

VILLAGE VOICE



SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE

WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL – A LOCAL TREASURE

MEET CENTENNIAL PARK'S POWERFUL OWLS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



to hold the AGM and social drinks. The new format was universally well received and is clearly the way for the future. It was such a success that Dave Sharma mentioned the QSWWA AGM and the *Village Voice* in federal parliament the following week!

Sadly, due to the lockdown and uncertainty about when it will end, for the second year running we have cancelled our September Annual Dinner. This is terribly disappointing, as it's always such an enjoyable occasion. On the positive side, we plan to proceed with the Christmas Carols in Chiswick Park on Tuesday 7 December, subject to whatever restrictions are in place then. We will also be going ahead with the Christmas Window Display Competition, assuming that retail premises will be open in some form or other.

We are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website at www.woollahravillage.com.au. This should prove a most useful and informative

How life has changed since our May edition! I hope everyone is holding up and keeping COVID-safe. It's weird seeing the usually thronging Queen Street so quiet again, most shops shut and those people who are around wearing masks. This Delta variant is clearly much more contagious and the lockdowns less effective than before, so I urge everyone to get vaccinated, as that seems the only sure way of returning to some sort of normality.

As reported in a separate article, we are very pleased that we were able

resource for members – see the article on page 11 and do check it out for yourself.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the QSWWA next year, we are planning several events in addition to our usual program. First of these will be a Woollahra Fashion Week in early March 2022, including fashion shows by our leading fashion retailers among other exciting activities. Other events in the pipeline include a 'Day in the Life of Woollahra' photographic competition and a Woollahra Music Week. All your ideas are welcome.

This is the second edition of the new-look *Village Voice*. We have received great feedback about the new format and feel, and increased interest in advertising from local businesses, so congratulations again to Christine Whiston and the team.

Stay safe and here's hoping this report will have a much happier tone to it in November's edition.

GILES EDMONDS | PRESIDENT, QSWWA

NEW AGM FORMAT A RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS

The QSWWA Annual General Meeting and social evening was held on 8 June 2021 in the Woollahra Hotel, with a record 120 members and special guests attending, including the General Manager of the Council, Craig Swift-McNair, Federal Member, Dave Sharma, and Cooper Ward Councillors Luise Elsing and Anthony Marano. After the formal meeting, everyone took the opportunity to socialise, catching up with old friends and making new ones. A welcome drink was offered by the Woollahra Hotel and, after the meeting, delicious food and drinks were provided by the Association. A great community spirit was evident and the energy and excitement about Woollahra and the community shown by resident and business members

was a welcome endorsement of the Association and our program of events.

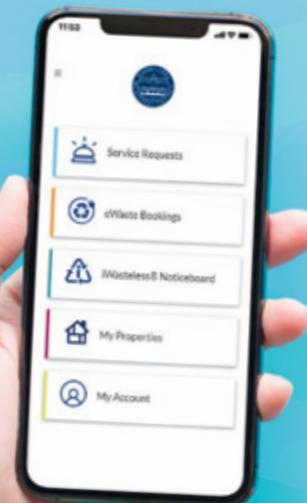
Congratulations to the office-bearers and committee members elected on the night: Giles Edmonds (President), Alan Smith (Treasurer), Richard Banks (Secretary), John Knott, Susie Willmott, Christine Whiston, Richard Haigh and Steph Macindoe.

Additional photographs of the evening can be found in the Events main menu item, then Previous Events section of our new website, www.woollahravillage.com.au. Details of the text of Dave Sharma's speech and a link to the video can be found in the Community, Community News section.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT



Download the new Woollahra Council App



Your free, fast and easy way to request a service anytime, anywhere.

Log and track your requests:

- Rubbish and recycling
- Street cleaning
- Tree management
- Road and footpath maintenance
- Book a free e-waste collection.

Plus much more!



COMMUNITY NEWS: THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS, SHOPS AND EVENTS IN WOOLLAHRA

COUNCIL LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE APP

Fast, easy access to Council services anytime, anywhere and the ability to track requests is now possible with the new Woollahra Council app.

The app's innovative functionality puts a wide variety of customer service options at residents' fingertips, allowing them to lodge and track the progress of their service requests through their phone or device, attach images and use geolocation technology, significantly increasing efficient service delivery and providing updates to customers in real time.

With over 20,000 service requests received every year via phone, email and letter, requests logged through the app can now be sent directly to relevant Council staff to assign and action, saving hours of processing time with each request.

Using the app, customers can quickly and conveniently place requests for:

- waste and recycling
- street cleaning
- tree management

- road and footpath maintenance
- clean-up collections, including furniture and whitegoods
- free e-waste collection.

The app is free to download and provides residents with the ability to link details for their properties – immediately providing location-specific information on regular waste collection services and Council clean-up collection dates – and also the option to make secure credit card payments for delivery of some services.

For more information on the Woollahra Council app, visit www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/app.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play.

COMING UP ROSES

Brightening the lives of everyone who walks down Queen Street is the ever-changing display of magnificent roses outside the Woollahra Fruit Shop at 136 Queen Street. Proprietors James and Yi Na extended their floral offering some months ago and the irresistible romance of the rose captivates every

Rev Jessica Williams-Henke, Roger Perry, OAM, and Warrant Officer Class One Corey Dickson, RSM 1st/19th Battalion, The Royal NSW Regiment, beneath the Pozières Cross.



passer-by. Delivered direct from the grower to the store, the blooms have created a wonderful diversion as the community negotiates the restrictions of the latest lockdown.

LOCAL LINK TO THE BATTLE OF POZIÈRES

This year marks the 105th anniversary of the WWI Battle of Pozières, in which thousands of Australian soldiers lost their lives. St Columba Uniting Church in Woollahra is the final resting place of a poignant relic: a wooden cross brought back from the battlefield to commemorate the fallen.

