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PAINT WOOLLAHRA VILLAGE: REPORT AND ALL THE WINNERS INSIDE

> OXFORD STREET CYCLEWAY: LATEST UPDATE

HOLDSWORTH: THE HISTORY OF THE ORGANISATION AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



t's a very busy last three months of the year for the QSWWA and local residents. Congratulations to the more than 70 fantastic artists who entered over 90 paintings in our Paint Woollahra Village competition. This

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd | ABN 98002872433 PO Box 16, Woollahra 1350 www.woollahravillage.com.au Email: admin@qswwa.com.au Instagram @woollahravillage\_qswwa 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, 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.

The OSWWA acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, the Gadigal and Birrabirragal peoples, and pays its respect to elders past, present and emerging.

#### ON OUR COVER:

Artist Gregory Fambart, with his winning painting, Rainbow Woollahra Alley, was awarded first prize in the QSWWA's Paint Woollahra Village Community Art Competition. Photograph by Paul McGuire. Instagram@paulmcguire5970.

was a wonderful community event with large numbers visiting Fellia Melas Gallery to see the exhibition. There is a full account later in this edition but I must use this report to particularly thank our sponsors Victor Churchill and Shark Island Institute, Fellia Melas Gallery for their support in making it all possible, and John Knott who was the driving force in organising the event.

This year's celebrations end with our two regular Christmas events. The Annual Christmas Carols will be held on Tuesday 5 December in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street (see opposite for details). We look forward to seeing you there and continuing a tradition which started back in 1986, 37 years ago.

The QSWWA Christmas Window Display Competition is on again this year with over 40 entrants. Do take the time to have a look at all the entries. 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 the entrants and their locations, and further details are in the article opposite.

We have changed the renewal date for QSWWA membership to I April, so you won't be receiving reminders during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Your 2023 membership covers the extra three months.

We are pleased to see that Woollahra Council is upgrading the pavements along Queen Street and hope this will make them more pedestrian-friendly. Council has also upgraded signage on the Queen Street pedestrian crossings to make motorists more aware of them. The crossing by Holdsworth Street has seen some near misses recently and we hope this will be an effective remedy.

We are disappointed to see a notice posted on Paddington Police Station in Jersey Road saying that it has closed. This was news to council. who weren't informed. We have heard that this is only a temporary measure but fear it may be permanent. We will update readers when we have more information.

We finally received a reply from Transport for NSW to our letter detailing our concerns regarding the Oxford Street Cycleway. While very well written, its underlying message was that they had these issues under control rather than that they needed to try a different approach. We will keep readers updated when the next public consultation is opened.

Finally, congratulations to our new Mayor, Richard Shields, and to the new Deputy Mayor, our Cooper Ward councillor Sarah Swan. We look forward to working with them both to keep enhancing our neighbourhood.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

#### JOIN THE OSWWA AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Oueen Street and West Woollahra Association (QSWWA) has been an active voice for the Woollahra community for 51 years. Formed in 1972 as a forum for local residents and businesses to have a say in the protection and progress of their unique community, the association not only publishes your Village *Voice* four times a year but hosts your much-loved community events including the annual Carols in the Park and Christmas Window Competition. Become a member now! Scan the QR Code to take you to the membership application page, www:woollahravillage.com.au/join-us. on our website



# QSWWA ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS

n a tradition going back 37 years, the QSWWA will hold the Annual Community Christmas Carols in Chiswick Park, Ocean Street, on Tuesday 5 December. Bring your picnics and rugs, and bag a precious spot close to the action. Stalls, including face painting and balloon animals for children, will open at 5.30pm, followed by an official welcome and opening by the mayor at 6pm. Always a star turn, Woollahra Public School Choir will be performing again, and community carol singing will be led by a group of highly talented local singers. The barbecue will be staffed by Chiswick Restaurant to complement your picnics, and refreshments will be available. We always have great support from our local businesses who have all contributed very generously again to our raffle prizes, so be sure to buy plenty of raffle tickets and take home one of our fantastic prize baskets. 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.





13 December.



# **CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION**

n December, the QSWWA is holding its fourth Christmas Window Display Competition for businesses in the area. With over 40 businesses competing, we are looking forward to another great series of displays. Queen Street and Woollahra village always have a special atmosphere, and once again these Christmas window displays will take the festive spirit to another level.

Be sure to 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 lighting up the trees in Queen Street to further enhance the Christmas spirit.

Judging will be on Saturday 9 December, when the QSWWA will also staff a table from 10am to 4pm to register votes for the People's Choice award. Winners will be announced on Wednesday

GILES EDMONDS

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

#### MARIMBA MAGIC

Celestial Celebration, the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra's third concert for the year, was pure magic! A grand marimba took centre stage and was was brought to life by the extraordinary percussionist, David Lockeridge, in a dynamic performance which left the audience enthralled.

The marimba originated in Africa as a folk instrument before making its way to the Americas. Today, the Imperial Grand Marimba (like the one played by David) is an imposing instrument featuring several octaves, and its gleaming timber boards are struck using an array of colourful mallets. Requiring physical dexterity as well as musical prowess, the marimba's warm and engaging sound is reminiscent of faraway places. Played in combination with scintillating orchestration by the WPO, David Lockeridge's performance of Kevin Puts's Marimba Concerto was nothing short of electrifying. He returned for a superb encore featuring one of his own compositions.



Celebrated Australian percussionist David Lockeridge, who works across the music industry worldwide, performing the Marimba Concerto by Kevin Puts.



Concetta Antico, photographed in her studio, has opened a new gallery at 136 Queen Street.

Bookended by the familiar classicists Joseph Haydn and Felix Mendelssohn, under the baton of guest conductor Brad Lucas, this was indeed a concert to remember.

For information on the WPO's final concert for the year, see page 19.

#### COLOUR AND MOVEMENT IN **QUEEN STREET**

Local residents will all be pleased when the new Camilla and Marc store at 124 Queen Street (the former Osana Medical Centre) is completed, although whether it will happen before Christmas is unknown as we go to press. The extensive renovation, effectively gutting and rebuilding the entire premises, has been one of the largest on Queen Street and a significant disruption for pedestrians, with the pavement in front of it closed off. Unfortunately, the Village Voice understands there are no plans to reinstate the cash machine that was there.

