

PARKLANDS NEWS

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000

Patron: Robert Champion de Crespigny AC

August 2003 Number 12

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Dequetteville Terrace high-rise development

Redevelopment of Victoria Park Racecourse

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Review of SA Motor Sport Act

Hindmarsh Square RAA site

President's letter

We have spawned a monster! I can hardly express my disgust at the annexation, now in progress, of a portion of Creswell Gardens for the spread of the Adelaide Oval! To have this insult added to the injury of the monstrous lights at the oval is very hard to bear.

This may seem strong language but unless those of us who care protest loud and long it will be done again and again. Maybe another organisation or even the same SACA will push for a further alienation and annexation of Parklands.

Please use this outrage of a government authorised amputation of part of the Parklands as a way of enrolling new members.

Ian Gilfillan

From the Vice President

And to add a little to Ian's letter: I read that SACA wants an **11-metre** video screen added as a permanent fixture next to the Adelaide Oval's heritage-listed scoreboard. Just what was needed—another 11 metres of electronic advertising between overs.

What once was a world-class oval of outstanding beauty is fast losing its character. Will it eventually be 'mugged' into just another stadium? (My apologies to J K Rowling.)

Adelaide City Council has since refused SACA permission to erect the screen. **APPA warmly congratulates Council for this sensible decision.** We encourage Council to stick to its guns, and to vigorously fight any appeal.

Peter Austin



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WELCOME to our new members

Aileen Aujard
Patricia Cohen
Stephen Forbes
C L Hargrave
Peter and Jenny Noblett
Sandy Pugsley
Jane Roots
Damien Smith

This newsletter is printed on Tudor RP Laser 100 per cent Australian recycled paper (80gsm) in line with APPA's green aspirations.

Next newsletter deadline:
31 October 2003

Successful centenary celebration promises more to come

A special event to celebrate 100 years of preserving the Parklands was held in the Botanic Gardens' Goodman Building in May 2003. Herbert Girardet, the guest speaker, spoke authoritatively on 'Great cities—Great parks'. He highlighted the importance of parklands to the sustainability of a city and its people and talked of other cities surrounded by parklands. His international reputation for expertise in cultural ecology and sustainable green cities is well-deserved.

The Goodman Building was a symbolic location in that it is a restored, heritage listed building on land that was formerly Parklands. The building's retention and restoration was, and still is for some, controversial. One of APPA's objectives is to return alienated land to open space for recreational use. Therefore, it was a bitter-sweet experience for some APPA members to attend the celebration in that particular venue.

The audience of 90 included past and present APPA members, state government and Adelaide City Council representatives and people from kindred organisations. The newly elected Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, thanked Herbert Girardet and took the opportunity to expand on his own views on the Parklands. In particular, he stated that he would like to see the Parklands managed as one entity rather than as 26 separate parks.

Great food for the mind was complemented by great food and wine for the body. 'Gourmécues' prepared the supper, and Ian Gilfillan generously supplied the orange juice and champagne.

The event was organised by Jim Daly and other members of the APPA committee. A special effort was made by Brian Mitchell, APPA Secretary, who in addition to managing ticket sales had to rectify the effects of a mistake about the starting time printed in *The City Messenger*. He arrived very early to ensure that no-one was left out in the cold, thus



An appreciative audience listens to Herbert Girardet

giving the term 'longest serving' a quite different meaning.

After such a successful event, committee members are thinking about other special occasions that could be organised. What do you think?

Gunta Groves and Jim Daly

What are the Parklands worth?

If you ever had any doubt about the value of the Parklands in terms of dollars, you will be interested to hear that current apartment developments factor in up to \$100 000 per apartment for Parklands views, according to some advertisements and opinions in the press.

On the other hand, you may not be pleased to see such multi-storey developments abutting the Parklands. APPA is concerned about the possibility of an increase in the number of high-rise developments cutting out the views from the Parklands across to the Adelaide Hills and elsewhere.

What is the value that we as a community place on the views from and across the Parklands? Will the amenity of the Parklands be damaged by the imposition of high-rise developments on our lines of sight? Could the creep of slow but

continuous development lead to a hedge of high-rises around the Parklands?

When pondering these questions, remember the irony of developers benefiting from the struggles of APPA and others in conserving open space and protecting our heritage, often in the face of attempts to alienate bits of the Parklands with unsuitable uses.