The Battle of Pozières lasted from 23 July to 3 September 1916, during the infamous Somme campaign. The village was of strategic importance to the British but seizing it was costly; over 23,000 Australians were wounded and 6800 died.

In the aftermath, surviving soldiers made wooden crosses from timber they found on the battlefield, to mark the makeshift graves of their fellows. Several of these crosses found their way back to Australia, to churches and places of worship.

The 1st Battalion AIF Pozières Cross, displayed at St Columba since 1935, forms the centrepiece of the annual Pozières Day commemorative service, held on the Sunday nearest to 23 July. This year's 105th anniversary service was planned for Sunday 25 July but sadly, COVID-19 forced its cancellation. Pozières Day will still be remembered, says Roger Perry OAM, President of the 1st/19th Battalion of the Royal NSW Regiment and the 2nd/19th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association. Roger, one of the event's main organisers, is looking ahead with hope to next year's service on 24 July 2022.

SAFETY IS THE KEY

According to local police, seven out of ten cars are stolen using the car's own key. Following a dramatic increase in car thefts, Eastern Suburbs Police Area Command Crime Manager, DI Gretchen Atkins, warns: keep your car keys in a safe place, particularly at night.

Opportunistic thieves are looking for easy pickings, she says. 'All too often the key is tossed into a bowl on the hall table or left in the middle of the kitchen bench. Some owners even leave a spare key in the glove box or the centre console.' The message is simple: keep your car keys out of sight.

'It's about changing residents' mindset,' explains DI Atkins. 'Don't think it's safe to leave the car unlocked with keys inside if it's parked in the driveway. It's not. The same applies to the spare key.'

Good news: recent targeted police work has resulted in several arrests and a decrease in car thefts.

'We want to make it uncomfortable for would-be thieves to come to the east,' says DI Atkins. 'The east is not a good place to come to and find cars that are easy to steal.'

Most stolen cars are recovered – but not necessarily in a driveable condition. If your car is stolen with its own key and written off, your insurer might not be impressed.



Above left: *Race*, a self-portrait by Ted Wight. Above right: *Fish God*, a self-portrait by Coda Milligan

LOCAL BOYS HONOURED AT YOUNG ARCHIES

Two budding artists have had their first taste of success with their self-portraits winning Honourable Mentions at this year's Young Archie Competition, held in conjunction with the annual Archibald Prize.

The winning self-portraits were the work of Coda Milligan and Ted Wight, both students at Kylie Smith's Art Lab School (42 Ocean Street, Woollahra). The paintings were created during Ky's after-school art classes where portraiture is one of the main subjects she teaches.

'We are very excited that both of the boys' portraits will be hung at this year's Young Archie Honourable Mentions exhibition,' says Ky.

These young artists have painted themselves enjoying outdoor activities, sailing and fishing, which are quintessentially Australian.

Coda, who is 7 years old, was awarded his Honourable Mention for the self-portrait he called *Fish God*.

'This self-portrait shows the first time that I went fishing,' explains Coda. 'The place was called Black Bream Point [in NSW] and this bream was the fish I caught.'

Ten-year-old Ted Wight's self-

portrait entitled *Race* pictures him on board his sailboat.

'It's fun to sail and I like racing and competing with other people,' Ted says. 'I feel happy and excited when I race with my friends. I've been sailing for three years, and I decided to start sailing because I thought it would be challenging. I've made some good friends. I hope I can become very skilled in sailing to the point where I could teach others. Maybe one day I could sail overseas.'

The paintings were exhibited at the SH Ervin Gallery, Observatory Hill Park, Millers Point.

LOCKDOWN BLUES?

Not for the children in Pickering Lane, whose chalk games and drawings on the roadway are a testament of hope in difficult times.



Woollahra Fruit Shop Proprietors, James and Yi Na, have created a stunning floral display.

WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL: GRAND DESIGNS IN EDUCATION

WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL, WHICH OPENED IN 1878, IS ONE OF THE OLDEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN SYDNEY. ITS HISTORY, STEEPED IN THE ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, REFLECTS THE VIBRANCY OF AN EMERGING NATION.

Today the school, with its familiar combination of grand Victorian buildings set alongside modern ones, stands proudly on the crest of the rise between Forth Street and Osborne Lane, overlooking Edgecliff Road to the east, and has seen 143 years of continuous education.

It was in 1876 that a committee of residents from the relatively new municipality of Woollahra applied to the Council of Education for a local school. They had estimated there were up to 1000 children playing in the streets with no school to go to. Their submission contained the names of some 300 children whose parents had promised to send their children to the new school as soon as one could be established.

The borough of Woollahra, as it was known then, was growing quickly and gaining in importance. The nearest public schools were at Paddington and Double Bay, but these were already well attended. Following the committee's application, the Council for Education assigned Mr Frederick Bridges, their Sydney Inspector, to assess the situation.

After canvassing the area, where he counted '137 children of school age playing in the streets during school hours,' Mr Bridges concluded that Woollahra needed a school and the Council agreed to build one. By 1877 a suitable site between Osborne Lane and Forth Street had been selected. The Council bought five allotments which were already on the land for the sum of £250 and work began.

The original school building, parallel to Forth Street, was designed by Benjamin Backhouse, one of the most

prominent architects and social reformers of the era.

Known today as the Centenary Building, Backhouse's original design consisted of two wings on either side of a central hall, complete with a belltower, and eventually became the central component in a growing school.

In 1877 Backhouse oversaw construction of the first wing and central hall of his design, which featured several distinctive architectural flourishes: hammerbeam roof construction, still on show in what is today the school

staffroom; decorative gable ends and chamfered-edge windows. Considered extraordinary at the time, the central belltower, facing on to Forth Street, remains one of the only existing examples of the idealistic High Victorian Greek Revival style on a school in New South Wales.

