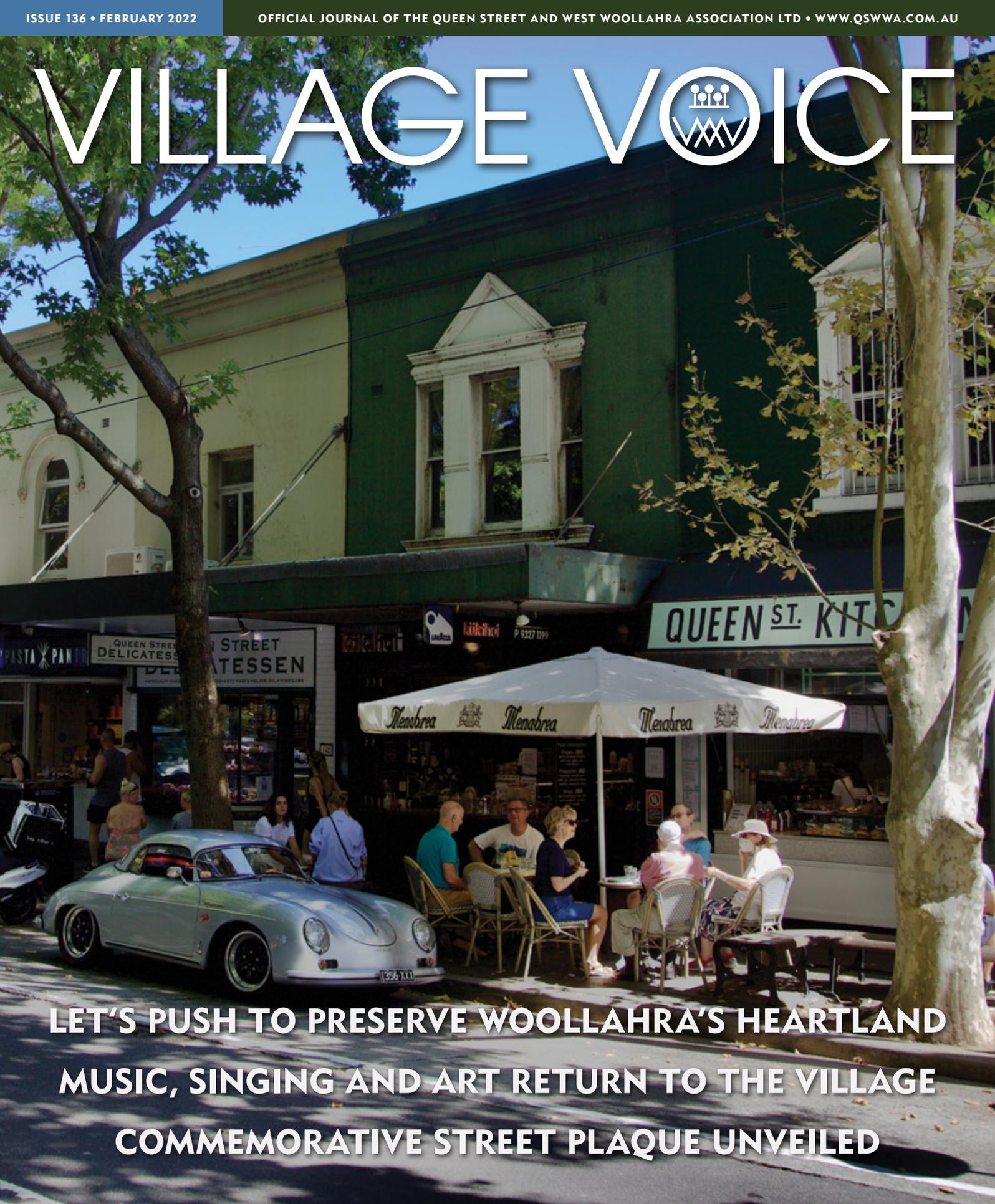


VILLAGE VOICE



**LET'S PUSH TO PRESERVE WOOLLAHRA'S HEARTLAND
MUSIC, SINGING AND ART RETURN TO THE VILLAGE
COMMEMORATIVE STREET PLAQUE UNVEILED**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



and Nicola Grieve, to Luise Elsing for her re-election, and to Susan Wynne, re-elected as Mayor. Susan is a strong supporter of the QSWWA and we look forward to working with her and our councillors to protect and enhance our Woollahra village.

The **Christmas Window Display Competition**, involving 65 local businesses, was a great success. Congratulations to all winners and participants for your hard work in making Woollahra so special. (Full details in the following article.)

Sadly, the **Christmas Carols** were cancelled an hour before the start. A massive thunderstorm at 4pm turned Chiswick's lawn into a quagmire – totally unsuitable for walking on, let alone picnicking – with more thunder and lightning forecast. A big thanks to everyone for organising the event and their stoicism when we had to cancel and return all raffle gifts to the donors. The generosity of local businesses ensures the raffle is our major fundraiser, so our finances have taken a hit again, given that we couldn't hold the 2020 carols either. The only upside was that the barbecue

food (generously donated by Chiswick Restaurant) was given to the Matthew Talbot Hostel.

Members have been emailed to renew their membership for 2022. If anyone is having problems, please email me.

Please read the article on the Edgecliff Design Strategy (p 6). Heights proposed for the Edgecliff corridor risk turning it into another sunless wind-tunnel, rather than a glorious gateway to the eastern suburbs. Be sure your councillors hear your voice before they vote on it in March or April.

