

PARKLANDS NEWS

September 2004 Number 16

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Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
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President's letter

We have had a rewarding couple of months one way or another.

The Memorial Address by Professor Lawrence St Leger on 21 July was a great success. Held in the Adelaide Town Hall, it was well attended by a cheerful and determined band of Parklands protectors.

I want to thank Jim Daly particularly for his sterling efforts in organising the event.

Prof St Leger emphasised two points which struck a chord with me: first, that young people benefit enormously, both physically and mentally, by being involved in open space projects; and secondly, that empirical data show that we all benefit physically by being in, or even passing by, parklands, even for quite short time spans.

Prof St Leger, staying overnight in the city centre, asked which way could he go in the morning to get to the Parklands for his run. Gleefully we replied he could run

anyway he liked as the Parklands surround the city!

There is more detail on the Memorial Address elsewhere in this newsletter.

This month we also made an extensive and constructive submission to the Adelaide City Council on its General and Park Lands Plan Amendment Report (PAR). We made a scathing comment in our submission, and I quote:

'Having analysed the PAR and compared its provisions to the existing Development Plan, it is the view of APPA that the PAR is contrary to the public interest, has insufficient protection of the Park Lands and City Squares and is intrinsically, explicitly and implicitly damaging to the Park Lands and the City Squares.'

I thank David Plumridge who did most of the work of compiling the PAR submission.

There is more information about it later in the newsletter.



Finally, I will share with you that the APPA Committee resolved at its July meeting to start a special campaign to interest and involve young people in discussions and projects to do with the Parklands. This is an exciting initiative and I look forward to promoting the Parklands to young people and sharing ideas with them.

To be active in a positive way instead of constantly crying 'foul' over disasters is so refreshing!

Ian Gilfillan

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Redevelopment of Victoria Park Racecourse

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

RAA site redevelopment

Britannia intersection

General and Park Lands Plan Amendment Report

*Front page:
Avenue of River Red Gums
(Eucalyptus camaldulensis) along
East Terrace, March 2003.
Photo by Gunta Groves.*

Victoria Park Watch

The last of the motor racing infrastructure disappeared in May. Now, barely two months later, the preparations for the November horse trials are making their presence felt. This year it appears the organisers

are using Victoria Park as a depot for their construction materials—piles of it. And the vehicular traffic around the shed is creating new and larger 'roads'.

Gunta Groves

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE

**Use the form on the back page to
send in your renewal.
You will not get an individual
reminder.**

Letters to the editor

More about pines

I was interested to read the article about the pine removal opposite St Andrew's Hospital.

Aleppo pines are a proclaimed pest plant under the *Animal & Plant Control (Agricultural Protection & Other Purposes) Act (SA)*, and a serious problem in the Adelaide Hills. Seed is carried for long distances and spread is rapid.

Where I live at Brownhill Creek they are an ongoing pest in both the Recreation Park and on private land, despite backbreaking work to try and remove them. They also create a serious fire hazard for the suburbs at the top of the hills. There is also some evidence that Canary Island pines could become a future problem.

The argument that they provide food for Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos may actually be misguided. Surveys of the cockatoos in Brownhill Creek found that removal of exotic pines did not appear to affect their populations. Indeed, there may be more of them. The cockatoos seem just as happy eating the blossoms of Red and Blue gums, and will take to

newly planted native sheoaks or callitris pines very readily.

Pines of 100 years of age are often at the end of their life. A dozen pines planted to mark Federation near Brownhill Creek were starting to fall down prior to removal, bringing power-lines with them and causing a large fire. Several walkers were nearly killed when one pine collapsed.

Many species of plants commonly grow underneath eucalyptus species, including native grasses. If this is not so in the Parklands it may relate to other management practices.

I find it incredible that 20–30 species of native birds (not including the cockatoos) are threatened with *extinction* in the Adelaide Hills because of loss of habitat, but people care more about a few Parklands' pines, the likes of which can be found anywhere.

