

PARKLANDS NEWS

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
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www.adelaide-parklands.org

Patron: Robert Champion de Crespigny AC

March 2004 Number 14

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing
Redevelopment of Victoria Park Racecourse
Biodiversity survey
Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings
Review of SA Motor Sport Act
Hindmarsh Square RAA site
Adelaide Bowling Club's activities
Hurtle Square redevelopment

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Next newsletter deadline:
30 April 2004

President's letter

On behalf of the Committee may I wish you all a Happy New Year! My first 'new' job is to welcome David Plumridge to the Committee. He was co-opted to replace Jim Daly (a formidable task). David has been Mayor of Salisbury and now lives in the city where he shows a passion for the Parklands. Jim resigned from the Committee at the end of last year to avoid a conflict of interest in his new role as a member of the Open Space Advisory Committee. He was a valuable and hard-working APPA Committee member and we look forward to seeing him back on the Committee when his other role finishes.

Another hard-working Committee member, Kyle Penick, is currently away caring for his parents in the US. We look forward to his return and send our best wishes to them all.

'Old' issues remain: there are several before us:

- concerns at the evolution of the Adelaide Bowls Club to an 'Adelaide Anything Goes Club' as long as it can keep afloat
- plans for a commercial underground car park extending under Hindmarsh Square
- plans to fell five significant trees in Hurtle Square
- plans to beef up Victoria Park as a seven-day-a-week function centre
- the inordinate time taken to erect infrastructure for the Clipsal 500 and then the inordinate time to take it down again



- mumbblings that the 'cuckoo' Next Generation is making things very uncomfortable for the 'parents and offspring' of the Memorial Drive Tennis Centre (who are the prime lessees, with Next Generation as underlessees of the Tennis Centre).

I will be communicating with the Lord Mayor and the Minister for Planning on these issues.

A significant 'new' issue is that this year the government will introduce legislation determining who will control the Parklands and how. The result will be critical for the survival of the Parklands, for this century at least.

Thank you so much for your support last year. Let us continue to work for the further enhancement of the Parklands, and attract more members to help us!

Ian Gilfillan

COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management plans are in the process of being developed for the Parklands

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires Adelaide City Council (ACC) to prepare Community Land Management Plans for all community land, including the Adelaide Parklands.

Council intends to use this legislative requirement as an opportunity to develop a consistent and coherent management program that anticipates future community needs, facilitates effective decision making and encourages sustainable land uses and management practices.

Community Land Management Plans will set out the goals, objectives and criteria for Council authorities to manage community land. As part of its plan preparation Adelaide City Council will provide a range of opportunities for community input to ensure that park management reflects a diverse range of community values.

Key objectives of the Community Land Management Plans include:

- the generation of a common understanding of how the land will be managed
- consistent decision making based on sound policy
- more accountable and consistent administrative processes

- clear general principles which result in responsive and sound policy decisions.

Community consultation will occur in the early stages of the process to ensure that community ideas are reflected in the plans. We will be operating information booths in Rundle Mall, Central Market, Womad and at selected suburban shopping centres. There will also be Park Open Days at a number of locations throughout the Parklands. Details of the open days will be available on the Council's Web site and in the Messenger Press.

Adelaide City Council would appreciate input from members of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association and we look forward to meeting with you during the consultation process.

Further information about Community Land Management Plans, including the consultation program, can be obtained from our Web site at <<http://www.adelaidecity.council.com>>.

Alternatively, if you wish to speak to a Park Lands Officer, contact the Adelaide City Council Customer Centre on 8203 7203.

Anthony Burke, Park Lands Officer ACC

KENT TOWN HIGH RISE DEFEATED

As reported in previous newsletters, your Committee was active in opposing a proposed high-rise residential development on Dequetteville Terrace, opposite the old Kent Town Brewery site. The proposed 10-storey building was in our opinion an entirely inappropriate development on that site and, moreover, was singularly unattractive in its bulk and form. It would have had a strongly negative impact on Parklands vistas in that area.

Although planning staff of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Council had recommended development approval, councillors refused development consent (for which we thank them). The developers appealed to the ERDC Court, and APPA was among the many witnesses appearing for Council in that action.

Some extracts from the judgment:

'It would be a massive structure. Its large mass would result in it sitting uncomfortably with all immediately surrounding development, including the Kent Town Brewery complex ...'

'In its relationship with the dwelling on its eastern side we can only say, to use words from seminal urban design texts, that it is "bad mannered" in the extreme ...'

'The proposal would be an overdevelopment of the site. Its scale and mass are well beyond that which is envisaged by the Development Plan.'

'... we conclude that the proposal offends the relevant provisions of the Development Plan to the extent that it should not be approved. The decision of the Council to refuse the proposal was correct and will be upheld ...'

