



# VILLAGE VOICE

QUEEN STREET & WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER, 1977

## COOPER ELECTION FORUM

By its constitution, the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association is non-political. Nevertheless, we try to work closely with members of Woollahra Municipal Council in our work for the area.

In the local government elections on Saturday, September 17, a new Woollahra Council will be elected – possibly the last in view of the proposal to amalgamate Woollahra with other local government areas.

Six candidates are standing for the three seats in the Cooper Ward – the area covered by the Queen Street Association.

One candidate, Mr. Marcel Piat, is a highly respected member of our committee. However, neither he nor any other candidate stands with the endorsement of the association.

This year for the first time since 1965, the election will be conducted by proportional representation, which gives a better chance to individual independent and minority group candidates.

Also for the first time, voting is compulsory for local residents, although not for voters who qualify only because their business is in the area.

We invited all six Cooper Ward candidates to give us some information about themselves and their policies.

Here, in alphabetical order, are their replies:

**J. M. (JOCK) MACCALLUM**

**ANTHONY PERRY**

**MARCEL PIAT**

These three candidates are all endorsed by the Woollahra Action Committee. They have provided us with this joint policy statement:

The major issue of the election campaign will be the proposal by the State Labor Government to amalgamate the whole of Woollahra into a reconstituted "greater" City of Sydney Council, incorporating large areas of Waverley, Murrumbidgee, South Sydney and Leichhardt.

The Independent candidates, endorsed by the Woollahra Action Committee, are diametrically opposed to this and have adopted as their campaign slogan "Take Action Against Amalgamation".

Among the many points outlined in their election platform are their determination to:

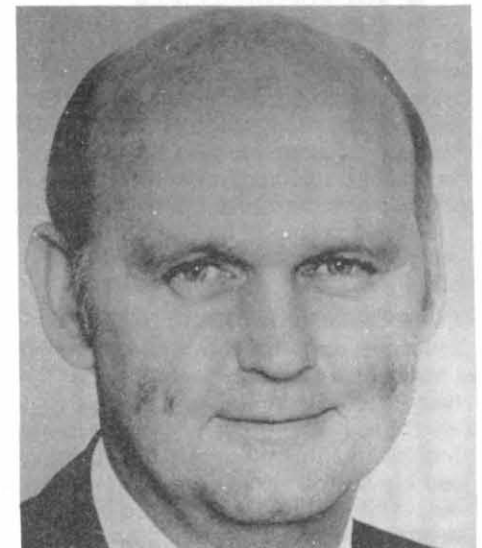
- Keep Woollahra independent.
- Keep rates low.

- Strictly and sensibly control high-rise development.
- Keep party politics out of local government.
- Refuse payment for their services as aldermen.
- Implement efficient Council administration.
- Continue a programme of floodlighting pedestrian crossings.
- Continue a programme of modernising street cleaning methods.
- Continue the rejuvenation and development of parklands in the Municipality.
- Take a responsible attitude to town planning.
- Provide care for the aged.
- Rationalise the multitude of signs in the Municipality.
- Continue to notify adjoining owners of proposed development.
- Provide adequate car parking in the Municipality.
- Continue to expand library services.

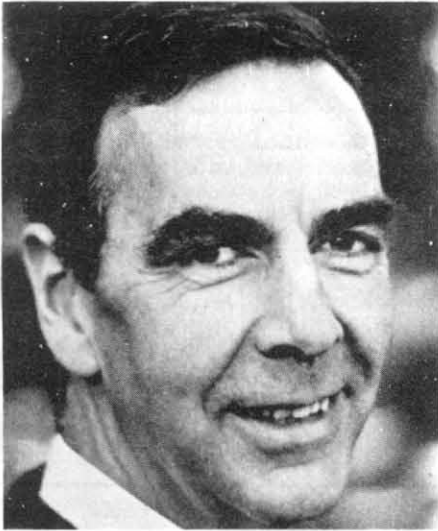
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**ANTHONY PERRY**, a solicitor and company director, is Deputy Mayor of Woollahra. First elected to the Council in 1974, he is the only Cooper Ward alderman to seek re-election.



**JOCK MACCALLUM** is a mortgage broker with wide business and financial experience. He has taken a keen interest in community affairs and local sporting clubs.



**MARCEL PIAT** is the founder of a successful import/export business based in the Cooper Ward, and lives in Queen Street. For many years he has been an active committee member of the Queen Street Association. He is also a member of East Sydney Rotary Club.



