

Internal Committees & Taskforces

PLANNING & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Dr Ian Alexander—Convenor Cathy Hall
Nicolas Gurr Kate House
David Hawks Don Whittington
Dianne Davidson

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Ron Davidson Editor Newsletter
Cathy Hall
Michael Adeane

Alessio Capelli Website
Adele Carles

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Ron Davidson
Jean Tonkinson

FREMANTLE PARK TASKFORCE

Graeme Evans—Convenor Don Whittington
Ian Alexander Pat Everall
Ruth Belben Don Tierney

The Society is represented by Committee members on a number of committees & Taskforces incl HERITAGE ALLIANCE WA; VICTORIA QUAY TASKFORCE; FCC HERITAGE & SPECIAL PLACES, URBAN DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Welcome new Fremantle Society members

On behalf of the Members the Committee extends a warm welcome to the following New/returning Members of The Fremantle Society since the last edition of FREMANTLE: D Mark, J Hutchison, G Warren-smith, C Warren, C Little, A Bauer & M Adeane.

Committee Meeting Date Change

NOTICE CHANGE OF DATE: COMMITTEE MEETINGS NOW 4TH MONDAY MONTHLY At Royal George Rooms, See Herald Port City Column or Contact Secretary

The Committee 2008

PATRON

Cr Les Lauder
0408 409 900

PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

Cathy Hall
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TREASURER

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VICE PRESIDENT

Nicolas Gurr
0413 804 401
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Adele Carles
David Hawks
Dianne Davidson
Jean Tonkinson
Ron Davidson
Val Cousins

Society Diary Dates 2008 SEPTEMBER

FREMANTLE SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

6:30PM FOURTH MONDAY Fmr Royal George Hotel
Duke & George Sts East Fremantle
Mondays 22 September, 27 October and 24 November
All Members Welcome (Details Herald Port City Column)

VICTORIA QUAY TASKFORCE MEETINGS 5-6PM MONDAYS FORTNIGHTLY

At the Fremantle Club Bannister St Contact Dr Ian Alexander

VISIONING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FREMANTLE?

Thursday 4 September 7 to 9pm
Kulcha Upstairs in Evans Davies Building on South Terrace
Speakers: Ian Alexander, President Fremantle Society, Peter Newman CUSP, Peter Nolin CEO Chamber of Commerce, Lynn Maclaren South Metro Greens candidate. Chaired by City of Fremantle Cr Brad Pettit, these prominent Fremantle speakers present their vision for making Fremantle a more sustainable city.
Question Time. Contribute your ideas. Bar open 6.30pm

Fremantle Society holds Reciprocal Membership with a number of local groups including the following and members welcome to events listed.

HARBOUR THEATRE(Since 1963)

Princess May Building next to Clancy's
Ten Dates incl a Matinee btwn 5 to 20 September 8pm
"It Could Be One Of Us" by Alan Ayckbourn.
Tickets \$18/\$16/\$13 at Bocs

FREMANTLE ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE NETWORK (FERN)

A Tour of Fremantle Gardens
Fremantle Organic Growers and Meeting Place tour of four unique private Fremantle gardens.
Saturday 13th September 10am-4pm Gold Coin Donation
Contact The Meeting Place 9335 3394 to Register & for Addresses.

ART DECO SOCIETY TALK

Sunday 21 September 2pm
South Perth Historical Society Art Deco Heritage Talk
Cost \$2 (inc A/noon tea)
Venue? Contact A Perotti 9367 8472

FREMANTLE HISTORY SOCIETY SOCIAL

Tuesday 25 September 7pm
North Fremantle Bowling Club Thompson Rd
"From Pong Alley to the Winged Keel: 150 years of industrial work in North Fremantle". Talk by Richard Hartley
Contact Dianne Davidson 9430 6096

OCTOBER

FREMANTLE HERITAGE AWARD WINNER 08-ST PATRICK'S BASILICA

Embrace the full acoustic & visual restoration beauty of Fremantle's Basilica.
Sunday 5 October 2:30pm
PipeOrgansPlus Concert 4 - Seraphim
Door Sales or Bocs Tickets (Inc Refreshments & Clancy's Meal Deal)
Details PipeOrgansPlus 9339 7418

Victoria Quay Again:

ANOTHER FAIT ACCOMPLI OR A New Era?

The disastrous outcome of the ****ING development saga on Victoria Quay is widely regretted among Fremantle's community. The Western Australian Planning Commission-approved high-rise monsters is soon to commence construction, threatening the viability of the Fremantle CBD, demolishing the Quay's historic and John Curtin-initiated CY O'Connor Centre and diminishing the Heritage significance of the old Immigration Building.

Neither the Society nor the City of Fremantle was successful in a bid to intervene in the developer's Appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal over WAPC conditions. We were thus completely shut out of negotiations between the developer and the WAPC.

Third Party Appeal Rights, allowing community appeals against unfavourable development approvals, are urgently needed to protect community rights in such situations. They are promised in the ALP's platform, but then ALP governments often ignore the platform when under pressure from vested development interests.

Inspection of the final development plans at SAT, arranged by committee member David Hawks, confirmed our worst fears: the conditions imposed on the development by the WAPC and signed off by SAT have, despite Press reports to the contrary, made little difference to the overall scale and orientation of the development. The retail component may be slightly more outward-looking, a new public access way is to be provided, but can be closed in inclement, cold, windy or hot weather conditions i.e. a considerable proportion of both summer and winter!

So it was with considerable trepidation that Fremantle Society Committee members Ian Alexander, Nicolas Gurr & Ron Davidson recently appeared before the Government-appointed Victoria Quay Planning Committee, whose job it is to come up with a development plan for the rest of the western end of the Quay.

The Committee, chaired by WAPC Commissioner Jeremy Dawkins is small, and comprises two other Government body representatives in Tourism chief Richard Muirhead and new Fremantle Ports Board Chair Alan Birchmore. The only community representative is Fremantle architect Richard Longley, although Mayor Tagliaferri is also a member. Both the Fremantle Society, and the community-based Victoria Quay Taskforce to which we belong, have protested at the narrowness of this representation.

However, we did at least find a Committee willing to listen politely to our submission and claiming that they have no fixed ideas for future development.

On behalf of the Society we stressed the following points:

- The community needed to be convinced that consultation undertaken by this committee would have a real impact on decisions, rather than being a repeat of the tokenistic sham that marked the process of decision-making for the ING development.

- We are not opposed to further development on the Quay, but want to ensure that, unlike the ING proposal, it fits in with the community's aspirations. Thus it must seek to recycle and restore existing Heritage sheds on the Quay. Any further new development must be of a scale and character sympathetic to the remaining Heritage and should house activities that are linked to its maritime history.

- There is widespread concern about the future of the Fremantle Passenger Terminal, given that public access and use of this valuable community resource is now largely prevented by expansion of car-import parking on the Quay.

- We suggested that land adjacent to the railway station on the southern side of the railway, currently used for car parking, could be more productively used for residential purposes. Some low-cost accommodation could be a key component here.

Ron Davidson stressed the loss of a rich vein of labour history which would follow the planned destruction of the John Curtin-inspired amenities building. He also took up the question of just how little the ING project had changed as a result of community protests. Jeremy Dawkins said he would get back to us on this one. We are waiting for the call.

The Victoria Quay Planning Committee promises a public meeting in September at which they will outline their initial ideas for the western end of the Quay and call for public comment. Watch out for it.

Let's hope the Planning Committee live up to their word: they and their political masters should know that Fremantle people are sick and tired of being promised genuine consultation only to be overridden by an arrogant Government.

Ian Alexander