an 84% increase in enquiries about suspected scams in the last year.

I have been called by scammers twice in the last few months, both who could be described as plausible and convincing, at least to begin with. Now, I'm not talking about these robo-calls I get every two weeks or so, saying I am about to be disconnected from the NBN unless I make an immediate payment

These are annoying, but, hopefully, because they are so over the top and not how you would expect the NBN to contact you, most people realise they are a scam and ignore them. (They are trying to get you to give them personal details, particularly bank details, so they can access your accounts – if you have responded to one of these calls with bank details, talk to your bank immediately.) No, these two calls were much more sophisticated, each taking a very different approach but both trying to access my bank details or personal information, so I thought I would share them both with readers so that you can recognise them right away if it happens to you.

As most of these scam calls do, for the first of these, the call came in on our land line. The caller claimed to be from the NBN and that they wanted to upgrade my internet access to fibre for speed reasons (first suspicious flag – NBN is a wholesaler and does not contact customers directly. If anything requires change, your telco will be the one contacting you and will coordinate with NBN if required).

He then asked me if I knew the speed to my internet connection and, as I was at my computer at the time, gave me a website to go to check it. It was actually quite a well-known website, one which I had used myself before to check our speed before and after moving to the NBN 18 months ago, so that was plausible. The speed readings were actually pretty good, so he gabbled something about them being OK now but they were going to deteriorate, which was why they needed to upgrade the connection (another red flag!).



At this stage, I challenged him to prove he was from the NBN. He then gave our address as evidence. Unfortunately for the scammer, it was our old address, not the current one, confirming that this was definitely a scam. However, I let him continue, interested to find out what he was really trying to do.

He then went on to make an appointment for an NBN technician to call around to upgrade the modem, giving me the technician's supposed name and ID, and then said he needed details of my current modem (Another red flag. NBN provide the Connection Box into which you plug the modem provided by your telco (Telstra etc). NBN do not provide a modem themselves and would only refer to their equipment as a Connection Box, not a modem!).

After asking for a few details, he then said I needed to do something to allow him to get the modem details. Cue alarm bells ringing and what the scam was really about became apparent! He wanted me to download a remote computer access program, *FastSupport*, and give him access to my computer using it. Now, *FastSupport* is a legitimate program, as are similar ones such as *Teamviewer*, but you should only ever let people whom you recognise and trust access your computer using them.

It was at this stage I told the caller that there was no way I was going to let him access my computer and hung up. Had I let him access it, the consequences could have ranged from secretly installing malware to access any personal and private details it could find, including bank account details, to installing a key logger to record my keystrokes and find out my passwords, to possibly locking me out of the PC and trying to make me pay a ransom to unlock it.

If you have given someone access to your PC and you think it might have been a scam, I would recommend scanning your computer with a legitimate antivirus program, removing all the found threats, and then changing your passwords for online banking, email, and social media accounts, etc. Doing this will minimise the chances of identity theft, financial loss etc.

Next edition, I'll cover the second scam call, supposedly from my bank and ultimately trying to get access to my bank account to be able to clean it out. In the meantime, if any readers have their own scam story to tell, please email us on admin@qswwa.com.au.

*Giles Edmonds,
Editor, Village Voice*

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Dog friendly pubs in the area

Let's face it, the winter months aren't always the most pleasant when it comes to walking the pooches outside. Well for us humans at least, the dogs don't seem to mind too much and crack on regardless.

Doc and Paige must have seen the hesitance in my eyes taking them out on those cold rainy evenings and came up with this amazing idea of visiting a few of the doggo friendly pubs in the area instead. They get their stimulation by getting out, hanging with their buddies and while we enjoy being warm and dry while sipping a beer or two. Did I mention how amazing their idea was, hehe?



There's a good chance we'll bump into Will the German Shorthair Pointer (GSP) with his owner, Pete (pictured above), at *The Village Inn*, a good walk for human and doggy legs at the other end of Glenmore Road in Paddington. Will is what one would call a proper outdoor dog. He's an athletic GSP who's well respected in the park by his four-legged friends, gentle yet playful at the same time. Sitting back smiling, he makes me think of Mufasa from the *Lion King*, both being very outdoorsy. *The Village Inn* also has some great food that's very reasonably priced, another good reason for walking your dog.

Coming back towards Woollahra, up on Oxford Street, you have the *Imperial* that's dog friendly. They do some outstanding steaks and have a Dry Aged selection of cuts that'll have both you and the pooches drooling. Well worth a visit.