Ongoing uncertainty means any special celebrations of the QSWWA's 50th anniversary are on hold. We do plan to run a photographic competition soon and will keep you updated via the *Village Voice* and email. Dates for the diary: Annual General Meeting – Tuesday 10 May; Annual Dinner – Tuesday 14 June.

Stay safe everyone ...

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

QSWWA 2021 CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

Christmas 2021 saw another year of fabulous Christmas window displays in our wonderful village. Over 65 businesses participated with a wide and diverse range of creative, artistic displays. Congratulations to all our competitors, and to our winners listed below. A big thanks to our judges, Mayor Susan Wynne and Alan Smith, and to Susan Wynne for also presenting the awards. We look forward to you all being part of it again next year.

- First Prize: **David Stein & Co**
- Second Prize: **Forever Vintage**
- Third Prize: **Susan Avery Flowers & Events**
- Mayor's Prize: **Matthew Ely**
- President's Prize: **Anne Schofield Antiques**
- People's Choice: **Aquel**

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

Welcome to our first *Village Voice* for 2022. Just when we thought we were returning to 'normality' last year, along came Omicron. Let's hope this year is less disruptive and we can resume some degree of business as usual. The Christmas period seems a long time ago, but we did manage to run two of our three events.

Meet Your Council Candidates in the Phoenix Hotel was a great success, with over 100 people attending and grilling the candidates. Many thanks to Will Cooney for hosting us. Congratulations to newly elected Cooper Ward councillors Sarah Swan

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd
ABN 98002872433 | PO Box 16, Woollahra 1350
<https://woollahravillage.com.au> | Email: admin@qswwa.com.au
Follow us on Instagram @qswwa_sydney

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 Kliner, 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

The character of Queen Street's village atmosphere is a unique aspect of Woollahra's heartland.

Photograph by Paul McGuire. See more of Paul's work at [Instagram@paulmcguire5970](https://www.instagram.com/paulmcguire5970)



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Winner David Stein is presented with his certificate by Mayor of Woollahra, Susan Wynne and QSWWA President, Giles Edmonds.



ART IN THE PARK

Join Ky Smith and her team of tutors from Woollahra's Art Lab School for an afternoon of artistic expression and community bonding in Chiswick Park.

This unique event, made possible with the support of Woollahra Council, is aimed at promoting the arts within the Woollahra area, encouraging people to connect over a canvas.

The event will include a fabulous Adults Live Painting tutorial. Follow step-by-step instruction by one of the Art Lab tutors and create a unique piece of art, ready to hang on the wall!

Art in the Park runs from 3-5pm and is limited to 50 places, so be sure to book ahead for this first-time free art event in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street.

For bookings, please contact info@artlabschool.com.

PUZZLING POMPOMS

Tanora, the fabulous raffia design store located at 76 Queen Street, opted for an innovative approach to the QSWWA 2021 Christmas Window Display



Competition – they created a pompom puzzle!

The puzzle was, how many hours did it take to make the raffia pompom Christmas tree created by the store's co-owner, Manon Wittmer? There was one clue: a single pompom takes an hour to make.

The correct answer was 282 hours, and the winning entry (278 hours) came from a Queensland participant via Instagram. The winner travelled down to Sydney during the holiday season and visited Tanora to collect her prize, a \$200 in-store voucher.

LOCAL FIRM ENTERS NEW PHASE

Tony Sunman, Woollahra's long-serving local lawyer, has been joined by fellow local solicitor Matthew Mallos.

The new firm, Sunman Walker Mallos Lawyers, aims to preserve and build on Tony's strong track record serving the Woollahra and surrounding community.

Matthew Mallos joins the firm after ten years as a senior in-house lawyer at top 50 ASX-listed property and

construction company Lendlease.

With his background in property and construction, Matt's main areas of expertise are property development and construction, property financing, property sales and leasing and property disputes.

Tony has long been a Law Society accredited specialist in property law and continues to deliver the high level of quality service he is known for.

Together, Tony, Matt and the team at Sunman Walker Mallos can assist with conveyancing, wills, probate applications, powers of attorney, property financing, construction and development work, and leasing and family law.

SENIORS FESTIVAL

Woollahra Council will host a range of events and activities throughout March to celebrate NSW Seniors Festival 2022, funded by Woollahra Council and the NSW Government. These are just some of the highlights.

Tell Your Story with Maisy Stapleton: Join Eastside FM Arts Thursday presenter Maisy Stapleton in the new media room at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf and Tell Your Story about your connection to the local area. It can be your personal story, or your family's story, we would love you to share it with us. Interview highlights will be broadcast on the Art Thursday show on Eastside 89.7 FM.

Monday 28 February, 10am-1pm and Tuesday 29 March, 10am-1pm at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, 548 New South Head Road, Double Bay. Book online for this free event at: Booking essential online.

Woollahra Gallery tour and morning tea: Join Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf gallery coordinator, Sebastian Goldspink, for a personalised tour and insightful commentary on the current exhibitions. This tour will include a morning tea.

Thursday 31 March, 10.30am-12pm, Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf. Book online via the Council's website: https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/community/whats_happening/nsw_seniors_festival

TAILS WAG FOR LOCAL DOGS

During lockdown, Moncur Reserve in Holdsworth Street was used by the community to exercise their dogs. In late October 2021, a council ranger attended the reserve to advise that the 'No dogs allowed' signage would be enforced going forward.

Under the stewardship of local residents (and dog-owners) Jennifer Stokes and Fiona Lanigan, a petition was organised, galvanising the community into a quick response. With almost 200 signatures, and a visual 'heat map' of the signatories' addresses, the petition was indicative of widespread concern throughout the area. The organisers also set up meetings with local councillors and canvassed locals for their insights and experience.

