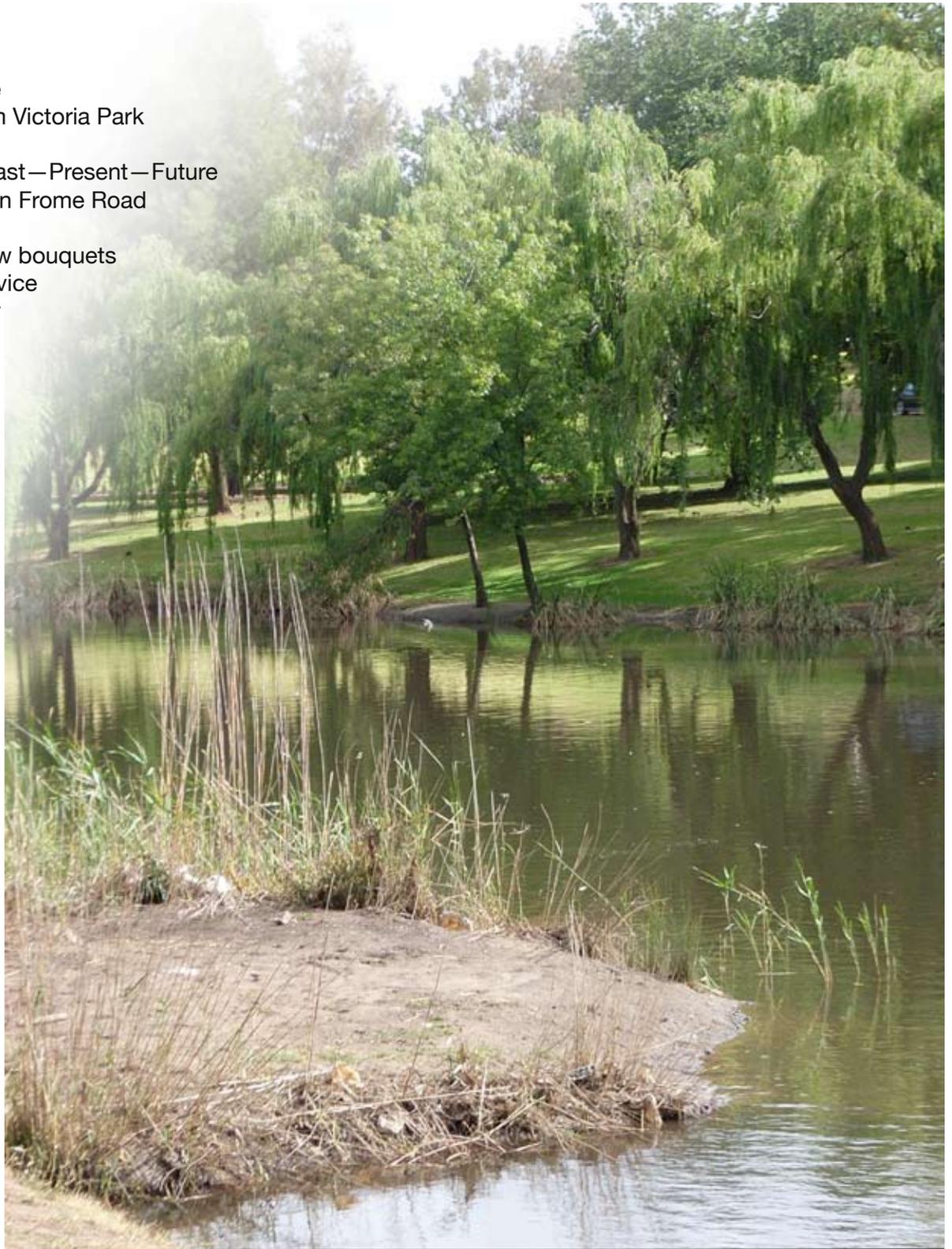


PARKLANDSNEWS

September 2006 Number 24

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

President's letter

It's hard to realise that the year is past its half way mark and many unanswered questions hang over key areas of the Adelaide Parklands. There always seem to be the slick proposals of people who see the Parklands as a solution to providing built facilities for their particular project and this has been going on for over 150 years. As in the past, we need strong voices that are prepared to resist these incursions—that's why we still have Parklands. It is depressing to realise that the task of being 'watchdog' is now more important than ever, so let me draw your attention to two of these proposals.

