

Friends of Glenthorne Inc NEWSLETTER 08



September

PIVOTAL ROLE FOR GLENTHORNE?

The 228ha property, owned and operated by the University of Adelaide will play a pivotal role in a world class project to assist to re-vegetate the Mt. Lofty Ranges.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Paton, the WOODLAND RECOVERY INITIATIVE proposal will embark on a research, education and community engagement program.

As part of the project, the University aims to:-

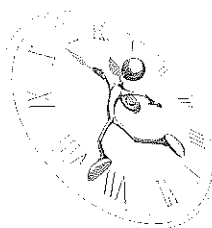
- Reclaim the farmland at Glenthorne and reconstruct a suitable habitat that encourages the return of native species
- Renovate buildings at Glenthorne to be used as a base for research, teaching with community involvement; and protect historically significant buildings
- Develop educational programs that involve local schools in the environmental works, so that young South Australians are engaged in the project to see it as important to the future of their community
- Employ about 30 people—including scientists, technicians, teachers, managers—to deliver the research, educational community engagements, monitoring the on ground works to deliver the vision of reconstructing complex habitats that will sustain bird species and prevent their extinction.* Further information: Adelaidean July 08 Vol117 No.5

The 'public' launch of this project occurred in the media on July 17th/18th 2008.

More exact details eg. Costings, funding and management are yet to appear.

A spokesman for the University indicated that a full detail plan for the project would be put to Cabinet, late September, for approval and endorsement.

We await with much interest for the announcement !!



PLEASE NOTE Change of
date for next Working Bee
Sunday September 28th 1pm—4pm.
Further planting in partnership with
Urban Forests—Million Trees Program

Editorial From Messenger Press by Sara Garvis

Uni. farms housing bid

Adelaide Uni has raised the spectre of selling part of the historic Glenthorne Farm for housing in order to fund its \$100 million revegetation project.

A community forum attended by about 70 people on Sat. July 19 heard uni spokesman associate professor David Paton say a 'notion of compromise' was needed before 100ha of the 228ha property could be returned to a pre-colonial bush state.

"It's unlikely we'll be able to do this project if we cannot sell off some of the land for housing" Prof Paton told the forum held at the O'Halloran Christ Church. We want to find funding independent of the government because governments change and we want to make sure the project is delivered.

The uni's planned "Woodland Recovery Initiative" for Glenthorne is estimated to cost \$20 million a year for 5 years and \$5 million every subsequent year.

Many at the forum, which included Friends of Glenthorne Members and Mitchell (Ind) MP Kris Hanna, reacted to the idea of housing and raised concerns at the loss of open space.

"I'm concerned that over time the whole farm will become housing because of the projects longtime frame" was a typical comment from residents.

"Once the project is in place what guarantees are there that it will be completed"

An ownership deed signed by the university when it took over Glenthorne Farm from the State Government in 2001, excluded housing and specified viticulture, oenology and education uses.

For the past decade, community groups have suggested a variety of uses including a base for southern environmental groups, a wine centre, a tourism centre with a café or a dog training complex.

Dr Paton told the form " At present the deed says no housing so if that were to change it would need to be changed through the State Government and planning acts".

He said he had spent more than a decade working on a plan to revegetate 30% of the greater Mt Lofty Ranges, including Glenthorne Farm. " The key issue was trying to find the mechanism by which we could deliver some of the outcomes. Glenthorne is the clear option" he said.

He believed the project would help restore many of the regions' 60 bird species currently in decline.

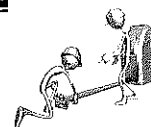
The uni is hoping to partner with volunteer groups, including F of GF, Trees for Life and Greening Australia, as well as local schools with the first planting to start in May 2010.

Marion Council CEO Mark Searle said he looked forward to seeing more detailed designs. ' We've been working with Planning SA on open space" he said. We're hoping the Glenthorne Farm project and the Greater Southern Urban Forest project will have a positive impact on each other."

The uni will hire an independent consultant to start community consultation by early August. A detailed plan for the farm is expected to be submitted to the State Government on Sept 30th.08.