Gunta Groves

UPDATE ON THE APPA WEB SITE

Being a part-time and an amateur Web site builder isn't easy! I have learned this the hard way, in redesigning the APPA Web site from the ground up. The site is *nearly* there, having been posted for limited test viewing with the help of Cliff Hignett. The Committee expresses, once again, its thanks and appreciation to Cliff for all his assistance.

By the time of the next newsletter you will be able to access the updated site. We will then be looking for your feedback to improve it, and to remove any remaining bugs. We hope that this Web site will become an important tool for APPA, both in communication with our members and in publicising our cause and activities to the 'browsing' public.

Peter Austin

Dutch Elm Disease

In the last few months there have been some erroneous statements made about the presence of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in Australia. A query by Kyle Penick sent to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry—Australia (AFFA) resulted in a very helpful reply by Robert Ingram, Information Officer and Greg McLindon of Technical and Administrative Services, Plant Biosecurity.

On 12 June Robert Ingram reported that there was no Dutch Elm Disease in Australia. He thought, however, that the misunderstanding may have stemmed from a false alarm that was reported on 24 January 1997. Twigs from two trees (later removed and destroyed), showing DED-like symptoms, were submitted for testing for *Ophiostoma spp.* Extensive testing found no evidence of DED. Two trees were removed and destroyed. Further testing, also negative for DED, was carried out by Prof Clive Brasier at the Forest Research Station, Surrey UK.

Robert Ingram also described how the Dutch elm beetle (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) was discovered in the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria in February 1989. Damage to Golden Elms there suggested that the beetle may have been there for 10 years. In 1992 it was causing major damage at Berwick. In 1994 it had reached Melbourne and was gradually spreading into its suburbs.

An Elm Leaf Beetle Liaison Committee was formed in September 1989, and the Victorian government imposed embargos on movement of elm material, provision of access for inspectors, and obligations on occupiers to treat trees. Biological control of the beetle was attempted with the release of a eulophid wasp egg parasitoid (*Tetrastichus gallerucae*) in 1990 and a tachinid fly (*Erynniopsis antennata*) in 1992.

In California, integrated pest management programs had been

developed and these have been implemented in Victoria. Two elm leaf beetle parasites were available and were imported and released into Victoria in 1990. *Bacillus thuringiensis* based biological insecticides are available for use against elm leaf beetle and are being trialled in Victoria. Bark banding with carbaryl is effective against larvae crawling down trees to pupate and can result in approximately 90 per cent mortality. Repeated treatments are usually necessary. Canopy fogging with insecticides such as malathion are effective although for the most part environmentally undesirable in urban areas. Potential control costs are estimated to be \$1 million annually.

The beetle was recorded in New South Wales and South Australia during 2002 and in February 2003 in Launceston, Tasmania.

AFFA provides interesting fact sheets on many aspects of their work (go to their Web site at <<http://www.affa.gov.au>>). Fact Sheet No 27 provided some of the details below.



Some facts about DED

Dutch Elm Disease is caused by the fungus *Ophiostoma ulmi* which prevents the flow of sap within the elm's vascular system. It can kill a tree over just one season. The fungus is transmitted by two species of bark beetles or by root grafting and affects all elm species though the Chinese Elm is relatively resistant.



Beetle attack results in skeletonisation of the leaves and premature leaf drop. Beetle feeding weakens the trees and may make them subject to wind breakage. The two main types of bark beetle that spread DED are *Hylurgopinus rufipes* and *Scolytus multistriatus*.



DED was first identified in the Netherlands and northern France in 1919. It had been brought from the Dutch East Indies during the late 19th century, having been introduced there most probably from the Himalayas.



The disease originally spread from Europe in 1930 to North America and is still destroying millions of trees there. New strains of the disease appeared in the 1960s and has now killed 90 per cent of England's elms and 50 per cent of elms in Europe. In 1989 New Zealand's elms became infected.



Australia has one of the few disease-free populations of mature European elms in the world.



The Adelaide Parklands are a large repository for these trees and this may add another reason for World Heritage listing of the Parklands.



One of the most likely pathways that could lead to the introduction of the disease into Australia is through the importation of bark beetles concealed on imported pallets, but imported timber without bark and timber articles are also a risk.



There is a total prohibition on the importation of plants or parts of the plant of any member of the elm family (Ulmaceae).

