

PARKLANDS NEWS

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Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000 Web: www.adelaide-parklands.org

President's letter

Our voices were heard but not heeded at the prominent demonstration we organised at Morphettville before the special SAJC meeting on 21 September. The SAJC members were meeting to consider the proposal to sell Cheltenham racecourse and use part of the proceeds to establish permanent motor racing facilities on Victoria Park.

We have sympathy with the concerns of the residents of Cheltenham and surrounding areas about losing their open space if Cheltenham is sold, but we feel nothing but horror at the risk of that cuckoo-like activity, motor racing, achieving permanency on the Parklands.

This will not go ahead if Cheltenham racecourse is not rezoned as residential land, and the state government could step in and clearly veto any possibility of such an eventuality. We then could all breathe more easily. This has not yet happened.

Instead, the softening-up process has begun with propaganda events run by the Adelaide City Council in Hutt St Library and on Victoria Park as so-called information sessions.

Our demonstration at Morphettville on behalf of thinking citizens was successful as a well organised and timely objection to the proposal, but it was not successful in preventing the SAJC members approving the scheme.

We can appreciate the pressures of financial stress as the racing industry struggles to remain viable. But at what cost if they must get into bed with the motor racing industry? They do not have to corrupt their acceptable horse racing activities on Victoria Park with motor racing. We must persuade the government that if it allows rezoning and thus the sale of Cheltenham that we will never, under any circumstances, tolerate permanent motor racing infrastructure on Victoria Park.

Now, where do you come in?



This is a monumental threat to the Parklands and they need your help now. Help with distributing leaflets, attend protests, write letters to the government and the Adelaide City Council, and enrol more members to APPA so that the Adelaide City Council and the government are left in no doubt that the residents of Adelaide reject the SAJC proposal.

Ian Gilfillan

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Land grab at 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:
Swamp mallet (or mallee)
(Eucalyptus spathulata)
along East Terrace, March 2003.
Photo by Gunta Groves*

Welcome to new members

Mr Alfred Caddick

Ms Louisa Cufrone and Mr Doug Friend

Mr Brent Dutson

Mr and Mrs Rob Kooymans

Ms Heather Kriegel

Ms Christine Lillie

Mrs Betty Siebert

Letters to the editor

Currently on display in the foyer of the Goodman Building in the Adelaide Botanic Garden is an architect model of a proposed building named the Schomburgk Pavillion to be built along the northern face of the Museum of Economic Botany. The Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium is seeking public comment on the design.

In my opinion this proposal is inappropriate in design, usage and waste of public funds. I have had an association with the Adelaide Botanic Garden since 1953 and I am currently a volunteer guide there.

*RJ van Velsen
Thorngate SA*

Editor's note: An abbreviated version of RJ van Velsen's submission is reprinted below.

Schomburgk Pavillion

1. Introduction

Richard Schomburgk, during his term (1860–1891) as Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, introduced and established many exotic and native plants to increase people's knowledge of the diversity of plants and their economic, environmental and cultural importance, as well as their natural beauty and grandeur. With the economic boom in South Australia during Schomburgk's tenure, due to land sales and agricultural and copper exports, he was able to secure state funds for the erection and establishment of the Palm House and Museum of Economic Botany to display and inform visitors particularly about plants and their products of economic and cultural significance.

With the proliferation of urbanisation, it is of increased importance that people are aware of the value of plants to the environment and to human economic and cultural existence. Plants are the basic unit

of the animal and human food chain and thus vital to humans' continued existence.

2. Schomburgk Pavillion

The proposed \$2.3 million investment in the erection of the proposed Schomburgk Pavillion provides little people–plant interaction, with the emphasis on a kiosk, toilets and visitor information centre. The size of the building is overpowering and it is of an inappropriate design if intended to meet the state government objective of energy efficient buildings, being primarily of glazed panels facing north, requiring high recurrent expenditure on air conditioning. Currently the Adelaide Botanic Garden (ABG) does not have sufficient funds to maintain the required climate regime for the Bicentennial Conservatory—a southern hemisphere showcase of tropical rainforest plants and tropical rainforest plant strata; so why exacerbate the future financial difficulties of the ABG?

There are five locations within the ABG where visitors can access information concerning the ABG and its plants, serving six different entry points to the Garden. A visitor-friendly coordination of opening times of these five locations and availability of interpretive leaflets would provide a more cost-effective visitor information and interpretation feature than a 'central' visitor information centre tucked away in the Garden.

The incorporation of a kiosk in the proposed Pavillion is unnecessary since there is a well-established and popular kiosk with vista views across the Main Lake and to the Palm House. There is no visitor demand for another kiosk/coffee shop. The matter of disability access to the Museum of Economic Botany is supported; however, the excuse to have the Pavillion to provide the access is a disingenuous argument, since an architecturally sensitive access structure could be installed along the south wall of the Museum, similar to that installed at the Torrens Parade Ground.