The petition was tabled at Woollahra Council's meeting on 22 November 2021, together with the following motion, put forward by Councillor Elsing and former Councillor McEwin, which resolved to:

1. prepare a report to investigate the feasibility of making the

Moncur Reserve (not including the basketball hoop section) dogs off-leash after 3.30pm and before 10.30am every day, including the possibility of installing a dog-bag dispenser for the convenience of the community;

2. undertake a trial period for dogs off-leash after 3.30pm and before 10.30am every day in Moncur Reserve until the report is finalised; and
3. install appropriate signage and communication so that residents are made aware of any changes.

The motion was passed unanimously.

We understand that the trial is working well and Council has installed the revised signage. It is expected that the trial will be reviewed by Council in the first half of 2022.

THE WOOLLAHRA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA – MAKING NOISE AGAIN!

After the long months of lockdown, the WPO is set to celebrate its return with a series of exhilarating concerts for 2022, the first scheduled for the weekend of March 26-7.

Resound is the theme of the first concert program, a series of three works designed to celebrate the orchestra's joyous return, for full program see page 17.

The WPO's Resound concert will be performed at Saint Matthias Church, 471-475 Oxford Street, Paddington on Saturday March 26 at 5.30pm and Sunday 26 at 1.30pm. Tickets are available via the WPO Website and Ticketbooth.

LOCAL MUSICIAN LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK

We know him best as the President and principal flautist of our acclaimed Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra, but Martin Cohen has another talent; he has just launched his first children's book, *Oh! What a Pickle!*



Martin with bookshop owner, Michael Eyes.

Delightfully illustrated by Martin's brother Danny Cohen, the book is dedicated to his two young nieces, Talia and Gabi, for whom it was originally written. It is an amusing and cautionary tale of what may befall you if you eat too much of your favourite food!

Martin wrote the story some years ago for his nieces, aged three and one at the time. He was encouraged to publish the story back then but when his would-be publishers suggested he exchange the pickle for chocolate or some other sweet, Martin decided not to persevere with the project. Clearly pickles were the star of the story and chocolate was simply not an option.

However, during last year's lockdown when the WPO was unable to rehearse or perform, Martin decided to revisit the project. His brother too had time to create the illustrations Martin had always envisaged and Tellwell was secured as publisher.

'My nieces are quite grown-up now, but they loved the story when they were little,' Martin says. 'And they still do. The story has lots of memories from my own childhood.'

This is a perfect storybook to read out loud, with pleasing rhyming text and a sprinkling of more 'difficult' words to challenge young readers.

Are there any more books waiting in the wings? We will have to wait and see!

Oh! What a Pickle! published by Tellwell Publishing, is available exclusively at the Woollahra Bookshop and online.



GATEWAY TO THE EASTERN SUBURBS: A SHOWPIECE, NOT A CONCRETE CANYON

THE QSWWA HAS CHAMPIONED PROTECTION OF OUR LOCAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1972. FIFTY YEARS LATER, THE COMMUNITY IS FACING A NEW CHALLENGE AS PROPOSED LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENTS THREATEN THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF OUR GATEWAY TO THE EAST.

It has been a tough couple of years and the impacts are going to be around for a long time. However, there are more than COVID-related aftershocks on our horizon. Over the past year, local area proposals for public spaces were progressed but flew under the radar as we all focused on dealing with the pandemic. These proposals didn't get the full scrutiny and public feedback that would usually occur. As a result, there are strategies in train that could blight our landscape for years if not challenged.

The most glaring example is the Draft Edgecliff Commercial Centre Planning and Urban Design Strategy. Woollahra Council released this for public exhibition and comment at the beginning of June last year. The deadline for submissions was extended to 30 September due to the cancellation of all face-to-face information sessions due to COVID restrictions. Council staff are now in the process of finalising their report to Council; it was originally intended for the March 2022 Council meeting but may now be delayed as they are having to do some extra work.

Let's hope that this extra work involves a significant rethink and reduction in the scale of the buildings proposed in the exhibition document. If not, and if the strategy continues to be very similar to the original proposal, then the only way to halt it will be to bring pressure to bear on all councillors to adopt a more modest, smaller scale strategy, consistent with the scale of existing buildings. A large-scale strategy will add to the already significant traffic congestion and, potentially, destroy the character of what is known as the Edgecliff corridor.



The QSWWA certainly supports a significant upgrade to this area, but this is not the right scale. So, what is wrong with the current proposal?

The Edgecliff corridor is the gateway for motorists coming to the eastern suburbs, Double Bay and some of the most impressive harbourside suburbs in Sydney. It needs to be a grand, dignified and friendly entrance, a pleasure for residents, pedestrians and motorists to pass through.

Put simply, the current proposal does not meet these objectives. The proposed height limits are far too high. The current site of the BP garage has six storeys proposed and the car-wash site, a massive 12 storeys. The existing buildings are single storey and don't impose too much on the view.

Travelling up the hill, there are a number of sites where the limit is proposed to be increased to ten or 11 storeys. Yes, there are a few buildings in the corridor that are close to that height, but there aren't enough to overshadow everything. Allowing significant height increases to most of the remaining sites risks creating a concrete canyon, always in the shadow at street level, where the wind whistles and motorists and pedestrians hurry to pass through. This is hardly a grand gateway!

In addition, the proposal includes halving the required car-parking spaces for residential units. This will be a bonus for developers, but a disaster for local residents. The notion that reduced car-parking spaces will mean owners won't have cars is simply naïve nonsense: they'll just park them on the streets, adding to the congestion and difficulties of current residents looking for parking spots.

