

VILLAGE VOICE

THE FESTIVAL EDITION

THE WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL 2025, MARCH 28–30:
CELEBRATING ALL THINGS WOOLLAHRA



**SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL TO WIN
A STUNNING MATTHEW ELY
AQUAMARINE RING**

**LATE-NIGHT SHOPPING WITH
SPECIAL OFFERS FROM RETAILERS**

**SIT-DOWN GALA LUNCH UNDER
A MARQUEE IN VICTORIA AVENUE**

**TWO-DAY WRITERS' FESTIVAL
AND DESIGN DISCUSSIONS**

JAZZ ON THE LAWN AT CHISWICK

PLUS

**ALL-DAY ENTERTAINMENT HUB –
STREET PERFORMERS,
FACE PAINTERS, DOG SHOW**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Annual Community Christmas Carols saw over 400 parents and children picnicking on the grass in Chiswick Gardens, listening to carols sung by the Woollahra Public School Choir and a local choir, eating delicious barbecue food prepared by Chiswick Restaurant and posing for photos with Santa. The carols are a key fundraiser for the QSWWA, so a big thank you to all the businesses and to Woollahra Council who so generously supported us.

For the fifth year running we held the ever-popular Christmas Window Display Competition for all local businesses, attracting 55 entries. Congratulations to all the winners, including Forever Vintage, who deservedly took out first prize.

It may be a new year, but some things don't change. Having lost at the Woollahra Local Planning Panel held in December, where I spoke on behalf of the association against the plans, the applicant for the Hughenden Hotel DA has now gone to the Land and Environment Court. There is an on-site conciliation conference on 20 March, which I will be attending and at which I have asked to speak. I will keep the community updated if there is a new proposal that conforms with the council's development rules but expect this to proceed to a full hearing before a commissioner.

Finally, we are looking forward to a wonderful Woollahra Festival 2025 from Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March, to celebrate all things Woollahra, generously sponsored by Woollahra Council and local businesses. It is going to be a massive weekend of fun with something for everyone, including late-night shopping with champagne and all sorts of special events and offers throughout Queen Street, a Writers' Festival starring local and international writers, a Gala Lunch in a beautiful marquee on Victoria Avenue, a full program of free community performances on a stage off Queen Street finishing with a community Dog Show, talks

on design by leading local architects and interior designers, concerts by the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra, and a relaxing finish to the weekend listening to jazz in Chiswick Park. Read about these events and more in this festival edition, book your tickets and be part of a unique experience.

GILES EDMONDS, PRESIDENT, QSWWA



MATTHEW ELY



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 53 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 also hosts your much-loved community events including the Annual Community Carols and Christmas Window Competition. Become a member now! Scan the QR Code to take you to the membership application page on our website, www.woollahravillage.com.au/join-us.



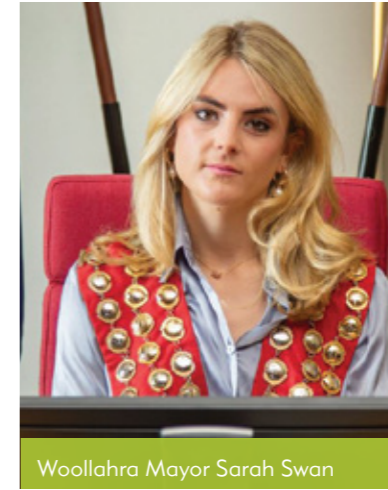
MAYOR CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING POLICY

The NSW state government has recently released its policy for low- and mid-rise housing in Sydney. This will have a direct effect on our area and Woollahra Mayor Sarah Swan has labelled it 'lazy and ill-informed'.

Mayor Sarah Swan has requested an urgent meeting with Premier Chris Minns and Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Paul Scully following the release of what is a 'lazy blanket policy for ill-informed development' in Sydney that ignores existing housing density, overrides heritage conservation areas and has no regard for community consultation or future impact on infrastructure.

'Woollahra Council has consistently met the NSW government's housing targets, is on track to meet new targets and is well placed to plan for appropriate future development,' the mayor said.

'It is difficult to understand the NSW government's decision to force through these reforms with less than a week's notice when it is already aware of the work Woollahra Council is doing to support housing growth in a way that considers place-based planning. Council is already delivering



Woollahra Mayor Sarah Swan

a steady increase in housing, with over 100 new dwellings being added annually since 2016.

'We exceeded the 2016-2026 housing targets set by the NSW government, and we are comfortably on track to meet the new targets.

'Council has endorsed strategies for areas such as Double Bay and Edgecliff that aim to deliver hundreds of new dwellings within already dense environments, while maintaining high standards for planning.

'Woollahra Council is committed to supporting housing growth, but it must be done in a way that respects the existing

character of our communities and takes into account the unique challenges faced by each area. The precincts identified in the low- and mid-rise housing reforms are simply not suitable for this scale of development.

'We will continue to advocate for responsible, place-based planning that meets the housing needs of the community while respecting its infrastructure and environmental constraints,' the mayor said.

OXFORD STREET EAST CYCLEWAY UPDATE: SAVE WOOLLAHRA! SAVE PADDINGTON!

The Oxford Street East Cycleway (OSEC) community group has collaborated to present a petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly requesting that OSEC be discontinued. When closed, the petition will be presented to the Legislative Assembly for debate by Kellie Sloane, the member for Vaucluse.

Titled *Discontinuation of the Oxford Street East Cycleway (OSEC) project to build a primary cycleway link between Taylor*



Square and Centennial Park, the petition sits on the Parliament's electronic platform. The personal details (names and email addresses) of signatories are kept securely within the platform and will not be released publicly or within parliament.

The petition needs 20,000 signatures. Act now! Sign the petition by going to: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx.

JAQUI LANE

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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), Sharon Burns, Richard Haigh, Jennifer Stokes, Susie Willmott.
Village Voice: Christine Whiston (Editor), Kerry Klinner, MegaCity Design (Designer), Roger Balch (Editor at Large), 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:

It's festival time! The Woollahra Festival 2025 will be held from March 28-30. For details turn to the special festival section commencing on page 9. Photo by Alex McClintock, Social Media Officer, Woollahra Council.

90 YEARS YOUNG

Joy Wennerbom is well known throughout the Woollahra community. She moved here from the north shore 35 years ago and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the village ever since. Joy recently celebrated her 90th birthday with lunch at the Plane Tree at Parterre, surrounded by friends.

JOIN THE YARNING CIRCLE

Join local fibre artist Luise Elsing's yarning circle in the Cultural Hub at Woollahra Gallery (548 New South Head Road, Double Bay) on Thursday 24 April and Thursday 29 May, from 11am to 2pm.

This is a free event for beginners to learn how to crochet and for experienced crocheters to show and share their work in the beautiful surrounds of Blackburn Gardens. Tea and cake provided, RSVP to 0407 417 704.



Local fibre artist Luise Elsing to host a crochet event at Woollahra Gallery (courtesy Ainslie.Co Photography).



Her love of the arts, her sense of adventure and her enquiring mind have won Joy Wennerbom a wide circle of friends throughout the community.

PEAKER LANE RESURFACING

In 2022 the QSWWA launched a campaign to clean up Peaker Lane, the unsightly area behind the Queen Street food hub. Council supported the proposal and allocated funds for the works. Unfortunately, the local landlords were reluctant to participate and the project stalled.

