

VILLAGE VOICE



**TURNING POINT:
SPOTLIGHT ON THE OXFORD STREET EAST CYCLEWAY
FOOTPATH UPGRADE IN QUEEN STREET
COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION:
PAINT WOOLLAHRA VILLAGE**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It's been another busy few months for QSWWA members. The 2023 AGM and Annual Dinner (see opposite) were both very successful. A big thank you to all who attended and to our hosts, the Woollahra Hotel for the AGM and

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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, 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 QSWWA 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:

Significant traffic changes to the Paddington Gates Intersection will occur under the proposed Oxford Street East Cycleway. This view of the intersection from Queen Street at dusk was captured by photographer Paul McGuire. [Instagram@paulmcguire5970](https://www.instagram.com/paulmcguire5970).

the Phoenix for the Annual Dinner. Congratulations to the committee members voted in at the AGM: Giles Edmonds (President), Christine Whiston (Vice-President), Alan Smith (Treasurer), Jaqui Lane (Secretary), Susie Willmott, John Knott, Richard Haigh and Jennifer Stokes. A big thanks to resigning committee member Stephanie Macindoe for her great work in building our Instagram presence so successfully and we wish her the very best as she pursues her musical career at the Conservatorium in Melbourne.

Ensuring that Woollahra residents' concerns about the proposed Oxford Street East Cycleway are heard by Transport for NSW has been a high-priority but time-consuming exercise over the last three months.

An Oxford Street with reduced and slower traffic, and a safer environment for cyclists and pedestrians, would certainly enhance the street's attractiveness and go a long way to rejuvenating it.

But this cannot come at the expense of increasing traffic in Woollahra, increasing the complexity and waiting time at the lights for the already very complex Paddington Gates intersection, decreasing bus stops in Oxford Street and forcing bus passengers to wait on uncovered, narrow bus stops between the cycleway and bus lane.

We welcome the reopening of consultation by the minister but hope this is a real consultation and that TfNSW will listen and find a different design which addresses these concerns and is a win-win for everyone. For more information, see the article later in this edition.

There are now two EV charging stations in the Dorhauer Lane car park. Usage is increasing and we urge all EV owners to take advantage of this new facility.

Congratulations to our Cooper Ward councillors for securing a further \$300,000 to fix pavements in Queen

Street and surrounds. There's plenty to be done and we look forward to council implementing a program of improvement as soon as possible.

Entries for Paint Woollahra continue to grow. All you need to do is paint or draw a building or street scene in the Woollahra village area. This is a fantastic opportunity for community participation in an event which will see all entries hung and exhibited in October. Our previous competition, Paint Queen Street, saw over 100 entries and a very high standard. For further details go to our website, www.woollahravillage.com.au.

Finally, save Tuesday 5 December in your diaries for the annual QSWWA Community Carols at Chiswick Gardens, Ocean Street. Activities will start at 5.30pm with the official opening at 6pm.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA

JOIN THE QSWWA AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Queen 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, <https://woollahravillage.com.au/join-us>, on our website.



QSWWA 2023 ANNUAL DINNER

The Phoenix Hotel was the venue for the association's Annual Dinner on 13 June. Outside it may have been cold and blustery but inside the atmosphere was warm and inviting as 80 guests reconnected with old friends and introduced themselves to new ones from our Woollahra village. The evening started with drinks accompanied by a talented guitarist. On sitting down to eat, two guests discovered they were the lucky winners of the door prizes, two bottles of champagne each with two flutes very kindly donated by Jim's Cellars. Guests then enjoyed an excellent three-course meal accompanied by a selection of the Phoenix's fine wines. Everyone was generous in entering into the raffle and we are very grateful to Parterre, Pigott's

Store and the Phoenix for their very kind donations of raffle prizes, and to Summers Floral for their help with the floral decorations. The evening was full of laughter and bonhomie and clearly everyone had a most enjoyable time. Will and his team at the Phoenix did a great job making us all feel very much at home, so many thanks to them and to our committee, who worked so hard to make this all happen and continue to build our community spirit and village feel.

Finally, a big thanks to our photographer Paul McGuire, who did such a wonderful job in capturing the joy of the evening in over 100 superb photographs available on our website, www.woollahravillage.com.au.

GILES EDMONDS



PLANE TREE CAFE AT PARTERRE

One of Queen Street’s most popular cafes, the Plane Tree, has relocated to the site of the former Cafe Parterre, behind the eponymous shop on the corner of Ocean and Queen Streets. David Cullen, owner of the Plane Tree, is a Woollahra local and has run cafes in the area for many years. While the location will be new, customers can expect to see a menu featuring all their favourites and experience the same friendly service.

FAMILY DAY AT THE FIRE STATION

Woollahra Fire Station’s annual Open Day was a huge success. The iconic building in Forth Street, which opened in 1905, was on show to the community, providing an opportunity for families to meet their local firefighters and explore firetrucks and firefighting equipment firsthand.



Firefighter Callum Wassell has been stationed at Woollahra for the past five years. He is joined by three-year-old Hugo and his grandmother Sally McDougall.

