

MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY / TREASURER - 3rd April 2009.

Dear Friend,

Please find enclosed an April 2009 Friends of Glenthorne newsletter.

It was very pleasing to again protect Glenthorne farm from the threat of housing, as was decided on March 23rd, 2009. I would like to thank everyone who supported the group's stance in this regard, and especially those who went further and signed Kris Hanna's petition and also persuaded others to sign. It was heartening to have received over 1,300 signatures supporting 'no housing' in just over a month, although the committee knew from other surveys and petitions over the years that this support was always in the Community. Thankfully the State Government heard our long standing demand for protection from development.

The future of Glenthorne farm is far from decided, although we are aware that the Deed, signed almost 10 years ago, is being upheld by the State Government. The Deed contains terms and conditions which hopefully will guide the Government in allowing only those activities and developments that are listed within this valuable document. Currently the committee is not aware of what the next step will be, but it is hoped that the Community through the Friends will have some involvement in this important time of decision making. In recent months, the Friends have been in contact with many important organisations and individuals and our network of contacts is expanding all the time. These contacts will become even more important as we move forward and hopefully have a role in shaping the future of the farm.

The housing issue has been defeated at Glenthorne and the Friends of Glenthorne Inc remain supportive of protecting the wider environment with its ongoing pressures and threats. In particular, we support the Woodland Recovery Initiative of Assoc. Prof. David Paton. It has been unfortunate that we have had to oppose David Paton, purely because of the housing issue, and we now support the State Government in its attempts to assist David with funding options so that his important work can continue throughout the Adelaide Hills, on the scale that the environment needs. It is hoped that David's involvement with Glenthorne farm continues and that our group is given the opportunity to assist in as many ways as possible.

Included in the newsletter is list of planned Working Bees and Public Meetings. These Working Bees are yet to be agreed to by the University of Adelaide, so in the event that they change, members will be informed. Please note that it is easier and quicker to advise members when email addresses are provided.

(continued over page).

Like most volunteer groups in the State, our finances are very limited. We rely on membership, donations and occasionally grants to fund the ongoing work at Glenthorne farm. So whether you are a previous financial member or a person just interested in the local environment, we ask that you consider joining the Friends of Glenthorne Inc and become a financial member in 2009. Memberships (including renewals) are now due for 2009.

Our records show that

- You have previously been a member and we ask that you now renew your membership. Our records show that you last paid your membership
- You have not been a financial member and we invite you now to join our group so that we can increase our membership and have a greater influence in deciding the future of Glenthorne farm.

A membership form is enclosed for those joining for the first time or for those who have contact details that have changed.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to keep Glenthorne farm free of urban development and we look forward to seeing you soon at either one of our working bees or one of the meetings planned for May, July and September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Burns', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Alan Burns
Secretary / Treasurer
Friends of Glenthorne Inc
22 Westall Way,
Sheidow Park SA 5158

Friends of Glenthorne Inc NEWSLETTER 09



Heritage

INCORPORATED IN 1998

Sense of Place

Future **April**

Farm Debate Continues

A 1300-person **petition** will be tabled next week in State Parliament in the hope of putting an end to housing plans for Glenthorne Farm O'Halloran Hill.

The petition— to be tabled by **Mitchell MP Kris Hanna** (Ind) on Tues. March 24th 09 advocates a strong zero-housing stance against Adelaide University's proposal to allow 950 homes to be built on a section of the 208ha property.

Guardian Messenger 18th March 09—Matt Turner

Adelaide University's vice-president of services **Paul Duldig** said the petition, though valid, omitted vital information about the Woodland Recovery Initiative. "Unfortunately the petition does not present to the community any information about the Uni's major environmental proposal for Glenthorne and the Mt. Lofty Ranges, which is the whole reason behind our concept for the property" he said.

Guardian Messenger 18th March 09—Matt Turner

Premier Mike Rann said The Government has declined that request and has instead offered to work with the University to find alternative sources of funding for its aim of reafforesting a property to create native woodland.

A deed and land management agreement signed in 2001 stipulated that the land would be used mainly for research and education and kept free of housing. Associate Prof. David Paton was the leading advocate for the initiative which he said would depend on a housing development, money from the sale of housing would go into a \$100.million trust fund that would continue to generate income for the next 100 years.

