

VILLAGE VOICE



**COME TO THE CAROLS AT CHISWICK
COUNCIL ELECTION: MEET THE CANDIDATES
VOTE FOR THE BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS WINDOW**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



don't think anyone expected the lockdown to extend for as long as it did, but it is so good to get out of it, to be able to see friends and family, visit the regions and get back to a different but still very welcome new normal. It's been a tough four months for local residents and businesses, so the run-up to Christmas is a great time for the community to reconnect at a number of events.

Meet your Council Candidates: with Council elections on 4 December, the QSWWA is hosting a 'town hall' event at 6pm on Wednesday at the Phoenix, Moncur Street, for residents

to meet the Cooper Ward candidates and ask questions about their plans and policies. See our Council Elections article for a profile of each of the parties.

Community Christmas Carols: this event will be held at Chiswick Park on Tuesday 7 December, with stalls open from 5.30pm. It'll be great to see the community together again at an event which has been running for over 25 years. See the following article for further details.

Christmas Window Display Competition: back by popular demand this year and aiming for even more participants than the record-breaking 70 last year. Use the map in this *Village Voice* to see them all and support your local businesses. See the following article for further details.

On the local planning front, the DA for the use of 37 Ocean Street as a funeral home has been rejected by the Local Planning Authority. However, this seems to be on a technicality regarding having a residence above the commercial premises, which may mean the applicant will submit a new DA without the

residence and the process will start all over again.

Unfortunately, the lockdown and associated uncertainty has meant that we have had to put on hold our planning to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the QSWWA in 2022, but we will get back to it early in the new year. We still plan to hold a Woollahra Fashion Week (ideally in early March 2022), a 'Day in the Life of Woollahra' photographic competition, an Art Exhibition and a Woollahra Music Week. We plan to make the 2022 Annual Dinner a very special occasion, as part of a weekend program of events potentially in October. We will keep you updated through the *Village Voice* and emails to members.

Stay safe and if you aren't yet vaccinated, please do as soon as possible. Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year and here's hoping the lockdowns and frustrations of 2020 and 2021 are all behind us in 2022.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

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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: Giles Edmonds, Treasurer: Alan Smith, Committee Members: Richard Banks, Phillip Mitchelhill, Susie Willmott, John Knott, Richard Haigh, Christine Whiston, Stephanie Macindoe.
The *Village Voice* Editor: Christine Whiston, Designer: Kerry Klinner, MegaCity Design, Subeditor: Deborah Brown.
DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd.

ON OUR COVER

Our Chiswick Trio, from left, Lily Harper, Alice Dawson-Damer and Stephanie Mcindoe, will be part of a larger choir performing at the Community Carols event, Chiswick Gardens, on December 7. Photograph by Paul McGuire. See more of Paul's work at [Instagram@paulmcguire5970](https://www.instagram.com/paulmcguire5970)

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QSWWA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS ARE ON

The QSWWA Committee is pleased to announce that, with the relaxation of health restrictions, we will be holding the Annual Community Christmas Carols in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street on Tuesday 7 December. Stalls will open at 5.30pm, followed by an official welcome and opening by the Mayor at 6pm. Leading the carol singing will be a group of very talented singers and we are very much

hoping that a choir from Woollahra Public School, who have been such a part of this community event, will be able to join us too. As always, Chiswick Restaurant will be providing delicious food from the barbecue to complement your picnics, and drinks will be available. Put it in your diary and let's make sure it's another memorable evening.



2021 CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

With the reopening of retail business, this year the QSWWA will again hold the Christmas Window Display Competition for all businesses in the area. After attracting over 70 entries last year, 2021's competition should be a cracker as businesses all vie to be the best in the street and attract local and out-of-area shoppers back to our wonderful precinct. We are hoping that the Council will provide more permanent lighting in the trees, which will be a bonus in creating the festive spirit, so be sure to check out all the displays using the map in this copy of the *Village Voice*.

Judging will be on the weekend of 11-12 December, when the QSWWA will also staff a table from 10am to 5pm each day for children's votes for the Children's Choice award. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 14 December.



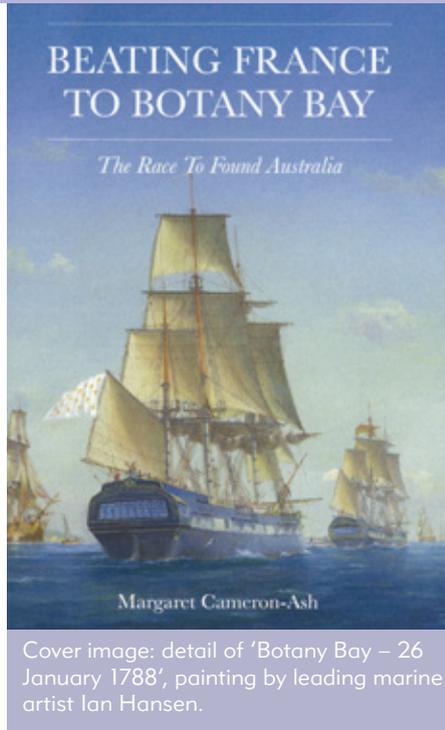
BOUND FOR BOTANY BAY

Local historian and author Margaret Cameron-Ash has launched a new book, *Beating France to Botany Bay: The Race to Found Australia*, the sequel to her critically acclaimed title, *Lying for the Admiralty: Captain Cook's Endeavour Voyage*.

Margaret has written extensively on the role of pre-settlement Australia in European politics during the Age of Revolutions. Her exhaustive research has taken her to London, New York and Canberra, and she has spent years forensically examining original charts, journals, manuscripts and other documents of the major navigators and political identities of the era.

This research led to discoveries unrecognised by previous historians and makes for page-turning prose as Margaret reveals the intrigues and political machinations which dominated the early voyages of discovery and the subsequent race for Australia.

Setting the scene, she writes: 'Today we think of England and France as



close allies ... Yet, to make sense of the origin of modern Australia, we must know the story of that past, when England and France were fierce rivals.' With Cook and Laperouse both bound for Australia, the race was on; but what was the trigger that fired the starting pistol?

Margaret's fascinating book rewrites the history of the founding of modern Australia. It examines the actions of the English policymakers, especially Joseph Banks, who narrowly prevented the continent from becoming a French possession.

