

gazette

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS GAZETTE | PUBLICATION OF THE ADELAIDE PARK LANDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION INC.



AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS
DARDANELLES
APRIL 25TH
1915

Walter and Guy Dollman



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EDITORIAL

Organisations such as ours are often considered reactive because we advocate preservation of the Park Lands. There are others, with vested interests which see Adelaide's open spaces as wastelands ripe for development. Yet green open spaces are central to fighting climate change and in fact they develop a healthy and sustainable environment. To fight the ongoing preservation battle, our agenda must include initiatives that encourage new and preferably younger members who are motivated to become proactive for preservation. Come along to the AGM on Sunday 19th April and support your Association.

I am a Crows supporter; but I don't like the thought of building another football complex near the Adelaide Oval (on Park Lands) on the University playing fields or the motor sport eyesore at Victoria Park. What happened to the funds obtained from the sale of AMI Stadium property including the Crows Shed? Surely commercial land in the city is available at a price, rather than sponge off the Park Lands which is

considered 'free' by our erstwhile football administrators.

This edition features Part 1 of the "Memorials to the Great War" that are located in the Park Lands. Walter and Guy Dollman have brought to our attention the significance of the centenary of Australia's involvement in the First World War, by highlighting the way in which our ancestors recognised the important part WW1 played in our nation's cultural history.

The Master Plan for Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi has been raised again in the light of proposals from "influential businessmen" and the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) to reintroduce horse racing to Victoria Park/Pakapakanthi. It further states that the 'State Government is supportive of the proposal' (see ACC 'Out of Session Paper Strategy Planning and Partnerships Committee 20/01/2015'). The Adelaide City Council report traces the sorry history of start and stop planning with significant government influences over the years beginning with horse racing which began in the 1840s

and continued until 2007.

As horse racing began to decline as a spectator sport, the facilities were deliberately run down in the hope that the government would invest through a multiuse complex for motorsport in the eastern section of the Park Lands proposed in 2007. The outrageous design parameters included a building of to four stories and a length greater than Westpac House (formerly Santos Building) which is 31 stories or 132 metres. Through the efforts of APPA, public opinion forced the government to back off; but there are persistent half-baked schemes by mainly the motor sports lobby to revive a permanent grandstand which in reality is a corporate box for the wealthy end of town.

Don't forget the AGM on the 19th April! (more details in this issue).

Jim Daly

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we approach another AGM my attempt to recall APPA overt "successes" is not over-whelming!

The government stampedes towards building anything it can get onto the so called "River Precinct". Some River! Consequently it turns a "tin ear" to our opinions and shows no enthusiasm to meet and talk about moderating or altering the proposals.

I pricked up MY ears at the proposal for a further V8 motor race to augment the Clipsal but at Tailem Bend. What a wonderful idea! Not only would Tailem Bend be blessed but maybe just maybe the whole shemozzle could leave the iconic Victoria Park alone to its beauty and user-admirers on foot or cycle or sitting. If only ----

We have had a good year in the Committee with new blood fitting in enthusiastically. But sadly we had to accept the resignation of Brian Mitchell our long-time secretary and member because of deteriorating health. We will acknowledge his wonderful service at the AGM.

I will resist outlining the individual efforts of committee members at this stage except for the particular effort and inspiration from Shane Sody. He has continued with the delightful photo-a-day program on Facebook and other electronic outlets but now he has had the brainwave for a short video aimed at the young and younger. To this end we have drawn in top professionals for the job. It helps that they are passionate about

the Park Lands. To Shane goes the credit and to the Park Lands goes the benefit. He will have the opportunity to fill you in later and show you the goods at the AGM.

The Committee fully realises the desirability of firing up younger warriors and deeply appreciates Shane's drive and contribution.

See you at the AGM.

Ian Gilfillan
President

“FOR KING & COUNTRY” (PART 1) ADELAIDE PARK LANDS’ MEMORIALS TO THE GREAT WAR 1914-18

Walter and Guy Dollman 2015

Just under 35,000 South Australians or 8% of the population of South Australia volunteered for service during World War 1. This equated to a remarkable 38% of all males aged from 18 to 44. Of these 5,511 were killed and 15,000 wounded on foreign soil and very few families remained unaffected by the death or injury of a loved one. War memorials were one way the community addressed its grief through a public recognition of the loss and sacrifice. A number of war memorials to the Great War have been established within the bounds of the Adelaide Park Lands. To mark the anniversary of Australia’s engagement in the *Great Conflict*, this survey of memorials within the Adelaide Park Lands introduces the most significant of these in temporal order of dedication. (The date of unveiling is indicated between chevrons.) This is the first of two parts reflecting on these memorials.

