

VILLAGE VOICE

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PO Box 16, Woollahra, New South Wales 2025

OSNOF in Eastern Distributor rally

THE OSNOF – Ocean Street Not Ocean Freeway – campaign was strongly represented at a demonstration on February 20 in favour of the completion of the Eastern Distributor.

The officially sanctioned demonstration stopped traffic at Taylor Square for 10 minutes but three protesters were injured when a car ploughed through the human blockade.

OSNOF displayed large banners on "Gilligans Island" in the centre of Taylor Square and sold OSNOF T-shirts at \$10 each.

The speedy completion of

stages II and III of the Eastern Distributor would help to reduce the uncomfortably vast volumes of through traffic passing down Ocean Street, now more than 37,000 vehicles a day.

The problem has worsened this year with the opening of the Harbour Tunnel, handling 150,000 vehicle crossings a week.

Militant approach

The second stages of the distributor scheme would provide tunnels under Taylor Square feeding into Anzac Parade and South Dowling Street.

"It's the first time we have been a bit militant," said Queen Street Association secretary, Nick Eddy, who is also a leader of the OSNOF group.

"Up until now, we have been trying to work through Woollahra Council and the Road Traffic Authority.

"The Council has not been getting us anywhere and we had reached the point where we had to have a demonstration to fight for our cause."

Last year, OSNOF made submissions to Woollahra Council and the RTA, following meetings with the two bodies, with the objects of:

- Getting agreement that Ocean Street not be classified as a clearway or arterial road.
- Reducing existing traffic along the street.

OSNOF has reported that the Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Andrew Briger, has undertaken to introduce "traffic calming" measures in Ocean Street.

At the end of February, Mr Eddy said OSNOF was disappointed with the lack of progress on the Council promises.



To celebrate the opening of the stylish **Bistro Moncur** at the Woollahra Hotel

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PLEASE NOTE: Ticket price covers red or white wine with meal but not pre-dinner or late night drinks after the show. These may be bought from the bar.



The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Inc.
ACN 002 872 433



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Ocean Freeway

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OSNOF's poster for the Taylor Square protest



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LOCAL TABLES

Light Brigade wins its spurs

Another anonymous sampling of a local eatery.

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IN recent times, the bistro at the Light Brigade has taken some unusual directions. Once a Brazilian restaurant it has also been, rather curiously, a do-it-yourself eatery where a party could do its own cooking.

Then last March, Mich and Gregg Lewis arrived to provide a surer touch with a menu which Mich describes as "a bit of everything" - though it has strong Italian and Asian leanings.

We dined there on a blistering hot day and the house won our gratitude immediately by placing glasses of iced water before us.

Hot nights do not lend themselves to large courses, so one of our threesome, Sabina, and I settled for two entrees.

We both had the light and delicious Warm Goat's Cheese Mousse with Toasted Brioche (\$10.50), just the thing for a summer's night and attractively presented with salad.

Sabina's second course was equally deft in taste and presentation, a Savoury Tart of Smoked Fish, Sun Dried Tomato and Spinach with a Saffron Cream Sauce (\$9.50).

However, I was a shade disappointed with my Pizzetta with Tomato and Olive Paste, Chorizo Sausage and Mozzarella (\$8.50). The filling was tasty but the tiny pizza case was baked too hard.

Excellent cheeses

My wife, Dorothy, struck out independently with a generous portion of Spicy Prawn and Noodle Broth (\$6.50). This was followed by the restaurant's concession to simpler fare, an excellent Fish and Chips with Tartare Sauce (\$14.50).

For dessert, Dorothy had a conventionally yummy Creme Brulee (\$7.50) while Sabina and I shared an excellent platter of Australasian

cheeses - Watsonia Cheddar from Western Australia, King Island Double Brie, Mingabarina Washed Rind and New Zealand South Cape Blue (\$9.50).

This was served with something of a novelty, Lavash, a type of thin Turkish bread made in the restaurant kitchen.

Like the menu, the wine list is small but offers adequate choice with smaller winemakers well represented. It offers several half bottles and we were allowed to order a single glass of red.

The charge of the Light Brigade (sorry about that!) in our case was just over \$100 including an excellently kept bottle of Wolf Blass Classic Dry White and that single glass of wine.

Altogether a caring restaurant with friendly and efficient service, and some pleasant touches of originality.

R.B.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association Ltd

ACN 002 872 433

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra, N.S.W. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, P.O. Woollahra, NSW 2025.

Patron: Neville Wran.

Vice-President and Acting President: Cynthia Gregory-Roberts.