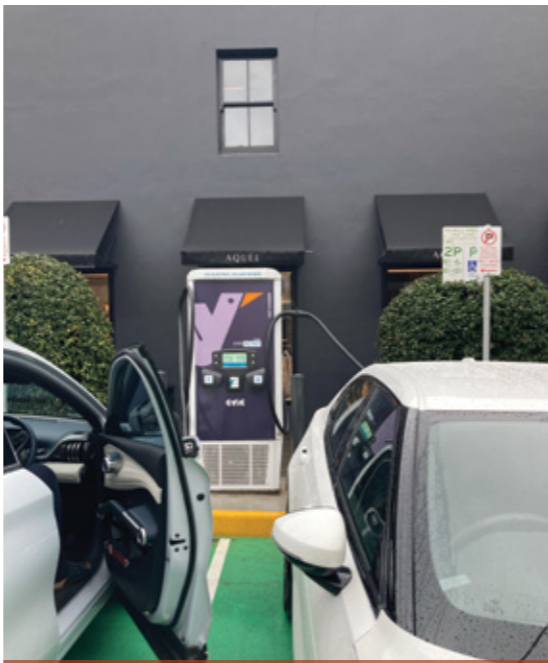
Mums and dads watched on as budding fireies took the wheel of the firetruck, clambered over the massive aerial ladder truck with its ladder towering high above, and chatted with the station’s crew for an early lesson in fire safety at home. A sausage sizzle and a show bag containing a must-have red helmet completed the day’s excitement.

CHARGED AND READY TO GO

Woollahra’s new electric vehicle charging station in Dorhauer Lane (adjacent to Queen Street) opened in July. Council sought community feedback for the initiative earlier this year and, based on the positive outcome, approved the charging station with capacity to charge two vehicles at a time. Construction began near the end of June and was completed in around two weeks.

The EVC station is operated by an independent charging network, Evie.

Customers source the location of local charging stations via the company’s app, and pay for the charging session via the app.



EV owners using the new dual-access ECV station in Dorhauer Lane.



The three soloists: from left, Rachel Siu, cello, Madeleine Easton, violin and Phillip Shovk, piano.

The *Village Voice* spoke to customers charging their vehicles just after the station opened in early July. One was visiting from Canberra and planned to tour the local shops in the time it took to charge her car.

For more on council’s EVC policy including information on a Street Pole Charging Trial see their website: woollahra.nsw.gov.au.

BRILLIANT BEETHOVEN

The Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra brought all the power and might of Beethoven to their second concert of the year, Triple Treasure. Featuring three remarkable soloists under the baton of guest conductor Dr Luke Gilmore, Beethoven’s Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano is the only composition the composer wrote for more than one soloist. Technically demanding, the Triple Concerto is a showcase for the artistry of each of them. It requires extraordinary collaboration as the music moves through passages of grandeur counterbalanced by moments of soaring melody and tenderness.

Australian violinist Madeleine Easton, well known on the international stage, was joined by cellist Rachel Siu, an extraordinary young prize-winning musician who debuted as a soloist in Sydney aged

just seven. The third soloist was one of the country’s foremost concert pianists, Phillip Shovk, whose virtuoso performances have delighted audiences around the world. Together these three, ably supported by the talents of the WPO, created a thrilling performance that received a standing ovation from an appreciative audience.

Having opened with Rossini’s *Tancredi* overture, the concert closed with a beautiful work by Camille Saint-Saëns, Symphony No 2.

For details of the WPO’s next concert see page 17.

VALE FRED WEISSBERGER

On 18 June 2023, the Woollahra community lost a much-loved resident. Alfred Weissberger, better known as Fred, has been part of the Queen Street landscape for over 50 years.

Born in 1925 to Hungarian parents in the Bratislava region, he enjoyed being part of a wonderful family. At the age of 13, being Jewish, he could no longer attend school and started to work for his father, who was a respected tailor. In 1944 Fred was sent to a forced labour camp where his tailoring skills stood him in good stead and saved his life. Tragically, his parents and younger brother were sent to Auschwitz where they perished on arrival.

Fred was sent to Hungary to make dress uniforms for high-ranking German officers. He later worked in the Austrian forests and from there was transported to Mauthausen concentration camp, from where he was liberated in 1945.

In 1950, Fred came to Australia as a 26-year-old. At Bathurst migrant camp he met his future wife Magda. After briefly working in a timber mill, he returned to his love, tailoring, and quickly built up a sterling reputation. He set up shop in Darlinghurst, then Elizabeth Bay and Double Bay. In 1970 he bought premises at 108 Queen Street where he stayed until he retired, in more recent years living upstairs.

Fred’s clients included the Duchess of Gloucester, the Fairfax and Packer families, Gordon Samuels (then Governor of NSW) and the daughter of the Japanese Emperor, Mrs Shimazu. Fred never advertised; his success was all by word of mouth.

Fred is survived by his two sons and four grandchildren, his dear wife Magda having passed away in 2012.

