



THE GUILDFORD ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC GUILDFORD - FIRST SETTLED IN 1829

P.O. Box 115, Guildford 6935 Western Australia

GUILDFORD MATTERS

Newsletter #23, March 2012

Association Meeting – March 20th 2012

We will have our first formal speaker of 2012 this month.

John Viska

will speak about

“Unearthing Your Garden’s Potential”

Tuesday, 20th March

at 7.30 pm

in the Mechanic’s Institute

The noted historical horticulturalist John Viska has accepted our invitation to address members on Tuesday 20th March. John will talk on the subject of “Unearthing your Garden's Potential”. John has served many years on the Executive of the Australian Garden History Society and contributed articles to national journals on garden design. He is familiar with Guildford's garden history and has also worked with the Guildford Association over many years. John will be talking to interested Guildford residents on how to recognise the unwritten story in the remaining elements of your garden including the old trees, paths and shrubs. He will describe information sources that can be used to uncover previous patterns of garden design and assist interested owners plan an appropriate garden for the home.

Guildford Post Office Many residents will have noticed that Guildford Post Office was for sale and we can report that the new owners, Hort Plan, were due to settle on the transaction by the time you receive this newsletter. Hort Plan was established by Kim & Mike Noonan in 1995 and specialise in landscaping, swimming pool design and construction, horticulture, project management and organisation. Your Association has invited Mike to join us on Tuesday evening and he will tell us about the plans for the Post Office and answer any questions that residents may have.

The Stirling Memorial Gates The City of Swan will be hosting a rededication function in Guildford of the Stirling Memorial Gates by the Governor Mr Malcolm McCusker, AC CVO QC on 3rd April 2012 in the presence of the Mayor and Councillors of the City.

This ceremony will celebrate the successful restoration of the Stirling Memorial Gates after they were severely damaged in a storm that saw a large tree limb fall on the two eastern pillars. The City of Swan has undertaken a full restoration program with skilled artisan stone- masons Guy and Rodney Weguelin working under the direction of Mr Bruce Callow who is the project architect. Apart from the actual stone work, residents should note the new limestone acorn caps that have been finely restored to their very original form.

The Gates are part of the State Heritage Listed Stirling Square. They were originally constructed to the design of the Guildford Shire Clerk, Mr Len Gibbons. They were dedicated to Sir James Stirling in the State’s Centenary Year on 21st September 1929 in the presence of a large audience. A guard of honor at the ceremony was provided by ‘A’ Company of the 28th Battalion and music was provided by a military band and the local children’s choir. The Gates were dedicated by the then Governor Sir William Campion, in the presence of the Mayor and Councillors of the Guildford Municipal Town Council.

Garrick Theatre - “Light shining in Buckinghamshire” starts 13th April. A synopsis reads - “For ten years in the middle of the seventeenth century, England was governed by radical extremists. Fuelled by unshakeable religious conviction, soldiers killed the king believing that Christ would come to replace him. There was a war to establish heaven on earth. To those who believed in the established order, it must have seemed that the future was in the hands of the terrorists. Written in 1976, Light Shining in Buckinghamshire speaks directly to our own political moment. A dramatic collage of the most turbulent period of English history, it tells the story of a group of men and women who thought they had glimpsed a spark of unspeakable, transcendent glory. It is impossible not to hear echoes of our own times.”

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Transition Town Guildford Over 40 people came on the 4th of March for Transition Town Guildford's second Clean Up Australia Day. Many hands make light work, and it was a massive success. They managed to collect 24 bags of rubbish & 18 bags of recyclables! Not to mention the numerous oddities as well, such as road cones, bike tires, a number plate, a sewing mannequin and even a NZ passport! While it was a good sign that there weren't so many large bulky items as last year, there was still plenty of rubbish to collect. However, it was disappointing to see how much recyclable material there was. Several people brought up the solution of a container deposit. The Conservation Council has an ongoing campaign to introduce a 10 c refund, copying the successful model from South Australia. Thanks to everyone who came and took part, especially all the kids from Guildford Primary.

A Guildford Hotel Update On 30 November 2011, the City of Swan granted approval for a planning application to restore and redevelop the hotel site. The application included a request for parking concessions worth almost \$3m. Immediately before Christmas, the owners of the Guildford Hotel (Castle Towers Pty Ltd and Fanucci Pty Ltd) lodged an appeal against the City's decision to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT). The appeal was listed for a SAT Directions Hearing on 20 January 2012, however, the Directions Hearing was vacated when the parties agreed to mediation. The basis for the appeal was to have become public knowledge at the Directions Hearing however the public is excluded from mediation and so the conditions that are unacceptable to the developers remain a mystery still. An initial mediation session was held in late February and the next session is apparently to be held 16th April. It can be seen that this is not likely to be a fast process. In the meantime residents will have noticed the new warnings that have been posted on the building that warn of "Falling Materials" – we are not sure what anyone is meant to make of such a notice or do about it. Updates can be found at <http://www.savetheguildfordhotel.com> & <http://www.facebook.com/savetheguildfordhotel>

Parking The PTA have submitted an application to the City of Swan to create an extra 170 parking bays north of the railway line at the end of Victoria Street. There is currently a heavily used informal parking process in this area. The Association has made a submission to the City on a number of items relating to this proposal.

Community Aviation Consultation Group This group has recently been established with a view to ensuring that debate of Airport issues is well-informed and undertaken in a spirit of collaboration. The Association nominated Katherine Cosgrove as our delegate but this has clearly somehow got lost in the process. We have however been formally invited to nominate a delegate and a deputy delegate which we will be taking up. It was interesting to read in the West Australian recently that the airport operators have agreed to require full length runway take off which will effectively put the planes higher as they go over Guildford and hopefully make less noise. This is a strategy that your Association has been fighting for over many years and we look forward to seeing if the press report is accurate.

Mary Blair (21 April 1913 – February 2012) It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Mrs Mary Blair who, together with her late husband John, was a resident of Guildford for more than 50 years. Mary passed away in February just short of her 99th birthday. Mary is survived by her daughter Margaret Jeffrey and son David Blair and their families who have also made Guildford their home. Mary maintained an active interest in community affairs until very recently and was a valued member of the Association over many years. Mary will be remembered by those who knew her as a dignified, elegant and gently spoken woman who displayed a genuine interest and compassion for those she encountered. Mary had a number of interests, notably Quakerism, Indigenous Injustice, Save the Children Fund and of course, she was an avid reader. Mary contributed greatly to the annual 'Guildford Library Users' statistics and was most disconcerted each time the Library's closure was mooted. Fortunately, like so many of her generation, she was handy with a pen and certainly did her bit to keep issues under the politicians' noses!

No doubt in almost a century of living Mary did a great many things and about which we probably know very little but she will be very fondly remembered for her support and longevity as a resident of Guildford. Unfortunately space precludes a full description of what we do know, however, in extending our condolences to her children Margaret and David who have been such a large part of that interesting and rich life, we can say Mary was admired and valued in our little corner of the world. She will be greatly missed.

The Guildford Association Inc is your local resident and ratepayer Association. The Association's objectives as stated in the Constitution are to:

- **Preserve and promote the historic and rural nature of Guildford and its environs;**
- **Enhance and protect the quality of life of residents and ratepayers in the area.**

The Association is constituted under the *Associations Incorporations Act 1987* and operates under the requirements of that Act. Membership is **\$15** per person, per year and entitles you to full voting rights at the meetings. New members are welcome