Treasurer: John Cunnington.

Secretary: Nick Eddy.

Membership Secretary: Mary Read.

Committee: Kate Buckingham, Graham Freudenberg, Patti Graham, John Haymes, Tim McCormick and Mary Read.

Administrative Assistant: Suzie Graham.

Village Voice Editor: Robin Brampton.

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ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mayor to speak at annual meeting

THE Mayor of Woollahra, Alderman Andrew Briger, has accepted an invitation to be guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association on Tuesday, May 25.

This will be held as usual at the premises of Fred Pazotti, 64 Moncur Street, starting at 7pm.

Alderman Briger is an architect by profession and a former Deputy Lord Mayor of Sydney. We hope his address will stimulate a lively debate on local topics, particularly as Woollahra Council is currently preparing a strategic plan for the municipality.

All local residents are welcome, whether or not they are Association members, and expect as usual to provide a complimentary supper and a few glasses of wine.

Strategic plan input

BEFORE formulating its strategic plan, Woollahra Council has been arranging a series of workshops at which local residents and groups have had the opportunity of putting forward their ideas for the Council's future policy directions.

These have been conducted by a firm of solicitors, Phillips Fox, whose John Mant has had the difficult job of tactfully guiding the discussions and then producing an issues paper to consolidate the many issues raised.

The Queen Street Association was represented at one of the workshops and strongly urged that any strategic plan should not abandon – or conflict with – the Council's West Woollahra Plan, gazetted in 1985.

The Association had a great deal of input into this plan to ensure it achieved our aim of preserving the scale and character of the area.

The most important elements are a height limit of 9.5m on new buildings – for practical purposes three floors – and a conservation zoning over the whole district.

In the issues paper, this viewpoint has been summarised, too briefly in our view, as: "Conservation, preservation of West Woollahra".

continued next page



Queen Street Association acting president, Cynthia Gregory-Roberts (centre), congratulates Mandy and David Heimann of Orson & Blake Collectables on winning the award for the best shop window by day.

Come to Queen Street they did

ONCE again the weather was sunny for the Association's Come to Queen Street Day on November 28, and people thronged to patronise the shops and 30 or so varied street stalls.

This time there were more diversions – orchestral music, jazz and carols on Dorhauer Lane carpark; a wonderful old German street organ at the corner of Victoria Avenue; and many young buskers.

Perhaps our only regret was that strict interpretation of health regulations prevented us having a nose-tingling sausage sizzle.

Jill Wran and Leslie Walford kindly judged the shop window competition, won by Orson & Blake Collectables (Best by Day) and Queen Street Flower Shop (Best by Night). Sydney Gardeners' Club was judged to have the best dressed street stall.

Each winner received a dinner for two at a local restaurant. Our gratitude to Big Mama Trattoria, Bistro Moncur (Woollahra Hotel) and the Light Brigade Hotel.

Our thanks also to the following people and businesses whose financial and other help made the day a success:

Appley Hoare Antiques; Australian Gift-guide Productions; Bridge Printery Pty Ltd; Centennial Hotel (Mr George Senes); Charles Hewitt, Frames, Prints and Decorations; Decadence; Desks of Distinction; Don Stein Plant Hire; Howell and Howell



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ASSOCIATION REPORT

continued

Attended by more than 200 people, the workshops produced what John Mant called an extensive "wants list". Many of the items would be pure "pie in the sky" considering the statutory limits now placed on council finances.

The workshops also produced some very divergent views, for instance:

– Should tourism be encouraged in Woollahra for its economic value or discouraged because tourist buses and accommodation are a threat to residential amenity?

– Should Woollahra Council become more involved in community services or less because this is really a matter for State and Federal Governments?

One area on which there appeared to be general agreement was the need for the council to give more attention to parks and gardens, and street tree management.

The strategic plan is being prepared over a year, and further public consultations are promised. Naturally, the Association will continue to monitor developments on behalf of local residents.

Why spray the weeds?

THE strategic planning workshops showed that others besides the Queen Street Association are concerned about Woollahra Council's continued use of the



Wouldn't spadework be better? A Woollahra Council contractor sprays herbicide on outcrops of weeds.

herbicide, Round-up, to control weeds in footpaths and gutters.

Recently *Village Voice* editor Robin Brampton watched one of the Council's contract Round-up sprayers at work and took the picture above.

He was pleased to note that the operator did a very thorough job, attending to even the smallest patch of weeds, and at the same time avoided spraying near tree gardens and other desirable vegetation.

