

# Friends of Glenthorne Farm Inc

## NEWSLETTER 2010



INCORPORATED IN 1998

Heritage

Sense of Place

Winter Edition

Future

## Enviro Wish List

Excerpt from Green Edition—Guardian Messenger - October 2008.

The Messenger Press asked the Marion & Holdfast Bay Councils and local, State & Federal politicians to rank their highest priority environmental concerns for the southwest suburbs.

The top ten responses:-

1. Proposed wetlands at the Oaklands Estate
2. Brighton to Seacliff sand dune protection and revegetation program
3. **A revegetation plan for Glenthorne Farm allowing it to be kept as open space**
4. Ensuring the survival of indigenous or native sea grasses
5. Restoration of the Field River and valley
6. Preservation of unique natural habitats such as the Hallett Cove Conservation Park
7. Improving water recycling and capture at schools and local clubs
8. Encouraging environmentally sensitive urban design and planning
9. Preventing storm water pollutants and waste water entering the St. Vincent Gulf
10. Improving public transport in the southwest.

Encourage your friends and associates to become part of our efforts to have the property operate for the benefit of the whole community and environment.

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

Website: [www.friendsofglenthorne.org.au](http://www.friendsofglenthorne.org.au)

## In the Tracks of Major O'Halloran

**Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran** arrived in South Australia on the **Rajasthan** on **November 16<sup>th</sup> 1838**. His contribution and significance to South Australia was emphasised during History Week in May 2010.

Over 70 people visited the Major's resting place in the grounds of Christ Church, Main South Road, O'Halloran Hill. They then travelled to Glenthorne Farm to visit the remaining historical buildings, including the storm water tank, the "smoke house", the cool room and the stone barn. Six members of the **Friends of Glenthorne** acted as guides for the tour of the property.

President of the Marion Historical Society, Bob Donnelly, spoke about Major O'Halloran's contribution in the early years of the establishment of South Australia:

Bob acquainted guests with many of the Major's roles. He was:

- The first SA Commissioner of Police
- Member of the Central Road Board
- Member Agricultural and Horticultural Society
- Founding Governor of St Peter's College
- 1st Chairman of the District Council of Brighton
- Justice of the Peace and Magistrate
- Member of the Legislative Council

Major O'Halloran was also Founding Father of Christ Church and its' foundation stone was laid on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1848.

The **Friends of Glenthorne** believe a historic site of such significance should be protected and that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan be developed in recognition of its' place in the colonial landscape of South Australia. The site is a unique feature of the Fleurieu Peninsula and provides South Australians with an opportunity to retain a part of colonial settlement.

It is unfortunate that the remains are under threat from ongoing environmental deterioration and the lack of effective and consistent management. Time is running out for these buildings.

Since 1996 the volunteer members of the **Friends of Glenthorne** have contributed hundreds of hours planting and nurturing trees and shrubs and managing weeds; they have attended seminars, training workshops and countless meetings, all with the purpose of broadening their understanding of the property's ecology and cultural significance and developing the site in the right ways, for the future.

Members have provided a local community perspective to the University of Adelaide, Marion Council, numerous Members of Parliament, a variety of community groups, and archaeologists to ensure that community consultation occurs and that all stakeholders are informed about the future management of the property. This is in keeping with the conditions of the Deed signed by the State Government in 2001. The Deed repeatedly and precisely "excludes urban development". It states that urban development "will not be approved." As a 'not for profit' organisation, the Friends of Glenthorne need **your support** to continue their crucial work.

We encourage South Australians to participate in our "Enjoyment Days" and become acquainted with the property and appreciate its value to our state. These occasions also present an opportunity to witness the work of the Friends in the re-vegetation sites.

It is our belief that as the community becomes increasingly familiar with the property and what it has to offer, the greater their commitment will be to protect and preserve the site for future generations. **Is it not our duty to preserve this special place in our state's history and to acknowledge the contribution of Major Thomas O'Halloran ?**

Peter Smytherman Chair of the Friends of Glenthorne

August 2010

Reply to Secretary 6/8/2010—Great support from Bob Such MP:

"Thank you for your email re Glenthorne. I intend to push for the protection and revegetation of Glenthorne including a top class wetlands.