Focus

The 'heart' of the ABG is the planted environment (trees, shrubs and

grasses) which provides the interest, ambiance and vistas which visitors enjoy.

To promote a building and its activities (kiosk and visitor centre) as the 'heart' means the ABG has lost its basic focus and 'reason for existence'. Plants are vital to continued human existence—food, fibre, energy, culture and environmental sustainability, and the Board needs to continue this emphasis and focus, rather than construct another physical structure with increased maintenance costs and with minimal relevance to the Garden's educational, recreational, scientific and conservation functions.

A more fitting usage of \$2.3 million would be the installation of a wetland near Hackney Road and the diversion of First Creek stormwater into aquifers.

The Wine Centre was promoted with grandeur and ended up a fiasco for the state and the ABG. This proposal is a repetition of the same 'Taj Mahalism'. There is little merit in this proposal and no justification of another 'edifice complex'. The funds could be spent more effectively improving the standard of the current Garden assets to advance people's existing enjoyment, education and interest when visiting the Garden.

RJ van Velsen

Kelly's quotable quotes

'We'll do it, and we'll do it properly.'

South Australian Premier, Mike Rann MP, in response to a question from the floor regarding World Heritage nomination of Adelaide's Parklands, at the Adelaide Community Cabinet Meeting Community Forum, 6 September 2004

In defence of Victoria Park



Left: Demonstration at Morphetville racecourse, 21 September, 2004.
Photo by Hazel Douglas

Below: APPA banners were prominent at the ACC Community Lands Management Plan consultation on 10 October, 2004.
Photo by Gunta Groves

These last few months have been very busy ones in defence of Victoria Park. APPA was supported by people who cared about the open spaces of Victoria Park and were outraged by the scandalous 'new concept' proposed for this community land. People from Cheltenham joined APPA on 21 September 2004 (see above) to voice their concerns about losing open space and facing dense urban development in their area when the SAJC sells its Cheltenham racecourse. On 10 October 2004 more than two hundred people came to the Adelaide City Council's display promoting the SAJC concept. APPA was there to balance the information given out.



Kelly's quotable quotes

'... on behalf of the citizens generally, and more particularly on behalf of the old colonists present at the selection and sale of the town acres in March, 1837, I deny the right of the Government to interfere with or make use of any portion of the Park Lands not specially reserved or set apart for government purposes by Colonel Light. I may, I think be excused for claiming to speak as an authority on this subject, because my official position as next to Colonel Light on the survey staff gave me the best opportunity for knowing every detail of his plans, as well as its being my duty to see that his instructions were properly carried out.'

Hon George Strickland Kingston MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly
Advertiser 12 November 1877

In defence of Victoria Park

Right: Protesters from Cheltenham joined with APPA to catch the attention of peak hour traffic outside Morphetville racecourse, 21 September 2004.

Photo by Gunta Groves

Below: Extensive media coverage was achieved for the protest at the SAJC meeting of members to vote for the sale of Cheltenham.

Photo by Gunta Groves



Members of the APPA committee have been busy writing letters to the government and seeing individual politicians such as Michael Wright and Jane Lomax-Smith. The Victoria Park issue was also discussed extensively with Michael Harbison and Mal Hemmerling. There is still much more to do. The threat remains.

Many thanks to those APPA members and their friends who made banners, distributed leaflets (5250 at last count) and attended gatherings. This is a time to show solidarity in the face of menaces by state government, council and big business.



An APPA deputation met with Lord Mayor Michael Harbison and ACC CEO Mal Hemmerling on 22 October 2004 to discuss the threat to Victoria Park and request that other models than the one presented be considered, especially without the entrenchment of motor racing facilities in the Parklands.

Above from left: Mal Hemmerling, Ian Gilfillan, Gunta Groves, Michael Harbison, David Plumridge, Peter Austin

A letter from our overseas correspondent

Dear Members

I am looking forward to returning home to Adelaide's spring in mid-November and to missing northern Arizona's winter which has already signalled its intentions with two early tree-breaking snowfalls. My father's health is much improved and I thank you for your many kind wishes during this difficult time.

A visit to New York's Central Park and their library is on the return agenda and I have a ready supply of APPA bumper stickers for the occasion.

Thanks to the excellent university library here in Flagstaff, I have been able to proceed somewhat with my research on a number of topics.

World Heritage: The link between Adelaide and Ebenezer Howard's Garden City movement is among our most important claims to World Heritage listing. Published references to this link make the identification solely on the basis of Howard's modelling his garden cities, Letchworth and Welwyn in England, with a belt of parkland such as ours. This has occasionally been challenged by American authors who advocate that Howard got his ideas not from Adelaide but from Riverside Illinois. A second link, never before published, has been identified which may aid in finally putting to rest this argument and give Adelaide the full credit it deserves—more later.

