



Guildford Matters

If you are concerned about what is happening in your town, and want to do something - then join your local ratepayer association. The Guildford Association is an incorporated body of local rate payers. It was established to protect the residential amenity, the historic nature and the rural environment of the town of Guildford. The Guildford Association represents your concerns and issues to local and state government. We encourage all Guildford residents to be involved, to be informed and to become financial members – it only costs \$10 per annum per person. The Guildford Association Inc meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Mechanics Institute Hall, Meadow Street.(Next to the Post Office). The next meeting is 16th October 2007.

Please Clean up our Railway Reserves

The Guildford Association has contacted Michelle Roberts, Member for Midland and Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Planning, seeking an undertaking that the Guildford railway reserves will be tidied. **These central and highly visible areas have become increasingly untidy over recent years**, detracting from the appeal of Guildford to both visitors and residents.

The Association is asking government to lead by example. Residents and businesses are working hard to promote the historic town and Government authorities should be working with the community.

A reply from the Minister was recently received, undertaking that the Rail Reserves will be tidied

We have again written to the Minister about the large concrete sleepers being stacked down James Street and have argued they should be stored in an industrial area not an historic town. *We await some response and action.*

Loss and Spraying of Historic Plantings

Guildford's noted streetscapes and historic plantings are under continual stress.

The tragic recent **loss of an avenue of old pines** near the Old Ferry Landing Place (Guildford Road Bridge) is one of the casualties of careless development. It is estimated that the avenue of trees was over one hundred years old.

The Association brought to the attention of the City the **recent spraying of the historic Manettii roses** on the south embankment of Barkers Bridge. These were planted by Lieutenant Du Cane in 1852. Fortunately new shoots indicate they may survive. The City of Swan has recently brought in rose experts to maintain important rose plantings and we commend them on this initiative.

The City has recently contacted the Association with a plan to build a wall around the rose planting. The Association has asked the City to investigate if this is the most desirable landscape and horticultural option in view of the rural location of these plantings.

The Association continues to urge Council to;

- a) **Complete a register of significant plantings**, an objective outlined in the 1992 Guildford Conservation Policy. Without the information from such a register, our historic plantings are at risk of be destroyed by agents or officers of Local and State Governments or private individuals.
- b) Undertake a comprehensive plan of **infill planting of Sugar Gum Trees** on the north side of James Street, as agreed to in 1999.

Guildford Floodplains

One of the most unique and attractive aspects of Guildford is the proximity of the Helena and Swan Rivers to the town. The floodplains are valued for both their visual appeal and their contribution to the natural environment .The clearing of lower storey vegetation and logs (to facilitate mowing) is **resulting in loss of habitat and diversity of vegetation.**

The Guildford Association has had a meeting with Swan River Trust and is seeking a meeting with the Minister for Environment, to discuss the possibility of **establishing a conservation plan for the Guildford Floodplains.**

It is important that significant plantings and sites contained within the floodplains be acknowledged and properly **conserved and maintained** throughout the planning process.

The highly visible location of the oxygenation plant near /on the site of the Old Ferry Landing Site (on the riverbank near the Guildford Road bridge), is an example of where appropriate planning and consultation may have resulted in the facility being located in a less sensitive area.

Display of Old Guildford Roses

The Guildford Association plans to hold a display of roses from old Guildford plantings later this year.

Original rose plantings will form the focus of the display, as these bushes contribute to knowledge of early Guildford planting and garden styles.

Members of the Association may be contacting a number of homeowners throughout Guildford to seek contributions of roses for the display.

If you think you have old or historic roses in your Guildford garden and would like them considered for the display please **contact Barbara on 92792057 or Sue on 92502676.**

Lead Light Walk

Are you interested in assisting with the coming tour of interesting and historic leadlight windows in Guildford? The event is planned for one weekend in **November**, if you wish to participate or would like more information, contact Kim on 93790509

Aircraft Issues

Please do take the time to report any unreasonable noise or fumes from aircraft travelling over Guildford. Your comments may influence future planning. Telephone the complaints line on 1300 302 240 and leave your name date, time and type of aircraft incident. The number is also recorded on the fridge magnet distributed by the Guildford Association Inc. in January of this year.