However, late last year council suggested another approach, namely to use the funds to resurface the roadway. This has been approved, and Peaker Lane will be resurfaced between



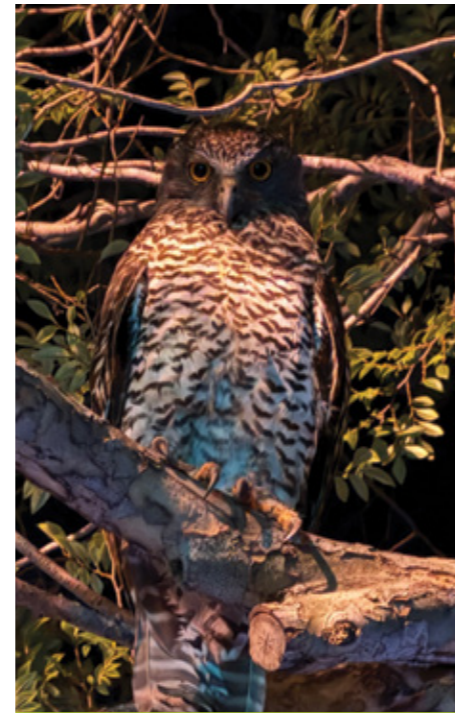
Works commenced late last month and by time of publication, the resurfacing of Peaker Lane had been completed.

Moncur and Holdsworth Streets. In addition, the project will include three new kerb ramps, as well as repairs to footpaths, kerbs and gutters.

Work commenced on 19 February and is expected to be completed within three weeks, weather permitting.

POWERFUL OWL VISITS THE VILLAGE

A pair of powerful owls have been regular inhabitants of Centennial Park for a number of years. However, it is rare to see them beyond the perimeter of the green space. Local residents were treated to a rare display earlier this year when one of the owls visited the village, not long after dark. The owl perched for almost half an hour in a tree opposite the Woollahra Hotel, where it was spotted and photographed by Lisa Leanne Beehag. The *Village Voice* thanks Lisa for sharing her story of this magnificent bird.



VIP visitor in the village, this magnificent powerful owl.

PLAQUE COMMEMORATING SCULPTOR LYNDON DADSWELL

A FOOTPATH PLAQUE COMMEMORATING RENOWNED SCULPTOR LYNDON DADSWELL HAS BEEN UNVEILED OUTSIDE HIS FORMER HOME, MANNINGHAM, AT 21 TRELAWNEY STREET, WOOLLAHRA.

The plaque was unveiled by the deputy mayor of Woollahra, councillor Sean Carmichael. Lyndon and Audrey Dadswell's children, Penelope Zylstra and Peter Dadswell, were in attendance and the guest speaker was Dr Deborah Beck OAM, a lecturer, author, artist and archivist from the National Art School.

Lyndon was born in Stanmore in 1908. After studying drawing at the Sydney Art School, in 1929 he went on to study under renowned British-born sculptor Raynor Hoff at the East Sydney Technical College, which became the National Art School, Darlinghurst.

During his career Lyndon won several commissions for civic buildings. His earliest work, aged just 21, was assisting sculptor Paul Montford on a commission for Melbourne's memorial to World War I: the Shrine of Remembrance. In 1933 Lyndon was awarded the Wynne Prize for his figurative sculpture *Youth*, only the third sculptor to win the prize since it commenced in 1897.

In December 1939, Lyndon married Audrey Margaret Herbert. They lived in Potts Point before his enlistment in the 2nd AIF parted them for several years during the war. In September 1941, Lyndon was commissioned as an official Australian war artist, the first sculptor to be accorded that honour.

In 1945, Lyndon and Audrey moved to Woollahra and settled at Manningham, at 21 Trelawney Street. This became their family home, shared with their two children, Penelope and Peter, and shared with sculpture for a time, as it doubled as Lyndon's studio. By 1948, Lyndon had found a more suitable studio space nearby, in a converted stable behind the house of artist and friend Douglas Dundas and his wife Dorothy in Jersey Road.

During his years in Woollahra, Lyndon participated in several exhibitions mounted by the Woollahra Arts Centre.

Lyndon was promoted to the head of Fine Arts at the NAS in 1966. During that year, he also travelled to Canberra weekly to teach sculpture at the ANU. As a teacher, he nurtured and inspired a generation of Australian sculptors.



While he imparted his technical skills and wisdom, probably his greatest gift to his students was to make them open to experimentation, and confident to find and follow their own path.

After 31 years Lyndon retired from teaching in 1968, but not from his artistic practice or the promotion of sculpture. He supported fellow sculptors and fostered public appreciation of the medium. Active as a sculptor for nearly 50 years, he never tired of trying new materials and techniques.

Lyndon Dadswell died in Sydney on 7 November 1986, aged 78. A retrospective exhibition of his work was held at the Art Gallery of NSW in 1978. In the same year, he was awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in recognition of his services to sculpture.

(Photographs and information courtesy Woollahra Libraries.)



The plaque unveiling was attended by Lyndon and Audrey Dadswell's children, Penelope Zylstra and Peter Dadswell. (Photograph courtesy Woollahra Libraries.)

WOOLLAHRA'S PHANTOM TRAIN STATION

IN THE QUIET STILLNESS OF A DARK NIGHT, SLEEPLESS LOCAL RESIDENTS SOMETIMES HEAR A MYSTERIOUS NOISE THAT'S REMINISCENT OF A TRAIN RATTLING DOWN THE TRACK.

And on finally falling asleep, their dreams may be haunted by dimly remembered ghost stories of a spectral locomotive that is heard but rarely seen. Which, when it does deign to make its presence known, brings death to all who set eyes upon it. This deep-rooted fear inspired Charles Dickens to write *The Signalman* in which the narrator investigates a dank and lonely railway cutting where he meets the eponymous signalman, who's tormented by an apparition that foreshadows a tragic accident.

Why is our sleep so disturbed, surely there can't be any trains right here in the heart of Woollahra? But there are, tucked away in a cutting behind Weeroona Avenue. Thankfully there is no accompanying train station – but there very nearly was.

Residents who lived between Edgecliff Road and Weeroona Avenue had for years enjoyed their big gardens backing onto an area covered in trees and bush, and which was a refuge for birds and flying foxes. 'It was really rural in some ways, it was a jungle to us kids,' a resident who was a teenage girl back then recalls. One woman kept her pony there, which she used to regularly ride up to Centennial Park. A few of the back gardens even boasted tennis courts on which homeowners and their guests lazily lobbed balls back and forth, blissfully unaware of what was about to happen.

A woman who bought a house on Weeroona Avenue in the 1950s was told by her solicitor that 'The railway has been on the cards since about 1910 but don't worry, it won't come in your lifetime.' However, by the 1970s the building of the Eastern Suburbs Railway was well in train, the track nudging its way out of a tunnel below Edgecliff Road before vanishing into the facing tunnel under Wallaroy Road.

Some residents were perfectly happy with the construction works and found them endlessly fascinating while others were totally opposed. By the time the Woollahra



Work well underway on the cutting and proposed Woollahra Railway station, visible from Wallaroy Road in the 1970s. Photograph courtesy Woollahra Libraries

cutting was complete and a central platform built, the nearby residents' seething anger had built up an unstoppable head of steam.

