

# NEWS BULLETIN

## **PARKING METERS IN OUR STREETS? NO!**

Woollahra Municipal Council proposes to install multi-bay parking meters in the following 16 residential streets adjacent to Oxford Street: Barcom Ave, West Street, Comber Street, Hopewell Street, Glenmore Road, Shadforth Street, Brodie Street, Young Street, Ormond Street, Underwood Street, William Street, Victoria Street, Elizabeth Street, George Street, Tivoli Street and Jersey Road. We strongly object to this unsightly assault on our suburb.

The Paddington Society has always strongly opposed the installation of parking meters in residential streets and has written to Woollahra Council several times to this effect. We accept that they are probably inevitable on Oxford Street.

We are furious that Councillors could vote on such an important issue before residents' opinions were canvassed. All Councillors except Keri Huxley, voted in favour of the installation of multi-bay parking meters in residential streets of Paddington. Now we have our chance to say NO before this contentious issue goes back to Council for a final decision.

- Paddington is a conservation area, the first suburb to be classified by the National Trust.
- The undesirable visual impact of parking meters and the associated line markings for car spaces on the footpaths and streets will mar the heritage nature of Paddington.
- They would create additional obstructions on already narrow footpaths, many are only 1.5m wide.
- Should our streets be paid parking areas? It is intended that the parking meters be in operation 7 days a week from 8am to 11pm.
- Council states that following the introduction of parking meters, there will be increased turnover of parking but that traffic in the streets will decrease, a contradictory statement. Circulation of traffic in our one-way streets would increase and push further into the residential area. Result? ...installation of more and more parking meters to capitalise on this lost income.
- This scheme has nothing to do with improving the environment for residents or businesses but will simply be a lucrative source of income for Council.

**Council wants to hear your views on the introduction of parking meters in Paddington.**  
**We have been given an extension of time for submissions to Friday 27th October.**

Please voice your objection to the installation of parking meters in our residential streets by writing to:

**The General Manager,  
Woollahra Municipal Council,  
PO Box 61, Double Bay 1360**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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*Welcome to this special 'Say No To Parking Meters in Paddington' News Bulletin.*

*We have fought on so many fronts to preserve the heritage nature of Paddington and now on our doorstep is another assault - parking meters in our residential streets. Please take action and write your objection, even if its only a sentence, to Woollahra Council by Friday, 27th September.*

*Briefly, other current issues in which we're actively involved but haven't space to detail here are: the rezoning for development of the White City site by Tennis NSW which Council rejected in August but will continue to investigate with community consultation through the Community Representative Committee; St John's Church gross over-development on Oxford St; the plight of the PCYC; consultation on the development of the Paddington Reservoir for community use; the Scottish Hospital over-development; the Women's Hospital park and our watchdog role on traffic management and DAs which don't comply with the Paddington DCP.*

*On Clean-Up Sydney Day a group of us clad in raincoats and boots, gathered bags of rubbish of all forms from the streets of the Olympic torch route through Paddington. We really did have fun.*  
*Robyn Attuell*

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## YOUR COMMITTEE

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**President:**

Robyn Attuell 9361 3877

**Secretary:**

Mary J de Merindol 9331 5777

**Treasurer:**

Francis Walsh 9363 9572

**Committee:**

Penny Carle 9331 5365

Stephen Fitzgerald 9362 4619

Anne Fraser 9331 1445

Leonie Furber 9380 8327

Bill Garrett 9331 1903

Lorine Marsh 9331 6525

Bill Morrison 9331 1405

Drew Robertson 9328 7792

David Saywell 9363 0317

Loys Thompson 9360 4877

Susan Tooth 9363 3136

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## PADDINGTON RESERVOIR

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As community discussions on the future of the Paddington Reservoir and Walter Read Reserve draw to a close, it seems an appropriate time to think of the man to whom the small park on the corner of Oatley Road and Oxford Street is dedicated.

Many people now living in Paddington never knew John Thompson. He died in 1968. He and his wife, Pat, were foundation members of the Paddington Society, and John its first President. The Society is thought to be one of the first resident action groups formed in Australia. In its early years John led the successful fight against the proposed Nield Avenue - Liverpool Street expressway. He was also instrumental in gaining a special protective zoning for North Paddington, thus preserving many houses that were being threatened by developers, anxious to build high-rise flats.

The John Thompson Memorial Trust was formally launched at the Paddington Society's 10th birthday celebration in August 1974. A special committee, chaired by architect and President, Don Gazzard, invited suggestions on what form the memorial might take. One suggestion was for a plaza at the south western end of Paddington Street, where it intersects William and Hopetoun, to be known as John Thompson Place. Ultimately this idea did not find favour with some residents and shopkeepers. Another suggestion was that the Society buy a house, and name it after the founding chairman, and use it as a home for the Society. This was considered at the time, too great a responsibility to pass on to Society members.

In 1976 the plot of land at the corner of Oatley Road and Oxford Street Paddington, once the site of the now derelict Grand View Hotel, was bought by the City Council. This site had originally been gazetted open space in the South Paddington Action Plan of 1971, as an extension of the Walter Read Reserve. In December 1974 the pub had

### VALE

**We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of one of our long-term and active members Dr David Walsh. Our thoughts are with his wife Francis, our Treasurer, and their two young children.**

been very badly damaged by an explosion caused by a gas leak, leaving in its wake a half demolished building, and a badly damaged house, 1 Oatley Road. The pub was eventually demolished. It was this site that, after consultation with the City and Woollahra Councils, the committee chose as a suitable site for the memorial.