In case residents are wondering, Julie McIntosh and the Classic Safari Company, who were upstairs at 124 Queen Street for many years, have moved to a terrace house just up the road at 158 Queen Street, so you don't need to go much further to talk to them.

'Colour Queen' Concetta Antico has opened a gallery, Empyrean, upstairs at 136 Queen Street. Concetta has a gift of extraordinary colour perception, or tetrachromacy. Be prepared for a dazzling experience at her exhibition, titled Otherworldly and billed as 'a night of a hundred million more colour possibilities'.

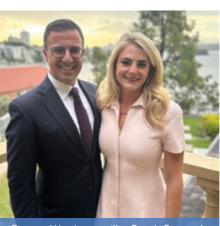
#### FOOTPATH UPGRADE IN **QUEEN STREET**

Following council's allocation of \$300,000 to upgrade the footpaths in Queen Street a few months ago, it's great to see them getting on with it. Trip hazards from uneven surfaces and tree roots lifting the pavement

have been a major complaint and a source of frustration for local residents and business owners, and an ongoing agenda item for the QSWWA's discussions with council. As we go to press, the work is nearing completion, with surfaces levelled, bitumen replaced on the pavement, and a new water-transmitting membrane installed around tree roots along Queen Street from Oxford Street to Ocean Street. The visual impact is much improved, and Queen Street is a lot safer for pedestrians, so no excuses for not doing your Christmas shopping locally. A big thanks to our Cooper Ward councillors for securing the funding in this year's budget.

#### SARAH SWAN APPOINTED DEPUTY MAYOR

Our very own Cooper Ward councillor, Sarah Swan, has been appointed Deputy Mayor of Woollahra. Sarah, who was elected to council in 2021 as the Liberal Party candidate, will work alongside new Mayor Richard Shields. The appointments follow the resignation of Mayor Susan Wynne after four years in the role.



new Deputy Mayor of Woollahra, picture here with new Mayor Richard Shields.

Sarah is a passionate advocate for her local area. Preserving its unique heritage is high on her list of priorities, together with revitalising community spaces.

'I'm so humbled and honoured to accept my appointment as Deputy Mayor,' Sarah said. 'Serving the community has been instilled in me since I was a young girl, particularly by my grandmother, former mayor of Paarl, South Africa. I'm looking forward to continuing this work alongside my fellow councillors.'



The recent footpath upgrades in Queen Street have improved the visual impact as well as pedestrian safety

Cooper Ward councillor Sarah Swan, the

#### JOIN THE WOOLLTONES DAYTIME CHOIR

Following a 'standing room only' midyear concert, the popular Woolltones daytime choir, led by Music Director Tanya Christensen, is rolling out the welcome mat to new members with a special offer of a free first visit.

Singing in a choir is a great experience that quickly becomes a highlight of your week. As well as joining a wonderful community of people and making new friends, singing makes you feel great and can also produce genuine health benefits.

Unique in the eastern suburbs as a daytime choir, the Woolltones, sponsored by Woollahra and Waverley Councils, is ideal for anyone who wants to sing, including seniors, retirees and part-time workers. The choir meets for two hours (12.45-2.45pm) on Thursdays during school terms and welcomes singers of all abilities, from beginners to divas and bathroom baritones. You can join at any time and there are no auditions.

A special 'free first visit' offer for new members allows you to try before paying the term fee, which includes expert tuition, a wide and engaging repertoire, music scores and learning tracks, afternoon tea, plus loads of fun! If you join midterm the fee is reduced pro rata.

For more information, contact thewoolltones@gmail.com.

#### WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL TREE?

One of the special things about our area is the abundance of beautiful trees. Some of them have been here for hundreds of years.

Council are updating their Significant Tree Register and want to know which trees in our local area should be added to acknowledge their heritage value and protect them into the future. Learn more and nominate a tree by 18 February 2024.

Visit yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/ trees.

# OXFORD STREET CYCLEWAY: COMMUNITY ACTION GETTING RESULTS

AS REPORTED IN THE *VILLAGE VOICE* IN AUGUST, IT CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE QSWWA COMMITTEE EARLY IN 2023 THAT TRANSPORT FOR NSW (TFNSW) WAS DEVELOPING A PLAN TO BUILD A DEDICATED CYCLEWAY ALONG OXFORD STREET AND IN THE PROCESS REMOVE TWO LANES OF TRAFFIC, PREVENT A NUMBER OF RIGHT-HAND TURNS AND CHANGE BUS STOPS. A NOTIONAL 'COMMUNITY CONSULTATION' PROCESS WAS UNDERTAKEN – THE ONLY ISSUE BEING THAT ALMOST NO ONE IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES KNEW ABOUT IT.

S wift action by the QSWWA, the Paddington Society and the Paddington Chamber of Commerce resulted in an informal Oxford Street Cycleway Group. This community group engaged the state minister, local federal representatives and councillors and the media about TfNSW's 'stealth approach' to this proposal.

Community consultation was then extended, so we took action through a grassroots campaign under the tagline *Keep your lane*.

In August 2023 a community event was held to secure objection letters, over 400 of which were then formally sent to the minister, objecting on various grounds. Media attention continues, highlighting community concerns about the damage the proposed cycleway will cause to our community.

In October the Oxford Street Cycleway Group met with representatives of TfNSW upon direction of the Minister for Transport. Key information shared at this meeting was that:

- no alternative modelling has been or will be undertaken to look at Moore Park Road, or any other route;
- the proposed cycleway design has never been implemented on a designated arterial road, such as Oxford Street;
- cycle numbers quoted by other sources are 'elastic' at best;



Queen Street has a unique village vibe that will be DESTROYED by traffic banking up and down Queen Street because of complex Paddington gate intersection

SCAN THE QR CODE AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT • a lower speed limit (40km) would reduce the severity of injury in the event of collisions between cyclists and pedestrians, but that such accidents were to be expected;

• there are several more steps to be implemented, and community consultation will be undertaken.

Thanks to swift and coordinated community action, residents and business owners in and around Queen Street and West Woollahra (and Paddington) have made their voices heard.

JAQUI LANE



Overview of proposed traffic changes to the Paddington Gates intersection (plan courtesy TfNSW).