In one of the earliest instances of pushing back against overdevelopment in Woollahra, a lobbying campaign was launched culminating in an injunction successfully taken all the way to the High Court. Construction came to a shuddering halt before the elevator

to Edgecliff Road could be installed and steps erected to Wallaroy Road – which was to be cluttered with a ticket office and a couple of shops. There was even a proposal to build a multistorey car park on Edgecliff Road.

The wound caused by the yawning incision has now healed and these days the vegetation along the cutting is leafy and verdant – almost jungly, as in the old days. The trains from Edgecliff station hurtle out of a tunnel beneath a pleasing pocket park, flicker past the vestigial platform and then disappear from sight. Alert passengers who look up from their devices momentarily are privileged to be allowed glimpses of the backyards of some of our suburb's most prestigious homes.

The station that never was is a quirky reminder of our past, much loved by some and totally unknown to others. A little like the 388 bus, which is not a misnumbered or wayward 389 but a service that sets off once a day from Lawson Street at the bottom of Goodhope Street then along the 389 route in one direction only. There is no corresponding return service from Bondi Junction.

In a ghostly postscript, to placate residents the Woollahra stretch of track was fitted with futuristic railway-sleeper technology making it the quietest in the country, the trains emitting an eerie low hum as they glide along the cutting.

ROGER BALCH

Note: We hope to write about haunted Woollahra in a future issue. We have two ghosts so far. If you know of any more, please do let us know.

"TONY SUNMAN & WOOLLAHRA 2025, A CELEBRATION OF LEGACY AND COMMUNITY"
ANTHONY LIBERIOU
PRINCIPAL – BENCHMARK SUNMAN LAWYERS



Benchmark Legal Group marks a new chapter and the celebration of an esteemed career.

After five decades of dedicated service to the legal profession and the Woollahra community, Tony Sunman will be stepping into retirement to spend more time with his wife Jane, his daughters, his grandchildren, and his loyal furry companion Monty.

While his retirement marks the end of an era, his contributions and professional values will leave a lasting impact on our team. It is only fitting that Tony's final clients were the grandchildren of his first clients that he served in November 1972.

If you have worked with Tony and would like to discuss your ongoing legal matters, we welcome you to get in touch with us.

Our team is here to ensure continuity and provide the same trusted legal support.



(L-R) ANTHONY LIBERIOU – TONY SUNMAN

Meet the team

Carrying forward Tony's legacy, we wish to introduce Teresa Ballesteros and Hannah Cutmore, who worked closely alongside Tony over the last couple of years.

Hannah Cutmore is your dedicated Solicitor for all Wills & Estate Planning.

Teresa Ballesteros is your dedicated Solicitor for all your Conveyancing and Property Related needs.

Anthony Liberiou, our Principal Solicitor is available to help with any of your legal queries.

You can rest assured that together our team of more than 20 highly trained professionals, we will address any challenge you may have.

To a fantastic Woollahra Festival-2025, Anthony Liberiou
Principal, Benchmark Sunman Lawyers



(L-R) HANNAH CUTMORE – ANTHONY LIBERIOU – TERESA BALLESTEROS

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60 MONCUR STREET
WOOLLAHRA



RayWhite

WELCOME TO THE WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL 2025, 28–30 MARCH

Join us in celebrating the unique charm of Woollahra, with an exciting three-day festival from 28–30 March. Combining style, a rich heritage and vibrant energy, Woollahra is a precinct like no other and what better time to toast its 2025 postcode than in 2025. The sensational event program promises something for everyone!

On the following pages you will find details of all the festival events being presented across the three days, together with instructions on how to book tickets.



SPECIAL EVENT:

THE MATTHEW ELY COCKTAIL RING RAFFLE TO HELP FUND THE WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL

For more details turn to page 10.

THREE-DAY EVENT PROGRAM:

FRIDAY 28 MARCH

Late-night shopping on Friday with special events in store, bubbles and canapés and fabulous offers throughout the business precinct.

The official opening by the Mayor of Woollahra, Sarah Swan, at a ritzy oysters and champagne event at Parterre, 33 Ocean Street. For further details turn to page 11.

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

Look for the line-up of fabulous free performances at the purpose-built Ray White Event Hub in Dorhauer Lane, culminating in the Queen Street Dog Show. For the complete program turn to page 16.

A star-studded Writers' Festival with five individual sessions at the Olsen Gallery, 63 Jersey Road. For the complete program turn to page 12.

The Gala Lunch. Settle in for a fabulous four-course lunch in a glamorous marquee in Victoria Street, complete with a champagne bar and live music. For more details turn to page 15.

Join in Design Conversations with leading architects and interior designers at the Leonard Joel premises, 36–40 Queen Street. For the complete program turn to page 18.

Delight the senses with a classical concert by the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra, 5.30pm at St Columba Uniting Church (corner Forth and Ocean Streets). For the program and ticket bookings go to www.wpo.org.au.

SUNDAY 30 MARCH

The Writer's Festival continues with a further four sessions at the Olsen Gallery, 63 Jersey Road. For the complete program turn to page 12.

Join the Luise Elsing yarnning circle for a creative Crochet Workshop in the Commonry Courtyard at 64 Moncur Street (free admission and all materials provided). For further details turn to page 22.

Enjoy an afternoon concert with the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra from 2.30pm at St Columba's. For the program and ticket bookings go to www.wpo.org.au.

The festival draws to a close on Sunday afternoon with Jazz on the Lawn at Chiswick Park in Ocean Street, a chilled-out picnic for all, hosted by Chiswick. And as a special treat, the Woollahra Public School P&C Association will present a fabulous Cake Stall. For more details turn to page 22.

The Woollahra Festival 2025 in 2025 is proudly brought to you by The Queen Street & West Woollahra Association in conjunction with our major sponsors:



Woollahra
Municipal
Council



M
MATTHEW ELY

Proudly sponsoring the Woollahra Festival 2025

See you there, March 28th – 30th!

Find out more now



Ray White The Woollahra Group
Level 1/68 Moncur Street, Woollahra NSW, 2025

+61 (2) 9357 3434

raywhitetehwoollahragroup.com.au

SPARKLE FOR WOOLLAHRA

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THIS STUNNING AQUAMARINE AND DIAMOND RING



It's Woollahra's year to sparkle – but we can't do it without you!

With special thanks to our wonderful key sponsor, Matthew Ely Jewellery, we're asking you to purchase a raffle ticket (or two!) to

help fund the Woollahra Festival 2025. All funds raised will go directly to the not-for-profit QSWWA in support of this one-off festival event.

THE TICKETS

There are only 350 tickets available, at \$100 each. Those are pretty good odds for a prize this big! Scan the QR code above to purchase tickets.

THE GRAND PRIZE

A remarkable 7.04 carat aquamarine and diamond ring, custom handcrafted by Matthew Ely. Valued at \$22,600.

'A TREASURE FROM THE MERMAIDS'

A tribute to classic elegance, this 18-carat white gold, aquamarine and diamond ring was designed by award-winning Woollahra jeweller Matthew Ely (92 Queen Street).

At its heart is a magnificent emerald-cut aquamarine, weighing an impressive 7.04 carats. Framing this central stone are two baguette diamonds and two tapered baguette diamonds, their geometric brilliance enhancing the ring's Art Deco-inspired allure.

The ring's band features a display of 18 round brilliant-cut white diamonds, measuring 1mm each.

Derived from the Latin *aqua marina*, or 'sea water', aquamarines were once believed to be precious treasures from the mermaids.

