

THE PADDINGTON PAPER

PEOPLE PASSIONATE FOR PADDINGTON

The official newsletter of The Paddington Society. Registered by Australia Post Publication No NBG 1470.

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Five good reasons to join the Paddington Society.

- You live here and care about your environment.
- You'd like to learn more about Paddington's history and role in Sydney's story.
- You believe in preserving the unique character of Paddington.
- You want to see Paddington become even more vibrant over the next 100 years.
- You have skills that could help our cause.

If these things matter to you, then join today! www.paddington society.org.au
Your annual subscription of just \$40 will be put to a myriad of uses... It's a very practical and sensible investment in the sustainable future of Paddington.

In this edition...

- An Important Win
- Margaret Olley AC 1923-2011
- Roundabout Rat-Runs
- The NSW Planning Review
- New Small Bars
- Preservation before Decoration

On The Streets

A blight on the landscape

An Ausgrid substation positioned between two heritage listed buildings, Juniper Hall and the Post Office on Oxford Street.



The new Ausgrid substation on Ormond Street.

heritage lite

The bonsaied, tokenistic gas lamp at Five Ways is something to behold. We're so lucky to have such an inspirational heritage reminder of the past.



Fake heritage at Five Ways.

Current Issues

An Important Win in the Land & Environment Court

The popular Paddington Inn hotel on the corner of Oxford and William Streets applied to increase the permitted number of patrons from 350 persons to 800. It was clear that the increase was intended to accommodate those arriving from sporting fixtures at the Moore Park Stadia - land that used to be part of Moore Park.

Council refused the application and an appeal was taken to the Court: Solotel Pty Ltd v Woollahra Council No 11037 of 2010.

Possibly the proposed increase was an ambit claim and, following technical discussions about building code limitations, it was reduced to a maximum of 732 patrons.

The Paddington Society was concerned about the somewhat casual approach to the appeal by Council and made representations to beef up the fight. A good response was made and a solid case was run with evidence given by a number of local residents.

The major concern raised by the Society was that numbers of this scale, if used as a precedent by other hotels in Paddington would see the Paddington end of Oxford Street morph into a situation similar to that at the City end. Any semblance of local pubs would be gone. Indeed we suggested that for some pubs the permitted numbers of patrons was already too high.

From evidence provided by residents and the police, the Senior Commissioner Tim Moore concluded that the present level of antisocial behaviour in the streets around the Paddington Inn is a consequence of a wide range of alcohol serving premises in the immediate vicinity and further afield, and some of this should be attributed to patrons of the Paddington Inn. Any increase in unacceptable antisocial behaviours is in itself unacceptable.

It was therefore held that no matter how well managed the premises (and there was evidence of good management) there will be an unacceptable increase in antisocial

behaviour. The appeal was therefore dismissed.

From this decision:

- It is important for residents to make written notes of adverse incidents and report them to police and/or council.
- Council needs a comprehensive plan of management for licensed premises. There should be a clear point of contact and responsibility.
- With a proper plan of management, Council should be better placed to respond to applications for new premises and any expansion of existing.

The Paddington Society does not want to discourage neighbourhood pubs restaurants, cafes and bars. It does want to keep them local and a regional attraction without overstepping the mark.

The Scottish Hospital

Presbyterian Aged Care, the owners of the site have submitted a revised application to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure. The proposal makes only minor amendments in response to requests from the Department to remove one floor from the huge Brown Street building, minor amendments to the Stephen Street building and options for service access. That is all the Department has requested.

All our concerns about height, scale, setbacks, views down street, the removal of over 70 trees, 35 of them with high retention value, removal of significant heritage fabric from the 'Terraces', over 170 car spaces in a very large basement, built in the Brown Street Gully and no respect for any of the surrounding planning controls are ignored.

In the meantime Council has approved the removal of the huge heritage listed fig tree (T18) that was supposed to 'screen' the development from Dillon Reserve.

Justification, based on the lack of site specific controls is a disaster. The community must object and object strongly.

Over the Palisade

☞ We've been waiting in anticipation for the opening of the painstakingly restored **Imperial Hotel**, now expected by the end of November.