# How secure is your retirement plan?



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You want to be sure you're free to spend time with your grandkids or sail the harbour. More importantly, you want to be sure you can meet the rising cost of living, and that your money will last as long as you do. With smart investments, you can secure your financial future and peace of mind.

The thing is, setting up a strong retirement portfolio isn't easy. And you're still working hard every day, so where would you even find the time?

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## MEET THE CHEF: MARCELLO FARIOLI, I MACCHERONI

This little corner restaurant in Woollahra seems to embody everything we love about Italy and Italian food. The exterior of the slightly quirky two-storey building at the end of Jersey Road is painted in smart dark grey with a white trim. Black-and-white striped awnings shade pavement tables set beside window boxes of herbs. Simple but sophisticated interior decor features colourful food paintings on white walls, and comfortable seating upstairs and down. Expect a warm welcome from the manager and staff, who are mostly of Italian background.

Executive Chef Marcello Farioli was born in Modena, a city in the northern province of Emilia-Romagna famous for its rich culinary history, balsamic vinegar and serious sports cars. He began working in hospitality at a variety of restaurants, including one with a Michelin star while he was at university. Marcello moved to Australia in 2008 and worked in some of the most celebrated Italian restaurants in Sydney, such as Otto in Woolloomooloo, Pendolino and Fratelli Paradiso. He was head chef at 10 William in Paddington.

Five years ago he became chef-owner of I Maccheroni, with a vision to create an authentic Italian osteria with a focus on on filled pasta dishes.

The chefs in his team come from Naples, Bologna and other parts of Italy. 'They bring a wealth of experience,' says Marcello.

The pasta, bread and everything else on the enticing menu are made in-house. Of course, it's not all pasta and there are other main dishes and seasonal favourites. As well as opening every day for lunch and dinner (except Sunday dinner), I Maccheroni offers popular cooking classes on Saturdays and a successful catering business that takes care of every detail such as staff and table settings.

CAROLYN LOCKHART





#### MALTAGLIATI WITH MUSSELS

PASTA: 500g tipo 1 flour 500g semolina 10g salt 400ml water 6 tablespoons oil 20g rocket, chopped 20g parsley, chopped

Mix all together except the herbs – add them at the end. Rest the pasta for about 1 hour, then roll out to 1mm thickness and cut into irregular diamond shapes of about 3cm x 3cm.

#### MUSSEL SAUCE:

1kg fresh mussels, cleaned and debearded
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 long red chilli, finely chopped
1 glass dry white wine
2 punnets cherry tomatoes, halved
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
Extra-virgin olive oil

Ensure the mussels are clean, removing any beards or debris. Discard any mussels that are open or cracked, as they may be bad.

In a large, deep skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and chilli and sauté for a minute or until fragrant but not browned.

Pour in the white wine and bring to a simmer.

Add the mussels to the skillet and cover with a lid. Cook for about 5–7 minutes, or until the mussels have opened. Discard any that remain closed. (Remember, the mussels will release some saltiness, so be cautious about adding salt later.)

Once the mussels are cooked, remove the top shells, leaving them on the half-shell, and return to the skillet.

#### COOK THE MALTAGLIATI:

Cook the pasta in salted boiling water for 1 minute, then remove and add to the mussels. Add the cherry tomatoes to the skillet and cook for about 5 minutes until they start to soften and release their juices. Sprinkle over the parsley and drizzle with extra-virgin olive oil.

Serve with some crusty bread to soak up the delicious sauce!



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# PAINT WOOLLAHRA VILLAGE COMPETITION

ALL THAT IS BEST LOVED ABOUT OUR VILLAGE OF WOOLLAHRA WAS CAPTURED IN A SHOWCASE OF VIBRANT ARTWORKS SUBMITTED TO THE QSWWA'S 2023 COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION. THE WORKS WERE EXHIBITED AT THE FELLIA MELAS GALLERY IN MONCUR STREET. EVENT ORGANISER JOHN KNOTT REPORTS ON THE EVENT AND WE TALK TO THE WINNING ARTIST, GREGORY FAMBART.

hree years had elapsed since our last OSWWA painting competition, Paint Queen Street, in 2020. After the long years of Covid and lockdowns the OSWWA committee decided to create a stimulating event to bring the community together again. The aim was to include as many in the community as possible, so we focused on a painting competition that had no boundaries, age groups or limitations other than the size of the works. Posters were printed and exhibited in local shop windows. The event was promoted on social media. Emails were sent to previous event participants and association members, and promotional articles were placed in the Village Voice.

The result was over 100 registrations from mainly

local artists but several from as far away as the Southern Highlands and even Brisbane. The Fellia Melas Gallery on the corner of Wallis and Moncur Streets generously offered to be the exhibition venue. Two community-minded businesses put up their hands to be financial sponsors of the event: Victor Churchill, the major sponsor, and the Shark Island Institute.

All the artworks were delivered to the Fellia Melas Gallery on 6 and 7 October and hanging was completed the following day.

Judging took place on Monday 10 October. The two judges, Rebecca Puharich, Creative Director with the Victor Churchill Group, and Steven Alderton, Director and CEO of the National Art School in Darlinghurst, spent much time in their deliberations, each having their own perspective on the wide range of artistic styles, talents and subjects submitted.

#### THE PRIZE-WINNERS

**First prize:** \$2500 and certificate, Gregory Fambart, *Rainbow Woollahra Alley*, acrylic on canvas.

**Second prize:** \$1000 and certificate, Sally West, *Moncur Street*, oil on canvas.

**Third prize:** \$500 and certificate, Nick Beckhurst, *Jersey Road Sunset's Fine*, oil on canvas.

**Highly commended:** certificate, Sally Aurisch, *Yena*, *Queen Street Flower Shop*, oil on canvas.

**Highly commended:** certificate, Viraj Tandon (aged 11), *A Queen's Boulevarde*, acrylic on canvas.



The winners were announced at a private opening that night at the gallery and were awarded a framed certificate as well as their cash prizes. Some 70 artists attended, together with special guests including former Mayor Susan Wynne, Senator Andrew Bragg and Councillor Nicola Grieve. The opening night was followed by two full days of public openings with a drinks evening on the Tuesday which was attended by over 140 people. The caterer for the event was the Phoenix Hotel. Altogether more than

