

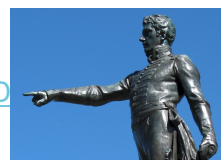
e-Gazette No. 029 - August, 2017. If this email doesn't look right
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HELIPAD CONFLICT OF INTEREST?



On 25 July the Adelaide City Council voted to approve "in principle" a two-year lease of a site in Bonython Park/Tulya Wardli (Park 27) for a commercial helipad.

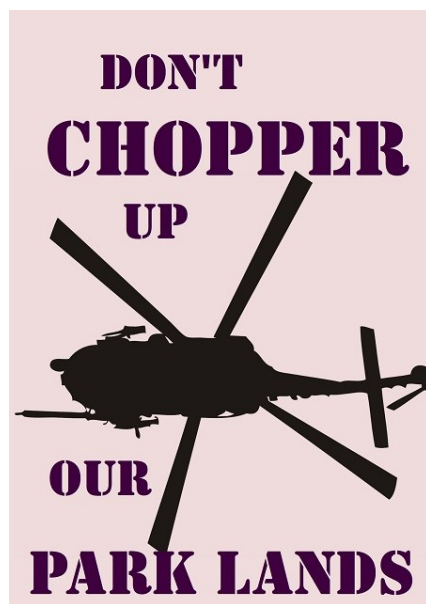
The Council vote was close: 6 in favour and 4 against. One vote the other way would have resulted in a tied vote.

When the helipad issue came before the Council in December last year, to consider the confidential outcomes of a commercial "expression of interest" process, two Councillors (Natasha Malani and Houssam Abiad) each disclosed "a perceived conflict of interest... due to a personal relationship with one of the Expression of Interest applicants". Both of them managed that conflict by not participating in deliberations.

However by 25 July 2017, with the vote in the balance, something had changed. Councillor Malani did the same thing, disclosing a perceived conflict of interest and taking no part in the process. Councillor Abiad remained in the Chamber and voted in favour of the lease arrangements "in principle".

APPA asked Councillor Abiad why he no longer had a perceived conflict of interest on 25 July. He did provide any answer before this newsletter deadline.

HELIPAD CONSULTATION (ROUND 1) IGNORED



Before Councillors voted on 25 July the Council was informed of the results of public consultation on its helipad lease proposal. 43 submissions were opposed to this Park Lands site and only seven were in favour. You can read APPA's submission [here](#).

Several of the other "opposed" submissions were from other community and residents' groups, each representing numerous members and supporters. Many gave lengthy reasons why this site was inappropriate and urged consideration of alternative sites.

In contrast, of the seven submissions supporting the proposal, only three nominated reasons why this Park Lands site was considered appropriate and none of the seven canvassed any alternative site.

Five deputations were heard by the Council on 25 July. Not one of them argued that alienating Park Lands was necessary for a City helipad. Likewise a letter to the Lord Mayor from the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (formally noted by the Council) referred only to the desirability of a city-based helipad, not any support for this site, nor any need to alienate Park Lands for this purpose.

So why did six Councillors go against the results of their own consultation? APPA offered each of the six, along with the Lord Mayor, an opportunity to explain their reasoning to you, our reader.

Only one of the seven, Cr Anne Moran, offered this response:



"It's a tough one. I can see both sides. The lease if it ever comes to that will have to very carefully done so that it can be broken if the helicopter is too noisy or other problems arise. The scheme has many more hoops to clear before happens"

Not one of the others: Councillors Priscilla Corbell, Sandy Verschoor, Houusam Abiad, David Slama, or Alex Antic took up APPA's offer to explain their reasoning to you. Nor did the Lord

Mayor, Martin Haese, who is on the record as supporting this proposal.