The school opened in March 1878 with an enrolment of 255, comprising infants and primary-age boys and girls. Mr Samuel Burnett was appointed as the first headmaster. Within the new school halls, pupils were seated together on forms at long desks fixed to the floor and arranged in stepped tiers. They were taught collectively – mainly the three Rs, reading, writing and arithmetic – within the allotted space per child at that time of just 8 square feet (0.743 metre).

As the local population grew so did the school, and the 1880 NSW Public Instruction Act, which made education compulsory, led to a steady growth in school enrolment numbers. At Woollahra by 1886 there were over 770 pupils

**PUPILS WERE SEATED
TOGETHER ON FORMS AT
LONG DESKS FIXED TO THE
FLOOR AND ARRANGED IN
STEPPED TIERS**



Backhouse's stylish 1877 design complete with belltower. The red brick Barton Building was added in 1899. (Courtesy Woollahra Libraries Digital Archives.)



crammed into buildings designed for many fewer.

In the years that followed, school buildings continued to be added; temporary timber structures were established, and second storeys were added to existing buildings. Often, though, classes were held wherever there was space as the school struggled to keep pace with growing enrolments and the rapidly developing needs of education.

By the 1890s enrolment had reached 1200 and the school was in desperate need of extension. Finally in 1891, after a deal of political squabbling, more land was acquired on the eastern boundary overlooking Edgecliff Road. However, it took another eight years before work began on what was to become the Barton Building, named after Australia's first Prime Minister. Designed to be the boys school, it featured the large rooms and high ceilings typical of grand turn of the century schools but given the continuing enrolments, additions to the original design were added even before the building was completed.

By the turn of the century Woollahra Public School had become an important example of successful public education. It underwent many changes in the century that followed, reflecting the evolving nature and importance of education.

Coinciding with the completion of the school extensions, the Public School for primary-aged children became a Superior Public School, offering practical post-primary education to secondary students up to the age of 14 years – commercial subjects for boys, domestic science for girls.



Above left: 1896, boys-only class. Above right: 1918, boys and girls class. (Courtesy WPS). Above: Transition Class show off their toys, c1929. (Courtesy Woollahra Libraries Digital Archives).

During the 1930s Opportunity Classes (OC) for 5th and 6th Year students from other eastern suburbs schools were introduced, enduring today as classes for gifted and talented students.

In the 1960s and 1970s Woollahra Public was a Demonstration School, demonstrating teaching methods to trainee teachers from the nearby Alexander Mackie Teachers College.

Following a restructure in 1979, the teacher's college moved out of the

eastern suburbs to Oatley and the school's name reverted to Woollahra Public School – the name it has retained ever since.

In 1978 the school celebrated its centenary and in 2010 it acquired its most recent addition, a contemporary all-purpose school hall. Many Woollahra residents will be familiar with this building as one of the local polling booths at election time!

Today there are some 740 pupils and 50 teachers at Woollahra Public School and while major building works (other than those of a restorative nature) have stopped, its progress has not. From that first application to government 143 years ago by a group of prescient residents, Woollahra Public School has literally grown from an historic, three-room school to a much-loved centre of learning at the heart of the community.

For a scholarly perspective on the history of Woollahra Public School, see Jaqui Lane's article on our website: <https://woollahravillage.com.au> (History).

CHRISTINE WHISTON

FROM PUPIL TO PRINCIPAL

For Nicole Molloy, principal of Woollahra Public School since 2016, her role is particularly special. Her mother, Sandra Molloy, was a teacher at the school in 1972 and Nicole is a former pupil. She is only the second female principal at the school in its 143 years.

‘I have a real connection to Woollahra Public School. My parents were both passionate educators and it was an amazing moment for me as a child when I was offered a place in the Opportunity Class at Woollahra,’ recalls Nicole.

‘Now I am principal here and it’s like the circle has been completed.’

Nicole was in fourth class at her Maroubra school when she received an offer to join the Opportunity Class at Woollahra. She still has that letter of offer, her old school uniform hangs behind the door in her office and her name is on the board as Girls School Captain in 1984.

‘I feel a great sense of responsibility towards the school. This is not just somewhere children come to be educated, it has always been part of the community and continues to be.’

‘I have a great deal of love for the school itself – these buildings have been here for so long and it takes a lot of love to look after them and protect them for the future. The history is never far away.’

Nicole’s favourite place in the school is the library, located on the second floor of the grand Barton Building. ‘When I walk in there I get exactly the same feeling as I did when I was a child,’ she smiles. ‘It was always my happy place to be.’

Woollahra Public School has a reputation for high standards and has always been a leader in developing new



ideas. But it is the simple things that Nicole cherishes: the parents walking their children to school in the morning; the (at least) 140-year-old Moreton Bay fig in the playground, known as the Friendship Tree; the original school bell, now housed in the playground, which the children love to take turns at ringing.

‘Today I feel privileged to form part of the fabric of the history of this school, which is a cornerstone of the community.’

CHRISTINE WHISTON

Top left: Nicole Molloy, Principal of Woollahra Public School since 2016, was a former Opportunity Class pupil at the school. Top right: The original school bell now stands in the playground. Below: The grand Barton Building from Forth Street circa 1970s. (Courtesy WLDA)



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PIETÀ – LOCAL AUTHOR'S UNFORGETTABLE NEW NOVEL

ART, PARENTAL LOVE AND HISTORY COMBINE IN PIETÀ, A COMPELLING NEW NOVEL BY LOCAL AUTHOR, MICHAEL FITZGERALD.

