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e-Gazette No. 037 - April, 2018.

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A BAD DREAM RECURRING - GOV'T HIGH-RISE "VISION"?



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OLD RAH SITE - FIRST THE GOVERNMENT LOOKS TO THE \$\$\$\$

Vested interests with \$\$\$ in their eyes are working hard to try to make sure that little, if any, of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site is returned to Park Lands.

In the short time since the State election on 17 March 2018, there have emerged at least two competing big-money visions for this Park Lands site, and neither vision anticipates returning any part of the site to its owners, the public.

The newly-elected Liberal State Government is [threatening to hand over various parts of the old RAH Park Lands site](#) to developers for a range of private commercial interests:

- a five-star luxury hotel (artist's impression above);
- a so-called "innovation, incubator, start-up and growth hub"; and
- an "international centre for tourism, hospitality and food service" (artist's impression, below).

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This is the Liberal Party's view of what should replace at least part of the old RAH on its Park Lands site. Its "vision" fails to even mention the land's status as part of the Adelaide Park Lands.

[Click here](#) to read [APPA's Response](#) to the Liberal Government's policy on the old RAH site.



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OLD RAH SITE - THEN ADELAIDE UNI LOOKS TO THE \$\$\$\$

It's not only the State Government pushing to have more concrete and bricks re-instated where Park Lands should be returned. Since 1875, the University of Adelaide has been gradually expanding its takeover of Park Lands. Recent expansion at the west end of North Terrace for its new Medical School on Park 27, is only the most recent blow.

Now, Adelaide Uni's current Vice-Chancellor Peter Rathjen wants even more. He has an eye on a Federal Government "City Deals" fund for yet more Uni expansion over Park Lands. As he was quoted in The Advertiser on 5 April:

"Where else is there 10 hectares of prime real estate in a little city, right next to a good university, with \$90 billion in cash just sloshing around?"

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With that logic, we may as well surrender the Park Lands entirely to our University sector.

Of course the proper reply is:

"Where else is there a city surrounded by a garland of irreplaceable Park Lands? What other opportunities will there ever be to return such a significant proportion of previously-alienated Park Lands?"

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WILL BIG MONEY WIN? OR WILL "PARKLANDS PEOPLE POWER" PREVAIL?

Whether you want the site returned entirely to Park Lands, or whether you support some new public buildings on the site, there is a fundamental principle at stake; a line in the sand that must not be crossed by any State Government.

If any new buildings replace the old RAH, this public land (Park Lands) should not be commercialised or privatised. It cannot be merely exploited for private profit. It must remain in public hands, for public (not private) benefit.



If you haven't already, then please sign the petition:

<https://www.change.org/p/steven-marshall-mp-keep-public-land-public>

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INTERNATIONAL PARKS CONGRESS – FOCUS ON AUSTRALIA

Around the world, urban park lands and open spaces near cities are coming under more and more pressure.

This headline story in [this month's newsletter from World Urban Parks](#) says:

"The world urban population will double from 3.5 billion to over 7.0 billion in the next 40 years. This represents a magnificent opportunity as well as enormous responsibility to support the development of parks and open spaces as critical elements in creating vibrant cities and healthy communities where all citizens will live happier."

Taking a longer view than the present-day development lobby, APPA recognises that whichever cities can preserve their open spaces in the face of population pressures will be the rare jewels on this increasingly urbanised planet. In this overcrowded future, as each world city in turn discards more and more of its open spaces, we in Adelaide will reap the rewards of a vibrant, healthy community enjoying the open spaces that other cities can only dream about.



Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh,
India, 2014.

Park Lands?

What are they?

With this in mind, parks advocates from around the world are coming to Australia this year to try to find out how best to address the impact urban growth and density are having on our parks, leisure and sport.

The International Parks and Leisure Congress ("IPLC2018") has been scheduled for October 14 to 17 in Melbourne.