Claire Peddie, Advertiser 24th March 09

GLENTHORNE HAS BEEN SAVED

I would like to thank the members of the Friends of Glenthorne and concerned members of the local community for their support in achieving this wonderful outcome.

Susan Jeanes MP for Kingston 2nd Sept. 1998

For nearly eight years, the University of Adelaide, which took over the site in 2001, has wrestled with a decision on its future.

During this time, the farm has been nurtured by the southwest community. The Friends of Glenthorne (FOGF) group has planted trees and helped maintain the site, ever respectful of its history and community significance.

Elizabeth Hook ,Editor Guardian Messenger 18th March 09

Senator Hill said the decision to retain Glenthorne Farm as green open space for use by the community was a sensible one and a big win for the environment.

"By ruling out urban development, it will not only mean that the unique character of the area will be retained but that flora habitat and water quality will be protected. It will also provide the opportunity for revegetation and environmental restoration works to be carried out.

"The decision is particularly a credit to Susan Jeanes, the Member for Kingston, who has lobbied to have Glenthorne retained as open space for the benefit of residents of the area and the people of Adelaide", Senator Hill said.

Media release 2nd September 1998

Memories of Years past

John Boyle fears Glenthorne Farm's history will be lost to the state if 950 homes are built on the 170 year old O'Halloran Hill property.

Mr Boyle was born at Glenthorne in 1932. "We need to keep some stuff for people to remember and Glenthorne is part of South Australian history because of the link to Thomas O'Halloran" he said. O'Halloran, an Irish soldier and statesman who became the first Police Commissioner of S.A., settled the property in 1839 and named it *Lizard Lodge*. He sold the farm in 1877, and it was later used as a horse estate, army remount facility and CSIRO research centre. Since the property was acquired by the University of Adelaide in 2001, proposals have included a cemetery, secondary school, dry-wine research centre, Woodland Recovery Initiative, golf course, extension to TAFE, heritage precinct, passive recreation area, and City farm, World Best Practice Model for conservations into the 21st century.

Matt Turner Guardian Messenger

factfile

1839: Property purchased by Major Thomas O'Halloran, the first Police Commissioner of S.A. who named it *Lizard Lodge*
1877: O'Halloran family sells the property to Thomas Porter, who renames it Glenthorne Estate.
1901: Porter Snr. dies and leaves Glenthorne to his two sons Walter and Ernest; the property is one of the most expensive in the state valued at £7,545.
1903: When their mother dies, the Porter sons sell the property to Adelaide millionaire George Brookman, who re-opens the estate as a horse farm.
1913: The army purchases the property and re-names it Glenthorne Remount Depot
1946: The CSIRO take over Glenthorne and turn it into a field station to study nutrient-related diseases in sheep.
1996: The CSIRO human nutrition division vacates the land
Oct. 1997: Friends of Glenthorne (FOG) formed.
July 1999: Mitchell MP Kris Hanna plans to turn Glenthorne into a secondary school but the idea is rejected by the State Government
May 2001: Adelaide University purchases Glenthorne from the State Government, planning to turn part of it into a \$6million wine research centre.
Oct 2008: Adelaide University outlines plans to build 950 houses on the property to fund its Woodland Recovery Initiative; a community consultation reveals some people support housing on Glenthorne, while the FoG strongly oppose it.
March 2009: Petition to State Parliament advocating zero housing.
Government declines University's project; offers to find alternative funding.

Significant Meetings

- Monday March 2nd: S.A. WATER, Friends of O'Halloran Hill Rec. Park, Friends of Lower Field River, and F.o.G. in relation to the Transfer Pipeline from Desalination Plant
- Saturday March 7th: Presentation to the Friends of Belair National Park at Long Gully—Belair
- Sunday March 15th: Working Bee Massive watering of young seedlings and weed control
- Saturday March 21st: Participation in the City of Marion 'Making Marion' community consultation project at Hallett Cove
A range of expert speakers covered a range of issues related to 'Enhanced' landscapes, habitats and local biodiversity
- Saturday March 28th: Meeting to Establish Website

Members of the Friends of Glenthorne Inc are continuing to be active in preserving a significant part of South Australia's heritage and environment.