☞ Want to know about Paddington's early days? Contact historian **Ron Johnson** on 9380 7447 to order a copy of *A Peep at Paddington's Past*, only \$20.

☞ **Eastside Radio 89.7** has been broadcasting from a small studio in Paddington Town Hall to the greater eastern Sydney area and beyond since 1983. A not-for-profit organisation, it has gathered aficionados not only of jazz but also swing, Latin, bebop and fusion! The presenters are all volunteers and run intelligent and sometimes controversial interviews and programs. We applaud its work and coverage of community issues. Check 89.7 on your radio dial.

☞ An incredibly dedicated effort by **Phillip Quirk** to photograph both sides of Oxford Street from Taylor Square to Queen Square, was highlighted in an exhilarating exhibition, it is soon to be published in book form – certainly a momentous and historic achievement.

☞ It is good to see the welcome return of the Benevolent Society forecourt's **coffee cart** (opposite Victoria Barracks). Great Toby's Estate coffee prepared by a cheerful barista.

☞ Our heritage listed **Paddington Post Office** has been painted with great care and attention to the detail, especially the coat of arms.



View of the repainted Paddington Post Office

Did You Know?

Paddington c1875, from Darlinghurst, corner of Liverpool and Darley Streets. A rare photo given to the Society by Keith Cottier. In the middle ground is Glenmore Road sloping down to the Distillery and what we now know as Trumper Park, delineated in the distance by Jersey Road (then Captain Piper Road). The photo was purchased by Duncan Horne in the 1970s and provided the basis for much research done by Keith and Duncan, when committee members around that time. The Society would welcome any historic photos of the area for our archives. Originals can be returned after scanning. Please contact us on 9360 6159 or email: heritage@paddington society.org.au

Margaret Olley AC 1923 –2011... an inspiring and colorful

In 1942, at the age of 19, Margaret Olley left the comfort of her home and family in Brisbane to enrol in the studio based art course offered at East Sydney Technical College (now the National Art School).

As guest speaker at The Paddington Society's Annual Dinner in 2006, Olley recalled how at that time

"... we knew there was something beyond the Cutler Footway and (initially) we dared not go there..." eventually of course she did and that world beyond, Paddington, became part of her life and in some way defined her and she it.

Following her extended stay in Europe during the 1950s, Margaret Olley lived in Paddington from around the time her good friend, fellow artist and Wynne Prizewinner David Strachan bought a house in Paddington Street in 1962. There she would stay whilst travelling between Brisbane, Newcastle and Sydney before buying her own terrace house.

Around this time Paddington was already functioning as an artistic and creative hub and while Olley showed regularly elsewhere, her first Paddington exhibitions were as early as 1961 in group shows at both the Rudy Komon and the Barry Stern Galleries. Her first solo show was at Barry Stern in 1972. The influence of Paddington and of David Strachan could already be seen as she painted from his house and applied her knowledge of the effect and impact of light upon her work. Many drawings were made from Strachan's house and paintings such as *The View from David's Kitchen*, 1962 are

valuable examples of the suburb's character at this time.

Margaret Olley was the subject of many artist's portraits and two major paintings of her may be seen to book-end her own life and practice.

One is the composed, youthful *Margaret Olley, 1948* by William Dobell, the other, the



Margaret Olley in 2009 © Nomadtales

vibrant, mature *Margaret Olley, 2011* by Ben Quilty; both were winners of the Archibald Prize.

There is a similarity between Dobell's captured, youthful promise, and her own works at this time. Her 1947 Inaugural Mosman Art Prize winning *New England Landscape* is a study of the vast region using subtle tones and a 'bush' palette similar to Dobell's and already predicting her later mastery and her command of light. While her treatment of space in this work reflects her country origins it was her time in Paddington that contributed to her preoccupation with defining specific, controlled objects. For it was in Paddington that Olley, transformed



her own home, a Duxford Street terrace and adjoining former hat factory into her primary subject matter; a well documented paradise of everyday objects, artworks and exotic forms collected during her extensive travels and refracted by her composite eye. Her works seem to contradict the conventional view of the 'dark' terrace house - they are luminous rather than lit.