Notably, Princess Diana herself owned an emerald-cut aquamarine ring flanked with diamonds and set in yellow gold, a testament to the timeless allure of this mesmerising gemstone.



LATE-NIGHT SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA



Tour the famous Queen Street destination for a fabulous shopping experience, enhanced by bubbles and canapés and street entertainment, and look out for in-store specials and exciting late-night visitor opportunities.

Participating businesses:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Africanologie | GM Hanna Fine Tailors and Clothiers |
| Anna Thomas | Greene & Greene Antiques |
| Aquel | I Maccheroni |
| Art2Muse Gallery | Jimmy Snips |
| Axel Mano | Jo Malone London |
| Big Mama's Trattoria | Kidstuff Woollahra |
| Bonhams 1793 Ltd | Lakshmi |
| Boyac | Litsa Veldekis Gallery |
| Camilla and Marc | Maloneys Grocer |
| Commonry | Manga Sushi |
| Cultiver | Matthew Ely Jewellery |
| D'Lan Contemporary | MJ Bale |
| Forever Vintage | Moss & Spy |
| Gant | Parterre |

The following businesses, cafes, galleries and retail stores will be open for the Woollahra Festival 2025 Late-Night Shopping event on Friday 28 March from 5–7pm.

For details of participating businesses, go to the festival website and click on the Late-Night Shopping link.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Perryman Carpets | Susan Avery Flowers and Events |
| Phoenix Hotel Woollahra | Tanora Raffia Artisans |
| Pigott's Store | Terrace Outdoor Living |
| Polite Society | The Bay Tree |
| Project Gallery | The Classic Outfitter |
| Queen Street Beauty and Hair | The Dental Rooms |
| Queen Street Italian | The Monogram Mode |
| Queen Street Kitchen | The Queen Street Delicatessen |
| Reads of Woollahra | Ursula's and Café Cressida |
| Riada Concept | Willomina |
| Richard Banks Optometrist | Woollahra Bookshop |
| Shark Island Institute | Woollahra Physiotherapy |
| Simon Johnson Woollahra | Zey Café and Pizza Moncur |
| Summers Floral | |

OFFICIAL OPENING EVENT



Indulge in an unforgettable evening at the official opening of the Woollahra 2025 Festival on Friday night, 28 March from 7pm to 9pm. The festival will be opened by the Mayor of Woollahra, Sarah Swan.

Sip on exquisite Pommery French champagne and savour delicate canapés in the enchanting Parterre courtyard at 33 Ocean Street. Begin your festival weekend with sophistication, surrounded by friends and the local community, as live music sets the tone, and an oyster bar offers freshly shucked delights.

Early bird tickets are \$35 and include a selection of canapés provided by Jersey Cafe, oysters and your first glass of French bubbles. Additional champagne and wine are available for purchase at the bar. Note, this is a cashless event.

Book early as numbers are strictly limited. Registration can be made for up to four people:



THE WOOLLAHRA WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Join some of Australia's most exciting writers and thinkers on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 March in conversation about a diverse range of topics, including literature, art and theatre, crime and espionage and taking on the patriarchy, all in the glorious surroundings of the Olsen Gallery at 63 Jersey Road, Woollahra.

WOOLLAHRA BOOKSHOP
Sydney's favourite little bookshop.

The Woollahra Bookshop is bookseller to the Woollahra Writers' Festival.



SATURDAY PROGRAM:

Bookings essential. Admission \$15 per session.

10AM: LITERARY LIVES

Susan Wyndham is the co-editor of *Hazzard and Harrower: The Letters*, a curated collection of letters between two of Australia's leading writers, Shirley Hazzard and Elizabeth Harrower, and is also writing a biography of Elizabeth Harrower. In conversation with Nicole Abadee, she talks about what their 40-year correspondence reveals about them, and about the pressing social, political and cultural issues of their times, as well as how to go about writing a literary biography.

11AM: CHALLENGING THE PATRIARCHY

Anna Funder (*Wifedom*) and Suzie Miller (*Prima Facie*) are two of Australia's most exciting and internationally successful writers. In their most recent work, each takes on the patriarchy – Anna by revealing George Orwell's failings as a husband and putting his brilliant wife, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, back in the picture, and Suzie by exposing a criminal justice system (shaped by men) manifestly unfair to female sexual assault victims. In conversation with the ABC's Kate Evans from the much-loved Radio National book show, *The Bookshelf*.

12PM: LIARS

Join TV and radio host James O'Loughlin in conversation with Suzanne Leal about James's latest book, *Liars*, a murder mystery set in a sleepy coastal town where all is not as it seems. Both are former criminal lawyers turned writers, so expect a lively conversation about practising in crime and writing – and where the two may intersect.

2PM: ART: A LIFE'S WORK

What's it like to be the child of a renowned artist? How do you carve out your own space in the art world? Join Richard Morecroft in discussion with Tim Olsen about his memoir, *Son of the Brush*, and Christabel Blackman about her book, *Charles and Barbara Blackman: A Decade of Art and Love*.

3PM: SIGNS OF DAMAGE

Join Diana Reid (a Woollahra local), whose best-selling debut novel *Love & Virtue* won multiple awards (and praise from Helen Garner), to discuss her latest, *Signs of Damage*, with Suzanne Leal. Expect trauma, intrigue and (as always with Diana's work) moral ambiguity.



SUNDAY PROGRAM:

Bookings essential. Admission \$15 per session.

10AM: WING

One of Australia's leading writers, Nikki Gemmell, in conversation with Michaela Kalowski about her latest novel, *Wing*, a literary thriller and feminist mystery. When a group of private schoolgirls goes missing on a school excursion all hell breaks loose. Powerful, compelling and provocative, *Wing* explores what it means to be a young woman today.

11AM: ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Join two of Australia's most beloved thespians, John Bell (*Some Achieve Greatness*) and Heather Mitchell (*Everything and Nothing*) in conversation with (former actor) Ailsa Piper about their lives on stage, and how the theatre has shaped their reading and writing lives.

12PM: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shankari Chandran won the 2023 Miles Franklin Literary Award for her blistering novel *Chai Time in Cinnamon Gardens*. In her latest novel, *Unfinished Business*, a respected local journalist is assassinated in broad daylight in postwar Sri Lanka. In conversation with Nicole Abadee, she talks political intrigue, international skulduggery and the legacy of Sri Lanka's brutal civil war.

2PM: FOR LIFE

When writer Ailsa Piper suffered an unfathomable loss she turned to nature for solace. Here she talks with Michaela Kalowski about her memoir *For Life* – a profound exploration of grief, a hymn of praise to love and to life, and a radiant beacon of hope.

PARTICIPANTS



NICOLE ABADEE

Nicole Abadee is the curator of the Woollahra Writers' Festival 2025. She is the books writer for *Good Weekend* magazine and a regular contributor to book discussions on ABC Radio. Formerly a barrister, Nicole moved into the world

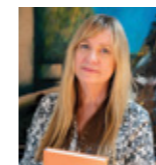
of books and has for many years been a regular at writers' festivals throughout Australia. She has been a literary judge and is a board member of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.



JOHN BELL

John Bell, illustrious actor and director, co-founder of the Nimrod Theatre and founder of the Bell Shakespeare Company, helped shape Australia's theatrical identity. Among his many accolades he has been acclaimed an Australian

Living Treasure, won a Helpmann for Best Actor, a Producers and Directors Guild Award, and the JC Williamson Award for his extraordinary contribution to Australia's live entertainment industry. His bestselling books include his memoir, *The Time of My Life*, and his latest, *Some Achieve Greatness*.