'The race ended in a photo finish – with Britain winning Australia by less than a week.'

Beating France to Botany Bay: The Race to Found Australia is published by Quadrant Books and available at the Woollahra Bookshop.

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

Accentuating the positive, the 60-plus pupils attending Woollahra Public School throughout the long weeks of lockdown created this garden of

happy sunflowers along the school fence in Forth Street. Celebrating spring and the new term ahead, each child interpreted the subject in their own way, reflecting the optimism and happiness we feel when we lift our faces towards the sun, just like the sunflower. *Helianthus annuus* (from the Greek, *helios*, sun, and *anthos*, flower) is a symbol of loyalty, just like the faithful sunflower which, it is said, turns its head to follow the sun's daily journey across the sky.

RESIDENTS' CONCERN OVER HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Local residents are objecting to a controversial DA proposing a six-storey apartment building with a further two storeys of excavation at 364 and 364A Edgecliff Road. The site includes a heritage house. Residents are concerned that development restrictions on the property have been ignored, including the two-storey height controls and set-backs as well as matters relating to the heritage items. According to local residents, more than 40 homes will be negatively impacted, with a loss of light and privacy. A social media campaign has been instigated by the People of Woollahra group. Objections to council close on 18 November.

WPO WAITING IN THE WINGS

The Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra has had to cancel its planned December concert program, a casualty of the long winter lockdown. The uncertainties around the post-COVID regulations make it difficult for a large group to get together and rehearse, let alone perform and the spectre of snap lockdowns remains a threat. However, the WPO is looking ahead to a brand-new concert series in 2022 filled with all the optimism and



Eight-year-old Layla, photographed beneath the sunflower she created for the project.

excitement the orchestra brings to their performances.

Meantime, check out what is happening with our very own philharmonic orchestra on their refreshed website at www.wpo.org.au.

CRIME TRENDS DOWN DURING LOCKDOWN

A fall in the incidence of crime has been one of the unexpected upsides of this year's long COVID-19 lockdown. According to Detective Acting Inspector Stuart Thomson, reporting to the Woollahra Council quarterly Safety Committee in August, general crime has been trending down, including break and enter and car theft.

Police believe there are two main reasons for this. First, people are at home, thus reducing the opportunity for would-be thieves to break in, particularly during the daylight hours. Second, movements between LGAs have been restricted and police have been using numberplate recognition to prevent vehicle movements between suburbs, an added deterrent for criminal activities.

Anecdotally, it was thought that domestic abuse police responses would increase during the COVID

restrictions, but DAI Thomson reported that domestic violence (verbal or physical) had dropped by a third over the last 12 months, based on a 12-month average. The fact that licensed premises such as hotels and clubs have been closed is thought to have played a part in this decrease.

Normal policing operations have continued throughout the lockdown period, with business as usual for critical issues such as firearms and child protection operations, and all 000 calls triaged and responded to.

HOLDSWORTH CULTIVATES A GARDEN FOR THE COMMUNITY

Tucked away behind the Holdsworth Community Centre is the organic community garden. It was developed by Woollahra Council ten years ago to demonstrate how rainwater can be used to grow and sustain a garden in an urban environment. It has been lovingly tended by a dedicated group of volunteers ever since.

Locals love walking past the garden, offering praise and encouragement to the gardeners. They take as much delight in the garden as the volunteers and get involved by placing green waste in the compost bin or worm farm.

The focus of the garden is delicious edible plants: herbs, vegetables, citrus, strawberries and passionfruit. Once the seedlings find their feet, the garden will burst into a riot of colour and produce – see if you can find the sunflowers.

Children are welcome in the garden under strict adult supervision. It is a working garden, not a playground, so we encourage children to water and not pull the plants. Watering cans for small hands are always left near the taps, as we love our budding gardeners.

The volunteers are usually there on Monday afternoons, from 3pm in winter and 4pm in summer, so please pop by and say hello. We always need helpers, and gardening experience isn't necessary. There are jobs for everyone – from gentle watering, weeding and planting, through to a heavier workout.

Woollahra Council provides some support but most of the plants are donated by the volunteers. You're welcome to take what you need, and we ask a couple of things in return: leave enough for others, only pick what's ripe and do something to help, such as watering, sweeping, or turning the compost with the tool provided.

If you'd like to join us, either come to the garden at 4pm on Mondays or contact sustainability@woollahra.nsw.gov.au.



The Holdsworth Centre has created an organic garden alongside their community centre. Plantings include herbs, citrus, corn and leafy greens and locals and children are welcome to participate.

AXEL MANO: A STORY IN EVERY HAT

SUSIE MEEKIN AND GRAHAM CLARKE ARE THE CREATIVE PEOPLE BEHIND AXEL MANO, THE ENTICING HAT AND ACCESSORY SHOP LOCATED AT 46 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA.

The couple met in London where Susie, who had a background in science, did a hat-making course while she worked as a researcher for British *Vogue*, and Graham was a schoolteacher. They moved to Corfu on a teaching assignment and together began making hats that were sold in a hotel boutique.

True artisans, Susie and Graham opened the shop in Queen Street seven years ago, moving from their earlier address at 46 Ocean Street where they had begun the business in November 1999.

There's no legendary hat maker or ancestor called 'Axel Mano'. The name plays with the Italian *a mano*, meaning 'by hand'.

Each of their signature summer hats is made completely by hand from fine straw grown in Italy, then woven into *capelines* or hat bodies by craftspeople who have been creating them for generations.

Fortuitously, they bought the entire stock of vintage leghorn straws from a distributor who went out of business in the 1960s. Leghorn hats and bonnets were very fashionable in Victorian times. The straws came from grasses grown in Livorno, a coastal province and port in Tuscany that the English called Leghorn. Here, traditionally, the women wove the straws into fine, wide braids and the men sewed them together. Leghorn straws are light but strong. Susie points out the fine ridges that distinguish the leghorn straws from other hand-woven varieties.

The simple shapes in their natural colours are shipped

from countries such as Italy and Ecuador directly to the Axel Mano workshop.

Susie and Graham realised that the dyes and subtle colours used in Europe appeared washed out in the strong Australian light. Now they dye some straws in a series of little workrooms at the back of the premises and sun-dry them in an adjacent small garden. Here, too, they shape and block the hats, trimming them with bands made from interesting natural materials or beautiful striped ribbons.