Your Association has a representative on the Noise Management committee at Perth Airport. *We are trying to have night time flights use full length runway takeoffs (and greater height over Guildford). We are also trying to get the noise monitor relocated from an area of medium noise (ANEF 20-25) to high noise (ANEF 35+) so data represents the highest noise levels.*

The Department of Conservation and Environment has released an **important** pamphlet on Aircraft noise and its health impacts, entitled *Aircraft Noise and its Effects.* This information can be downloaded from the Department of Conservation and Environment website www.doce.wa.gov.au

Follow the link to *DoE* then to *Air*, then to *Noise*, then to *Publications*.

Our community needs to know the health effects of high noise levels, particularly on the young and elderly. We have pamphlet dropped homes in the high noise areas.

Development sites and Planning Issues

The Association was surprised to learn that the City of Swan and Department of Planning and Infrastructure supported housing on the 2 sites in James Street, despite the Department for Conservation and Environment recommending, that housing should not proceed because

development.. will expose residents to unacceptable aircraft noise impacts that cannot be practicably and feasibly controlled by acoustic treatment of the proposed dwellings. Should the subject sites be developed with the WAPC's deemed to comply package 4.. the residual noise impacts may represent a significant long term health risk.

The Association has met with Minister Templeman's office to point out that the DPI decision is inconsistent with the Minister's recommendation. We believe all new owners should be made aware of potential health risks.

Concerns about Contaminated Site Remediation

The Guildford Association contacted the City of Swan, Minister for Environment and local member Michelle Roberts, on learning that that the old petrol station site on the corner of Johnson and James Streets, Guildford was listed as a potentially contaminated site. The site was located near 4 eating places and the Guildford Primary School.

Whilst supporting the remediation and clean up of the area, the Association was concerned that remediation protocols under the *Contaminated Sites Act* and Council's own recommendations of October 2006 (in relation to the remediation of the site) were not being followed. The site was excavated without approval and dirt stockpiled approximately 10m high. The soil contained unknown quantities of lead and benzene.

The Association requested that the site be hydro-mulched to prevent any contaminated dust from the dirt piles blowing around the town. We requested that covered trucks and dust monitoring be used for the final stage of dirt carting (this did not happen).

Four of Guildford's five petrol station sites have now been remediated. For information on remediation of petrol station sites see Department of Environment and Conservation's homepage at www.dec.wa.gov.au and search under "Land" then "Contaminated Sites."

Design Guidelines and Guildford's New Office Block

The Association is greatly concerned that the design of the new office block, on the corner of James and Johnson Street, (approved by Council October 2007) seems to be **inconsistent with the scale and form** of our historic nineteenth century town. We are concerned that this building is deemed '**consistent**' with the recently revised Building Guidelines, and will be arguing for a *further review of this document*, to prevent further such development and designs within the town.

Parking Strategy Needed

The historic town of Guildford desperately needs a parking strategy to consolidate parking in the town centre and enhance business and tourist opportunities. Currently, business parking overflows into residential side streets destroying amenity. Your Association has been arguing for a parking

strategy for the past few years. We urge residents to consider the following and contact your local Ward Councillor and local Member of Parliament.

The new office block recently supported by Council (Cnr. James and Johnson St) has a **27 bay short fall**. The existing shops (west of James St) have only limited bays outside their stores and currently use **privately owned land** (zoned for residential purpose). The Guildford Town Hall, Garrick Theatre and Library have **only 6 parking bays and limited street parking in Meadow St**, as the current owners of the Stirling Arms wish to exert their right to limit their parking for their patrons.

The proposed new railway development may **replace all parking north of the line with housing** (in the current Park and Ride) and possibly some of the parking on the south of the line. Parking on verges **compacts soil** and can lead the **loss of trees** and leads to the continual breakage of reticulation pipes.

Overflow parking from commercial activities is and will further **overflow** into residential side streets and affect your quality of life.

Please adhere to Speed Limits

Speeding traffic in side streets presents a continuing problem, please talk to family and friends before we have another fatality in the town. Helena Street has become a rat run with cars avoiding the central town congestion and speeding past the Infant Health, and Four Year Old Centre. Traffic plans identified Terrace road and Helena Streets as priorities for traffic calming.

Next Meeting 16th October

To become a member, complete the form below and include a membership fee of **\$10 per person per annum**.

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Guildford Association Inc. Membership Form

Name

Address.....

.....**Post Code**.....

Telephone.....**Fax**.....

E mail

Enclosed is \$..... formemberships.

Please send to: The Treasurer, Guildford Association Inc.

PO Box 115, Guildford, WA 6935.

Please be assured that your personal details will be treated confidentially. They will only be used for Association matters and not distributed or passed on to any third party.