CHRISTABEL BLACKMAN

Christabel Blackman's parents were artist Charles and writer Barbara Blackman. After training as a Fine Art conservator in Italy, Christabel lived in Spain for 25 years, working with Gothic and Renaissance artworks. A visual artist,

photographer, illustrator and author, she has a master's degree in Art Conservation and speaks five languages. Christabel has three children and lives in Sydney with her partner, musician Jim Moginie. *Charles and Barbara Blackman, A Decade of Art and Love* is her first book.



SHANKARI CHANDRAN

Shankari Chandran is an Australian Tamil lawyer and author of *Song of the Sun God*, *The Barrier*, *Safe Haven*, *Unfinished Business* and *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens*, which won the 2023 Miles Franklin. Shankari spent two decades

working as a lawyer in the social justice field. She continues her work in social impact for an Australian retailer and is researching her new novel. The deputy chair of Writing NSW, she lives in Sydney with her husband and four children.



KATE EVANS

Kate Evans is the co-host (with Cassie McCullagh) of ABC Radio National's *The Bookshelf*. She also regularly interviews writers onstage for festivals and other events. She has a PhD in history and too many books, and regrets neither.



ANNA FUNDER

Anna Funder is the bestselling author of *Stasiland*, *All That I Am*, and *Wifedom: Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life*. *Stasiland* won the UK's most prestigious award for non-fiction, the Samuel Johnson Prize. *All That I Am* won the Miles Franklin and

was a finalist for the International IMPAC Dublin Award and the Commonwealth Writers Prize. *Wifedom* was a Sunday Times Bestseller in the UK, a New York Times Notable Book of 2023 and won France's Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger.



NIKKI GEMMELL

Nikki Gemmell is known as one of Australia's most provocative and honest writers. She's the bestselling author of some 20 books, including *Shiver*, *The Bride Stripped Bare* and *After*. *Wing* is her latest

novel. She writes a popular and often controversial column in *The Weekend Australian Magazine*. Her books have been translated into 22 languages.



MICHAELA KALOWSKI

Michaela Kalowski is an interviewer, moderator and curator for writers' festivals. Highlight interviews include Margaret Atwood, David Mitchell, Charlotte Wood, Tim Winton and Stan Grant. Curator of the *Big Weekend of Books*, ABC RN's annual writers' festival, she also produces and hosts a monthly books event for Petersham Bowling Club. Michaela has presented interviews and programs across ABC Radio and TV. She's the co-presenter and co-writer of an ABC RN podcast, *Laya's Way Home*.



SUZANNE LEAL

Suzanne Leal is the author of *The Watchful Wife*, *The Teacher's Secret* and *The Deceptions*, winner of the Nib People's Choice Prize. *Running with Ivan* is on the CBCA Notables List for Younger Readers and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Awards and the ARA Historical Novel Prize. An experienced interviewer, Suzanne is the founder of Thursday Book Club, a relaxed online book club. Her new novel for junior readers, *The Year We Escaped*, is due in June 2025.



SUZIE MILLER

Suzie Miller is a novelist, playwright and screenwriter with degrees in law and science. With over 100 productions worldwide, her plays have won multiple awards. *Prima Facie* won Olivier Awards for Best New Play and Best Actress, and a Tony for Best Actress. It has been translated into over 30 languages, produced all over the world and published as a novel. Her new play *Inter Alia* premieres in 2025 at London's National Theatre. Miller is working on several new plays, films and TV productions, and her second novel.



HEATHER MITCHELL

Heather Mitchell is one of Australia's most acclaimed actors. With a career spanning four decades in stage, film and television, she has performed in hundreds of productions including Suzie Miller's one-woman play *RBG: of Many, One*, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, *Fake*, *Upright*, *Love Me*, *The Unusual Suspects*, *Operation Buffalo*, *Wakefield*, *Rake*, *A Place to Call Home*, *Palm Beach*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Rogue*. *Everything and Nothing* is her first book.



RICHARD MORECROFT

Richard Morecroft may be best known for 20 years of presenting the ABC TV news and more recently hosting the quiz show *Letters and Numbers* on SBS, but he also has a long-standing focus on the visual arts as an interviewer, writer and exhibitor – and he is an associate artist with the Olsen Gallery. His most recent exhibition was in October 2024.



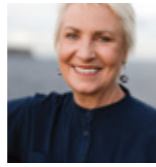
JAMES O'LOGHLIN

James O'Loghlin is the author of 12 books, most recently the crime novel *Liars*. His earlier works include the novel *Criminals*, *Innovation Is a State of Mind*, five children's novels, and *Minding Your Mind*, written with Professor Ian Hickie, which they now co-host as a popular mental health podcast. James has hosted *The New Inventors* on ABC TV as well as several shows on ABC Radio. The sequel to *Liars*, *The Writers Room*, is due in late 2025.



TIM OLSEN

Tim Olsen is a prominent figure in Australia's contemporary art scene. As the son of the late John Olsen, he naturally gravitated towards the art world, opening his own gallery in 1993. In 2017, Tim launched a gallery in New York's Lower East Side, championing contemporary Australian and international artists, especially First Nations women from the APY Lands. Tim's 2020 memoir, the bestselling *Son of the Brush*, won the Waverley Council Nib People's Choice Prize.



AILSA PIPER

Ailsa Piper's book, *For Life*, is a moving insight into loss, hope and starting again – aided by the healing power of nature and some unexpected angels. Previous works include her walking memoir, *Sinning Across Spain*,

The Attachment: Letters from a Most Unlikely Friendship, co-authored with Tony Doherty, and *Small Mercies*, co-winner of the Patrick White Playwright's Award. Ailsa has written for the *Griffith Review*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Guardian* and is an accomplished audiobook narrator.



DIANA REID

Diana Reid is the author of the bestselling novels *Love & Virtue* and *Seeing Other People*. Her debut, *Love & Virtue*, won the ABIA Book of the Year Award, the ABIA Literary Fiction Book of the Year Award, the ABA Booksellers' Choice Fiction Book of the Year Award, and the MUD Literary Prize. She was also named a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Australian Novelist in 2022. *Signs of Damage* is her third novel.



SUSAN WYNDHAM

Susan Wyndham is a journalist, writer and former literary editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Her books include *Life in His Hands*, about the neurosurgeon Charlie Teo, *My Mother, My Father: On Losing a Parent*, and most recently *Hazzard and Harrower: The Letters*, co-edited with Brigitta Olubas. As a teenager Susan lived in Spicer Street, Woollahra, and now lives in Paddington.

GALA MARQUEE LUNCH IN VICTORIA AVENUE



Join us for an exclusive marquee lunch in Victoria Avenue, Woollahra, where we will transform the space into a stunning Mediterranean-inspired setting. The event is sponsored by Matthew Ely Jewellery and curated by Adele Vittoria.

On arrival, enjoy a complimentary glass of champagne as you admire the exquisite jewellery designed and crafted by Matthew Ely before sitting down to a four-course lunch and a selection of fine wines, with live entertainment enhancing the atmosphere. This promises to be an unforgettable experience. During the lunch, we will also draw the raffle for a beautiful aquamarine and diamond ring, generously sponsored by Matthew Ely. (For details see page 10.)

