

Friends of Glenthorne



No HOUSING on GLENTHORNE !!

Synopsis of Past and More Recent Events.

Friends of Glenthorne Inc.

March 2008 Newsletter.

It has been more than 11 years since the first meetings were held in the office of the then Federal Member for Kingston Susan Jeanes, to protect Glenthorne Farm from urban development. 5 years after those 1996 meetings, in June 2001, it was announced that the University of Adelaide was to receive provisional ownership of the Glenthorne property from the CSIRO, financed by the SA State Government with a \$7.0 million grant.

Ownership came with conditions and responsibilities, that the University would develop a suitable concept plan for the future incorporating open space and that the State Government would review the plan under the agreement's conditions before approval could be given. Strict terms of reference were agreed to regarding the development of the concept plan, **including open space and heritage clauses**, and in the past 6 ½ years a number of projects have been proposed, but none have progressed. The original purchase contract proclaimed **"The CSIRO has only agreed to sell the land on the proviso that the Land will be preserved and conserved for agricultural and other related activities and will not be used for urban development"**. This statement has been echoed many times over the years.

The University was silent on its most recent plans for Glenthorne Farm, until October 3rd, 2007, when James Fox and Chris Harrison from the University of Adelaide attended a Field River Forum held by State MP Chloe Fox in Parliament House. It was stated at the meeting that the University of Adelaide was planning a major revegetation project and had prepared a submission to the State Government.

It has subsequently been learned through Freedom of Information requested material, supplied by a State Member of Parliament to the Friends of Glenthorne, that the Concept Plan submitted to the Premier's Department in 2007 had contained a proposal by the University of Adelaide for considerable housing. "Native vegetation will be re-established on around 70% of the property, ultimately to become accessible open space for the community. **Up to 30% of Glenthorne may need to be developed to provide capital to deliver the program**".

The Friends of Glenthorne committee members, upon hearing of this proposal, were outraged. Not only was this proposed funding arrangement contrary to the aims that the Friends had been advocating for

almost 12 years, but it was against the feeling within the vast majority of the community; it was against Premier Olsen's announcement back in 1998 that the fight against housing had been won and more importantly it was against the contractual arrangement or Deed that the University of Adelaide had signed with The State of South Australia, The Minister for Transport and Urban Planning and the Winemakers Federation of Australia Incorporated back in 2001.

The Friends of Glenthorne obtained the Freedom of Information material in mid November 2007 and on December 7th, 2007, a lengthy email was forwarded on behalf of the Friends of Glenthorne to the Premier's representative, stating our objection to any such plan for housing. The email stated amongst other things, "Selling any part of this property for whatever reason, is contrary to the ideals and work that our group has been doing for over 11 years and also contrary to the agreement entered into when the University purchased this property from the Federal Government (CSIRO) with a State Government grant."

Following this email, a written response was received from Pamela Martin, Director, Commercial Advice, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, dated 8th January, 2008, stating "**Please be assured that the South Australian Government remains of the view that the site must remain as open space...the Government has not agreed to the proposal which involved construction of housing over a small portion of the site.**" Note that Pamela Martin is a Commercial Solicitor in the Premier's Department and has ties to the University of Adelaide as a graduate, a tutor, a Member of Council and as a member of the University's Heritage Foundation Working Party.

Given that the Friends of Glenthorne have been working to prevent any housing at Glenthorne Farm for almost 12 years, it is disturbing to hear as recently as this month from a prominent member of the Local Government community, that the Friends should consider some level of housing as a way of financing development of the site as open space. The Friends consider this type of suggestion as not only a contradiction in terms, but ill-informed and an insult to both the Friends of Glenthorne and the community at large. We have always stood by the people's view that this site is destined for a magnificent future as community open space and one day, with or without massive funding, this dream will be realized. Glenthorne Farm will one day form part of the South's preservation of local biodiversity. It won't happen over night, but it will happen.

By Alan Burns – Secretary / Treasurer.
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**If you would like further information,
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