

Colin Barnett's Residents' Newsletter

Member for Cottesloe

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Stick To The Leighton Guidelines

While I acknowledge that the original planning process on Leighton Beach was back to front and that the former Government should have put the broad planning and environmental conditions in place before the involvement of any developer, this process was finally corrected. Then, following a thorough and broad community consultation process, State Cabinet endorsed the final guidelines for Leighton in December 2000.

The guidelines clearly set out what people wanted at Leighton, namely:

- Development to be set back from the high water mark from between 95-100 meters.
- Housing to be limited to 4ha at the southern end of the site.
- Port Beach Road to be moved east.
- The central and northern areas to be a regional park, and
- The Fremantle Surf Life Saving Club to be the focus of recreation.

Implementation of the existing guidelines was the next step, with the main issues to be decided being the timing and funding of the various stages of the site rehabilitation, the design of the 4ha development near the North Fremantle Station and the creation of the road reserves needed for realignment purposes.

It was somewhat surprising therefore when the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure recently announced that a community forum held on March 16 would decide the future of Leighton Beach.

The Minister's desire for delegates to look at options for selling off more of the land, with the lure of being able to progress sooner with the site works, was a misguided attempt to use the issue of funding as the driving force in setting parameters for development at Leighton.

The future of Leighton should stand on its own merits and not be determined by some ad-hoc funding process.

Clearly, it was inappropriate to revisit a planning process that had already been agreed upon, a point made clear by the delegates who attended the forum in March.

It is time to accept the guidelines as they stand and to move forward to the next stage of implementation.

The only other area in need of further discussion concerns the status of the land upon which the Beehive Montessori School is built. I support the school's bid to have the land, currently zoned urban, rezoned in order to provide future security of tenure.

Social Housing In The Western Suburbs

With Westrail's rationalisation of surplus land many of the railway reserves in the Western Suburbs have been released for development.

The government has taken this opportunity to promote the use of this land for the development of "affordable housing"

in areas that would normally be out of the reach of people with disabilities or on low to moderate incomes.

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Old-style housing



New-style housing

Comments From Parliament

State Parliament has been dominated over the past year by several social issues. The economy and jobs have been pushed into the background.

Too often policies are promoted by simple slogans, rather than by a considered debate as to whether something is right or wrong.

Changes to the electoral laws are described as 'one vote one value'. This is fair enough, but do people really want a parliament with only 15 of the 57 Lower House members representing the area outside of Perth? Is that a state parliament that can properly represent the diverse regions of such a vast state? I don't believe so.

Similarly 'gay and lesbian' reform has been sold on the sole criterion of equality. Certainly the removal of discrimination in employment, finance, superannuation and so on is well overdue but to lower the age of consent or to grant adoption rights is another matter and one on which there is not widespread agreement.

On the issue of 'drug reform', I urge all parents to take note of what is proposed. Some may not be all that concerned about people possessing small amounts of marijuana for personal use. However, the marijuana of today is many times more potent than that used in the 1960s and 70s. The harmful effects, including increased risk of mental illness, are well documented.

The State Government's soft line on growing cannabis (proposed limit of 2 plants) means with hydroponic techniques the supply and availability of the drug will increase dramatically. The experience in South Australia has been one of increased involvement of organised crime and the importation of harder drugs.

Social changes need to be made with care and only with wide community support. If they are rushed they become divisive and often harm those they were intended to help.

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

EDUCATION UPDATE

Swanbourne Primary School

The new Swanbourne Primary School is an outstanding educational facility and the first new state primary school to be built in the Western Suburbs in 50 years. As the Local Member I had the pleasure of attending the unofficial opening in November 2001.

Along with excellent facilities for the mainstream students, special education facilities have been provided for a group of students in need of small group tuition and specialist teaching. The Education Support Unit relocated from Cottesloe Primary School where it has operated for the past 11 years.

The Education Department, along with the Claremont and Nedlands Councils, is undertaking a community consultation program to determine the most appropriate use for the old Swanbourne Primary School site in



The new Swanbourne Primary School

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While the provision of affordable housing is commendable, I have grave concerns about the use of the railway reserves in areas such as Claremont and Cottesloe where there is a need to keep reserves for future transport planning and a sense of open space. Cottesloe in particular has little public open space and these areas act as a greenbelt for passive recreation such as walking, cycling and exercising dogs.

The inference that there is little social housing in the Western Suburbs is quite incorrect.