Quilty said of his *Margaret Olley 2011* with its subject's intense gaze and larger than life qualities: As for the bright palette: "You just need to walk into her home, which is also her studio, to see that you couldn't use anything but striking colour. It's full of translucent works-in-progress, beautiful drawings, sculptures and flowers, so I wanted the portrait to reflect that."¹

The Quilty portrait also reflects Olley's late work, her expansive compositions of Sydney with the harbour sweeping away (as in the composition of her *New England Landscape* sixty years earlier), her freer brushwork and the confident, masterful use of the shimmering colour of her Paddington still lifes.

As reflected in the time distance between the two artworks, she had morphed, through her experiences, from Dobell's *Margaret Olley* who at the time hated any form of public speaking to the more assured Quilty *Olley* a confident raconteur and commentator - on all manner of artistic, social and political issues.

As the Society's guest of honour at the 2006 Annual Dinner, Margaret Olley was a most generous speaker. Without notes, and surprised by expectations and the scale of the event, she gave a lively and engaging talk to an excited and responsive audience.... amusing and sharp - quick to recall an astounding amount of detail and quick to censure those who did not treasure Paddington. Olley was quite strident in her views about those who currently seek to destroy or disrespect Paddington's finite architectural heritage.

A lively rant about her newly arrived, post war immigrant neighbours' attempts to customise their terrace homes with concrete

gardens, "modernised" facades and random additions soon developed into a general broadside at Council. "They seemed to have no constraints put on them, Council at the time let them do anything they wanted to the houses and we all became suspicious of what was happening" she said recalling how she and her friends observed the architectural anarchy settling upon Paddington during the 1960s. The reason for Council's disinterest soon became clear; before The Paddington Society successfully challenged the 1967 *City Planning Scheme*, Paddington was slated for slum clearance. This challenge was aided by the fact that it was primarily the immigrant communities' appreciation of the terraces' qualities and their occupation of them that protected the once derelict environment and contributed to this unplanned preservation of the suburb.

Olley's hilarious account of her amazement at seeing the Australian Wallabies training on Victoria Barracks Parade Ground "I just happened to be wandering past" (she dryly admitted) and her irreverent speculation about the future of the precinct was great entertainment for her highly amused audience.

However, some in the audience were quite puzzled by her abundant praise for the Royal Hospital for Women Park on one hand and her apparent 'confusion' about the architectural merit of the houses framing it.

Margaret Olley's contribution to life in Paddington will be missed. Especially absent will be those unexpected sightings of her, a familiar figure until recent years, dashing through areas such as Five Ways, always with a sense of purpose and a steady set of wheels before her. Those same wheels (complete with an alarming horn) made their way deftly through Victoria Barracks Sergeants' Mess that evening as she zimmered her way back to the parade ground whenever possible, for another cigarette.

¹ www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/archibald/2011/entries/28931/

COFA Update

In August this year the Federal Minister of the Arts, Simon Crean, launched the Gateway@COFA project for the new COFA Campus.

"The new facilities will enhance teaching and learning in all degree programs. The Gateway@COFA will allow the College of Fine Arts UNSW to model a cutting-edge, real-world learning environment to ensure Australia's creative practitioners take a leadership role in the creative economy of the 21st century." (UNSW)

When completed it will house Sydney's third major public art gallery behind The Art Gallery of NSW and Museum of Contemporary Art. The campus will be re-oriented onto Oxford Street, welcoming the public to attend exhibitions, lectures, short courses or just have a coffee at the café.

The launch was the culmination of over eight years of dialogue and negotiation with the community over the redevelopment of the site. A Masterplan for the whole site was drawn up and the DCP approved in 2008. Since then, a concerted campaign by residents supported by the Paddington Society to uphold the original approval conditions, has been successful.

The Masterplan approach and the final design shows what can be achieved when constructive open dialogue takes place. It is a great outcome for the students, residents and the wider community.

Harris Farm? No decision yet

Council's decision on the proposed overdevelopment of the Uniting Church's carpark in Newcombe Street has been deferred to next year. Over 90 submissions were received objecting to the size of the retail component, a fresh food store, trading 7am-10pm seven days, which would generate excessive traffic and delivery trucks in residential streets and the proposed residential buildings do not respect the established heritage streetscape.

