



## THE GUILDFORD ASSOCIATION INC

HISTORIC GUILDFORD - FIRST SETTLED IN 1829

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# GUILDFORD MATTERS

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Newsletter No. 33: May 2013

### **Next General Meeting – 18 June 2013**

The Guildford Association will be holding its next meeting at 7.30pm on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at the Mechanics Hall in Meadow Street, Guildford. Come along and hear what issues are affecting Guildford. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided.

### **Continuing efforts to save Guildford's Heritage**

In the March Newsletter we stated how important our buildings are to the integrity of Guildford as a heritage precinct. In particular their preservation is crucial to the continued listing of Guildford as a 19<sup>th</sup> Century National Trust Classified Town. The Association, and many residents, were concerned that an application for the demolition of a 1900's house in Swan Street had been submitted to the City of Swan. The landowner's own structural report did not support the demolition. On the contrary, it made some useful suggestions for repair and maintenance of the house. The Association made a detailed submission to the Council as did many Guildford residents to oppose the demolition of the dwelling. A petition with over 200 signatures and comments was presented to the Council.

At its meeting on 22 May 2013, we are pleased to be able to say that the Council appropriately upheld the principles of State Planning Policy 3.5 *Historic Heritage Conservation* and its own heritage preservation policies and refused the application for demolition. Despite the recommendation from the Council's officers that demolition be opposed, two Councillors from wards other than Guildford moved a motion to allow the demolition to go ahead. It is extremely disappointing that Councillors who do not represent the area should even consider moving a motion to destroy the very essence of our Town – our houses. The Council Minutes on this matter can be viewed on its website.

\*\* Newsletter kindly printed by Michelle Roberts MLA, Member for Midland \*\*

We all need to be vigilant against any incremental destruction of Guildford's houses and buildings. Removal of any buildings will diminish Guildford's heritage authenticity and its appeal as a place for residents and tourists to appreciate Western Australia's history. It places our National Trust Classification in jeopardy. We applaud those Councillors who made the right decision in this matter.

## **Heritage Strategic Plan**

Having regard to the above article, are you interested or concerned about the protection of heritage and history in the City of Swan and Guildford? Consultants TPG, on behalf of the City have prepared a report on the strengths and weaknesses of the current heritage policies. Copies of "**Report for the City of Swan Heritage Strategic Plan and Heritage Strategy 2012**" are available at the City's libraries and on the City's website. The submission period closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013 but you may be able to lodge a late submission. We encourage residents to read the report and lodge submissions.

## **Local Government Boundary Changes**

Changes to Local Government Boundaries may have taken a back seat for a few months. However, following the re-election of the Liberal Government the process has re-commenced under the new Minister for Local Government, Tony Simpson. According to the media, Minister is conducting a series of meetings with Mayors, Presidents and CEOs of the metropolitan councils.

There has been widespread reporting in the papers about the responses from the various Councils. Kalamunda is holding a referendum of electors. It was proposed that the City of Swan would merge with Mundaring and Kalamunda. Reports in the local press indicate that Swan and the Town of Bassendean are holding talks.

One wonders if we are going to see a period of horse trading and jockeying for position amongst the Councils. Unfortunately as the results are likely to have a profound effect on Guildford we need to monitor developments. We will endeavour to keep residents informed.

## **Guildford Hotel**

Have you noticed any work on the Guildford Hotel? No? Neither have we! ☹

The hotel is about to experience its fifth winter without a roof. The owners have had planning approval since November 2011 but are yet to undertake any works. It is understood that they are currently negotiating with prospective tenants but will not release any details to the community or say when works will commence.

How long must we wait for this State Heritage Listed and Nationally Heritage Classified building to be rebuilt? Statements have been made in Parliament and questions have been asked. Yet still, we wait. And wait.

Perhaps the new Minister for Heritage, Albert Jacob is waiting to hear from you? You may wish to write to him at 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, 6005 or email Minister.Jacob@dpc.wa.gov.au Ask him if the landowners have prepared a schedule of urgent works, as required by the planning approval, given that winter is now upon us and the hotel is still without a roof.

### **Garrick Theatre**

The Garrick Theatre's next production is "Project MacBeth" written by Simon Sharkey and directed by Rob Whitehead. Is MacBeth a hero or a villain? This production runs from 21 June 2013 to 13 July 2013. Check the Garrick Theatre website for details. Bookings can be made by ringing 9378 1990 or emailing bookings@garricktheatre.asn.au

### **Fruit from the Vine**

Grape growing was introduced by the first pioneers of the Swan River Colony in 1830. The limited stock was improved and extended by introducing species from the Busby Collection – a collection of between 700-800 different grape species trialled in NSW. The NSW Botanical Garden sent across 32 varieties of grapes suited to Western Australian conditions. These vine species included table and wine making varieties. Some of the old gardens in Guildford still contain unusual and sometimes unknown grape vines on trellises. These are important pieces of Guildford and Western Australian history.

Olives trees were first introduced into the Swan River Colony by Captain James Mangles in 1831. He brought with him four of the finest varieties of olives which he planted in Government Garden. Olive trees were then propagated and also planted at Woodbridge House in 1832.

Olive Street was named after the line of olives planted on the west side of the street. The remnant trees are of considerable historic and landscape interest and probably date to the earliest years of settlement in Guildford. They are described as boundary trees and form an important feature of the town.

Both grapes and olives are long lived species of plants. Do you think you might have old grapes or olives growing in your garden? Please write and let us know.

### **Newsletter Distributors**

We still need Newsletter volunteers If you can spare still a hour or so once every 6-8 weeks, we would love to hear from you.

## Bits and Pieces

The City of Swan is holding a Recycling Goods drop off on 8 June 2013 at Jack Williamson Oval, Eveline Road, Middle Swan. Behind Swan Districts Hospital if you're not sure of the location.

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Transition Town Guildford will be holding an event to explain and launch "Plastic Free July". We can all do with a lot less plastic in our lives, in our rivers and in our oceans. Stay tuned for further details or visit the Transition Town Guildford website.

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The Swan Guildford Historical Society's motto is 'Making History Matter'. The SGHS has a fascinating collection of artwork, toys, china, textiles photographs, clothing, tools and other material from times gone by. The SGHS operates the Old Gaol Museum and it is well worth a visit.

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**The Guildford Association 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. New members are welcome.

### Application for Membership

I hereby apply for membership of the Guildford Association Inc. I support the goals of the Association as stated in the Constitution.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Renewing Member

New Member

Please forward **\$15 per person** to Guildford Association, PO Box 115, Guildford WA 6935.