



VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

NOVEMBER, 1975

THE FAIR WOULD NOT DIE

Yes, the Queen Street Fair definitely will be held this year. On Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In accordance with the wish of our members and local residents, it will be smaller in size, with just over 200 stalls and selling points, compared with 296 last year.

We are aiming for a higher quality of presentation, with more local and charity involvement. And we are planning to group the stalls more interestingly than the "ribbon development" pattern of previous years.

As recently as September, the association announced that this year's fair would be cancelled because of the apparent legal difficulty in closing Queen Street for the event.

How then did we manage to reprieve it?

Principally because practically nobody wanted to see it die.

Immediately we announced the calling off of the fair, many local residents and potential stallholders — even young children — got in touch with us to voice their disappointment or expressed it to the New South Wales Government.

The media was sympathetic. Several columnists wrote of their chagrin that such a lively and colourful community event should be cancelled.

And most important of all, immediate and sympathetic initiatives were taken in official circles.

It would be tedious and impolitic to detail in *Village Voice* the delicate negotiations we had with officialdom and the manner in which the threat to this year's fair was finally staved off. That is now history.

We would, however, like to thank three people and groups whose collective goodwill achieved a solution for us:

Mr. John Barraclough, MLA, our local



member and Minister for Sport, Recreation and Culture, who has always taken a personal interest in the fair. Mr. Barraclough made very energetic representations for us with his Ministerial colleagues.

Woollahra Municipal Council, who when they realised our difficulties quite spontaneously indicated that they would not stand in the way of a 1975 Fair and have since given us great help and encouragement.

The Departments of Police and Transport, whose cooperation is essential if a main street is to be closed to traffic.

Although there will be somewhat fewer stalls this year, we intend that there shall be no less entertainment — spontaneous and organised.

Two bandstands will be erected — in the mouth of Victoria Avenue and opposite Holdsworth Street — to provide continuous music. And at Victoria Avenue, we hope to have an area where people can dance.

The association is arranging plenty of selling points for ice cream and Coca Cola, and we will again have Queen Street Fair balloons as in 1973.

We also hope that many individual

stallholders will sell takeaway and other food.

And despite the impression given in the *Sunday Telegraph*, there will be no need for fair patrons to knock on the doors of Queen Street residents asking to use the toilet.

Apart from the very adequate public toilets in Centennial Park opposite the end of Queen Street, as in 1974 the association is providing special mobile toilets of both the "Ladies" and "Gents" variety just off the main concourse of the fair in Halls Lane and Smith Street.

Because of the reduced size of the 1975 Queen Street Fair, it is unlikely that the association will make as big a profit as in 1974 when our surplus was \$5131.

However, it was the committee's feeling that we should go ahead on the scale suggested by our members even if the profit was smaller.

The main importance of the fair is that it gives happiness to so many people and creates a wonderful opportunity for charities to make money and individual craftsmen and small dealers to sell their wares.

For these reasons, we are delighted to be able once again to say — COME TO QUEEN STREET FAIR.

TWO DATES TO REMEMBER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

PUBLIC MEETING ON
TOWN PLANNING
PROPOSALS FOR
WEST WOOLLAHRA, 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

QUEEN STREET FAIR
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE QUEEN STREET ASSOCIATION

Dear Resident,

You will have had a letter from the Woollahra Council or seen in local papers that the Town Planning proposals for West Woollahra are now being displayed at the Council Chambers and at Shop 2, Queen's Court (Queen Street and Moncur Street) until November 14, 1975.

There will be a public meeting at the Woollahra Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, to allow residents to discuss these proposals.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association is vitally involved with the planning of the future of our area and we urge you to examine the plans the Council has proposed, and to attend the meeting to lend your support or ideas.

It is through local associations that such open forums on planning have developed and therefore we trust you will want to become involved.

Regards,

LEO SCHOFIELD

WHAT THE PLAN PROPOSES

In general, Queen Street and West Woollahra Association is satisfied that the more important planning principles it suggested for the area have been adopted in the proposals placed before the public by Woollahra Municipal Council.

Earlier this year, the association submitted its own action plan to the Council, formulated by our architectural committee and partly based on a survey of residents.

The Council's proposals cover two areas:

West Woollahra — the business area of Queen and Moncur Streets and the residential streets immediately to the north and south, an area covering 64 acres (24 hectares).

Woollahra Ridge — the 200 acre (81 hectares) area stretching away from West Woollahra towards Double Bay. This includes the new Woollahra Station on the Eastern Suburbs Railway which will have a profound impact on the area.

Much of Woollahra Ridge is outside our association's area, so the proposals for it do not concern us as vitally as those for West Woollahra.