Paddy Pearl.... Paddington identity passes

Paddy Pearl died recently in Hobart aged 86. She and her husband Cyril (CP), writer and journalist, were long time residents of Windsor Street Paddington. A committee member of The Paddington Society, Paddy was passionate about local history. She campaigned for our MP Clover Moore, helped run Sydney's Bloomsday and was a bell ringer at St Mary's Cathedral until she broke an arm. After 'CP's' death Paddy moved to Tasmania in 1994 and undertook major renovations of her heritage Campania House, reputedly the oldest continually occupied private residence in Australia. Paddy will be remembered for her generous enthusiasm. She was a great character.



Preservation before decoration

Terry is a huge unit, an energetic and engaging Scot who comes from the UK guild system of Painters and Decorators. I have worked with Terry on several houses in the east and when it came to paint our terrace it was a no-brainer. I have seen numerous neighbouring houses coloured-up in less than a week, only to see them peel under the Aussie sun twelve months later. It came as a surprise to passers-by, that not a brush was laid to render for the first three weeks. Rather, an intensive period of preparation. We felt sure Terry and Joe might be with us till Christmas, but as Terry says proudly "preservation before decoration" and the transformation occurred quite quickly after that. I asked Terry his view on the issues not to be ignored when painting a terrace house.

His reply:

1. Take the opportunity to make good: replace cracked windows, window cords; rationalise your gutters; change a door, replace a letterbox or door handle, now is the time to deal with it and appreciate the long term benefit.

2. Waterproof horizontal surfaces: the top of parapet walls, chimneys and even garden walls are exposed to the worst of the elements and can pool water allowing moisture to penetrate, mould to form and the protective paint to blister and peel, accelerating degradation of the building fabric.

3 Do not ignore the north-western sun: light colours and acrylic paint tend to survive the high intensity of western sun best. Dormers and windows on northern and western faces will survive longer painted with acrylic top coats.

4. Painting the outside is not just 'colouring in': paint is a protective film that is to a degree sacrificial. Make sure it has a good surface beneath, fill all holes, gaps and cracks, fix glazing, re-putty windows where required and seal paint to glass as this keeps out the weather.

5. Security: schedule the work to patrol the front of the house whilst doors and windows are painted and take care as ladders can give access to the upper levels for unwelcome guests.

As well as this reassuring technical advice I appreciated, Terry's contribution to aesthetic decisions although he is wary not to overplay his hand.

Ron the Renovator

If you would like contact details for Terry, send an email to Ron the Renovator at: heritage@paddington society.org.au.

Paddo's new small bars

Paddington's wine bars have been given a lease of life under Clover Moore's (our local MP) sponsorship of new licensing laws to allow small bars and night culture to thrive again. Here's a quick look at some recent arrivals...

Avido - 438 Oxford Street, a relaxed bistro-like atmosphere, great to pop in and share a glass of wine with friends - a terrific choice on the blackboard. Sitting at the bar we enjoyed a generous glass of excellent Pinot Noir from Victoria and home-made sourdough with crisp green virgin olive oil while enthusiastic customers settled in to reserved tables, others to the courtyard. One lunchtime favourite is truffle & parmesan scrambled eggs, with roast tomato and a bonus... you can talk without yelling or lip reading. Check the website for the mouth-watering menus.

10 William Street - is the brainchild of Fratelli Paradiso (Potts Point) owners Giovanni, Enrico and partner Marco with a strong focus on Italian food in the modern style and an emphasis on European wines. No signage, so look for the grey pigeon in the top of the window. Excellent bar snacks with plates to share and more substantial mains offers great quality options. No bookings but staff juggle the space efficiently. It's a loud and fun, small space, two levels, but a good feel and you know you've had a vibrant city-living experience... it's why we choose to live in Paddo.

The Hideout, at Fiveways - near the reliable stalwart Vamps bistro, this venue seems to be so popular patrons are often standing on the footpath adding to the Five Ways centre of village ambience. It's packed! A young noisy crowd so we have still to get inside to form an opinion... to be explored further!

