

Colin Barnett's Residents' Newsletter

Member for Cottesloe

WINTER EDITION - 2001



Aged Care Facilities In The Cottesloe Electorate

All over the world populations are aging. It is predicted that the average lifespan across the world will increase over the next few generations by almost 20 years. As a result the proportion people aged 60 years or more will increase from one-in-seven to one-in-four. Seniors today can look forward to considerably longer lives than their forebears.

With the post war "Baby Boomers" on the verge of retirement and ever increasing life expectancy many issues associated with aged care facilities are at the forefront of discussion.

While seniors comprise 14 per cent of WA's population overall, the proportion is as high as 25 per cent in some areas of the Cottesloe electorate.

Many own their homes and are reluctant to move from the area. Those seniors who wish to should have the opportunity to remain as residents within their existing home and neighbourhood and have access to services and amenities that will provide them with independence and a stimulating environment.

Groups such as The Aged Persons Support Service, Silver Chain and Meals on Wheels play a vital role and through their services continue to improve the quality of life for those who wish to remain as independent as possible.

In the Cottesloe electorate residential aged care is provided across three main levels, from retirement villages which provide for people aged 55 and over and are primarily made up of self-care or independent living units, to hostels and finally nursing homes, where 24 hour nursing care is available.

It is in the high-care nursing home area that there is a significant shortage of available beds and long waiting lists across the electorate. Both long-term and short-term respite accommodation needs in this category must be addressed to ensure that the aged are adequately provided for in the future.

There are currently 400 public hospital

beds occupied by patients waiting for places to become available in nursing homes. This puts extra pressure on the health system.

The Federal Government introduced accreditation grant principles last year and this has had an impact on smaller aged care facilities such as Melvista Nursing Home. If nursing homes fail to meet the minimum standards they lose government grants and are inevitably forced to close.

While the maintenance of standards in nursing homes is of great importance, there is a need for pragmatism and flexibility in the achievement of these standards. While many of the smaller, more intimate nursing homes are lacking in state-of-the-art facilities, they more than make up for it in the homely atmosphere that is created.

Emotional issues, such as the impact of relocation and ready access to family and friends, are of equal importance to ensuring that the physical facilities are of the highest standard. Balancing out these aspects in the transition period must be taken into consideration if the elderly are not to become victims of change.

Letter To Residents

A change of government has meant a change in my public role from Minister to Leader of the Opposition.

Work on local issues and with local groups remains unchanged. There are several matters of "unfinished business" with a number of new issues emerging.

This newsletter focuses on aged care. It is an urgent and growing need in the western suburbs. If it is no longer possible to stay at home, then the next best thing is quality retirement village, hostel and nursing home care in a location close to family and friends.

The "unfinished business" includes such diverse matters as the vesting of Wearne Hostel, Leighton Beach, Underwood Bushland, Banksia Farm, Claremont School of Art, Montgomery Hall, Apace, Northbank foreshore completion, the security of land title for businesses at Rous Head and underground power for remaining suburbs.

I look forward to continuing to work with residents on these important local issues and am always available to meet with constituents on individual matters.

CURRENT AGED CARE FACILITIES IN THE COTTESLOE ELECTORATE

	Residential	Hostel	Nursing Home
CLAREMONT	St Louis Estate		Alfred Carson Montrose
COTTESLOE	Sundowner Centre	Sundowner Centre	
MOSMAN PARK	Dorothy Genders RiverSea	Dorothy Genders Wearne RiverSea	Mosman Park Freshwater Bay
MT CLAREMONT	Lisle Lodge Leaweena Lodge Regent Park		
NORTH FREMANTLE	Salvation Army	Salvation Army	Salvation Army

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For residents in Claremont, Cottesloe, Floreat, Karrakatta, Mosman Park, Mount Claremont, North Fremantle, Peppermint Grove, Shenton Park, South City Beach, Swanbourne.

Bold Park Bridle Trails

In May the Bold Park Environmental Management Plan 2000-2005 was released.

The plan defines key management objectives and strategies and research and monitoring requirements to ensure effective environmental management of the 437 hectares of coastal bushland.

Few people are aware that Bold Park is bigger than Kings Park and offers a wide range of activities within its boundaries such as bushwalking and horse riding, along with some of the most spectacular views and natural bushland to be found in Perth.

The management plan is of particular significance to me. I was fortunate enough to be involved with groups such as the Friends of Bold Park Bushland (Inc) which was instrumental in the development of the 'greater' Bold Park concept.

This concept resulted in the previous Government acquiring large tracts of land, effectively doubling the size of the original park and, along with the removal of the Stephenson Highway reserve, ensured the integrity of the park was maintained.

Designated an A-class reserve in 1998, management of the park was transferred from the dissolved Kings Park Board to the newly created Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) in 1999.