Fred was a man of great warmth, charm and integrity. As a Holocaust survivor, he overcame untold adversity to lead a successful and happy life.

We will miss his smile and wonderful stories.

IRENE SMITH



COOPER WARD RESIDENTS MEETING: ACTION AFOOT

COOPER WARD RESIDENTS MET WITH A PANEL OF SENIOR COUNCIL MEMBERS, COOPER WARD COUNCILLORS, AND COUNCIL STAFF IN JUNE FOR WHAT MAY BECOME A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY.

The meeting at the Woollahra Library was chaired by Mayor Susan Wynne, and residents were able to present questions directly to the panel. A wide range of topics was covered including the state of local footpaths, planned works, tree maintenance and leaf clearing, street lighting and safety issues. Suggestions such as extending green corridors (street verge planting) in the area and creating shared zones in designated local lanes were also presented and will be reviewed by council.

Panel members provided feedback to individual questions and a follow-up report of all the topics canvassed, together with council's responses and proposed actions, was sent to everyone who attended.

One of the direct outcomes of the meeting was a resolution by council to allocate an additional \$300,000 for the maintenance and upgrading of footpaths in Queen Street and surrounds. The poor state of Queen Street's footpaths is a major concern for locals.

The *Village Voice* spoke to Tom O'Hanlon, council's Director of Infrastructure and Sustainability, about the proposed footpath works, due to get under way in the coming months.

Tom advised that a team from council, including engineers and arborists, had already toured the precinct to identify the areas requiring work. This will be carried out in two stages, defect repair followed by replacement or maintenance work.

Defects will be tackled first, i.e. tripping points, raised footpaths and the repair of surfaces damaged by tree roots. These have all been identified and work will start as soon as possible.



Woollahra Council is due to start work on upgrading the damaged footpaths in Queen Street.

The replacement of footpaths is a bigger task and discussions are continuing to ascertain the level of maintenance required versus replacement.

'Replacement is more cost-effective in the long run,' Tom explains, 'and we are currently pricing up the options for the footpath surface, bitumen or concrete.'

The Queen Street Master Plan, approved in 2014, recommended continuing with the paving treatments already in place in parts of Queen Street. However, this is not only a significantly more expensive option but potentially harmful to the street's now mature trees.

'We have reviewed the relationship between the pavers and the trees, and it is more difficult than we thought,' says Tom.

Laying pavers is a three-step process: excavation for a layer of concrete, followed by a layer of sand before the pavers are finally laid. This is a more invasive and potentially damaging process for the trees.

Bitumen and concrete both sit on top of the dirt and present a less harmful option for the trees that are such a feature of Queen Street.

'Concrete has the best longevity, and tinted concrete may be more sympathetic to the streetscape,' Tom adds.

Tenders will be called, and it is expected work will get under way in the coming months. Residents will be consulted in the event of major upgrades but if maintenance only is required, council will just go ahead with the works.

In regard to the Peaker Lane clean-up, council has set aside the funds to improve the area and is now seeking input from the various building owners to collaborate with them to provide maintenance such as repairs and painting.

CHRISTINE WHISTON

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DOREEN GARRICK: THE TREASURE OF ALL SAINTS'

DOREEN GARRICK HAS LIVED ALL OF HER 90 YEARS IN AND AROUND WOOLLAHRA AND DEDICATED HER LONG LIFE TO THE MINISTRY AT ONE OF THE AREA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES, ALL SAINTS' AT 85 OCEAN STREET. BUT HER BIGGEST GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN THE COMPLETION OF A DOCUMENT RECORDING THE MAGNIFICENT INTERIOR FURNISHINGS OF ALL SAINTS', ONE OF SYDNEY'S MOST IMPORTANT PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Doreen was just five years old when she first attended Sunday school at All Saints' Woollahra. It was 1939 and she was not to know that from that day on, her life would revolve around this church and its community. In 1960 Doreen was ordained as a deaconess of the Anglican Church and while she spent time in other parishes during the early part of her ministry, she inevitably returned to Woollahra and All Saints'.

As the long-time verger of the church, Doreen has acquired an intimate knowledge of the building, its history and all that it contains.

'I know it so well,' she says. 'The fabric of the church has always meant something special to me. I know it inside out.'

It was Doreen's love of this beautiful old church that was the genesis of her plan to create a record of all its furnishings.

Dating back to 1874, All Saints' is one of Sydney's most important and historic churches, and Doreen's involvement over so many years enabled her to build up an extraordinary knowledge of both the building and its contents. From the wonderful stained-glass windows to the decorative stonework, historic textiles, silverware and tessellated tiles, together with the memorials to rectors and congregants long since passed, All Saints' contains hundreds of objects which, as a collection, form part of the social history of Sydney.

The recording project began in earnest in 2018 when Doreen met John Broadley, Volunteer Coordinator of ADFAS, the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society. This not-for-profit organisation, formed locally in 1989, aims to promote and advance the study of the decorative arts and to preserve Australia's cultural heritage. A key area of their work is the systematic recording of older buildings, including churches, across the country.



