

Swan-Guildford Historical Society

Members of the Historical Society are reminded that the AGM is on 13rd March at 7.00 pm at the Mechanic's Institute Hall.

Garrick Theatre

The Garrick theatre is due to hold its awards night on 28th February – the \$15 entry fee includes supper & drinks are half price. At the end of March there are auditions for their winter production, a comedy called “Get Smart”. For those who missed their current production then make sure you see the next one due in April which is a comedy - “Tip toe through the Tombstones”.

Guildford and the Council

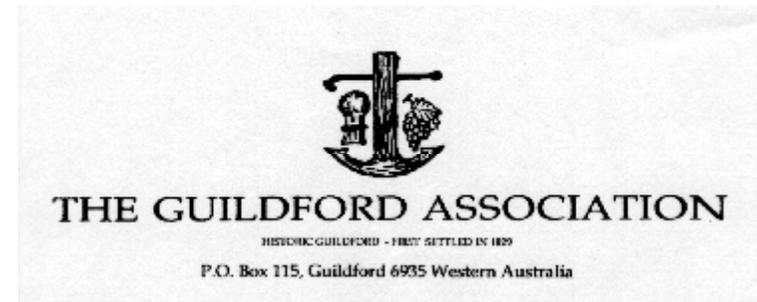
The Association wishes to remind residents that Guildford will be looking for a new councillor to represent our ward this year. Please give the matter some thought and consider what would be best for Guildford.

The Association would also like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the late mayor of the City of Swan, Mr. Charles Gregorini, who was killed in a tractor accident in November 2008. Mr. Gregorini had been a member of the Swan council since 1977 and was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to Local Government.

If you are a Guildford resident but not a member, please consider supporting your local association by joining.

Membership is only \$10 per person for the financial year.

Please send your money, with your details, to The Treasurer, Guildford Association Inc,
PO Box 115, Guildford WA 6935



GUILDFORD MATTERS

Newsletter #8, April 2009

Guildford Hotel

A public meeting about the hotel was held on 24th March and was well attended with over 80 people present including representatives of the owner, Heritage Council and the Minister for Heritage present.

Those present heard the Heritage Council and the Owners both confirm that, from the day of the hotel fire until now, there had been only one option discussed - the reconstruction of the Hotel.

Ultimately, however, success with achieving this objective is dependent on the owner having access to sufficient funds to cover the full costs of reconstruction.

Those at the meeting learnt that the owners have been liaising closely with the Heritage Council since the day after the fire and that this is ongoing. The Heritage Council has contracted an experienced Heritage Architect to oversee the removal of debris and to help the owners plan for reconstruction. The owners confirmed having spent a substantial amount of money already securing advice from structural engineers and then placing supportive scaffolding in key areas around the building to ensure its stability. They have also been paying for the security that has been needed to prevent further damage until the building can be effectively locked up after the debris on the ground floor has been cleaned away. The costs associated with cleaning up the Hotel, which are ongoing, are also been paid for by the owners.

Meetings held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at Mechanics Institute Hall, Meadow Street, Guildford
Next meeting 7.30 pm, 17th February 2009

The Insurance Company has not refused payment and hopefully will tell the owner shortly the total amount they will pay. It is clear already, however, that insurance moneys are going to represent only a fraction of the cost of restoring the hotel.

The clean up of the ground floor is now finished. The next step is to try to protect the building from the rainy weather, but this will be challenging as some of the walls are not very stable. A range of solutions are under consideration, particularly as there is a huge cellar beneath the building. There is also in progress an effort that is being guided by the Heritage Architect to retrieve any valuable pieces not burned and damaged and to use these as a baseline for future restoration.

Those at the meeting expressed to the owner both their concerns and their strong support for efforts to restore the building as a Hotel in the heart of Guildford.

The owner was keen to keep Guildford informed of progress with an update every 2 months, which the Association will pass on by newsletter and website.

2009 - Year of the Sugar Gums

Celebrations for this year started off with a **Sundowner** at the Woodbridge Hotel in February, attended by about 50 local people.

The Schools Poetry and Art competition is being run in collaboration with the National Trust of Australia (WA) for students in years 1-10. It seeks to inform and educate our young people about the significance of the sugar gum trees. Approximately 50 schools have been contacted about this competition in the Eastern Region. Applications have been lodged for funding the proposed community banner-making workshops under the supervision of artist Jill Russ. Peter Holland, former ABC newsreader has kindly agreed to be one of the judges.

Efforts to source funds for the Commemorative Seat marking the 10th anniversary of the Sugar Gums campaign are well advanced. The Seat is to be unveiled later this year in Stirling Square and the City of Swan have agreed to collaborate on the installation.

Welcome Pack

The Guildford Association has long advocated for an information pack for new residents & businesses of Guildford that will correctly inform them of the existing Guidelines for Guildford based on the Guildford Conservation Policy. The intent is to pro-actively educate and inform people of the Guidelines before good money is spent on inappropriate developments (such as limestone walls or signage) that will detract from the historical character of the town and possibly need to be changed. In partnership with the City of Swan, the Association will be putting together a handbook that will detail all the different community groups and organizations that exist in Guildford as part of an over-all welcome pack for new Guildford residents along with the details of the Guildford Conservation Policy. Ben Allen will be coordinating this effort and any community groups or organisations are invited to contact him with their details for inclusion (c/- PO Box 115 Guildford 6935).

Guildford Floodplain Study

Harriot Mills and Barbara Dundas have completed the initial trial on the Floodplain survey. They will commence distributing survey sheets to the properties on or adjacent to the Guildford floodplains. They are happy to answer any questions and hope this information will provide a useful baseline data for future management strategies on the floodplains.

Aircraft Noise

Mr John MacPherson - Senior Acoustic Officer with the Department of Environment and Conservation - will be addressing the Guildford Association on "**Health affects of aircraft noise**". John recently attended the International IC BEN Conference and will report back on contemporary research on health impacts of high aircraft noise levels. This talk will be of interest to residents living in or near the airport. John will be giving his presentation at 7.00 pm on 21st April at the Mechanics Institute Hall in Meadow Street, Guildford. His talk will precede the ordinary meeting of the Guildford Association Inc.

Last newsletter gave a number for complaints about aircraft noise and fuel dumping - **1300 302 240**. There is also an alternative, **1800 802 584**, which can be used.