All their hats have a subtle Axel Mano signature and style. Casual but elegant, for both men and women, many are perfect for the beach or pool, an alfresco lunch or a garden party. Some are a little more formal for clients who attend race meetings. Beautiful winter felt hats and berets in deep colours are available throughout the year.

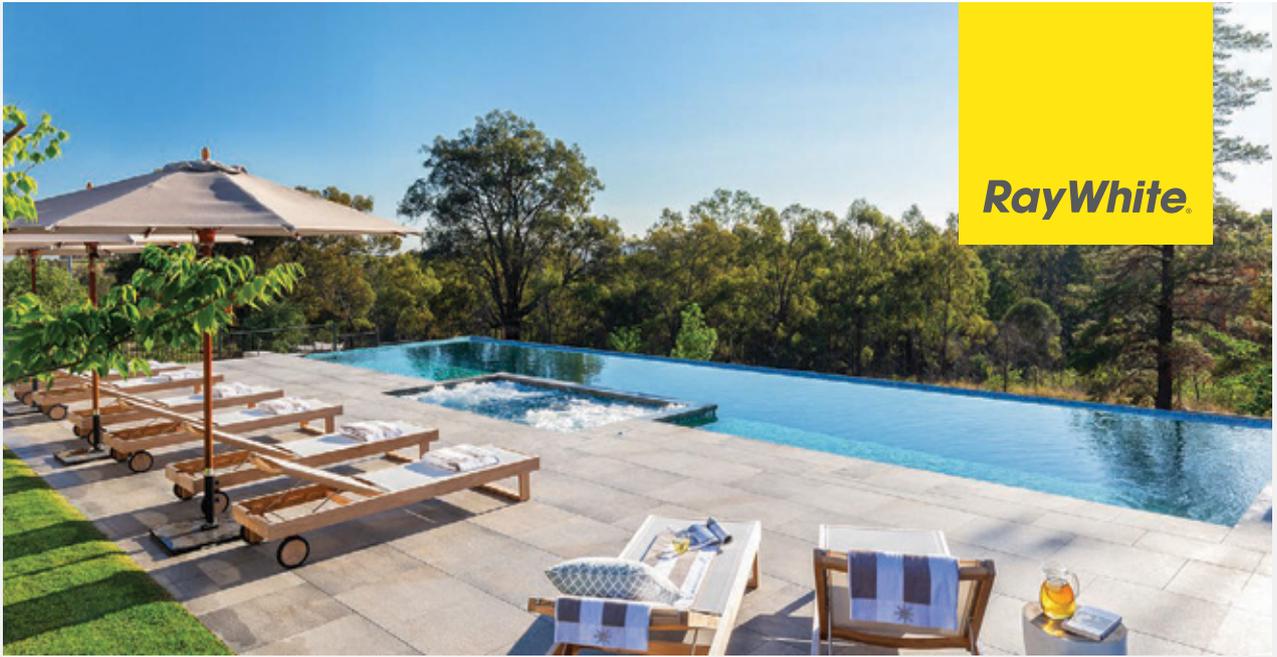
There is also a range of hand-made accessories. Signature handbags, with detachable straps to mix and match, are woven from webbing made in Melbourne in a truly glorious range of colours from moody dark to brilliant fluoro. Small cross-body 'essential bags' are popular with women who walk for exercise. Vintage silk scarves found in the Florentine markets are made into simple tops and there is a fun range of porcelain earrings and beaded insect pins that would make perfect gifts.

'It is so important to really enjoy what you are doing,' agree Susie and Graham. 'And at Axel Mano, there's a story in every hat.'

CAROLYN LOCKHART



Susie Meekin and Graham Clarke craft their signature hats by hand in a series of little workrooms at the back of their Queen Street premises.



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EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF INDIGENOUS ART

MACQUARIE RIVER-BASED CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS ARTIST, LISA-JANE VAN DYK, HAS JOINED THE TEAM OF PRACTISING ARTISTS AND EDUCATORS AT THE ART LAB SCHOOL IN OCEAN STREET, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE AND PRACTISE INDIGENOUS ART FIRST-HAND.

Lisa-jane Van Dyk is an emerging artist, born in Alice Springs but now residing on Wiradjuri land along the Macquarie River in the central west of New South Wales. Heavily influenced by her Warlpiri Indigenous heritage and the use of symbols and motifs, she enjoys using a variety of media – pen, ink, and pencil – when illustrating her works, although paint has recently been her medium of choice for larger works.

Currently, Lisa-jane is exploring a range of practices exploring spirituality, our being, the land on which we live and our relationships with ourselves and others. These concepts are interpreted through her paintings where she uses layers of paint, building each layer up, representing layers of earth and meaning, both of which are important in life and spirituality. Lisa-jane's love of circles and dots drives the building blocks of her work.



Contemporary Indigenous artist and arts educator, Lisa-jane Van Dyk. Left, work created by 12-year-old Ana during the Art Lab School's Indigenous art classes. Right, one of Lisa-jane Van Dyk's contemporary works. (Photo courtesy of the artist.)



Lisa-jane is also a passionate arts educator. She joined the Art Lab School team this year and during the lockdown she was able to teach via Zoom from her studio near Dubbo, NSW. Creating an immersive opportunity for her students, Lisa-jane is teaching the children through Dreamtime story, as well as providing examples of dot painting and pigment creation.

Lisa-jane's teaching has been met with so much enthusiasm that her classes have been extended. As well as children's after-school workshops, advanced classes are available for teenagers on Saturday afternoons and Lisa-jane is now coming in as a guest teacher for adult classes.

'She is amazing,' says Ky Smith, founder of the Art Lab School. 'We are so fortunate to have LJ join our team! This is a unique opportunity for children in the city to not only experience Indigenous art from a wonderful art practitioner, but to also learn about the Dreaming.'

CHRISTINE WHISTON

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LUISE ELSING

0407417704 | luise@residentsfirst.org

Authorised by Geoff Rundle
52 Wunulla Road, Point Piper, NSW, 2027.

CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY OPENS AT REDLEAF

ST BRIGIDS, THE MUCH-LOVED 1897 HERITAGE BUILDING OVERLOOKING BLACKBURN GARDENS AND SYDNEY HARBOUR AT REDLEAF, HAS BEEN RESTORED AND REINVENTED AS WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL'S EXCITING NEW PUBLIC ART GALLERY.

