

1964

Crop of oats grown on a limestone plateau,
near South Fremantle Power Station.

2497



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The South Fremantle Power Station - confusion reigns over heritage status

The State election is upon us and decisions about the fate of the South Fremantle Power Station are imminent. The old power station has remained derelict for some 25 years. This is about to change with the release of the ambitious Labor Government development plan for the Cockburn Coast. 95 hectares of Cockburn land between South Beach and Coogee Beach is to be turned into houses for some 14,000 new residents. In the middle of this site is the iconic South Fremantle Power Station, a unique example of late Art Deco industrial architecture. Eleven years ago, the Fremantle Society initiated the heritage listing of the power station. We sought the listing to protect the significance of this local historic landmark and to honour the many people who built it and worked there over its 40 year active life. Ralph Hoare in 1997 said that the internal building "with its large expanses of clear glazing on all facades has a cathedral like quality in terms of soaring space and light."

On 28 October 1997, the power station received "interim entry" on the Register of Heritage Places.

In June 2008, Heritage Minister Michelle Roberts said that the power station had been stripped of its interim heritage listing. According to the Heritage Council of WA this is not correct. The power station remains on the interim register - it needs to be formally removed by gazettal to come off the register and this has not happened. The ownership of the power station has changed, with the recent take over by Verve. Verve is not a Government entity and so the provisions of the Heritage Act cease to apply. According to the advice of the Heritage Council, the interim listing needs to be progressed to permanent registration within 12 months in these circumstances. The advice of the Heritage Council is that the power station does have state significance and that it should progress to permanent listing. With the State election looming, perhaps we'll get a fresh new Heritage Minister. We might even get one with a genuine interest in heritage!

Adele Carles, Fremantle Society committee



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Fremantle Society nomination wins 2008 Spirit of Heritage Award

When the Galati family won the Spirit of Heritage prize on awards night during the Fremantle Heritage Festival, it was a big night for the Fremantle Society as well. The family was nominated by the Fremantle Society to mark their contribution to life in Fremantle over fifty years trading. Jean Tonkinson and Ron Davidson prepared a photographic display and family history for the judging.

The Galati story began when young Antonino Galati arrived in the 1950s to join his aunts and uncles on a market garden in Munster. In 1958, Antonino and his aunts, Angela and Rosana, opened a small fruit and

vegetable shop at 91 South Terrace. Antonino delivered orders, as shopkeepers did in those days. One morning, on his rounds, he saw Vincenzina, covered in mud as she harvested vegetables in her parents' market garden. It was love at first sight and they married in 1962.

The Galatis soon moved to Wray Avenue and their shop is now the social hub of the area - and beyond. On awards night Vincenzina and her son Salvatone were on stage; daughter Rina and many Galatis were in the audience; son Santo stayed behind to shut the shop.

The Fremantle Society is proud to be associated with the award to the Galati Family and congratulates them on their valuable contribution to Fremantle's heritage.

Calling On Members - The 36th Fremantle Society Annual General Meeting

This year we are excited to be holding the Society's Annual General Meeting of the Members in our own facilities for the first time in many years and expect to celebrate once the usual formalities are over. Though we have only been in residence for a short time plans are developing for this special evening which naturally will have a strong focus on significant aspects of our new (temp) home.

The committee is also calling on members to help ensure a

great event, members with Old Royal George stories to recount are encouraged to come along or better still get in touch with early planning and our Members Social Subcommittee would also greatly appreciate general help from members with the informal aspects of the night. Contact Secretary 0407 086 300/or cathy.hall@bigpond.com.

AGM Notices /Nomination Forms mailed to members postal address in usual way.