Tickets can be purchased online for \$200 per person* which includes a delicious sit-down, four-course meal accompanied by live music, a free glass of Pommery champagne on entry and premium wine with the meal (one bottle per two people). Additional champagne and drinks are available to buy at the bar. (Note, this is a cashless bar.) Book now as numbers are strictly limited.

There are three long tables for the event, each with 60 people. If you are planning a large group, we advise buying all the tickets together as a block booking (maximum 20). This will ensure the seating plan has these all together. Where bookings are made separately, please advise if you want to be seated with another group. We will do our best to try to seat you together but cannot guarantee this will always be possible.

* Please note that this price is significantly less than cost and only possible due to the generosity of our sponsors.

Sponsored by Matthew Ely | Curated by Adele Vittoria



THE RAY WHITE EVENT HUB, DORHAUER LANE CAR PARK, 10AM–2PM



Get family and friends together and gather at the Ray White Event Hub at 10am for a day of fun and excitement: live entertainment, face painting, singers and dancers, bouncing kangaroos, an op shop pop-up, special events for children of all ages and a performance by the WPS Choir.

TIMETABLED EVENTS:

10–11AM: A VISIT FROM THE WOOLLAHRA FIRE AND RESCUE TRUCK

The Woollahra Fire and Rescue truck will be parked in Dorhauer Lane. Local fireies will help the kids aboard, demonstrate how the sirens and the flashing lights work and put the kids in the driver's seat – the perfect photo opportunity! A range of family goodie bags and fire safety merchandise will be available.

11–11.30AM: CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCE PERFORMANCE

Experience the magic of Bollywood and Indian classical dance with a performance by the captivating Darling Bollywood Studio. Rima, their founder and instructor, will lead the troupe in a selection of dances based on the classical tradition. A dancer since the age of 4, Rima has over 12 years of training in classical Indian dance styles.

11.30AM–12PM: VESELKA UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Veselka, the Ukrainian word for 'rainbow', is reflected in the dancers' colourful costumes and energetic performance. Every Veselka production celebrates through dance the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine, from the welcome of bread and salt in the Pryvit, to the lively finale of the Hopak.

12–12.30PM: IRINA SHISHKOVA BALLET SCHOOL DANCERS

Students aged 7–14, with choreography by Miss Irina, will perform a varied program of ballet, jazz and contemporary works. These dedicated young dancers can't wait to showcase their technical skill and artistic expression, and share their training and progress with the community.

1–1.30PM: THE WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOIR

The WPS Choir is thrilled to participate in the festival, bringing their voices to the heart of our community. Known for their harmonious and passionate performances, the choir will showcase a selection of uplifting crowd favourites, promising the audience a heartwarming and inspiring set that celebrates unity through song.

1.30–2PM: ZAHRAVA UKRAINIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Zahrava Ukrainian Youth Association Dance Ensemble, its members ranging from young children to adults, will perform Ukrainian dances full of colour and beauty, some so energetic and fast-paced that you can get caught up in it all from just watching!

ALL-DAY EVENTS, 10AM–2PM: WOOLLAHRA LIBRARIES SPARK TRUCK

Look out for the Woollahra Libraries Spark Truck! Sign up for free membership to library services, discover their engaging programs and activities, and browse their collection of free books for children, with library staff on hand to offer reading recommendations for all ages. Staff will lead games, craft activities and story-time sessions for kids and families.

TODDLERTASTIC – EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES POP-UP

Toddertastic, an early childhood activities pop-up for 0–5-year-olds, will set up their marquee from 10am, with a diverse range of fun activities for families, all supervised by early childhood teachers, supporting and inspiring through educational play designed to keep little ones busy and happy!

HOLDSWORTH OP SHOP POP-UP

The Holdsworth Op Shop Pop-Up stall will offer a selection of gently used, high-quality items generously donated by our community. With something for everyone – pre-loved clothing, accessories, books and homewares – it's a wonderful opportunity to discover unique treasures and support Holdsworth's work as a dedicated not-for-profit charity, proudly serving the Woollahra community for over 80 years.

For more details go to www.woollahrafestival.com.au.

SATURDAY 29 MARCH: DOG SHOW AND TRAINING DEMONSTRATION



Get ready for a tail-wagging good time at the Queen Street Dog Show at the Ray White Event Hub in Dorhauer Lane on Saturday 29 March.

Whether you have a champion show dog or a lovable mutt, this event is the perfect opportunity to celebrate our four-legged friends. There will also be face painters for children and game adults!

Why attend? Because it's a chance to:

- Meet fellow dog lovers in your community.
- Enjoy a fun and inclusive atmosphere for all ages.
- Support local pet charities and businesses.
- Win prizes and make special memories with your pup.

The Dog Show will commence at 2.30pm, preceded at 2pm by a dog-training demonstration with expert dog trainer and judge, Vicki Etherington OAM.

2PM: DOG-TRAINING DEMONSTRATION

Vicki Etherington has worked as a dog trainer and judge for over 50 years in her own successful dog-training business. She has been a member of Dogs NSW for many years, holding various board and chair positions on multi-sporting committees. She is a foundation member (since childhood) of the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club, where she is also a life member, former president and chief instructor. In September 2023, Vicki received a Distinguished Service Award from Dogs NSW in recognition of her contributions over many years.

Be educated, entertained and amazed by Vicki's professional expertise.

2.30–4PM: QUEEN STREET DOG SHOW

This fun-filled competition is open to dogs of all breeds, sizes and skill levels. Enter your pooch in a variety of exciting events. There are fabulous prize packs to be won, donated by the show's sponsor, Jersey Road Vet.

Choose one of the following canine categories:

- Queen of Queen Street – who will take home the top prize?
- Best Dressed – show off your dog's cutest costumes!
- Best Trick – does your dog have a hidden talent?
- Best Senior Dog – celebrating our older and wiser wonderful furry friends!
- Waggiest Tail – because happiness deserves recognition!
- Floppiest Ears – because cuteness counts!

Dog and owner must be registered to participate. Spaces are limited, so registering beforehand will avoid disappointment on the day. Spectators are welcome – come and cheer for the contestants!

We can't wait to see you and your furry friends there! Woof-woof!

The Queen Street Dog Show is proudly sponsored by Jersey Road Vet.



Jersey Road Vet



DESIGN CONVERSATIONS: INTERIORS, ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE



Boyac, in conjunction with Leonard Joel and the Woollahra Festival 2025, is proud to present a day of insightful design

discussions, celebrating the essence of home, heritage and creativity. Moderated by design enthusiast Laura Garro, these two engaging panel discussions bring together industry leaders to share their expertise with the community.

Whether you're a homeowner, a design lover or an industry professional, these sessions will illuminate the process of crafting a home that is both functional and soulful. Attendees will gain insights into the full design journey – from engaging architects to finishing interiors and creating outdoor sanctuaries. Experts will discuss sustainability options, community collaboration, and how to source and integrate unique, collectable pieces into meaningful spaces. Expect to be inspired by industry leaders sharing their knowledge and passion for design.

Join us for conversations that explore the heart of design and the beauty of curated spaces.

SATURDAY 29 MARCH

10AM: DISCUSSIONS OF THE HEART

Designing, building and finishing your home. How do you create a home that truly feels like a sanctuary? This panel delves into the 'how-to' of engaging experts – from architects to landscapers and material specialists – to bring your vision to life. Gain insights on the fundamentals of design, the role of professionals and the art of creating spaces that nurture and inspire.