Doreen Garrick, deaconess and verger of All Saints' Church Woollahra, has lived in the area all her life and spearheaded the project to record all the contents of this historic church.

ADFAS had agreed that All Saints' was worthy of recording but did not have the resources to commence work on the project. Instead, they suggested that a small group of parishioners might like to undertake the work. Doreen agreed to spearhead the project, following the ADFAS guidelines for church recording.

It was a huge undertaking. The church had literally hundreds of items that needed to be identified and catalogued. Documenting the interior items of a church following the ADFAS methodology is a highly detailed process requiring an orderly and systematic approach. Stained-glass windows, carved pulpits, silver chalices, embroidered vestments, and old bibles are all examined individually, measured, described, and photographed for the final record.

Doreen and her small team were tireless in their work but two years into the project they realised they were going to need assistance with the final stages of producing the record. The leaders of ADFAS Ku-ring-gai, who had recently completed recording St Thomas Church in North Sydney, were approached, and agreed to step in to help Doreen complete the All Saints' record.

The project was finally completed in 2022. *All Saints' Church Woollahra, NSW: Record of Church Furnishings* was launched in October 2022 in a special service at All Saints'. Printed and bound copies have been presented to the National Library of Australia, the Royal Australian Historical Society, and most recently to Woollahra Libraries.

Doreen is credited in the compiler's notes for her 'massive effort to record the church,' and while Doreen is immensely proud of the book and the work of everyone involved, for her it was quite simply a labour of love.

CHRISTINE WHISTON

THE HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH WOOLLAHRA

Heritage-listed All Saints' Church stands on a rise overlooking Ocean Street with a commanding view towards the city. The foundation stone was laid in 1874 and the church was built by one of the era's most influential architects, Edmund Thomas Blacket.

Like much of the developing district of Woollahra in the mid-1880s, the land on which the church was built came from the Cooper estate, following the break-up of the Piper estate in 1827. The land, designated for a church, was donated to Henry Mort, a successful pastoralist, businessman, and politician in the NSW Legislative Council.

Henry Mort paid £3000 for the first stage of the construction, which took place between 1876 and 1882. Mort's generosity was both a thanksgiving for the rescue of his wife Maria and their children from a shipwreck while they were sailing from England to Australia in 1865, and a memorial to Maria, who died in 1873. Henry's clergyman son Henry Wallace Mort was the first rector of All Saints', from 1876 to 1914.

Edmund Blacket was the leading ecclesiastical architect in early NSW. He designed over 80 churches, large and small, throughout the state as well as hundreds of other buildings, the most famous of which is the University of Sydney.

Blacket was a Gothic Revivalist and his design for All Saints' was in the more ornamental late Geometric Gothic architectural style. The large, beautifully proportioned building was constructed using sandstone from the local Paddington quarry. The interior featured soaring gothic arches and columns on either side of the nave and a hammerbeam roof structure. A spire was designed but never built.

Australian red cedar was used for the pews but many of the items within the church came from England. For example the stained-glass windows, which were added progressively, were made by one of England's oldest stained-glass factories and are among some of the finest examples in Sydney.

The first stage of All Saints' Church was opened on 8 January 1876, having cost around £5500. In 1880 tenders were called for the completion of the building, which was finished late in 1882.

In 1946 a fire destroyed much of the internal timber roof and the original timber shingles and damaged several interior features. The fire was attended by the local Woollahra fire brigade and was quite the talking point in the area. All Saints' reopened the following year with a new slate roof.

Additional building work has taken place in the church grounds over the years but the beauty of Edmund Blacket's original design with its cathedral-like proportions remains. All Saints' Woollahra is now considered to be one of Blacket's most memorable churches and is listed on the Register of the National Estate.



Edmund Blacket's design for All Saints' Church featured gothic arches and columns on either side of the nave, looking towards the magnificent Rose Window on the east wall.

THE OXFORD STREET EAST CYCLEWAY: WHAT THE PROPOSAL MEANS FOR YOU

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL TRAFFIC CHANGES WILL OCCUR UNDER THE OXFORD STREET EAST CYCLEWAY CURRENTLY BEING PROPOSED BY STATE GOVERNMENT. WITHOUT MODIFICATION, THESE CHANGES WILL HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON WOOLLAHRA. GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT OF THE QSWWA, EXPLAINS.

By now, most Woollahra residents will have heard of the Oxford Street East Cycleway proposal through the media and in emails from the QSWWA. But many may be unclear on what is being proposed, why the QSWWA and other parties have concerns, what consultation is being undertaken and how residents’ voices can be heard.