On the other hand, we did hear from those who voted against a commercial helipad in Bonython Park:



**Councillor
Sandy Wilkinson**

I have significant reservations about the imperative for Adelaide to have an inner city helipad, given one of Adelaide's oft recognised virtues is the close proximity of our airport, compared to Melbourne or other cities. As Clr Hender said, the current service offers 'being on a flight within an hour'. If it takes an hour to get off the ground, having arranged a flight, one may as well be 'en route' to the existing airport in a limo or taxi in that time. I believe a roof top location to be preferable, or at least to unalienate or utilise the adjacent bitumen car park, which is just used for convention centre staff now that railway staff no longer use it. At APLA and Council I was pushing for a 2 year "trial" period to test the proposal whilst importantly setting the expectation of the operator that it was only a trial. Once a 5+5 year lease has been entered into, albeit with the review at the two year mark and lease exit clauses I believe it will be politically virtually impossible for the Council to pull the pin on the lease if a preferable location becomes available or if the noise turns out to be fundamentally problematic for parkland users and North Adelaide residents.



**Councillor
Phillip Martin**

At the risk of pointing out the obvious, the Council ignored the overwhelming negative response from the public consultation on the helipad and it's worth asking how could the elected members possibly ignore a second negative response.

If you haven't said it in your editorial, then all I would add is

Large chunks of Park Lands have been snatched from the people of South Australia by their Government over the past three years I've been on Council and I think all of us need to speak up and say "enough is enough".

Whether it's a helipad, a skyscraper or a hotel, none of them, in my view, pass the test of public land, public benefit.

If you're angry about the grab for the Park Lands, you are free to email every member of the Adelaide Council and tell them what you expect of them.



**Councillor
Megan Hender**

As you know I voted against the proposed helipad. My reasoning is as follows:

- My guiding principle when assessing proposals for activity in the Park Lands is 'public land, public benefit'
- I take a generous approach to that. Some of your members may disapprove. For example, I believed that the upgrade of the Adelaide Oval would bring a lot of people to both the city and the Park Lands and that it therefore represented a public benefit.
- At the moment Adelaide has a perfectly satisfactory helipad at the Airport, easily accessed from the City. It adequately meets current demand, and can meet expanded demand. I do not believe a helipad in the Park Lands is necessary.
- I also think a helipad in the Park Lands has the potential to negatively impact on the enjoyment of other Park Lands users.
- The proposal does not meet my 'public land, public benefit' test.

Please bear in mind that the next step (apparently) is a CASA assessment of the proposal. CASA may yet determine that the site is not suitable for other reasons (eg safety, proximity to hospital, etc).

Councillor Sue Clearihan, who voted with the three above, did not respond to an invitation to comment.

HELIPAD CONSULTATION (ROUND 2) STARTS BADLY



The Council's decision to approve a helipad lease in Bonython Park "in principle" is on hold pending required consultation on amendment of the Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for Bonython Park /Tulya Wardli (Park 27) as required by section 198 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

That consultation commenced on Wednesday 16 August with a misleading statement [on the Council's "YourSay" web page](#). The Council erroneously claims:

*"the CLMP **needs to be amended** to reflect the commercial helipad proposal before a lease arrangement can be entered into." [our emphasis]*

This statement gives a misleading impression that amendment of the CLMP is inevitable and obligatory. It is not correct that the CLMP "needs to be amended".

According to law a commercial helipad **cannot** be placed in Bonython Park **unless** the CLMP is amended to permit that.

YOU have a say in this. YOU can tell the Council that there are other potential sites for a helipad that do not require taking away more of the Adelaide Park Lands for noisy, commercial interests. YOU can urge the Council NOT to insert "helipad" into the Bonython Park management plan.

<https://yoursay.cityofadelaide.com.au/Park27-CLMPamendment-helipad>

Submissions close at 5 pm, Wednesday 6 September 2017.



WHO CAN KILL OFF THE ZOMBIE PONTOON?



There was another strange decision in the City Council on August 8th to allow Adelaide's 6-month old undead eyesore to remain in a prime position in the Torrens River for another two years.

Various Hollywood movies have taught us how to deal with zombies, but none have used ridicule or logic as a weapon.

Perhaps we should just contact all Councillors who voted to keep the zombie pontoon and encourage them to think again about the wisdom of actually rewarding the incompetence that led us to this position.

One day, the Adelaide Festival will eventually have to pay to remove this zombie structure. We do not accept the argument that its absence will hurt future festivals. Let's have this part of the River Torrens back, please....