Officially opened to the public on 4 November, following a delay due to lockdown restrictions, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf is destined to become a cultural hub in the community. The vision is for the gallery to be the cultural heart of Woollahra: a support for creative talent to flourish, a collaborative space for all to connect. Focusing on contemporary art, the annual exhibition calendar will feature a range of diverse shows by different artists.

The gallery launched with an inaugural exhibition featuring the finalists of the 20th Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize. Luritja woman and Yarrenyty Arltere artist Rhonda Sharpe was awarded first prize for her work, *Desert Woman with Mustache, Coolamon and Pretty Clothes*; Sydney artist Mechelle Bounpraseuth received the Special Commendation; Kate Coyne, the Mayor's Award; and Michael Harrell, Highly Commended.

Over its lifetime, the significant heritage building now housing the new gallery has had a rich and diverse history.

St Brigids has been a grand mansion, the headquarters of the Royal Commission on Espionage, and a community gathering place as the Woollahra Arts Centre. Most recently, it was home to the treasured Double Bay Library before its relocation to Kiaora Place.

The building has been totally restored and reworked by Tanner Kibble Denton Architects, preserving all the original details including crown moulding, arched windows and the original wooden flooring. The design provides four new exhibition spaces upstairs and, on the ground floor, a newly designed cultural hub that will house the established Woollahra Artist in Residence Program. The refurbished space will also include a space for community activity and for digital and new media art practice, including a podcast room.

Councillor Susan Wynne, Mayor of Woollahra, said: 'Woollahra has a well-established connection to the arts which includes the much-loved Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize, Australia's pre-eminent award for small sculpture. Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf will be an artistic hub where people can connect with art through exhibitions, residencies, workshops and public programs. We are excited to open the doors to this fantastic new public gallery for the community to enjoy.'

The exhibition program for Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf will be led by respected curator Sebastian Goldspink, in his role as Gallery Coordinator. A proud descendant of the Burrumattagal people of western Sydney, he is also the curator of the 2022 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art and was a co-founder of Alaska Projects in Kings Cross. Sebastian says:

'It's an honour to be involved in the launch of this new gallery and to be returning to work in the building that I learnt to read in as a child in its former use as the Double Bay Library. It was a special place for myself, and many people who grew up in the area. I have a definitive connection with the building and the local community it has always supported. I look forward to working closely with artists, curators and the team to deliver a dynamic and accessible art space that showcases the deep love and history of art in the east. A place that fosters opportunities for artists to generate new creative memories for future generations.'



The much-loved heritage building, St Brigids at Redleaf, has been restored and reworked to create a public art gallery, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf.

MEET THE CHEF: GREEK HOME COOKING AT THE PHOENIX

The Phoenix Hotel has punctuated the corner of Moncur and Wallis Streets since 1881. Distinctive red tiles bordered with turquoise make a bold statement at the end of a row of elegant terrace houses in leafy Moncur Street.

The Phoenix has risen and subsided over the years with different owners, different licensees and a changing clientele. Now it's in the firm hands of William Cooney, who bought the licence in 2015.

Will, who has a background in hospitality, has given the old pub a new life and a fresh personality. Enter from the street to a large welcoming room with bar, open kitchen, and tables and chairs for casual eating. There's a cosy separate dining room up a few steps at one end.

The Greek-inspired menu features family recipes. Will tells me he has three Greek-born grandparents, and he has employed a Greek chef.

'Our food is essentially Greek home cooking – quite simple, clean and healthy. The classic moussaka is very popular and the spanakopita [see recipe] makes an excellent snack.'

While there are pub staples such as steak and chips, wraps and cheeseburgers, regulars love the Greek dishes. Whole fish of the day might be cooked with fennel and tomato, or a slow-cooked shoulder of lamb might be served with lemony potatoes. These can serve two to three and can be ordered ahead.

Will has great ideas for new projects and events. A monthly 'Greek Night' highlights lively music and traditional plate-smashing. A trio will play on Sunday afternoons, and future plans include trivia nights, an amateur art and wine night and a comedy night coming next year.

CAROLYN LOCKHART



PHOENIX SPANAKOPITA RECIPE

- 1 brown onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 400g baby spinach, washed and dried
- 400g feta, crumbled
- ½ bunch dill, chopped
- ½ bunch mint, chopped
- 1 packet filo pastry
- 200g butter, melted
- Black or white sesame seeds

Sauté the onion and garlic, then add the spinach and cook on a medium heat until soft and still green.

Transfer the onion and spinach to a bowl and add the herbs and feta.

Combine until evenly mixed through, ready for the triangles.

Place a sheet of filo pastry on a chopping board, brush with a little melted butter and cut into six strips.

Place a heaped tablespoon of spinach mixture in the bottom corner of the pastry, then fold up along the length of pastry strip – like folding a flag – to create a triangle.

Place on a baking tray. Repeat with remaining pastry and filling.

Lightly brush triangles with melted butter and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Bake in a moderate oven for 20 minutes or until golden.



Q&A WITH DAVE SHARMA

Q: Dave, what led you into politics?

Before being elected as the member for Wentworth in 2019, I worked for two decades as a diplomat, in a range of roles. I was deployed with the Australian-led peacekeeping force in Bougainville in 2000, then from 2001–03 in Papua New Guinea, assisting in negotiations to end the civil war.

From 2006–09 I was based at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, working with the US government to address shared challenges in Asia and the Middle East. On returning to Canberra, I headed the International Division in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. And from 2013–17 I served as Australia's Ambassador to Israel, helping to promote stability in the Middle East and strengthen our technology linkages.

I see politics as a continuation of my earlier role, serving my country and my community in a different way while tackling the same issues – how to improve Australia, and how to ensure Australia makes a positive impact in the world.



Dave Sharma, Federal Member for Wentworth

Q: Would you outline a recent significant policy development that will directly impact the Woollahra community?

As many as one in six women experience domestic violence – an unacceptable reality. Domestic violence occurs across all ages, socioeconomic and demographic groups, invariably impacting women and children. Police suggest the problem is disproportionately high in our eastern suburbs, where seemingly content public lives often mask private lives of fear and abuse. Too often, women find it hard to flee

such relationships because they have no means to support themselves or their children.