Points to Ponder

- We want David's project to proceed and need to explore other options for funding — approximately \$5.0 million annually.
- The Barossa Bush Gardens have revenue annually of \$100,000 after 9 years work we could achieve this and more being metropolitan based.
- With water being a major issue we could draw upon Salisbury Council's experience in utilizing open space. The sale of water back to local councils (Onkaparinga & Marion) may be significant dollars.
- Carbon Credits have been raised and need investigation so that where possible annual income can be generated, not sold off early for up front cash.
- Natural burial needs further exploration. Centennial Park Cemetery Authority could possibly rent sites on an annual basis.
- We need Government Dept., Not for Profit Organisations and knowledgeable persons to pool their knowledge in order that David's research does happen
- All available Grant money needs investigating both at State and Federal levels, corporate sponsorship and philanthropy.
- The State Government needs to drive the process, not the University. While fund raising is progressing, volunteers can be via grants working on revegetation within the property.
- Southern environmental groups can work together to pool ideas and efforts while at the same time Local councils could contribute with funds/in kind support
- The University has had its chance and wasted too many years and operated in isolation.
- An independent group needs to be formed to drive these ideas and network with organisations and individuals that have the expertise, experience and skills to formulate an Integrated Management Plan.
- The State Government needs to bring all the key stake holders together to come up with a path forward that must succeed.

SIMILARITIES OR DIFFERENCES

- The State Government has a NatureLinks Program which identifies 5 corridors of biodiversity as part of the No Species Loss strategy. One corridor runs from western K.I. up the Fleurieu Peninsular, across Adelaide to the Barossa. This covers David Paton's Adelaide Hills and Plains where woodland birds are being lost.
- Although David Paton is planning a much more rigorous expansion of habitat reestablishment together with high levels of research, his plan covers one of the States NatureLink corridors.
- With the State Government cuts to DEH funding, does it mean that David Paton is effectively funding work already announced by the State Government in its NatureLinks program, with funding from the sale of housing land at Glenthorne Farm?
- Is there a real danger that work already done under the NatureLinks program will be duplicated by David Paton and money wasted or will there be a collaboration?
- Are we effectively saying that the NatureLinks program is basically second rate and further funding cuts will make it worse.?
- Are we saying that our corridor in the NatureLinks program is more important than the other 4 ?
- Are we also saying then that all of the 5 corridors named in the NatureLinks program will not get the outcomes that the public expect because of the funding cuts, therefore land for housing will be required to fund all 5 biodiversity corridors?
- **There are certainly a lot of questions to be answered.**

Become a Volunteer

We support each other to reach new goals for '09, make connections and be involved in raising awareness of issues associated with the long term future of Glenthorne Farm.

Become a member volunteer and be involved in many new and exciting activities, to make your life more interesting, learn new skills and meet other local residents.

Timetable of Events 2009

MONTHLY WORKING BEES

Any changes to dates & times will be advised.

Meet at Main Gate on Majors Road at 9.50am

SUN. 19th APR 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 17th MAY 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 21st JUNE 12.50pm-4pm

SUN. 19th JULY 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 16th AUG 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 20th SEPT 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 18th OCT 9.50am-1pm

SUN. 15th NOV 9.50am-1pm

SUN. DEC To be advised

Informal meetings are held in the TAFE Car Park following the working bee.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Wed. 20th May 7.30pm-9pm

Wed. 15th July 7.30pm-9pm

Wed. 16th Sep 7.30pm-9pm

FOCUS

Waste Management

Impact of Politics

Forging Partnerships

General Meetings at the Trott Park Community Centre are open to everyone, friends and family welcome.

Have you a 'point of view' related to the future development of the property ?? Contact us for it to be included in the on-going formulation of an Integrated Management Plan. We welcome contributions.

If you would like further information, contact -

FRIENDS OF GLENTHORNE INC.

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Executive Committee

Leighton Smith

Bob Kirby

Jean McCormick

Alan Burns

Peter Smytherman

Our Aims

- To preserve and enhance the Natural & Cultural heritage assets of the property for perpetuity
- To assist with formulating a long term VISION for the development of Glenthorne Farm and establishment of an Integrated Management Plan
- To participate in Community Awareness & Public Education programs about the development of Glenthorne.