Altogether more than 400 people attended the exhibition over the three days and everyone enjoyed the event enormously. The QSWWA would like

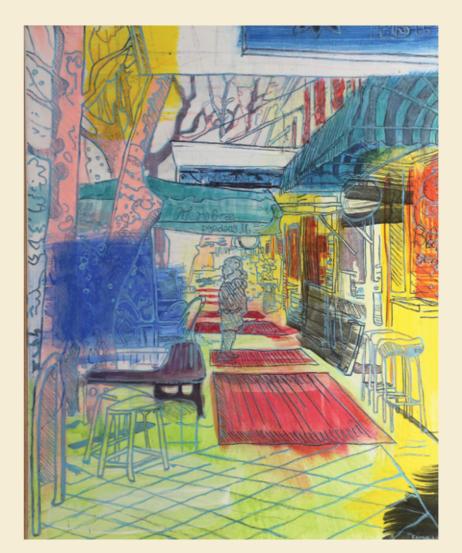
to thank all the wonderful artists ranging in age from five to 93 years old who

submitted works to the Paint Our Village competition. The display included a diverse range of subjects from the people of the area, their pets, and the architecture and landscape around Woollahra.

Our thanks too to the judges for their time and expertise and to the sponsors for their input. We could not have done it without you. Finally, a big thank you to Paul McGuire for photographing the event.

I need to say a very big personal thank you to Fellia and Helen from the Fellia Melas Gallery for being such an important part of this year's exhibition. We spent a total of eight days collecting the artworks, hanging, labelling, dismantling, and finalising the sales and collections. At the close of the exhibition, the gallery hung their new combined Ray Crooke and Robert Dickerson exhibition.







Second prize was awarded to Sally West for Moncur Street.

#### THE WINNING ARTIST, GREGORY FAMBART, SPOKE TO THE VILLAGE VOICE

I'm a contemporary painter in New Caledonia and now in Australia too, I guess. I live near Woollahra, in Bondi.

I chose between three art competitions. This one suited me most – convenient because it is close to my place and compatible because I love the subject – maybe it's because I was born in this suburb.

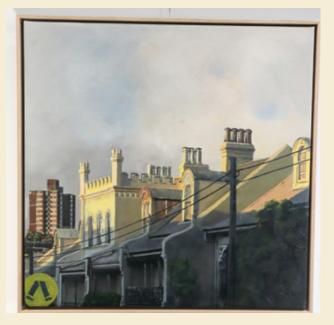
This painting emerged because I am in search of colour harmonies. And architecture. This was the right place to do this painting.

One funny story about the painting. I almost failed because my first painting was the Harbour Bridge. Then two weeks before the exhibition John told me the subject was only in the Woollahra suburb!

I'm here to do my Australian residency to live here. Even if I am Australian already, I am also French.

GREGORY FAMBART

First prize was awarded to Gregory Fambart for *Rainbow Woollahra Alley*.



Third prize was awarded to Nick Beckhurst for Jersey Road Sunset's Fine.



Highly commended certificates were awarded to Sally Aurisch for Yena, Queen Street Flower Shop and Viraj Tandon for A Queen's Boulevarde.



This year's QSWWA Paint Woollahra Village Community Art Competition concluded with the awarding of prizes and exhibition opening at the Fellia Melas Gallery in Moncur Street. The event was attended by artists and special guests including the judges, Rebecca Puharich and Steven Alderton, together with former Mayor Susan Wynne, Senator Andrew Bragg and Councillor Nicola Grieve.







Brett Whiteley Silver Eye, 1988 colour screenprint, ed: 75 77x73cm

Available works by: B. Whiteley, M Woodward, McLean Edwards, E. McLeod, J. Gleeson, S. Dunlop, D. Boyd, R. Dickerson, R. Crooke, G. Gittoes, W. Coleman, J. Coburn, S. Nolan, J. Olsen, C. Canning, C. Campbell, V. Rubin, P. Griffith, T. Irving, S. Paxton, S. West, M. Winch, M. Perceval, J. Bezzina, and many others.



#### Fellia Melas Gallery

2 Moncur Street Woollahra, NSW 2025 Ph: 02 93635616 E: art@fmelasgallery.com.au W: www.fmelasgallery.com.au Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday Monday by appointment only.



132 QUEEN STREET, WOOLLAHRA

### VALE HOLLY KERR FORSYTH: WOOLLAHRA FAREWELLS A CELEBRATED PERSONALITY

HOLLY KERR FORSYTH WAS RENOWNED FOR HER STYLE, HER VISION AND HER TIRELESS ENERGY. A WRITER, A CAMPAIGNER, A BUSINESSWOMAN AND A WIFE AND MOTHER, HER PASSION FOR FOOD, GARDENING, PHOTOGRAPHY, TRAVEL AND OF COURSE CHAMPAGNE WAS LIFELONG. SHE DIED IN AUGUST.

olly Margaret Kerr was born at Surfers Paradise on 26 November 1953, the third of four daughters. Her parents were living in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where her English-born father worked as an executive for a UK tea company. After he lost his job in 1956 following the nationalisation of Sri Lankan industry, the family left for Australia, settling in Southport, Queensland.

Holly was educated at St Hilda's Southport and Brisbane Girls Grammar, before studying Japanese for her BA at the University of Queensland. Her first job was as a journalist with the Defence Department in Canberra and two years later she set off overseas to further her language studies.

She returned to Sydney in 1978

and joined Charles Baker Communications where she met her first husband, Sandy Pearce. Eventually, she launched her own PR agency, Holly Kerr and Associates, not long before the birth of her first child, Olivia.

Her clients included a number of prestigious brands, among them the French champagne company, Veuve Clicquot. This in turn led to her long association with the world of champagne, becoming director of the Champagne Information Centre in 1980, a promotional role which continued for 22 years.

Holly was also a voice for children's charities, including the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation, the Child Abuse Prevention Service, and the Starlight Children's Foundation. For almost ten years she conducted the PR campaign for Red Nose Day in aid of research into SIDS (something she sadly had personal experience of, having lost her infant son William in 1986).



The late Holly Kerr Forsyth, businesswoman, author, photographer, and passionate gardene and former resident of Woollahra.