BACKGROUND

Encouraging active transport, that is walking or cycling, is a priority of the state government and local councils. Within this context, the government sees the Oxford Street East Cycleway project providing an essential link in Transport for NSW’s (TfNSW) strategic cycling vision, connecting the Sydney CBD and Taylor Square to the Centennial Park and Bondi Junction cycleways. The south side of Oxford Street is City of Sydney and the north side, Woollahra Council. Both support the project and see it as a way of revitalising retail businesses along the strip.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

A high-level Strategic Design was released on the TfNSW website in December 2022 including:

- A two-way separated cycleway on the south side of Oxford

- Street between Paddington Gates and Taylor Square, reducing four traffic lanes to two to accommodate the cycleway while retaining two bus lanes and kerbside parking.
- No right turn restrictions for various roads, including no right turn into Jersey Road from Oxford Street when travelling towards the CBD and no right turn from Oxford Street into Lang Road when travelling along Oxford Street towards Bondi Junction.
 - To connect the Centennial Park cycleway to Oxford Street, a cycleway across the Paddington Gates intersection was proposed with its own set of traffic lights.
 - Along Oxford Street, the design proposed reducing the number of bus stops and constructing the bus stops as islands between the bus lane and the cycleway.

WHAT ARE OUR CONCERNS?

The QSWWA has four main concerns that need to be addressed in the final design:

1. With Oxford Street no longer a major arterial route to and from the city, only having one lane each way for motorists, without active management there will be a significant increase in traffic rat-running through

- Woollahra’s residential streets to find alternative routes.
2. Traffic congestion will be increased by the proposed no right turns, which will force westbound traffic previously turning into Jersey Road to travel down Wallis and Moncur Streets instead, and eastbound traffic wanting to turn into Lang Road to have to detour and come up Queen Street to get to Lang Road.
 3. Increased complexity at the Paddington Gates intersection. A bike lane with its own lights crossing the intersection will make it more dangerous for motorists and cyclists and increase waiting times for cars in Queen Street, leading to further congestion and car queues trying to cross that intersection.
 4. There has been a complete lack of consideration for alternatives, existing cycle routes, such as Moore Park Road cycleway, traffic modelling or simply reducing the speed limit in Oxford Street to 40kph or less.

Solutions exist to address these issues. For example, abandoning the no right turn restrictions and, say, implementing no turning into John Street from Ocean Street and into Wallis Street across Oxford Street during the morning peak hour. The QSWWA is urging TfNSW to look at these options.

Paddington residents and Oxford Street businesses through the Paddington Chamber of Commerce have other objections: the separation of South Paddington due to the no right turns making access much more difficult; the loss

of bus stops; the potential crowding of passengers waiting on island bus stops; possible loss of parking; congestion for emergency services; and the loss of business during the construction period.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS TO DATE

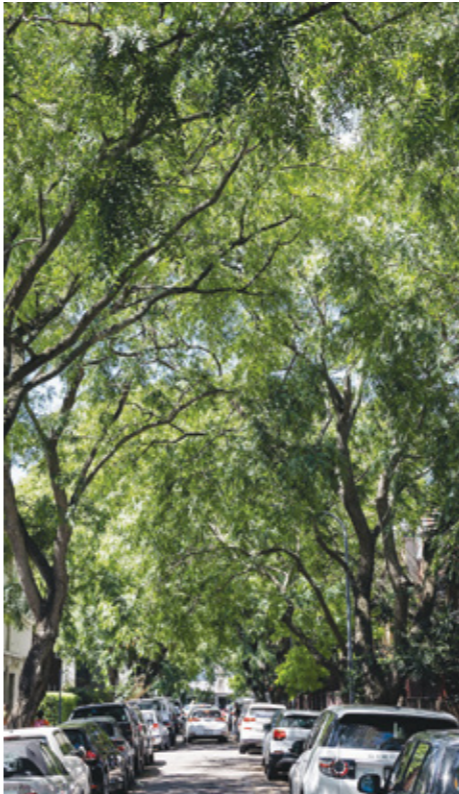
The QSWWA only became aware of this project several weeks after the cut-off date of 28 February. We submitted our concerns to TfNSW after the deadline. A further round of consultation was opened in July until 14 August. The QSWWA has raised the above issues with TfNSW by email and in a broader face-to-face meeting. Other groups and individuals continue to meet with TfNSW and make submissions. A crowded meeting of concerned residents and business owners at Paddo RSL on 2 August generated hundreds of letters to relevant parties, highlighting a range of concerns. We very much hope this is a genuine consultation process and that TfNSW will make the changes requested, not simply press ahead with the original design.

WHAT NEXT?

The project is continuing to develop the Concept Design and the Review of Environmental Factors. These are due to be issued for public feedback late this year. Meanwhile, you can still email TfNSW with your views at osecycleway@transport.nsw.gov.au, sign petitions for or against the cycleway at www.change.org or write directly to the Minister for Transport, Jo Haylen, at summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au.



Left: Aerial view of the Paddington Gates intersection, which is set for major changes under the cycleway proposal (photo, Google Maps). Right: Overview of proposed traffic changes to the Paddington Gates intersection (plan courtesy TfNSW).



Find out why our tree canopy is so important

Share your feedback on our draft Urban Forest Strategy.

One of the best things about our local area is our big and beautiful trees. They provide shade to cool our streets and homes, they clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, and make our streets and parks look spectacular.