La Vucciria on Flinders Street - near the Captain Cook pub, is just a couple of months old, and a great local addition. Sicilian ancestry, it presents itself as an enoteca, hence excellent Italian wine choices. From 5 to 7 pm you can partake in the Italian ritual of an aperitivo at the bar with accompanying palate teasers, then stay on for a delicious dinner at very reasonable prices.

Paddington Profile #1

- 1 in 5 people are aged 20 to 39.
- Half of the people who live here rent.
- 49% of households contain children.
- More than 30% of households have incomes greater than \$130,000 and 18% less than \$40,000.

Our hidden Pocket Parks

Pre-schoolers are vying for space on swings and climbing equipment in the popular pocket parks scattered through Paddington Paddington. These small plots of land are a hive of activity and a meeting place for parents and grandies. It was the vision and foresight of earlier planners who put aside these parks in our area where backyards are minimal.

Pocket parks with playing equipment can be found in Cambridge Street, Dillon Street, Cooks Paddock between Underwood and Victoria Streets, Soudan Street, Spring Street, Union Street and the Ethel Turner Park in Oatley Road.



Union Street pocket park.

Coming up...come along

• **Annual General Meeting of The Paddington Society** - Thursday 10 November, 7.30pm at St George's Community Hall, Five Ways. Guest Speaker: Dr Gene Sherman, Chairman of Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation.

• **Paddington Society Members' Christmas Party** - Sunday 4 December, 5-7pm downstairs in the Paddington Reservoir Gardens, enter via Oatley Rd steps. Members: \$12.50; concession \$7.50; non-members \$15. RSVP essential by 1 December to Leonie on 9380 8327 or email: heritage@paddington society.org.au.

The Paddington Society 2011 Committee

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The Paddington Paper is the official newsletter of The Paddington Society to provide news and informed comment on local issues.

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Passionate for Paddington? Then join us and get involved! Visit our website for a member's form.

Roundabout Returns Rat-Run

The roundabout at the Cascade Street/Glenmore Road/Hampden Street intersection was removed back in 2005 as part of the Cross City Tunnel amelioration works with the approval of the RTA, Council and the community.

The philosophy was to introduce changes to make Paddington less attractive as a rat-run for drivers and at the same time safer and more attractive for use by the community - in other words reinforce the village nature of the precinct.

At an October committee meeting Woollahra Council agreed in principle to expend an estimated \$220,000 on the reconstruction of a roundabout effectively endorsing the rat-run. This follows agitation by some community members that the intersection is unsafe, yet according to Council records the intersection in its current form has an excellent safety record and Council officers have previously recommended against the reinstatement of the roundabout.

Is this a wise expenditure of limited funds? Are we encouraging rat-runs?

The Paddington Society has long held the view that roundabouts are inappropriate in such inner city residential areas as Paddington. They work well on highways and planned communities where people drive rather than walk. We have favoured an approach which embraces pedestrian equality in a whole of environment way rather than one which looks solely at traffic movement.

Let's face it, roundabouts are traffic management devices which reinforce the dominant flow of motor vehicle traffic at the exclusion of all else. Try to enter any roundabout from a secondary street in peak hour. Try to cross that same intersection on foot.

The claim for improved safety with roundabouts is flawed since it is based on removing the pedestrian from the equation. Sidelining the pedestrian gives the driver greater freedom and less responsibility to look out for others, allowing total vehicle dominance.

Pedestrian crossings (if they exist at all) are set back a considerable distance from the intersection to a point where they are ineffective - either way pedestrians take the direct route and run the risk against drivers with a mandate - a dangerous equation all round.

And Paddington is very much a walking suburb, a fact accepted some years ago by the RTA after extensive lobbying by The Paddington Society. The RTA agreed that additional crossings were appropriate due to the compact and dense nature of the precinct and the high level of walking movements particularly by children. (As a result of this, and Council's PAMP study),

about twelve crossings have been built in key locations which are helping to change the dynamic of the area.

The 2005 works were carried out with RTA funding, and with their blessing. Other works included improvements to the gateway of Glenmore Road with New South Head Road, and the narrowing of the carriageway in Nield Avenue. The latter, as well as conclusively reducing vehicle speed, demonstrated a remarkable improvement to the environment, the amenity of residents and the health of landmark trees along this route.