However, it is Holly's love of gardening for which she may be most remembered. Gardening became her passion. She went to study horticulture in 1992, wrote her first gardening book, The Gardening Lover's Guide to Australia and quickly became established as one of Australia's most respected gardening writers. She created her own exquisite garden at Rowandale in the Southern Highlands during the 1990s, gave lectures and talks, led gardening tours to exotic gardens around the world and continued to write about gardens.

As gardening columnist for the *Weekend Australian* for almost 20 years, Holly penned some 780 columns covering a wide array of topics, from landscaping and practical horticultural advice to environmental issues. As well as

writing a novel, she was the author of ten books on gardening, most of which were not only written but photographed by her. Among them, *Remembered Gardens: Eight Women and Their Visions of an Australian Landscape*, became a bestseller, and *The Constant Gardener: A Botanical Bible* was known as her trademark publication. She was awarded a PhD in History from the University of NSW in 2004.

Holly was diagnosed with cancer in March 2012 and throughout the gruelling years of treatment and medical care that followed until her death in August, she kept going with her typical fierce determination. During this time, she began a blog to help others suffering from cancer and that blog is set to become her final book, *It's Not All Wine and Roses: A Guide to Survival.* 

Holly is survived by her husband, Ross Forsyth, whom she married in 1989, and her four children, daughter Olivia, twins Camilla and Angus, son Tom, and three grandchildren.

CHRISTINE WHISTON (WITH THANKS TO HOLLY'S FAMILY)

# Familiar Faces Take the Lead

Randall Kemp & Clay Brodie, Directors of Ray White Woollahra | Paddington are excited to welcome Ray White Elizabeth Bay | Potts Point to the team.

If you want to go further go together. Same team, same exceptional service. Stronger as one.

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raywhitewp.com.au



Ray White Elizabeth Bay | Potts Point 40 Macleay Street, Potts Point 02 9331 9600

raywhiteelizabethbay.com.au

## **HOLDSWORTH: A HISTORY FROM CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND TO COMMUNITY STALWART**

SINCE THE 1940S. HOLDSWORTH HAS BEEN PROVIDING COMMITMENT AND CARE TO THE PEOPLE OF WOOLLAHRA. EVOLVING FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND TO ITS CURRENT ROLE AS A PROVIDER OF VITAL SERVICES ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY.

The Holdsworth Community Centre is now known more simply as Holdsworth and encompasses both the original Holdsworth Centre at 64 Holdsworth Street and the Gaden Community Centre at 334 Queen Street.

Holdsworth has its origins in 1939 when the NSW Premier, Alexander Mair, was shocked to discover the

density levels of school-aged children living in urban Sydney: between 1200 and 2400 children per square mile in Woollahra, and 3000 to 4200 per square mile in neighbouring Paddington. Mair immediately ordered the establishment of playgrounds, to be supervised by trained physical education staff from the Department of Education. The emphasis was on outdoor activity and physical recreation.

That same year Woollahra Council reclaimed land from a swamp at the upper reaches of the creek that flowed into Rushcutters Bay, for public recreation and a children's playground. The playground was officially opened by Premier Mair on 29 November 1940.

Improvements to the Holdsworth Street playground and the adjoining area were made over the ensuing years. In 1963, council voted to acquire a series

of privately owned properties in Morrell and Spicer Streets to extend the Moncur Street Reserve from its Moncur Street frontage to the boundary of the supervised playground, increasing the open space provision of the environs. This acquisition program was completed in 1972.

Despite incremental improvements, the model established at Holdsworth Street in the early post-war period did not keep pace with social change. Demand for after-

school care was taken up by Gillian Fisher and Helen Young, two Woollahra residents with connections to the local public school, then known as Woollahra Demonstration School.

Writing in response to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 13 July 1972, headlined 'An open door for latchkey children', Fisher (signing as the President of the Infants

> Mothers Club of Woollahra Demonstration School) sought to 'put this problem in the Woollahra-Paddington area into perspective against the lack of community effort to deal with it.' The letter went on to state:

*Far from providing a reliable* 'open door', the Holdsworth Street playground is almost totally unsuited in its present form to provide adequate care for the children of working parents. Plans have been approved to extend this playground, and many will hope that something progressive and imaginative will eventuate ... Up to one third of all state primary school children have only one parent at home and there are very few mothers not employed at least part-time. Therefore, some very well-informed and far-sighted planning is needed to provide for this increasing but neglected section of the community.

Both Gillian Fisher and Helen Young went on to create a new model of after-school care at Holdsworth Street. A Holdsworth Street Playground Committee was formed in 1973 and submitted a detailed report on the playground to Woollahra Council, successfully proposing that a community committee operate a pilot scheme at the venue over the 1973–74 summer holidays, as a trial.

The success of this initiative, and clear demonstration of

the demand for care provisions out of school hours, was key to the eventual management model and community-shaped resource which was created from the former supervised playground.

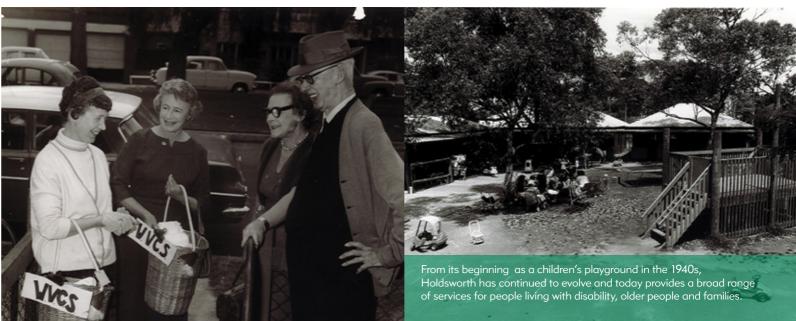
During the pilot the care, control and management of the playground, associated buildings and facilities was temporarily vested in the community committee – made up

of Gillian Fisher, Helen Young, Terrence Dorrough, Kevin Ryan and Annette Dupree. The committee also took responsibility for the employment and supervision of the necessary staff, the provision of food, and the maintenance of the venue.

In February 1974 council decided to extend the pilot management scheme until the end of May, to include the May school holidays. Then, on 4 April 1974, council formally vested the 'care, control and management' of the playground in a management committee of a citizens organisation to be known as the Woollahra Children's and Community Association (WC&CA).