Gunta Groves and Kyle Penick

Sources

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry—Australia <www.affa.gov.au> accessed 28 June 2003 and personal communication

Elmguard ArborScience Inc Toronto Canada <www.elmguard.com/ded/history_of_dutch_elm_disease.htm> accessed 30 June 2003

‘Managing Light’s vision’— Where are we now?

In 2002, the South Australian Government formed the Parklands Management Working Group to explore the options for managing and preserving the Adelaide Parklands. The government’s intention is to develop legislation incorporating the new management structure. Central to this exploration was a community consultation process which gave feedback to the Working Group. Originally, the deadline for feedback was published as 30 April 2003 but due, possibly, to a poor response the timeline was extended to 31 May. In the end, 110 people participated in community forums, 160 respondents used the community feedback form (including 32 who responded via the form on the Department of Environment and Heritage Web site), and 46 written submissions were received (some from organisations representing thousands of members), including one from APPA.

Current management

Usually the management of an asset is very much controlled by ownership of the asset. In the case of the Parklands, ownership is a very complicated issue which is only now being researched.

Since 1852, most of the Parklands have been managed by the Adelaide City Council (ACC). The ACC implemented a Parklands Management Strategy in 1999 which has guided its capital works, maintenance and general oversight.

Who pays?

The present annual cost of \$12 million comes mainly from ratepayers in the City of Adelaide (water to the value of approximately \$1 million is provided by the South Australian Government).

Proposed options for future management

Three options have been put forward by the government:

- continued management by the ACC
- management by a statutory authority such as a Parklands Trust
- management by an ACC and government partnership.

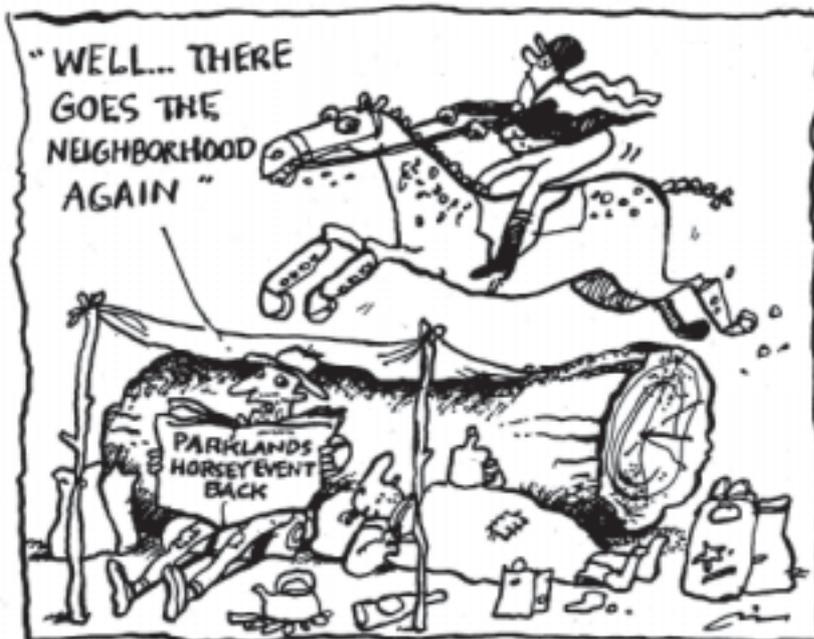
In addition to the management option finally selected, there would be a broad-based advisory group (established as a separate entity or as a subcommittee of the government’s proposed Open Space Advisory Committee) which would provide strategic advice to the government and the manager of the Parklands. Membership would include representatives from the community, the government, the ACC, and councils adjoining the Parklands.

APPA’s submission

A three-page submission was forwarded by Ian Gilfillan on behalf of the Association. The submission was based on member feedback at the last AGM. The following is a brief summary of the main points made.

- The Adelaide Parklands were purchased in fee simple in 1839 and thereby alienated from the Crown. They are not Crown Lands, nor are they owned by the ACC. Ignorance of the true legal status of the Parklands places them under threat.
- A Parklands Act is necessary. Without strong protective

CLIVE



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'A Parklands Act is necessary.'

legislation in a dedicated Act, control and management will always be at risk of being overridden by state governments and development interests.