So these weren't just ad hoc works. They were works carried out with an underlying vision - a systematic approach to a coordinated range of improvements. They were pieces in the larger urban jigsaw, prototypes of how to do things in the future, and demonstrations of what, if expanded, might lead to a better place for all.

If applied further what would we have? More pedestrian crossings (greater facility for pedestrians, more driver care); narrowing of excessive road widths (less cross-walk distance for pedestrians, driver speed discouragement); wider footpaths (better pedestrian amenity, changes to driver perception); more street-trees (psychological change to driver perception, improved environment); more defined gateways (greater precinct awareness).

Of course this vision is in the minds of the few, it has not been articulated despite our approaches to Woollahra Council and offers of assistance in the preparation of an overall public domain masterplan outlining future directions and providing a blueprint to guide decision making. It is certainly not in the minds of the Councillors or officers who somehow have a charge over the bits but no responsibility for the place as a whole.

When will the message seep through that wasting tax-payers money on ad hoc, inappropriate and uncoordinated changes is truly an act of poor governance. Think of the alternative ways this money could be spent on genuine improvements to Paddington.



The intersection of Cascade Street/Glenmore Road/Hampden Street fulfills many urban objectives.

Art and creativity still alive in Paddington

Paddington saw the emergence of art galleries in the early 60s such as Barry Stern, Rudy Komon, Studio A and the Bonython representing avant garde artists such as Fred Williams, Clifton Pugh, John Brack, John Olsen, Margaret Olley, Robert Dickerson and Brett Whiteley, setting a trend which remains today. While many of these have closed, new galleries continue to nurture creativity and add to the interesting mix that makes Paddington the special place it is. The list is extensive:

Arthouse Gallery	McLachlan Avenue
Australian Centre for Photography	Oxford Street
Australian Galleries	Glenmore Road
Australian Galleries	Royston Street
Barometer Gallery	Gurner Street
Blender Gallery	Elizabeth Street;
Butler Goode Gallery	Glenmore Road
Christopher & Anna Thorpe Tribal Art	Cascade Street;
Christopher Day Gallery	Windsor Street
Defiance Gallery II	William Street
Denis Baker Galleries	Macdonald Street
Galleries Primitif	Jersey Road
Gallery Savah	Glenmore Road
Global Gallery	Comber Street
Harrison Galleries	Glenmore Road;
Iain Dawson Gallery	Oxford Street
Jensen Gallery	Caledonia Street
Kudos Gallery	Napier Street
Martin Browne Contemporary	Hampden Street
Mary Place Gallery	Mary Place
Maunsell Wicks at Barry Stern	Glenmore Road
Mick Gallery	Gurner Street
Oceanic Arts Australia	Elizabeth Street
Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery	Soudan Lane
Sabbia Gallery	Glenmore Road
Sarah Cottier Gallery	Neild Avenue
Savill Galleries	Hargrave Street
Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation	Goodhope Street
Stills Gallery	Gosbell Street
Wagner Art Gallery	Gurner Street

Please let us know if we have missed a gallery or if you know of a gallery closure. For more details on our galleries go to www.paddingtonsociety.org.au.

Join the Paddington Society today!
www.paddingtonsociety.org.au

Share Cars & Go!

While there has been varied external media and community comment and response to car sharing plans we think it's a really good thing for both lifestyle and sustainability. Since Paddington already has one of the lowest car ownership ratios in Sydney it will be interesting to see if the latest census shows a further decrease.

There are several reasons for potentially fewer cars. Planners say that parking control is the most effective way of reducing car usage. And as Paddington houses have narrow frontages there's simply not enough kerb space for everyone to park. Garages and parking spaces are not allowed off major roads and not every terrace has rear lane access or space to put in a garage with turning space issues, and potentially lost adjacent parking.

Secondly, Paddington is served well with public transport. Oxford Street has buses, some express, going every few minutes. Even though the 389 route drivers feel safer going through Paddo in convoy, that service is pretty good also. And for many, Edgecliff Station is an easy walk, despite an uphill return. All we need is for Council to fund a cross-suburb service to give better access to Edgecliff and Double Bay.

