

# VILLAGE VOICE



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY  
CAROLS AT CHISWICK GARDENS

EXCLUSIVE: ANNE SCHOFIELD'S  
QUEEN STREET MEMOIR

COME AND VOTE FOR THE BEST-DRESSED  
CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY

PEAKER LANE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This year's celebrations end with our two regular Christmas events. The Annual Christmas Carols will be held on Tuesday 6 December in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street (see opposite for details). In the event that we have to cancel at late notice, as we did last year following that torrential thunderstorm, we will put notices up on Facebook, Instagram and our website, [www.woollahravillage.com.au](http://www.woollahravillage.com.au), and email members as well. Unfortunately, there is no alternative indoor venue large enough for 300 to 400 people that we can use as a 'Plan B'. We look forward to seeing you there and continuing a tradition which started back in 1986, 36 years ago.

The QSWWA Christmas Window Display Competition is of much younger vintage, with this year's being the third and enjoying the continued support of our local businesses. Do take the time to have a look at all the entries and support our local businesses by shopping close to home and encourage all your friends outside the neighbourhood to come and visit as well. The map insert in this *Village Voice* has a list of all entrants and their locations and further details are in the article opposite.

January 1 is also the time when

membership of the QSWWA comes up for renewal. Members will be sent an email with a link to the page with their membership details where they can update them and then pay online with a credit card, which is the easiest process. There is the option of paying by direct debit, but if you take this option, you must email us at Admin using the Contact form on the website to let us know you have paid, so we can manually record the payment.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

## WANTED – WEBMASTER FOR THE QSWWA SYSTEMS

Our new website and member management system, Wild Apricot, provides great functionality in administrating the association but needs someone with IT skills and experience to maximise its capacity. To help us do that, we are looking for a website manager to join the committee and strengthen our technology capability. If you are interested, please call Giles Edmonds on 0429 078 229 to discuss further.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd  
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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.

QSWWA Committee: Giles Edmonds (President), Alan Smith (Treasurer), Christine Whiston (Vice-President), Jaqui Lane (Secretary), Richard Haigh, John Knott, Stephanie Macindoe, Jennifer Stokes, Susie Willmott.

*Village Voice*: Christine Whiston (Editor), Kerry Klinner, MegaCity Design (Designer), Deborah Brown (Subeditor).

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

Jacaranda and converted church on the corner of Jersey Road and Moncur Street by local photographer John Peel. His latest book, *Sydney: A Personal View*, is a bestseller at the Woollahra Bookshop in Spicer Street.



The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association were awarded a grant under the Woollahra Council Grants Program 2022-23 to support the Annual Community Christmas Carols and other events. Committee members John Knott and Christine Whiston receive the Association's Grant Certificate, presented by Mayor Susan Wynne.

# QSWWA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

THE QSWWA WILL HOLD THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN CHISWICK PARK, OCEAN STREET, ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER, A TRADITION GOING BACK OVER 30 YEARS.

**S**talls, including children's face painting and balloons, will open at 5.30pm, followed by an official welcome and opening by the mayor at 6pm. Woollahra Public School Choir, a regular highlight at the carols, will be performing again and community carol singing will be led by a highly talented group of local singers.

As always, Chiswick Restaurant will provide delicious food from the barbecue to complement your picnics, and refreshments will be available.

As ever, local businesses have all contributed very generously for our raffle prizes, so make sure you don't miss out on these great rewards. Father Christmas will also be attending and available for photos with families and children.

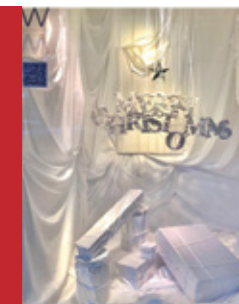
Put the date in your diary, pack your picnic and make it another very memorable evening.



## CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

The QSWWA is again holding the Christmas Window Display Competition in 2022 for all businesses in the area. This will be the third year we have held the competition and we are looking forward to another great series of displays from our wonderful local businesses. Queen Street and Woollahra village always have a special atmosphere, and these Christmas window displays take it to another level in creating a fabulous festive feeling. Make sure you check out all the displays using the map in this copy of the *Village Voice* and tell all your friends to come and shop in Woollahra and enjoy the show. Council will be providing lights in the trees in Queen Street to further enhance the Christmas spirit.

Judging will be on Saturday 10 December, when the QSWWA will also staff a table from 10am to 5pm for votes for the People's Choice award. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 14 December.



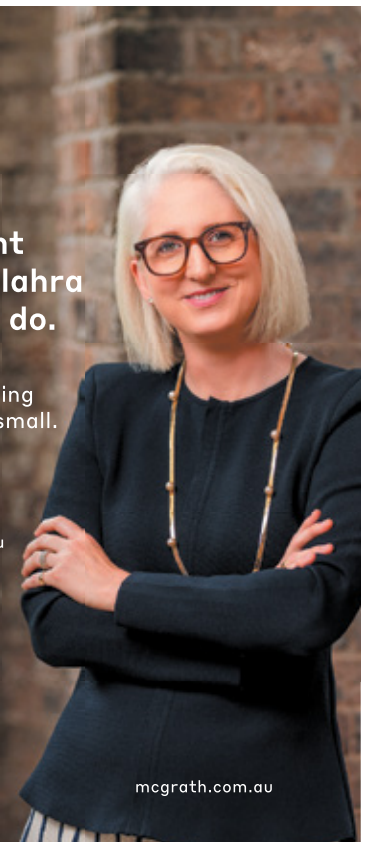
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COMMUNITY NEWS: THE LATEST NEWS, VIEWS, SHOPS AND EVENTS IN WOOLLAHRA

SMALL SCULPTURE PRIZE A HUGE DRAWCARD

This year’s Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition at Redleaf Gallery – the second in the new space – was one of the most successful. Won by Bruce Reynolds for his work, *Animal Kraters*, with the Special Commendation Award going to Nabilah Nordin for *Glut Cherry*, the winning sculptures were chosen by a judging panel from a group of 49 finalists. Peter Tilley won the Mayor’s Award for his work, *The Next Voyage*.

