



THE GUILDFORD ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC GUILDFORD - FIRST SETTLED IN 1829

P.O. Box 115, Guildford 6935 Western Australia

GUILDFORD MATTERS

Newsletter #22, February 2012

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012. The executive of the GA takes this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and asks you to consider joining the Association and being involved in your local residential community and its future.

Annual New Year Members' Function It is not too late to join the GA and attend the annual Member's Function. It will be held on Sunday 12 February 2012 from 5pm to 7pm at the home of our president, Ben Allen, 19 Market Street, Guildford. It is always a fun affair with the opportunity to renew acquaintances, make new friends and find out what your executive has in store. Whilst it is for members only, you can fill in the form at the end of this newsletter, bring it along and pay on the day (RSVP to Ben 0419 046 226).

The Stirling Memorial Gates The repairs to the Stirling Memorial Gates are nearing completion. The Gates 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.

The Association commends the City of Swan for this excellent restoration work and looks forward to the completion and rededication of the Gates later this year.

Email: ga@guildford.asn.au

Web site: www.guildford.asn.au

Association Meetings The Association will be recommencing monthly meetings with the first general meeting of the year to be held on 21 February 2012. Please come along and meet fellow Members and be part of your residents and ratepayers association. We are still in the process of securing Guest Speakers for some of the meetings but we are pleased to advise that:-

For our March meeting, that 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.

For our April meeting, Richard Offen, the Executive Director of Heritage Perth has accepted our invitation to address members on Tuesday 17th April. Richard Offen was on the staff of the UK National Trust from 1989 until 2003. Before being appointed Executive Director of Heritage Perth, Richard was a founding partner of the heritage consultancy Solutions for Heritage. Richard is a popular lecturer and has been a regular broadcaster on both radio and television. Richard can now be heard every Monday morning with Eoin Cameron on the ABC 720 Breakfast Show.

Garrick Theatre - presents its latest production “Who Knows” in February. This plot centres on a Dr Who fan convention and the disappearance of its president.

The Stirling Arms Hotel is under new management. The Association is pleased to report that there appears to have been big changes and we encourage residents to revisit this as an option when considering going out in Guildford.

Transition Town Guildford is holding a “Clean up Australia Day”. Those wanting to help should come down from 9 – 11 am on Sunday 4th March. Meet up at the Guildford Primary School, corner of Johnson and Helena. Don't forget water, hat and gloves if you have them. More info transitiontownguildford.com

The 1st Midland Scout Group, whose area includes Guildford, is looking to recruit Scouts. They offer fun activities and skills training for children aged 6 to 16yrs in a safe, supervised environment. If interested, the enrolment day is 18 February 2012, 12pm-2pm at Bellevue Scouts Hall, 10 Helen Street, Bellevue www.joinscouts.com.au

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.

While recognising the concerns of retailers and residents about parking, the Council took the position that restoration of the hotel was a higher immediate priority. Conditions, which could be regarded as standard for a Heritage-listed building and site, were included in the approval. Conditions linking the generous parking concession to satisfactory completion of the proposed renovations/restoration of the heritage-listed building were also included as a late amendment at the Council meeting.

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 subsequently listed for a SAT Directions Hearing on 20 January 2012, however, the Directions Hearing was vacated as a result of the parties electing to agree to Mediation.

The basis for the appeal was to have become public knowledge at the Directions Hearing, however, the public is excluded from Mediation. So, at this stage, it appears that the reason for the appeal will not be released into the public domain, unless the owners choose otherwise.

This could take several months to resolve and adds to the delay in getting started on the restoration work on the hotel. The community remains concerned at the landowners commitment to the redevelopment and even more concerned at the perilous state of the hotel building. It is imperative that Guildford does not lose this significant State heritage listed building and you are encouraged to make your feelings known to our local political representatives

Guildford residents will have seen that the cacophony of Christmas "Advent" banners disappeared on the 12th day after Christmas as is traditional. It can be seen already that the banner fairies had been work-shopping a few new ideas as a banner was up for Australia Day. One wonders what "Back to School Week" might bring.

Show your support and visit the website (<http://www.savetheguildfordhotel.com/>). The partner Facebook website (<http://www.facebook.com/savetheguildfordhotel>) now has more than a thousand friends. If you are able to visit the Facebook site, please "share" the site with your own friends. In turn, if they "like" the website, they will then be able to follow events as they unfold.

If you are not sure what to do - ask your local teenager to assist.

Parking Study

Despite numerous approaches by the Association over a decade or more, the City of Swan steadfastly refuses to undertake a parking study and strategy for Guildford - despite granting significant concessions for parking to commercial developments. While commercial development, that adds life and vibrancy to Guildford, is welcomed this should not be to the detriment of the amenity of residents who often have to bear the brunt of non-residents parking in our narrow streets. Accordingly, the Association is currently investigating the possibility of undertaking a parking assessment with a view to presenting evidence to the City. We would like to hear from residents who are experiencing any inconvenience from overflow parking in your street or area and from business operators who consider that the parking situation could be improved. Please let us know by email ga@guildford.asn.au or by contacting Ben Allen (0419 046 226).

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

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 Inc PO Box 115, Guildford WA 6935.