SPEAKERS:

Bianca Pohio – Architect, Pohio Adams Architects

Rob Mills – Architect, RMA

Paul Joseph Hopper and Bianca Moore – Stylists, Terrace Outdoor Living

William Stewart – Director, Natural Brick Co



2PM: THE SOUL/STUFF

The art of collecting, layering and designing with heritage and colour. As design moves away from strict minimalism, how do we embrace a richer, more layered aesthetic? This discussion explores the evolving art of collecting and curating interiors that tell a story. From heirloom rugs to vintage furniture, colour palettes and personal collections, our experts will share their thoughts on designing with depth, emotion, and authenticity.

SPEAKERS:

John Albrecht – CEO, Leonard Joel

Ian Perryman – CEO, Perryman Rugs

Alex Roth – Architect, Roth Architects

Alexandra Donohoe Church – Interior Architect, Decus Design

Join the conversation! This is an open event, welcoming both the Woollahra public and members of the architecture and design community. Whether you're looking for inspiration or practical knowledge, these discussions will provide valuable insights into the creative process of shaping beautiful, meaningful spaces. Come and be part of the conversation and celebrate design in Woollahra 2025!

Location: Leonard Joel Auction Rooms, 36–40 Queen Street, Woollahra

Entry: Free. Registration required

For more information: Susanna de Vienne, sydney@boyac.com.au

For more details about the participants: go to www.woollahrafestival.com.au.

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CREATIVE CROCHET WORKSHOP



Join crochet artisan Luise Elsing in the courtyard at Commonry, 64 Moncur Street, 11am–2pm for an inspirational creative workshop. Materials are provided and everyone is welcome. It's free but you need to register (maximum of 20 places, and four tickets per order).



Luise has been crocheting for 12 years and exhibited her work at Woollahra Gallery's Cultural Hub last July with great success. She hosts yarning circles there, where beginners can learn to crochet and experienced crocheters can show and share their work. She leads workshops for crochet groups interested in

her genre Film in Crochet, where she expresses her response to a film in crochet form.

Luise prefers free-form crochet, encouraging the random use of different-sized yarns, hooks and stitches. It's enlightening for beginners and refreshing for experts to abandon patterns and precision, embracing the fibre and their imagination.

Her current work THEMÖON, including community participation from contributing artists, will comprise a 4m sphere to be exhibited outdoors at the OpenField Contemporary Art Exhibition, 13–15 June 2025. (Photo courtesy Ainslie.Co Photography.)

JAZZ ON THE LAWN

SUNDAY 30 MARCH FROM 2.30PM

We're thrilled to be closing out the Woollahra Festival 2025 with a Sunday afternoon of jazz, community and delicious bites, following two days of performances, tours and recitals celebrating our wonderful neighbourhood.

Join us on the Chiswick lawn from 2.30pm for a special performance from a host of brilliant musicians while you soak in the beautiful ambience, cocktail in hand, snacking on a mouth-watering special menu from Chiswick. In honour of the festival, there'll be a curation of delicious dishes from finger foods to more substantial options that showcase the best of the season, grown right here in our Woollahra garden. Plus, a selection of tantalising cocktails, wines and beer will be available alongside non-alcoholic options.

No need to book; simply come along with your loved ones.

WOOLLAHRA PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C CAKE STALL

Indulge in some delicious sweet treats at the Woollahra Public School P&C Cake Stall in the park.

Choose from a scrumptious selection of homemade cakes, slices, cookies and other baked treats, all lovingly made by our school community. Every purchase helps support Woollahra Public School, with proceeds going towards important school projects like our new playground and much needed air-conditioning, as well as resources and programs for our students.

Whether you are after a classic sponge cake, a rich chocolate brownie or a tasty gluten-free option, we have something for everyone! Thank you for helping us make a difference, one sweet bite at a time.

We can't wait to see you there!



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MONCUR CELLARS: WINING AND DINING

Moncur Cellars Friday tastings are back in full swing, featuring some of our incredible suppliers. Additionally, we're excited to introduce the Moncur Cellars Tasting Series, a seasonal event where we spotlight a different wine each season.

Kicking off the series is our chardonnay tasting event on Monday 3 March, 5.30–8.30pm. Explore over 100 exceptional chardonnays from renowned producers including Leeuwin Estate, Tyrrell's, Pierro, Mount Mary, Tolpuddle, Domenica, and By Farr, among others.

Tickets are priced at \$50, which will be refunded on the night with any case purchase of chardonnay (12 bottles) – terms apply.

Other dates in the series are as follows: pinot noir, 5 May; shiraz, 11 August; champagne, 1 December.

Have you heard about our Private Dining Room? A cosy, hidden gem, perfect for intimate gatherings of ten to



Anyone who books their event in our Private Dining Room over the festival weekend will receive a bottle of Charles Heidsieck on us!

16 guests. With its warm, wine-lined walls, this exclusive space feels like a private retreat, ideal for those looking to celebrate in style but with a relaxed, laid-back vibe. The room will be set during the Woollahra Festival, so make sure you come down and visit. Plus, anyone who books their event in the space over the festival weekend will receive a bottle of Charles Heidsieck on us!

We have also partnered up with our friends at Bistro Moncur to bring you 'Raid the Cellars', available every Tuesday. Come in and purchase a bottle (or two) from us and they will waive the corkage with your meal. Just show them your receipt.

And don't miss their Sunday Marché! Bistro Moncur offers a French Market menu experience featuring the freshest produce from Sydney's top suppliers, all at market prices and prepared by the Bistro Moncur team. Available every Sunday until sold out, the selection changes weekly based on availability — c'est si bon!

HOLDSWORTH'S NEW CEO, CRAIG RUTHERFORD: A GUIDING FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

CRAIG RUTHERFORD HAS OFFICIALLY STEPPED INTO THE ROLE OF HOLDSWORTH'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. APPOINTED IN JANUARY 2025 FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE SELECTION PROCESS, CRAIG'S ARRIVAL IS CELEBRATED AS A STRATEGIC MOVE TO REINFORCE HOLDSWORTH'S LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE, INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT.

Drawing on a rich background in community-focused leadership, Craig brings both practical insight and hands-on experience to his role. Over the years, he has led initiatives designed to strengthen community ties and address the challenges faced by diverse groups. His career is defined by a pursuit of innovative solutions that bridge the gap between essential services and those who need them most, positioning him ideally to guide Holdsworth into its next phase of growth and transformation.

Central to Craig's leadership philosophy is an inclusive and forward-thinking approach. He believes that a successful organisation is built on the pillars of transparency, empathy and active collaboration. Under his guidance, Holdsworth is set to deepen its engagement with all stakeholders, from Woollahra Council to clients, staff and community partners, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.

A significant focus of Craig's vision is the government's upcoming aged care reforms, which are set to reshape the landscape of community support services. These reforms will lead enhanced accountability, improved quality of care and greater consumer choice. 'The changes ahead present both challenges and exciting opportunities,' Craig said during his welcome event. 'At Holdsworth, we see these reforms as an incentive for innovation. Our goal is to align our services with the new standards, ensuring that our seniors receive the high-quality care they deserve.'

In anticipation of these reforms that will come into effect from 1 July, Craig has outlined plans to develop innovative programs that empower both seniors and families to live



Craig Rutherford has stepped into the role of Holdsworth's Chief Executive Officer.

their fullest lives. His strategy involves leveraging Holdsworth's established legacy while exploring new avenues for service delivery, particularly in healthy ageing and family services.