- **Victoria Park**—The curtain has been drawn down on the decision-making process for the future of Victoria Park. It is common knowledge that a large (VERY large) complex for both horse racing and car racing at the heart of Victoria Park on the opposite side of the present race track is being proposed by the Motor Sport Board and the SAJC.

The Adelaide City Council is not making a decision because it is waiting for the government to declare if it is supporting this largely Motor Sport Board proposal. To some extent, the SAJC has been seduced

by this proposal, which was mainly dreamed up to save money on erecting the temporary stands for the Clipsal 500 each year. Apparently, the SAJC would have been happy with the original proposal to restore the heritage grandstand and provide another stand on the original site as well as doing some work on the track, until it was approached about this new proposal. Your Association supports the original proposal using the footprints of the existing buildings.

There are various plans and conspiracies floating around. No-one in official circles will declare where they stand on this proposal, but the signs are ominous with the sale of Cheltenham Racecourse apparently condoned by the government. Another ominous sign is that the Parklands Act which places restrictions on development in the Parklands has not yet been proclaimed. Also, the support by both Adelaide City Council and the government for National and World Heritage listing of the Parklands seems to have been quietly put to one side, maybe because a project with a large building of this type on parklands would probably not be acceptable. Furthermore, one wonders if the holding up of the approval of the Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for Victoria Park has some sinister motives. If the end result is that the proposed new joint facility gets government support, it will have a fight on its hands, because the Parklands Act, although not yet proclaimed, does not allow the Planning and Development Act special projects provision to be enacted, so the proposal will have to stand a rigorous public consultation process. We are ready to join with the other groups in fighting this issue. Be prepared to join us in resisting this terrible incursion on our Parklands. To add light to the issue, the Lord Mayor, Michael Harbison, spoke at a public meeting organised by South East City Residents' Association on 23 August, 6.30pm in the TPI building, South Terrace.

- **Land adjacent Morphett Street Bridge**—This formerly railway land has been left uncared for for years, but recently one of our bright architects suggested that a new Entertainment Centre could be built on this site with linkages to the



Convention Centre by building over the railway lines. While the idea is ridiculously expensive and completely unrealistic, given the present under-utilisation of existing indoor sports and entertainment facilities, this outrageous proposal highlights the need to consolidate and remediate this area for future use as Parklands space. Your Committee wants this site restored to Parklands as soon as possible and we will be organising a site inspection in spring so that members can offer suggestions on its future use. Also, we will press the Council for a commitment to commence preliminary remediation work and to prepare a Community Land Management Plan for this area with more specific details and commitments on its future use.

On a happier note, we are progressing with arrangements for the Parklands Symposium and Memorial Address over the weekend of 10–12 November. This will be an opportunity to introduce more people to the Association with a membership drive being part of the weekend activities. You will receive more details in due course on the program which will include outstanding speakers, including some from interstate and overseas. Keep this weekend free.

In one of the papers to be given at the Symposium by John Senior from Parks Victoria, he makes the point that:

*Parks are physical assets, just like schools and hospitals, but in those two contexts we use the words education and health respectively to express the associated outcomes—**we need an outcome term too!***

Your continued support is appreciated. Why not approach a friend to join us in the challenges that lie ahead?

Jim Daly

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Parklands legislation implementation

World Heritage listing

Land grab at Victoria Park

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

Britannia intersection land grab

Dying elms

SACA car park push

Alienated Parklands

Bakewell Bridge

*Front cover: River Torrens at Bonython Park.
Photo taken June 2005 by Gunta Groves.*

A SIGH OF RELIEF FROM VICTORIA PARK

It was one of those evocative winter early mornings in Victoria Park—with patches of morning mist rising from ground level across the length and breadth of the park.

Only one month earlier the last vestiges of the annual Feral 500 event (also known as the V8 Supercar race) had finally disappeared from the park.

On this day in early June, the shrill voices of excited young boys punctuated the air as the owner's of those voices appeared and disappeared in the mist.

Subsequent enquiries led to the discovery that I was witnessing the State Primary Schools Football Championship, organised and conducted by the

STOP PRESS

Various events have had public consultations announced by the ACC. There is still time to respond to some. Please take the opportunity to express your opinion about the following events. They all, in various ways, endanger, degrade and alienate Parklands and take away their amenity.