To address the impacts of climate change and ensure our community continues to benefit from tree canopy cover, we’ve drafted an Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) which proposes a goal of 30% tree canopy cover by 2050.

Find out how we plan to reach this goal and provide feedback on our draft UFS by **Thursday 31 August**.

Visit yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/ufs or scan the QR code below.

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CUTEST DOG COMPETITION

The search is over. The judge's decision is in. The winners of Woollahra Bookshop's Sydney's Cutest Dog competition 2023 are Violet and Crumble, a pair of dachshunds owned by Queen Street resident Anna Cleary.

The competition was fierce, with contenders arriving right up until the closing hour, and there were three times the number of entrants in this year's competition. Dogs large and small were photographed in the store and the prize was *Dogs Gods* by Tim Flach, plus a \$100 voucher from Jersey Road Vets.

Both dogs are from the same breeder, Violet is three and Crumble is just one. They seemed to be oblivious to their newfound fame and sat quietly on Anna's knee for their photo.

CHRISTINE WHISTON



The winning duo, Violet and Crumble, with their owner Anna Cleary.



Runners-up from left, Teddy, Pickles and Charlie.

PIGOTT'S STORE

Pigott's Store is renowned for inspiring colour and designs. The shop is a showcase for layering colour and pattern to create a lively, beautiful interior, using its own range of Indian hand-block printed fabrics, bed linen, clothes and more.

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UNITY AND SUPPORT: THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY QUEEN STREET

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES ARE ESSENTIAL IN SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE TO LIVE QUALITY LIVES AND THIS WAS THE AIM OF DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY QUEEN STREET, AN EVENT ORGANISED BY HOLDSWORTH IN COLLABORATION WITH THE WOOLLAHRA DEMENTIA ALLIANCE AND WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL AND SUPPORTED BY NINE LOCAL BUSINESSES.

With around 450,000 Australians living with dementia, and nearly 1.6 million involved in their care, dementia-friendly communities are essential in supporting local people to live quality lives. And that's exactly what the Woollahra Dementia Alliance (WDA) is setting out to achieve in its local community.

In a heartwarming display of unity and support, Holdsworth, in collaboration with the WDA and Woollahra Council, hosted its first ever week-long event, transforming Queen Street to raise awareness about dementia and promote its aims of creating a dementia-friendly community in Woollahra.

Dementia-Friendly Queen Street, held from 19–23 June, offered an opportunity for community members, people living with dementia, and their carers to connect with each other as well as with local businesses, service providers and experts in dementia. Over the week, with the support of nine local businesses, fun activities and aged-care information, Queen Street was transformed to spread an important message about how we can all contribute to a dementia-friendly community.

'People living with dementia can find it frustrating or exhausting to navigate the world around them,' says WDA chairman Dr Allan Shell. 'What we're doing by creating dementia-friendly spaces is about responding to the needs of the community, and ultimately making it a better place for everyone.'

The week served as a powerful platform for connecting over 30 community members who engaged with the information stall and activities, including special offers from

local businesses. BIKEast and Cycling without Age set up their famous trishaw for free guided rides around the local streets, and Woollahra Libraries' SparkTruck showcased their incredible memory boxes and pop-up library.

As Mary Read from Reads of Woollahra said, 'Seems like it was a great success. We had a customer come in with her husband the other day and he said it was great that he could learn more about how to be with her during her early stage of dementia. A great display of support for our local community.'

As well as promoting awareness within the community, the week has also generated interest among local media and other alliances across the state. During the week, Holdsworth CEO Jason Malone spoke with local station Eastside Radio and ABC Radio Sydney's James Valentine about the importance of raising awareness and the aims of growing this event to be bigger and better next year.

Creating a dementia-friendly community is at the heart of the WDA's action plan. This includes a number of small changes, like clear signage for businesses and bathrooms, improved access, considered lighting, and staff education. To create a dementia-friendly community, it's important to raise awareness about dementia, and provide education and accessible support. This can involve undertaking dementia-friendly training, promoting inclusion and social engagement.

If you'd like to learn more and find out how to better support those affected with dementia, go to holdsworth.org.au.

THE QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION



Paint WOOLLAHRA VILLAGE

COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION

PRIZES: 1ST \$2,500 2ND \$1,000 3RD \$500

SUBJECT: Any building or street scene in Woollahra

MEDIUM: Any on canvas, Max Size 80cm x 80cm

EXHIBITION: Opens 9th October, Fella Mellas Gallery (opposite Phoenix Hotel)

REGISTRATION: \$20 via the Queen Street & West Woollahra Assoc. website www.woollahravillage.com.au

MORE INFO: Text John Knott 0413 328 815

MAJOR SPONSOR



Left, the Holdsworth team hosted the event in Queen Street. Centre and right, the community came together in support. Photos courtesy Woollahra Council.

WELCOME TO THE PEARL RENAISSANCE

In the revolving door of fashion, trends come and go – but some timeless classics have the power to make a grand comeback.

