

## **GLENTHORNE CONNECTIONS – NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS**

Friends of Glenthorne Inc (Incorporated 1998)  
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DECEMBER 2005 – MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL.

### **URGENT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.**

“THE COMMITTEE OF THE FRIENDS OF GLENTHORNE INC HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ANNUAL GLENTHORNE FARM CHRISTMAS EVENT UNTIL EARLY 2006”.

Dear Friends,

It is with regret that we inform you of the postponement of the 2005 Friends of Glenthorne Inc (F.O.G. Inc.) Christmas Event. In recent years this event has enabled the members, volunteers, family, friends and supporters of our group to get together socially at the farm, to celebrate the Christmas season as well as the efforts of the members and volunteers throughout the year. This year it has been decided to postpone the event due to access constraints, the greater fire risk this year, as well as the pending decision of the State Government regarding the future of the farm, involving the University of Adelaide's possible Concept Plan. Invitations will be posted out to all members and supporters, closer to the event's date which is envisaged to be in late March 2006. I apologise for any inconvenience that this decision may cause.

- The major event of 2005 was a meeting between our Chairman, Peter Smytherman, Treasurer/Secretary, Alan Burns, and officials of the University of Adelaide on October, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Following a promising 90 minute meeting in which a number of on site issues were resolved, the Friends of Glenthorne Inc has disappointingly received no further correspondence. This has prompted our Chairman to again write to the University, seeking confirmation of the issues discussed and agreed. In addition, we are waiting on the University to receive a reply to a tender for research work involving Glenthorne Farm. This research is the basis of the University's Concept Plan for the future of Glenthorne Farm, and without a successful response, the University of Adelaide's involvement with the farm into the future would be in doubt. At this stage the University still has a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2005, by which it is to respond to the State Government, but will not received a reply to its tender by that date. With this deadline and the State election on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, it is hoped that the postponed Christmas event in late March will have some Glenthorne news to celebrate.

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### OTHER ISSUES / EVENTS FROM 2005:

- Thanks to all F.O.G. Inc. volunteers who contributed at the monthly working bees. 2005 was the first year of monthly working bees, and by working with Urban Forest Biodiversity Program (Chris Gibson in particular) and the Conservation Volunteers Association, more than 1,500 riparian (creekline) plants were planted, taking the total over the past 3 years to over 4,500 trees, shrubs and riparian plants.
- The Friends of Glenthorne Inc is now an affiliate member of the Friends of Parks Inc. We look forward to a very beneficial relationship with this wonderful organisation.
- Following a generous grant from the Marion Council, the F.O.G.Inc. has now purchased a second brush cutter, a chainsaw and other necessary equipment for future work on site, including safety gear.
- A number of members have allowed their memberships to lapse. Reminders will be posted out soon. We need the support of a large membership base.
- The O'Halloran Hill T.A.F.E.'s donated trailer has been registered and used at all working bees since it was received in June 2005. Thanks to the T.A.F.E. students and staff involved.
- Members of the F.O.G.Inc. (Bob Kirby and Alan Burns) attended the "Adelaide Hill's Face: A Heritage Landscape" forum at the State Library in May to hear more about the archaeological importance of Glenthorne Farm.
- The Chairman, Peter Smytherman, and Treasurer/Secretary, Alan Burns met with the Marion Council in September to promote the protection of Glenthorne Farm through a closer working relationship.
- Members of the F.O.G.Inc. (Andrew Clark and Alan Burns) spoke to a meeting of the South Australian Ornithological Association (Birds SA) in September 2005 and also learnt about the possible large scale habitat re-establishment for woodland birds of the local area from Professor David C Paton from the University of Adelaide.

2005 has been a standout year for our group, and we thank everyone who has been involved or who has shown us continued support. It is heartening to know that there are so many supporters of Glenthorne Farm. We would particularly like to thank the committee members and faithful volunteers, Bob Kirby, Leighton Smith, Andrew Clark, Don Webster and Rene Borst. We sincerely look forward to seeing you all again next year for another year of achievements and in particular the March event at the farm.

Merry Christmas and a safe New Year,

Peter Smytherman  
Chairman

Alan Burns  
Treasurer/Secretary

**Members of the Friends of Glenthorne Inc are continuing to be active in preserving a significant part of South Australia's history, heritage and environment. Member details remain completely private & confidential.**