As a member of World Urban Parks, APPA will be represented at the Congress. Organisers have called for abstracts of papers to be presented at the Congress. APPA expects to have a slot on the agenda, to highlight the never-ending encroachment of buildings and car parks onto the

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For more info about IPLC2018, see: <https://www.iplc2018.com/>



A NEW MINISTER – A NEW OPPORTUNITY?

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March, there is a new Minister in charge of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*.

APPA has [written to Stephan Knoll, MP](#), the new Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government.

We've requested a meeting, and made three specific suggestions for action, that would strengthen the protection afforded to the Park Lands and to encourage, where possible, return to the public of some alienated portions.

We'll let you know about any response.

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COMMERCIALISING THE RIVER

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The Adelaide City Council is calling for expressions of interest for "activating" the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari, both on the Torrens lake, and downstream adjacent to Bonython Park (pictured).

Maintaining the Park Lands comes at an enormous cost to the City Council – an estimated \$15 million per year, [according to the Lord Mayor, Martin Haese](#).

Therefore it's not surprising that the Council is looking at ways to recoup some of that expense from people who might be willing to pay for experiences on the River.

For generations, we have had the [Popeye paddle boats and tourist boats](#), and more recently [Adelaide Gondolas](#), and [BBQ Buoys](#). APPA does not oppose these types of things, because their presence on the river is transitory. No Park Lands are lost by such uses.

We would raise concerns, however, if any potential new commercial uses required new, additional permanent buildings alongside the river. There are already nine boat sheds dotted along the Torrens riverfront, not to mention former boat sheds that have been transformed into cafes and restaurants, effectively excluding the public from some of the most picturesque parts of the Adelaide Park Lands.

And of course, the hulk of the Adelaide Festival's pontoon has been clogging the River at Elder Park since early 2017 year.

Therefore we will watch closely the current 'expression of interest' process and report back to you, in due course.

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APRIL 2018 CONSTRUCTION SITE BULLETIN

It can be hard to keep up with all the construction work that is under way, at any one time, in the Park Lands.

Here's just a few of the projects currently under way, with pictures taken a couple of days ago, in April 2018.



Josie Agius Park / Wikaparntu Wirra (Park 22)

In this Park, work is nearing completion to re-instate the Park Lands trail, after recent re-surfacing and expansion of the Netball Courts.

Quite separately, however, along Greenhill Road, this "deep excavation site" is for gas pipeline works.

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NEW SPORTS BUILDING for soccer and athletics clubs

The City Council last October approved the demolition of two old sports sheds in Ellis Park / Tampawardli (Park 24) that have been used by the Adelaide Comets soccer club and the Western Harriers Athletics Club.

At the time, it approved a new building, that would have a smaller overall footprint (490 m2) but would be two-storey. It will include public toilets. The State Government has contributed the lion's share of the construction cost (\$3.5 million). Construction is now under way. (See pics above.)

The building design includes many features that are private in nature - not designed for public use. These include space for a gym, a kitchen and a multi-purpose (i.e. function) space, an office, a meeting room and a storeroom.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**NEW PATHWAY to rail crossing**

While the Torrens Rail Junction Project is still underway, work is about to commence on landscaping, and re-grassing this area of J.E. Brown Park (Park 27A) between the river, and War Memorial Drive. Thanks to Peter Bolton for the pics.

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"high-quality formal park" is still being developed in Gladys Elphick Park / Narnungga (Park 25) between Port Road and Glover Avenue. This pic was taken from West Tce. The landscaping is intended to "offer a place of respite" for staff and visitors of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and adjacent North Terrace buildings. Work may be completed about June. Click the picture to read more.



[South Park Lands Creek rehabilitation.](#) This photo was taken on 11 April from within Victoria Park, looking westwards. Work is continuing mainly in the adjacent Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17) near Beaumont Road. Read about the project by clicking the photo.