As Holdsworth enters this transformative phase, Craig's leadership serves as a guiding force for positive change. His deep understanding of complex social dynamics and his extensive experience in community development have already garnered trust and confidence from both colleagues and external partners. With the upcoming aged care reforms on the horizon, Craig is focused on turning these changes into valuable opportunities to enhance

care standards and service delivery. 'Our goal is to not only meet these new expectations but to exceed them by creating an even more inclusive, empowering and responsive community. By doing so, we'll ensure that everyone,

particularly our seniors, receives the care and respect they deserve.' With Craig's strategic vision and collaborative approach, Holdsworth is set to lead the charge in adapting to and shaping the future of aged care in a way that promotes wellbeing, dignity and a true sense of belonging for all.

CRAIG BELIEVES THAT A SUCCESSFUL ORGANISATION IS BUILT ON THE PILLARS OF TRANSPARENCY, EMPATHY AND ACTIVE COLLABORATION.

HOLDSWORTH FESTIVAL OP SHOP POP-UP

Holdsworth will be hosting an Op Shop Pop-Up stall on Saturday 29 March at the Ray White Event Hub in the Dorhauer Lane Carpark. On offer will be a selection of gently used, high-quality items generously donated by our community. With something for everyone – pre-loved clothing, accessories, books and homewares.



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ASK THE VET

THE HISTORY OF THE DOG SHOW

The first dog show was held in England in 1859. Dog shows quickly became popular and spread around the world, reaching Australia by the late 1800s. Their original purpose was to assess working and hunting breeds for their abilities in certain tasks such as herding, hunting and guarding. As dog shows gained popularity, the Kennel Club in the United Kingdom was established in 1873, leading to the introduction of breed standards for purebred dogs. These are the official guidelines for registering purebred dogs, with each breed following a different set of rules. These breed

standards became the criteria by which dogs could be judged, such as size, structure, movement and temperament.

Besides these conformation events, dog shows often feature other events such as agility, obedience and herding competitions. In agility contests, dogs navigate obstacle courses, showcasing their speed and precision. Obedience trials test a dog's ability to follow commands and perform tasks, while herding events evaluate a dog's instinct and skills in working with livestock. While these events showcase dogs' physical qualities and athletic ability, their connection and bond to their handler is also a crucial factor. Dogs' behaviour, posture and response to commands reflect the bond of care, training and respect that has evolved over centuries. What makes modern

dog shows popular with spectators is that they not only celebrate the dogs' beauty and skills, but also the deep and lasting relationship between humans and their canine companions.

DR INDIA, JERSEY ROAD VETS – OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF THE WOOLLAHRA FESTIVAL 2025 QUEEN STREET DOG SHOW



Its show time! Will this standard poodle, groomed to absolute perfection, take the prize?

What is something people may not know about being an author?

One thing that always shocks people is how little input authors have in the cover. That's never been an issue (I've always loved my covers) but as a reader, I'm grateful I know that, because it makes me even less inclined to judge a book by its cover.

The plot of *Signs of Damage* is a bit of a departure from your previous novels. Did you feel any pressure to 'stick to a formula that works'? Or did you feel free and confident to pursue something more fresh?

I wouldn't say I felt free and confident – it's always nerve-racking taking a step in a new direction. But if I didn't, I'd be bored, to be honest. I'd always prefer to sit down at the desk with a gutful of fear and think, 'I don't know if I can pull this off,' rather than mechanically repeat what I've done before. I think that's where creativity lies: at the outer edge of your comfort zone.

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Q&A WITH AUTHOR DIANA REID

Diana will be participating in the Woollahra Writer's Festival at 3pm on Saturday 29 March at the Olsen Gallery, 63 Jersey Road.

***Signs of Damage* is your third book. How is the publishing process different for you this time?**

The nerves and excitement definitely don't go away. The biggest change is probably the deepening relationships. I've worked with the same publisher, copyeditor, proofreader and sales reps for three novels now, and I've returned to the same independent bookstores. So that's really special: it's amazing to feel like this community has been with me for three books now. And for most of my twenties!

You've said in the past that you like to keep 'business hours' while writing – you're at the desk five days a week and discipline yourself with words and tasks rather than hours. Has this process changed?

I still discipline myself with words and tasks but I'm much more loosey-goosey about the hours. If I'm not feeling inspired I don't force myself to sit at the desk and write drivel, which is what I would've done in the past for fear of being perceived as lazy or unserious. I've calmed down about that now, perhaps because I'm three books in, perhaps just because I'm a bit older. I'll go see a movie or a play in the middle of the day, or take a long walk, or even cook an elaborate lunch to get the creative juices flowing.

Any funny anecdotes from meeting your readers?

One very lovely reader was proposing to get a tattoo of the crest from the cover of *Love & Virtue* (designed by George Saad). She asked me where on her body to put the tattoo. I said I thought that was a decision she'd have to make.

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



As a long-term resident of Woollahra and a Residents First Woollahra Independent councillor, I hope to make our wonderful local community an even better place to live and work by promoting:

A CLEANER WOOLLAHRA

During heavy rains, untreated sewage and stormwater are released into Rushcutters Bay, which pollutes our local marine environment and has led to high levels of E. coli contamination at nearby beaches. This is evidenced in the 2024 State of the Beaches report, which rated the water quality in Rose Bay and Redleaf as *poor*.

Installing Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs) on all stormwater drains leading into Rose Bay and Double Bay will only partially solve the problem. Lining the Rushcutters Bay seawall with mangroves will help filter this discharge, improving the water quality so that it is safe enough to swim at any beach between Double Bay and Lady Bay. Also, Sydney Water needs to upgrade their pumping station to prevent overflow from entering the canal.

A GREENER WOOLLAHRA

In conjunction with the Blue Green project (BlueGreen.au), I am advocating for the upgrade of Rushcutters Bay Park through the construction of an over-water

boardwalk between Rushcutters Bay and Elizabeth Bay.

I will also continue my long-term campaign to rejuvenate Cooper Park North and improve access with walking paths through the bushland between Cooper Park Community Garden and Northland Road.

Additionally, building a children's adventure playground, shaded by a grove of native trees, in the largely unused northern end of Lough Playing Fields, would also benefit the entire Cooper Park community.

A KINDER WOOLLAHRA

As a member of the council's cultural committee, I strongly support local community events that bring people together, such as the Woollahra Festival on 28–30 March. I will also work towards the return of the popular Poets Picnic in Blackburn Gardens and the display of photographic exhibitions from the annual Head On Photo Festival within the Woollahra LGA.

A SMARTER WOOLLAHRA

Although a 2023 survey revealed that 74% of local parents prefer coeducational public high schools, less than 10% of children in the eastern suburbs can attend them. This is in stark contrast to the 50% of local children who are enrolled in public primary schools.

As such, we need to expand the public education options in Woollahra to increase the choices available to our residents. I intend to advocate for the state government to include a new public high school as part of the Edgecliff Centre redevelopment.

Thank you all for your support and words of encouragement. Let's continue to work together to keep our diverse and vibrant community safe and to protect our unique and beautiful neighbourhood.

COUNCILLOR TORSTEN

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

WOOLLAHRA
FESTIVAL OF FUN
MARCH 2025

Join us for an exciting program of events for seniors.

For a full list of events and to book,
woollahra.nsw.gov.au/festivaloffun

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