Finally, there is the increased strain on our already overloaded infrastructure, including schools, which are already bursting at the seams, transport and our roads. These issues need addressing whatever scale strategy is adopted but are sadly neglected in the current approach.

So, what can you do?

Check out the Council website for details of the proposal and make your views known to your local councillors. There are a few new faces on the Council after the recent elections, so it may not be too late to change minds. We will keep readers informed of how the situation develops over the coming weeks and will update members by email.

Let's make sure we get an Edgecliff gateway to the eastern suburbs that we can all be proud of.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

DAVE
SHARMA_{MP}
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DELIVERS

As your local Member of Parliament, please contact my office if we can help with any Federal Government issues.

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davesharma.com.au DaveSharmaMP

Authorised by Dave Sharma MP, Suite 302, Level 3, 179-191 New South Head Road, Edgecliff, 2027.

PLAQUE COMMEMORATING DAME JOAN SUTHERLAND UNVEILED OUTSIDE HER FORMER QUEEN STREET HOME

THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF PLAQUES CELEBRATING WOOLLAHRA'S HISTORY HAS BEEN INSTALLED OUTSIDE THE FORMER HOME OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED OPERATIC SOPRANO, THE LATE DAME JOAN SUTHERLAND OM, AC, OBE.

Set in the footpath outside the house at 115 Queen Street, the plaque was unveiled by Mayor Susan Wynne together with former Cr Antony Marano and special guests Richard Bonyngé, Dame Joan's husband and lifelong musical partner, and their son, Adam, as well as guests from the Australian Opera.

Joan moved to Clyde Cottage at the age of six following the sudden death of her father, William Sutherland, on her sixth birthday in 1932. She was to live there for almost 20 years: 'A very happy period of my life which has stood me in good stead ever since.'

The original stone house, with slate roof and seven rooms, was constructed between 1856 and 1858. It is located on the south side of Queen Street, next to St Kevin's, in the very heart of Woollahra village. Joan's maternal grandfather Alexander Alston, a master builder, took over the leasehold



on the property in 1885. He added a second storey and an extension at the rear but maintained the classic Georgian style of the original.

When the young Joan moved into the house in Queen Street it was already well known to her, as the family had been regular visitors to 'Grandfather Alston's' from their Point Piper home, Patonga. Clyde Cottage became home to Joan, her mother and her elder sister Barbara until the 1950s and Joan spent many happy years there.

The family became part of the Woollahra neighbourhood; Joan went

to school at nearby St Catherine's, took piano and singing lessons, joined musical societies and entered singing competitions before joining the workforce as a secretary.

However, it was music that was to shape her adult life. In 1951 she left for London with her mother to pursue her

singing career. Her extraordinary voice, renowned for its combination of both power and beauty, eventually launched her into the world of international opera and the global fame that awaited her as 'La Stupenda'.

The house at 115 Queen Street was given up by the Alston family some years later. In the years that followed, Clyde Cottage had several owners, and various changes were made, but gradually it fell into a state of disrepair.

Throughout the late 20th century there were various attempts to preserve the house, including a listing proposal by the National Trust. A submission in the 1970s made note of the many intact interior details and concluded that Clyde Cottage was a 'fine Georgian house of a type now rare in this area, which contributes much to the streetscape of Queen Street.'

Dame Joan Sutherland was Patron of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association for 21 years from 1978 to 1999. During that time she voiced her concern about the state of her childhood home. In a letter to the then President, Graham Freudenberg, she wrote:

'The old house must be in shocking repair, as my family left it in 1954, and it looks as though nothing has been done to preserve it since then ... My uncle and mother were keen gardeners, and my uncle (Tom Alston) also kept the façade in perfect condition. Unfortunately, from the time my family gave up the house, the deterioration set in, with the new owners closing in the balcony and selling off the lovely old railing. I hate to think what

might have happened to the interior and the garden of my childhood.'

(*Village Voice*, No 69, January–June 1999, p. 11)

Finally, in the late 1990s, as a result of both community concern and its classification by the National Trust, Clyde Cottage was saved from certain demolition and the house was eventually sold, in spite of it of its dilapidated condition.

Now, superbly renovated, it remains a private residence, protected by heritage listing on the Woollahra Local Environment Plan. Dame Joan did not live to see the house restored but it is fitting that her part in its history has been honoured.

CHRISTINE WHISTON



Mayor Susan Wynne and special guest Richard Bonyngé, Dame Joan Sutherland's husband and long-time musical partner, at the unveiling ceremony.



Extensively renovated in 2016, the house remains a private residence and is protected by heritage listing.

TOP: Woollahra Council's plaque at 115 Queen Street commemorates one of Australia's most revered cultural figures, Dame Joan Sutherland, and one of Woollahra's oldest houses. ABOVE LEFT: 115 Queen Street, Woollahra (by John van Vliet). Courtesy Woollahra Digital Libraries. ABOVE RIGHT: During the 1960s, the upstairs balcony was enclosed and the decorative iron railing removed.

WOOLLTONES CHOIR TO SING AGAIN

WOOLLAHRA'S REVITALISED WOOLLTONES CHOIR WILL SING AGAIN IN 2022, AFTER A SUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR A NEW CHOIR CONDUCTOR.

Naomi Cooper took up the baton in February to inject new life into the much-loved community choir, disbanded due to lockdown. Naomi was introduced to members of the Woolltones at a Meet and Greet in December at the choir's rehearsal space, St Columba Church.