**'FOR OVER 75 YEARS,** HOLDSWORTH'S VALUES HAVE **REMAINED THE SAME – TO MEET** THE NEEDS OF THOSE MOST **VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.** WE HAVE BEEN PART OF THE FABRIC OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS SINCE THE 1940S. TODAY, WE'VE **EXPANDED TO PROVIDE A BROAD RANGE OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE** LIVING WITH DISABILITY, OLDER **PEOPLE, AND FAMILIES.'** 

The draft constitution of the WC&CA was outlined by the committee and adopted by council on 8 April 1974. Under these terms, the management committee of the WC&CA would include a nominee from Woollahra Council, the east Sydney Rotary Club, the playgroups using the facility, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, the Paddington Society, and 'any other representative of a





Volunteers, circa 1960s. This has always been one of the most important services offered by Holdsworth.

local institution or organisation which the management committee decides to invite.'

Building and landscaping works at the playground were undertaken in 1974 and by the close of 1975 all arrangements were in place for the financing and construction of a new library and craft rooms, and improvements to existing buildings. Additional landscaping

works were undertaken, and installation of new playground equipment was finalised by mid-1976, with an official opening held in August of that year.

In 1977 funds were allocated towards establishing an adult program to be run from the facility, this being the genesis of the Holdsworth 'neighbourhood centre' concept. This included providing support for families and housebound older residents.

Currently Holdsworth provides a range of services across Healthy Ageing, Disability Support, Families and Young People. It also partners with a range of organisations, including Woollahra Council, to deliver services such as the Wellness

JASON MALONE, CEO HOLDSWORTH

Hub, Holdsworth Connect and Dementia Support. Note: much of the historical information has been sourced from an article by Jane Britten, Local History Librarian, Holdsworth Street Community Facility: From Supervised Playground to Neighbourhood Centre, 1939–1982 (August 2020).

JAQUI LANE

# A MIRACLE OF NATURE, 17 YEARS IN THE MAKING: **INTRODUCING ILUKA BY MATTHEW ELY**

familiar face on Queen Street, Acclaimed ieweller Matthew Ely has just launched his rarest and arguably most spectacular piece to date (although there'd be some competition!).

Meet Iluka – a miracle of nature, featuring one of the largest and longest known strands of keshi pearls in existence.

This remarkable necklace has been in the works for 17 years. The first 13 of those were spent painstakingly sourcing a collection of 42 keshi pearls, each one measuring 14.33mm to 19.43mm.

Gifts of the ocean, these pearls were the inspiration for Iluka, a name derived from an Aboriginal word meaning 'near the sea'.

'While a round South Sea pearl is a natural miracle, a keshi is significantly rarer,' says Matthew. 'These baroque gems are completely solid and made of pure nacre. They're often referred to as "nature's happy accidents". Keshis will generally be 2-8mm on average. Each of the pearls in Iluka



is at least double that size. To source even one of those is remarkable. But 42? Each one the perfect matching colour, shape and tone for a strand? That's a once in lifetime.'

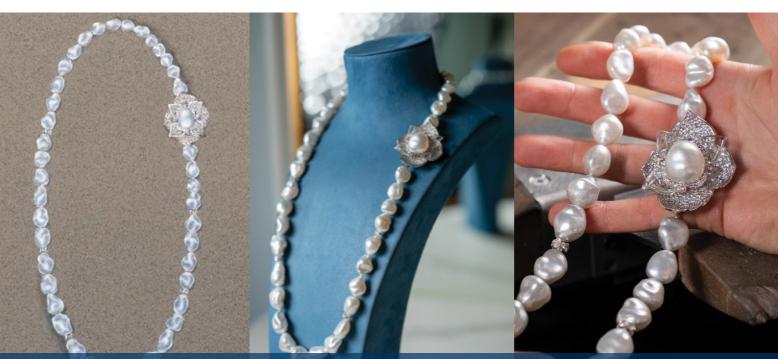
And so, over a four-year design process, Iluka was brought to life.

A detachable brooch was handcrafted by Matthew, inspired by Australia's stunning landscapes and the aquatic lotus flower. This brooch is set with a single baroque keshi pearl, measuring 19.43mm, encased in four petal clusters comprising 144 Argyle pink diamonds, 534 white diamonds, and hand-carved A-grade

crystal quartz, sourced from the White Rock Quarry in South Australia's Horsnell Gully.

'These hand-carved rock crystal petals allow for transparency and magnification of the diamonds beneath,' says Matthew. 'It's a really interesting and unique dimension change.'

The Argyle pink diamonds were sourced directly from Rio Tinto's Argyle mine in Western Australia, immediately



Left to right: original artwork for Iluka; Iluka by Matthew Ely; handcrafted South Sea pearl, Argyle pink and white diamond lotus flower brooch from Iluka.

prior to its closure in November 2020. In operation for 27 years, this mine was responsible for 90 per cent of the world's pink diamond supply. With that supply having now ceased, the exclusivity of pink diamonds has intensified and demand has heightened, with collectors recognising the long-term value of these precious gemstones.

The final lotus flower brooch is fully detachable from its keshi pearl strand, resulting in a piece that can be worn in three different ways – as a pearl necklace, a diamond lotus brooch, or the full pendant-pearl ensemble.

According to Matthew, 'I needed to do the keshis justice; to create something that was fitting to how incredibly rare these pearls are. This strand is one of a kind; there won't be anything else that comes close.'

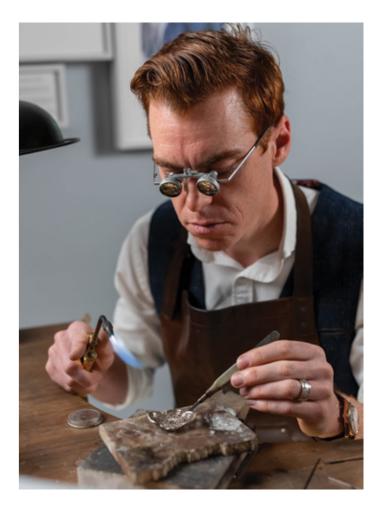
Iluka is available for private viewings at the Matthew Ely Jewellery boutique in Woollahra.