A short stroll up the road, you hit *The Paddo Inn*. Doc and Paige often catch up with one of their best mates, Wilfred the Springer. Wilfred and Doc have known each other since they were pups, so there's some seriously cute bromance going on. You can grab a drink, sit at the big window and watch the world go by, or you can book for one of their bottomless long lunches. Maybe the dogs stay home for that one.

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Doc, Wilfred and Paige in the London

Then there's *The London Tavern* just down the road, another one of Doc and Paige's favourites. We caught up with a few of their buddies - Griffin, Rocky the Brussels, Chandler, Oakley the retriever, the two bulldogs, Doris and Lottie, and Prince, a staffie. I also once met an Irish guy in the London with his dog named Doug. It was hilarious when he told us. Say it loudly with an Irish accent... "My dog's name is Doug". Haha, never gets old.



Chandler in the Village Green

Further down Underwood Street, you hit *The Grand National*, also dog friendly but currently going through renos. We look forward to the re-opening.

Keep wandering back to Woollahra and you'll find a great old English style pub, *The Lord Dudley*.

Here you might bump into Bob and the gang outside. No stranger to the Dudley, Bob's old dog, Zinzan, was very well respected and known by all. He even has a plaque on the wall and will always be fondly remembered. *The Dudley* often serves as the ideal post-walk drink stop and you can always spot a few of us on the pavement. If you haven't been, they do a fantastic Sunday Roast.



Oakley

With all these great spots even the wet and colder months haven't stopped us from getting out and about. Perhaps we'll bump into you and your pooch on the next visit.

James Francis - Instagram: @doc_and_paige

A Night of Barolo at Moncur Cellars

At the beginning of the month, Moncur Cellars had the privilege of welcoming Valter Fissore from Elvio Cogno winery in Barolo, Italy. Throughout the evening, guests were delighted to taste imported drops including 2018 Nascetta (a Novello white grape variety), 2017 Barbera, and 2012/2014/2015 Barolos.

The general consensus determined the 2015 Barolo as pick of the night, which came as no surprise to Valter. He spoke highly of the 2015 vintage, even comparing it to 2010 (one of Barolo's best ever vintages).

Damien, from Bistro Moncur, matched the wines with the following delicious dishes:

Testun al Barolo cheese with thinly sliced pears

- Testun means stubborn in Cuneo dialect, as it takes a very long time to ripen. It's generally made from sheep or goat's milk. These animals feed on wild flowers, herbs, and grasses, all of which create a wonderfully herbal - even camomile and caramel - flavour spectrum. The cheeses are encrusted with the crushed grapes used to make Barolo wines, making them a very fitting match

Bistro Moncur duck and duck liver terrine

- Served on oven-dried croutons with cornichons.

Little tartlets

- Filled with red onion confit, sliced mushroom, and parmesan custard.

Future tastings will be occurring, providing wonderful opportunities to experience fine wine and food with friends

in Woollahra. Furthermore, we can also help with introductions to wineries in Australia and overseas for you.



Familiar local figures at the Barolo night

Please contact us at cellars@woollahrahotel.com.au to be invited to upcoming events.

Besides budding wine affairs, we're thrilled to note that the neighbouring Woollahra Hotel is under new ownership.

A refreshed interior is just the beginning of Woollahra Hotel's new chapter, as an exciting new food and drinks menu and the return of live entertainment have been implemented in an effort to bring new life to the local community.

Be sure to pay a visit over the coming months and experience a familiar venue in an entirely new (and positive) light.

Footway Dining



Woollahra Council is updating its footway dining policies and guidelines to ensure they promote best practice and is seeking community feedback. With a number of businesses in Queen Street and surrounds providing footway dining, here is your chance to have your say on an important local matter and ensure the outcomes reflect the views of our community.

Full details of the proposed policy and guidelines can be found on the Council website, plus how to register for Your Say Woollahra. But be quick, the public exhibition ends at 4.30pm on Friday, August 30.



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The Rio-Tinto Argyle mine in the remote East Kimberly region of Western Australia is responsible for 90% of the world's supply of pink diamonds and having opened in 1983, the mine has extracted over 800 million carats of rough diamonds. Rio-Tinto's Argyle have said that in late 2020 the mine will be stopping operations and start to rehabilitate the area. Argyle Pink Diamonds have always been one of the most valuable gems, but with the closing of the world's largest supplier looming, the magnificent pink argyle is becoming increasingly rare and considerably more valuable.

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Artists Required! Paint Queen Street The Inaugural Queen Street Art Prize



Artists are asked to submit their own painted artwork depicting the houses, businesses and streetscapes of Queen Street, including the interior and exteriors of local businesses. Entry is free and open to all. Register anytime from now until December 14th, 2019. There will be a Gala opening and exhibition of completed artworks with music, wine and canapes along with

prize money to the value of \$5,000. Judging and the final presentation event will be held in early March 2020 in a soon to be announced Queen Street venue. Canvases to be a maximum height and/or width of 1m, and in any painting medium. Register to hear more about forthcoming art talks on design, painting techniques and colouring skills in local cafes and hotels.