What can you do? Cr Anne Moran is still trying to get it scuttled:

<http://www.news.com.au/national/south-australia/remove-the-adelaide-festival-barge-says-councillor-anne-moran/news-story/3cd23873a4244d134d6a25c2ac7c4520>

A "rescind" motion is due to be debated on 22 August. In the meantime, you could contact the City Councillors who voted to let the zombie stay:

- For (5): Councillors Abiad, Clearihan, Malani, Martin and Slama
- Against (4): Councillors Antic, Corbell, Moran and Wilkinson

Here are their contact details:

<http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/your-council/role-of-council/councillors/>

Changing just one or two Councillor votes might yet rid us of this zombie intrusion.



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FESTIVAL PLAZA - THE PLOT THICKENS



APPA has long had concerns about the cosy deal that the current State Government has done to hand over part of Festival Plaza, along with \$180 million of taxpayers funds, to property tycoon Lang Walker.

Apparently the inducements aren't enough to persuade the Walker Corporation to begin building any time soon. Fortunately for the Park Lands, the project has been delayed for up to six years. (We hope, delayed indefinitely.)

<http://indaily.com.au/news/2017/08/02/developer-given-years-begin-festival-plaza-office-build/>

However, the more important question is whether the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption is investigating this questionable deal.

APPA has no knowledge of what ICAC might be doing, and we could not reveal it even if we did, because it's illegal to reveal what ICAC is investigating.

Nevertheless, the Auditor General, in evidence given to a Parliamentary Estimates Committee hearing last month, contributed to speculation that there might be such an inquiry. The Auditor-General told the Committee he had sought legal advice about potential overlap between his own powers and the powers of ICAC.

<http://indaily.com.au/news/local/2017/08/03/icac-2/>



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PARK LANDS VIDEO OF THE MONTH - PARDIPARDINYILLA (Park 2)



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PARK LANDS ART PRIZE for 2018

Our prestigious biennial Park Lands Art Prize is returning for 2018.

After successful events in 2014 and 2016, planning is well under way for a bigger and better event in 2018. Prize money has been increased to \$33,000.

For the first time in 2018, the prizes will include an additional 'Youth' award of \$2,000 for the best work by an artist under 25. The overall first prize will again be \$20,000. There will be ten "commended" prizes of \$1,000 each, as well as a "People's Choice" award of \$1,000 decided by visitors to the finalists' exhibition.

The major sponsor of the Park Lands Art Prize (\$10,000) is the Adelaide City Council, on the recommendation of the Park Lands Authority.

The People's Choice award is sponsored by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Show. If you're visiting the Royal Show this year you will be reminded of the Park Lands Art Prize.



To prompt Park Lands lovers to commit to our grass-roots community organisation, last month we offered a random prize draw of an iPad Mini Wifi for new or renewing APPA membership.

All those who had joined APPA or renewed by Sunday 6th August had their names placed in a hat (in a shopping bag actually) and the winner was drawn at random at the APPA Committee meeting on Tuesday 8th August. (Committee members and their immediate families were ineligible.)