- The ACC is to be congratulated for its efforts so far, but there have been some decisions made that have been against the long-term best interests of the Parklands.
- All leases, licences and permits affecting the Parklands should be public documents.
- The Parklands Act should make specific provision for the above, as well as provision for financial auditing and public reporting.
- The Parklands Act should describe the legal status of and define the Parklands and the six squares.
- APPA's preferred management option is management by an independent trust which should have its own Act separate from the Parklands Act and with a five-year 'sunset' clause to allow its re-assessment. The trust should have the authority to seek tenders for all or part management of the Parklands and to enter agreements about management.
- Members of the trust should be nominated by the responsible government Minister and approved by both Houses of Parliament.
- The trust should comprise seven members: one representative from each of the ACC, the Local Government Association, the state government, and relevant

incorporated organisations supportive of the objectives of the Parklands Act; and three members from respondents to an invitation to the general public of South Australia to participate.

- The trust should have guaranteed adequate funding, independent of lease revenue, to manage the Parklands.
- The Parklands should always retain the title 'City of Adelaide Parklands'. In recognition of this and because the ACC is the prime beneficiary of the Parklands it should continue to make a financial contribution to their upkeep. As well, the state government, on behalf of all South Australians, should provide from general revenue the cost of Parklands maintenance, restoration and rehabilitation.
- APPA believes that the Parklands are a prime candidate for World Heritage listing. The requirements for World Heritage listing should be acknowledged in the framing of the Parklands Act to avoid any potentially adverse outcomes.
- APPA requests that the state government places the Parklands on the State Heritage Register immediately.

Outcomes from community consultation

A report, *Managing Light's vision. Options for the management of Adelaide's Parklands. Consultation report*, was released on 22 June 2003. The Environment and

Conservation Minister John Hill handed the report over to Lord Mayor Michael Harbison. The Environment and Conservation Minister was reported in *The Advertiser* (Jemma Chapman, 23 June p9) as saying that there was support for new legislation to protect the Parklands from 'inappropriate' development, to increase controls over events and to return alienated land to the Parklands.

The most favoured management option (65 per cent of submissions) was by a trust or similar body. About 30 per cent of submissions favoured full ACC control of Parklands management.

In response to the report, the ACC voted on 23 June to establish a Parklands committee comprising council members and staff to ensure continued implementation of the council's Parklands Management Strategy.

Latest developments

The community consultation report is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Web site at <www.environment.sa.gov.au/dehaa/latest_news.html>.

The Parklands Management Working Group is preparing its final report to the government and the council and this should become available soon. Jim Daly, as a member of the Parklands Management Working Group, will keep APPA informed as decisions are made.

Gunta Groves

REMEMBER!

**Coffee morning 11am 5 November
Adelaide Town Hall Garden Cafe**

HIGH-RISE ACTION

A proposed 11-storey tower development on the northern corner of Dequetteville Terrace and Rundle Street was recently rejected by the Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Council. APPA was one of many parties objecting to this proposal, which we believe is excessive in scale and totally at odds with the adjacent heritage-listed Maltings buildings, not to mention being a visual blight on the Parklands environment.

The developers have appealed Council's decision in the Environment, Resources and Development Court, and APPA has applied to be joined as a party to this process, thereby ensuring our voice will continue to be heard. The process begins on 28 July 2003 with a compulsory conference to explore the parties' differences. We'll keep you posted.

What is your council doing?

Your Committee supports any council's move to limit building heights adjoining the Parklands. Unley Council has had some notable successes in this direction. So why don't the suburban councils change their development plans and clearly prohibit any new buildings over (say) three storeys in height along the roads abutting the Parklands? Is it just too hard to persuade the state government to agree to such changes? Ask your local council!

Peter Austin

More action required

The recent Parklands management survey resulted in only 206 responses. Yet it was reported in the *Sunday Mail* (11 May 2003 p6) that, in a telephone survey of 300 people in the metropolitan area, the Parklands and the city's design were thought to be the most attractive features of metropolitan Adelaide. How do we get people interested in the management issue?

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR PHOTO PROJECT

Your Committee is considering a Parklands visual-history project that will need a long-term, low-level commitment from a hardy band of volunteers. The project involves the photographic documentation of the Parklands—now, and again, and again; at intervals that will be determined largely by the number of willing participants.

Digital photography, with its easy storage and retrieval of images, is the great tool that enables such an historically valuable project. We envisage full coverage of the Parklands by taking photos from a number of fixed points to record the changing vegetation, people, buildings, skyline, weather, and so on. Over a number of years such a record will become increasingly valuable for all sorts of reasons.