In response, the government is introducing an Escaping Domestic Violence payment, with up to \$1500 in cash and \$3500 of in-kind assistance to cover rental bonds, school fees, utilities and clothing. This is no cure-all, but I hope it will provide a measure of security for women who make the brave and difficult decision to leave an abusive relationship. To find out more, contact my office.



DIXIE COULTON FOR COOPER WARD

4 December 2021 Woollahra Council elections

- ✓ **Experience:** former Deputy Lord Mayor Sydney Council. Barrister.
- ✓ **Integrity:** not afraid to oppose overdevelopment.
- ✓ **Passion:** green spaces, heritage, good design, the arts.
- ✓ **With:** improved transport, footpaths, more parking.
- ✓ **To:** shop local, eat local.

Authorized by Darel Hughes 114 Jersey Road Paddington



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OBITUARY: CORALIE HINKLEY, A CELEBRATED LIFE REMEMBERED

THE LATE CORALIE HINKLEY WAS RENOWNED IN SYDNEY'S WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE DURING THE LATTER HALF OF LAST CENTURY. HER REMARKABLE LIFE IS REMEMBERED HERE BY DANCE WRITER AND CRITIC MICHELLE POTTER.

A well-known and much-loved figure in the Woollahra community, Coralie Hinkley died on 21 September, just short of her 99th birthday.

Born in Glebe to Vera and John Hinkley, Coralie was a fifth-generation Australian. She was educated at Maroubra Junction Primary School, then at boarding school in Springwood, and finally at SCEGGS Darlinghurst. While at school her interest in dance was piqued at a concert featuring works by a visiting European troupe. She later began serious studies with Viennese-born Gertrud Bodenwieser, whose dancers she had seen at that concert, and eventually became a



Coralie Hinkley, as many in the community will remember her. Coralie Hinkley was one of Australia's most celebrated contemporary dancers, choreographers and dance teachers.



member of the Bodenwieser Ballet and a teacher.

In 1956, while still with Bodenwieser, Coralie choreographed *Unknown Land*, based on imagery in the poetry of Rex Ingamells. Danced to a commissioned score by John Antill, it formed part of her application for a Fulbright Scholarship. In 1957 she became the first Australian to be awarded a Fulbright for graduate study in modern dance and spent the next three years in the United States, learning her craft from celebrated choreographers Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Louis Horst and Merce Cunningham.

Back in Australia, the 1960s and '70s saw Coralie staging several works for Ballet Australia, the choreographic company established by legendary ballerina Valrene Tweedie. They included *Éloges*, *Day of Darkness*, *Improvisations*, *L'Isle Joyeuse*, *The Forest* and *Ritual for Dance Play and Magic*. Several of these works were first performed by the Fort Street Dance Group, which Coralie had established as part of her teaching program at Fort Street Girls High School.

Coralie was eclectic in her musical taste, favouring Australian composers when she could. Of all the choreographers she had worked with, Bodenwieser was her enduring influence: 'As dancers, our "creative personality" was brought into focus by Gertrud Bodenwieser, who in her search for truth and beauty could touch the human spirit ... that is why I stayed so long.'

Coralie is survived by her daughter, Sancha Donald.

EDITED FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE BY KERRIE LEE WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR.

(BLACK AND WHITE IMAGE COURTESY SANCHA DONALD.)

CHRISTMAS JEWELLERY GIFT GUIDE: MAKE SOMEONE SPARKLE

AFTER A CHALLENGING YEAR, WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS; A LITTLE EXTRA 'FROSTING' TO KICKSTART 2022. THE GIFT STAKES ARE HIGH AND PERFUME, HAND CREAM OR NOVELTY SOCKS JUST AREN'T GOING TO CUT IT. TO MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR CHRISTMAS JEWELLERY SELECTIONS FROM THE MATTHEW ELY COLLECTION.

FOR A CHRISTMAS COLOUR SPLASH:

The perfect excuse for a colour splash, Christmas is the season of ruby, emerald, morganite, tsavorite and tourmaline. These unique handmade pieces make for iconic Christmas jewellery gifts, ideal for someone who loves to stand out.

FOR A TRUE CLASSIC:

When you're searching for a foolproof Christmas gift, it's hard to go past the timeless classics: diamonds and pearls.

Argyle Pink Diamonds are true collectors' items, rarer and more valuable than ever before, following the 2020 closure of Rio Tinto's Argyle Mine in Western Australia. Valued for their exquisite beauty and unique hue, they're the perfect choice for something extra special this Christmas.



Clockwise from top left: 18ct White Gold, Rubellite & Diamond Art Deco Earrings (set with 2 cushion-cut rubellites, weighing 11.39ct, pave set with diamonds); Emerald Dome Ring (featuring 11.55ct of oval mint green emerald); 18ct Rose Gold, Morganite & Diamond Cocktail Ring (with a 9.23ct morganite centerpiece and 2 hexagonal diamonds); 18ct White Gold, Ruby & Diamond Bracelet (containing 152 individual rubies, plus 266 diamonds)

Clockwise from top left: Pink Diamond Cluster Ring (set with one Argyle Pink Diamond, weighing 0.48ct, two pink pear-shape diamonds, 12 pink round brilliant cut diamonds, and 42 white diamonds); Classic Double Halo Diamond Ring (set with a 1.51ct round brilliant cut diamond, surrounded by 64 smaller diamonds, weighing 1.35ct); 18ct White Gold & Pearl Pendant (featuring a single 14mm South Sea Pearl); 18ct White Gold, Morganite & Diamond Art Deco Earrings (set with two 10.43ct morganite gems, and a total 102 white diamonds)

ONCE UPON A TIME: LOCAL AUTHOR WINS CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR

CELEBRATED LOCAL AUTHOR AND POET LIBBY HATHORN HAS WRITTEN OVER 70 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG READERS. HER LATEST PICTURE BOOK, *NO! NEVER!*, WRITTEN IN COLLABORATION WITH HER DAUGHTER LISA HATHORN-JARMAN, HAS BEEN AWARDED 2021'S BOOK OF THE YEAR: EARLY CHILDHOOD BY THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA.

Inspired by real-life events, *No! Never!* is a hilarious cautionary tale about three-year-old Georgie who says 'no, never' one too many times! The book is superbly illustrated by Mel Pearce and its rhyming, repetitive text is perfect for reading out loud. Like all good story books, it has a happy ending.