‘It really spoke to me,’ declared Mayor Susan Wynne when announcing the prize winners at a special event at the gallery last month.

There were 684 entries this year, representing every Australian state and territory as well as New Zealand. The eclectic and exciting sculptures were displayed at Woollahra Gallery at Redleaf, the recently rejuvenated community art space which focuses on contemporary art through its annual exhibition calendar.



The Next Voyage by Peter Tilley was awarded the Mayor’s Prize by Mayor Susan Wynne.

COMMUNITY ‘COVID GARDEN’ FLOURISHES

Early in 2020 a group of enthusiastic Woollahra residents from Forth and Nelson Streets began work on a community garden project located at the intersection of their streets on Edgecliff Road. Two years and several lockdowns later, what became known locally as the Covid Garden is flourishing.

The gardening team, spearheaded by Cilla and Jonny Warre, rallied the local community for donations of plants and volunteer gardeners as well as securing the approval of Woollahra Council’s Parks and Assets Maintenance coordinator, Nola Urquhart. Council was able to provide practical support such as coir matting to secure the soil around the edges of the revitalised garden beds, and green wire edgings to protect the new plantings.

All the plants now growing happily in the two garden beds – including agapanthuses, bromeliads, clivias, spider plants, lavender and forget-me-nots scattered under the gums – were gifted by friends and neighbours. Local tree surgeon Dr Treegood donated much-needed mulch.



Resident gardeners, Cilla and Jonny Warre, amid the now flourishing Covid Garden at the intersection of Forth and Nelson Streets on Edgecliff Road.

Prior to the revitalising project the garden consisted of a clump or two of native grasses and a tired buxus hedge. Additional buxus plants have now been added and the garden beds were watered every fortnight.

‘This has really drawn the community together,’ says Cilla. ‘Everyone respected the efforts being made and the garden is thriving as a result.

‘It’s looking great now. The rain has helped, and wind has been our greatest enemy. But even the hard-to-grow areas beneath well-established gum trees have defied the odds and the garden is flourishing.’



Council is seeking community feedback regarding possible installation of an EV charging station in the Dorhauer Lane carpark, adjacent to Queen Street.



Join Holdsworth’s Men’s Chat group on the second Thursday of every month at the Woollahra Library.

MEN’S CHAT GROUP WITH HOLDSWORTH

The Men’s Chat Group is one of Holdsworth’s most popular services. It meets on the second Thursday of every month from 2.30pm to 4pm at Woollahra Library in Double Bay.

Topics discussed range from local issues to world events, to the latest gadgets, to trips down memory lane. Learn from guest speakers and find out what is happening in your local area.

Make a note of the upcoming event on 8 December when the discussion topic will be ‘Overcoming adversity and doing it with a grin’, presented by guest speaker Khoa Nam Tran.

Bookings are essential: info@holdsworth.org.au

CHARGING AHEAD

Council is considering a proposal to install a dual electric vehicle charging station on Dorhauer Lane adjacent to Queen Street.

Council wants your feedback about the integration into the streetscape, whether you would be likely to use the charging station and any concerns about parking and impacts on business.

The closest charging stations to the proposed site are in Kiaora Shopping Centre Double Bay, Norwich Road Rose Bay, Redleaf Pool and Five Ways in Paddington. There are currently no other charging stations in Woollahra.

Keep an eye out for the notification signage onsite for more information.

FROGMOUTH NEWS

After the sad end to the powerful owls’ breeding attempts (*Village Voice*, August 2022), some good news from Centennial Park’s paperbark grove: a pair of tawny frogmouths have successfully raised a chick.

Reporting this news would have been impossible without the help of Steve, one of the park’s very helpful know-owls. Many would find it impossible to spot these delightful masters of camouflage and keeping very still. Steve pointed out the nest of spindly sticks, much higher up than usual, as well as the female, who spends her day pretending to be part of a tree trunk 20 metres away. It’s the male who does most of the work, incubating and sheltering the brood all day. At night the female takes her turn on the nest. Someone, after all, has to go and find supper – everything from moths, slugs and snails to small mammals and frogs.

Weeks of patient observation were rewarded in mid-October with the first sighting of a sole, quite advanced chick. But then, just two weeks later, the entire family had disappeared – goodness knows where to. Steve, we need you ...

JOHN PEEL



Masters of camouflage: a pair of tawny frogmouths have been resident in Centennial Park’s paperbark grove.

A MUSICAL FEAST

The Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra’s third concert for 2022, aptly entitled *Resonate*, presented a carefully curated program under the baton of guest conductor Thomas Tsai. Opening with the lyrical Johann Strauss overture to *Die Fledermaus* and concluding with Beethoven’s powerful and much-loved Symphony No 7, this was a musical feast that left nothing to chance, and the audience was delighted.

On a more sombre note, local composer Daniel Rojas conducted the world premiere of his moving new work, *Chorus for Orchestra*, dedicated to the people, land and traditions of Ukraine. The work was commissioned by the WPO and Woollahra Council in solidarity with Ukraine.

This was followed by JS Bach’s Piano Concerto in D Minor, starring the extraordinary eight-year-old pianist MiMi (Camilla Choi), who has taken the world by storm with her virtuosity. MiMi, who began performing with orchestra aged just six, produced a spine-tingling performance that brought the audience to its feet.

The WPO’s final concert for the year, *Reverberate*, is scheduled for 3 and 4 December (see page 10).



Eight-year-old pianist MiMi (Camilla Choi) thrilled audiences with her wonderful performance.



# TANORA: WHERE TRADITION MEETS STYLE IN RAFFIA

QUEEN STREET IS NOW HOME TO TANORA, SHOWCASING A RANGE OF INSPIRATIONAL RAFFIA PRODUCTS DESIGNED IN WOOLLAHRA AND HANDCRAFTED IN MADAGASCAR. FROM CHIC HATS AND BAGS TO HOMEWARES WITH A CONTEMPORARY AESTHETIC, THE ENTIRE COLLECTION HAS BEEN CREATED BY WILL AND MANON FOR THEIR SIGNATURE STORE AT 76 QUEEN STREET.