#### ILUKA BY MATTHEW ELY

Crafted entirely by hand over more than 700 hours, this remarkable piece features:

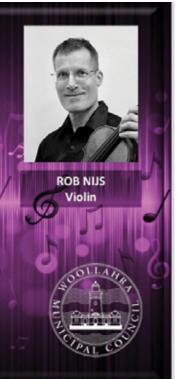
- 42 keshi pearls from Broome (one of the longest, largest strands in the world)
- 144 Argyle pink diamonds (3.91ct) from the East Kimberley
- Four hand-carved rock crystal 'petals' from White Rock Quarry in South Australia
- 534 white diamonds (15.53ct).





- La Folia Variations Serenade to Music Symphony 1
- Violin Conductor
- 2 December 2023 5:30pm 3 December 2023 2:30pm
- Corners Forth & Ocean Streets Woollahra

www.wpo.org.au



# **MONCUR CELLARS: NOEL**

s we bid farewell Ato 2023, Moncur Cellars is gearing up for a jam-packed few months.

This past year has been one to remember. highlighted by the esteemed presence of two renowned international winery owners at our dinner tastings. We were honoured to host Antoine Roland-Billecarte from Champagne and Pierre Fabre from Mont-Redon Chateauneuf du Pape. The grand finale

of our 2023 dinner tastings featured Bruce Dukes from Domaine Naturaliste, Margaret River, delivering an unforgettable evening filled with camaraderie and enjoyment. As we begin planning for 2024, we look forward to sharing more delightful moments and hosting exceptional events with you.

To add sparkle to your summer, we've unveiled a special promotion available until December. Grab two bottles of Pizzini for just \$40 (originally \$25 each) and be in with a chance to win 12 bottles of assorted Pizzini wines every month through the summer (December, January and February).

In celebration of milestones, Bistro Moncur and the Olsen Gallery, each marking 30 years, are uniting on 29 November for an extraordinary evening of French cuisine and artistic brilliance. This one-of-a-kind experience, hosted at Bistro Moncur, will feature Olsen Gallery art, an engaging artist talk with Tim Olsen and Andy Taylor, a Bollinger champagne reception, and a sumptuous three-course shared French feast crafted by our head chef, Tom Deadman. Secure vour tickets now at www.bistromoncur.com.au/events.

As active members of the Woollahra community, we're excited to present the inaugural Woollahra Village Christmas Fair on 30 November. This festive evening promises lively shopping with exclusive deals for one night only, Christmas cocktails, and live music. Over 20 beloved local businesses will participate, including Moncur Cellars, Bistro Moncur, Simon Johnson, Victor Churchill, Summers Florist, Woollahra Bookstore, Dogs in Town and many more. Find out more here: www.woollahrahotel.com.au/whats-on/ christmas-fair.



The Moncur Cellars team extends warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we indulge in the holiday spirit, here's how our team members will be treating themselves on Christmas Day.

- Mark: Pietro Caciorgna Etna Bianco with sashimi.
- Ray: Tyrrells Vat 1
- semillon with oysters. • Alem: Boll & Cie Blanc de Blancs champagne with caviar.
- Finbarr: Casamigos margaritas with BBQ prawns.
- Andy: Joseph sparkling red with lots of ham.

May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and exceptional wine pairings. Cheers to a wonderful year ahead! MONCUR CELLARS TEAM CELLARS@WOOLLAHRAHOTEL.COM.AU



# FIGHTING TO SAVE OUR PRECIOUS BIRDS

THE FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH, ALLEGRA SPENDER, JOINED A GROUP OF CONSERVATIONISTS IN CENTENNIAL PARK FOR A SPRING BIRD WALK, ORGANISED BY BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA'S SOUTHERN NSW CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBER, CATHY GOSWELL

**D** irds constitute the largest D proportion of threatened species in most areas across Australia and an alarming one-sixth of our birds are at risk of extinction. According to BirdLife Australia, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is failing nature, particularly our birds.

Birds are like a barometer of the state of nature and if their habitat continues to decline due to climate change, land clearing, logging and development, so too will they.

Centennial Park in the heart of Woollahra and the surrounding eastern suburbs is a haven for myriad species including waterbirds, raucous parrots,

pender joined conservationists for a spring bird walk in Centennial Part organised by BirdLife Australia.

pigeons and doves and of course the fabulous powerful owl and tawny frogmouth. Cathy Goswell led the bird walk on a tour of the duckponds area where an array of waterbirds abounds.



# Plan ahead for a fun and safe New Year's Eve

For information on New Year's Eve fireworks vantage points, local road closures and traffic management information, visit: woollahra.nsw.gov.au/nye





ocal federal member Allegra

BirdLife Australia is currently lobbying for robust new rules to set a new standard for a consistent national approach and stronger laws for nature. Allegra Spender is working with the Minister for the Environment, Tania Plibersek, and is committed to advocating for conservationists in an effort to finalise this important legislation.

'Politicians are not very brave,' says Allegra. 'They react to what the community is concerned about. A personal touch from a constituent has more impact than many anonymous voices.' BirdLife Australia, the national bird conservation charity, is fighting to

save birds and the natural systems on which they depend. Contact actforbirds@birdlife.org.au for more information. CHRISTINE WHISTON

#### 20 December 2023–31 January 2024

We have so many fun events happening during the Summer school break and great summer reading options available online. Download our eBooks, efilms, eMusic, eMagazines and more!

Scan for more info woollahra.nsw.gov.au/library



#### **ASK THE VET**

#### COOL STRATEGIES FOR HOT DOGS

Summer is just around the corner, and with this year set to be a hot one it will be important to protect our furry friends against the heat.

For non-shedding breeds like poodles, it may be time to get their hair cut a little shorter to help combat the heat. Brushing thoroughly or getting their coat stripped may help to protect other dogs against the heat and is preferable to shaving because the coat acts as insulation against the heat as well as the cold. For those with pink skin on their nose, ears or belly, a dogspecific sunscreen is recommended as these areas are prone to skin cancers.

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

### LOCAL WRITERS STAR THIS SUMMER

This summer selection of new books represents a wonderful mixture of local talent. Take your pick from literary fiction, exquisite travel photography, and children's books from brand new and established authors.