The Adelaide Hills are our second generation parklands, and it would be good if management of the first generation parklands could be a little complementary.

*Marcus Beresford
Torrens Park*

BEATEN IN THE 'GREAT RACE'

In the *Parklands News* number 10, Kelly Henderson reported on the race between Victorians and ourselves to be the first to achieve World Heritage listing of a cultural site. APPA and its friends have always campaigned for the listing of the Adelaide Parklands and Melburnians have been working towards the listing of the Royal Exhibition Building and the surrounding Carlton Gardens.

On 2 July 2004 *The Age* reported that the UNESCO World Heritage Committee made the Royal Exhibition Building the first building in Australia to be given World Heritage status.

The building was the site for international exhibitions in 1880 and 1888, and housed the first Australian Parliament in 1901. The building and surrounding gardens are now legally protected and join the impressive list of other World Heritage cultural sites that include the Acropolis in Athens, Machu Pichu in Peru, and the pyramids at Giza in Egypt.

The achievement in Victoria comes after concerted efforts over many years by numerous people including members of the Melbourne City Council, the Victorian Premier and the federal Minister for Environment and Heritage. That's what it takes to achieve success.

Gunta Groves

Kelly's quotable quotes

'From researches already made by me I have obtained proof that the Park Lands and other reserves in and around the city were purchased for and in the name, and upon trust for the citizens of Adelaide.'

Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk, to City Solicitors, Wilkins, Blyth and Dutton,
9 April 1884

Britannia roundabout update

Some APPA committee members have been meeting with representatives of Transport SA to continue the dialogue about the Britannia intersection changes.

David Plumridge reports that APPA is being kept 'in the loop' and the committee is looking closely at the proposals that have an impact of the Parklands.

**Next newsletter
deadline:
31 October 2004**

Memorial Address—A great night out

APPA's second Memorial Address evening on 21 July was a convivial and informative affair in the beautiful setting of the Banqueting Room of the Adelaide Town Hall.

Stephen Forbes, Director of Botanic Gardens, brought us up to date with progress on the drafting of the Parklands Trust legislation: it is a slow process, but it is happening.

Prof Lawrence St Leger, the invited speaker, presented his 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' lecture to a welcoming audience of 65 people. His talk focused on the idea that parks contribute to the health and wellbeing of people, and that there is a reciprocal benefit to the parks. He drew on his research and literature review to make the following points:

- There is evidence to show that merely viewing natural scenes, either as pictures or in reality, is enough to give benefits. Savanna landscapes seem to provide the biggest benefits, possibly because we have an affinity with them due to the

location of our evolutionary beginnings.

- There are additional benefits to be derived from being in natural landscapes such as parks. For example, young people (who as a population experience a relatively high incidence of depressed moods and major depressive episodes) benefit by having increased concentration levels and cognitive performance; decreased stress, headaches and incidence of Attention Deficit Disorder; and improved self-image. The risk factors that affect wellbeing are also influenced: young people's involvement with parks decreases school failure and drug use, provides resiliency during stressful life events, and decreases the sense of lacking control and hopelessness.
- When young people participate in activities to do with parks, there is a decrease in recorded instances of graffiti and violence.

- People's contact with animals in parks (such as dogs, birds, fish and insects) also results in specific benefits that have been recorded, such as decreased blood pressure, stress and heart rate, and increased mental health levels and improved quality of life.
- Life outcomes for young people who become involved in parks are improved, and beneficial outcomes for parks include an increased supporter and carer base.

A copy of the publication *Healthy Parks Healthy People* written by C Maller, M Townsend, P Brown and L St Leger can be accessed at <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/resources/mhphp/pv1.pdf> which is on the Parks Victoria site.

The evening concluded with a supper and the opportunity to socialise with members of APPA, the Lord Mayor and other invited guests.

Gunta Groves



The smiling faces say it all—a selection of the large crowd at this year's Memorial Address



Photos by Sue Whittington.