Opening just two years ago, Tanora is a calm and understated space where individual elements of varying neutral shades and textures stand out against a whitewashed background. Each item, from classic pieces to new designs added to each season's range, is eco-friendly. Indeed, for every Tanora item sold, ten trees are planted in a partnership with the Eden Project, further reinforcing the brand's sustainable footprint.

Will and Manon arrived in Sydney eight years ago. Both have family with raffia workshops in Madagascar, which is the largest supplier of the fibre in the world. Together they worked on a collection which would employ the handicrafts so familiar to them to create a product range that reflected the Australian lifestyle. The result was Tanora, designs created here and handcrafted in Madagascar using traditional techniques that have existed on the island for centuries.

Madagascar had no cotton for fabrics and raffia, the only textile fibre available, was woven and used for clothing and a wide range of goods. It is harvested from the leaves of the raffia palms that grow in the island's mangroves.

Today, Tanora uses responsible pruning techniques to preserve the growth and health of the palms, while the raffia is still hand-woven on looms employing traditional techniques. Weaving, together with crocheting, hand-braiding and bobbin lacemaking, are all featured in the brand's range. The pieces are labour-intensive with one placemat, for example, taking a day and a half to make.



Will and Manon at Tanora, their signature boutique at 76 Queen Street.

Starting with a stall at the Paddington markets, Will and Manon moved on to other local markets before settling on Queen Street to open their first store in October 2020.

'We began with hats and bags,' explains Will, 'but once we dipped a toe into the world of homewares there was no looking back.'

Raffia is a surprisingly versatile fibre. Tanora's homewares, including designer cushions (some edged in raffia pompoms), picture frames, and mats for floor and table, all have a subtle, tactile quality which works brilliantly in Australian living spaces. The natural wax which is a feature of the fibre ensures durability and longevity.

Dried raffia fibre is quite pale and natural dyes are used to introduce colour variations. Indigo and turmeric, for example, produce a green hue while tea is used to create darker shades.

Hats, totes, beach bags and carryalls as well as unique one-off bags are a feature of the latest collection in store. Homewares include cushions, trays and superb bowls, as well as coasters, table mats and floor mats.

'These ancient crafts, handed down through the generations, are in danger of being lost to a modern generation,' explains Will, 'but workshops such as ours, producing the designs we create for the Australian market, are helping to preserve the age-old traditions.' As well, Tanora (which means youth in Madagascan) is helping to foster a sense of pride in the items produced by Madagascan raffia artisans for a contemporary world.

CHRISTINE WHISTON



Sustainably harvested raffia is used for Tanora's innovative range of homewares, bags and hats, all handcrafted in Madagascar using age-old traditional methods. Natural raffia fibre is pale and vegetable dyes such as tea are used to create colour variations.



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# QUEEN STREET IN THE 1970S AND 1980S: A MEMOIR

ANNE SCHOFIELD ANTIQUES AT 36 QUEEN STREET IS ONE OF WOOLLAHRA'S MOST FAMILIAR AND MUCH-LOVED LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ANNE HAS BEEN A VITAL FORCE IN THE PRESERVATION OF THE AREA'S HERITAGE. AS THE QSWWA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, ANNE HAS WRITTEN THIS MEMOIR OF HER BELOVED QUEEN STREET FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE.

'It was 1968 and Queen Street was a far cry from the modish boulevard it has now become.' So wrote my then husband, Leo Schofield, in his introduction to the QSWWA's 1987 booklet *Queen Street and District – A History and Guide*.

In fact, Queen Street was completely derelict from Halls Lane to Oxford Street as the former Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) had plans to demolish the properties and cut a swathe through upper Queen Street, to extend Jersey Road to link up with Moore Park Road.

Property prices were so low, we could actually afford to buy our first home, an empty 19th century shop and residence at 46 Queen Street. We poured a concrete slab floor and proceeded to create a kitchen and bathroom. Our kids were aged three and five when we moved in, among the

chaos of restoration, and in 1970 I opened my shop there called Anne Schofield Antiques.

As lovers of heritage buildings, we signed up to the Paddington Society, which was already well established. We soon realised that Paddington was on one side of Jersey Road and Woollahra on the other, so we joined in the formation of the Queen Street & West Woollahra Association to encompass the area from Jersey Road to Queen Street, Oxford Street and Edgecliff Road.

In collaboration with the Paddington Society, our new association mounted a campaign to stop the proposed development by the RTA. One strategy was to highlight the vibrancy of our community and the values of its heritage high street by organising the first Queen Street Fair in 1972. This



LEFT: The original Victorian supper room for the Ionic Freemasons Lodge, later converted to a bond store for tobacco. The customs officer controlling the bond occupied the office to the right. RIGHT: A top view of the main auditorium before clearing.



was followed by many more wonderfully successful street fairs and eventually our campaign to save the district succeeded.

With the future of this retail precinct now assured, we set our sights on the imposing building at 36–40 Queen Street, where my shop is situated now. It was originally built as a Masonic Hall in 1870 and later operated as the Paddington Ionic Lodge of Freemasons. It was evidently very successful, as the building was extended in 1922 to include a large meeting hall in the upper gallery and a dining hall on the rear ground floor.

After the First World War, the building was sold to Leonard Norman, a Vaucluse tobacco manufacturer who operated it as a tobacco bond store (destroying all the original features and plasterwork in the process) and it became known as 'the Bond'. It fell into disrepair sometime in the 1960s until our family company, Queen Street Securities, bought it in 1975.

Thus we began a huge restoration project, creating the Queen Street Galleries in the main hall and the anteroom where we held Musica Viva concerts. Our children would be enlisted to put out the folding chairs for the audience and sell glasses of wine at a dollar a pop. The grand vaulted ceiling of the main hall with its arched window on the north wall provided a dramatic backdrop for many other exhibitions and events, including Jenny Kee and Linda Jackson's Flamingo Follies in 1978.

Our eldest daughter Nell met Baz Luhrmann in 1981 when they both applied for NIDA. They were only 19 at the time and were told to go and get more life experience, so they teamed up to create their own theatre company and rehearsed upstairs in the big gallery. The Bond Theatre Company staged their first production – *American Days* by Stephen Poliakoff – at the Bondi Pavilion Theatre in 1982. The following year they were both admitted into NIDA and went on to co-create *Strictly Ballroom* in their second year.