Wanted, wanted, wanted

HANDY PERSON



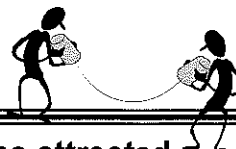
Required—welding/carpentry skills to make and fit security screens & door locks for a double door garage on Glenthorne.

A fully secured garage would provide a convenient storage area for F.O.G. equipment and trailer.

It would also create informal meeting area with table, chairs & urn.

If you are able or know of anyone who would be willing to assist, please contact Alan Tel. 8340 5509 (Wk) email caburns@aapt.net.au or Peter 85370506 email commonfrog@eldersnet.com.au

Community Meeting Feedback..



A Community Meeting held on Saturday 19th July by Kris Hanna attracted between 50 and 70 people to a discussion involving the future of Glenthorne Farm. Peter Smytherman from the Friends, of Glenthorne, Kris Hanna and Dr David Paton from the University of Adelaide all gave their views on the topic. David Paton explained more detail of the University' habitat regeneration plans. 80% of those attending voted to reject any habitat regeneration plan if it involved selling any land for housing. This emphasises the Community feeling, the legal documents drawn up previously, it contradicts the views of many of the current major stakeholders and justifies the stance that the Friends of Glenthorne have held since its inception. We don't want to lose ANY land to housing. It is not an option.

Thanks to Kris Hanna for organising the meeting.



News from The Secretary

Thanks to those who attended the Working Bee on July 20th, 2008. We had 10 wonderful souls battling against a cold wind and rain to plant 250 sedges and other water course plants.

A month prior, at the AGM on June 17th, Dr David Paton announced his Vision to save the endangered woodland birds of the Mt Lofty Ranges by conducting habitat restoration, research and education at Glenthorne. This Vision would cost about \$5m annually, funded by income earned from a trust fund. The trust would be established with up to \$100 million in funds from sources unknown. Much of the detail of David's plan has not been revealed, including funding, and the Friends will reserve opinion until the University presents a fully detailed and costed plan in every respect. Again, housing is not an option as those attending the July 19th meeting strongly indicated. Carbon credits are one possibility.

Genetically Modified crops have been approved for planting, over the coming weeks at Glenthorne Farm. Unfortunately little technical information has been provided on the subject to residents and no community consultation occurred. Sounds familiar!

Recent news centered around a pipeline from the Port Stanvac Desalination Plant to the Happy Valley Reservoir is a possibility to cross Glenthorne Farm.

This development will have adverse effects for a very large area of local open space, including Glenthorne. Again public consultation is required, but the Friends want to be heard and involved in discussions before plans are made. We object to the pipeline crossing Glenthorne Farm and demand that the damage caused along the path of the pipeline is minimized, especially in the sensitive Happy Valley Reservoir grounds and to resident's homes.

If you would like to record your views on any issue possibly affecting Glenthorne Farm, please send them through by email. We value your opinion highly and your reply will help protect Glenthorne Farm.

Alan Burns

Email: caburns@aapt.net.au

Report on August Working Bee

The Working Bee went well with over 160 plants in the ground and a total of nine attendees. The weather was kind. All were planted around the small northern dam plus lots of spraying in the second reveg area.

Following an announcement on the desalination plant on the site of the old Refinery, an ABC cameraman and reporter attended the Working Bee.

The result of their visit was excellent coverage of the Group's activities, features of the property and an interview with chairman Peter Smytherman, on the ABC News.

Peter referred to the impact of the pipeline from Pt Stanvac to Happy Valley Reservoir, 'if it were to transverse across Glenthorne property'.

Thanks to all who participated



Bee there and enjoy a 'feel good' day

Activities

Change of date for next Working Bee

Our next Working Bee will be on:

Sept. 28th from 1pm—4pm. when planting with
Urban Forest—Million Trees Program
will be on the agenda.

Oct. 19 10am-1pm. 'Regeneration of Glenthorne' with
'Guests Invitation only' to tour the site.

Nov. 16 10am—1pm Maintenance Activities Preparation for Summer

Dec. 7 11am—2pm **2008 Celebration BBQ**
at Clayton Bay including tour of environs

If you would like further information, Contact -
FRIENDS OF GLENTHORNE INC.

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