There is occasionally a problem with works that are NOT done in the Park Lands. The so-called "Urban Beach" over summer, and then the "Royal Croquet Club" during the Fringe both fenced off a huge area at Pinky Flat in Tarntanya Wama (Park 26). The Fringe ended on 18 March but it appears there is no hurry to remediate the site. APPA member Claire Roberts has asked the Council why the commercial operators have not (yet) restored the grassed area at Pinky Flat.

Apart from the sites pictured above, there is ongoing work to:

- create a [new 'activity hub'](#) in Pelzer Park /Pityarilla (Park 19); and
- rehabilitate the South Park Lands Creek in Carriageway Park / Tuthangga (Park 17).

APPA understands that neither of these projects will lead to any permanent loss of Park Lands and on that basis we have raised no objections.

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School' off Frome Road has erased what little remained of Park Lands in that vicinity.

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RARE BUTTERFLY IN VICTORIA PARK



APPA was pleased to have been consulted recently on how to encourage community appreciation of the rare "chequered copper butterfly" population in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)

There is a small area of remnant native grasses in the southern portion of this Park. The City Council has recently erected signs to explain how this rare butterfly lives in this habitat, in a fascinating symbiosis with ants.



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The Council has plans to construct a dirt track and seating, in between patches of this remnant vegetation. Both APPA and Butterfly Conservation SA have given in-principle support for this idea.

You can read more about the chequered copper butterfly here:

<https://communityalliancesa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Lucia-limbaria-Chequered-Copper.pdf>



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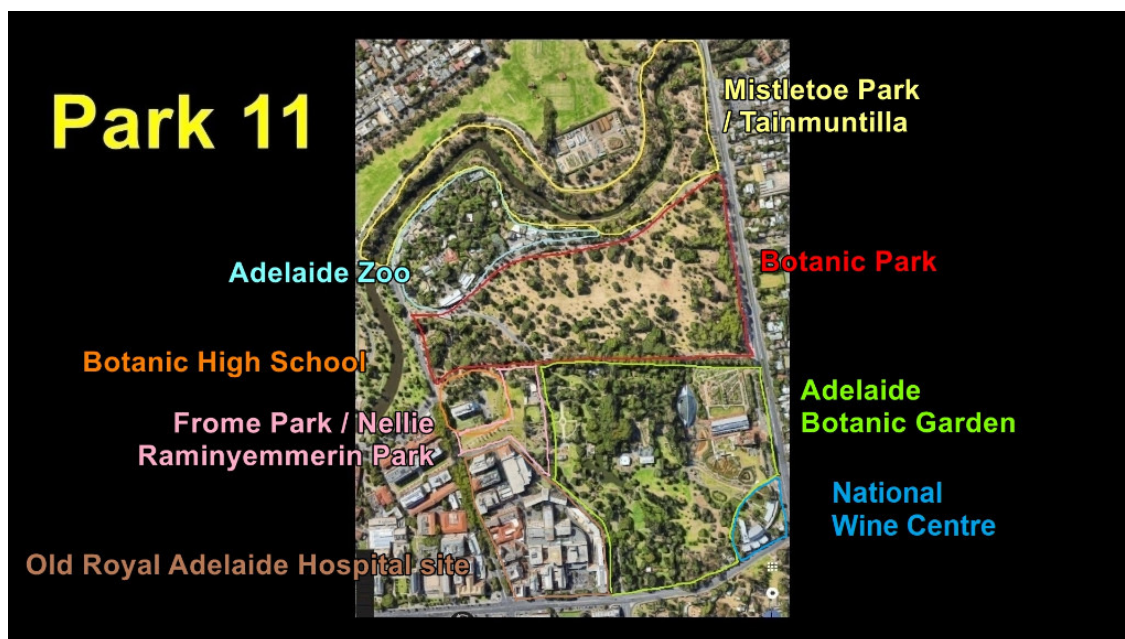


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PARK LANDS VIDEO OF THE MONTH



The video of the month series is taking a break this month. The video currently in production is covering one of the largest parts of the Park Lands, [Park 11](#) (as above) and so is taking longer than usual to film and edit. Look for its debut in next month's (May) newsletter.