After consultation with Patricia Thompson, John's widow, a classically simple fountain of modern design was chosen - a square block of granite with a single jet of water coming out of a bowl. It was designed by Don Gazzard, as were the seats which were installed later. The area was grassed in and planted with trees. It is significantly close to the Town Hall where the Thompsons had arranged the first public meeting of the Paddington Society. It is a place much used today.

On Sunday December 4 1977, the family and friends of John Thompson, poet and founder of the Paddington Society, gathered to celebrate the installation of the fountain in the newly laid out park. The poet's widow and two sons, Peter and Jack, poured champagne into the fountain, an ancient Greek custom to honour the dead.

*"John Thompson, 1907-1968.  
A Poet who loved Paddington"*

Sources:

*The Paddington Paper* June 1974

*The Paddington Paper* February 1976

*The Paddington Society News Bulletin* March 1976

*The Paddington Society News Bulletin* June 1977

*Paddington Press* 16th December 1977

*Anne Fraser*

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## **ST JOHN'S CHURCH - OXFORD STREET**

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While one Development Application, which was refused by South Sydney Council is soon due to be heard before the Land & Environment Court, the Uniting Church has submitted an amended DA to Council.

Again, we have lodged our objection on the grounds of over-development; lack of consideration for the historical significance of the existing buildings, which will be blocked from view by new structures; removal of a stand of mature trees from the site; and the proposed units at the rear of the site facing Renny Lane, while reduced in number, are still excessive in bulk, height and scale with the Victorian terraces in the residential Paddington precinct.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Sunday 3rd December**

**Juniper Hall**

**phone Anne Fraser 9331 1445**

The Old Manse is one of the oldest buildings in Paddington, 1845, and an architectural treasure. It is set well back from Oxford St and it is proposed that this area be paved, replacing the garden, and two large square unsympathetic structures, one a kiosk to service an open-air 50-seat cafe, are to built in front of it. The Church and the Old Manse are to be used for retail and offices while the Church Hall is to be converted into an 80-seat restaurant. Extensive excavation under these sensitive and unique heritage buildings for a subterranean kitchen is also worrying.

*Mary J de Merindol*

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## **GOOD NEWS FOR OUR ARCHIVES**

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The Woollahra Library Local History Centre has received a Federation Grant for archiving and cataloguing the Paddington Society's archives. The records cover the period from the birth of the organisation in 1964 until 1995.

The archives are unique in that they detail the progress of the oldest residents' action group in Australia. They provide an in-depth look at the Paddington Society's activities and concerns, as well as providing valuable information about government processes, planning procedures and local government administration. In addition, the archives highlight many well-known personalities who were involved with the Society.

The Society's primary task has been the preservation of Paddington as an area of small, private houses. It has fought against uncritical acceptance of freeway, housing commission and private projects that infringed on the rights of residents. Its many successes include special preservation zoning for the areas of the original Paddington Municipality; special classification by the National Trust of NSW for Paddington as an area of permanent preservation for its architectural and historic importance; defeat of expressway proposals; publication and acceptance of detailed action plans together with historical, evidential and town planning material drawn up in every case by professional experts who were members of the Society and who donated their services; preserva-

tion and restoration of Juniper Hall on Oxford Street; involvement in campaigns concerned with Centennial Park, Moore Park, the Paddington Reservoir, the Royal Hospital for Women, the Stack Site in Glenmore Road and ongoing participation and leadership in Paddington's traffic control and urban planning schemes.

Apart from its role in preserving the built environment, the Paddington Society has also been involved in preserving other aspects of its history - instigating an oral history programme to collect the reminiscences of Paddington residents. Among those interviewed were members of migrant families who arrived in the 1950s, artists, writers and old residents of Paddington.

The archives will be properly conserved and stored. A check-list of the Society's photographic collection (over 530 photos), will be created describing people, places, events and buildings. Archives which were in the care of the State Library have been retrieved so that the collection is now under one roof. This is a rich resource for students and researchers or for those with any interest in Paddington, the Paddington Society or resident action groups.

Woollahra Library intends to mount an exhibition of the Paddington Society material in March 2001 as part of Council's celebration of the Centenary of Federation.

*Bill Casey*  
*Local History Section Woollahra Library*

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## PADDINGTON STORIES

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*Paddington Stories* is a soon to be released book written by Andrew Starr and Janet Morice. Paddington has been home for rogues and rascals, wharfies and bank clerks, bohemians and businessmen. This book tells their stories.

Jan and Andrew have collected over one hundred oral histories from a wide variety of residents and ex-residents. Some have been important in local politics, others have lived here quietly for more than eighty years.

Andrew Starr is an art historian whose M.A. thesis was on Renovation, Restoration and Heritage Values in Prospect Street Paddington, Janet Morice is a teacher and writer. Her books include *Six-bob-a-Day Tourist*, which traced the effects of WW1 on a Melbourne family. In 1992 she edited an anthology of children's writing, *Words Around the World*.

*Paddington Stories* (256 pages, 80 illustrations and 16 pages of colour) will be released in early November, retailing at \$34.95. Members of the Paddington Society are offered a discount of \$10.00 and free delivery in Paddington, \$24.95. Copies can be ordered by phone 93606540, fax 93316431, or email [paddingtonstories@bigpond.com](mailto:paddingtonstories@bigpond.com) or by writing to Paddington Stories, 11 Prospect St Paddington 2021

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# Membership Application

## Tax Invoice

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$33.00     Single \$22.00     Concession \$11.00    (incl. GST)

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_