- 4WD and Adventure Show in Victoria Park (by 28 August 2006)
- Adelaide International Horse Trials in Rymill Park and Victoria Park (by 04/09/06)
- Classic Adelaide Rally use of Victoria Square by cars (by 04/09/06)
- Next Generation Adelaide International car parking in southern part of Tarndanya Womma (Park 26) (by 07/09/06)
- draft Community Land Management Plans for Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Light, Wellington and Whitmore Squares (by 11/09/06)

Check the details on the ACC website at <www.adelaidecitycouncil.com> and/or write to the Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide City Council, GPO Box 2252, Adelaide SA 5001 or e-mail to <events@adelaidecitycouncil.com>.

SA Primary Schools Amateur Sport Association. At the southern end of Victoria Park, on ground much compacted and denuded by car parking associated with the Feral 500 event, eight makeshift ovals had been created.

Some 41 teams from 20 city districts and 21 country districts were competing in the week long championship, with all the teams playing two matches a day. Each team comprised 22 players, some 900 players in total. It was estimated that accompanying siblings, parents, friends and teachers swelled the daily attendance to 2000 or more people a day.

Many of the country players and their families were billeted by host families, others stayed in city and suburban hotels and motels. (This event appears to have slipped under the government's radar as I have yet to see an economic impact benefit claim, spurious or otherwise, from the government.)

Members of one country team travelled more than 2000km to play in the championship. Aboriginal boys from nine communities in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the distant north-west of SA formed a composite team, styling themselves as the APY ALLSTARS. For many of the boys, it was the first time they had played on a grassed surface.

At the end of each day's competition, the boys were provided with plastic bags by the coffee/ice-cream vendor. After a quick clean-up, the boys were rewarded with an ice-cream by the generous vendor—a simple and very effective clean-up ploy.

The contrast between activities like the Feral 500 and the primary schools football championship carnival could not be more stark. To see Victoria Park being used and enjoyed by so many boys and their families in such a healthy, low impact way was a pleasure to behold.

It matters not which school won the championship—the real winner was Victoria Park. You could almost feel the Parklands heaving a sigh of relief for the rest and respect it was being afforded by this event.

Philip Groves

Footnote:

The final day of competition was marred by a lot of litter being left to blow around in the park. Perhaps the ice-cream vendor went home early that day or perhaps foraging can and bottle collectors overturned the rubbish bins. The benefit of doubt goes to the boys.



Above: State Primary Schools Football Championship being played in Victoria Park, June 2006. This was a low impact, clean and well-attended event that disturbed no-one. Photo taken by Philip Groves.

A balancing act: Past—Present—Future

A symposium on the Adelaide Parklands

10–12 November 2006

Co-presented by: The Centre for Settlement Studies, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, UniSA;
The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA; Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc

Adelaide Parklands Symposium—Friday 10 November 2006

Open to the public—small registration fee applies. Location is UniSA, City East Campus: Basil Hetzel Building Mutual Community Theatre (H2-02).

This is a presentation of papers by academics, practitioners in the fields of planning and landscape architecture, professional and community historians and students in landscape architecture and urban design on topics related to:

- the Parklands' intended original purpose, history, past uses and natural and cultural heritage significance
- the potential environmental, planning, social, cultural and economic benefits of the Parklands
- protecting the Parklands as a natural and cultural heritage resource while at the same time encouraging broad community use
- the status and potential of the Adelaide Parklands in comparison with national and international cities that have green or town belts
- potential opportunities and challenges for the Parklands, and possible responses to these such as sustainable landscapes as well as young designers' ideas on future uses for the Parklands
- the management of the Parklands and examples from other cities of the management of major urban parks.

Adelaide Parklands Tours—Saturday 11 November 2006

A series of walking, coach and bike tours, linked to aspects of the Parklands' Indigenous and European history and uses, will provoke thought about their future. A nominal charge will be made.

Adelaide Parklands Public Lecture—Sunday 12 November 2006

Free public lecture to be held at the Adelaide Town Hall during the afternoon with Sarah Whyte, Chair of the Centennial Parklands Foundation, Sydney. This lecture will focus on ways in which the community can engage with the Parklands and their management.

INVITATION TO APPA MEMBERS

After the public lecture on Sunday afternoon, please join the guest speaker, Sarah Whyte, and members of the APPA Committee in celebrating Light's vision.

Enjoy the refreshments and company and take the opportunity to renew acquaintances with people who share your passions.