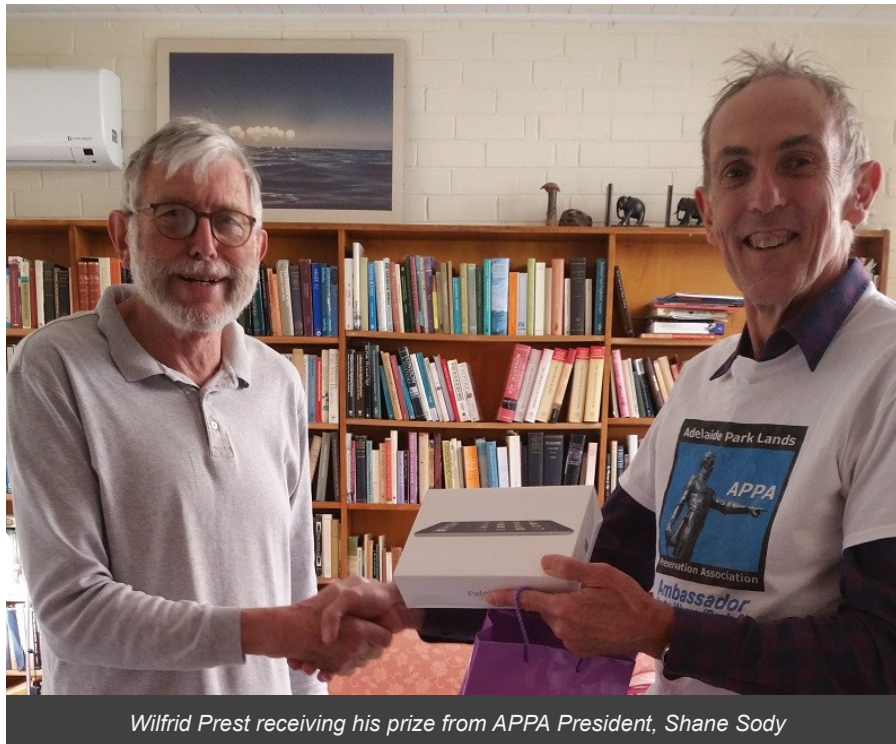
The prize went to long-time APPA stalwart, Emeritus Professor Wilfrid Prest.

If you have overlooked joining or renewing, it's easy. You can do it from our website here:

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/membership/>

As a financial member of APPA, you get:

- the priceless satisfaction of supporting APPA's [Objectives](#);
- free participation in our [monthly guided Park Lands walks](#); (non-members are asked for a gold coin donation);
- discounted tickets to supporters movie events and other social functions;
- the responsibility to help guide APPA's activities through the Annual General meeting; and
- a printable PDF membership certificate.



Wilfrid Prest receiving his prize from APPA President, Shane Sody



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WHAT'S ON IN THE PARK LANDS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

There are always events scheduled in the Park Lands, many of them free, and there are always opportunities to explore the Park Lands on your own, or with friends or family. Take a look at [our picture gallery](#) for hints about interesting spots to visit. This month's featured opportunities are:



[Adelaide Marathon Festival](#) - Sunday 20 August at Adelaide Oval, featuring the Marathon, Half Marathon, 10KM and 2KM Fun Run. The course sends runners past iconic Adelaide landmarks such as the Adelaide Zoo, through the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, along the River Torrens, through the leafy streets of North Adelaide, with runners completing the final stretch over the finish line in Adelaide Oval. Entries close Friday 18th August at 12 noon

[Parkinson's SA 2017 A Walk in the Park](#). Bonython Park, near the kiosk. Sun 27

August, from 9am-12.30pm (rain, hail or shine). Registration fees apply. A 2km or 4km walk around the scenic Torrens, mobility-friendly and volunteers are also along the track to assist. The day is for friends, family and supporters of people living with Parkinson's to come and show their support. The day also raises much-needed donations.

Free Park Land Walks with Steven Hoepfner.

Saturday 2nd September - meet outside South West Community Centre, 171 Sturt Street at 10.30am. Learn plant identification and the importance of preserving our plant life. Appropriate dress for weather and outdoor walking recommended and please note we may be walking off pathways.

Guided walk through Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16)

Saturday 9 September 2017 at 2pm to 4pm

Join APPA member (Park 16 Ambassador) Rose Wight OAM for a guided walk, learning about one of the most-used parts of the Park Lands. Apart from its well-known uses for motor racing and 150-year-plus horse racing history, you'll also see the urban forest, woodland trails, fitness track and much more. No booking necessary. Gold coin donation. (Free for APPA members). Wear sturdy shoes for a walk of over 2km. Children and dogs welcome:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1927268510889635/>

Masterclass: Australian Natives For Your Garden

Thursday Sep 14, 2017; 10am to 1pm, Goodman Building, Adelaide Botanic Garden, Hackney Road
Cost \$65 per person - Includes a guided tour of the Australian Native areas of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/whats-on/170914-aussie-natives-for-your-garden>

Outdoor Group Training

Hurtle Square, cnr of Carrington Street and Pulteney Street. Saturday 16 September, 9.00am-10.30am

Outdoor Group Training divided into 3 levels of intensity - Beginners, Intermediate and Advance to suit participants fitness levels.