If you've missed any of our earlier videos (of Parks 1 through to 10) you can catch up at any time at [our YouTube channel](#). There's also a link to our YouTube channel on the home page of our website:

www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au



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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:



[Guided walk through King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itypina \(Park 15\)](#). Sat April 14th 2.00pm to 3.45pm. Gold coin donation. (Free for APPA members). Meet at the corner of Bartels Rd & East Tce. Children and dogs most welcome. Click the photo for details.



The [Botanic Gardens School Holiday Program](#) starting Monday 16 April. The program is designed for 5 to 13 year olds to promote fun, hands-on learning about plants, people and the environment. Activities go for an hour and prices range from FREE to \$20. Book early – spots will sell out. Click the picture for the link.



[Government House Open Day](#) Sunday 29 April 10am to 4pm – admission free. His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Lan Le invite you to Government House to view the public rooms, learn about the current workings of the House and explore the gardens. See the displays and memorabilia of historic significance, the State dining table set with silver and crystal for a formal dinner, paintings on loan from the Art Gallery of SA, and discover where a police inspector was murdered in 1862. Click the picture for more info.



[Heart Week Nature walk](#) Saturday 5 May, 9am for a 9.30am start. A free 5km or 7km community walk along the River Torrens, starting from Plane Tree Drive, Botanic Park. Wear a hat, good walking shoes, sunscreen, and something RED! Light refreshments and healthy morning tea will be provided, plus a chance to win a \$100 Heart Foundation voucher. Click the picture for more info.

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[/Tuthangga \(Park 17\)](#). Sun 13 May 2018, 2pm to 3.45pm. Gold coin donation. (Free for APPA members). Meet on the corner of Greenhill Rd and Beaumont Rd near the Touch Football clubrooms. Children & dogs most welcome. Click the photo for details.



["Rock the Square - Voices, voices, voices"](#) Victoria Square / Tarntanyangga, Thursday 3rd May 12 noon to 2pm 3 May 12-2pm. Let the sweet, sweet sounds of Adelaide's finest acapella choirs serenade you through your lunchtime. Click the pic for more details,



[Natural History of the Adelaide Park Lands After Dark](#). Thurs 10th May, Tue 15th May & Thu 24th May, 6.00 to 7.30pm. Meet at 5.45pm at the "Friends Gate" Adelaide Botanic Garden, Plane Tree Drive for a briefing before the 6pm start. Cost: by donation. Learn more about the wildlife you share your city with. Bring a small torch. You may see lots of animals (or nothing!). Click the pic for more details.



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STATE HERITAGE LISTING – PROCESS STILL CRAWLING ALONG

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No-one can accuse the Heritage SA of rushing their evaluation of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Nine years after APPA (in 2009) nominated the Park Lands for State Heritage listing, the process commenced about 12 months ago, with the appointment of a consultant to assess the Park Lands against the heritage criteria in legislation.

We were warned the process would take about 18 months, but the time frame has slipped out much further than that. We were advised on 19 March that:

"Heritage South Australia expects the consultant to finalise the assessment shortly. Before the nomination/assessment is formally considered by the SA Heritage Council we need to undertake some further work, including:

- *engagement with the Kaurna nation about this process, and*
- *while this particular step is not normally undertaken prior to considering a potential State heritage-listing, because the Adelaide Park Lands is a large and complex space, there is a need to develop some management tools (in partnership with the Adelaide City Council), to ensure that the National and State heritage values of the Adelaide Park Lands are appropriately conserved. This exercise will necessarily involve consultation with key stakeholders including the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association.*

Therefore the SA Heritage Council will not consider the Adelaide Park Lands nomination/assessment until this work has been completed."