**CATHY STAMPER** is the administrator of the Woollahra-Waverley Arts Centre. She is also a committee member of the Holdsworth Street Centre. Ms. Stamper describes herself as a young and energetic woman who is vitally interested in community affairs.



**MICHAEL WINDSOR** has always lived in Ocean Street, apart from two years he spent working as an Australian Volunteer Abroad in Papua-New Guinea as an investment advisor. Recently he has campaigned for measures to prevent illegal activities in Chiswick Gardens.

**ELECTION FORUM – contd.**

More specifically:

**SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES:** Aldermen endorsed by the Woollahra Action Committee were primarily responsible for the allocation in 1976 alone of over \$65,000 on services for senior citizens, including maintaining and servicing the E. J. Ward Welfare Centre in Paddington and the Woollahra Senior Citizens Centre in the Gaden Reserve. During its current term, Council has undertaken major structural alterations to the Gaden Reserve Centre, meeting the full difference between total cost and income from fees etc.

**WOOLLAHRA CHILDREN'S AND COMMUNITY CENTRE:** During the term of the current Council, extensive improvements have been made to the Council-owned playground and building in Holdsworth Street, Woollahra. These included major alterations and additions to the existing situation, together with landscaping and the closure of the road to extend the adjoining reserve. As a result of these improvements, opportunities now exist for community involvement in craft, recreational, social and educational activities.

**COOPER PARK REDEVELOPMENT:** Extensive plans for the rejuvenation of Cooper Park are under way. Already, the tennis facilities are being improved in association with the new resident professional. Comprehensive floodlighting and kiosk renovations have been carried out, additional parking has been provided in newly landscaped surroundings and still further major improvements are planned.

**INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS:** Aldermen endorsed by the Woollahra Action Committee have successfully cam-

paigned for traffic light installations at the following intersections: (a) Forth Street and Edgecliff Road, (b) Grosvenor Street and Edgecliff Road, (c) Moncur Street and Queen Street, (d) Edgecliff Road and Junction Street. They are now included in the Department of Main Roads 1977-78 installation programme. Our endorsed aldermen will continue their efforts to give priority to such installations.

**TREES FOR QUEEN STREET:** A comprehensive tree-planting programme was implemented in association with the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association. Future submissions from interested community groups will be reviewed.

**CATHY STAMPER**  
*Endorsed Labor Candidate*

I feel very concerned that the community welfare aspect of Woollahra Municipality has not been adequately looked after in past years.

I would like to see Council playing a greater role in the development and encouragement of community centres. Being involved in two fairly well established centres, I see the great need of such centres.

I would like to see Council employ a social worker (there is Federal and State financial assistance for both social and youth workers employed by councils) to consult, stimulate and advise citizens and generally encourage self-help groups who are willing to start these centres.

I particularly have in mind occasional day care, teenage "drop-in", after school and an extension of services for the elderly.

I am concerned with the delays currently experienced in building and development applications. The Woollahra plan should

be implemented after consultation with residents as soon as possible, to speed up these often very expensive and unnecessary delays.

I also feel Council should pay more attention to the immediate environmental aspects, such as street cleaning, and make serious attempts to recycle household waste.

If elected I will serve the area with interest and involvement and will always be readily available for consultation with residents.

**TONY WHITE**

On the previous Woollahra Council, Mr. White was one of the three Labor Party representatives for the Paddington Ward.

He tells us that he is a member of the Labor Party and is standing for the Cooper Ward as an official Labor candidate. This claim of official endorsement is disputed by Cathy Stamper.

Mr. White declined to provide us with a picture and statement of policy for publication in *Village Voice*, but thanked us for giving him the opportunity to do so.

**MICHAEL WINDSOR**  
*Independent Candidate*

My aims in standing for the Council are:

- The promotion of personal contact between aldermen and every ratepayer.
- The conversion of Chiswick Gardens into a safe and peaceful retreat.
- Reaffirming the importance of residential life with greater consideration for the problems of traffic congestion, noise and litter.
- Opposition to the amalgamation of Woollahra Council.

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## BOOKINGS OPEN FOR FAIR

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The 1977 Queen Street Fair will be held on Saturday, November 26.

A major change this year is that the Fair is being run by a joint committee of the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association and Woollahra Municipal Council.

This has been set up at the suggestion of the State Government, under Section 530A of the Local Government Act, to avoid the sort of doubt of the legality of the event which almost led to the cancellation of the 1976 Fair.

The joint committee is headed by the association president, Robin Brampton, who reports how delighted he is with the friendly and co-operative attitude of Council representatives on the committee.

