

FRIENDS OF GLENLEE INCORPORATED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last AGM, the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and President of the Association became vacant. Caroline Hart, who was already a committee member stepped up to take on the role of Treasurer, and Linda Simon and I agreed to return to the roles of Secretary and President respectively which was had held in the inaugural year of the Association.

My return only occurred shortly prior to the recent Rally and I am accordingly not the appropriate person to provide a summary of the last year's activities. I am grateful to Sue Emmett who, together with assistance from other committee members has undertaken that task and provided a detailed account of what has occurred in the last 12 months or so.

As will be seen from Sue's report, we are still receiving verbal support from all politicians with whom we speak, but that is not translating into positive action from them. It had been hoped that the assurances made by the former Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage, and the current Minister of that portfolio, the Hon Penny Sharpe, might, after the change of government, lead to more positive outcomes.

Unfortunately, that has not occurred and we are disappointed that, to date, the Minister has not seen fit to respond to our communications and requests for a meeting with her. On a brighter note, however, we are aware that the Minister has in recent weeks written to the Georges River Councillors with a view to meeting with the Council to attempt to jointly come up with a solution.

Peter Mahoney, who is a member of this Association and a GRC Councillor has continued to prosecute the Save Glenlee cause in Council, and we thank him for these efforts. We also thank the Councillors as, so far as we are aware, each of the matters raised in relation to Glenlee in Council has received unanimous support from them. At a recent Council meeting, Peter's motion that the Council set aside funds for the carrying out the necessary heritage assessments of the property was passed.

We have also had recent discussions with Councillor Ashvini Ambihaipahar who has been very supportive and is pushing our cause. We are hopeful that Ash's links with the Labor Party, her role as a Councillor and her knowledge and enthusiasm will assist in expediting progress towards a resolution.

Senator David Shoebridge has continued to provide support and assistance notwithstanding his move to Federal parliament. We are also pleased that Sue Higginson has continued to provide in the State Upper House the support that David had previously provided in that place. Mark Coure continues to support the cause and has sought to hold the new government accountable for the pre-election assurances that were made.

Glenlee remains on the market. Some comfort might be gleaned from the fact that it has been so for some months without a buyer coming forward. But we cannot afford to be complacent – a developer could emerge at any time. We need to continue to push for a public purchase of the property.

Brian Ralston

President
Friends of Glenlee Incorporated