Register via john.knott@1stcity.com.au or phone 0413 328 815. Further details coming shortly.

This event is proudly funded under the Woollahra Council Placemaking Grants Program and the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, and supported by the Waverley Woollahra Art School and Matisse Derivan Paints, along with local and Queen Street businesses.

creations, often paired against complementary white diamonds for a modern and timeless take on a classic style.

Matthew Ely's piece "Chantilly" is an incredible design which was awarded Diamond Guild Award Finalist and is an exceptional example of what can be achieved with these beautiful stones. The Pink Argyle is a truly unique and luxurious addition to most designs. The perfect combination of distinctive style and timeless beauty, the Argyle Diamonds will forever be one of our favourite stones to incorporate into our collections. To see more of our bespoke creations with these mesmerising coloured diamonds, follow us on facebook.com/MatthewElyJewellers/

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Councillor's Corner: Megan McEwin



Queen Street Strategic Masterplan Update: The design for the upgrade of the Queen Street and Victoria Avenue intersection is complete and Council consulted the community on the proposed designs in July 2019.

The proposed work includes:

- Realignment of the kerb and gutter on both corners of Queen Street at Victoria Avenue, and the corner of Queen Street at Halls Lane, with associated signs and line markings;
- Widening and improved alignment of pedestrian crossing;
- Replacement of asphalt with Queen Street pavers on the footpath; and
- Installation of a continuous footpath treatment across Halls Lane.
- Gaining one (1) legal on-street parking space located on the northern side of Queen Street, west of the pedestrian crossing.

The proposed streetscape design will be considered by the Woollahra Traffic Committee on 3 September 2019 and referred to Council's Finance Community and Services Committee for approval. Once the project has been approved by the Traffic Committee and Council, procurement to engage suitable contractors to carry out the works will be undertaken. Council's Engineers will work with local businesses and residents to ensure impacts during the construction phase are minimised.

Proactive Maintenance Inspections: Council's Asset Inspection Officer will be in the area, inspecting the condition of the roads and footpaths along Queen Street. Any maintenance and repairs that are identified by Council's Asset Inspection Officer will be prioritised and carried out by Council's maintenance teams.

Cllr Megan McEwin, Cooper Ward



Proposed Queen Street & Victoria Avenue upgrade

Protecting our local communities in Woollahra: Dave Sharma MP



With the official business of swearing-in and first speeches done and dusted, I am excited to continue working with my local community groups to help tackle their everyday problems – big and small.

It is fantastic to see so many community organisations in Wentworth, like the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association, unite to collectively voice their interests and concerns regarding local developments and services. An area will always benefit when there are active and engaged residents looking out in its best interest and working to preserve its character and heritage.

Our local communities are unique, and the Woollahra area is no different. From the heritage-listed homes with manicured gardens to the high-end boutique shops along Queen Street, Woollahra is a prized gem within Sydney's eastern suburbs. The Municipality of Woollahra has a rich and diverse history represented in Victorian, Federation and inter-war buildings, precincts and streetscapes; including over 700 heritage items, comprising individual buildings, structures, trees, and landscape features.

Protecting and preserving our open spaces and heritage is a high priority for me. This is about maintaining the character and quality of life in our suburbs and ensuring that Wentworth remains a great place to raise a family. I will work alongside local community groups and different levels of government to oppose overdevelopment, protect our open spaces, and preserve our valuable heritage.

Our communities are growing, and more people require more infrastructure. Growing commute times and congestion takes a toll on all of us, whether it's doing the school run in the mornings or commuting to and from work. However, because of our density and proximity to the city, we're uniquely suited to innovative public transport solutions which I'll push to help you get to work, and back, faster.

I also understand not everyone has the time to write in or come meet me at the electorate office with their concerns. Therefore, I held two mobile offices in July - one at the Double Bay Woolworths, and the other at the Rose Bay Woolworths – to come to you. The mobile offices were very well received by residents and passers-by, who came to say hello and communicate matters that included local, state and federal jurisdiction. I have seven other mobile office opportunities in August which I hope you can make. Visit my Facebook page to find out more: <https://www.facebook.com/davesharmamp/>. Alternatively, if there is an event that you'd like me to attend, please let me know.