Overall the management plan is excellent and provides a workable model for the future of this great asset. However I



Bridle trail - Bold Park

was concerned to see the recommendation to remove or greatly reduce the bridle trails within the area.

Rather than reduce the bridle trails, I support the concept of a circular trail to enable riders to see as much of the park as possible. This would avoid the need to double back and significantly reduce any congestion on the trail.

Horse riding has been a recreational use of Bold Park for more than 30 years and it is one of the few large areas of public bushland close to the city that is open to horse riders.

Of particular concern is the withdrawal of this vital activity to clients of the Claremont Therapeutic Centre and the Capricorn Group Riding for the Disabled.

Claremont Therapeutic Riding Centre is the oldest of its kind in Western Australia. For almost 30 years it has conducted a wide

range of recognised and accredited equestrian programs for people with physical, emotional and mental disabilities. The Centre caters for 150 clients each week. Similarly, the Floreat based Riding for the Disabled Group has provided stimulating and confidence building programs for the disabled for 25 years. The bridle trails in Bold Park have been an integral part of this work.

To curtail access for the disabled would discriminate against those who have enjoyed the park's recreational and therapeutic advantages for many years and who are perhaps its most consistent visitors.

Everyone, not just the able-bodied, should enjoy Bold Regional Park. I would encourage more people to take advantage of all that it has to offer.

The Livestock Trade And The Port

The livestock trade is an important part of our export trade however I would suggest that the time has come to relocate it out of the inner harbour.

For many years now residents of North Fremantle have complained to me about the impact of the live sheep trade on their lifestyles. At all hours of the day and night they can be subjected to smells and noise when loading is in progress, particularly so when ships are berthed at the eastern end of the port.

Increasing residential development on the outskirts of the harbour will only see escalation of the problem and with prevailing winds blowing up river there is little that can be done to alleviate the situation.

Relocation of the livestock trade would appear to be the only sensible solution to the problem and with plans for a private port to be built at James Point in Kwinana, it is likely that an alternative-loading base for the livestock trade will be available soon.

As the Local Member I support the residents of North Fremantle in their bid to resolve the issue and see the only long-term solution being the relocation of the trade to a more suitable facility such as James Point.



Livestock carrier - Fremantle Harbour

Aged Care *Continued from Page 1*

WEARNE HOSTEL

As the Local Member I have been involved with a number of issues related to aged care across the electorate. Among the more recent has been the Wearne Hostel site in Cottesloe, threatened with closure following the introduction of the new accreditation principles.

I am pleased to see that the future of this facility is now looking positive, mainly because of the interim management of the Churches of Christ Homes and Community Services Inc., which has been able to achieve the necessary standards



Wearne Hostel

required to keep the hostel operating and in receipt of Federal funding.

Since 1994 I have been involved in negotiations with Fremantle Hospital and the Health Department (which owns the land) to consider vesting the site in the local councils of Cottesloe, Mosman Park and Peppermint Grove. While there are still issues to be resolved regarding the upgrade of heritage-listed buildings and the vesting of the land it would appear that the long-term future of this facility is assured.

Future planning schemes must make adequate provision for aged care land use, be it for residential or general community resources for seniors. The Sunset, Wearne and Leighton sites each have large areas of open space and a portion of these may need to be considered for the provision of further aged care facilities if the growing needs of the community in this area are to be met.

Wherever possible I will continue to support and promote the provision of aged care facilities across the electorate.

Underwood Avenue Bushland

I recently visited the Underwood Avenue Bushland site and met representatives from the University of Western Australia and the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland Inc.

The site at the corner of Selby Street and Underwood Avenue in Floreat is a significant area of bushland owned by the University of Western Australia which has plans for a residential subdivision.

There are several key issues in relation to this proposal, namely:

- The adjacent Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant and the buffer zone associated with the plant; and,
- The retention of the land as part of the Perth BushPlan (now known as the BushForever Policy).

These issues highlight the dilemmas in urban areas, where the competing interests of development and the environment inevitably call for compromise on the part of all parties involved.

Negotiations between the University and the Water Corporation are taking place in relation to the impact of the treatment plant upon the area under consideration, and as the Local Member I would like to see the issues between the two parties resolved at this level.

From my own observations I do not consider it appropriate to build a residential development next to the WasteWater



On site discussions at Underwood Avenue Bushland

Treatment Plant.

My preferred outcome would be to see the Water Corporation purchase the land from the University and develop part of the

site, in harmony with the environment, for either commercial or research purposes. The majority of the site should be preserved as bushland.

Lady Lawley Cottage Redevelopment Project

In November last year I had the pleasure of launching the 'Sandcastle Appeal' to raise funds for the redevelopment project planned for historic Lady Lawley Cottage.

The \$4 million project has been planned to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the cottage, which was purpose built in 1903 as a seaside home for convalescent children and commissioned as a hospital for children in 1946. The centre was named after Lady Lawley, the wife of the Governor of the day.