Born in Newcastle, Elizabeth (Libby) Hathorn grew up in Sydney's eastern suburbs during the 1940s and 1950s as part of a large family where poetry and storytelling were part of the fabric of daily life.

Libby insists hers was a typically suburban upbringing in an era where television played no part. Rather, entertainment was provided by her mother reciting poems and her father telling stories and reading aloud to the family. As a child, Libby recalls creeping away to find a quiet space in the busy house where she would sit and compose stories and poems, her words filling up the school exercise books in which she wrote.

Working first as a teacher then as a librarian, Libby always found time to write but devoted herself to becoming a full-time writer in 1987. Her first book, *Stephen's Tree*, was published in 1979.

Libby's stories are Australian stories; they feature Australian characters, the bush, the land and the beaches. Her first books were published at a time when Australian children's literature was taking off and she has ridden that wave ever since, writing picture books, story books, poetry books and novels for young readers. Her work has been translated into many languages, made into a film and even an opera.

Throughout her long career, language has always been central to Libby's writing.



Celebrated local children's author, Libby Hathorn, and her latest releases.



'I will always write picture books,' she says. 'Their language is very like poetry and to me poetry is the quintessential language. The rhythm and rhyme of language teaches children so much.'

While a good story never loses its appeal, regardless of the fashion of the times, Libby agrees that children's books have changed.

'Today's stories leave little time for reflection or passages of descriptive text. Stories now are more episodic, shorter and more active, reflecting the world of modern children.'

She adds, 'Australian children's books today reflect the contemporary environment and society and its diversity, which is now so much a part of the Australian way of life.'

Libby has added two more books to her oeuvre this year. *We Children and the Narrow Road to the Deep North* was inspired by Matsuo

Basho, the revered 17th century Japanese poet. It tells the story of three children who meet Basho during his long journey through the Japanese countryside and what they learn from that encounter. The characters and the landscape are beautifully captured in illustrations by Sadami Konchi.

The Best Cat, the Est Cat was commissioned by the State Library of NSW, with illustrations by Rosie Handley. It is destined to become a classic. A wonderful talking cat is the mystery tour guide who leads two children through the wonders and treasures of the State Library, from the smallest to the strangest to the rarest. True to its genre, the best is left till last, when the identity of the Est Cat is revealed.

The Best Cat, the Est Cat was launched at the State Library of NSW on 4 November.

Both titles are available at the Woollahra Bookshop.

CHRISTINE WHISTON

MONCUR CELLARS SERVING A GLASS OF CHRISTMAS CHEER THIS FESTIVE SEASON

WITH SYDNEYSIDERS EMBRACING THEIR POST-LOCKDOWN FREEDOM, WE'RE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU OVER THE UPCOMING CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

SPRING ROUND-UP

We'd like to thank you, the Woollahra community, for the support displayed during lockdown. To those who visited us in-store, although we had to keep a distance, our smiles were beaming behind our masks.

Navigating the lockdown meant having to pivot quickly by altering the way we deliver our products, but we were able to implement some exciting initiatives, and we're so humbled by your kind feedback. Spring highlights included:

- the launch of the Moncur Negroni, in partnership with Four Pillars Gin. Our September release was a sell-out, with a new batch to be available in December.
- an Instagram live wine-tasting hosted by Alex Head from Head Wines
- a take-home virtual tasting, showcasing wines from South Australia and Margaret River
- the return of Bistro à la Maison, allowing Woollahra locals to enjoy their Bistro Moncur favourites at home.

WHAT'S IN OUR GLASS THIS CHRISTMAS

It's tough to narrow our range down to only three, but the top drops on our Christmas sip-list this year are:

Champagne Henriot Blanc de Blancs – \$120

Add some elegance and finesse to your Christmas celebrations with this drop.

2018 Domaine Leflaive Mâcon-Verzé – \$80

A chardonnay to sip on throughout Christmas afternoon, perfectly paired with your lobster or ham.

2019 Farrside by Farr Pinot Noir – \$100

Due to popular demand, stock of this wine has been held back to ensure availability for our customers' Christmas celebrations.

If you need assistance selecting the perfect Christmas gift, our in-store team has extensive knowledge on wine, spirits and more. Ask us for a recommendation, we love it!

THE GO-TO SPOT FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS CATCH-UP

The team at Woollahra Hotel and Bistro Moncur are now taking bookings for Christmas gatherings, with some great packages on offer. Call today – 02 9327 9777. Hurry, December availability is filling fast.

LOOKING AHEAD

You would have noticed some construction happening around the hotel. Fear not, Woollahra Hotel, Bistro Moncur and Moncur Cellars are all still open for business! Refurbishment on our new Front Bar is nearing completion. Keep an eye on the Woollahra Hotel Facebook page and woollahrahotel.com.au for continued updates.

Planning is well underway for our first-quarter activity, so stay tuned for information on the following in early 2022:

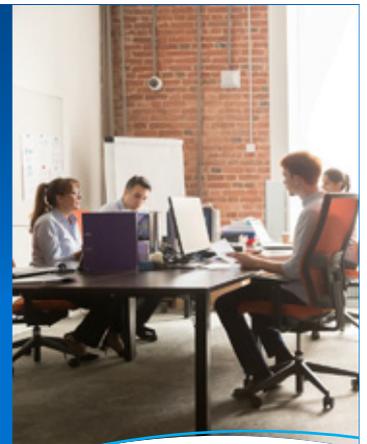
- intimate tasting events in-store
- larger tasting events in Bistro Moncur
- the release of our very own 2021 Moncur Chardonnay in February, with 1500 bottles to be available for sale across Bistro Moncur and Moncur Cellars.

To keep up to date with everything happening in store, visit moncurcellars.com.au and [Facebook.com/moncurcellarswoollahra](https://www.facebook.com/moncurcellarswoollahra) and Instagram [@moncur_cellars](https://www.instagram.com/moncur_cellars).

MONCUR CELLARS | 02 9327 9777 | CELLARS@WOOLLAHRA.COM.AU

HR Support for Small Businesses

Leadership of a small business is extremely challenging at the best of times, let alone as we come through the challenges of the last 18 months. There will always be times that you will benefit from some external counsel on the people related aspects of your business.