By this stage we had moved from 46 Queen Street and taken on another monumental restoration project down the road at number 117. St Kevins was an Arts and Crafts building that needed a lot of attention, having remained

in the family of Dr Collins, the original owner who built the house in 1892. When the roof leaked, they just moved downstairs and turned the pantry into a bathroom.

I still love Queen Street and can often be found working in my shop in the Bond, nearly 50 years on. Many tenants have come and gone over the decades including Copeland & de Soos, Ros Palmer, Peter Code, Lynette Cunnington, and Etcetera, with Bonhams Auctioneers the latest in a long and illustrious list.

And I still love interacting with clients and sharing my enthusiasm for antique jewellery. I adore this wonderful street, which holds a very special place in my heart.

ANNE SCHOFIELD





# LET'S CLEAN UP PEAKER LANE!

The QSWWA committee has approached Woollahra Council seeking action on cleaning up Peaker Lane.

Peaker Lane, which runs from Ocean Street to Moncur Street, is a busy thoroughfare used by pedestrians, local traffic and delivery vehicles dropping off supplies to the Queen Street food shops between Holdsworth and Spicer Streets.

However, the rear entrances in the lane immediately behind the Queen Street businesses are in a state of disrepair. Looking more like a neglected back alley than a laneway in a prestigious retail precinct, this strip is a conglomeration of dilapidated buildings, mismatched roller doors, unpainted and mismatched timber doors and architraves, shabby brick walls and rusting gutters. Milk crates used as seating throughout the



day clutter the limited pedestrian access. Often, unsightly rubbish spills onto the ground from overflowing bins.

At an on-site meeting with local councillors Sarah Swan and Nicola Grieve, three senior members of council, and committee members of the QSWWA, various improvement options were discussed. These included regular intensive cleaning, the installation of wall-mounted planter boxes, and council monitoring of bin collection.

It is also hoped that a meeting can be arranged with the various business owners and/or landlords to encourage their participation in a more widespread clean-up campaign, supported by council and the QSWWA. Proposed improvements could include general repairs, repainting walls, and doors to help hide imperfections and present a more unified look.

'Peaker Lane must be cleaned up. It runs parallel to the jewel in our crown and the vibrancy of Queen Street, and the village, is a central part of our community of residents and local businesses,' said Councillor Sarah Swan. 'I am committed to working with you to ensure its improvement.'

Sarah has drafted the following notice of motion to be presented to council in regard to the clean-up.

That council:

Investigate and provide a report as to the estimated cost, timing and viability of the following options in relation to improving the appearance and cleanliness of Peaker Lane between Spicer Street and Holdsworth Street, Woollahra:

- Installation of vertical planter boxes.
- Townscaping, including the commission of street art or uniform painting of the rear of buildings.
- More frequent street cleaning.
- Waste storage solutions.
- Requirements as to the storage of waste bins in the lane; and
- Issuing notices for unauthorised works and requirements for repairs.

The *Village Voice* will continue to update readers on the progress of the clean-up campaign.

CHRISTINE WHISTON



The QSWWA with the support of WMC is spearheading a proposal to clean up Peaker Lane, which runs behind the Queen Street food shop hub. The area is currently in a state of general disrepair and cluttered by overflowing rubbish bins.

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# THE STORY OF CAPTAIN JOHN PIPER

HE WAS THE TOAST OF SYDNEY SOCIETY DURING THE EARLY 1820S. QUEEN STREET WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED PIPER STREET AFTER HIM, HE BUILT THE FIRST ROAD THROUGH THE BUSH FROM OXFORD STREET TO POINT PIPER, AND THE SALE OF HIS HUGE ESTATE IN 1826, FOLLOWING HIS SPECTACULAR INSOLVENCY, LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NOT ONLY WOOLLAHRA BUT POINT PIPER AND DOUBLE BAY. SO WHO WAS THIS LEGENDARY COLONIAL FIGURE?

Captain John Piper was a military officer, public servant and popular social figure of the early years of Sydney. He first arrived in Sydney in 1792, aged 18, as a lowly and poorly paid ensign in the New South Wales Corps and soon after volunteered for duty in the convict settlement on Norfolk Island. In 1795 Piper was promoted to lieutenant and returned to Sydney. He returned to Norfolk Island, was appointed commandant, and in 1806 was promoted to captain.

After six years he went back to England with Mary Ann Shears (daughter of a convict) and their two sons, as well as a child from another relationship. It soon became obvious that he would have to choose between the convict's daughter and his military career. He chose Mary Ann and resigned his commission. Together they returned to Sydney in 1814, when he was appointed Senior Naval Officer for the Port of Sydney (a civilian post), responsible for collecting customs duties, excise on spirits, harbour dues and control of lighthouses, as well as various other duties.

It was from his customs post that he drew most of his money. As Comptroller, he was allowed to take a five per cent cut of all port revenues. The port was growing quickly and the customs office was already the busiest in Australia. Piper's percentage gave him \$8000 a year, making him amongst the highest paid men in Australia.

Socially, he was at the top of the ladder, and he lived to the limits of his wealth. Contemporary comments on him paint a picture of his lifestyle. He was described as 'leader of



Captain John Piper, military officer and public servant. (Oil portrait by Augustus Earle, circa 1826.)

the world in fashion', 'the great buck', 'the prince of hosts', 'the gay cavalier' and 'the prince of Australia'.

In 1820 he received a grant of 190 acres on the waterfront in what was then bushland – now encompassing Point Piper and parts of Double Bay, Bellevue Hill and Woollahra. On his estate at Eliza (or Elizabeth) Point, now Point Piper, he built a classically designed mansion and named it Henrietta Villa in honour of Elizabeth Henrietta Macquarie, wife of Governor Macquarie.

The Pipers led an extravagant lifestyle, entertaining lavishly at their new villa, which became the centre of the Sydney social scene. There were grand balls in the domed ballroom as well as dinner parties, water parties and picnics in the grounds. A row of brass cannons stood on the lawn and saluted Piper's friends as they sailed in and out of the harbour.