This year's Fair will be about the same size as the last. For sheer economic reasons, it has been impossible to go back to the very small-scale local basis of the fair suggested by some people.

To do this would mean there would be insufficient revenue to cover such major expenses as street cleaning, publicity, provision of amenities and administration.

The association has set up a separate "Flair Committee", headed by vice-president Leo Schofield, to arrange the association's own participation in the Fair.

One idea Leo is working on is providing "The World's Largest White Elephant Stall", with hundreds of pedigree white elephants on the hoof to choose from.

If you have any goods you would like to donate, please contact our secretary, Anne MacCallum, whose address and phone number are on the back of this newsletter.

This year there has been an increase in stall rentals, caused partly by inflation and partly by the insistence of Woollahra Municipal Council that stallholders have a Street Pedlar's Licence, for which the Council must receive a fee to cover their administrative costs.

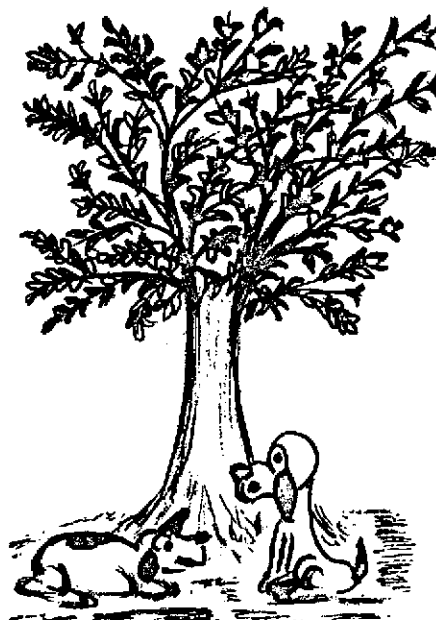
Island stalls will cost \$65 for charity groups and \$105 for non-charities. For kerbside stalls the charges will be \$45 for charity groups and \$65 for non-charities.

From Monday, September 12, when bookings open, until October 12 we are having a priority booking period to enable us to meet Council requirements that we give preference to certain categories of applicants.

These are charities, both local and general, local community organisations, and people and groups who either live or conduct their businesses in Woollahra Municipality.

Others may apply during the priority booking period, but their applications will not be considered until after October 12, when all applications in higher preference categories have been granted.

Stallholders in the 1976 Fair and others



*Love is when people like trees too!*

who have indicated interest in having stalls this year will be sent application forms automatically.

If you have not had a stall before and would like to apply this year, write to the Association Secretary at Box 16, PO Woollahra, NSW 2025.

Forms may also be obtained from Anne Schofield Antiques, 36 Queen Street, or Kaleidoscope, 42-44 Queen Street.

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## TREES, TREES – AT LAST

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Yes, we really have got our street planting scheme in Queen Street at last, and only the very cynical would note that it happened in a Council election year.

Following the public meeting organised by the association in March to discuss Woollahra Council's first scheme, things moved ahead very quickly.

First the association offered to pay for 10 well-developed liquidamber trees. Council refused this offer, but came up with a new proposal for a scheme costing \$6000, compared with the \$10,000 estimated cost of its earlier scheme.

Council suggested that the association contribute \$2000 towards the cost, and we agreed subject to an immediate start being made.

After that, we were astonished with the rapidity with which the trees were planted, and we have written to the Council congratulating their landscape architect, Michael Kelly, and his team on their work.

On the south side of the street, the side opposite the shops, the Council has planted 24 trees – five liquidamber styraciflua and 19 fraxinus pennsylvanica.

These are "super advanced" trees, but on the other side of Queen Street, a water-main three metres from the northern property line prevented "super advanced"

trees being planted, and the plantings are of "advanced" trees.

These plantings are made up of 28 liquidamber styraciflua and four fraxinus pennsylvanica.

The choice of trees was made after a great deal of consideration of the best way of providing a bold splash of uniform colour and a degree of shade.

The final scheme differs from the Council's earlier proposals in that it is more of an infill scheme which leaves most of the well-developed trees in the street untouched.

However, the association is quite happy with the result, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that the trees flourish.

Obviously we expect the Council to tend them well, but local residents can help by adopting the plantings outside their premises and seeing that they are watered in their early life and kept free of weeds.

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## WALKABOUT IN THE RAIN

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Despite the showery weather and the counter attractions of Father's Day, about 150 people took part in the association's Winter Walkabout in Queen Street on September 4.

We would like to thank the 20 or so shop and gallery owners who gave up their Sunday afternoon to keep open house for Walkabout ticket holders.