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ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT FOR ART PRIZE ENTRIES

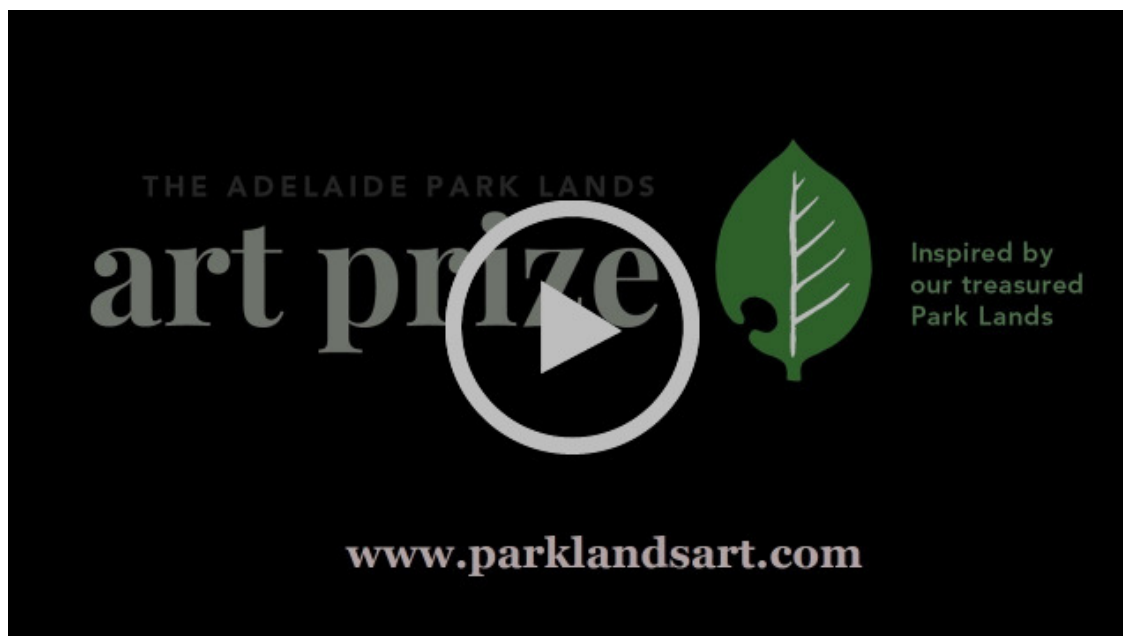
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Winners will share in \$33,000 Prize Money

- \$20,000 First Prize
- \$2,000 APPA Young Artist Prize
- 10 x \$1,000 Highly Commended Prizes
- \$1,000 Royal Adelaide Show People's Choice Prize

Get your entry in by the closing date: Tuesday 1 May 2018.

Finalists will be amongst the first to exhibit in the newly redeveloped Adelaide Festival Centre. The gala opening of the exhibition and judge's decisions on prizes is scheduled for Wednesday 4th July, after which all finalists will be exhibited for six weeks in the Festival Centre foyer.



Highlights from our 2016 Park Lands Art Prize. Artists - don't miss out in 2018!

This is a non-acquisitive Art Prize, meaning that works chosen as finalists (and therefore on display at the Festival Centre) will be for sale. This is an excellent opportunity for all artists whose work is selected among the finalists – not just the prize winners.

For queries please call: Maggie Fletcher 0417 896 779 or Hamish Ramsay 0488 084 127
For more information about the Art Prize, go to www.parklandsart.com

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SAVE THE DATE – APPA's AGM – SUNDAY 29 APRIL

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If you'd like to:

- mingle and mix with fellow Park Lands supporters;
- learn about APPA's strategic plans,
- vote for our next Committee members; and/or
- help keep us accountable for the way we spend our funds, then

then please turn up on Sunday 29 April, for our Annual General Meeting.

As in recent years, the AGM will be held in the Don Pyatt hall in the Norwood Town Hall. Arrive at 9.30am for a 10am start. Voting rights at the AGM are reserved for current financial members, but all Park Lands supporters are welcome to attend.

