

SUBMISSION RE THE RESTORATION OF GRAYTHWAITE BY SHORE SCHOOL

As a resident in North Sydney municipality I support the restoration of the Graythwaite Estate by Shore School and its plans prepared by Architect Howard Tanner to restore the House and site.

As a local I am aware of the money and effort spent on the cottage Nutcote once owned by May Gibbs (an author who is rarely read by children today - too scary and language not understood by them). This house has limited opening hours (11am to 3pm Wed through to Sunday). It was originally left to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (who could not keep the house) but Gibbs's relatives (second cousins) from Western Australian lead the push for Nutcote to be restored. The now defunct booksellers Angus & Robertson gave over \$1m, and with other community support North Sydney Council was able to acquire the property.

Tulkiyan House at Gordon is another such 'museum.' This was given to Ku-ring-gai Council. Friends of Tulkiyan open the house a few times a year to the general public and occasionally to groups by arrangement. This house has limited use but unlimited costs.

The Thomas Walker Estate Rivendell at Concord is used as a facility for children with psychiatric problems. The Eadith Walker Estate Yaralla which is next door had been used for dialysis patients but I understand that this is no longer the case as the building is deemed not suitable for such use. See:
<http://www.concordheritage.asn.au/chs-varalla.htm>

The mansion "Swifts" at Darling Point has recently been restored by heritage architect Clive Lucas, at enormous cost. The house is owned and restored by the Moran family. It is used as a family home by Dr Shane Moran and his sister, Mrs Kerry Jones allows the house to be used to raise money for charity.

Leo Schofield restored Bronte House owned by Waverley Council, again at great cost. He paid rent to the Council and was required to open the house a few weekends a year. But the web entry below and Leo's book 'The Garden at Bronte' note the obstacles he had to overcome and the huge cost.
http://www.bronte-house.com/history/history_owners.html

From the above it is clear that historic houses are difficult to be used for current living styles. These problems are highlighted by the National Trust with its funding limits and the likely closure of some of its properties as reported by the National Trust's "eNews of November 2011". See also:
<http://smh.domain.com.au/lights-go-out-at-historic-homes-20111029-1mpcb.html>

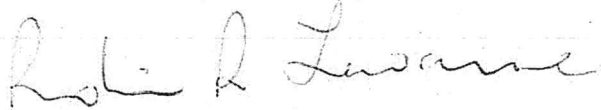
I have been a member of the Australian Garden History Society Inc, including 9 years as National Treasurer. During that time I became acutely aware of the fragile nature of old homes and gardens as well as the huge drains they are on most budgets, as well as their often limited use.

The Historic Houses Trust has used some funds to restore houses then sell them off for present day use for example Lyndhurst at Glebe.

www.hht.net.au/discover/highlights/insites/lyndhurst

With Shore School taking responsibility for the restoration of Graythwaite and its grounds - especially under the guidance of Howard Tanner - there should be a win, win result for the school, the community and Sydney in general. I hope that the proposal is given strong support.

Yours faithfully,
Robin Lewarne (Mrs)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Robin Lewarne', written in dark ink.

60a Shell Cove Road,
NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089
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ph. (02) 9953 1916
mob. 0425 242433