

Friends of Glenthorne Inc

NEWSLETTER 2011



INCORPORATED IN 1998

Heritage



Sense of Place

Summer Edition

Future



On behalf of FOG volunteers

 Best Wishes for Christmas &
the New Year 

We welcome you to join us.

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It is through the collective efforts of all involved that we are able to achieve what we do

December 2011 Overview

Bigger Picture

- Link to biodiversity corridors across the South e.g
 1. Field River Catchment Area
 2. Water proofing the south - City of Onkaparinga
 3. Urban Forest Project
- Impact of the upgrade of future Southern Expressway
- Protection from urban sprawl ? - Relevance of the Deed
- Obligations/responsibilities of /Key Stakeholders

Issues

1. Deterioration of heritage buildings and housing accommodation
2. Absence of Revegetation Plan from the University; lack of direction for F.O.G. activities.
3. Requests to the University re: items 1, 2 plus FOG assisting in the Development Plan for the future use of the property, remain unanswered.
4. Integrated Management Plan - multiple activities occurring on the property
5. Roadside and Entrance condition along Majors Road requires tidying and mowing as a precaution for summer fire season and access/departing safely onto Majors Road.
6. Event 2012 Planning and Community Information Programme—May ??
7. Meeting with Marion Council Development Officer to:
 - Draft a "Glenthorne Development Proposal " for Glenthorne Farm, that will provide economic sustainability plan for the property.
 - Explore opportunities for financial support; encourage new business ventures; build strategic funding partnerships.
8. Status of the proposal for the establishment of the Great Southern Urban Forest - a major open space and a biodiversity link in southern Adelaide (Nov 2005)

Good News

- Our web-site has facilitated three new volunteers registering with FOG. Each will bring their skills and commitment to our organisation
- Tentative negotiations relating to the making of a short film highlighting some of the issues related to the property and activities of FOG. The aim would be to present it at Event 2012
- "Proposal for the Development, advancement and Maintenance of the Glenthorne property" by Paula Kerr, a new volunteer, has been presented to FOG for consideration and comment
- Productive Working Bees for October, November, focussing on maintenance and weed control of our patch. Thanks to the energy, dedication and commitment of the Revegetation Team.

Looking Ahead

2012 activities will centre around the following concepts:

- To create a landscape space for native flora and fauna and the local community
- To work with individuals and organisations at community regional and national levels, to create a unique series of habitats and a public open space for people to explore and enjoy.
- To form a holistic approach to work to look after a part of South Australia's natural and cultural heritage and making it accessible and beneficial to the wider community.

Still facing challenges.....

..... of being included in the Decision Making and revegetation plans for the future of Glenthorne Farm.

The complexities associated with the future for the property have contributed to feeling 'exasperated' with 'being kept in the dark'. Frustration continues as our willingness to work in partnership with major stakeholders remains unanswered. This is disappointing after thirteen years of Not-for Profit, volunteer time, attending meetings, working bees and awareness raising activities, all in the cause of preserving and protecting this Public Asset.

However, much has been achieved in 2011 by our volunteers and supporters. By giving their time and commitment they have maintained momentum.

Volunteers undertook a diverse range of activities related to propagation, planting, watering and maintenance throughout the year. These contributed significantly to all attending with hands-on-experience in flora & fauna conservation, increasing habitat, reducing soil erosion and contamination along creek lines. This has resulted in improving part of the Field River Catchment Area and enhancing the aesthetic aspects of the property.

Concurrently, other key members, have contributed to the raising of public awareness of the property by forming partnerships with 'like minded' individuals in groups and other organizations. These contacts are becoming most beneficial. They are enabling FOG to assist with the City of Marion in preserving a significant part of South Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

In 2012 we will work with many of these new partners to ensure that the momentum generated will be maintained well into the future.

It is worth reflecting that where ever we live, we all have an important part to play in supporting our wildlife, managing remnants of bush-land, improving catchment care and establishing wildlife corridors. These activities contribute to maintaining healthy, purposeful bio-systems for current and future generations. Every little bit of your contribution counts. It is though the collected efforts of all involved, that we are able to achieve what we do.

FOG remain passionate and focused on what we do. The 13 years of hard work and commitment will be maintained. To face the future, we need to increase membership of persons of all ages and diversity of backgrounds, who are prepared to make a commitment to its VISION for Glenthorne Farm, and are willing to support and contribute with enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

Glenthorne Farm is a special place in our States history. Let us together, preserve it as a place of significance for future generations.

All the best to you and your family for a safe and happy festive season.

Thank you for your support and efforts and I look forward to another full and exciting year in 2012 .

Kind Regards Peter Smytherman
Chairperson
14/12/2011

Glenthorne in Context

Excerpts from 'Valley of Stone' Edited by Pam

There have been four distinct phases of occupation on the Glenthorne property since colonization of South Australia in 1836. Each phase is representative of the trends in the changing social and economic circumstances of Sth. Australia over the last 150 years.

Standing structures associated with the earliest period of European occupation are but a small proportion of the original number and all of these are severely lacking conservation works. Apart from the coach house, the remaining 19th century structures are dilapidated and fast vanishing from the landscape. The remaining buildings despite their condition, attest to the significant role Glenthorne has played in the social and cultural changes in Sth Australia. The property was the backdrop where the earliest pioneers played a fundamental role in the social, economic and cultural life of the young colony. Their contribution sustained and financed many public industries as well as providing much needed laboring work.

Glenthorne also had a significant part to play in providing remounts during the world wars and later donkeys to New Guinea. CSIRO Glenthorne Field Station generated valuable research outcomes for a range of developmental industries. Glenthorne is listed on the Australian Places Heritage Inventory in recognition of its place as a colonial archaeological landscape of significance. This site is unique. Its uniqueness has become more evident over the last five years with the loss of a number of heritage precincts representing nineteenth century pioneering occupation in the southern parts of Adelaide. This site is not repeated endlessly across a heritage laden landscape. It is the single one of its kind and it must be provided with adequate conservation and management funds.

The University of Adelaide is currently considering the future of the property. It is strongly recommended that the existing nineteenth century buildings be restored and interpretive signs erected. The coach house would be an ideal location for a local museum, a recommendation that is supported by the Friends of Glenthorne. The property provides a magnificent opportunity across a cultural landscape to show case a broad and complex part of our history and by doing so, to inform and stimulate the public mind.

Friends of Greater Southern Urban Forest ??

An idea generated by a letter, Dec. 12th 2011 from **David Mitchell, President, Friends of Parks Inc.**

"That the Friends of Glenthorne Inc. convene a meeting for associated environmental groups within the City of Marion to explore how the groups could network to improve their effectiveness and to facilitate improved communication with local DENR, NRM, City of Marion personnel."

There would be no set agenda other than to start a dialogue about how we can help ourselves, and what support we require to achieve our goals.

These are challenging times in endeavouring to preserve and maintain our natural and cultural heritage within S.A. Maybe there is a need to adopt a more regional approach as to how we look after the environment but also how we manage ourselves and our activities. Eg. Funding authorities are looking much more at the landscape approach and wanting more collaboration at the community level.

This has implications for how we manage ourselves in the future; how we relate to each other and what sort of support is required.

There are 10(+) interested groups within Marion. A meeting in March 2012 at a date to be decided could be a start. Your ideas and suggestions would be most welcome. If you want to be involved please contact me.

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