Dave Sharma MP, Member for Wentworth

Cruising the Kimberley Coast

I was fortunate enough to be invited to sail from Darwin to Broome on a 48ft catamaran, *Water Sprite*, for a month-long trip from mid-June to mid-July this year – immaculate timing in between editing editions of the *Village Voice*. The 2,000-kilometre Kimberley coastline is one of the last great untouched marine wildernesses in the world, a mixture of soaring sandstone cliffs, mighty gorges, rivers and waterfalls, huge inlets and sounds, and extensive lengths of mangroves punctuated by sand dunes and sandy beaches.

These all combine to provide a secure habitat for its diverse marine and bird life, from dugongs and dolphins to barramundi and bream, crocodiles and sharks. Scattered along this coast, and in its bays and sounds, are over 2,500 islands, along with numerous coral reefs, many covered at high water (detailed study of the charts is a must). What you won't find is mobile reception, internet access or people, except for the occasional cruise boat (for those wishing to experience this beautiful area in more comfort and style). The dry season, from May to October, typically has clear blue skies, easterly winds and warm days, 30°C or so, with occasional cool nights, exactly what we experienced.

On leaving Darwin, we headed straight across the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf to explore the two major rivers and gorges on this part the Kimberley coast, the Berkeley and King George Rivers. The trip up the Berkeley River was spectacular, starting with mangroves and 25m high cliffs, narrowing into a gorge with a series of bends through much higher cliffs, up to 70m high and then broadening out again with smaller cliffs up to the top of the river, where it ends in a series of rock shelves with freshwater trickling over them.



Travelling up the Berkeley River

The King George River was equally impressive, but on a grander scale. The navigable part of the river isn't quite as long as the Berkeley, but the gorges are wider, with higher, 70-80m cliffs, all leading up to the Twin Falls at the top of the river, with soaring 90m cliffs all around. This is a must-see for all the cruise boats, with the bigger ones having to anchor out in the bay, so there was a morning and afternoon rush of tenders ferrying passengers up to the falls and back.



Water Sprite at the Twin Falls, King George River

The upside for us from these other visitors was the French captain from *Le Laperouse* beckoning us over to his dinghy at the Twin Falls and offering us a glass of champagne while he waited for his guests to arrive – vive La France!

A couple of days later, we anchored opposite the only public campsite we saw on the coast, Honeymoon Bay. It must be one of the remotest campsites in Australia, being 700 km from Derby and 585km from Kununurra, all corrugated dirt road, so a 4-wheel drive is a must. As well as the spectacular scenery, the main attraction is the fishing, with one group coming up from Victoria, a round trip of 7,500km, all for a 3-week holiday with only very basic amenities - you have to be keen!

We took the opportunity to visit the nearest community, Kalumburu, about 25km inland, to get some fresh provisions. This was an interesting place, a mission community, now with a population of around 450, with the mission and museum, a general store supplied by barge from Derby every two weeks, a school and an indigenous art gallery. Later, when we eventually had internet access, we found much heated discussion online as to whether the mission had destroyed the local indigenous culture or had worked hard to sustain it.

As we continued west, the size of the tides kept increasing, leading to the spectacular phenomena of the Horizontal Falls in Talbot Bay. The Horizontal Falls are created by the tidal flow into and out of two narrow gaps, the outer one about 30m wide and the inner one about 15m, between



The two narrow Horizontal Falls gorges flowing into Talbot Bay

the main bay and two gorges which run parallel to the main bay and are about 3 km long, big enough to hold a considerable volume of water. The rush is so great, particularly at spring tides, that it creates its own waterfall in each gap, as the difference in heights between water on one side and on the other increases as the tide gets to its maximum. A very impressive sight, but not recommended to take a boat through unless you have a very powerful engine!

A few days later, we had a very interesting morning in Silver Gull Creek, visiting what is now the abandoned property of a boating couple who stopped here many years ago and, using large water tanks fed by a natural spring, stayed and settled. They built a house and extensive garden, using the spring water to feed a large irrigation pipe system, and welcomed boaties for many years to what became known as 'The Squatters Arms Boat Club'. Sadly, Marion, the lady of this couple, died in 2014 and the place had just been taken over by the local indigenous group.

The property was still very much a work in progress. A number of new, upmarket, glamping-like standing room tents with wooden floors on a series on metal supports, each with a balcony and view of the creek had been erected recently, although they didn't seem to have been used at all. The rest of the property was still very much in the state that it had been left, although the locks had been broken and some of the contents strewn around. The best part was having a bathe in the water tank.

The spring water went through a series on circular tanks and the last one, about 1.8m high and about 5m across, had a panel cut out for the water to flow out of, keeping the depth to about a metre. The water temperature was very pleasant and warm, and the water coming out of the inlet pipe into the tank was positively hot. We all had a very enjoyable soak and returned to the boat feeling much cleaner.



