



GUILDFORD MATTERS

News letter of the Guildford Association Inc. Number 3 - May 2008

The President and Executive of the Guildford Association welcome members and interested Guildford residents to an exciting 2008. New members are always welcome at the monthly meetings, held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Mechanics Hall, Meadow Street at 7.30pm.

As usual, your executive has been busy and hard at it – looking for ways to improve the future of Guildford. There are a number of new initiatives, and some old & popular projects, being undertaken by the Guildford Association this year to foster community spirit and encourage a greater understanding of Guildford's heritage. There are also the usual range of lobbying activities and communications with the City of Swan about Guildford.

- 1) **Community Activities** – these are being coordinated by Ben Allen (9377 3465 or 0419 046 226) and he should be contacted for any further information or ideas.
 - a) **Walks** - The Guildford Association is to co-ordinate a number of “walks” around Guildford. The intention of the walks is to educate Guildford residents and other interested parties about the local history of their streets, the houses and other significant features that go towards making Guildford Town the special place it is. We are offering members the opportunity to learn about the unique significance of our town. Have you wondered why the town is said to be one of the most important towns of first settlement in Australia? Details are given below.
 - i) **Understanding your Guildford Floodplains** with noted naturalist Mr. Eric McCrum. Learn about the original vegetation, changes to plant, insect and bird life. The association is concerned at the current government maintenance practices of spraying and mowing the flood plains. Learn about problems and implications of managing a sensitive floodplain area.

The walk is scheduled for 9.30 am, Sunday 22nd June 2008, meeting at the King's Meadow Oval parking area by the river at the bottom of Hill Street, Guildford. Dress according to weather conditions and with suitable walking shoes. Places are limited so book your spot by ringing Ben on 0419 046 226 or 9377 3465.

- ii) **Historic Helena Street**- a walk to learn about the significant plantings, homes and previous residents in this fine residential street, guided by historical researcher Barbara Dundas. Observe the important plantings that give the street its unique character and the different periods of homes that survive today.

The walk is scheduled for 9.30 am, 21st September 2008 meeting at Spring Reserve, the corner of Helena Street and Johnson Avenue

- iii) **Historic Meadow Street Walk** - this street is described as WA's most historically significant street. Learn about the colonial and turn-of-the-century buildings and significant plantings. How will future plans affect this streetscape?

The walk is scheduled for 9.30 am, 26th October 2008 meeting at the Memorial Gates, in the south east corner of Stirling Square near the railway crossing.

- iv) **Historic Stirling Square**- learn how the square developed to its existing form , the early plantings, events and controversies A guided walk with historical researcher Barbara Dundas and noted Horticulturist John Viska

The walk is scheduled for 9.30 am, 23rd November 2008 meeting at the War Memorial in the south east corner of the square near the railway crossing.

- b) **Guildford Gardening Group** – it has been suggested that some Guildford residents would enjoy the pleasures of a local Gardening Group to swap ideas, visit each other's gardens and generally develop mutually beneficial friendships around a gardening theme.

Joanne, from the Guildford Town Garden Centre, has kindly agreed to give a demonstration on the correct way to prune roses. Bring your secateurs and join us at Fiona Allen's house, 19 Market Street, Guildford at 10.00am on Sunday, 6th July 2008. We can then enjoy a cup of tea and discuss the options for a Guildford gardening group. Please phone Ben on 0419 046 226 or 9377 3465 for further details.

Just to wet your appetite, Barbara Dundas unearthed this wonderful list !

The 12 Best Roses of 1929
The Centenary Year of Western Australia
As detailed in The Western Mail 9/5/1929 p45

1. Hadley- Hybrid Tea, dark red rose, strong rich fragrance, vigorous grower, mildew proof, blooms on long strong stem.

2. Ophelia- Hybrid Tea, does well in light soils, delicate salmon flesh colour, shades to base with yellow, true rich tea fragrance, vigorous grower, blooms last well when cut.