Lord Mayor's "Ramble" through Tuthangga (Park 17)

Sun 17 September 2017, 9.00am - Meet at the corner of Hutt Street and South Terrace. Walk with the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Councillors east towards Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) looking at an important native biodiversity site. From there walk back through Tuthangga along the historic Elm Carriageway towards Hutt Street for coffee.

Free basketball/table tennis/giant chess

Adelaide South West Community Centre has games equipment for free use at the nearby Whitmore Square / Iparrityi. During the Centre's opening hours you can borrow a Basketball or Table Tennis equipment or the key to the Giant Chess Set located on the square. ID is required when borrowing items.



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FUND MY PARK LANDS?

Do you have an idea to improve part of the Adelaide Park Lands?

The State Government and the Adelaide City Council are [willing to consider your ideas](#), but more importantly, this initiative gathers ideas together and allows voting on them.

The \$40 million budget for this is to be spread across the entire State, for projects of between \$10,000 and \$150,000 so nothing of a huge scale will get funded. But provided that the City Council agrees that an idea is at least feasible, it should be possible for one or more small Park Lands projects to benefit from this program.

APPA will not be submitting any proposed projects, but you might like to consider such things as:

- more BBQ's picnic tables, seats, public toilets in a specific location;
- trees or other plantings (in a specific location) to increase biodiversity;
- Improved signposting of the Adelaide Park Lands trail;
- nest boxes in trees to encourage birds; or
- something else in keeping with the character of the Park Lands.

Nominations close on Friday 8th September. Voting on proposed projects will begin 3 weeks later, on 29 September. <https://fundmyneighbourhood.yoursay.sa.gov.au/>



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CRUNCH TIME NEAR FOR OLD R.A.H. SELLOFF PLANS

As patients start moving into the new RAH, crunch time is coming for the old RAH and its surrounding buildings on Tainmuntilla (Park 11).

In May this year, [despite overwhelming public demand to keep the site public](#), the State Government signalled that it still intended to sell a large slab of the old RAH site Park Lands to private developers for profit.

The public response to consultation was: "the need to retain as much open, green space as possible and ensure it was available to all members of the public".

Minister Stephen Mullighan's response was: "Without a full mix of uses the site won't support so many people on site and deliver benefits to the East End"

Former Chief Justice John Doyle, former Premier Lynn Arnold and Senator Nick Xenophon are among 31 eminent South Australians who have appealed to the State Government not to commercialise or privatise this site which is part of the Adelaide Park Lands.

In 2014, APPA made a detailed submission to the Government about the fate of the old RAH site. We updated this submission in March 2016; and again after further announcements, published [a new submission in June 2017](#).

In 2015, APPA member Phillip Groves [catalogued all the previous Government promises](#) about this site.

The Government is still planning for 1,080 apartments in a building of 17-storeys (or higher) overshadowing the Botanic Gardens.

Have you signed our petition, calling for this huge tower block to at least be referred to a Citizen's Jury?

<https://www.change.org/p/renewal-sa-head-bronwyn-pike-1-080-private-apartments-and-a-hotel-on-park-lands-at-least-put-it-to-a-citizens-jury>



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'EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST' for SPORTS FACILITIES IN KURANGGA (PARK 20)

Last November controversy erupted when Pulteney Grammar School [revealed its hopes to expand its campus across South Terrace and into Kurangga \(Park 20\)](#).

Its 2016 ambit plan involved not just sporting facilities for the public but also private storage and kitchen facilities that would have excluded the public from part of this Park.

Fortunately the City Council has resisted such urgings. It's now [inviting expressions of interest for the development of sporting facilities in Kurangga \(Park 20\)](#) but its advice to potential applicants is to forget about de facto privatisation.

It wants expressions of interest for facilities that will emphasize *"shared uses and spaces"* with activities and facilities that should *"accommodate general community use (ie non-club members)"* with *"sporting activity [that] complements and co-exists with the informal recreational activity occurring in Kurangga (Park 20)"*.