War Memorial Oak<1914>



On the 29th of August 1914, a brief 25 days after the declaration of war between the United Kingdom and Germany, the first WW1 memorial tree to be planted anywhere was an English Oak (*Quercus robur*) in Creswell Gardens on Adelaide Park Lands adjacent the River Torrens.

The English Oak was chosen to represent the ‘soundness, strength, solidity and restful beauty, [and] so well typified the characteristics of the British nation ... [it would] during centuries to come commemorate for many generations of their children’s children the greatest War Year and the most critical time of national trial that the



world had ever known’ (*The Register*, 17 August 1914).

It is also likely the first British memorial to WW1.

The oak tree, beside the recently developed Adelaide Oval and now 100+ years old, is healthy and measures 3.5 metres in trunk circumference with branches spreading to 15 metres from the centre. Fortunately it suffered no collateral damage from the oval redevelopment.

The Dardanelles Memorial<1915>



In the Lundie Gardens within the South Park Lands stands the first monument in Australia erected to soldiers of the Great War. It is dedicated to *Australasian* Soldiers and commemorates the landing and the many casualties of Anzac forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 25 April 1915. It was relocated in 1930 from an earlier nearby position where it had been at the centre of a grove of planted wattle trees. The central monument

was a 3.65m high granite obelisk, surrounded by a wooden pergola with wide openings on four sides. The rough stone base represented ‘the rugged hills up which the Australian soldiers had to climb’. Initially the obelisk had a flat stone surface on which a vase of flowers could be placed. It was later topped by a stone cross. The smooth stone at the apex symbolised victory.

The Advertiser of 8 September reported that two flowers typifying Australian flora had been selected for the site: the golden wattle (‘emblem of hope and glory’) and the black ‘Kennedy’ (*Kennedia nigricans*; ‘symbol of bereavement and sorrow’).

What is especially unusual and possibly unique is that this monument was erected and unveiled while troops were still hopelessly pinned down and suffering heavy casualties on the Gallipoli Peninsula – rather than after the campaign.

War Memorial Drive <1919>



The proposal for a “Soldiers’ Memorial Drive” was initiated by Lord Mayor Charles Glover (1870-1936). In 1918 Glover personally put up half the money needed to pave and beautify the section of the dirt track between Frome Road and Sir Edwin Smith Avenue and proposed it become a War Memorial drive. The Federal Government matched him with funds from a scheme to put returned soldiers to work and in March 1919 the tree planting and road paving started. Charles Glover, a great public benefactor also dipped into his own pocket to pay for the children’s

playgrounds that carry his name after becoming concerned the city children had nowhere to play.

West Terrace Cemetery <1920>



West Terrace Cemetery was established as an AIF Garden of Memory Cemetery and was the first in the Commonwealth. Funds were raised from the public matched by the State Government on a pound for pound basis up to 2500 pounds. Only those people who served in the First Australian Imperial Forces were eligible for burial there. It spans an area just under two hectares and contains the graves of 4155 ex service personnel, including four Victoria Cross (VC) recipients. It is bordered by a hedge and contains a seeding related to the original lone pine on Gallipoli. Gravestones are of the standard tablet design providing name, rank, unit and serial number and the date of death. The Commonwealth Government decided that, as this was the first Cemetery to be established on these lines, it would supply a Cross of Sacrifice as a central focus for the section. The first burial was that of Private J G J Hannan on 23 May 1920. The last was Sergeant P R (Roy) Inwood, a VC winner, in October 1971.

Lower North Adelaide Soldiers Memorial <1921>



Lower North Adelaide Soldiers Memorial commemorates World War One Soldiers and Airmen and is located in the Park Lands at the corner of Jerningham Street

and Mackinnon Parade. It was unveiled by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Archibald Weigall, on March 19 1921.

Two bronze plaques are affixed to the face with the lower plaque listing the names of those that enlisted from the district.

Cross of Sacrifice & Stone of Remembrance (Women's War Memorial) <1922>

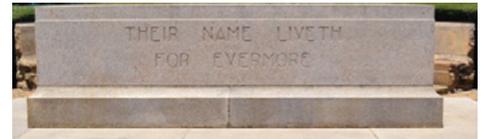


Featured around the globe in war cemeteries under control of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are two particular monuments: the *Cross of Sacrifice*, and the *Stone of Remembrance*. The Adelaide Women's War Memorial includes both a Cross of Sacrifice and a Stone of Remembrance positioned at opposite ends of Memory Garden located opposite St Peter's Cathedral.