Outrage on World Environment Day



In the early hours of 5 June 2004 three pines in the Parklands south of St Andrew's Hospital were ringbarked. The signs attached to the trees said:

'RESPECT LOCAL NATIVE PLANTS', 'DESTROY INVASIVE FOREIGN PLANTS PROTECT BIO-DIVERSITY' and 'STOP THE LEGAL BUTCHER OF OLD-GROWTH FORESTS BAN "GUNS" PTY LTD'.

The people responsible have not yet been caught.

Ringbarked pines in the Parklands immediately south of St Andrew's Hospital.

Photos taken on 5 June 2004 by Gunta Groves.

UPDATE

The Adelaide City Council asked Dean Nicolle, botanist, to attempt a bark grafting technique that has been successful in saving eucalypts. He has grafted bark across about half the ringbarked areas, applied lanolin over the entire areas and covered them in plastic.

The prognosis is not optimistic but the results will not be known for some time.

Meanwhile, the investigating police officer reports that enquiries are continuing. A number of people have been interviewed and information

has also been received through 'Crimestoppers'. Any criminal prosecution(s) will be initiated by the SA Police.

Gunta Groves

**Next newsletter deadline:
31 October 2004**

Submission on ACC's General and Park Lands Plan Amendment Report

David Plumridge, with help from the other APPA committee members, prepared a detailed submission to the Adelaide City Council in July. The major points are summarised below, with details of particular inadequacies and inconsistencies omitted.

The public consultation by ACC included the opportunity to speak to submissions. David Plumridge represented APPA on 4 August to emphasise our concerns.



Background

The General and Park Lands Plan Amendment Report (PAR) is intended to contribute positively to the realisation of the Adelaide City Council's vision.

The last General Review PAR undertaken by the Council was in 1994 and it excluded the Park Lands, pending the completion of the Park Lands Management Study in November 1999.

The current PAR incorporates and updates the Study's outcomes that are relevant to development assessment. Environmental and biodiversity issues are to be covered by the Community Land Management Plans.

Fundamental issues

Commercial development

The PAR facilitates rapid, unimpeded opportunities for commercial and retail developments without any public consultation, and facilitates the intensification of current inappropriate uses of the Park Lands and City Squares without public notification or rights of appeal.

Exclusions

The Park Lands provisions of the PAR are limited to the outer ring of Park Lands and certain areas along the River Torrens, omitting critical portions of the Park Lands and all the City Squares.

Development Act

APPA asserts that the Development Act itself is *ultra vires* in regard to the Park Lands and that therefore the only power to control development in the Park Lands is through the provisions of the Local Government Act. It is also our view that the Adelaide City Council is the custodian but not the owner of the Park Lands and, therefore, has no rights under the Development Act to conduct works in the Park Lands.

Parklands Trust

The issue of the proposed Parklands Trust has not been addressed. If the Council does not delegate all of its Park Lands development powers to the Trust, then the Council will be able to overrule the Trust on any matter that constitutes development in the Park Lands. This would undermine the whole intention of the Trust.

Community Land Management Plans

Similarly, the role of the Community Land Management (CLM) Plans which will deal with critical environmental and biodiversity issues are not referred to in the PAR. It is APPA's view that the CLM Plans should be reflected in the PAR. Also, there is no explanation as to how the proposed Heritage PAR will be integrated into this PAR.

Adjacent councils

APPA strongly disputes the conclusion that the uniqueness of the Adelaide Park Lands has little effect upon and is not reliant upon the policy development of adjacent zones. Clearly, development in adjoining areas affects the Park Lands in terms of built form, stormwater discharge from upstream intensification of the catchment, vehicular traffic demands on the roads and availability of adequate parking around the Park Lands' perimeter for events in adjoining council areas.

Procedural concerns

Non-complying development

The PAR opens the door to a wide range of developments under the

misleading heading of Non-Complying Development with numerous exemptions, many of which are inadequately defined.

APPA is strongly opposed to the inclusion of Special Events as Complying Development as these have in the past resulted in major damage to the Park Lands.