It needs a single step to start this journey—your commitment of a couple of hours, on a regular basis, to exercise your photographic talents. And your willingness to ensure someone else will act as a backup when you are away on holidays, for instance. Hopefully you will have a digital camera available, but if not APPA has one 'official' camera for sharing on a project like this.

This call for volunteers is to sound out our membership's support. If insufficient, the project will not happen, but we can only try! To register your interest, please e-mail <clamp@senet.com.au> with the words 'APPA Photo Project' in the subject line, or write a note to us at PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000. We will respond to all, after allowing three or four weeks for the news to spread.

Peter Austin

Did you know ...?

To tell whether a plant belongs to the elm family, look at the base of the leaf blade where it meets the central vein. If one side is lower than the other side, you have a plant of the family Ulmaceae.

SOCIAL HISTORY OF ADELAIDE'S PARKLANDS

In 2002, I was awarded a modest grant by the Adelaide City Council to write a social history of the Adelaide Parklands.

For the first part of the grant between July and November last year, I completed a 55 000 word history terminating in the early 1960s. The draft history of the first part, which is available for reading by anyone interested, is held at the City Archives with a 20 page chronology of important dates. The second part of the grant which now runs from July to November of 2003 will enable me to bring the Parklands history up to the present day.

My aim is to produce a general overview of the use of the Parklands by the people as a place to attend events, play or watch sport and to meet for recreational purposes. This also includes their abuse by individuals, groups of people and the several tiers of government.

The topics include the prevailing activities in any given period. For instance, before 1842, over 200 families lived illegally in the Parklands before they were finally evicted. At the same time many migrants had short legal stays at Emigration Square. Also included are such topics as entertainers, murders, public executions, Adelaide's Hyde Park Corner, corroborees, The Willows, the several Torrens dams, Continental Sundays, trenches and air raid shelters, the building of Veale Gardens, Rymill and Bonython parks, Pinky Flat, and the snake, koala and deer parks. Uncovering the various stories has brought to light the quirky, absurd, tragicomic and the more bizarre happenings which make for a colourful past. Presently, I am researching a chapter on 'Sex on the Park Lands', which includes a segment on gay history, and the history of weddings in the Parklands.

While the entire project will be available when completed, a more modest but well illustrated and affordable publication will also be produced from the overall project.

Patricia Sumerling, Professional Historian

Renaming the parks

Kaurna names are now being used for the parks managed by the Adelaide City Council (ACC).

As of 1 July, ACC has been using the Kaurna names followed by the park number in brackets in all its official material. After 1 January 2004, only the Kaurna name will be used. To help people get used to the new names, ACC published a 'desk pad' edition of the map of the City of Adelaide in *About Adelaide* (July 2003). On page 2 of that paper, it stated: '... use of the Aboriginal names for various City sites supports the Council's

Reconciliation Vision Statement released in 1997 which acknowledges the prior occupation of Adelaide by the Kaurna people ...'.

The Geographical Names Advisory Committee has approved the new names for River Torrens (Karrawirra Parri—'red gum forest river'), the Main Lake Botanic Gardens (Kainka Wirra—'red gum forest') and Victoria Square (Tarnpanyangga—'red kangaroo Dreaming'). They are to be used together with existing names, thus: 'River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri'.

Signs with the new names began to be installed in July.

Here are some more new names endorsed by Kaurna communities:

- Park 14: Mullawirraburka
- Park 16: Bakkabakkandi
- Park 21: Walyo Yerta
- Park 24: Tambawodli
- Park 29: Tandotittingga.

Named parks within the currently numbered parks (eg Ellis Park) retain their names.

Gunta Groves

COMPETITION—MAKE HISTORY

Leave your mark on the history of the Parklands. In this centenary of preserving the Parklands, what have you been drinking? Celebrate the character of our unique Parklands with a 'signature' drink.

Create a Parklands signature drink

There are three categories for you to enter:

**alcoholic
non-alcoholic
for mental stimulation only (not for drinking)**

The winner in each category will receive a set of inaugural Parklands button badges (see below), promoting our treasured resource. All entries will be judged by the editor and no correspondence will be entered into (and help in testing will not be needed).

Send your recipes to: Newsletter Editor, Parklands Signature Drink Competition, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall
Adelaide SA 5000

Competition closes on 31 October 2003. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.



Button badge designs © 2003 GG