The current licensees include not only Pulteney Grammar but also the Adelaide Harriers and the Adelaide Eagles Little Athletics Club. These licensees are expected to renew their interest in the Park.



The Council hopes that the process will allow Kurangga (Park 20) to be rid of these old makeshift facilities and allow new facilities to be built with a smaller overall footprint.

This article with assistance from guest contributor Emma Wotzke

BRIEFLY, IN OTHER PARK LANDS NEWS

The SA Cricket Association is wasting no time in constructing its three-storey mansion in Narnungga (Park 25) off Port Road:

These facilities are not for general public use. The new building site is leased to the SA Cricket Association for 42 years.

At the same time, the Adelaide City Council is seeking public feedback on what should happen with the rest of Narnungga (Park 25). Feedback closes at 5pm on Monday 28th August.

<https://yoursay.cityofadelaide.com.au/narnungga-park25>

The Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority seemed to have had little regard either for Pennington Gardens or its patrons shoes when it allowed car parking after a torrential downpour on Sunday 6th August for the Crows v Port Showdown.

We would respectfully suggest that on days of heavy rain that the Park be left as a Park, not a car park.

Could Adelaide's Park Lands become a world tourism destination by being declared a 'National City Park'?

There are two models of such cities in the world. Stockholm boasts that it has [the world's first \(and only\) "National City Park"](#) an immense swathe of land and water (27 square kilometres) with a heritage dating back to the middle ages.

Meanwhile, London Mayor. Sadiq Khan has thrown his weight behind plans [for London to become the world's first urban national park](#). The Mayor has announced a package of measures to help "make London the greenest city in the world".

In Adelaide although we have National Heritage listing of our Park Lands, there is no guarantee that we can even get the Park Lands listed as part of our State Heritage. (See next story.)

Heritage assessment of the Adelaide Park Lands is still under way. As we advised last month, there are three ways [to provide your views](#). By:

- completing [the online survey](#). This will take about 5 minutes
- joining [the discussion](#) - which needs only a moment to add a comment
- sending in a written submission via hamish.angas@sa.gov.au or post to: Hamish Angas, Senior Heritage Officer, State Heritage Unit, Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources, GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE SA 5001.

Make sure you provide your feedback before

comments close at 5.00 pm on Friday 29 September.

APPA's Program of Guided walks through selected parts of the Park Lands is continuing. On Sunday 12 August, a group of 15 people (and one dog) enjoyed a stroll through Rundle Park/Kadlitpina (Park 13) led by Park Ambassador Hero Weston.

Details of future scheduled walks for the rest of 2017 are on our website:

<http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/guided-walks/>

In a new initiative, APPA is combining with the National Trust to produce **self-guided** walks through the Park Lands. Aided by journalists Owen Everitt and Dan Clarke, our Park Lands walking notes will be uploaded, one Park at a time, to the National Trust's "Adelaide City Explorer" website and smartphone app. They will be available as an audio guide or text. [The first such walk available is for Karrawirra \(Park 12\)](#). Others will follow shortly.

PHOTOS OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

From the top:

- a) Morning fog on the Adelaide hills, as seen from horse paddock No 1, Nantu Wama (Park 6) off Le Fevre Tce
- b) Cycle commuting through Whitmore Square/ Iparrityi
- c) River Torrens/ Karrawirra Park from Pirltawardli (Park 1) looking across to Bonython Park/ Tulya Wardli (Park 27): Photo: Peter Sansom
- d) Walking through Kurangga (Park 20) towards the city, from near the corner of Greenhill Rd and Unley Rd
- e) Early morning walk along the Torrens path, near the City Council's preferred helicopter takeoff/landing pad in Bonython Park/ Tulya Wardli (Park 27)

The Park Lands 'photo of the day' series has been running since May 2014, and **the collection of Park Lands photos now numbers more than 1,200**. We maintain (and gradually grow) 37 separate albums for each one of our 30 Parks, six squares (and one album for 'Alienations'). To browse the photos follow the link below to '[Our photos on Flickr](#)'.



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Our photos on Flickr



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