In order to reach his new house by carriage, Piper built a road 'at a very considerable expense' through the bush. The route ran from the established South Head Road (Oxford Street) through Woollahra and Paddington along Jersey Road (known as the Point Piper Road until 1900, when it was renamed in honour of the Earl of Jersey), then through Double Bay down Ocean Avenue, William Street and New South Head Road to Point Piper.

With the appointment in 1825 of a new Governor, Sir Ralph Darling, Piper's management of the colony's customs dues was investigated and found significantly wanting. Faced with disgrace, Piper decided on a drastic course of



action. He made his will and invited his closest friends to dinner at Henrietta Villa. After dinner Piper excused himself and ordered his crew to row him outside the Heads. While the crew (who doubled as his orchestra) played, Piper threw himself overboard, whereupon they rescued him and returned him to his villa.

Abandoning any further attempts to end his life, Piper settled his debts as best he could, selling most of his property including Henrietta Villa and the Vacluse and Point Piper estates. The Point Piper estate was conveyed to the partnership of Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levey in 1826, while in 1827 the Vacluse estate was sold to William Charles Wentworth. Henrietta Villa was demolished in the 1850s to make way for Sir Daniel Cooper's new Point Piper villa, Woollahra House.

A Woollahra Council plaque recognising Captain Piper can be found at No 1 Wunulla Road, Point Piper.

*All images courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW.*

JAQUI LANE



Top: Captain Piper's Henrietta Villa, four miles down the harbour from Sydney Cove, at Point Piper. (Watercolour by Richard Read Jnr, circa 1820.) Above: The Dome Room, location of many festivities given by Captain Piper at his mansion. (Watercolour by Frederick Garling, circa 1830.)



# MEET THE CHEF: LIGHT AND FRESH AT LUXE WOOLLAHRA

Queens Court, the landmark pink building on the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets, is considered by many to be the very heart of Woollahra village. Boutique shops selling exquisite clothing, eyewear and creative homewares edge its spacious interior courtyard.

Luxe Woollahra is the welcoming café spilling out into the centre of the courtyard. Designed by Burley Katon Halliday, it is furnished with flower-decked tables and comfortable cushioned banquettes. Greenery in pots, striped canopies and an airy covered ceiling make it an inviting place to sit in all weathers.

Businesswoman Kathy Hatzis bought the café in 1996. Although Kathy has a background in marketing, banking and finance, she has always had a passionate interest in food. Kathy’s mother was born in Crete and inspired her daughter with a love of fresh ingredients and an instinct for generous hospitality. Kathy describes her café as ‘an independent business under the Luxe banner.’

Renowned Luxe Bakery in Sydney supplies the coffee and all the delicious muffins, croissants and organic breads that are baked daily. Everything else on the menu is made in-house from fresh ingredients.

The Cordon Bleu-trained head chef has an impressive resumé, having worked in several fine-dining restaurants in Australia and overseas. At Luxe Woollahra he delights in preparing the light and fresh dishes that are the café’s signature.

Luxe Woollahra is always abuzz, with devoted eastern suburbs regulars making up about 70 per cent of the clientele. Come for breakfast, brunch, lunch and anything in between – there’s no need to book unless you are a group of six or more. However, do book for a fun weekend ‘Bottomless Brunch’ as a festive way to catch up with friends.

Luxe Woollahra is open six days a week from 7.30am until 3pm.

CAROLYN LOCKHART



## LUXE WOOLLAHRA’S SESAME-CRUSTED SEARED TUNA

FOR ONE SERVING:	MISO DRESSING:
170g tuna steak	10g white miso paste
30g roasted black and white sesame seeds	10ml yuzu juice (available from Asian grocers)
10ml olive oil for cooking	10ml lemon juice
150g cooked soba noodles, cooled to room temperature	10ml rice vinegar
1 tablespoon podded edamame (available frozen from supermarkets)	5ml soy sauce
1 tablespoon snow peas	10ml sesame oil
1 tablespoon Lebanese cucumber, cut into small wedges	10ml olive oil
	GARNISH:
	1 tablespoon pickled ginger
	1 tablespoon seaweed salad (available from sushi outlets)
	1 lemon wedge

Combine miso dressing ingredients and allow flavours to infuse for 60–90 minutes.

Roll edges of tuna steak in sesame seeds to coat. Heat a non-stick grill pan on high heat.

Brush steak with 5ml olive oil, sear oiled side down for 1 minute; brush with remaining 5ml oil and turn steak carefully to sear for 1 minute (taking care sesame seeds don’t fall off), then remove tuna steak and place on a chopping board.

Assemble soba noodles in a serving bowl, with peak height in the centre of the bowl, top with edamame, snow peas and cucumber, and drizzle with miso dressing.

Carefully slice tuna into 0.5cm thick slices and gently arrange on top. Garnish with pickled ginger and seaweed and a wedge of lemon to serve.



# HOLDSWORTH: HERE FOR COMMUNITY

On a quiet street in Woollahra, an unassuming building nestles between old oak trees and a colourful children’s playground. It’s from within the walls of this modest place that people have been changing lives for over 75 years.

What’s next is greater than anything we’ve ever attempted: in the next two years, we’re committed to doubling our impact to connect more people with possibility than ever before.

With a brand-new website making it easier to connect with us, a streamlined new look to reflect everything we do in the community, and a whole lot of behind-the-scenes work to update our systems and processes, Holdsworth is set up to support more of the community now and in the future.

Holdsworth CEO Jason Malone believes everyone in the community deserves to feel valued. ‘What we do every day is about changing lives. And that’s a critical role to play, so we hold ourselves accountable and are always looking for innovative ways to create meaningful change.

‘I’m so proud to be part of Holdsworth because we genuinely care. Our team cares about the impact we make on local lives, and meeting their needs as they evolve over time. Whether that’s refining our look, updating our systems and process to make it easier to connect with us, or expanding our support for people and their carers, we’re here for community. Always.’