With quality shops, a wide range of eating places, bars, cinemas, bookshops and, especially the revitalisation of Five Ways, a car is not always needed.

The growth in car sharing provides another good reason for not owning a car or giving up that expensive second car... just in case. GoGet has been first into the field with a simple and cost-effective service for those needing a car occasionally. The number of dedicated parking spaces, now over 10 in Paddington has been growing thanks to good support from both Councils. (See www.goget.com.au/find-cars)

Waverley Council's narrow-sighted argument that the car-share companies should be paying a market rent for the spaces is wrong. Councils should be doing all they can to encourage car-sharing. The more residents do without one or two cars the better it is for everyone. Even if a few car spaces are supposedly 'lost' to residents, the overall gains for the community are worth it.



The Planning Review

The review of the NSW Planning system is under way. The Joint Chairs are Tim Moore, a former NSW Environment Minister (Mr Moore has taken leave of absence as Senior Commissioner of the Court during the review) and Ron Dyer, a former NSW Minister for Public Works and Services.

The review will be conducted in three stages – listening, a green paper with options for comment and a white paper with a draft bill of any recommended legislation. This is all supposed to happen in 18 months. Initial submissions are to be in by 4 November.

Minister Hazzard's Revolutionary Performance Measure

At the first consultation on the project on 22 July the Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, made the only revolutionary statement.

"Wherever you are in the State, someone who wants to provide housing, or someone who wants to protect their environment, should be able to press a few buttons and know exactly what is intended for that particular parcel of land and what can or cannot be done with it. An IT friendly system. A user friendly system."

If the Minister's vision is pursued it would transform the certainty and the efficiency of planning in NSW. This would be a big change from what exists. But the real revolution is how an IT based planning system could allow us to make improvements in the way our cities are designed and our environments protected and enhanced.

Instead of using paper based standard land use zones as the format for writing controls, IT would allow the controls for each parcel as well as the terms of any consents to be available on line for everyone.

Standard land use zones suggest that cities with separated land uses and standard designs are best. By contrast, using the format of the individual parcel can imply that the nature of what happens on the parcel (or a group of parcels) is the most important objective. Meeting this objective may or may not require land uses to be separated – it all depends on the objectives for the parcel.

Parcel/Place Format

A parcel/place format would allow fine grain controls to be prepared on a precinct-by-precinct basis following real community involvement in drafting the desired character objectives for each precinct. With a parcel/place format, the City Council's proposed controls could be suitable for Paddington, rather than imposing on Paddington inappropriate controls because they have to be same throughout the City.

If the digital record also had the details of any consents given, maybe there could be an even wider range of low impact activities in Paddington. Everyone would be able to find out just how those activities were supposed to operate with there being less fear of a lesser impact activity suddenly becoming a large impact activity, eg – The Paddington Inn.

So there is much potential to explore with Minister Hazzard's revolutionary performance measure. It is hoped that the two ex-State polities are up for it.

Hackers, Heroes, Mayors & Locals at our Annual Dinner



The Paddington Society Annual Dinner was held in the Sergeants' Mess of Victoria Barracks on Thursday 25 August. It was a glorious evening, with many also enjoying the pre-dinner tour of the historic Barracks buildings with guides Vince Sedgwick and David Lynch.

Our guest speaker Dr Alison Broinowski kept us entertained with her provocative topic *Hackers or Heroes? Julian Assange and Rupert Murdoch*. Alison was an Australian diplomat until 1996 and her last overseas assignment was at the Australian Mission to the UN in New York.

The Lord Mayor, Clover Moore MP and husband Peter Moore, the Mayor of Woollahra, Isabelle Shapiro, Deputy Mayor Peter Cavanagh, Councillors Susan Jarmason, Greg Medcraft and City of Sydney Councillor John McInerney enjoyed fine food, wine, and the conviviality with members of the community in this unique heritage site in Paddington.

We thank our generous donors for the raffle prizes and it is a great privilege to be holding The Society's Dinner at Victoria Barracks again next year on 24 August, 2012.



James Furber, Francis Walsh and Barracks' guide Vince Sedgwick.