In West Woollahra, it is proposed that the "core" area of the commercial side of Queen Street, Halls Lane, Smith Street, Moncur Street, Rush Street, Jersey Road and a little of Oxford Street be zoned Residential 2(g) (Redevelopment) and subject to the same control code as Paddington.

This means that the very satisfactory type of planning control which was won for Paddington — with its emphasis on preservation and the restriction of ugly high rise buildings — would extend right into our area.

Formerly it ended on the east side of Jersey Road.

An interesting and welcome part of the proposals is that disused shops may now, with the Council's consent, be returned to commercial use as shops. Previously this had not been allowed if they were outside the business area.

New commercial development will not be allowed outside the present business area of Queen Street, and where new commercial buildings are erected, they must not exceed two stories.

Between Moncur Street and Holdsworth Street, all rear extensions to existing buildings in Queen Street must be set back at least 22ft 6in from the Peaker Lane alignment to allow for landscaping and unloading of goods.

In the area of West Woollahra to the south and north of the "core" area referred to above, it is proposed that Residential 2(b) (Redevelopment) zoning will apply.

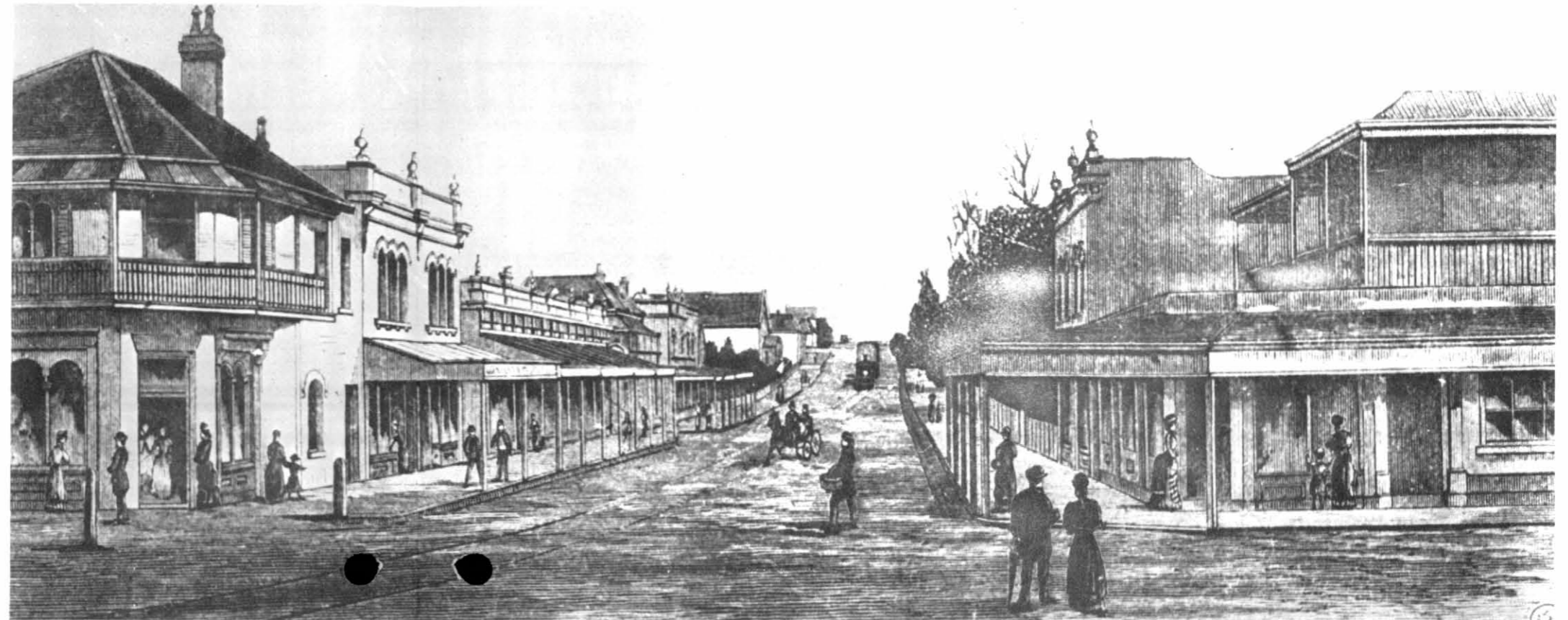
Very stringent restrictions will apply to new homes in this area.

Single dwellings must be built on no more than two-thirds of the site and, wherever possible, off-street parking must be provided for cars.

For group dwellings, a minimum site area of 10,000 sq ft (900 sq m) will be required, with a maximum site coverage of only 30 per cent. A town house must occupy no more than 2250 sq ft (209 sq m) of its site area.

In deciding on future individual planning applications in West Woollahra, the Council proposes to take into consideration whether the building has a National Trust classification or recommendation and whether it is of historical significance.