Holdsworth has been part of the community fabric of the eastern suburbs since the 1940s: first as a playground, then a not-for-profit starting with after-school care, then evolving in the 1970s to provide support for housebound seniors. Since then, we’ve expanded to provide a broad range of services for people living with disability, older people, and families; but our values have always remained true.

At our core, Holdsworth connects people with possibility. Our strategy underpins an unyielding commitment to the community, and we are proud of all we’ve achieved since our playground opened in 1940. Today, more than ever, we see the world as it could be – a place where the community comes together to make things better for everyone. We hold ourselves accountable for creating a positive impact, improving access, tailoring support and creating connections so everyone thrives.

So much has changed in 75 years. Our community has transformed through generations of locals and an intricate patchwork of stories, with the emergence of technology, changes in

transport and the gentrification of a once industrial area. In fact, some of the people we support have seen more changes in their lifetime than any generation before. One thing that’s remained constant over the years, though, is the passion of our Holdsworth people, who see their work as rewarding.

‘A participant painted with me for the first time since he was at school. He learnt how to create a watercolour landscape using blending and brushwork techniques. Why stop learning at the age of 97 years old? This gave me a big smile and appreciation for the people I get to meet and the work I do.’ – Alice, Holdsworth Support Worker

In everything we do at Holdsworth, we strive to connect people with possibility. The serendipitous outcome of this aspiration is that every interaction goes both ways. What our people gain is just as valuable and appreciated as what our participants get out of it.

‘One participant regularly uses our transport service to attend her rehabilitation sessions. At least twice a week she entertains us with her exuberant personality! She loves a joke and is always in the best of moods. Our drivers love to do her trips and office staff enjoy chatting with her when she is booking her sessions. She always leaves us with a smile and is always saying “you guys are the best!”.’ – Sarah, Holdsworth Community Care Officer (Transport)

From a simple playground built on Holdsworth Street in 1939, to the impactful organisation it is today, Holdsworth has contributed so much to the community. One of the first places to offer care for children of working parents, Holdsworth went on to work closely with Woollahra Council (the traditional lands of the Gadigal and Birrabirragga people) to establish networks and support people with disability and older Australians. ‘Holdsworth has given me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and for that I am grateful and proud to be part of the company.’ – Liv, Holdsworth team member

So, what’s next for Holdsworth? In keeping with the times, we’ve got a new look to align with our customer-focused approach, and we’ve updated our website to make it easier for people to connect with us. Over the next two years we are on a mission to double our community impact, casting our net farther to connect with and provide services to more community groups so that everyone can live independently and feel like a valued member of the community. Because we believe everyone deserves that.

**HOLDSWORTH HAS GIVEN ME  
THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET  
WONDERFUL PEOPLE AND  
FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL  
AND PROUD TO BE PART  
OF THE COMPANY.’  
– LIV, HOLDSWORTH TEAM MEMBER**



Connect with  
Holdsworth here



# THE MAKING OF: A TOURMALINE AND PEARL ‘TRANSFORMABLE’ NECKLACE

A classic pearl necklace for brunch, an elegant brooch for afternoon tea, and a remarkable pendant for dinner – all thanks to a single piece of jewellery.

Enter: this ‘transformable’ 18-carat white gold, tourmaline, sapphire, diamond and South Sea pearl necklace, inspired by true 1920s glamour and Art Deco style. While he’d never pick a favourite, this piece – which took approximately 140 hours to handcraft – certainly makes the top five for award-winning jeweller Matthew Ely.

‘I wanted to create something extravagant that really showed the versatility of a single jewel. A client is then able to wear it with multiple outfits, for different occasions and unique aesthetics.’

So, how is a ‘transformable’ created?

## STEP 1: THE CONCEPT AND SKETCH

‘This piece was inspired by the gemstone itself, a 24.34-carat bicolour tourmaline,’ says Matthew. ‘Tourmaline is quite lovely in that it may contain two or more distinctive colours. This particular gemstone fades from pink to straw and back to pink. It gives the piece a unique appeal.’

## STEP 2: HANDCRAFTING THE HALO

‘Once the concept was finalised, the next step was to hand-scribe and craft an 18-carat white gold halo setting for the tourmaline. This formed the whole framework for the piece, so it was essential to triple-check proportions and ensure the various parts fit perfectly together.’

The solution? Red plasticine, of course.

## STEP 3: SOURCING THE PEARLS AND SAPPHIRES

‘The Autore pearls were specially sourced for this necklace. Look closely and you’ll see that the strand consists of graduating sizes, from small to larger pearls,’ says Matthew.

‘My aim was then to replicate the unique colours of our tourmaline in its surrounding halo with a series of colour-fade sapphires in various hues. It’s those small details that make all the difference.’

## STEP 4: FINISHING THE MECHANICAL WORKINGS

‘Before setting the gemstones, I had to finalise the hidden mechanical workings and brooch fittings. The piece needed to look perfect, regardless of how it was worn. I added a double pin to cull the weight of that tourmaline in the brooch.’

## STEP 5: SETTING THE GEMSTONES

The tourmaline and sapphires are officially set, surrounded by 126 diamonds for good measure. There are four princess cuts, eight baguettes and 114 round brilliants, with a total weight of 4.91 carats.

So, how can you wear it? Let us count the ways: as a single-strand pearl necklace; a double-strand pearl necklace; a brooch; a pendant on a single strand of pearls; and a pendant on a double strand of pearls – the *pièce de résistance*!

# MONCUR CELLARS NEWS

Season’s greetings to one and all. In a big year for Moncur Cellars, 2022 saw the return of many of our wonderful partner events. We proudly showcased the best of the best in Australian pinot noir and shiraz, hosted some very special winemaker dinners at Bistro Moncur for our wonderful customers and enjoyed regular tastings back in full swing with some of the best beer, wine and spirits.

Along with our partners, we are proud to present one final, very special tasting event for the year: the inaugural Moncur Noel Christmas Fair on Thursday 24 November from 5pm. This event will feature a specially curated line-up of artisan food, beverages and glassware for gifting ideas to fill the Christmas stocking for you and your family. Tickets for this event are very limited and will sell out fast – to book call Moncur Cellars or jump on the website. This event is one definitely not to be missed.