According to award-winning Queen Street jeweller Matthew Ely, ‘The pandemic presented the pearl business with significant challenges, but ultimately this has heightened demand on a global scale. We’re only just seeing that demand really hit the Australian market, where pearls are still being sold at a reasonably low price-point. I’d expect this to intensify into 2024 as these gemstones become more exclusive and genuinely rare.’

So what is ‘trending’ in the world of pearls?

PEARLS FOR CASUAL WEAR

‘We see people wearing pearls in a much more casual manner now than they were previously – whether that’s a simple pearl bracelet worn with a pair of jeans, potentially layered with a gold chain or diamonds, or a more opulent classic pearl look worn in a casual context. It’s all about individual style at any age,’ declares Matthew.

‘Over the next few years, I’d predict that a classic pearl strand will once again become a staple in the jewellery boxes of a new generation.’

CLASSIC ROUND VS BAROQUE AND KESHI PEARLS

‘Baroque pearls have taken centre stage in 2023. Their irregularity, organic touch and uniqueness have been embraced by younger generations, whether showcased in long baroque pearl necklaces, drop earrings or individual baroque stones in custom-made pieces,’ says Matthew.

‘The baroque necklace we currently have in store is the last one that Autore had available in Sydney!’

‘Under the umbrella of baroques, you also have the incredibly rare and distinctive keshi pearls. Smaller in size and irregular in shape, they are essentially pearls with no nucleus – meaning they’re composed entirely of nacre. In other words, incredibly lustrous.’

STATEMENT PEARLS (WITH A COLOUR POP)

‘We’re seeing people customise and individualise their pearls by combining them with fancy coloured gemstones,’ observes Matthew.

‘It’s a real melting pot of classic and contemporary designs. I expect to see more of this over the next 12 months, particularly in earrings – things like aquamarine or ruby studs with a single hanging pearl. Equally, we’ll see the combination of pearls with more prominent metals, like 18 carat yellow gold.’

MINIMALISM AND LAYERING

Layering has been a prominent trend in jewellery over the past few years, and pearls are no exception. This style is perfect for day-to-night wear – mixing and matching various minimalist pearl designs like delicate keshi pearl studs, long chain and pearl necklaces, or dainty single pearl pendants.

‘We’re seeing people wear multiple strands of pearls, or combinations of pearls and diamonds, at various lengths. This adds a touch of luxury to everyday wear, while allowing for creativity and unique style to shine through,’ says Matthew.

MONCUR CELLARS

The 2023 Moncur Cellars winter season has left us, and we look forward to spring and sunny days.

We have been busy over the past few months with some great tastings. The standout was our fifth annual shiraz tasting, which we held in early August at Bistro Moncur with over 100 different wines to taste. The restaurant was abuzz with winemakers and locals enjoying some new and old wineries at their very best. Highlights on the night were the Bekkers Syrah from McLaren Vale and a new Barossa winery called Iggy.

Our next Moncur Cellars event is taking place on Thursday 21 September, hosted by the esteemed Bruce Dukes, the mastermind behind Domaine Naturaliste wines from Margaret River. Guests will enjoy a four-course menu thoughtfully curated by Bistro Moncur’s head chef, Tom Deadman, each course expertly paired with wine to elevate your dining experience. These events are always a fun night to celebrate food and wine (tickets are limited).



Moncur Cellars is partnering with Four Pillars gin to celebrate Negroni Month. There will be a series of negroni specials at Woollahra Hotel, Bistro Moncur and Moncur Cellars throughout September.

Moncur Cellars will be doing a Four Pillars Negroni tasting in-store on Friday 22 September, 5–7pm, entry is free and all are welcome.

During this month, we will

also be offering 30% off Moncur Negroni 500ml bottles, reduced to \$45 each.

Finally, Moncur Cellars welcomed some new staff members over the winter. We pride ourselves on a low staff turnover due to fostering a positive environment, where our staff can learn and enjoy what they do! This is made possible by our fabulous Woollahra customers (you know who you are), who are always a privilege to cater for during day-to-day trade. Cheers!

MONCUR CELLARS TEAM
CELLARS@WOOLLAHRAHOTEL.COM.AU



Left to right, 18 carat yellow gold, white diamond and Autore baroque South Sea pearl earrings. Autore baroque South Sea pearl necklace. 18 carat white gold, ruby, diamond and Autore baroque South Sea pearl earrings. 18 carat yellow gold, Autore keshi pearl pendant.

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KEVIN PUTS
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David Lockeridge
Brad Lucas

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Sunday

CELESTIAL CELEBRATION

The World on the Moon Overture
Marimba Concerto
Symphony 1

Marimba
Conductor

16 September 2023 5:30pm
17 September 2023 2:30pm



DAVID LOCKERIDGE
Marimba

Saint Columba Uniting Church
Corners Forth and Ocean Streets, Woollahra

Tickets \$20 & \$35

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AUGUST 2023 | 17

ASK THE VET

KITTY TOILET TROUBLES

Problems involving the litter tray are common with our feline friends. Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) is a term which encompasses a variety of conditions involving the bladder and urethra. The most prevalent of these is a condition colloquially known as stress cystitis, which is inflammation of the bladder triggered by a stressful event or time in a cat's life.