Background

The Adelaide Parklands, an intentional element in the City of Adelaide Plan (1837), survive as a defining feature of the present-day city. They separate the urban core from the surrounding suburbs and offer numerous spaces for community engagement in informal and formal recreational pursuits. Once a continuous ring of natural open space, the Parklands were denuded in the early decades of European settlement but later regenerated through various landscaping programs. More recently, public art installations have been introduced. Over the years, sections of the Parklands have been alienated for a range of uses, reducing their original size and breaking the encircling ring with incursions such as roads and railway tracks. Buildings and structures have been constructed in some parts. Today, the Parklands are divided into a series of parks, each named to commemorate a historic connection or for the Kurna people, the traditional owners of the land. In November 2005, the South Australian parliament passed the Adelaide City Park Lands Bill with the view to the long-term protection and management of the Parklands. The Bill established the Adelaide Parklands Authority, led by the Adelaide City Council (which has managed and maintained the Parklands since 1852) but with broad community representation. With the passage of the Bill, the Adelaide Parklands are on the brink of a new era. It is timely to investigate their future, mindful of their history and of other concerns. In determining future visions for the Parklands, a range of matters require consideration and balancing.

For information about the Symposium, including the program and registration fee, telephone 8302 0371 or visit the Hawke Centre website at http://www.unisa.edu.au/hawke/events/2006events/ParkLands_Symp.asp

Lack of progress on Frome Road



Above: Long-term alienated Parklands east of Frome Road. Photo taken July 2006 by Gunta Groves.

The area that was once used by Adelaide Technical High School for its tennis courts and then by the Royal Adelaide Hospital as a car park is going to be returned to Parklands, eventually. The bitumen has been ripped up but no further progress has been made. It has been in this state long enough now for the fencing to be vandalised and falling over.

The delay has been caused partially by the Botanic Garden administrators firstly wanting it to be part of the Garden and then when that was denied them wanting it to become a significant gateway to a new Frome Road entrance to the Botanic Garden.

Naming of this piece of Parklands has also been stalled.

Gunta Groves

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

31 October 2006

Always in search of pithy articles, educational information and comment on current issues

HINDMARSH SQUARE

Home at last after an absence of 13 months, the unanticipated sight of improvement in Hindmarsh Square was a nice welcome. Well done ACC. The enhanced vista and the potential created by removing the toilets are worth the extra walk when nature calls. However, I believe a couple of improvements need to be made.

The southern quadrants of Hindmarsh Square are narrow and visually challenged. They don't provide much worthwhile ambience. By removing a row of carparking and the adjacent traffic lane (the service roads would become one way), ten metres would be added to the width of each quadrant, increasing the useable area about 25 per cent. Just like the removal of the toilets, removal of the barricade of stationary cars would open new sightlines and restore spaciousness to the Square. Pedestrian access would also improve. The affected area includes 32 regular carparks, 1 disability carpark and 4 motorcycle spaces on the west side, and approximately 36 spaces on the east.

Hindmarsh Square used to have a significant fountain that I would like to see returned. On 13 June 1868, an elaborate

fountain donated by Councillor AH Bartels (later Lord Mayor Bartels 1871–1873) was turned on, spraying a jet of water several metres high. The water tumbled into bowls below and was then piped into the adjacent gardens. The photo taken in 1873 shows the Congregational Church (later the ABC building) in the background. A detailed drawing (not shown here because of copyright issues) was found among Bartels' papers held at the State Library.

The drawing could be used as a guide to reproduce the fountain (unless the original can be located). Placing it in its original position in the road intersection is unlikely, so an unobscured site in the centre of my proposed enlarged south-west quadrant may be the best option.

Bartels Fountain was probably removed around 1908 when the tramlines were laid. What became of it is still a mystery.

Kyle Penick

Footnote: The small fountain donated by the Rivoli family in 1975 (north-west quadrant near Jasmin Restaurant) is currently being restored by Council.



Above: Bartels Fountain, 1873. The Congregational Church, later the ABC building, is in the background. The location is the centre of the intersection of Grenfell Street and Pulteney Street. Identities of people in the photograph are unknown. (Image courtesy of the State Library of South Australia. SLA: B 9474)

Brickbats and a few bouquets



Left: Demolition started on the eastern edge of Victoria Park in June 2006. Unused SAJC infrastructure finally comes down. The outside wall has now been replaced with high chain-link fencing.

Below: Unused netball courts in Edwards Park, July 2006. It's time they were removed and the area returned to Parklands with no further threat of hard surfaces such as hockey pitches.

Bottom left: Poplar copse at southern end of Victoria Park: rubbish left by campers after they have moved out.

Photos taken July 2006 by Gunta Groves.

Rubbish 1

After several announcements and re-announcements, the Adelaide City Council finally got round to demolishing some of the unsightly structures in Victoria Park. The work started in June and has been progressing slowly.