The Cross of Sacrifice stands 11.6 metres (38 feet) high against which sits a bronze crusader's sword, and is aligned to face the facade of cathedral. A scroll with the names of Adelaide's lost is enclosed within the base. It and the accompanying Stone of Remembrance at the opposite end of the garden form a commemorative shrine from the women of South Australia to their fallen servicemen lost in the fields of France during the Great War (1914 – 18). The Cross was funded by the women of Adelaide and officially unveiled on Anzac Day 1922 in conjunction with the returned serviceman's parade which finished at the new memorial. A separate Stone of Remembrance was unveiled a year later on 25 April 1923. Today Anzac Day parades end at this War Memorial.

The Cross and Stone of Remembrance were aligned with the central axis of St

Peters Cathedral as is the magnificent statue to King George V on the southern side of Memorial Drive. Unfortunately a street tree on the Drive has been allowed to grow so as to obscure King George from this symbolic alignment. Its removal or a heavy pruning would re-establish the intended symmetry.



War Horse Memorial <1923>



The War Horse Memorial sits in Rundle Park on the corner of East Terrace and Botanic Road and commemorates the thousands of horses that served in the First World War. Horses were still used extensively in the war although they were increasingly vulnerable to modern artillery and the introduction of tanks. Of the 39 000 horses shipped from Australia only one, 'Sandy', returned. This was the horse of Major-General Sir William Bridges who commanded the AIF at Gallipoli where he was fatally wounded in May 1915. To the grief of their handlers, those not been killed in battle were either transferred to other armies or destroyed. Strong emotional feelings about the fate of these horses would have contributed to the motivation of the memorial.

The War Horse Memorial was first erected by public subscription in Victoria Square at the intersection of King William Street and Grote Street, and unveiled on 30 January 1923. The trough is 4.9m long and raised on a short stone base. The proportions and rough finish of the trough symbolise the strength and toughness of the bush horses, or walers, of the Australian Light Horse, which were highly prized.



Inscribed is:

“He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: He goeth on to meet the armed men. He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword,” (Job 39, 21 and 22.)

It held water for city work horses and those carting produce for the nearby Adelaide Central Market and at the time it was the only memorial of its kind in Australia.

At 8:00am on Anzac Day a service is held there to remember fallen horsemen with a dedication following to their horses. The War Horse Memorial water trough is adorned with apples, carrots and flowers in honour of the horses that did not return home from World War 1.

(All photos provided by Walter and Guy Dollman)

Continued in the next issue of the Gazette.

RIVERBANK: COMMERCIALIZING PARK LANDS

**Damien Mugavin,
Member of the APPA Committee**

In 2013 APPA made a detailed submission to the hearings held by the Development Policy Advisory Committee concerning proposals initiated by state government to rezone extensive sections of the Park Lands. The rezoning facilitates the use of areas of Park Lands near to the Festival Centre and the Casino for private development: Casino, Cinemas, Hotels, Licensed entertainment premises, Licensed premises, Motels, Tourist accommodation. The APPA submission emphasised the purposes of the Park Lands as stipulated in the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*.

APPA cannot over emphasise that the Adelaide Park Lands are invaluable and should not be fritted away to vested interests. In cities around the world, the valuing and protection of open space is increasingly given the highest

priority and they rue the day that open space was given over to inappropriate uses. Structures and buildings are being removed so that the open space becomes available for the benefit of citizens. And needless to say, the idea that somehow Adelaide is backward, not a world class city (whatever that means) because it has managed to retain so much of the Park Lands is laughable: Adelaide’s Park Lands are frequently cited as something to envy and imitate, if that were possible.

Yet it was announced some time ago that Walker Corporation is proposing a twenty story office development (north of Old Parliament House), for which height restrictions are being removed, so it will overlook both the old and new Parliament Houses. Perhaps the symbolism is appropriate! Additionally, Adelaide casino is proposing a luxury hotel extension that spills right across to the Playhouse, regardless of current access problems to the Playhouse. A 1400

space car park is being proposed; that would be by far the largest car park in Adelaide, almost double the size of the Rundle Street car park. Those proposals are nothing more than thinly veiled vested corporate interests acquiring the permanent occupation of public lands to the detriment of public use. The reality is that what is envisaged is the abandonment of open public areas and replacing them with commercial businesses.

Fortuitously, not one of these proposals has got under way so far, the key reason being none of them are viable without very significant government subsidy. Watch out for any announcements about state government contracting to lease office space and car parks. Already it has been reported that the government is committed to spending \$50 million on car parks and the roof plaza. (The Advertiser, “Festival plaza promised \$46.5m”, 12/02/2014, p8).

BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE – NORTH ADELAIDE DOG PARK

Ray Scheuboeck and Eve Craker

Anyone who's spent time working in Local Government will say trying to build something is often met with the a collective community response of 'Not in my back yard'. 'Not in my back yard' or NIMBY-ism is often thought of by local governments as a risk worth mitigating. But in effect NIMBY-ism is a reflection of passion and strong place attachment, which are the very essence of what should be captured in creating a place.

Seizing this passion and strong place attachment was the very process that Adelaide City Council went through in creating a nationally recognised dog park in the north east Park Lands of Adelaide City.

The catalyst, a 13 year old girl, and a resident of North Adelaide, presented her Ward Councillor with a petition with 60 signatures, requesting support for a fenced dog park in the City.

In response, Council conducted research into the locations of registered dog owners in the City, North Adelaide and our adjoining Council, Prospect. Research indicated that there was significant demand for a fenced dog park, a result that matched findings from the Dog and Cat Management Board, which identified that a fenced dog facility would provide an improved experience for dog owners and their dogs.

Initially this was a very project led approach as the location of the new Dog Park was identified by Council. By activating an underutilised piece of Park Lands that was once the home of junior cricket, the location ticked all the boxes from a Council perspective.

Adelaide City Council prides itself on genuine community engagement that invites people into the design of great places, where the pendulum can start to swing back towards the community.

Involving the community in decision making promotes strong working relationships and maximises knowledge and experience upon which the decisions are based, embracing a big community and a small Council.

To do so, a three phase community engagement strategy was developed, a strategy that identified key stakeholders and their level of involvement in the decision making process.

The community engagement results illustrated that there was a high place attachment to an area that was thought to be underutilised and one that Council believed the community wouldn't value in its current form. The residents in particular had strong association to the semi-natural feel the North Adelaide Park Lands brought to their neighbourhood. To embrace this, the design adopted reflected residents desire for a semi-natural feel.

In addition, the feedback identified the design should incorporate:

- Design of two fenced dog areas, one for small and one for large dogs
- Amenities for dog owners and dogs (i.e. shelters and tunnels)
- Retention of a predominantly natural landscape
- Preservation of existing flora
- Accessibility through a number of entry points

Following the opening of the North Adelaide Dog Park (NADP), a community member established a Facebook page titled 'Friends of North Adelaide Dog Park'. The initiator of this page cleverly used it as a platform to garner support for what she, and clearly others, saw as a short coming of the park – a lack of lighting.

The Facebook page became a useful tool for Council staff who were able to provide information about management issues such as a temporary closure for spraying, and promptly find out about issues concerning the users, such as broken or damaged infrastructure. To date the Facebook page has nearly 600 likes.

Nine months after the NADP opened, Council partnered with the University of South Australia to evaluate the park. Two students from the School of Health Sciences undertook the evaluation as part of their practicums. The evaluation methodology included observation,

intercept surveys and self-completed surveys. The surveys were available at the park, via Council's website and through direct mail to registered dog owners.

285 surveys were completed, with 108 completed via direct mail, 89 completed on line, and 88 completed on site.

Not surprisingly, City residents represented the largest proportion of visitors, being 43%. However, the postcode analysis showed that the NADP serviced far more than City residents, with visitation coming from 59 suburbs across metropolitan Adelaide.

Of some debate leading up to the City's first fenced dog park, was the merit of providing a fenced facility compared with a large unfenced facility, and the impact the former would have on people's activity levels. Council is still sitting on the fence with this matter (pun intended), as just over half (51%) of people said their physical activity levels had increased since the NADP opened.

One third of visitors attended the Park two to three times per week, whilst just over a quarter (27%) went once a week. Nearly one in five visitors (18%) attended the NADP most days of the week.

Interestingly, the greatest benefit to visitors was socialisation. 'Socialising' was the highest reported activity (230 responses) by visitors to the Park, followed by 'walking their dog' (211 responses) and 'playing with their dog' (187 responses). Not surprisingly, over two thirds (69%) of visitors stated that their social interactions had increased since the opening of the Park.

Satisfaction levels with the NADP were high, with three quarters of respondents rating the park 8 out of 10 or higher. The most common reason given for this rating was the provision of the 'small dogs' and 'all dogs' areas.

Of concern, with less than 12 months of use, were the comments about the condition of the Park and the need to undertake more maintenance and 'improvements'. Typical of what had been previously reported about dog parks, this one was being loved to death.

Poor drainage was causing severe erosion issues particularly in the 'all dogs' section. Eventually, it was decided to trial the swapping of the two areas to see if the small dogs would allow the grass to recover. To date, this is proving successful.