Set in Paris and Rome in the last days of 1999, the novel weaves a spell of mystery and emotional intrigue, while its beautifully crafted sense of place will transport you far from the confines of lockdown.

Michelangelo's sublime sculpture Pietà is central to the novel's plot and a touchstone for its protagonist Lucy, an Australian living and working as an au pair in Paris. At the request of her dying mother, Lucy travels to Rome on the eve of the new millennium to deliver a parcel to the Vatican Museums. What unfolds plunges Lucy into a journey of self-discovery as she pieces together the story of her mother, who was a nun in the 1970s, and the events which were to shape her life and by default, her daughter's.

DRAMATIC SCENES ARE PLAYED OUT AGAINST A BACKDROP OF THE ICONIC ARCHITECTURE OF ROME

Michael Fitzgerald lives in Woollahra and is the editor of *Art Monthly Australasia*, usually dividing his time between Sydney and Canberra. *Pietà* is his second novel following his literary debut in 2017.

'I have always wanted to be a writer,' says Michael. 'I won a short story competition in the *Australian* newspaper in the early 1980s, studied art history as a student in the mid-1980s and then became a cadet journalist. Journalism allows you to look into people's lives and this was to prove invaluable for me as an author.'

Michael went on to work in newspapers as an arts editor, a role which (back then) enabled him to travel widely. It was on a trip to Samoa that he was inspired to write his first novel, *The Pacific Room*.

'Eventually the trajectory led me back to the visual arts,' explains Michael. 'In my work as editor of *Art Monthly Australasia* I am used to seeing art in a different way. In literary fiction, I see it [art] in a more metaphysical way and its impact is more philosophical.'

The sense of place is crucial to *Pietà* and its most dramatic scenes are played out against a backdrop of the iconic architecture of Rome, a city Michael knows very well. His family lived for some years in Sardinia, where Michael's father was working, and the family used to spend each Christmas in Rome.

'In 2018 I made a fast trip to Rome to research the novel. I stayed for two weeks in the convent which features in the story, the Casa di Santa Brigida, in the Piazza Farnese. It was an amazing experience,' he recalls. 'There was a library and a rooftop rose garden and it was very silent.'

In *Pietà* there is a silence of a different kind as the world awaits the dawn of the new millennium, but as we know, the relative peace and innocence of that time was about to be shattered by the events of the next century, from 9/11 right up to the pandemic. This novel takes us back to the mood of that time and to the delights of Europe, currently out of reach. It's a journey charged with emotion and fascination.

Pietà is published by Transit Lounge Publishing and is available at the Woollahra Bookshop and booksellers nationally.

CHRISTINE WHISTON



Local author Michael Fitzgerald at the Santa Brigida Convent in Rome which features in his new novel, *Pietà*.

CHECK OUT THE NEW QSWWA WEBSITE

We are very excited to announce the launch of the new Queen Street and West Woollahra Association website, www.woollahravillage.com.au, providing much more information and functionality for our members and associates. Members will have already received details on how to log on. Everyone can use the website to:

- learn more about the QSWWA, our history and the history of Woollahra
- see photographs from all our events over the last five years, including our recent AGM
- read the latest community news and add your comments (eg Dr Bal Bahra's article in the Community section, on maintaining good dental health during lockdown)
- download copies of the *Village Voice* from 1972 onwards
- join as a member and pay online
- log on and update your details, email preferences etc
- order items from our store, including our local history book
- see what events are planned, book and pay online for those such as the Annual Dinner (sadly not this year).

No paper forms to join or renew membership anymore. As part of moving online, the membership management system is now automated. Members will receive an email in

December with a reminder to renew membership and a link to take them straight to the online payment system. No need to complete a paper form and send it to us with a cheque, a move that we believe will be well received. For new members wanting to join, just go to the Membership section, select the type of membership you want and fill in the details.

Please note, we do recognise that not everyone has an email address, including some of our current members. Those members will receive renewal notifications by mail. If you would like to join the Association but do not have an email address, please call Giles Edmonds on 0429 078 229.

No paper forms to buy QSWWA products. No need to complete and send us a form to buy our local Woollahra history book. Just go to the website, find the Store section in the main menu and enter your details. Simple, as those meerkats would say!

GILES EDMONDS

THE WOOLLAHRA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra thrilled audiences once again with their second concert program for 2021, *Breathe Again*.

Adeptly led by guest conductor Brad Lucas, the program moved effortlessly from a lively contemporary piece, *Mercado for Orchestra*, written specially for the WPO by the celebrated local composer, Dr Daniel Rojas, to Mozart's exquisite *Concerto for Flute and Harp* and finally, the swelling romanticism of early Bizet with his *Symphony No 1*.

Sadly, due to Greater Sydney's COVID-19 lockdown restrictions the WPO's September concert program – *Unmasked* – has been cancelled.

All being well, the orchestra will return at the end of the year with their inspirational December program, *Seduced*, featuring Wagner, Liszt, Bach and Tchaikovsky. Concert dates: 4 and 5 December.



Soloists, Martin Cohen, flute, and Marjorie Maydwell, harp, delighted the audience with their magical performance.

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MEET THE CHEF: PLANE TREE CAFÉ

David Cullen of Queen Street's Plane Tree Café has lived in Woollahra for more than 30 years and has owned and run cafés in the area for almost the same length of time.

'I love being local and feeling part of the community,' he says.

Most of his customers are local – and loyal. Some have been coming to David's café since childhood. They come for his contemporary Sydney food that has an Ottolenghi, sometimes Middle Eastern influence.

Outside tables in the dappled light under the plane trees are in great demand in all but the most extreme weather. Inside are calming green walls, a comfortable banquette and cascades of living ferns and indoor plants.