Another area of importance in our quest for nomination is the identification of significant events which have occurred on the Parklands. There have been numerous events which are important on a state level but only a few with national and international importance. One of these, the 1889 Arbor Day celebration in Victoria Park, occurred south of the racetrack with 5000 of our school children participating. Arbor Day was then an international event—Adelaide appears to be the first location outside the United States to inaugurate these festivities. Other countries adopting the idea were Japan in 1895, Spain in 1896, Italy in 1902, as well as England, France, Mexico, Norway, Russia, China and Israel.

References:

Richard C Davis (Ed) (1983) 'Arbor Day' *Encyclopedia of American forest and conservation history*. p 22.

Clepper Henry (1982) 'The man who gave us Arbor Day' *American forests*. Vol 88 No 4 April 1982. p 60.

Noise Pollution: Numerous roadways through the Parklands have already alienated over 100 acres of our precious real estate and continue to grow as pressure for accommodating even more vehicles for traffic, Council parking and expiation revenues, city workers, and nearby businesses continues. Upgrading the Britannia intersection

at the expense of our Parklands is the latest violation. The addition of B-double heavy tractor trailers along the eastern thoroughfares will have an impact on the Parklands with noise from motors and their engine brakes and fouling of the air with highly toxic cancer-causing diesel exhaust fumes (so pleasing to joggers, I don't think).

Traffic noise is an even greater culprit in destroying our Parklands' amenity than the roadways through them. This noise, generated mostly from motors and tire abrasion, permeates into the Parklands to varying depths dependent on factors such as traffic speed, weather conditions, the amount of adjacent sound-absorbing foliage and the type of materials used in building the road surface.

In September, an article in the *Arizona Republic* newspaper mentioned that **rubberised-asphalt paving** was to be applied to a section of Phoenix Highway. Shortly thereafter I found the following website: <www.rubberpavements.org/library/noisereduction.asp>. This describes how paving material made with crumbed rubber from recycled tyres can reduce traffic noise by 65–85 per cent while also using over 1000 tyres per kilometre of laneway. I will seek further information from SA Department of Transport when I return.

Kyle Penick

Kelly's quotable quotes

'Labor recognises that the Parklands don't belong to a State Government or a city council, they belong to the people and to future generations.'

Labor Election Policy 2002

<http://www.sa.alp.org.au/policy/environment/greener-city.html>

Labor's plan to save open spaces and our Parklands

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 can also download PDFs of past 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**

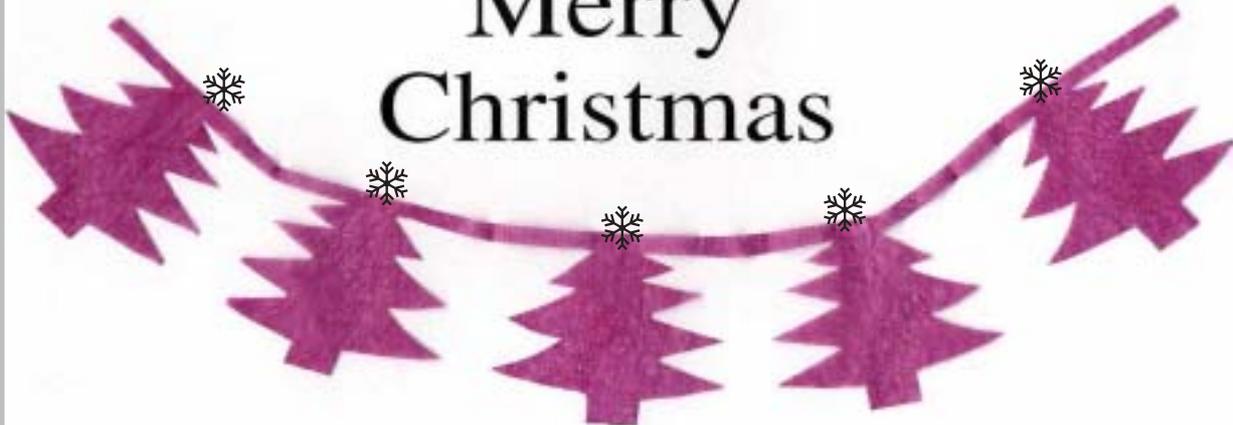
***Parklands News* and other APPA notices including notice of AGM**

My e-mail address is: _____

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Merry
Christmas



**Members of the APPA Committee
thank you for your support during 2004 and wish you
a happy and safe Christmas season
and a prosperous New Year**

Next newsletter deadline: 31 January 2005

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

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.

I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association. Signature

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

12/04

Committee 2004–2005

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Deputy President: Peter Austin
Secretary: Brian Mitchell
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Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
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NEWS**

Go to our Web site at
www.adelaide-parklands.org
to see the latest
developments.

All the news on our
activities is now
published there.

Find out about the
Association, the
Parklands and more.

www.adelaide-parklands.org

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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.