There are approximately 623 Homeswest properties scattered across the Cottesloe Electorate. The majority of these are in Mosman Park (257), followed by North Fremantle (161), Mount Claremont (132), Claremont (70) and Swanbourne (3).

Many of these properties, while in excellent locations, are relatively old and in need of significant upgrading or redevelopment. My preference would be to see an injection of funds into this sort of project where better accommodation could be provided for the aged, those with disabilities and carers in need of special facilities.

The old-style accommodation of the 1960's (shown in the photo on page 1) is typical of the sites that could benefit from such a program. When compared with the new-style Homeswest housing of the 1980s and 1990s, such as the area around the old Graylands Migrant Hostel site off Alfred Rd, it is not hard to see the benefits that such developments bring to the tenants and the surrounding community.

Derby Road, which is now surplus to Education Department requirements.

The Western Suburbs has seen some significant changes in education facilities in the past few years. As the former

Education Minister I am proud to have been associated with developments that have ensured government schools in the Cottesloe Electorate are well resourced to meet the needs of the future.

Graylands Intensive Language Centre

With the review of Intensive Language Centres (ILC's) underway I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the retention of the ILC onsite at Graylands Primary School.

The Centre provides for the specialised English language needs of migrant children and acts as a conduit for the successful integration of these children into the general community.

The Centre has been a part of the primary school for more than 20 years and has firmly established itself, not only within the school, but also in the broader community.

As the Local Member I have had the opportunity to visit the school on numerous occasions over the years and have always been impressed by the accommodating relationship between the two aspects of the school. Graylands school and community have always been supportive and caring for these children

many of whom have had heartbreaking experiences.

In terms of relocation, much has been made of the issues relating to travelling times between the centre and the homes of many of the students attending. While these are factors to consider in the decision making process, it is important that the emotional, social and educational factors dominate the discussion, as these will be the future predictors of long-term success and integration for the students involved.

With its proven track record, committed staff and happy students, there would have to be exceptional circumstances to justify the re-location of the ILC to another site.

Not Good Enough!

Generally the Northbank Development, located between the Fremantle Bridges, is impressive and of a high quality. However with the collapse of the developer the project is incomplete. The site works were not finished and debris on the waterline now constitutes a hazard to both boating and general users of the foreshore

The major concerns relate to erosion issues and flooding, both of which could undermine the buildings lining the foreshore, some of which have a setback of less than 10 metres.

With estimated repair costs of between \$200,000 and \$300,000, the issue of who will pay for the necessary remedial work has arisen.

Consider the fact that the site borders on one of the busiest river transport routes and it is not hard to see the potential dangers that abound if the problems relating to the foreshore are not dealt with immediately.

Further development planned for the site will only add pressure to an already fragile environment.

It is imperative that the government and all parties concerned, the WA Planning Commission, the Swan River Trust and the City of Fremantle, acknowledge the need to deal with the matter before winter to ensure the integrity of this recreational and tourist waterway to Perth is retained.

The residents of Northbank have been inadvertently caught up in the standoff between the various parties.



On-site with residents from Northbank Village

As the Local member I have taken up the cause of the Northbank residents in the form of a grievance motion presented to Parliament on the March 14. The response from the Government was disappointing.

A reality of being in government is having to accept responsibility for fixing

an issue. It is not about allocating blame, but about the parties involved in the planning process acknowledging the need to take a united approach to resolving this issue before any further costs are incurred. It is time to act and resolve this matter once and for all.

A Tribute To Dame Rachel Cleland (DBE 1981, CBE 1966, MBE 1960)

It is not common practice in my newsletters to single out any particular person for acknowledgement of their contribution to society, as there are so many people who are deserving of recognition.

However, I could not let this opportunity pass to thank Dame Rachel Cleland for her contribution over the years, as she is about to leave WA to settle in Queensland.

In July 1998 I had the pleasure of opening a new Electorate Office in Cottesloe and I could think of no better

person to do the honours than Dame Rachel.

Her principled approach to life is something I have long admired and she has always been available to me as a source of sound advice. Never afraid to make her views known, she has in more recent times been outspoken on issues such as the forest

debate.

Her years spent in New Guinea, where her husband was Administrator of the Territory, provided her with the material for the basis of the two books that she wrote, namely: "Papua New Guinea: Pathways to Independence", which chronicled official and family life 1951-1975 and "Grass Roots to Independence and Beyond", which examined the contribution of women in Papua New Guinea from 1951 to 1991.