Of the suggested improvements to the Park, it was not surprising to see lighting as the highest suggestion (71 responses) with maintenance the second most frequent (32 responses).

Adelaide City Council in the last 12 to 18 months has become increasingly focused on placemaking. Part of this approach is to work with the community to create places that are vibrant, boast a strong sense of community ownership and are sustained by the strong place attachment of the users.

As mentioned earlier, Council initially underestimated the place attachment that many residents had for what Council saw as underdeveloped and therefore underutilised city Park Lands. By thoughtfully designing the NADP, Council managed to grow that place attachment to include people from around metropolitan Adelaide.

It is Council's intention now to investigate and devise ways to provide lighting at the Park and enhance the appearance of the park without a significant increase in maintenance. In fact, Council believes some of the maintenance issues can be reduced with some complementary natural



Photo courtesy of the Adelaide City Council

landscaping. As part of the lighting investigations, Council is also looking into sustainable lighting options including 'poo power'. There is certainly no lack of poo at the North Adelaide Dog Park.

In moving these ideas forward, Council has the opportunity to work with the community in achieving a shared vision for the NADP. For co-creation to flourish effective place governance must be developed and implemented. The Friends of North Adelaide Facebook Page demonstrates that this is heading in the right direction.

The success of this Park has created interest for a similar facility in the south

Park Lands. It is tempting to simply replicate what we provided in North Adelaide. But to achieve that same level of place attachment, it is important that Council adopt a similar engagement and design process in creating a new 'place capital' for the south.

Authors

Ray Scheuboeck and *Eve Craker* are the Recreation Planner and Recreation and Sport Coordinator for Adelaide City Council.

The North Adelaide Dog Park was awarded 'Best Park' at the National Parks and Leisure Australia Awards in 2013. The Park was designed by *Swanbury Penglase*.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19th April 2015 at 10.00am

Don Pyatt Hall (within the Norwood Town Hall)
175 The Parade Norwood
 (entrance off George Street)

Guest Speaker:

Stephanie Johnston, APPA nominee to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority and advocate for World Heritage Listing of SA assets including the Park Lands

The AGM will also feature the premiere of APPA's promotional video - a short animated video clip to raise awareness of the long term erosion of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Members and their guests also will be able to enjoy a continual sideshow, featuring hundreds of APPA Park Lands photos, and a display of new APPA merchandise from the APPA shop.

Doors open at 9.30am for the 10.00am start

Tea and coffee will be served prior to the meeting

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR (ADVERTISER)

What really DISTINGUISHES ADELAIDE above all other cities of the world is the unique unbroken necklace of PARK LANDS surrounding the City.

We do present added charms, like the expanded Oval, exciting array of Festivals, Wine and Culinary Treats, the marvellous Tour Down Under.

However our attempts to match let alone outdo the expensive developments of other cities are at best transient delights, soon to be outdone again by others.

No other city could afford to try catch-up with Adelaide in the Park Lands stakes. It would break their budgets if they even tried!

Lets celebrate the UNIQUE DISTINCTION we inherited and protect it from further predation.

Sadly too many decision makers are unaware how vulnerable our Park Lands are to thoughtless disinterest.

They won't grow again after loss or depredation.

Ian Gilfillan
President
Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc.

PARK LANDS PHOTO RESOURCE

To safeguard the future of the Park Lands it will not be sufficient if there is only a small group of people who love them dearly. The Park Lands will be better protected if there is a groundswell of community affection and sense of public pride and ownership, among many thousands of South Australians. The more people there are who appreciate the Park Lands, the more difficult it will be for politicians and sectoral interests to annex and restrict any further portions.

To that end, APPA is engaged in an on-going project, compiling a public library of photos that highlight, to a wide audience, exactly where our Parks are, their names, and how beautiful and varied they are. The library contains more

than 300 photos sorted into 36 "albums" i.e. one album for each of our 30 Parks and each of our six Squares.

This project was originally conceived as a drip feed of just one Adelaide Park Lands "photo of the day" but after almost a year, with a catalogue growing at the rate of one more photo every day, it has become a community resource.

You can subscribe to see the "photo of the day" each day, through APPA's social media outlets: Facebook or Twitter or Instagram. Alternatively, simply browse the entire collection at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/adel_park_land_preservation/sets/

Most importantly, tell your friends (and non-APPA members) about it!

Membership: Membership of the Association is open to all who support the objectives of the Association.

Save paper and reduce costs: By providing your email address the Gazette can be read online, so saving APPA printing costs and postage. Send your email address to The Secretary: shane.sody@gmail.com

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