

Friends of Glenlee



Update

6 August 2023

New committee for Friends of Glenlee Inc

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM on 31 July. A new committee was elected, with most members continuing on.

The new Committee is:

- * President – Brian Ralston
- * Vice-President – Sue Emmett
- * Secretary – Linda Simon
- * Treasurer – Caroline Hart
- * Ordinary members: Susan Ghosn, Matthew Allison, one vacant position

In the discussion on campaigning to preserve Glenlee, the following points were made:

- * the need for Council to take further steps to acquire Glenlee and to set aside funding to do so. We would pursue funding for the Peakhurst Hub;
- * while Council had been unanimous in support of Glenlee, it had taken no action. It was agreed that Council should pursue grants. Friends of Glenlee should be part of the meeting with the Environment Minister;
- * the Minister should be asked to enact the Act to allow access to the Glenlee site.

It was also agreed that the Friends of Glenlee complete a form nominating Glenlee as a national park.

Letter from the State Minister for the Environment to Georges River Councillors

While we have had no response from the Minister for the Environment (see advocacy from Mark Coure below), the Minister did write to all Georges River Councillors. Her letter is attached.

The letter is disappointing in many ways, but she does make the point:

“... I am working with Heritage NSW to consider what options exist for the heritage protection of Glenlee. I am keen to discuss this with Georges River Council and as such, I will be writing directly to the Mayor and interested councillors to request a meeting.

I will be asking the Council to work together with me to develop an ongoing, long term solution for Glenlee. This is not something Government can do alone. I know there are many Councillors – including yourself (this was directed at Councillor Ash Ambihapahar, who wrote the letter that led to this response) – keen to work with Government to solve this issue.”

State Member Mark Coure continues advocacy for Glenlee

State Member for Oatley Mark Coure has again written to the Environment Minister Penny Sharpe, asking her to “urgently intervene to ensure Glenlee can become public space for the community.” He asks her to “continue liaising with your Federal Parliamentary colleagues to ensure that this land can be acquired for the community to enjoy...The preservation and protection of Glenlee for current and future generations is vitally important for our community,” he says. He also asks for an update on our request to meet with her.

Friends of Glenlee have still not had any response to our request for a meeting from either the state Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, or the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris. Please keep up the pressure and write another email or letter to them. See details below.



Two views of Glenlee



What happened at Council last week

Councillors Mahoney and Ambihapahar put forward a resolution at Georges River Council meeting on 24 July. It was carried and asked Council to:

- * investigate and seek advice on Glenlee’s eligibility as a “Community Acquisition Proposal” to be incorporated into the NSW National Parks system;

- * ask the Minister for the Environment to authorise access to Glenlee under the Heritage Act, 1977, by Council officers and/or its appointed consultants for the purposes of carrying out any inspections deemed necessary to assess the site for Aboriginal and natural heritage;
- * prepare a briefing note which provides options for possible future uses of Glenlee prior to meeting with the Minister:
- * consult with Friends of Glenlee, Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society and local bush care and relevant community groups when developing the briefing note.

Sign the Save Glenlee petition

We need more action to build numbers for the Save Glenlee petition. Please sign it if you haven't already and ask your friends and colleagues to sign as well. We still need to break the 500 signature barrier.

Here is the link:

<https://chng.it/6HfzxByTvW>

Tree Planting Day at Evatt Park

Around 250 people attended the Lugarno Progress Association Tree Planting at Evatt Park on 30 July. A great turn-up from the community. Ongoing work will of course need to take place to protect the seedlings, so let us or LPA know if you would like to help.

We had a stall at the event, with our new leaflets. We have around 1000 and it is our intention to run a number of local stalls over the next few months to engage the wider community. If you are able to help, please let me know.

Here is one photo from the day.



Writing and phoning the relevant State Ministers

Friends of Glenlee have written to Penny Sharpe on number of occasions, and to David Harris (see details below), and have asked for a meeting to discuss action around Glenlee. We have had no response and need your help. Please ring and/or phone this week asking these relevant Ministers to meet with Friends of Glenlee as a matter of urgency.

Email addresses:

- * The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for the Environment and Heritage
office@sharpe.minister.nsw.gov.au
Phone number: 02 7225 6020
- * The Hon David Harris MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty
wyong@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Phone number: 024352 2711

Membership

Join Friends of Glenlee, and encourage neighbours and friends to do so. If you go to the website you can fill in the form to add you to the membership list, and there are details for payment of the \$1 joining fee.

Go to: <https://www.saveglenlee.com/howcanyouhelp>

Joining fee and donations can be made to Friends of Glenlee:
BSB 062-206 Account Number 1042 7989.

Linda Simon Secretary Friends of Glenlee Incorporated glenleeactiongroup@gmail.com