Along with her late husband, Sir Donald Cleland, who was instrumental in the formation of the Liberal Party as its first Director, Dame Rachel has had a long association with public issues and provides a unique historical perspective.

Dame Rachel has also played a leading role in organisations such as the Australian Pre-School Association, Australian Red Cross, Girl Guides Association and the Children's Library Movement.

It is with a sense of sadness that I say farewell to Dame Rachel but she will long be remembered here in Western Australia where she has been a leading light in the community.



Dame Rachel on a recent visit to MLC

Well Done!

St Luke's Church in Monument Street, Mosman Park, on an excellent restoration and general upgrade to the heritage hall located next to the church.

The hall, built in 1903, had fallen into a state of disrepair and was largely unused as a result. There were plans to demolish it and rebuild but fortunately this did not happen and instead this lovely old timber building has been beautifully restored and brought back to its former glory with funds raised by the Parish.

The hall now provides a first class facility for Church related activities, functions and administration space as well

as an area for an op-shop.

Set in pleasant landscaped surrounds, it is a credit to all those involved in its restoration.



St Luke's Hall - Mosman Park

Suburban Nedlands City Hockey Club on receiving a grant of \$270,000 under the State Governments Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

The money will help fund the

construction of an artificial turf hockey pitch at Shenton College as part of the proposed Shenton Recreation Park. As well as being a regional facility it will provide a venue for national and international events.

FEDERATION PARK

Centenary of Celebrations 1901-2001

In 2001 government organisations and communities statewide celebrated our Centenary of Federation.

At the centre of these celebrations in WA was the launch of some 201 community projects, funded by the State Government under the WA 2001 Community Centenary Projects Fund.

The projects ranged from interpretive walk trails, historic displays and community parks to the restoration of heritage buildings. Successful applicants had to demonstrate that their project -:

- Involved significant community participation and support
- Was of benefit to the community as a whole
- Significantly represented the meaning of Federation
- Promoted a sense of nationhood.

Among those awarded funds was the

Town of Mosman Park, which is to be congratulated on its initiative in the area of park reclamation from sump sites.

The Town received a grant of \$20,000, which was used towards the Hastings Estate Twin Parks Project. This saw the conversion of two degraded drainage sumps into attractive, passive recreation areas.

The project had strong community support and has provided a much need playing area in a high-density location.

As the Local Member I was pleased to open the park in December last year. The day included a visit from Father Christmas, face painting, sausage sizzle and drinks and was a true expression of the celebration of federation.



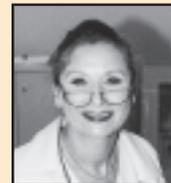
From sump to park

Electorate Office

Suite 12, 589 Stirling Highway, Cottesloe, WA, 6011

Telephone (08) 9383 1505 Fax (08) 9385 2352 Email ncurtis@mp.wa.gov.au

Ask Nina . . .



POINTS OF ORDER

For those people who are interested in keeping up with state political issues on a weekly basis copies of a news sheet called 'Points of Order' are now available through the Office of the Leader of the Opposition on the internet website: www.loop.wa.gov.au

Each week 'Points of Order' looks at legislation debated in Parliament. Along with 'Economic Indicators', 'This Week in Overview' and 'Quote of the Week' you can be assured of keeping up with the events.

If you would like to have copies e-mailed to you on a weekly basis, please forward your e-mail address to ncurtis@mp.wa.gov.au.

For those who are unable to access the Internet, hard copies can be made available to you through the Electorate Office or by ringing Nina on 9383 1505.

RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Can you help? On a number of occasions throughout the year 'Colin Barnett's Residents' Newsletter' goes out across the electorate. Hand delivered by a band of willing helpers, who give freely of their time, we are nonetheless always in need of extra helpers to fill in for those who are away or unable to assist for a variety of reasons.

If you are an adult, have a few spare hours and enjoy walking around the neighbourhood then you are just the person we are looking for.

Please call Nina (9383 1505) if you can be of assistance.

Back copies of the newsletter are available through the Electorate Office and we hope to have them available through the Internet in the near future.

SENIORS CARD

Have you recently turned 60? If so, you may be eligible for a Seniors Card which entitles you to many discounts on government and other services. If you are 60 years of age and a permanent resident of Western Australia contact Nina at the Electorate Office (9383 1505) if you would like more details.