Prohibited development

Due to the special nature of the Park Lands, certain classes of development are totally unacceptable and should be prohibited absolutely.

Public notification

The PAR provides for Category 1 and Category 3 classifications for notification. Category 1 is proposed for 'minor works' with no notification whatsoever.

This is unacceptable because even minor works could have a major impact on the amenity of the Park Lands and City Squares. All developments in the Park Lands and City Squares should be classified as Category 3 with the requirement for full public notification, including to prescribed bodies having an interest in the Park Lands, such as APPA.

Development by the Council

The PAR does not address the important question of the procedures to be followed and which will be the assessing authority for developments in which the Council has a direct or indirect interest.

Development by State and Federal governments

Similarly, the PAR does not deal with the issue of procedures to be followed for development by State and Federal government agencies, including approval for infrastructure such as roads and drainage works.

Conclusion

The current PAR, together with the proposed CLM Plans and the Park Lands Heritage PAR, will guide the future of our Park Lands for the next 30 years, or until a Park Lands Trust is established, and are therefore of critical importance.

USE OUR NEW E-MAIL SERVICE

Some people have already seen the light (pun intended) and sent in their e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail as a PDF, and other APPA notices by e-mail, fill in the form below and mail it to:

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

E-mailing newsletters to members saves us printing and mailing costs.

You will soon be able to download PDFs of newsletters (from August 2003 edition onwards) from our Web site at <www.adelaide-parklands.org>.

Gunta Groves

I would like to receive the following by e-mail instead of in the post:

***Parklands News* OR
Parklands News and other APPA notices including notice of AGM**

My e-mail address is: _____

Name _____ **Signature** _____

Address _____

IS IT TIME FOR A GREENBANK?

Iain Evans spoke at our Annual General Meeting in April. These are the thought-provoking ideas he put to us.

The environment is now a mainstream issue in every respect, except funding. As one of the newer political issues to be adopted as part of the mainstream agenda, the environment, under governments of all political colours and at all levels, has had a difficult job winning support for funding for its programs from general revenue rather than through a levy or asset sale.

South Australian tax payers already pay a River Murray Levy, a Water Catchment Levy (soon to be called a Natural Resources Management Levy) and an Environment Enhancement Levy hidden as part of Sewerage Rates.

Federally, of course, the part sale of Telstra has been used to fund the highly successful National Heritage

Trust (NHT) program at a community level.

While the community supports a sustainable environment this depends, in part, on sustainable environment funding and support programs.

It was for this reason that at the last state election the State Liberal Party promised to establish a \$20 million trust outside of government, so that the money to fund programs was there forever.

On a similar basis, I suggest it may be time for a 'Greenbank'.

In communities all over Australia, community owned banks, run by community based boards, have been established to replace bank services that have been withdrawn. The profits are returned to the community.

The environmental cause is supported by an ever growing

community. Never before has the environment enjoyed such community support. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of environmental organisations in South Australia. There are hundreds of thousands of people interested in the environment.

Imagine if a community bank was established that provided normal banking services and poured the profits into environmental causes.

Given the choice between giving the profit from their money to the current banking institutions or to a legitimate environmental cause, I think many South Australians would choose the latter. All these environment agents, businesses and supporters could 'vote with their cheque books' and support sustainable environment programs through doing their normal banking through a 'Greenbank'.

Which bank?—Greenbank.

Iain Evans MP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

Name
Address
Telephone E-mail Date

- \$15 single (full rate) Renew
- \$25 corporate New
- \$20 family (full rate) Send *Parklands News* via e-mail, OR
- \$15 family (concession) Send *Parklands News* and other notices via e-mail
- \$10 single (concession) 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 Assoc Inc, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

09/04

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.

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Deputy President: Peter Austin
Secretary: Brian Mitchell
Treasurer: Kyle Penick

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Kelly Henderson
Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
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to renew
your
membership.**

It was due after the
AGM in April. Use the
form above to send in
your renewal.

*You will not
receive a separate
reminder.*

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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.