Your Committee is gratified that, on your behalf, we played some part in helping to stop another visual assault on the Parklands. Development is inevitable, but it must be good development and not 'bad mannered' in the extreme'.

Peter Austin

WEB SITE UPDATE

Log on to <<http://www.adelaide-parklands.org>> to watch the evolving drama. Better yet, help us to make it what it should be by contributing ideas and material. The easiest way to do that is to phone Peter Austin or use the e-mail button on the Web site to get to <appa@senet.com.au>.

Alternatively, use any of the contacts given on the last page of the newsletter. Your information will be passed on to Peter who is currently 'Web master'.

Bush for Life site in Tuttangga

Not far from the towering buildings of Adelaide's CBD, small groups of dedicated Trees for Life Inc (TFL) volunteer Bushcarers are down on their hands and knees conserving remnant plant species in the Parklands.

Three Bushcarers work opposite St Andrew's Hospital on South Terrace, while five work in the north Parklands. The sites were chosen in consultation with the appropriate staff of the Adelaide City Council and TFL.

Over the last three years at the Bush for Life site in Tuttangga ('Grass Place', previously Park 17), there have been two main surprises. The first is the remarkably positive response from the public: 168 people from all walks of life have expressed their appreciation and interest in the restoration of our indigenous vegetation. Three visitors have become Bushcarers after seeing the site, and a Tothill Ranges farmer has started to conserve remnant vegetation on her property.

The second surprise, and an inspiration, is the remnant plant species. Within the degraded site of less than half an acre, twenty local, vascular plant species have been identified so far: ten grass species, two lilies and eight herbs including the Pink Garland-lily. Several of these plant species have state and/or regional conservation status. As the competition from weeds for light, space, moisture and nutrients is gradually removed by the trained Bushcarers, using minimum disturbance methods, the regeneration of the grasses and herbs has been spectacular.

The Tuttangga Bush for Life site is in the Grey Box–South Australian Blue Gum Woodland area of the Parklands. In this vegetation association, the Grey Box would have been the dominant species of the uppermost strata. There is not one remnant Grey Box left in the Parklands, probably because of the excellent burning qualities of its wood. The Bushcarers, therefore,

have collected propagules with permission (eg seeds and cuttings) for this and other species from the nearest remnant plants, propagated them and reinstated them at the site where, despite the drought and without irrigation, they are now flourishing.

In future editions of *Parklands News* the beauty and values of our indigenous vegetation and the small fauna species which are now starting to move into the site will be explored.

Janet Subagio



(Left) Remnant grasses and herbs of the Grey Box Woodland, Bush for Life site, Tuttangga. (Right) An ancient remnant Grey Box in the Arboretum, Waite Agricultural Institute, Urrbrae. (Both photos taken by Janet Subagio)

The hurt in Hurtle Square

Five significant trees in Hurtle Square will most probably be put to death soon. The people redesigning the square claim that they plan to put in 62 new trees and 8751 additional plants like perennials, bulbs, hedge plants and shrubs. This seems good, except that the five mature trees still will have gone, together with the animal habitats offered by their imperfections. I don't think the possums, parrots and other birds will find the shrubs, hedges and lines of upright trees along the main road very desirable. And, of course, there is the issue of maintenance, water use and rubbish traps created by the 8751 low-growing plants.

The invitation by the Adelaide City Council (ACC) to make submissions regarding the tree removals resulted in nine representations: two 'fully supportive' and seven raising objections (according to the architects managing the square's redesign). Interestingly, the architects 'do not consider that there is any merit in

opening a debate into the tree assessment' (Danvers Schulz Holland Architects Pty Ltd, letter to ACC dated 28.12.03, p 1). The assessment was done to justify removing the five trees and yet the architects are apparently not interested in discussing the very basis for the decision.

In that same letter to ACC the architects go on to say: 'It should also be noted that this approach was clearly outlined and discussed in detail during the community consultation sessions, that were both heavily advertised, and notified to immediate residents via a postal drop. The proposed Masterplan for Hurtle Square signed off by participants in the consultation sessions clearly notes the requirement for tree removal to achieve the project aims' (p 2).

If ever you needed proof that we should be conscientious in watching the press for consultation

announcements and making the effort to respond, this is it. No doubt the architects genuinely believe that they have consulted appropriately and that their actions are endorsed by all interested parties.

The final decision was made on 19 January. The outcome was predictable, and Kyle Penick's summary statement in his submission opposing the removal of one particular tree, rings true: 'Killing this tree will be a nightmare for "The Forest of Dreams"'.
To add insult to injury, Kelly Henderson's submission, although complying with requirements for submissions, did not even get considered, for which the ACC apologised in a special meeting with her on 23 January. This meeting resulted in a stay of execution until legal aspects surrounding the whole sorry saga are explored.