Several told us that they did it as a gesture of support to the association and Queen Street generally, rather than because of any business it might generate.

However, we saw a lot of people taking advantage of the 10 per cent Walkabout discount and hope that the altruism of Queen Street traders also paid off financially.

The association will consider organising another Walkabout – hopefully on a less unsettled day for the weather.

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## CHANGES TO COMMITTEE

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Although Robin Brampton and Leo Schofield continued in office (albeit slightly reluctantly) as president and vice-president, there have been considerable changes in the association's committee this year.

From the 1976 committee, Michael Magnus, Tony Sernack, Austin Chapman and Mark Crittle did not seek re-election.

Michael Magnus had been a committee member since the association began and Tony Sernack was the association's treasurer.

Tony's very capable successor is Mrs. Monica MacDonald, and the other new committee members are Miss Mollie Lenthall, Mrs. Pixie Nolan and Dr. John Elder.

To all four we bid welcome.

**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 16, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

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

President: Robin Brampton

Vice President: Leo Schofield

Treasurer: Monica MacDonald

Committee: Dr. John Elder, Douglas Gordon, Mollie Lenthall, Pixie Nolan, Marcel Piat, Grant Roberts

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon

Secretary: Mrs. Anne MacCallum, 387 3207

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 16,  
WOOLLAHRA, NSW 2025.

**SURVEY SHOWS LIGHTS NEEDED**

Local residents overwhelmingly believe that traffic lights are badly needed at the corner of Queen and Moncur Streets, according to a survey made by the association in June.

Of the 79 residents who returned our questionnaire form, 76 said they considered the lights badly needed and only three did not.

At the beginning of the year, the Department of Main Roads listed the intersection as a "recognised site" for traffic lights, but as yet there is no sign of them being installed.

Some of the comments for and against lights were as follows:

—"Traffic lights are MUCH overdue. The intersection is extremely dangerous for both cars and pedestrians. As for the latter, there is nowhere in the shopping area to cross safely."

—"Lights should have been installed years ago."

—"Traffic lights are badly needed and as long ago as 14 years, the late Alderman Latimer campaigned for lights on this corner."

—"I feel strongly that there is already far too much traffic cutting through Woollahra. Currently many are deterred by the difficult intersection. Traffic lights will encourage MORE through traffic which we do not want."

People who took part in the survey were invited to comment on other matters affecting the area and the association. Here are a selection of views:

**PARKING AND TRAFFIC**

—"Resident stickers and street zones should be provided for resident parking."

—"I suggest that a stop sign be put at the Queen Street end of Halls Lane to prevent

cars driving so rapidly over the footpath and causing danger to pedestrians."

—"Parking should be restricted to two hours along Queen Street between Victoria Avenue and Oxford Street. Many people who work in parts of Paddington, or travel to the city, leave their cars here all day."

**SHOPPING**

—"We need very badly a variety of shops, e.g. cakes, fish, a small or large supermarket, to keep residents in Woollahra for their shopping."

—" (The association should) place less emphasis on the development of Queen Street as a street of exclusive boutiques. Actively support existing service shops and the reintroduction of some that have disappeared, e.g. haberdasher, hardware store."

—"I believe there is a real need in Queen Street for a fish shop, hardware shop, cake shop, supermarket, haberdashery."

**DOGS**

—"Restrict dogs from entering and destroying the plants, trees and grass, etc, in the Holdsworth Street Park. Also protect all the young trees, planted at great expense in the park, and which have nearly been totally destroyed by vandals and large dogs."

—"A grass verge should be provided on the south side of Queen Street (maybe parts of the north side, too) to attract dogs to deposit their excreta there instead of on the footpath."

—"Could we perhaps, with well-designed notices, persuade dog owners to clean up after their animals have used the pavement or gutter as a lavatory?"

**ENVIRONMENT**

—"If possible, try to get Council to approach owners of properties which are falling down through neglect to either sell them to somebody who will do them up or do them up themselves. To wit - Knightsbridge on the corner of Nelson Street and Queen Street, and of course Helen Keller Hostel."

—" (The association should) act as a watchdog on substantial building applications for the area (e.g. Diamond Horseshoe cinema) and provide a forum for public discussion of these issues before they are decided by the Council. This does not necessarily mean that the association should take a partisan stand."

—"I disagree with the association's attitude towards the development at the Diamond Horseshoe."

—"Since I live in Waimea Avenue, the Helen Keller Hostel is a daily nightmare and a real danger to uncontrolled children and adults . . . Also how much hope have we for a second street light nearer the gates of the old hostel where there is already a pole in convenient position?"