The removal of unused and derelict SAJC infrastructure will open up vistas of the Parklands and the hills. Unfortunately, road noise from Fullarton Road may become more obvious for visitors to Victoria Park.

Rubbish 2

Campers in the Parklands always seem to be with us. An occasional overnight stay in an emergency seems to be acceptable to most people even though it is against the law. However, campers seem to set up 'home' and when they move on have no thought for the Parklands that they have despoiled or for the people who



have been tolerant of their presence. The photo (left) shows the results. This time the Council has been slow in tidying up after the illegal lodgers.

Inaction

How many times have we been told that the unused netball courts in Edwards Park in the west Parklands were going to be ripped up and the land returned to Parklands? The area is still covered in bitumen that prevents water penetration and causes increased run-off for the drains and coastal waters to contend with.

Strong rumour has it that the hockey fraternity wants to use the area for hockey pitches—again, hard surfaces preventing water penetration. I thought there was already a purpose-built hockey facility called Pines Stadium, but of course it is not 'central'. Additionally, the proposal might include change rooms and stands. Oh dear!

Cirque du Soleil

Cirque du Soleil wanted a piece of Victoria Park for three months next year. Its occupation was to start a couple of weeks after the V8 motor racing infrastructure disappeared, and finish just before the horse trials preparations really got under way. Needless to say, numerous people felt that this was just too much.

The Adelaide City Council's community consultation resulted in 24 written submissions and one 'public forum' personal statement against the proposal. The submissions came from regular visitors to Victoria Park, city residents, managers of strata titles, Pedal Prix organisers and, of course, the APPA Committee and APPA members. In the submissions there were many common themes focusing on the alienation of the area for normal use, degradation of the



Continued on page 7

USE OUR 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, fill in the form below and mail it to:

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

You can also download PDFs of the current and immediate past ten newsletters from our Web site at <www.adelaide-parklands.org>.

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

Gunta Groves

I would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail instead of in the post.

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Continued from previous page

Parklands and loss of amenity for visitors and city residents. The process of Council consultation with the community was also attacked on the basis that the Council has done only the absolute minimum required by the Local Government Act in enabling rate payers to comment adequately on matters directly affecting their property.

The Council's report on the situation recommended that the Cirque du Soleil should be offered Bonython Park instead. During the Council meeting on Monday 31 July, the Councillors, by a narrow majority of one, voted in support of the recommendation. There was no discussion of the issues raised in the report, such as the admission that the previous degradation by Cirque du Soleil of Bonython Park and the subsequent 12 month remediation had left it 'still fragile'. Nor was there discussion of the more appropriate location of the Wayville

Showgrounds for such an event—a location which apparently could be made entirely suitable for Cirque du Soleil by 2007, according to the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA.

The Council's report also noted that a decision was required by Cirque du Soleil by 31 July because time was running out and ticket printing and advertising had to happen straight away. How familiar does that argument sound? I think I have heard it before in relation to the 4-wheel drive show and the horse trials: there is not enough time to consider other venues and the Parklands are there to be used!

If, despite all our submissions, Bonython Park is used again by Cirque du Soleil, we must mount a fight to get it right out of the Parklands forever.

Gunta Groves

From the treasurer

On behalf of the APPA Committee, a huge thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership over the last few months. We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined us for the first time.

We would also like to acknowledge publicly those members who have donated so generously to the Association. We rely on our membership fees and donations for funds to keep going with the fight to preserve the Parklands and we receive no other financial support.

With this edition of the newsletter, there are reminder membership renewal forms included for those members who are yet to renew their 2006–07 memberships. As this is the half-way point of our membership year (which runs from 1 April to 31 March), we would be grateful for your prompt renewal.

Members are also reminded this quarterly newsletter is available by e-mail, which saves the Association significant printing and postage costs. Simply e-mail the newsletter editor at <ggroves@chariot.net.au> with your request, or fill in the form at the top of this page and post it to APPA, PO Box 3040, Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000.

Philip Groves



Left: This was Bonython Park after the last occupation by Cirque du Soleil. Photo taken 3 July 2005 by Gunta Groves.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2006–07

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

Name

Address

Telephone E-mail Date

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

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached Tick if receipt required

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 (*not* 'APPA')
Send to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

09/06

Committee 2006–2007

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Deputy President: Ian Gilfillan
Secretary: Kyle Penick
Treasurer: Philip Groves

Committee members:

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Gunta Groves
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31 October 2006

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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.