Classic signs of stress cystitis include urinating more frequently in smaller amounts, urinating outside the litter tray, blood in the urine, and straining to urinate. If a cat, particularly a male, is straining to urinate and nothing is coming out this

can mean his urethra is blocked: this is a medical emergency, so take him to the nearest vet immediately.

Ideally the cat's urine should be tested before starting treatment. Urine can either be collected in the litter tray using special non-absorbent litter or cotton balls, or by a minor procedure where it is collected directly from the bladder using a fine needle. The urine is tested for traces of blood, crystals and bacteria. In most cases there are no bacteria present, so no need for antibiotics.

Anti-inflammatory medication may be necessary, but the most important treatment is to manage the cat's anxiety. This process is different for every cat, but always involves controlling the cat's environment to reduce stress. In some cases, a special

diet is needed to help with bladder health, and often anxiety medications can be very useful to help manage the condition.

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS



Stress can trigger urinary tract problems in cats.

and Trilby is the guest of honour.

Amanda Lieber's *My Giant Sea Shell* (5+ years) is a sensitive story about a young girl coming to terms with her mother's depression. The illustrations by Kathy Creamer use colour and black-and-white to mirror the shifting emotions in the story.

Libby Hathorn's self-explanatory *Mother Earth: Poems to Celebrate the Wonder of Nature* (3–9 years) has vibrant, immersive illustrations by Christina Booth. The collection of read-out-loud poems includes rhymes about Australian flora and fauna. At a 'Bush Picnic,' 'Kangaroos high kick / wombats waddle / bilbies burrow / cockatoos squabble.'

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COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



I can't remember a time when council was exhibiting so many high-level plans and strategies. There are more to come, including the Active Transport Strategy, the Community Lands Plans of Management and Master Plans for our parks and reserves, as well as the finalised Edgecliff Commercial Centre Strategy. These are the important policies that direct staff in delivering what the community wants. However, we can't lose sight of grassroots issues such as broken footpaths, frequency of street sweeping, and pedestrian safety that are the daily grind for residents. I hear and live your frustrations, which is why I requested that the general manager organise a ward meeting to address residents' myriad concerns.

WARD MEETING

Holding regular ward meetings is an effective way for residents to have access to their councillors and council staff. Community consultation is at my core and what drives me. It was wonderful to see and hear from so many people at the first Cooper Ward meeting for more than a decade. (For those not able to attend, notes from the meeting are available.) Footpaths were a major theme of the night; Queen and Moncur Streets and Edgecliff Road receiving the most attention.

As a result, Councillor Swan and I successfully moved at council to include a further \$300,000 in the 2023–24 budget for maintenance and upgrades of footpaths in the QSWWA precinct. This was only the first of many ward meetings to come. I would love to hear from you how often you would like these meetings.

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

In Woollahra we are blessed with a green leafy environment, with our current canopy coverage at 27.4% across the LGA. The impact of increased development in recent decades means we are losing canopy at a significant rate. Since 2010 we have lost an area larger than Edgecliff. This canopy loss will make our streets and homes hotter and result in more air pollution. Council has committed to reach 30% tree canopy cover by 2050. The plan to achieve this is currently on exhibition waiting for your comments: yoursay.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/ufs.

OXFORD STREET EAST CYCLEWAY

I was delighted that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) have reached out to the QSWWA and provided an opportunity to give direct feedback at a meeting facilitated by council. It was reassuring that TfNSW has heard community concerns about removing right-hand turns and the fear of rat-running, and that construction would be in small discrete sections to reduce the impact



Council's urban forestry strategy aims to protect our vital tree canopy.

on businesses. The biggest complaint causing the most concern was the lack of information from TfNSW. We as a whole council are keeping the pressure on to receive updated designs.

COUNCILLOR NICOLA GRIEVE
GREENS – COOPER WARD | 0402 434 423

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY LOCAL AUTHORS

One of the best parts of our job at Woollahra Bookshop is helping children find new books (or old books) that nurture their imaginations. A love of reading, or being read to, is a joy that involves everyone in the family.

Our specialist children's bookseller, Elizabeth Phillips, loves helping children and parents alike to find the perfect book. A former teacher-librarian, she is passionate about children's literature for all ages; from gifts to treasure for new parents, to the best series for first readers, through to sensitive issue-based literature for young adults.

Our other staff members – Penelope, Gordon, Liz and Michael – have an ever-growing list of favourite recommendations from the incredible selection of new titles delivered daily to our little shop in Spicer Street.

This month we have four new books by local authors. The age guide is a suggestion only.

THE DENTAL ROOMS

WOOLLAHRA

New Patient Welcome Package

\$75 off your first appointment!

We are extending this offer to anyone who hasn't come to see us since before Covid (2019). Now is a good time to get back into the routine of regular checkups!



Dr Bal Bahra
98 Queen Street, Woollahra
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(02) 9328 7862
reception@dentalrooms.net.au



M

MATTHEW ELY