Since then this Red Cross facility has offered respite care for children with special needs. These problems often stem from physical or intellectual disabilities and require the specialised care provided by Lady Lawley Cottage staff.



Ms Susan Hart - Lady Lawley Cottage

Lady Lawley also makes accessible interim accommodation support for children who require residential options other than the family home.

The new facility incorporates disability-friendly design concepts, which will provide a home-like environment – the model of care for the future as opposed to the institutionalised care of the past.

The existing buildings will be demolished, except the original cottage which will be preserved for heritage purposes and used for administration.

The plans provide for: -

- A therapy centre for both resident and out-patient children requiring intensive physiotherapy and occupational care and other forms of rehabilitation;
- An education centre to provide training for parents, in-home carers and health professionals involved in the care of children with disabilities;
- Three independent living units which will accommodate six children per unit in a

home-like environment; and,

- A high dependency unit.

As the Local Member, I was pleased to support Lady Lawley in its bid to obtain \$1 million in Government funding for the redevelopment program. Along with \$750,000 from the Lotteries Commission and money raised from the 'Sandcastle Appeal' the group is well on the way to achieving the \$4 million needed to see the completion of the project.

I am pleased the new government has honoured the commitment to provide \$1 million.

During redevelopment the centre will operate from the Rocky Bay site in Mosman Park and continue to provide services to those children and families who are so dependent on them.

In 2003, the centenary year of Lady Lawley Cottage, I look forward to seeing the completed project and the relocation of the centre back to its original site.

Well Done!

PCYC (SKATEBOARD PARK)

It's thumbs up from the youth of Claremont and environs for the new skateboard park built in the grounds of the Police and Citizens' Youth Club off Davies Road in Claremont.

With input into the design by a number of local skateboarders the facility has proven to be a big hit and has attracted good numbers since its official opening in May.

Along with an adjacent clubhouse and covered area the skateboard park has provided the local youth with a much-needed meeting place and an area to develop their skate boarding skills in a challenging and safe environment.



Skateboard Park, Claremont

SHIRE OF PEPPERMINT GROVE (FRESHWATER BAY JETTY)

Sadly, many of our jetties have fallen into disrepair or disappeared over the years so I was delighted to see the recent restoration of the Freshwater Bay Jetty at the foot of Devil's Elbow.

The Jetty Restoration Project 2001 was funded by the Shire of Peppermint Grove and the Commonwealth of Australia through its Federation Community Projects Program and is proving to be very popular with those who visit the foreshore.

On my early morning walks with Jess, the family dog, it is a pleasant diversion to be able to walk to the end of the jetty and enjoy the beautiful view across the bay.



Freshwater Bay Jetty

Swanbourne Primary School - 2001

Swanbourne Primary School - 2001 will be an outstanding educational facility that will serve the children of the area for years to come.

Rapidly taking shape on its new site off Narla Road in Swanbourne, the construction of the school is on schedule and is due to be completed by mid to late October 2001.

The project consists of an administration block, enclosed covered assembly area incorporating a canteen, and teaching blocks

providing accommodation for kindergarten to year seven and education support students, as well as art/craft and music facilities.

In the meantime the local councils of Claremont and Nedlands are working together to ensure access issues for pedestrians, cyclists and cars are addressed.



Swanbourne Primary School - 2001

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Ask Nina . . .



SENIORS CARD - NEW PACKAGE OF CONCESSIONS

For the many self-funded retirees across the Cottesloe Electorate the new Seniors Card concessions will be a welcome relief.

Announced in December 2000 and effective from 1 July 2001, the new concessions will extend the benefits enjoyed by pensioners to self-funded retirees.

The additional concessions include:

- Up to 50 per cent rebate or deferment of local government and water rates for Seniors Card members who own their own home and who also hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC),
- A 25 per cent local government rebate for Seniors Card members who do not hold a CSHC,
- A 50 per cent concession on motor vehicle licence fees and a free drivers' licence for Seniors Card members who also hold a CSHC,
- A new home maintenance inspection service to provide Seniors Card members with reports on urgent maintenance requirements, basic security and safety assessments and any necessary modifications that may be required.

If you would like a Seniors Card application form contact Nina at the Cottesloe Electorate Office on 9383 1505. Applicants must be a permanent resident of Western Australia aged 60 years or over and not working more than 20 hours a week.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTRE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Want to know more about how our system of government works and the basis of its foundation? Then a visit to the Constitutional Centre is a must especially in this year, the year of the Centenary of Federation.

The Centre is the only one of its kind in Australia.

Located in the old Hale School building on the corner of Havelock Street and Parliament Place in West Perth, the Constitutional Centre is in an ideal position to provide group tours to it and also to Parliament House. These can be arranged by contacting Nina at the Cottesloe Electorate Office on 9383 1505.