BEACHAM
HR CONSULTING
Working with SMEs to deliver excellence through their people and culture

At Beacham HR we can provide expert counsel for your small business. Please go to our website www.BeachamHR.com.au.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021: MEET THE CANDIDATES

Local council elections will be held on Saturday 4 December 2021. Here, the *Village Voice* introduces the candidates standing for election in Woollahra Municipal Council's Cooper Ward.



Luise Elsing – Residents First

RESIDENTS FIRST CANDIDATES

LUISE ELSING NO 1 SAY NO TO HIGHRISE

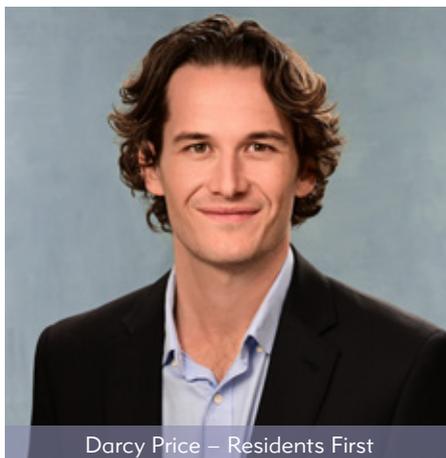
Do you want towers overshadowing Woollahra? Do you want more trucks screaming down your street? Would you like to park your car close to shops? Would you like to spend less time in traffic? If this is what matters to you, you can make a change now. Vote 1 for Residents First for independent councillors that put people before politics.

Residents First has been fighting overdevelopment since it was formed in 2003. The founders believed that only independent councillors can make decisions on Council and pressure the state government to stop overdevelopment.

I have lived in Queen Street for nearly 20 years and been on Council for almost half that time continuing the fight. The NSW state government set a housing target of 800 new dwellings from 2016 to 2026 for the

Woollahra LGA. By November 2021 Woollahra has already approved/constructed 889 new dwellings (10 per cent over target with five years to go). That is why we are trapped in traffic. Residents First opposed the Housing Strategy that supports the Edgecliff Planning Proposal for high-rise in New South Head Road from Rushcutters Bay to Ocean Street of over 1200 new dwellings reaching heights of 26 storeys. Liberals on Council voted in favour of that Housing Strategy. The Edgecliff Proposal will be voted on in March 2022.

You have a once in every four years opportunity to resist overdevelopment. If you want to stop it and protect our local village, then vote 1 for Residents First in the upcoming local election on 4 December 2021.



Darcy Price – Residents First

DARCY PRICE NO 2

Darcy Price is running for Woollahra Council to advocate for the interests of our local residents. He grew up in Woollahra and was nominated to run for Woollahra Council in 2012. Darcy is passionate about the local area, the interests of residents, the environment and young families and is particularly engaged in ensuring that local schools and traffic/parking infrastructure are not impacted by overdevelopment.

CLAIRE WIVELL NO 3

Claire has lived within the Woollahra LGA for 35 years. She chaired the



Claire Wivell – Residents First

Holdsworth Community for ten years, overseeing its significant growth and readiness for NDIS during that period. She is a vigorous campaigner for the environment and protecting the tree canopies to preserve leafy Woollahra.



Nicola Grieve – Greens

GREENS CANDIDATE

NICOLA GRIEVE NO 1 ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

I want to represent the Cooper Ward community and ensure that Woollahra is prepared for the adaptations needed to manage climate change. I am committed to preserving and enhancing Woollahra's unique bushland and tree canopy and will draw on my experience as a community gardener, long-term bush regenerator and founding member of Friends of Cooper Park.

On Council I will work with community members to protect our

heritage precincts and our unique shopping strips, make our roads safer and deliver improved footpaths and new cycleways that everyone in our community can enjoy. I will protect our natural grass playing fields and push hard for the roll-out of electric vehicle infrastructure. I will campaign for the return of planning powers to determine DAs to elected councillors as the best means to prevent overdevelopment and preserve our neighbourhood character.

Since 2018 I have worked as a Community Representative on Woollahra's Local Planning Panel to safeguard Woollahra's heritage and uphold our planning controls. As a councillor 2008-12 I delivered community gardens, a basketball court, 24-hour dog off-leash at Rose Bay beach, improved pedestrian connections to schools, and cycling facilities.

I am honoured to be running on a ticket supported by Tanya Excel, former Woollahra councillor, National Trust Women's committee member, gardener and businesswoman; and Rosie White, a founding member of Harbour View Park bush regeneration crew and resident group, and decades-long campaigner.

LIBERAL CANDIDATES

SARAH SWAN NO 1 PRESERVING THE HERITAGE

Sarah Swan brings fresh ideas and a commitment to work hard for all the local residents and businesses in Cooper Ward.

She is passionate about preserving the unique heritage of the area and does not support overdevelopment as proposed in the arterial New South Head Road in Edgecliff. Sarah believes in revitalising community facilities and conserving our green spaces.

Sarah is a solicitor practising in commercial litigation and family law. She advocates against all forms of family violence and has volunteered



Sarah Swan – Liberal

for the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation.

While studying at university, she worked in a local business on Queen Street. She loves the vibrancy and village atmosphere of the area and will work to re-energise it as we move out of lockdowns.

Sarah serves as the Secretary of the Kambala Old Girls Union. In her spare time, she teaches yoga, surfs and cycles.



Dixie Coulton – Liberal

DIXIE COULTON NO 2

Dixie Coulton has extensive experience on Council as the Deputy Lord Mayor on the City of Sydney Council in 2003. She is a barrister and understands complex planning, and the importance of heritage, green space, sustainability, design excellence, traffic, parking and amenity issues.

Dixie opposes the proposed construction of a skateboard structure in heritage-listed Rushcutters Bay Park which will reduce the cherished open green space and quietude, which should be protected and enhanced. Parks are the lungs of the city.



Jeanette Mitchell – Liberal

JEANETTE MITCHELL NO 3

Jeanette Mitchell is a long-standing resident of Cooper Ward and advocates strongly for more community facilities such as a swimming pool. Her steadfast commitment to the community is seen in her volunteer work with the elderly and disabled at the Holdsworth Centre and Homestead.