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Gunta Groves

A letter from our overseas correspondent

Dear Members

Aging parents—we love them:

Their needs have brought me back once again to the high snowy elevations of northern Arizona. Here the university's excellent library is open till 11.30pm (not bad for a town of 60 000) and its computer facilities are my lifeline for news of the Parklands. It also affords the opportunity to continue research on World Heritage and other topics.

Arbor Day: Presently I have obtained historical information about Arbor Day, its spread within America and to other countries. Adelaide's huge 20 June 1889 celebration involving some 5000 school children seems to have been the world's first outside North America. Details of this event will be featured in a later newsletter.

AGM: Our Annual General Meeting is only a month away. Do you love the

Parklands? Consider nominating for the Committee this year and/or add a nice smile to our Treasury with an extra digit on your donation.

Advertising signs: Unfortunately, our new city council appears to be taking a more permissive attitude towards commercial advertising signs in the Parklands. I suppose it is not too surprising given the proliferation of images festooned about the Parklands during the last council election. The City of Melbourne does not tolerate this kind of commercial graffiti in their parks. Why should we?

Office space: A recent application by a community arts group to lease the North Adelaide Railway Station for office space would, if granted, set into place a damning precedent for this council and others to follow.

Our purpose should be not only to preserve our Parklands for future generations by resisting incompatible developments, we should see to it that a few of the people do not monopolise that which in equity is the property of all. The Parklands belong not only to us but to each generation and it is criminal to fetter our descendants with perpetual franchises, making them beggars to a favored faction. Just as parents live for their child as well as for themselves, a responsible government must provide for the future as well as the present.

Sincerely, your correspondent overseas

Kyle Penick

MEMBERSHIP

APPA's financial year is from 1 April to 31 March. New memberships received after 1 December will be valid up to 16 months or through to the end of the following financial year.

Officers and committee members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting held in April each year. Election to the Committee is open to all financial members.

Committee meetings are open to the members and are normally held on the fourth Tuesday each month.

Please contact the Secretary for details and an agenda if you would like to attend.

*Are you keeping
your back copies
of the Parklands
News?*

**You'll need them to answer
the trivia questions coming
your way.**

**WELCOME
to our new members**

Ann Honen

Rita and Jan Moen

Wendy Trow

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

**PARKLANDS
VOLUNTEERS WANTED
SUNDAY MARCH 7**

APPA has organised the cleanup of Wikaparndo Wirra Park (Park 22)—including the netball courts and Showgrounds parking area—bounded by Anzac Highway, Greenhill Road and Goodwood Road. Rendezvous is at the Goodwood Road entrance to the netball courts.

Start time is 0900 and finish about 1230, when a sausage or two should be sizzling.

**WE NEED YOU—PLEASE HELP WITH
OUR CLEANUP!**

Contact <appa@senet.com.au>
or call 0412 959 346 to enlist

COMPETITION RESULTS—DRINK TO HISTORY

I can only suppose that our membership consists of non-drinkers who are Salvation Army adherents and/or camels—Salvation Army adherents because they don't drink alcohol and camels because they don't drink very much at all!

I received only one real entry (thank you for that) and a couple of suggestions. Not enough to judge on effort or creativity, and certainly not enough to connect a recipe with the Parklands.

Oh well—I'll have to go thirsty and hold off celebrations until the next centenary, but I'll be too old then!! *Editor*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

Name
 Address
 Telephone E-mail Date

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 single (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 family (full rate) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 family (concession) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 single (concession) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$..... |

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached

Please make cheque/money order payable to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
 Send to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

03/04

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:

- the Parklands be available for use by the general public
- the public should so far as practicable, have free and unrestricted access to the Parklands
- the Parklands should be reserved as a place for public recreation, leisure and enjoyment
- alienated areas of the Parklands are restored for recreational use, preferably as open space
- the character of the Parklands as a place dividing the City of Adelaide from the suburbs should be preserved
- the Parklands should be preserved and maintained in a manner that enhances their special place in the design of the City of Adelaide
- the amenity of the Parklands is not impaired by inappropriate development of nearby lands.

Committee 2004

President: Ian Gilfillan
 Deputy President: Peter Austin
 Treasurer: Kyle Penick
 Secretary: Brian Mitchell
 Publicity Officer: Mike Hudson

Committee members:
 Gunta Groves
 Kelly Henderson
 David Plumridge
 Michael Sando

DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is presented in good faith to members of APPA. While the information is believed to be correct, APPA takes no responsibility for its accuracy. No liability is accepted for any statements of opinion or any error or omission. Although advertising material is accepted for this newsletter, such acceptance does not imply endorsement by APPA.

AGM

**SET THIS DATE
 ASIDE**

**Sunday
 18 April 2004
 11am**

**Further details will
 be mailed out to you
 closer to the date**

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30 April 2004

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 Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
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Membership:

Membership of the Association is open to all who support the objectives of the Association. Members receive the *Parklands News* four times a year.