Guest speaker will be Greens leader, the Hon. Mark Parnell, MLC on the topic: **"What prospects for improved Park Lands protection in the new Parliament?"**

More details here: <http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/agm2018>

NB: After booking the hall some weeks ago, we were subsequently advised that there will be a "Wiggles" show upstairs directly above us, at the same time. Therefore, we expect some inconvenience in getting into the building at the same time as the Wiggles' pre-school fans, not to mention a few stray sounds from upstairs! We apologise in advance for any problems this may cause. Please allow extra time for transport and parking!

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BRIEFLY, IN OTHER PARK LANDS NEWS



We love the description of the Park Lands from *The Advertiser*'s Tory Shepherd (pictured) on March 28, p5 as:

"the stellar loop of green that includes pristine gardens, kilometres of running tracks, dog parks, and sporting facilities."

We also agree with her plea for more low-impact solar lighting in selected popular areas. The Park Lands must always contain a mixture of recreational areas, gardens, and bushland. Obviously not all areas need to be illuminated, but this is a no-brainer for selected walking/jogging and cycling trails.



The City Council is preparing a Master Plan for Whitmore Square/Iparrityi "to reinforce the role of the square, and to set a clear vision for the square's future."

A brief 3-week period of consultation opened just after our last newsletter was distributed and has already closed. However there will be another opportunity later this year for comment on the draft Master Plan. Click the picture for more info.

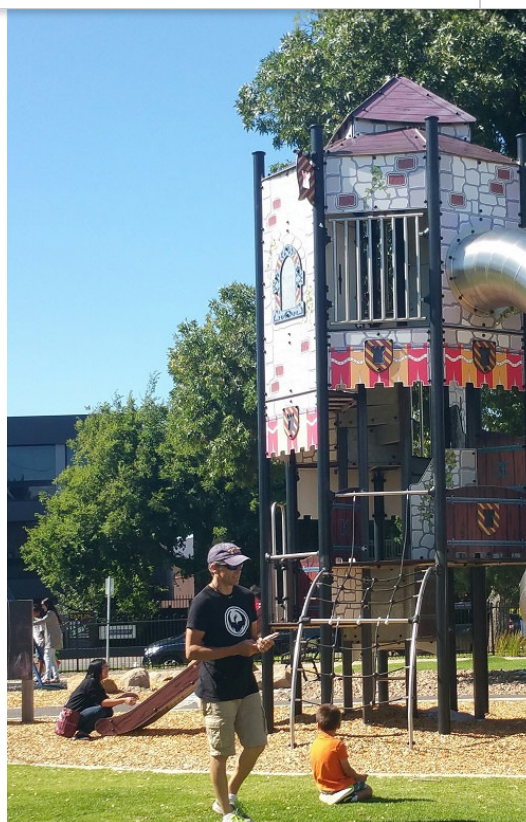
PHOTOS OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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From the top:

- a) "Bop 'Til You Drop" – picnic with a DJ in a marquee, in King Rodney Park / Ityamai-itpina (Park 15) off Bartels Rd..
- b) Cycling through Blue Gum Park/ Kurangga (Park 20) between Unley Rd and Peacock Rd
- c) Family picnic in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) off Bartels Rd
- d) Light's Vision, Montefiore Hill, part of Tarntanya Wama (Park26). Photo courtesy of Trentino Priori <https://trentino.smugmug.com/>
- e) Princess Elizabeth Playground, in Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21W) of South Tce between Goodwood Rd and Sir Lewis Cohen Ave.

The Park Lands 'photo of the day' series has been running since May 2014, and **the collection of Park Lands photos gathered over almost four years, now numbers over 1,450**. We maintain (and gradually grow) more than 40 separate albums: one for each one of our 30 numbered Parks, six squares (and several albums for 'Alienations'). To browse the photos follow the link below to '[Our photos on Flickr](#)'.


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