The Cooper Ward Liberal team is focused on:

- conserving the heritage of our neighbourhood
- environmental sustainability
- fighting overdevelopment, including the proposed increased height and density limits for the Edgecliff Centre and surrounding buildings along New South Head Road
- maintaining and upgrading our green spaces and streets
- supporting 'eat local', 'shop local', outside dining, local cultural and arts festivals
- improving traffic flow, parking and pedestrian safety.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

OVERCOMING DENTAL ANXIETY

Do you suffer from dental anxiety? Modern dentistry offers a number of ways to overcome this, explains the Dental Room's Dr Bal Bahra.

Now that lockdown is over, we need to get back into good routines. One of those is to book your regular dental check-up. However, a surprising number of us put off going to the dentist because of 'dental anxiety', which is fear, anxiety or stress in a dental setting.

At the Dental Rooms, the team employs a number of strategies to help nervous patients overcome their anxiety.

First a recap of why it's important to have regular dental check-ups. As discussed in my previous online article, 'Tips for dental health during lockdown and beyond'

(woollahravillage.com.au/Health-&-Wellbeing), regular dental check-ups, cleans and screening can prevent dental disease and help the dentist find any problems early, so that simpler and less invasive treatments are needed. Herein lies the vicious cycle: avoiding regular dental check-ups and failing to deal with issues early means problems get worse, which for a lot of people is the very cause of their dental anxiety!

Come in for a friendly chat. Going to the dentist does not automatically mean that you will have to 'open wide'. When you call to book your first appointment, let our friendly receptionist know that you'd just like to come in for a chat. Getting to know the team and the environment is often the first step to overcoming dental anxiety. You will see that we are a really friendly bunch here to look after you.

Tailored treatment plan. I encourage my nervous patients to

openly discuss their fears and concerns so I can create a tailored treatment plan designed to avoid or minimise triggers that cause their anxiety. There are also several 'pain-free' dentistry techniques that I employ, and I discuss the pros and cons of these with my patients.

Anxiety relief. For some patients, dental anxiety may require management during treatment with nitrous oxide (commonly known as 'happy gas' or 'laughing gas'), a Pentrox inhaler or a small dose of an anxiety-relieving medicine taken shortly before the visit to the dentist. These are options I discuss with anxious patients while preparing their treatment plan.

I have so many patients who used to dread going to the dentist and now wonder why they ever worried about it. So, if you are a nervous patient, don't delay and book your appointment with us now.

DR BAL BAHRA
THE DENTAL ROOMS



Create compost, not landfill by using your green lid bin for food scraps

Any type of food scrap is accepted including fruit and vegetables, meat and bones, dairy, grains – and more. Pop them all into your green lid bin, along with garden organics, for collection each week.

For a full list of what can and can't go in your green bin visit:

woollahra.nsw.gov.au/kitchentocompost



 **Woollahra Gallery**
at Redleaf



Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf open



20th Anniversary Finalist
Lilach Milekowski | The Procession

Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize 20th Anniversary Exhibition

4 Nov–5 Dec Wed–Sun Free Admission
548 New South Head Road, Double Bay

woollahragallery.com.au

 **woollahra the small sculpture prize**

ASK THE VET

IT'S ALLERGY SEASON!

Warmer weather means a hard time of year for those poor pets who suffer from allergies. Pets can suffer from hay fever-like allergic reactions just like us. These types of allergies can manifest in many ways, including simple signs such as sneezing, reverse sneezing or coughing, and watery or gunky eyes. Animals can also suffer from a condition called atopic dermatitis, which essentially means itchy, red skin because of environmental allergies to pollens or different grasses and plants. This condition can often lead to secondary infections in the ears, between the toes, on their bellies and

around their bottoms. Animals can be allergic to many other things as well, including different foods, insects and fleas.

There are many different treatment options available for pets with allergies. Treatments vary and depend on the type of allergy your pet is suffering from and how severe their allergies are. Some pets respond well to daily antihistamines, while others need daily tablets or monthly injections to stop the itching. If they have a secondary infection pets will often need medicated baths, ointments, or oral antibiotics to get the infection under control. Specialist veterinary dermatologists can even do testing to find out exactly what your pet is allergic to and treat the underlying cause. Allergies and the skin infections they



There are many treatment options for pets with allergies.

may lead to can be very irritating to pets and sometimes painful, so if you suspect your dog or cat has an allergic skin condition then contact your local vet for an appointment.

DR INDIA | JERSEY ROAD VETS

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

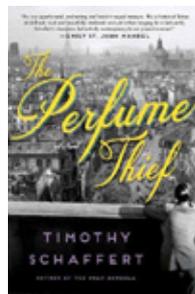
CHRISTMAS IN STORE OUR SPECIAL BOOKS

It's an almost impossible task, but we have each selected one book as our special read/treat of the year.

It may not be our favourite book – we can tell you what that is when you visit the shop – but it is an inspiring, intriguing, brilliant book that has captured our hearts.

Penelope has chosen *The Perfume Thief* (Knopf US, \$29.99) by Timothy Schaffert. Complete with romance, espionage, champagne towers and haute couture, this full-tilt sensory experience is a dazzling portrait of the underground Resistance in Paris during World War 2. The main character, 72-year-old Clementine, is an enchanting and charismatic reformed ex-con, who is drawn out of retirement into one last scam when the Nazis invade her city.

Elizabeth has chosen *Dragon Skin* (Allen & Unwin, \$19.99), an



astounding novel by Karen Foxlee. Set in a small Australian town, the story is layered and the writing, fluid, drawing the reader into Pip's world. When she finds a half-dead creature at the waterhole, everything changes. Is the dragon real or a metaphor? It's a mesmerising story, difficult to shake. A must-read for children (10+) and adults alike.

Gordon (our free home delivery guy) has chosen *Life at the Edge: Why Australians Love the Water* (Thames & Hudson, \$59.99) edited by Jo Turner. It is a beautiful collection of evocative photographs of water; in our collective memory, from long summers spent building sandcastles and learning to

swim, to the sheer immensity and wild beauty of cliffs and dark oceans, our realm as an island nation is inescapable.

And finally, Michael has chosen *New Rural* (Hardie Grant Books, \$60) by Woollahra resident Ingrid Weir. This book of stunning photographs profiles the distinctive allure of Australia's vibrant regional towns. Discover inspiring, creative people and new ways of (rural) living.

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP, SPICER STREET.
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It wouldn't be
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without the
decorations!

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION
& GIFT VOUCHERS
NOW AVAILABLE



M

MATTHEW ELY