The Woolltones Choir (formerly the Woollahra Community Choir) is unique in the eastern suburbs. It caters to people who have always wanted to sing but have never been able to and welcomes singers of all ability levels; there are no auditions to join. Choristers learn good singing techniques and a wide repertoire – from traditional

to popular songs – and have a lot of fun. If you are a new singer, nervous about your ability, or have past experience, the Woolltones is the choir for you. As a daytime choir, we are ideal for seniors and retirees.

Having been closed down by COVID-19, the Woolltones received a Revitalisation Grant from Woollahra Council. Our biggest challenge now is to get enrolments up.

The choir meets on Thursdays, 12.45–2.45pm, at St Columba Uniting Church, Woollahra. For enrolment contact the Choir Coordinator: thewoolltones@gmail.com or thewoolltones@gmail.com.

LEE KIRKLAND



NAOMI COOPER is a vibrant choral conductor, vocalist and educator, in high demand as a choral specialist for community, school and university choirs across Sydney. She joined the Woolltones as Musical Director this month.

Naomi delights in presenting a diverse choral repertoire including traditional western choral music, contemporary Australian compositions, music from around the world as well as gospel, folk, bluegrass and popular songs. Her friendly, enthusiastic and encouraging approach facilitates enjoyable choral experiences for first-time and experienced singers alike.

In addition to choral conducting, Naomi is a performer, sessional academic, guitar teacher, musicianship teacher and workshop facilitator.

Naomi is the current President (NSW/ACT) of the Australian National Choral Association. She has performed extensively with Sydney Philharmonia's widely acclaimed youth choir, VOX, and has conducted for many choirs including the Australian Youth Choir (Musical Director for NSW), Sutherland Shire Choral Society, Northside Community Choir and ParkinSong.

She regularly conducts in professional venues including the Sydney Opera House, City Recital Hall, Sydney Town Hall, Chatswood Concourse and Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has travelled widely both as a performer and musical director.



SUNMAN WALKER MALLOS NEW PHASE FOR LOCAL LAW FIRM

SUNMAN WALKER MALLOS

OUR COMPANY

Tony Sunman, Woollahra's long-serving local lawyer, has been joined by fellow local solicitor Matthew Mallos. The new firm, Sunman Walker Mallos Lawyers, aims to preserve and build on Tony's strong track record serving Woollahra and the surrounding community.

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OUR SERVICES

Tony, Matt and the team at Sunman Walker Mallos can assist with:

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- Leasing
- Family law

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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THE AGE OF OPPORTUNITY

IRENE SMITH WAS A PUPIL IN THE OPPORTUNITY CLASS AT WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL IN 1960. FOLLOWING HER 60TH SCHOOL REUNION, SHE SHARES HER MEMORIES OF A COMING OF AGE IN CLASSROOMS FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES.

Some 60 years ago I first connected with Woollahra – not the suburb, nor the municipality, but the school. I was afforded the privilege of being accepted into the Opportunity Class – 5OC. In 1960, what it meant for me was a coming of age, a world of opportunities hitherto never contemplated.

Coming from Bronte Public School (literally up the road from where I lived), the commute to Forth Street, Woollahra was an adventure in itself. It involved catching two buses and was the dawning of a whole new independence. Our teacher was the indomitable and very charismatic Miss Cheney and students came from suburbs I had never heard of – Paddington, Darlinghurst, Surry Hills – which were nowhere near as cool then as they are today.

In the early 1960s, the boys and girls were educated separately, in different buildings on the same site. We would share the library in the boys school and were also taken there regularly for barn dancing with the boys – something of a highlight for us girls. Other events included monthly excursions to the Australian Museum in College Street and to the Town Hall for orchestral concerts.

The anticipation of our 60th school reunion engendered a great deal of excitement. An email chain quickly developed a life of its own, with former classmates sharing snippets of

memories stored away for decades. Here are just a few from a range of ‘old girls’.

‘I remember dreading the regular mental arithmetic quiz. A name would be called out, a series of calculations requested and a stopwatch started – something like “Dorothy! 386 divided by 25, multiplied by 52, minus 30, plus 2008 – go!” I still feel panicky when I remember it.’

‘Who can forget Miss Stafford and her elocution lessons, recited while simultaneously waving scarves? I can still recite “Come down to Kew in lilac time”.’

‘I remember lettuce sandwiches from the canteen at recess; milk crates under the big tree; knocking on the staffroom door one day only to see Miss Cheney smoking – shock, horror!! Also, the wonderful librarian who had us all clamouring for recommended books; and loving *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* at that young age as well as CS Lewis and the *Narnia* books, *Tom’s Midnight Garden* and so many more timeless classics. Still never have a book far from my hand.’

Some 30 years on, I reconnected with Woollahra when my husband Alan and I established the Istral Gallery for contemporary art at 162a Queen Street, which we ran from 1994 until 2003. During this time Alan was invited to become a director of the QSWWA and subsequently became

Treasurer, a position he still holds. Hence, our association with Woollahra has remained a strong and abiding factor in our lives.

Sadly, COVID postponed our reunion plans. We curbed our disappointment and fortunately the new date became a reality. On 30 October, 19 ‘boys’ and 13 ‘girls’ along with various spouses and partners gathered at the Woollahra Football Club for an evening of absolute joy and nostalgia. Many wonderful memories resurfaced and connections were once again forged with friends from days gone by.

IRENE SMITH



LEFT: Irene’s WPS OC school photos from 1960, when boys and girls were educated separately.
RIGHT: Class photos of the boys and girls sixty years on.