The crew enjoying the water tank in Silver Gull Creek

Indigenous rock paintings are a key feature of the Kimberley, and our most interesting examples were found on Bigge Island. Not only were there two life-size Wandjina spirits, which have large, round eyes and halos around their heads representing clouds and the weather, which they control, according Aboriginal legend, but there was also a picture of men in a sailing boat with main and



Wandjina spirit painting with ray on ceiling

mizzen sails, and another with three men smoking pipes, presumably documenting contact with 19th century sailors.

Our last few days were on the east side of the Kimberley, which has road access from Broome. Cygnet Bay Pearl Farm is one of the three pearl companies still operating, with an upmarket resort, boutique selling their pearls, tours of the pearl operations and a bar and restaurant (our first meal off the boat in three weeks). On the other side of Cape Leveque, there is a tourist camp, Kooljman, run by the local indigenous Bardi Jawi communities, offering basic to luxury accommodation and camping, along with another opportunity to have dinner in restaurant. Quite a contrast in operations, but both to be recommended.



Painting of a western sailing boat

Our final sail down to Broome was highlighted by seeing over a dozen humpback whales migrating north, some breaching, some slapping their tails, and some seen only through the plume of spray they created when they exhaled – an exhilarating sight.

Our journey ended in Broome, the pearling centre of Australia and now a very popular tourist destination. If ever you get the chance to do this trip, either sailing or in a cruise boat, you'll come back with a new perspective on Australia and a greater appreciation of how large, rugged, remote, varied and beautiful it can be.

Giles Edmonds, Editor, Village Voice

The Force is with the WPO

The ever-versatile Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra (the “WPO”) present their second concert of the season at the end of June, aptly titled Destinations and Adventures. This was very much a family-orientated performance, with balloons, fairies and the players all in fancy dress, including a Darth Vader flautist (Martin Cohen, WPO President) and a Sugar Plum Fairy cellist (Cindy Pan).

The music programme was an eclectic mix of well-loved tunes from movies interspersed with some lighter favourites from the classical world, all very ably led by the highly experienced and talented John Buckley, who last conducted the WPO in 2017.

What better way to set the tone for the afternoon than starting with the drama and excitement of John William’s Star Wars Suite. This was then followed by Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite, with cellist Cindy Pan in Sugar Plum Fairy costume, dancing in and out of the audience, encouraging the children to join in with her. Following March of the Toys from Babes in Toyland, the WPO’s principal oboist, Karen Evans, delivered an outstanding performance of the hauntingly beautiful Gabriel’s Oboe by Morricone, from the film The Mission.

The favourites continued with Dukas score for The Sorcerer’s Apprentice, the spellbinding music of Ross Edward’s Ecstatic Dances and ending with another rousing John William’s classic, the theme from Jurassic Park. A most enjoyable afternoon’s entertainment for young and old and a most uplifting antidote to the cold winter weather outside. Chalk up another winner for the WPO!



The WPO channelling Star Wars!

WPO’s Height of Spring

There’s spring in the air and in the step of Woollahra’s outstanding musicians and virtuoso star turns aplenty when the WPO returns with a spectacular program in September for its third concert of the year.

Lee Bracegirdle, WPO’s Chief Conductor and Musical director, conducts the WPO in Height of Spring - spectacular program that presents Schumann’s seasonally appropriate First Symphony, nicknamed The Spring Symphony and pairs it with Stravinsky’s Eight Instrumental Miniatures for 15 Players – a sensational work that features 15 of our orchestral players in their own right!

Young virtuoso violinist, Darcy Dauth, joins the orchestra to perform two spectacular solo works; the sumptuous Romance by Dvorak and the hypnotic rhapsodising of Ravel’s gypsy-inspired fantasy, Tzigane, and Lee Bracegirdle always provides the audience with some interesting insights and background on the pieces being played.

Performances are 5.30pm, Saturday, 14 September and 2.30pm, Sunday, 15 September at St Columba Uniting Church, corner of Ocean and Forth Streets, Woollahra.

WOOLLAHRA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS

HEIGHT OF SPRING

SAT 14 SEPT, 5.30PM
SUN 15 SEPT, 2.30PM

St Columba Uniting Church, Corners
Forth & Ocean Streets, Woollahra

STRAVINSKY - EIGHT MINIATURES
DVORAK - ROMANCE
RAVEL - TZIGANE
SCHUMANN - SPRING SYMPHONY



DARCY DAUTH
VIOLIN



LEE BRACEGIRDLE
CHIEF CONDUCTOR &
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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