

**The Swan Guildford Historical Society** continues to fight for a suitable home for their museum collection in the Guildford heritage precinct. The GA supports the Historical Society completely in their aim to reclaim all the Court House and associated buildings.

### **Rose Pruning**

It is that time of year again and there will be an informal but informative morning on rose pruning under the direction of amateur rose grower, Mr Peter Ellis. Peter will discuss and demonstrate how to prune your roses on Saturday, July 10th from 10.30 am to 12 noon at 19 Market Street, Guildford. Please ring 9279 7057 or 9377 3465 to confirm your interest and give us your contact details in case we need to cancel the morning's activities due to bad weather.

### **Railway Precinct Development Proposal**

Whilst nothing is formally presented yet, there are constant suggestions from credible sources that multi-story units are currently being proposed for the north side of the railway line along Victoria Street. It has the potential to change the traditional look of Guildford profoundly.

It is remarkable how history repeats itself as can be seen by the following gem from the vaults.

In 1954 the Guildford Municipality was confronted with a new problem, the leasing of railway property. Up until this period the Guildford railway reserves had been open .. since 1881 when the Eastern Line passed through the town. The open vistas were part of the original 1829 town and these open vistas continue to provide part of the unchanging, historic character of the Guildford.

Openness and vistas are usually not considered by planners - they tend to view open space as a development opportunity rather than part of a town's unique character.

In 1954 The Commonwealth Oil Refineries told the local authority of their plans to build a modern, "unbeautiful and unimaginative" service station east of Bells Crossing (Meadow Street railway crossing). Ampol also had plans to build west of this crossing.

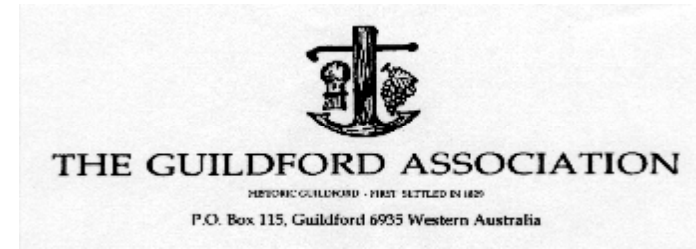
The Town Clerk Mr. Len Gibbons noted, "If the present trend continues of leasing railway property Guildford will become a more compact shopping town... this position will have to be watched closely as to the type of structures which will be built in the future. The Eastern approaches to Perth could be made to serve as a lesson as to what could happen." (Swan Express 29.4.1954)

As late Mr Russell Taylor, co-author of the Eastern Corridor Study, was to so accurately note "it is the failure to see and plan (the) town holistically that will undermine Guildford, the tyranny of small decisions."

### **Family Footy Day**

The City of Swan has organized a family footy day for 9 – 12 year olds with their parents at Lilac Hill on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 from 9.00am to noon. It's free with lunch provided but you must register with Dianne Gates on 9267 9136

**The Guildford Association Inc** is your local resident and ratepayer association. Our next meeting is at 7.30 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> July in the Mechanics Institute. Come & join us.



## **GUILDFORD MATTERS**

Newsletter #13, July 2010

**The Guildford Association** executive has been busy as always. There have been a number of issues recently including the following:

The release of "Guildford Hotel, Guildford; Structural Services Assessment Report," 2009 by Wood and Grieve Engineers as a result of a Freedom of Information request by local residents.

"Walkability and Wayfinding in Guildford." A report commissioned by the City of Swan for the purpose of helping tourists find their way around Guildford - significant for its total lack of concern for and consultation with residents.

Two Arboricultural Assessments by Arbor Logic on the Sugar Gums of Stirling Square and the Domestic Trees in Guildford Streets respectively.

Attendance at the Perth Airport Noise Management Consultative Committee. Residents should note that Air Services Australia will be providing a DVD for loan from the Guildford Library outlining why Aircraft Route Changes have occurred as a result of their route review.

Planning a workshop on Heritage Towns, and Guildford in particular for the end of August with the National Trust of Australia (WA), Heritage Council and the City of Swan.

The City of Swan's proposed Heritage List – a most disappointing document that reduces the number of heritage buildings and sites that could be protected in the City of Swan. It will soon be released for public comment and residents are urged to make submissions.

City of Swan workshop on the Swan Regional Park Mowing Plan to protect flora and fauna. Whilst this did not include Guildford's foreshores we are keen to change current practices.

City of Swan's Community Associations Network Program to promote and assist residential community groups such as the Guildford Association!

Planning a meeting with the Mt Lawley Society and their councillor, to hear of their experience and successes in protecting heritage through their Town Planning Scheme. They have largely stopped demolitions in heritage precincts!

The GA organized a sensational display of "Old Guildford Heritage Roses" for the WA Rose Society's Autumn Rose Show that was held in the Guildford Town Hall in April this year.

## **Guildford Hotel**

The following press release was recently put out by the local action group for the Guildford Hotel on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and is reproduced below in full for residents who may not be aware of it after Mr Rudd's demise as PM dominated the news at the time.