RayWhite

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Q&A WITH DAVE SHARMA

Q: What does growing technology mean for our society?

Technology has greatly benefited Australians, allowing us to access information more readily, conduct business remotely, stay in touch with distant family and friends. But it is not without its dangers, and recently we have grown more familiar with the potential risks. The dangers of the online world can be just as significant as those of the physical world, while the ubiquity of digital technology makes them harder to guard against. This is especially true for young children, whose lives are particularly integrated with the internet. As a father, like many parents I seek to protect my daughters from online harm. But these dangers can be hard for parents to detect, let alone prevent.

Q: What is the government doing to ensure online safety?

Our laws have clearly failed to safeguard our lives in this space. The government is addressing shortfalls, ensuring that our laws keep pace with technological advances and the online threats arising from harmful behaviour and toxic content.

Last year parliament passed the Online Safety Act 2021, which makes online service providers (Facebook, Google, YouTube, TikTok) more accountable for the online safety of their users. The Act gives substantial new powers to the eSafety Commissioner to protect Australians from online harm or abuse. It strengthens the cyberbullying scheme for our children, empowering the Commissioner to order service providers to remove abusive and bullying content. The Commissioner can now also direct service providers to block access to material promoting or depicting abhorrent violent conduct, such as terrorism or sexual assault.

The Act also creates a world-first adult cyberabuse scheme, where victims of serious online harm can complain if service providers fail to remove abusive content. It updates the image-based abuse scheme, reducing to 24 hours the time allowed to online providers to take down intimate images, including videos, after a removal notice is received.

I'm sitting on a parliamentary committee inquiring into social media and online safety. These are issues that confront the entire world, I'm pleased Australia is leading the way.

COUNCIL TRIALS PARKLET PROGRAM

Woollahra Council has launched a trial parklet program, which will allow businesses with existing outdoor dining permits to apply to use limited kerbside parking space for outdoor dining.

Parklets have been introduced around the world to open up space in built-up inner-city areas. Kerbside car-parking spaces are repurposed as public space 'pockets' providing facilities such as seating, greenery, bike-parking facilities and charging ports.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on the hospitality industry nationally and within the Woollahra LGA. Council has resolved to support the trial program based on evidence that the introduction of parklets enhances streetscape activation, supports business trade, increases foot traffic and creates opportunities for businesses to grow and prosper. The trial program has been launched in conjunction with NSW state legislation.

A 12-month trial period will be granted to eligible businesses and a maximum of 20 approvals will be issued to businesses within the LGA. Applications opened in August last year. The maximum number of parking bays a parklet can occupy is limited to two bays per application and strict



evaluation criteria will always be applied.

The first business to gain approval under the new scheme is Queen Street Kitchen, located at 146 Queen Street. The restaurant, owned by Antonio Di Marte, opened around 18 months ago and its current footpath dining area will be extended to encompass one kerbside parking space, which will enable outdoor seating for up to 33 diners.

Antonio has invested in the project and the approved plan to accommodate the additional seating includes construction of a timber floor, extending from the footpath to a series of concrete bollards marking the extent of the roadside boundary. Within that space the new seating arrangement will include an L-shaped banquette together with individual tables.

'Council wanted to help business get back on its feet following the long lockdowns and encourage the community to come back too,' Antonio explains. 'They waived the application fee, which was a great incentive. Many customers are still fearful of indoor dining, and extending the availability of outdoor spaces is a great way to overcome that.'

Queen Street's first parklet will be coming soon.

NEWS FROM MONCUR CELLARS AND THE WOOLLAHRA HOTEL

INTRODUCING THE MONCUR CHARDONNAY – LAUNCHING MARCH 2022

As an independent business our intent is to build genuine and authentic relationships with our suppliers. We have approached a couple of our valued partners to bring to market a variety of co-branded products. In July 2021, we partnered with Four Pillars Gin to launch the Moncur Negroni. We are now able to announce an exciting new offering with the launch of our exclusive wine – the Moncur Chardonnay.

The idea for a bespoke wine range first came about in 2019. We know our loyal customers view Mark and the Moncur Cellars team as the experts on fine wine, so we sought to establish a collaboration with a renowned domestic winemaker to produce our own premium wine range. After multiple interstate visits to some of our favourite wineries, we have been fortunate to discuss a collaboration with some of Australia's best winemakers. The intent behind the collaboration is to showcase our partnership through premium product offerings.

We are very pleased to announce that we've partnered with Domenica Wines, based in Beechworth, Victoria. We've had a wonderful relationship with Peter Graham for over



ten years and his product range has always included quality, sought-after wines. After an extensive consultation process between Peter and Mark, we are thrilled with the result, which is an amazing vintage that you can drink now or cellar for up to ten years.

The Moncur Chardonnay will be available to purchase at Moncur Cellars from March 2022 or enjoy in-venue at Woollahra Hotel and Bistro Moncur.

WOOLLAHRA'S LOCAL REIMAGINED – OUR ALL-NEW FRONT BAR NOW OPEN

After an extensive refurbishment in the later part of 2021, we are delighted to finally open the doors to reinstate a classic corner pub for the community to enjoy.

The purpose of the renovation was to restore a traditional public bar experience by revitalising the ground floor, creating a vibrant space for the Woollahra community to gather in. Our mission was to celebrate the legacy of this iconic Sydney hotel, and to capture and enhance the stunning Art Deco architecture implemented by Cyril Ruwald in 1932.

The transformation is complete and we look forward to welcoming our community to come in and see the exciting changes. Visit the Front Bar for your next catch-up with friends, a pre-dinner drink before moving upstairs or on to Bistro Moncur, or simply grab a seat by the window to capture the village atmosphere.