The coffee is excellent, and the menu lists delicious breakfast and lunch offerings including colourful salads and spectacular sandwiches such as the classic Reuben. The café is licensed so there's a small wine list that changes frequently.

Freshly made cakes, tarts and little treats are displayed under domes on the counter. Many dishes have become regular favourites, such as the green chicken salad, and there are always daily specials. Absolutely everything, except the organic bread, is made in-house by David and his small team. Servings are extremely generous, but staff happily package up leftovers to take home.

Soups in winter are justly famous and sell out early. David tells me the secret to his soup is the long-simmered, rich chicken stock. 'I didn't set out to put an organic or healthy label on what I do. I just aim for natural, fresh flavours.'

CAROLYN LOCKHART



PLANE TREE CAFÉ'S ORANGE AND ALMOND AMARETTI

Finely grated zest of 2 oranges
300g caster sugar
380g almond meal
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3 egg whites
1 cup caster sugar, extra, to roll amaretti in
1 cup icing sugar to roll amaretti in

- Preheat oven to 150 degrees C (fan-forced).
- Mix orange zest, caster sugar, almond meal and vanilla together in a large bowl.
- Whisk egg whites until firm peaks form.
- Gently fold the egg whites into the almond mix.
- Roll small amounts of pastry mix (about the size of a 50-cent piece) into balls.
- Roll each ball in the extra caster sugar, then roll in the icing sugar.
- Place on a lined baking tray about 5cm apart.
- Bake for about 15–18 minutes. Biscuits should not change colour.

Makes approximately 24 biscuits.

'Exquisite writing ... one of those books that I didn't want to finish.'
LISA HILL, ANZ LITLOVERS

'Vivid, clever and moving: *Pietà* is a timely meditation on the mysteries of love and time.'
GAIL JONES, AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR OF *OUR SHADOWS*

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STAY FIRE SAFE THIS WINTER

IS YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE? FIND OUT BY CALLING YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION AND BOOKING A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT.

House fires increase dramatically during the colder months. Fire and Rescue NSW's annual Winter Fire Safety Campaign is an important initiative to protect us and our homes from the ravages of fire. Residents are invited to call their local fire station and book a free Home Fire Safety Visit. Local platoon members will come to your home to identify any potential threats, discuss your fire escape plan, check your smoke alarm and install one, if necessary, at no cost.

While the campaign targets vulnerable groups and individuals, many residents across the community don't understand fire risks and how to mitigate them.

'Everyone can benefit from a fire safety check,' says Oliver Kristevic, firefighter and Operational Support for the 2021 campaign, 'not just those who statistically are at higher risk such as the elderly or those that live alone.'

'Sixty per cent of all house fires start in the kitchen,' says Oliver. 'People often leave pots cooking on a very low heat and it's easy to go off and do something else and forget all about the pot. It can take up to eight hours for a fire to be generated from a pot left heating on a stove, so it's often at 3 or 4 in the morning when the fire becomes apparent. It takes a local brigade seven minutes on average to get to a call and the combination of a working smoke alarm and quick response is crucial in preventing a smoking pot from turning into a structural fire.'

In a situation like this, a smoke alarm is vital. Smoke trips the alarm, waking the occupants or the neighbours, who should call the fire brigade on triple zero (000) and get out of the house to safety.

'Smoke alarms are so important and so successful,' adds Oliver. 'They alert households much earlier. Even the most basic alarms now have a battery that lasts for ten years.'

If you have any concerns about your smoke alarm, or if you don't have one at all, call your local fire station asap. They will not only check your alarm but install a long-life battery-powered alarm for you at no cost.

The second most common cause of house fires is electrical faults. A fire safety check will identify potential hazards including overloaded power boards, fraying electrical cords, appliances left on flammable surfaces, and carelessness around heaters. 'Always stay a metre from the heater' – it's an easy rule to follow.

The other important aspect of a fire safety check is a discussion about your fire escape plan. Everyone needs a plan to activate if you need to get out in a hurry. For example,

if doors are deadlocked from the inside the key must be nearby, always in the same place so you can find it quickly.

'Ask yourself, could you get out easily if a fire started in your home?' says Oliver. 'Many of us simply haven't thought about that. It's not really about navigating your way out; it's knowing how far it is to the door, and how to get there, or going out onto a balcony and closing the door. Remember, every closed door is a barrier against fire. A closed door provides another 30 minutes of safety.'

While winter sees an increased focus on home fire safety, Fire and Rescue personnel are available year-round to check smoke alarms and provide safety tips and reassurance. Education around fire prevention and preparedness is an essential role for today's firefighting teams.

To book a free visit, email safetyvisit@fire.nsw.gov.au or call your local fire station:
Woollahra: 9363 0640; Darlinghurst: 9361 3292;
Bondi: 9300 9730.

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GeorgiaCleary@bradfieldcleary.com.au

RESIDENTS PROTEST A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

LOCAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN REGARDING A DA LODGED WITH WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL PROPOSING TO CHANGE THE USE OF A FORMER ART GALLERY AT 37 OCEAN STREET TO A FUNERAL HOME.

The site of the proposed funeral home is a terrace at 37 Ocean Street, situated between a private residence on one side and one of Woollahra's best-known restaurants, Nino's Café, on the other. There are another three adjacent lifestyle businesses and the remainder of the block is taken up by private residences.

The property backs on to Pickering Lane, which is used extensively as a walkway, by locals and parents and children as they walk to nearby Woollahra Public School. Pickering Lane exits on to Forth Street, merging with the roadway vehicle clearance required by Woollahra Fire and Emergency.

The community is objecting to the proposal on the grounds that it is not in the public interest, based on several key factors.

