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President's letter

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Dr Lynn Arnold AO to the Association as patron and as a fellow Park Lands protector who is keen to play a role in conserving them for future generations. Dr Arnold has accepted an invitation to be the guest speaker at our April AGM and, in advance of that occasion, members have an opportunity to discover some of his views on page 7.

Congratulations to Gunta Groves on being appointed to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) by Minister Jay Weatherill; this was good news for which we thank the Minister. Our thanks also to Ian Gilfillan for his efforts during his term on APLA and for eliciting a report on the South Australian Cricket Association's use of Creswell Gardens.

One wonders if there is any SACA request Council would refuse. In addition to the usual bad behaviour, after SACA's February foray the Garden sported a dead possum and a massive blue refrigerative shipping container, powered on and parked on the site long after the bump-out deadline.

We have declared that Government's launch of a new attack upon the Park Lands with the Adelaide Oval stadium

announcement is 'just not cricket'—in fact it seems to sound the death knell for cricket at Adelaide Oval. It was at least heartening to see a welcome outcry from the Opposition; if they would only apply that vehement veto to their own stadium there might be a real contest for the election.

Council's Adelaide Oval car-parking has long been abusing Pennington Terrace/Montefiore Hill Park Lands, but how many are aware of the powerful monopoly it exerts? Cars park on Park Lands whilst on-street parking bays languish empty because vehicles are deterred by padlocked 'No Parking' placards. Recently, street-parking prohibitions remained over the weekend whilst U-Park stationed their 'Park Lands Till No 3' in Park Lands opposite the Cathedral.

From bad to ugly: the Clipsal 500 was no picnic before, but after years of operating within the racecourse inner loop the government's gazettal of the 'Declared Area' (26 Nov 2009) has taken in a massive additional extent of Park Land in Victoria Park (south to the track outside the outer loop), including our State Heritage-nominated remnant vegetation site with its State Conservation-rated Spear grass, *Stipa gibbosa*. The failure to grant timely State Heritage listing following our September 2009 nomination is a damning indictment of the demolition-by-neglect heritage regime.

As ugly as this is, it pales into insignificance when compared with the North Terrace Railyards-to-RAH exclusion zone, debarring these Park Lands from the National Heritage place with the apparent complicity of National, State and Local Governments. At the one end, we have Government's flirtation with boutique heritage hotels for the existing RAH site and permanent infrastructure for the Garden of Unearthly Delights and its ilk; at the other, Council's flirtation with the SA Health quest to acquire the strip of Council-managed Park Lands opposite the Newmarket Hotel. The recently unveiled images of the proposed Park Lands Medical Research Institute cannot bode well. Nor does the



proposed Park Lands railyards alienation to NRAH Project Co for thirty-five years or the railyards stadium proposal.

By coveting the railyards and seeking to block Light's last remaining vista from North Terrace to the Torrens, both sides of politics propose to desecrate the birthplace of Adelaide and the site Light designated as 'The Commencement of Colonisation in South Australia'.

It was an unexpected surprise to discover Dr Arnold's appreciation of our Park Lands and to receive his timely revelation of comments made by John MacPherson, the acting Governor-General of the East India Company, to Francis Light in 1786, coincidentally the year that William Light was born:

In clearing ground you should be cautious of not falling into a common error in felling countries overrun with woods, which is that of causing every tree to be cut down without previously ascertaining whether they might not prove of great convenience and pleasure to the inhabitants.

I look forward to continuing our search for that elusive permanent protection of the Park Lands in good company, with goodwill, and united in a common cause.

Kelly Henderson

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

30 April 2010

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

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Land grabs at RAH site, railway yards and tram extensions

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

Britannia intersection land grab

Dying elms and other trees

SACA car park push and expansionist ambitions

Alienated Park Lands

Flood mitigation works

Watering regime during drought

Front cover: The eastern side of Victoria Park in the early morning, showing the Park Lands Trail. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 23 August 2009.

McAdelaide Stadium

In my Deputy President's letter in the December 2009 edition of *Park Lands News*, I observed that all suggestions for a new city stadium were predicated on developers obtaining 'free land' in the Adelaide Park Lands and taxpayers meeting the construction costs. As if on cue, in early December 2009, the Rann Labor Government announced the provision of \$450 million of taxpayers' money to gut the Adelaide Oval and turn it into a concrete football stadium.

Prior to this, in June of 2008, Premier Rann and Treasurer Foley had announced a \$100 million taxpayer-funded refit of Football Park and, in December 2008, Planning Minister Holloway followed that announcement by stating that 'AAMI [stadium] will continue to be the state's premier sports stadium and the government is committed to a substantial upgrade of the facility over the coming years'.

The Rann Government does not feel the need to explain this about-face and is now planning to hand \$450 million (at least) of taxpayers' money to two highly commercial entities: the South Australian National Football League (SANFL) and the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA). During the December announcement, the public was subjected to the extremely unedifying spectacle of Premier Rann, Treasurer Foley and fat cat CEOs and officials of the SANFL, SACA and the AFL strutting their stuff on the community-owned turf of Adelaide Oval as they collectively, and possibly nervously, wondered whether South Australians would swallow this audacious heisting of taxpayers' funds and potential further appropriation of community-owned Park Lands.