TO STAY IN THE LOOP WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING, CHECK US OUT ONLINE: WOOLLAHRAHOTEL.COM.AU BISTROMONCUR.COM.AU | MONCURCELLARS.COM.



TOP THREE POST-LOCKDOWN JEWELLERY TRENDS FOR 2022

TWO YEARS OF INTERMITTENT LOCKDOWNS, REMOTE WORK AND ZOOM CATCH-UPS HAVE HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON WHAT WE WEAR AND HOW WE WEAR IT. JEWELLERY IS NO EXCEPTION. AWARD-WINNING LOCAL JEWELLER MATTHEW ELY SHARES SOME OF THE MAJOR SHIFTS HE HAS SEEN IN HIGH-END JEWELLERY, ALONG WITH THE KEY UPCOMING TRENDS FOR 2022.

LAYERING AND DAY-TO-NIGHT JEWELLERY

There has been a real swing towards 'casual luxury' – day-to-night jewellery that is wearable in any circumstance, whether you're going out to dinner or to a Pilates class.

The layering of high-end jewellery can make individual pieces more accessible and suitable for everyday wear. Think 'mishmash' bangles and multiple tennis bracelets; perhaps a combination of classic diamonds and unique, bold colours.

The same can be said for rings. We're seeing simple, elegant styles and eternity rings (with a full circle of emerald- or oval-cut diamonds) stacked together, often with colour pops of sapphire or ruby. It's definitely a shift from the traditional big, statement diamond as centrepiece.



8ct white gold, aquamarine, sapphire and diamond cluster earrings.
18ct white gold, aquamarine, sapphire and diamond cluster ring.

COLOUR-BLOCKING

Colour-blocking is the juxtaposition of bright and colourful gemstones, such as aquamarine next to sapphire, dark and light blue. Over the next year, I'd expect to see more yellows with oranges, purples with yellows, even purple with pink.

AQUAMARINE

Aquamarine is the on-trend gemstone of 2022. It's a gem that can be worn every day, rather than something that's outfit specific. The spike in aquamarine's popularity was also driven by Meghan Markle's emerald-cut aquamarine heirloom ring, once owned by Princess Diana, who wore it during her 1997 visit to Sydney.

Matthew Ely Jewellery is located at 92 Queen St, Woollahra. Drop by the store or book an appointment online.

MATTHEW ELY



ABOVE: Layered tennis bracelets: two 18ct white gold and round brilliant-cut diamond bracelets and one 18ct white gold, ruby and diamond bracelet. Stacked diamond rings: platinum, ruby and diamond eternity ring, 18ct white gold and diamond ring with milgrain detail and 18ct white gold and diamond wedding band. Stacked pearl rings: 18ct white gold, diamond and South Sea pearl ring, 18ct yellow gold, diamond and Tahitian pearl ring, and 18ct rose gold and South Sea pearl ring.

RIGHT 18ct white gold, aquamarine and diamond ring. 18ct white gold, baroque South Sea pearl, aquamarine and diamond pendant

MEET JASON MALONE: HOLDSWORTH COMMUNITY'S NEW CEO

Holdsworth Community is excited to announce the appointment of Jason (Jay) Malone as their new CEO.

Jay joins Holdsworth with over 20 years' experience leading organisations through business turn-around, due diligence, acquisition, integration and crisis management. He is passionate about making a difference by supporting organisations to deliver person-centric solutions, so people feel valued and respected. Jay shared some insights from his career, personal values and goals for Holdsworth.

Q: Congratulations on your new role, Jay. For those that don't know you, can you please tell us a bit about yourself?

I'm Jason, but like to be referred to as Jay. I'm married with three kids, Oscar, Rosie and Finn, and live locally in Bondi Junction. My background is quite diverse, having worked in a range of industries including the not-for-profit space in aged care as CEO and CFO. I also sit on a couple of not-for-profit boards, one in education and another in early learning.



Q: What are you most excited about as CEO?

I'm excited to be working in my local community. I look forward to continuing the great work that Holdsworth does and delivering on the new strategic plan. I actually walk to the office every day so I am looking forward to meeting our community members.

Q: What are your three most important values?

Respect comes to mind immediately because you can apply it in so many contexts. At least to me, it means respect for each other, the community, our history, people's time and our participants. Respect is the basis of all relationships.

Another important value is authenticity. I see two parts to this. One is about being genuine, what you see is what you get. Secondly, following through on your word so you do what you promise to do.

Gratitude – one thing I've learnt from the pandemic is to appreciate the small things a little bit more. I know for me, I really value spending time with my family and just having a picnic at the local park.

For full interview please visit www.holdsworth.org.au.



**WOOLAHRA
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**

RESOUND



PAUL CHEUNG
Piano

<p>BACH, Arr. Upton BIZET RACHMANINOV</p>	<p>Toccata and Fugue Carmen Suite No.2 Piano Concerto No. 3</p>	
<p>Paul Cheung Chris Upton</p>	<p>Piano Conductor</p>	
<p>Saturday Sunday</p>	<p>26 March 2022 5:30pm 27 March 2022 1:30pm</p>	

Saint Matthias Church
471-475 Oxford Street, Paddington

Tickets \$20, \$35

www.ticketbooth.com.au
www.wpo.org.au
info@wpo.org.au



CHRIS UPTON
Conductor



ASK THE VET

LEAVING DOGS HOME ALONE

Since the beginning of the pandemic there has been a huge increase in the number of dogs in our community, and these pets have been providing their owners with loving companionship through some very difficult times. Due to lockdowns ending, a lot of these dogs are being left at home by themselves for the first time!