The proposed commercial use of a funeral home is considered inappropriate for the area and not compatible with the village aesthetic or character. The services provided by a funeral home do not cater to the daily needs of residents and will have a negative impact on their enjoyment and amenity of their suburb. Residential privacy will also be impacted.

Parking and traffic congestion in the single-lane width Pickering Lane and on busy Ocean Street will be compromised by increased traffic and large vehicles transporting coffins and bodies. No additional parking provision has been made.

The proposed hours of operation, 8am–10pm, are unacceptable.

Following a community meeting in June there has been a groundswell of opposition to the proposal and 93 written objections have been lodged with Council. Council subsequently advised that the DA would be re-advertised and renotified for a wider geographical coverage, including relevant community groups and public authorities. The deadline for objections was extended.

Concerned residents have appointed a legal advisor. A coordinating team is keeping residents informed. An online petition with a QR code has been circulated together with a letterbox campaign to encourage concerned community members to submit an objection to Council.

Objectors will be invited to have their say at the Woollahra Local Planning Panel, date yet to be advised, where the application will be decided. If the panel decides in favour of the DA, the next step would be to have the application heard by the Land and Environment Court.

For more information go to Community Forum on the QSWWA website: <https://woollahravillage.com.au>. For key DA documents go to: <https://eservices.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/eservice> and enter DA number 203/2021.

A member of the community group coordinating the objections spoke to the *Village Voice*:

'The fact that the Council has received a total of 93 objection letters sent a very strong message to the Council that this matter is to be taken very seriously.

'The DA will be re-advertised and renotified to a wider net of surrounding properties, including relevant community groups and public authorities, together with an extended exhibition period. This is a big win for us, as this delays the process as well as giving us time to collect more objection letters.

'This issue has brought the people of West Woollahra together as one and that is a positive thing. Residents and businesses have a right to the enjoyment of their properties and the planning laws are in place to help preserve those rights. Unacceptable commercial use is an issue for the whole of New South Wales, not just West Woollahra, and the fabric of the community must be preserved.'

PARKLANDS' POWERFUL ATTRACTION

The paperbark avenue running north from the Homestead kiosk is one of Centennial Park's great visual delights. For four months it has also been a pilgrimage site for birdwatchers young and old, including total novices and quite a few friendly but obviously rather professional know-owls. The attraction: for at least the fifth year running, a breeding pair of powerful owls.

Powerful owls are the largest owls in Australia and, for sad but obvious reasons, are extremely rare in the city. Clearly the Centennial Park female loves her particular nesting spot, now fenced off, but it is far from ideal. One year it was flooded out, and the danger of being so close to houses and traffic can be lethal. The gorgeous chick I photographed three years ago flew into a Randwick window; one of the males ran into a bus on Oxford Street; and one of the two chicks born last year met a similar fate.

That of course makes them all the more precious. The new chicks are expected to make their first hazardous flights from the nesting hollow to the parents' trees any day now. Let's hope the whole family soon finds somewhere safer (and quieter) to live.



The magnificent powerful owl is one of Centennial Park's most remarkable residents. Photograph, John Peel.

JOHN PEEL

HOLDSWORTH CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

AS WE SPEND MORE TIME ISOLATING IN OUR HOMES, IT IS CRITICAL THAT OUR SUPPORT SERVICES REMAIN ACCESSIBLE TO THE VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THOSE LIVING ALONE.

Holdsworth is committed to safely providing essential support services in the community. While our premises are closed, we are still here and available.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Holdsworth's essential services include:

- **home cuisine:** ready-made meals delivered to your door
- **individual shopping:** support with online grocery shopping or purchased instore and delivered to your door
- **individual transport:** door-to-door trips for hospital, medical, allied health and vaccine appointments
- **one-on-one support:** critical in-home personal care and nursing support
- **exercise and wellbeing sessions:** ZOOM group classes or individual classes in your home
- **playgroup sessions:** ZOOM group sessions for parents and carers to connect with the Family Services team.

All essential services are provided by our staff and volunteers, who are adhering to the strict COVID safety guidelines and protocols as recommended by the Department of Health.

We realise this is a worrying and challenging time for many people, particularly those who may be living alone or with limited connections close to them. If you or a loved one are feeling isolated, unsure or in need of a little support, we are here.

Get in touch with us at 02 9302 3600, info@holdsworth.org.au or www.holdsworth.org.au.

Holdsworth Community supports children and adults living with intellectual disabilities; families with young children; older people living alone or experiencing social isolation; and their families and caregivers throughout Sydney's eastern suburbs.



Number 37 Ocean Street showing frontage of the proposed funeral home, between Nino's Café and a residence.

A SPARKLE IN LOCKDOWN: 2021 JEWELLERY TRENDS WITH MATTHEW ELY

WE COULD ALL DO WITH A BIT OF EXTRA 'SPARKLE' RIGHT NOW.

For world-renowned artisan and self-confessed 'mad creative' Matthew Ely, lockdown has meant shutting the doors to his iconic Queen Street boutique.

But while the lights may be off, this veritable wonderland of jewels hasn't lost any lustre. Virtual client consultations have become the new trend – from engagement and wedding rings to custom-made statement pieces and heirloom restorations.

'Isolation has driven us all a little insane; but it's also given me the time to really be innovative and create some iconic, one-off pieces. International trends have a role to play, but what really inspires the final artwork – the soul of the piece – is the quality of the jewel.'

So, what can we expect to see in late 2021?

ARGYLE PINK DIAMONDS

Argyle Pink Diamonds are rarer and more valuable than ever before since the 2020 closure of Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in Western Australia. In operation for 37 years, this mine was responsible for 90 per cent of the world's pink diamonds, not to mention the most vivid and high-quality stones in existence.

This marked the end of an era, cementing the status of Argyle Pinks as investment pieces and collectors items.