## THE YEAR THAT WAS

As I reflect on 2022, one of my personal highlights was finally getting to McLaren Vale and the Barossa Valley to taste some cracking wines and meet some fantastic people. One of those people was Cameron Ashmead from Elderton Wines in the Barossa.

Cameron gave me the opportunity to taste and explore the Elderton vineyard at its best and offered me the privilege of tasting the 1992 Elderton Cabernet (the 1993 winner of the coveted Jimmy Watson Trophy). This was one of those ‘pinch me’ wine-tasting moments that I will never forget. I can still taste and smell the beauty of this wine. Reminiscing about this magical moment and my visit earlier this year, I reached out to Cameron recently and asked him a few questions about the vineyard and what he has been up to.

**Q: Some of the vines at Elderton are over 100 years old and produce some of the best shiraz and cabernet in the world. How do you prepare for the next 100 years with these vines?**

Looking after these vines is no easy job. It takes a lot of love and attention. Most tasks are done painstakingly by hand, we rework the vines approximately every ten years to promote strong regrowth and we strive not to work the vineyards when it is wet to minimise spreading any trunk diseases.

**Q: I noticed some concrete-style wine barrels on my last visit. How is this project going?**

So far so good, but we can’t wait to experiment more in vintage 2023. The concrete ‘tulips’ that we sourced from



Mark Blake and Cameron Ashmead from Elderton Wines in the Barossa.

Italy seem to give more mid-palate aromatics to our premium red wines, therefore adding a little more complexity.

**Q: With 2022 shaping up to be a great vintage, what should we be looking out for when these wines are released? Are there any similarities to past vintages?**

We are so fortunate in the Barossa that the climate is relatively predictable

– it rains when it’s meant to and is sunny when we want it – making it ‘easy’ to grow grapes for fine wine. That said, however, we do have a little vintage variation from time to time. Luckily in the Barossa we didn’t have the rains that were so prevalent on the east coast and Sydney, but it was cooler than normal, meaning that vintage 2022’s wines will have almost perfect natural acid balance and should age superbly and gracefully.

**Q: Following the last two years of interruptions, what do you and your family have planned for the festive season?**

It has been an interesting two years indeed. This year the extended family are having a home-cooked meal all together at the Elderton cellar door; we will be drinking amazing wine and playing lawn tennis near a swimming pool.

**Q: What’s on your Christmas drinks list?**

This is such a hard question as there are so many wines to choose from and there will be many, many bottles, but some highlights will include some great blanc de blancs bubbles, aged Eden Valley riesling, Tasmanian pinot and importantly some museum releases of Elderton Command shiraz.

**Q: What’s your New Year’s resolution?**

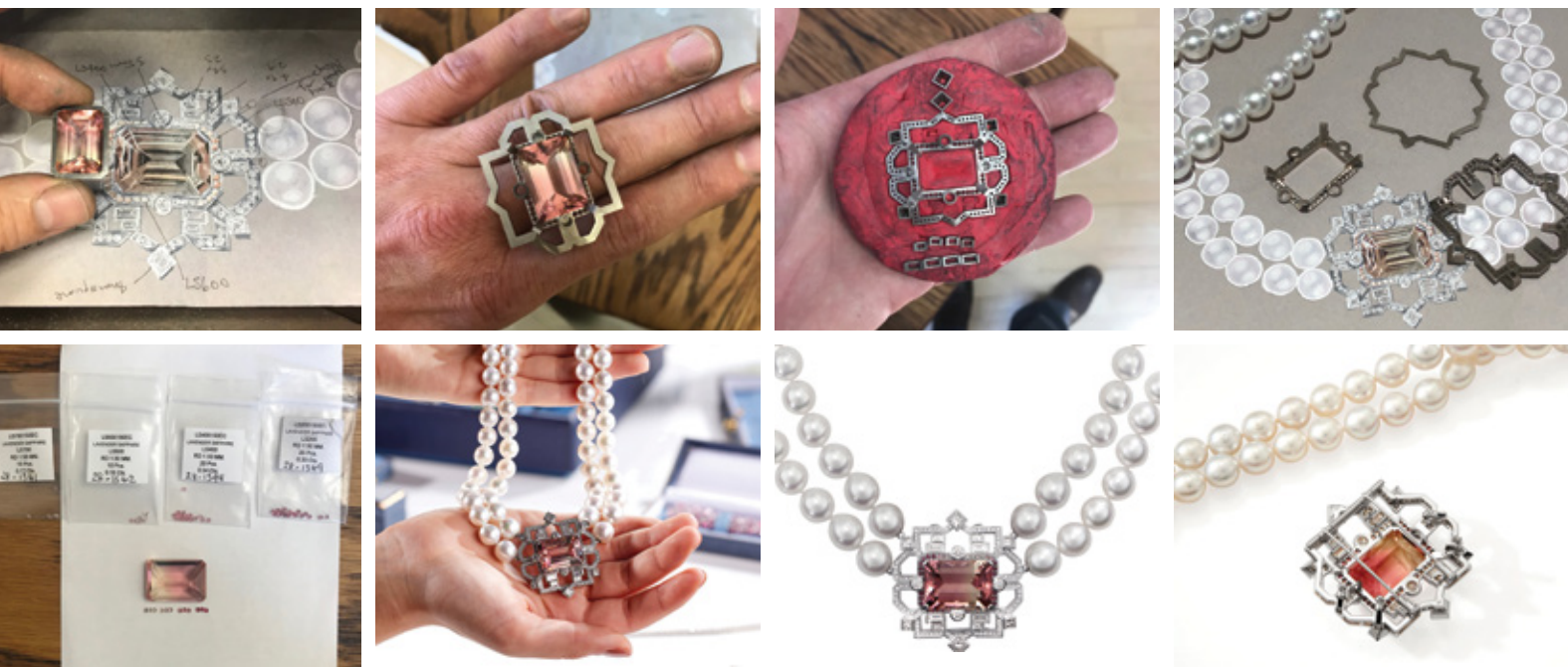
More time with family and more time riding my gravel bike!

And finally, with 2023 just around the corner, here are our top predictions.