I congratulate you and other supporters on the work you do, creating a living legacy that will go on forever"

**Bob Such MP**  
Member for Fisher

### ***Did you know ??***

1. The following species of birds have been seen at Working Bees, (now known as Enjoyment Days):-Kookaburras, Willie Wagtails, Rainbow Lorikeets, Galahs, Australian Magpies, Magpie Larks, Welcome Swallows, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, Eurasian Coots, Pacific Ducks, White-faced Heron, Crimson Rosellas, Red Wattlebirds, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes, Little Ravens, Crested Pigeons, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos White-plumed Honey-eaters & Blackbirds.
2. Working Bees are now to be known as 'Enjoyment Days' to encourage community members to come along, relax and experience first hand one of the most precious places in the southern suburbs.
3. Glenthorne Farm and Worthing Mine, near Hallett Cove are part of the Field River Catchment Area and other significant Heritage Places in our local community.
4. The chain saw has been repaired and used to great effect. Thank you Mark Hopkins and congratulations on attending a Chemical Handling Course at Belair provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH), now DENR.
5. Secretary/Treasurer, Alan Burns, has supplied 50 Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) to Botanist, Vicki Hagan, for planting in the University of Adelaide's new 5 hectare revegetation site on the property. The site will have a total of 200 Grey Box planted this year and is a significant first step by the University.
6. S.A. Water are replacing vegetation removed along the desalination pipeline route, with the assistance of Vicki Hagan (Botanist friend of F.O.G.)

**We look forward to you joining us. If you would like further information,  
Contact—FRIENDS OF GLENTHORNE INC.**

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## Network Partners Acknowledged

'Heritage Heroes' Award to Marion Historical Society President **Bob Donley**, for volunteer efforts with respect to preserving local heritage. Thank you Bob for arranging the tour 'In the Tracks of Major O'Halloran' during History Week, May 2010.

Friends of Lower Field River volunteer **David Speirs**, who has been selected along with nine other young leaders from around the world to participate in the Peter Cruddas Social Innovation Program in the U.K. (Peter Cruddas one of the UK's richest people, established a foundation in 2006 to assist young people with leadership opportunities.) We look forward to David's return and input to our group.

Congratulations to TAFE Student **Deborah Clark**, of Trott Park for a copy of her assignment 'Development of a Community Program—Glenthorne Farm Property. A valuable resource for members and others.

Well done **Martin Schumacher** in contacting **Wendy Begg** who revisited Glenthorne with FOG members in August this year. Her father, Roy Watson, worked with the CSIRO from 1951—1961. Wendy was 4yrs old when she and her family first lived and worked on Glenthorne and left when she was 14yrs old. Wendy has supplied CSIRO documentation, articles and photographs for the Friends future use. 'Thank you' Wendy for sharing another dimension of Glenthorne with us.

Update....

## Current Perspective

### Current Needs

- Shared understanding between all interested groups.
- Meaningful communication between Key Stakeholders
- Commitment by all Key Stakeholders to meaningful public participation

### Key Goals

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

### View to the Future

- Development of a Linear Park Concept, connecting Glenthorne Farm with Worthing Mine as part of the enhancement of the Field River Catchment Area.

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'ENJOYMENT DAYS' \* for remainder of the year 2010 -

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 19th September | * Assist with chores, eg. planting, weeding, maintenance   |
| 17th October   | 'Time Out' from domestic life—3 hrs with nature to relax under a tree, ponder life, and re-charge...                       |
| 21st November  | Stroll through area, observing the heritage buildings and other members attending the tasks of the day. Stay for a coffee. |
| TBA December   | Observe & record birdlife.<br>Support & encourage other volunteers.  |

*Enjoy the day ..*