The relationship of a building to its neighbours — in height, scale and character — would also be considered.



SERVICE SHOPS DISAPPEAR

The depressing trend for service businesses which have served our local community well for many years to close down continues.

The two latest casualties are Col McCristal's butcher's shop at 106 Queen Street and Aileen Murphy's hairdressing salon at 37 Ocean Street.

Both are certain to be turned into speciality shops — McCristal's into a boutique and Mrs. Murphy's into a bookshop.

McCristal's butchery will be particularly missed.

Col and his father ran it continuously for 58 years, placing such great emphasis on quality that one customer came regularly from Maroubra every week to buy her meat there.

Col intends to go on living in Queen Street, but will ply his trade elsewhere as somebody else's employee.

With these two shops gone, we are also sorry to see that our fears regarding the types of business which would open in Queen's Court were fully justified.

With practically every shop and office now tenanted, only one fits into the service business category — the very welcome Alice's At It coffee shop.

Boutiques, dishwashing machine centres and real estate registries are admirable types of business enterprise . . . but where, oh where, are the fish shop, cake shop and hardware store we so badly need?

BOOKINGS FOR THE FAIR

If you would like a stall at Queen Street Fair on November 22, please contact the coordinator, Miss Janne Rasmus, as soon as possible. We want to give preference to local people.

Miss Rasmus has established a special Queen Street Fair office at first floor, 153 Queen Street, where she can be contacted either personally or by telephone (328 6500) between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

This year the rental of stalls is \$25 for charity stalls, \$42 for side stalls and \$75 for centre stalls. Apart from charities, a stallholder must be a member of the association but this can be arranged at the time of booking.

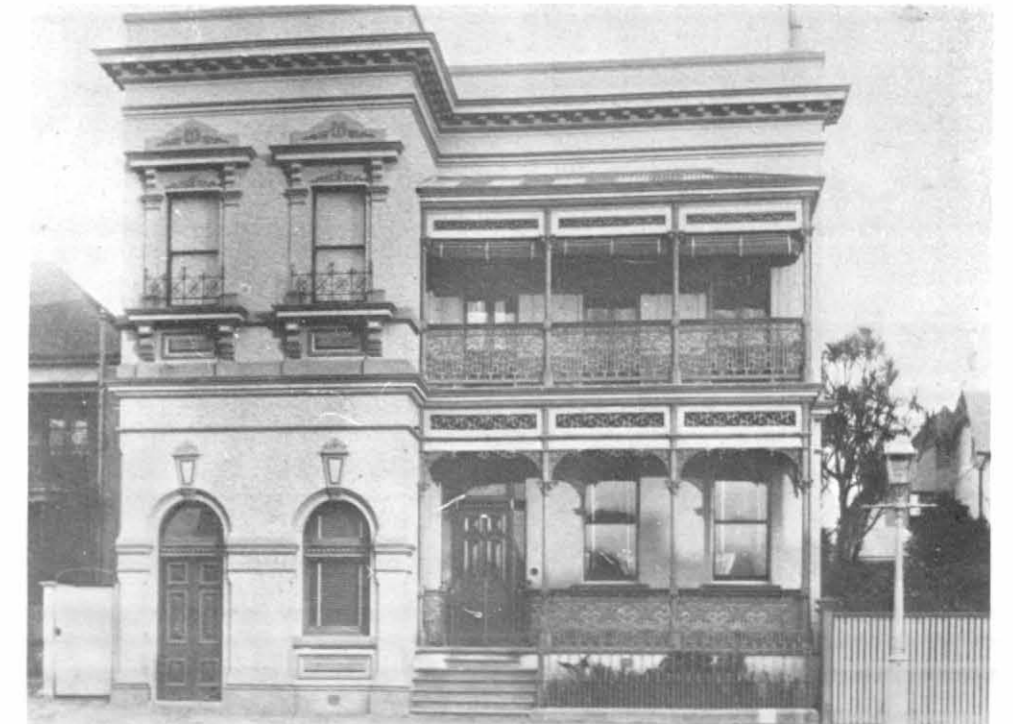
A plan is available in the fair office and you can choose your position from this.

Stallholders who plan to sell food must also obtain a special licence from Woollahra Municipal Council. This is a simple procedure which Miss Rasmus will explain when you book.

Following some complaints from patrons last year, the association is banning the sale of transistor radios and other electronic goods at the fair, and also the taking of orders for goods to be delivered later. Also, the association is retaining for itself the exclusive right to sell ice cream and soft drinks.

Every other type of merchandise is welcomed — provided it is of good quality and well displayed.