SOUTH SEA PEARLS

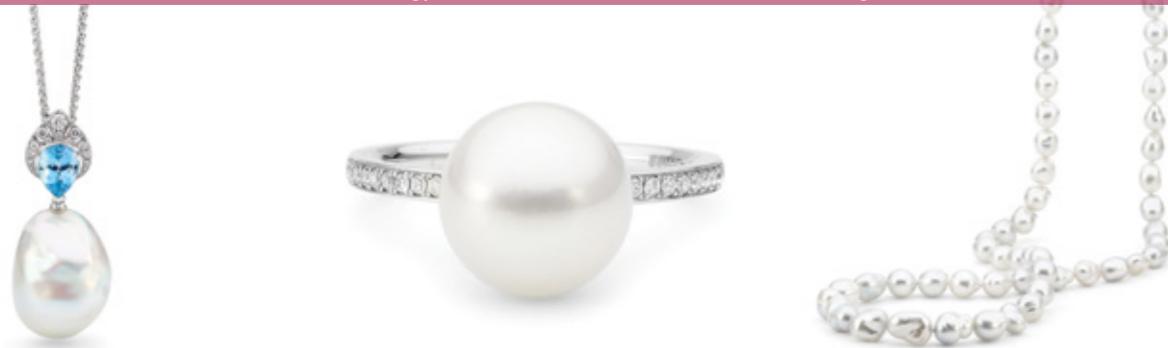
Exuding elegance and eternal simplicity, the classic pearl has undergone a modern resurgence, with unique styles replacing classic strands as the sartorial trend for 2021.

South Sea pearls are renowned for their exceptional quality, larger size and crisp lustre, making them spectacular centrepieces for statement jewellery.

To find out more or book a virtual consultation, call Matthew on 0431 535 979 or email matthew@matthewely.com.au.



From left: 18ct Rose Gold, White and Argyle Pink Diamond Halo Pendant. 18ct White and Rose Gold, White and Argyle Pink Diamond Pendant. 'Ballare' Argyle Pink & White Diamond Handcrafted Ring



From left: 18ct White Gold, Aquamarine and Pearl Pendant. 18ct White Gold, Diamond and South Sea Pearl Ring. Silver Baroque South Sea Pearl Strand with Pavé Clasp

MONCUR CELLARS WINTER ROUND-UP

SYDNEY MAY HAVE BEEN IN LOCKDOWN FOR MANY WEEKS (AND COUNTING), BUT THERE HAVE STILL BEEN LOTS OF EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING AT MONCUR CELLARS SINCE THE PREVIOUS ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE VOICE.

On 24 May we ran a Shiraz tasting event where ticket holders were treated to 100 different Shiraz varieties to sample, with the opportunity to discuss the wines with some of Australia's best winemakers.

We recently commemorated two global sporting events. During the Tour de France, we took a virtual journey through France on our social media channels, highlighting wines and other drinks hailing from the regions covered by the race. During the Olympics, we showcased a range of Japanese sake, whisky and wine so that our customers could enjoy an authentic Japanese experience as they cheered on our athletes at home.

We are proud to have partnered with Four Pillars Gin in developing our very own Moncur Negroni. Our custom Negroni is mixed on-site using the finest ingredients and presented in bespoke bottles. The Moncur Negroni serves two and is available to purchase in-store for \$35.

MONCUR CELLARS SPRING SCHEDULE

On Thursday 2 September we will host an online tasting with Head Wines, featuring five varietals from their new release and vintage ranges, plus a mystery wine. Tasting packs are available to order online or via phone and can be collected in store. The tasting packs are \$39 and can be purchased up until Sunday 5 September for those unable to attend the tasting, making them the perfect Father's Day gift.

Approaching the Spring Racing Carnival in late October/early November, we will be carrying lots of new Champagne varieties in-store. The team are also doing lots of research for new stock ranges to be featured in Bistro Moncur and Woollahra Hotel once guests can be welcomed again.

EXCITING TIMES AT THE WOOLLAHRA HOTEL

The owners of the Woollahra Hotel are utilising the downtime to undertake some refurbishment works in the hotel. The vision and intention of the refurbishment is to hero the history and legacy of one of Sydney's most iconic hotels. Considerable attention has been paid to the Woollahra Hotel's Art Deco architecture, along with the reinstatement of the hotel's original floor plan. They look forward to presenting three newly appointed spaces on the ground floor of the hotel for the local community to enjoy and use as their regular meeting place once again.

Moncur Cellars continues to trade as normal throughout lockdown. QR scan-in and masks are required, and capacity limits apply for the safety of our patrons and staff. Our Bistro Moncur menu is also available for pick-up, Wednesday to Sunday from 5.30pm to 8pm.

To keep up to date with everything happening in-store, visit our website, moncurcellars.com.au

MARK BLAKE, CELLARS MANAGER | MONCUR CELLARS
02 9327 9777 | CELLARS@WOOLLAHRAHOTEL.COM.AU



ASK THE VET

A GUIDE TO VACCINATING YOUR PET

Since vaccinations are the talk of the town, we thought we'd take a moment to talk about vaccinations for your pets. Vaccines are vital in keeping your pets healthy, especially those who are social!

For dogs, three vaccinations are routinely given. The C3 vaccination protects dogs against parvovirus, distemper and infectious hepatitis. The kennel cough vaccination protects dogs against two strains of that disease; when combined with a C3, it is known as a C5 vaccination. Finally, the C2i vaccination protects against leptospirosis and canine coronavirus (a completely different coronavirus to COVID-19). When a C2i is combined

with a C5, it is called a C7 vaccination.