But the problem with this method, as we have previously pointed out, is that the dead weeds are just as unsightly as they were in their original verdant state.

If the weed carcasses are later removed manually, as the Council tell us they are, why can't the original weeds be

dug out with a good old fashioned spade in the first place?

This would provide mulch and save the cost of spraying.

Directors needed

IN the past year, two Directors of the Queen Street Association have moved from the area, so new blood will be needed when the elections are held in May.

The Association would particularly like to hear from people with architectural, town planning or design knowledge and experience, willing to serve on the committee.

The person to contact is Mr Tim McCormick, 363 5383.

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With Robin Brampton

CHAMELEON-like. Queen Street continues to present an ever-changing and often more fascinating face to the world.

The refurbishment of the Woollahra Hotel is turning out a real knockout, particularly the simple, stylish decor of the Bistro Moncur, dominated by Michael Fitzjames' black and white murals.

Having sold the pub to a group headed by Dr Ron White and restaurateur Damien Pignolet, George Jones has decided to quit Queen Street real estate completely.

His Queens Court building on the opposite corner goes under L.J. Hookers' hammer on Thursday, April 8, in a joint auction with Laing & Simmons.

Simon Rooney of Hookers' Double Bay office tells me the price is expected to be around \$4.2 million, giving a 10 per cent return on the well-occupied building.

* * *

MEANWHILE comings and goings continue relentlessly. Rosie Jennings worked with breathtaking speed to turn the former Fabrica furnishing fabrics shop on the corner of Queen and Spicer Streets into the sixth of her Annie Lants fashion boutiques.

When I called to welcome her on opening day, both stock and shop looked smart and welcoming, including Rosie herself, dressed as one would expect in one of her own chic designs.

Rosie established the Annie Lants fashion business nine years ago, naming it after her grandmother, with every last stitch Australian designed and made.

Eight months ago she switched from purely wholesaling to selling through her own outlets and other Annie Lants shops have opened in Mosman, Lane Cove, St Ives, Canberra and Glebe. Next comes Penrith.

The Queen Street shop will be run principally by the friendly Angela McKenna and for shoppers who like to

go away "and think about it", she offers a lovely winter fashion catalogue to take away.

* * *

ANOTHER newcomer to the Queen Street area is the vivacious, Canadian-born Lynda Hayden who has established her first retail venture, Harlequin Trim, in the former art gallery at the corner of Jersey Road and Hargrave Street.

Previously involved in financial marketing, Lynda believes there is a niche for a retail shop specialising in furnishing trimmings, principally for the increasing number of people who do their own home decorating.

The response has been excellent and Lynda hopes to attract even more customers when the word gets round that she can offer small quantities of trimming previously only available in quantity from wholesalers.

The attractively presented shop offers a colourful collection of exotic, multi-coloured braids, upholstery trims and matching curtain tie backs; plus some furnishing fabrics.

Styles range from the grandest European to simple unbleached cottons and Lynda tells me her stock comes from all over the world, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the United States . . .

And Australia? Yes, Sydney boasts a one-man business handmaking tassels which Lynda is pleased to sell.

* * *

MEANWHILE, among departures, we are naturally sorry that Duane Norris and John Haymes are no longer vitalising the commercial life of Queen Street.

From 1988 to 1991, Duane was a very able president of the Queen Street Association and author of the imaginative Queen Street 2000 Scheme for the complete refurbishment of the area.

Duane is now living up the New South Wales coast at



Tassels galore . . . Lynda Hayden presiding at Harlequin Trim.

Hardys Bay and the Duane Norris Garden Design shop in Queens Court is for sale.

Our felicitations go to John Haymes, a widower, who was married with charmingly romantic timing on St Valentine's Day to sculptor Gaye Porter.

He has now moved the bookdealing business he runs with his son, Sam, from 43 Queen Street to a building in Bennett Place, Surry Hills, where Gaye has also established her studio. The phone number is 360 7403.

A member of the Queen Street Association committee, John was also a strong force in the Queen Street business group. With Mary Read, he

was responsible for producing an excellent shopping map of the area with the text partly in Japanese to help tourists.

John tells me his former Queen Street premises have been bought by Ian Warnecke, aviation executive turned antiques dealer, who will refurbish them for both his business and home.

* * *

FINALLY, another departure which should not go unnoticed is that of Michael Patané who is not renewing the lease of his interior lighting shop at number 111.

Michael tells me he is continuing the home and commercial lighting consultancy business which was always an important part of his activities and can be reached on his mobile phone, (018) 44 6216.



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