### **“MINISTER WATCHES AS HERITAGE ICON REMAINS IN PERIL”**

*Heritage Council engineers report has confirmed that urgent action is needed to save the historic Guildford Hotel. Guildford residents are calling on the Heritage Minister to step in and demand that the owners roof the hotel before it is lost forever. “The State Government, the Minister, the City of Swan and the owners have had this report since last August and have chosen to ignore it,” say local Guildford residents.*

*The Guildford Hotel is a much loved landmark built in 1886 that was extensively damaged by fire 2 months ago and less than a week before the 2008 state election. At the time, both major parties and the owners expressed dismay on the loss of one of the few remaining metropolitan symbols of the WA gold rush era to the community and Western Australia.*

*A packed public meeting arranged by Guildford residents in March 2009 made it clear that the community wanted the Hotel to be saved”, said local Guildford resident, Mr Johnson. “The fire authorities were able to contain the fire quickly and it was obvious that most of the Victorian rickwork had been saved from excessive heat damage” he said.*

*Local residents, salvage operators and building professionals familiar with the old buildings of Guildford were aware that the Hotel could be saved but that it urgently needed a roof to keep it dry.*

*In August 2009, prompted by questions from the community, the Heritage Council commissioned an independent assessment of the structural integrity of the remaining fabric of the Hotel. The engineer's report, which was released by the Heritage Council in June 2010, in accord with the Freedom of Information Act, noted substantial damage to the building and that most of the roof and part of the first floor had been destroyed. Notably, the report commented on the subsequent weather damage to the building since the fire, which included new damage to the external walls. Importantly, the structural engineers confirmed towards the end of last winter that most of the buildings walls, including the external walls, were retainable at the time of inspection. The engineer's report also confirmed that much of the ground floor and parts of the first floor had not been destroyed and could be retained if the Hotel was made water-tight and allowed to dry out.*

*Everyone remembers the character of the highly valuable old jarrah timber floors. There was much relief when it was realized that much of the ground floor was still intact” said the President of the Swan-Guildford Historical Society, Mrs Celia Millar.*

*In November 2009, concerned that there was no sign of any roof repairs, a group of Guildford residents wrote to the Minister for Heritage, Mr John Castrilli. The Minister was also concerned. His reply stated that ‘he was hopeful the building would have adequate roof protection, as an interim outcome, by the end of summer’.*

*The winter rains have now started again and there is still no roof”, said the President of the Guildford Association, Mr Ben Allen. “The Heritage Council, the owners and the Minister met on*

*the recently before the rains started,” he said. “But the independent engineer's report shows us now that they had all known since the end of last winter that effective weatherproofing of the building is the key to its survival and yet they have done nothing. The Minister and the Government must act decisively on the independent advice that was commissioned by the Heritage Council and which has been paid for by taxpayers,” said Mr Allen. “Why is this all so hard? A commonsense approach is all that's needed to ensure this landmark building, which gives a sense of place to Guildford, the Swan Valley and the State, is saved for future generations.”*

*The Guildford Hotel was built in 1886 and prospered during the gold boom of the 1890s, thanks to its prominent location on the route from Perth to the goldfields. It was listed as a Permanent Entry on Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places in 1994. The Hotel was damaged by fire on 1 September 2008.*

There was also an interesting and timely article on “Perth Now” – the on-line newspaper associated with the Sunday Times dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010 which included the following:

*“Owner Mr Luke Martino said that after the (Wood and Grieve) report was completed last year, the owners had undertaken all the other recommendations but had received advice from an engineer that a roof was not necessary at the moment. “The advice we received was that there would not be substantial damage to the building for 18 months to two years,” Mr Martino said.*

*Save the Guildford Hotel Action Group member Ian Johnston called on the owners, the Heritage Council and the Heritage Minister to act immediately to ensure the site was not irreparably damaged. “Our message is simply: Please hurry or there won't be anything left to restore or conserve,” Mr Johnston said.*

*Heritage Council executive director Graeme Gammie said he thought a roof should be constructed over the building but no-one could compel the owner to do so. Heritage Minister John Castrilli said he had personally outlined his concerns to the hotel owners but there was no way to force them to put a roof in place. Opposition Heritage spokesman John Hyde said the Minister had failed to ensure the preservation of the building. “There have been no dinkum restoration or preservation attempts made,” Mr Hyde said.*

The Hon Linda Savage, MLC for the Eastern Metropolitan Region, has also helped keep the issue alive by placing a number of questions on notice to the Minister for Heritage, Hon GM Castrilli in parliament on 25th May that were finally answered on 29th June.

Guildford residents are encouraged to contact their local political representatives about the Guildford Hotel and there is no shortage of them – in fact about 19 all up with direct responsibility for Guildford Town. With a federal election looming, we might get a response.

Sharryn Jackson is our local Federal Member (08 9359 1188) and WA has no less than 12 Federal Senators. Michelle Roberts is our local State Member (08 9274 8811) and our Upper House Electorate of Eastern Metropolitan Region has no less than 5 Representatives in the House.

For easy email contact look up [www.yourvoiceinhouse.org.au](http://www.yourvoiceinhouse.org.au) and send your message to them all