Puppies are given three initial vaccinations, four weeks apart: at 6–8 weeks, 10–12 weeks, and 14–16 weeks of age. Adult dogs are then given a yearly booster vaccination. Puppies are very vulnerable to the deadly parvovirus, so it is important to avoid high-risk areas such as busy dog parks until they have had their full initial vaccination course.

Most cats are given an F3 vaccination, which covers two strains of cat flu, feline herpesvirus and feline calicivirus, as well as feline parvovirus. The FIV (feline AIDs) vaccine is also commonly given to cats who spend a lot of time outdoors, particularly those who tend to get into fights with other cats, as the disease is passed on through bite wounds. Kittens are given an initial vaccination course at similar



Dr India makes sure her dog Lucy's vaccinations are up to date.

ages to puppies, followed by a yearly adult booster.

For more information on these vaccinations and to make sure your pet is up to date with theirs, please contact your friendly local veterinary practice.

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

INSPIRING BOOKS FOR DESPAIRING TIMES

Flagging during lockdown? Need a bit of inspiration? Something new to read or do?

Here are five books the staff at Woollahra Bookshop have selected to help bring a touch of uplift and solace.

First up is the wonderfully imaginative *The Island of Missing Trees* (\$32.99) by Elif Shafak, author of the best-selling *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World* (2019). Set in Cyprus in the 1970s and London in the late 2010s, her new novel is about family secrets, separation and belonging. It is, David Mitchell says, 'a balm for our bruised times'.

Reading can be a sedentary pleasure. At this time of the year, however, there is nothing better than a brisk early morning walk. With Peter Sheridan's *Sydney Art Deco and Modernist Walks: Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay* (\$29.99) you can



combine both, with a fresh look at old buildings in neighbouring suburbs.

After exercise it's time for food. Clovelly local Lucy Tweed's new book *Every. Night. Of. The. Week.* (\$35.00) will give your (sorry, admit it) tired everyday meals a turbo-boost. Sick of your same old pasta routine? Try Stuffed (Pasta) Shells or delicious Coconut Chilli Wings. With meals organised for every day of the week, plus that extra day that seems to involve bacon, the recipes are Simple. Glorious. So. Good.

Finally, Woollahra local Alexa Moses has written two books for 9–12-year-olds: *Michaela Mason's Big List of 23 Worries* (\$15.99) and its recently published

sequel *Michaela Mason's Big List of Camp Worries* (\$15.99). We all have fears and worries, real and imaginary, and Michaela, who is settling into a new home and school in Wombat Gully, is no different. Over the course of both novels she learns to develop strategies (making lists is one idea) to deal with some of her worries. The big question always is – can Michaela Mason handle it?

During the current lockdown we are open only for 'takeaway' and free local home delivery – seven days a week, 10am–4pm. Sadly, there is no browsing allowed in the shop.

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP, SPICER STREET
02 9328 2733
SHOP@WOOLLAHRABOOKSHOP.COM

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



This will be my last contribution to Councillor's Corner as the Liberal councillor for the Cooper ward.

My nine years on council has been an incredible experience and a huge learning curve, with many high and lows.

Fighting the state government to prevent Woollahra from being amalgamated with Randwick and Waverley was a stressful and exhausting period but being allowed to remain Independent after the government backed down made it so worth it.

We were led through this difficult time by Councillor Toni Zeltzer who, as the mayor for four years, kept us believing we could win this battle with her endless drive and 'never give up' attitude. What an incredible victory and because we fought hard, other councils like Mosman and Hunters Hill were also allowed to remain Independent.

Another poor decision enacted by the state government was the introduction of local planning panels in 2017. Previously all planning decisions were made by the Development Control Committee, which was made up of elected councillors who actually live in the area. I sat on the DCC for five years and I felt that I was contributing to help protect heritage buildings and to encourage good design.

With the introduction of the planning panels, all planning decisions

are now made by government-appointed 'experts' who are mostly retired Land and Environment Court commissioners or lawyers. They are basically faceless men and women who are not elected, and not accountable to residents; most of them don't even live in the area, so they have no local knowledge.

Elected councillors are locals who understand the area as they have lived here for most of their lives, and they know all the unique characteristics of the different wards and the needs of local residents. To remove them from planning decisions has significantly reduced the democratic process, and the decisions made by these panels generally favour the developer rather than the resident.

One of my favourite moments on council was the installation and unveiling of our very own piece of the Berlin Wall, which was installed in Eureka Reserve in front of the Goethe Institute building on Ocean Street. I was delighted to work closely with the Director of the Institute, Sonja Griegoschewski, to help facilitate this.

We live in a community of art lovers and it has been my absolute delight to have chaired the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize for the last eight years. The competition has grown from strength to strength and we are about to celebrate its 20th year.



I have also had the pleasure of chairing the Woollahra Plaques Committee for many years. This wonderful initiative enables us to recognise and celebrate our LGA's wonderful mix of talented individuals by installing a bronze plaque outside where they used to live.

Another project that I have fought hard for is the building of a skate facility for children aged four to 14 years in Rushcutters Bay Park. This will be a series of small ramps for kids to ride their skateboards, Razor scooters and BMX bikes and will take up less than two per cent of the park.

The project has been thwarted at every step of the way by a small but vocal group of residents who are members of the Darling Point Society. They are running a campaign of misinformation and hysteria in their bid to stop it.

In spite of the park being heritage listed, we can still build this facility and we are currently preparing a heritage conservation report and a plan of management so that Heritage NSW can assess it. We are the only LGA that I know of that does not have a skate facility for children and I strongly believe that this is the right thing to do.

I look forward to working with you in the future in some other capacity.

ANTHONY MARANO, COUNCILLOR
COOPER WARD



It's all in
the detail

A stylized, handwritten-style signature logo consisting of a large, fluid letter 'M'.

MATTHEW ELY