3. Rev. Page Roberts- Hybrid Tea, large double blooms of exhibition form,, soft buff colour shading to rich yellow at base and reverse salmon shaded carmine and yellow, blooms last well when cut, vigorous growth habit and can form a half or full standard bush.

4. White Maman Cochet- Hybrid Tea vigorous exhibition rose, white with slight tint of pink, mildew proof, can grow on its own roots or budded onto dwarf stock, vigorous and strong growth.

5. *Frau Karl Drushki- Hybrid Tea, pure white double blooms of fine shape and form, grows as a climber if not pruned back,, vigorous grower.*
6. *Madam Abel Chatenay- Hybrid Tea, bright carmine rose shaded with pale vermilion, rose and salmon pink, flowers are double of good form and shape.*
7. *Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria –Hybrid Tea, large, full flowers of creamy whitewith faint lemon tinge in the centre, free flowering.*
8. *Golden Emblem –Hybrid tea, cadmium yellow with buds of reddish gold, beautiful foliage, good growth, flowers on long stems.*
9. *Lady Hillingdon – Hybrid Tea, , rich yellow flowers on long wiry stems, semi-double blooms with strong tea scent, grows best in good conditions.*
10. *Mrs. Herbert Stevens - Hybrid Tea, one of best white roses, long pointed buds, produces blooms freely in semi- double form, strong grower.*
11. *Blackboy - Hybrid Tea, deep velvety crimson, shaded sooty red, blooms semi- double on long stems, grows well as a climber.*
12. *Hoosier Beauty – Hybrid Tea, glowing crimson with darker shadings, large full blooms, well formed on long stems, outstanding rich and powerful fragrance.*

2) **Lobbying Activities** – Your executive Committee has been lobbying hard on your behalf to improve aspects of our town.

- a) **A Parking Strategy** is desperately needed for Guildford. The City of Swan has been approached about this and we will continue to push this agenda item but there is a serious shortage of staff and it is unlikely that it will get addressed in the short term. The lack of a parking strategy affects residents and local business owners in so many different ways:
 - It can bring residents into conflict with local business owners as noise, anti-social behaviour and other related issues upset every day quality of life,
 - It results in a steady deterioration of the town’s traditional form as significant streetscapes are destroyed or damaged for short term parking solutions,
 - It inhibits the use of local amenities and businesses, as parking becomes a bigger issue for customers.

Write about your parking concerns to the City of Swan or your local paper .The City acknowledges the need for a parking audit but it is unlikely to become a priority unless the residents make it one. Overflow parking from the business areas is already evident in many side streets. The increased number of residences and a new commercial premise with a significant shortage of car-park bays make this is a matter of urgency in the town.

- b) **A Tree & Planting Register** – the recognition of historically important plantings on public and private property in the form of a significant Tree and Planting Register is needed for Guildford. The City of Swan has started an audit of the trees of Guildford and the Association is keen to see this expanded to include an index of cultural heritage significance, to inform and better protect the historic character of Guildford.

2009 is the Year of the Sugar Gum. Ten years ago, many residents and concerned others, camped along James Street in an attempt to inform Council that we did not want jacarandas planted in the main street but wished to keep our Sugar Gum trees (*E Cladocalyx*). A large dinner was held on the verges of James Street in August 1999, attended by David Bellamy, noted international naturalist. The Guildford Association met with the Mayor and interested Councillors to explain the importance of these trees to the community and outline the consultant's recommendations. Two of the three consultants had advocated the retention of the trees. Council subsequently agreed to maintain the existing plantings and to start a replanting programme. The accord was marked with the City gifting a park bench on the North West corner of the James and Johnson St. intersection.

The Association is planning to mark the 10th Anniversary of this community action with a number of activities – so watch this space !!

It should be noted that this was not the first community rally to save these trees. In 1957 community action prevented high voltage power lines being routed through the trees and was an inaugural action of the Tree Society. Today the trees are being maintained, however, there is no replanting program. James Street is currently being planted with Jacaranda trees- an Argentinean species first introduced into the streets of Guildford in the 1940s and considered quite inappropriate for a historical colonial town in Australia. It is interesting that the Jacaranda has now been listed as a prohibited species in South Africa, banned from sale by any licensed nursery and disallowed for any future street plantings. Do we want Guildford to look like a 1940's suburb or a nineteenth century town?