Michael Fitzgerald's third novel, *Late*, is set in 1980s Sydney. It is the story of an unlikely friendship between Zelda Zonk, an ageing American actress, and Daniel, a young man house-sitting in a neighbouring During hot days it is best to avoid walking in the middle of the day. This is especially important for brachycephalic (or flat-faced) dogs or those with a heart condition as they can easily overheat, causing stress on their body with severe effects such as collapsing or fainting. Dogs can also get burns on their footpads if the ground they walk on is too hot, so before walking on hot days test the pavement with your own hand – if it is too hot for you it will be too hot for them!

A dog must never be left in a parked car, even in the shade with the windows down, as the temperature will quickly become dangerously high.

Swimming can be a great alternative to walking on hot days. It is vital that pets have constant

apartment. Together they form an unexpected but close bond as they go walking, prepare dinner for Shabbat, and talk about their lives. A lyrical novel about art and friendship.

One Hundred Beaches: Sydney by Vincent Rommelaere and Amanda Woods is a sumptuous photographic guide to 100 incredible beaches dotted around our beautiful harbour city. This is the perfect coffee-table book for locals and tourists alike.

Charlotte Dobson's first book, *Freddy Teddy's Alphabet Book*, is the perfect choice for toddlers learning the alphabet. Her bright, gorgeous illustrations accompany everyday but TAR

access to clean, cool water and plenty

of shade, or keep them inside under

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS

airconditioning if they are more

sensitive to the heat.

evenings are best.

quirky words like nippers, thongs and zinc. A is for Absolutely Fantastic!

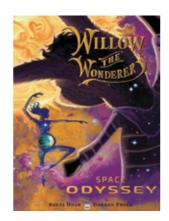
Walking your dog during the middle of the

day should be avoided - early morning and

Willow the Wonderer: Space Odyssey is the third in Reeta Dhar and Darren Pryce's enchanting picture book series, written in rhyming verse, about one donkey's search for happiness. Beamed into space, Willow embarks on a journey of cosmic exploration and personal wisdom. The brilliant illustrations contain a hidden surprise on every page.

For further help with your reading selections please pick up a copy of our *Summer Reads*.

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



#### **COUNCILLOR'S CORNER**



West Woollahra will experience a massive increase in density with the completion of the Centennial Collection in Nelson Street, Bondi Junction (73 two- to four-bedroom apartments) and the Woollahra Collection in James Street, Woollahra (14 two- to three-bedroom apartments) Collectively these developments will bring over 150 new car spaces to the area. The downside of more cars is that our already congested streets will become even busier. The upside is that with so many new residents on our doorstep, local restaurants and businesses can plan for a boost. West Woollahra is the best positioned area in the municipality to access public transport and we can get a head start on utilising all available routes to avoid traffic and parking stress. Here are some suggested routes with eating destinations that may be of interest.

#### BUS STOPS TO FOOD STOPS

The 389 to Blue Eye Dragon, 37 Pyrmont Street, Pyrmont. About 30 minutes out from Woollahra, disembark at John Street Square, Harris Street and walk 160 metres (two minutes) to classic Taiwanese curries, stir-fries and dumplings in a revamped redbrick church hall. Check the TfNSW timetable but the 389 usually runs every ten minutes. Check return times too as the bus leaves every 30 minutes after about 9pm from Pyrmont, with the last bus at about 10.30pm. The 440 to Nu'u by Nativo (Mexican), 29 Glebe Point Road, Glebe. I board at St Matthias Church in Oxford Street, alighting 30 minutes later at Glebe Point Road (Victoria Park, Broadway), and walk 270 metres (four minutes). Check the timetable for return times. I also love Dish Dining (Sri Lankan) at 381 Glebe Point Road, walk 1.5km from Broadway (21 minutes – too much for husband!) and Biang Biang Noodle House at 169 Broadway, Ultimo (alight at Broadway at Buckland Street and walk 150 metres).

The 440 to Market City Shopping Town, Haymarket. Roughly 30 minutes from Woollahra, alight at Haymarket, Rawson Place and walk 230 metres (three minutes) to the complex. Favourite restaurants in the complex are Eight (chaotic legit yum cha) and The Dolar Shop Hot Pot – if you haven't had hot pot and/or are nervous about sharing, then this is an experience to remember – it's not cheap but it is fun. A good lunchtime activity.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE AND PUBLISH YOUR MEMOIR OR FAMILY HISTORY But Are Not Sure How and Where To Start?

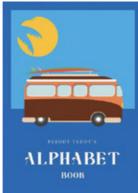
Contact Jaqui Lane, Australia's leading business historian and memoir book coach directly.

jaqui@thebookadviser.com.au www.thebookadviser.com.au



A NOVEL LATE Firgerald

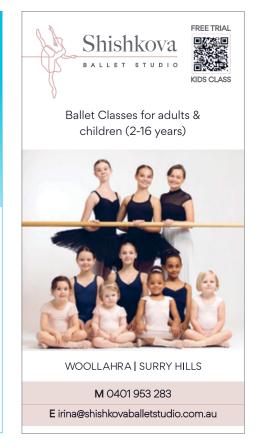




The 355 to Enmore Road leaves from Moore Park Road at Cook Road and timetables must be checked because it only runs every 30 minutes (but it only takes 36 minutes). Or you could get the 352 from St Matthias to Newtown Station and walk 450 metres to the Enmore Theatre. Again, check the timetable because the 352 also runs every 30 minutes. Fave restaurants in the area are: Little Lagos, 125 Enmore Road (authentic Nigerian food in lovely surrounds); Continental Deli, 210 Australia Street; Ante, 146 King Street (posh Japanese); Maiz Mexican Food, 415 King Street. My best night out is Fortunate Son, 105 Enmore Road (cool cocktail bar) followed by Flying Tong, 99 Enmore Road (Korean fried chicken).

Woollahrians also have access to two train stations: Edgecliff to Wolli Creek (mostly Asian) and Bondi Junction to Central then change for Harris Park (mostly Indian) for even more delicious experiences.

COUNCILLOR LUISE ELSING | 0407 417 704 RESIDENTS FIRST – COOPER WARD



# 17 YEARS IN THE MAKING A MIRACLE OF NATURE 'Iluka' by Matthew Ely

Private viewings now available at the boutique.