To emphasise the interesting architectural history of our area, the association has lent a number of historic pictures to Woollahra Council for exhibition with the planning proposals. Two are reproduced here. The picture above shows the corner of Moncur Street and Queen Street towards the end of the last century when steam trams ran in Queen Street. All the shops to the left of the picture still exist, the nearer buildings incorporated into Queen's Court. The single story shops to the right were only demolished in the late 1960s, when Neville Marsh restored the interesting Victorian residence they had sprawled out from. Below is the bank building and residence at 123 Queen Street in 1886. This building also has recently been restored to its full Victorian splendour.



**THE QUEEN STREET AND
WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION**

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

Address: Box 50, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

Subscription: \$3 a year. Life membership \$25.

President: Leo Schofield
Vice President: Robin Brampton
Treasurer: Neville Marsh

Committee: Robin Broadbent, Marion Cowper, Douglas Gordon, Michael Magnus, Marcel Piat, Anthony Sernack.

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon

Queen Street Fair Coordinator: Janne Rasmus (328 6500, 9.30am-12.30pm)

Honorary Auditor: Michael Gilovitz

Village Voice is published approximately every six months. Letters and other contributions on local topics are invited. The editor is Robin Brampton (357 1488 day, 32 4475 evening and weekends).

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

Every home in the area covered by the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association gets a copy of *Village Voice*.

If you're reading this and you're not a member of the association, please join us by filling in the coupon below.

We need your support, both moral and financial, in our constant fight to preserve the architectural heritage of our area and ensure that it always remains a pleasant place to live.

THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

ENCLOSED IS MY SUBSCRIPTION OF \$3 FOR ONE YEAR.

IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN A MEMBER, PLEASE PUT A TICK HERE

NAME

ADDRESS

POST TO: The Secretary,
Queen Street and West Woollahra Association,
PO Box 50,
WOOLLAHRA, NSW 2025.

PLEASE RESTORE THE CROSS

A member of our committee, Marcel Piat, recently pointed out that few residents know that the junction of Queen Street with Oxford Street has a name – Oxford Cross.

The words can still be seen on a building at the junction, but the name has fallen completely into disuse.

According to Gregory's street guide, the area on the opposite side of Oxford Street, where Moore Park Road, Cook Road and Lang Road meet, is called Centennial Square. But nobody remembers to use this name either.

Mr. Piat suggested that it would help in giving directions to visitors coming to Queen Street if the name Oxford Cross could be restored to favour as a landmark.

The association is writing to both Woollahra Municipal Council and the Department of Transport, asking for "Oxford Cross" to be put back on the map.

GOODWIN VILLAGE FAIR

Among all the hundreds of garden fetes organised in the Eastern Suburbs, one of the most pleasant, colourful and well organised is the annual fair at Goodwin Village, the residential centre for senior citizens in Jersey Road.

This is a particularly good fete for picking up handcrafted articles, beautifully and patiently made by older hands.

This year the fair takes place on Saturday, November 15, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Goodwin Village Fair does not conflict with Queen Street Fair – in fact it takes place the week before – and we urge everybody who enjoys a bargain and admires self-reliance in older people to give it their patronage.

HELEN KELLER STILL UNSOLD

Again we must regretfully report that no progress has been made to sell the Helen Keller Hostel property and get the magnificent old Georgian house restored.

The association continues to take an active interest both in the immediate protection of the building from the elements and in its future.

And we are as determined as we were in 1973, when the Royal Blind Society attempted to demolish it, that the building must be preserved as part of the area's architectural heritage.

Two prominent companies of real estate agents have taken an active interest in finding a buyer for the building this year, and one in particular has made two constructive offers on behalf of a client.

However, the Royal Blind Society has found these unacceptable, so the stalemate continues.

One strong possibility now is that the Royal Blind Society will abandon attempts to sell the Helen Keller building and land with the cottages it owns in Woods Avenue and Waimea Avenue in one parcel.

Instead it may offer them in separate lots in the way that is now being done with the Glebe development at the end of Ocean Street.

FILMS AT DIAMOND HORSESHOE?

Where once Lee Sharon stripteased before a Sydney unused to such abandonment and Cochinelle displayed his/her bizarre talents is now squalor and decay.

It is many years since the Diamond Horseshoe nightclub in Oxford Street has been used for public entertainment – or anything else for that matter.

Its faded façade, covered with peeling posters, hardly adds to the amenities of the area. But any plan to use it again for public purposes immediately raises the problems of noise and inadequate parking space.

Some time ago a plan was mooted to turn the building into a centre for weddings and other functions. This caused apprehension among residents in the immediate neighbourhood and was abandoned.

Now a plan is being submitted to Woollahra Council to restore it very tastefully as a cinema showing Australian and other films.

The developer, a lady, has sought the association's views.

After a study of the plans by the architectural committee, we have resolved to tell her that this is the sort of commercial which in general the association endorses.