The Sugar Gum Committee is currently planning some campfire interviews with participants in the Sugar Gum Campaign of 1999. They will also be seeking to record experiences of this community event and to copy any photographs you may have.

The Price of Heritage is Eternal Vigilance.

- c) **Aircraft Noise** – your Association continues to represent your interests on the Airport Noise Committee. We have been lobbying to reduce the effect of noise on Guildford residents at night. More details below.

Aircraft Noise and Ground Running - if you are concerned or disturbed by excessive noise please ring **1300 302 240** to register your complaint. You will be asked to give your name, address, date and time of incident. It is important to register your concerns as the Association is still fighting for full length run way take offs at night- a position not supported on economic grounds by the airlines. Guildford and South Guildford residents have few means of reducing the growing noise impacts.

The Airport Master Plan is due for review in 2009 and we need to make our feelings clear both as individuals and community groups. The Association will be discussing feedback on the Master Plan during the public comment period to assist residents formulate their responses.

Do not be complacent. Please record your concerns about flight noise on the above number. If you are unreasonably disturbed or feel the length of ground running noise is disruptive, you may ring the Airport to enquire if it is compliant. Other airports have earth bunds on their perimeter, to reduce such noise. As a noise affected community we need to ask for the best noise amelioration strategies.

- d) **Railway land** – your Association continues to argue for the Department of Planning & Infrastructure to tidy up its reserves and stop using Guildford Town as a storage depot for its excess stock. It is unsightly, devalues the tourism aspect of the town and generally results in a poor impression of WA's oldest colonial town. This has not been an easy task and we are faced with classical bureaucratic stonewalling but we intend to persevere.

3) General Community Issues

a) **Social Issues**

There are a number of licensed premises (hotels and restaurants) in Guildford and they are part of the vibrancy of our community. However, licensees have a responsibility to ensure that their patrons behave responsibly while on licensed premises. In addition, all commercial premises should be kept in an orderly, tidy and safe manner. If residents have issues, then in the first instance it is suggested that they approach the business directly with their concerns to try and sort them out at an early stage. If this fails, or is not an option, then there are other avenues that can be pursued.

There is a process for making effective complaints and understanding the different departmental responsibilities in relation to licensed premises (hotels, inns, taverns or licensed sport and gaming facilities) helps. It is important that complaints are made to appropriate agencies and to keep your own record of the complaints (diaries or journals). Confirm your complaint in writing even if you have made a phone call initially. You can request anonymity - however there may be complications with the Department of Liquor, Racing and Gaming as it may seek mediations between residents, council and the licensed premises.

Agencies handling Complaints about Licensed Premises and anti-social behaviour

i) **Police**

The police may be called out to incidents involving antisocial behaviour, dangerous driving, fights and acts of damage or aggression. Ring **131 4444** to call police to the scene. Take details of time, date, place, car numbers etc. Record the Police Incident Number. Mark the events in a diary or calendar. If you are unable or unwilling to call the police out you may write to the Midland Police or Traffic Police at:

32 Spring Park Road, Midland WA 6056

This will register your complaint. You may wish to ask for extra police car patrols at sensitive times.

ii) **FESA**

They may be contacted about fire related issues eg. dangerous storage of materials, car bodies, timber, or fire risks associated with the building or activities within it. Ring **323 9300** to register your concerns and write to

FESA Head Office, 480 Hay Street Perth WA 6000.

Photograph your concerns for the record.

iii) **City of Swan**

Your Local Council is responsible for all issues relating to parking problems, noise, tidiness of site and public safety and planning issues.

You may ring **the City of Swan on 9267 9000** with your complaint, or contact your local councillor - **Frank Alban** – on **9379 1234**. If you wish, put your concerns in writing to:

CEO, City of Swan, PO Box 196, Midland WA 6056.

A written record can be very important to show the period, type and extent of a problem.