- Tequila is having its moment and will soon overtake gin as white spirit of choice.
- It’s the summer of seltzers ahead, we predict they will outsell beer in January.
- The grenache surge will continue.
- We are looking forward to more beautiful Aussie friano to hit our fridges very soon.

From all of us at Moncur Cellars, we wish you and your family a very merry festive season and a happy New Year.

MARK, GERARD, ANDY, JERRY, FINNBAR, DALE AND MARIA





## ASK THE VET

### TRAVELLING WITH PETS

It's almost holiday time! But what to do with the pets?

Our pets are part of the family, so why not take them on holidays with us? A lot of pet-friendly accommodation is available including Airbnb, rental properties and hotels.

When travelling with pets it is a legal requirement to have them restrained in the car. Proper restraints include car harnesses, seatbelt attachments to a harness or collar, or enclosed carriers. The back seat is the safest place as airbags can do serious harm in an accident.

Many pets get sick when travelling, which may be related to either anxiety

or motion sickness. Medication and sometimes training (which involves desensitising dogs to the car so they feel less anxious) can help with these issues, so speak to your vet if carsickness is a problem.

Not all pets will benefit from coming on holidays with us. For some animals the car or straying far from home can be very stressful and anxiety-inducing situations. There are many other options available for those fur kids who can't come with us. Boarding kennels and catteries are great places where they will be loved and well taken care of, especially those dogs who are social and will be able to see and play with other dogs all day long.

For those pets who don't like to leave home (especially cats!) pet-sitters or house-sitters are a great alternative.

Trusted people can be found who can provide various services, from feeding and interacting with your pets daily to keeping your pet at their home or even staying in your home with your pets.

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS



When travelling with pets it is a legal requirement to have them restrained in the vehicle.

Craig Silvey's new novel, *Runt* (\$22.99), with illustrations by Sara Acton, is a heart-warming tale about friendship and bringing out the best in others. Eleven-year-old Annie Shearer lives in the country town of Upson Downs with her best friend, an adopted stray dog called Runt. The two share a special bond. They need to save the farm; they also need to win the Agility Course at Krumpets Dog Show in London. There is a lot going on.

We have a big range of DK encyclopaedias, combining brilliant photography and illustrations with facts and explanations. Our standout favourite this year is *Animal: The Definitive Visual Guide* (\$85.00) – 632 glorious pages and as heavy as a fat-tailed jird – what's that!

We are happy to help find that special book for you.

Thank you for your support this year. Have a great holiday with lots of wonderful reading. Best wishes from Michael, Elizabeth, Penelope, Gordon and Liz (she's an elf).

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP | SPICER STREET  
02 9328 2733

## COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



### MEASURING THE IMPACT

Local government impacts our community in many ways. Working as your local councillor can be all-consuming – from flood management to planning and improving local amenities. To be effective and achieve outcomes, councillors need to be able to cut through and achieve results.

In less than a year I have worked with so many of you to achieve so much. A blocked drain in Ocean Street, causing water to run constantly across Queen Street for years, now fixed. A new tree blister to reduce speed on James Street between Moncur and Victoria Streets, making it safer for pedestrians and beautifying the area, is now on the building works schedule. Due to increased dog ownership there is a growing need for access to parks. I'm proud to have increased dog off-leash areas in three parks in Cooper Ward: Moncur Reserve, upper Cooper Park and Fig Tree Lane Reserve.

### FOOTPATHS AND PARKS

Our footpaths and parks are the most frequent issues raised with me, so I have managed to get additional funding in the budget for footpath upgrades, and more staff on the tools in our parks. I will be monitoring the results from this additional funding in delivering safer, more accessible streets and beautiful parks and bushlands.

Some jobs are never done. Peaker Lane has been a problem for decades, with leaking grease-traps and unsightly rubbish bins scattered around. We can and will do better. Councillor Swan and I met with the QSWWA and senior council staff, resulting in an exciting plan we will be sharing with you shortly (see the article on page 10).

### PLANNING

Sadly, all this is tempered by continuing frustration with the NSW planning laws. The vast majority of my time as a councillor is spent dealing with planning matters, when councillors no longer have a role in decision making. This does not stop me making submissions and representing you at NSW government-dominated planning panels.

We need to stop decisions being made behind closed doors by unelected government appointees. At the recent Local Government NSW conference, I asked both the Labor shadow minister

and the Liberal minister to commit to returning planning powers to elected councillors. In spite of overwhelming support from councillors around NSW, neither would commit to it.

After ten months on the job as your local representative I have worked through much of the backlog of issues raised with me and my election commitments. I'm always keen to find out what you want me to focus on next.

### SPARKLING SUMMER

I look forward to celebrating with you all at the end-of-year events that make our area so special. Queen Street will have a real sparkle this year.

### WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL APP

Please get in touch with me about anything you need help with. The amazing Woollahra Council App is the quickest way to report and get actions.

COUNCILLOR NICOLA GRIEVE | GREENS

0402 434 423

## WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY READING

Let's start with an irresistible book of rhyming text by best-selling author Julia Donaldson. *Colours, Colours Everywhere* (\$29.99) follows a little girl as she paints her own adventure, with a bright blue tree frog as her companion. The story is illustrated by Sharon King-Chai's vibrant, colourful artwork. There are also windows and flaps to explore. It's great fun.



Two local authors deliver adorably mischievous characters. Please don't miss Nicholas Snelling's *Barebum Billy* (\$25.95), illustrated by Glen Le Lievre. Billy is a 'nudey-rudey naked ninny' who enjoys embarrassing his poor parents at any opportunity. Reeta Dhar and Darren Pryce have just published their second *Willow the Wonderer* picture book, *Honey Time* (\$29.95). There is extra enjoyment to be found now in a soft-as-can-be plush toy (\$49.99). You can hug Willow close as you follow the story and explore the amazing pictures.

## THE DENTAL ROOMS

WOOLLAHRA

I'm dreaming of a whiter Christmas!



\$75 off your first appointment for all new patients!

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[reception@dentalrooms.net.au](mailto:reception@dentalrooms.net.au)





*'Tis the season  
to sparkle*



GIFT VOUCHERS &  
EXPERIENCES ALSO AVAILABLE