As people start going back to work and back to school, separation anxiety is a common problem we are seeing where dogs can't cope when their owners leave them at home alone.

Common signs of separation anxiety include barking or vocalising, panting, pacing, destruction, aggression, inappropriate urination and even digestive issues or lethargy.

If you do need to leave your dog at home for extended periods, there

are some simple things you can do to ease their anxiety. Start by leaving the dog for short periods of time and gradually work up to longer periods of time. When they are at home alone make sure they have something to keep them entertained, such as long-lasting chews, or puzzle toys. Exercise dogs before leaving them alone and again when you get home so they can get rid of some of their anxious energy.

If your dog is showing signs of separation anxiety discuss this with your vet. There are many different treatment options that can be tailored to each pet's needs.

Some dogs require medication to reduce their anxiety levels, or can benefit from seeing a



Pluto, a five-year-old border collie, is eased back into the new year as his owners return to work.

behaviour specialist, while others can be helped with some simple training.

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



CELEBRATING THE GREEN LINKS OF WOOLLAHRA

On a pre-COVID Greens bushwalking club outing, our group walked from Edgecliff Station to Bondi Junction with a group of around 20 people, some local, some from as far away as Wollongong and the Central Coast. All were amazed at how much there was to see. Usually, our group is found tramping through the Royal National Park or knocking off sections of the Great North Road.

Starting at Edgecliff, we meandered through the regenerated bush at

Trumper Park, watched the cute, native ducklings in the pond, then headed up the Harris Street stairs. If only those stairs could talk ... steep, hand-cut sandstone at impossible angles and not for the faint-hearted.

We then crossed over the Paddington boundary into Woollahra to enjoy the delights of Queen Street. Sorry, no time to buy today – sadly, only window-shopping except for some snacks and a treat or two for lunch.

Then it was time to leave the grander homes on the hill crest of Ocean and Edgecliff Roads with their magnificent avenues of trees and head down the hill. Thankfully we drop down, not up, to Attunga Street towards what is arguably the jewel of Woollahra: Cooper Park. With its history, now recognised by both First Nations and European heritage listing, it is a very special place to find some peace and restore yourself as you wander the many paths and listen to the creek as it tinkles its way to the harbour at Double Bay. We even saw one of the famous eels.

After lunch on an island in the

creek it was time to climb up to the ridge again, thankfully distracted by the rows of heritage-listed Harkness terraces with their high-pitched roofs and lace fretwork.

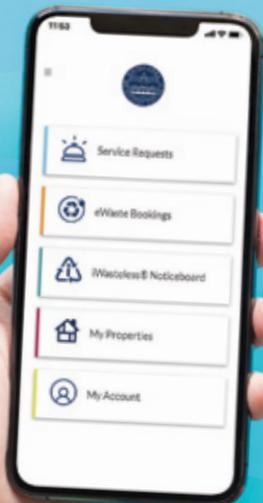
To make our route more interesting we took advantage of the pedestrian lanes linking us to Harbour View Park. These lanes, which are to be discovered all over Woollahra, are for pedestrians only; reminding us of a time when the car was not so dominating. They continue to provide shortcuts and escape from busy roads.

Why am I taking you on this tour? Well, it's simple: this walk includes much of what I am passionate about – bushwalking, trees, bush regeneration, heritage, human-scale development, walkability and a community that connects and protects these things.

One thing I was reminded of during the COVID lockdowns was that you don't need to travel far to be amazed. The more time I spent walking the streets and parks of Woollahra, the more time I wanted to spend protecting it.

COUNCILLOR NICOLA GRIEVE
GREENS, COOPER WARD

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!



Did you know you can put food scraps into your green bin?

If everybody did this, we would slash the amount of waste we send to landfill by half and create nourishing compost instead.

IT'S EASY, HERE'S HOW:

- Pop your food scraps into your green lid bin, along with garden organics. You can use a compostable bag or newspaper to wrap your scraps. No plastic bags please.
- Put your green lid bin out 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



Kitchen to COMPOST

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

ART IN STORE

This month the Woollahra Bookshop will be exhibiting a small suite of paintings by local artist Deborah Hunter Mills. The exhibition is entitled 'A Walk in The Park' and features landscapes from our neighbouring parks (right).

To support these works we want to highlight four art book titles:

Art of the Extreme 1905-1914 by Philip Hook (\$59.99) is billed as a history of the 'ten most revolutionary years in art'. This is the story of the crucible of European Modernism; the years when Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism and Abstract Art all developed in quick succession.



A Painted Landscape by Amber Creswell Bell (\$59.99) is a compilation of some of Australia's foremost landscape painters, including Euan Macleod, Ann Thomson, Elizabeth Cummings and John Olsen.

Odd Roads to Be Walking: 156 Women Who Shaped Australian Art in the 20th Century by Catherine Stuart and Paul Finucane (\$75) is beautifully illustrated and brilliantly researched and written.

This is a must for anyone interested in Australian art.

Aaron Slater, Illustrator by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts (\$24.99) is an uplifting story (for ages 3+) about finding your voice through the power and wonder of art. The illustrations in this picture book are truly glorious.

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP, SPICER STREET
02 9328 2733 | FEBRUARY 10AM-5PM
SHOP@WOOLLAHRABOOKSHOP.COM



It's all in
the detail

A stylized, handwritten signature logo consisting of a single, fluid letter 'M' in a dark blue or black ink.

MATTHEW ELY