Why should the SANFL retain freehold ownership of Football Park at West Lakes and pocket the huge windfall profits from any future re-zoning of their stadium and surrounds? Shades of the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) selling off the Cheltenham Racecourse after the Rann Government reneged on undertakings not to re-zone Cheltenham from open space; the SAJC had plans to pocket the windfall proceeds and move most of their Cheltenham operations to Victoria Park. History records what happened to that plot by the SAJC. If the SANFL wishes to take control of the Adelaide Oval lease and stage its AFL

matches there, then it must be required to pay an appropriate asking price.

The world-famous Adelaide Oval has occupied a prominent part of the Adelaide Park Lands since 1870. The State Government, the Adelaide City Council, the South Australian Cricket Association and the South Australian National Football League do not own the Adelaide Oval, nor do they collectively have any rights over it. SACA is merely a tenant and holds a lease over the Adelaide Oval until 30 June 2044. Because this lease is held over community-owned Park Lands (which now have been included on the National Heritage List since 7 November 2008), any alteration to the lease or any new lease will need to go to public consultation.

Lest there be any doubt about SANFL intentions for the Adelaide Oval (and remember the whole of the estimated development cost of \$450 million is taxpayers' money), an article by Jesper Fjeldstad* entitled 'Oval control on SANFL wishlist' appeared in the *Sunday Mail* on 6 December 2009. The SANFL CEO Leigh Whicker has not denied what Jesper Fjeldstad reported as a strict list of demands by SANFL, including:

- compensation for its naming rights deal at AAMI stadium, rumoured to be \$1 million per year (who pays this 'compensation' and for how long?)
- a guaranteed stadium return of \$32 million net a year (guaranteed by the SA taxpayer?)
- compensation for any losses in maintaining AAMI stadium (who pays this 'compensation' and for how long?)
- the State Government to use legislation to overcome all heritage issues related to the move (what an extraordinary and disturbing demand!)
- SANFL to have total control of Adelaide Oval from 1 March to 14 October each year
- State Government to give major project status to any redevelopment of AAMI stadium and remove any encumbrances to its development

- a long-term lease signed for use of Adelaide Oval at 'peppercorn rent'
- no up-front investment from SANFL into costs of redevelopment and no SANFL responsibility for any blowout in costs
- SANFL to have rights to a clean stadium and to determine signage issues
- cricket pitches to be removed during the football season
- SANFL and SACA to keep all income from car-parking, catering and sponsorship in the Adelaide Oval precinct.

If this list of demands is true, and bearing in mind the SANFL has not refuted the story, then the South Australian public and SACA members could be on the receiving end of one of the most audacious cons on taxpayers in South Australian history—reminiscent of government excesses during the State Bank disaster.

As is the nature of these things, the taxpayer, who would bear the entire cost of this fanciful development, has not been included in any of the processes. The State Labor Government has already provided \$5 million 'seed money' to enable the SANFL and SACA to form an Adelaide Oval Stadium Management Authority (SMA), with membership of the authority consisting entirely of paid SANFL and SACA personnel.

The SMA is chaired by SACA President Ian McLachlan, with SANFL's CEO Leigh Wicker as its chief executive. The three SANFL directors are James Coppins, Phil Gallagher and Rod Payze, with the three SACA directors being John Bannon, Creagh O'Connor and Andrew Sinclair. Treasurer Foley is quoted as saying both the SANFL and SACA have demonstrated their commitment to the project by forming the new SMA so quickly after their initial agreement in November last year. I don't know what information the Treasurer is in possession of, but SACA members have not agreed to any such thing, either to the so-called 'initial agreement' or the formation of the SMA.

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McAdelaide Stadium

(Continued from page 3)

The development plan for the Adelaide Oval precinct has certain specific provisions, including not enclosing the oval as a stadium space. On the scant information provided so far, that is exactly what this development proposal would do. The avoidance of a concrete stadium-like effect was acknowledged by David Hassell as being part of the brief when his firm Hassells designed the existing eastern grandstand structures in 2003. The existing Adelaide Oval footprint could not support this development proposal, meaning there would be an inevitable land grab attempt to expand the current footprint, which could only be on the eastern side of the oval. The current Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for the Adelaide Oval precinct does not support the expansion of the oval footprint, which would be at the expense of large areas of Pennington Gardens West and Creswell Gardens.

The CLMP also calls for adherence to the Adelaide Oval Conservation Plan (2001) which specifies that redevelopment of Adelaide Oval beyond its current boundaries would be non-complying. The Conservation Plan also attaches great significance to the views into and out of the oval. APPA believes any expansion of the Adelaide Oval footprint would have a significant impact on the National Heritage values of the Adelaide Park Lands and, as such, would trigger the protection afforded by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. APPA will ensure that every aspect of this proposed development is closely examined and tested against the provisions of that protection.

Writing in the *Weekend Australian* of 5–6 December 2009, David Nason** told an eloquent story about the Adelaide Oval experience. He observed that the Adelaide Oval has been ‘a beautiful and defining feature of Adelaide for most of the city’s life, which will be lost once the bulldozers and construction teams move in ... In its place will be McAdelaide Oval with an eastern side entirely framed by a massive new grandstand’. The story also included an anecdote concerning ABC cricket commentator and former Test cricketer Kerry O’Keefe, who, during the December 2009 Test match at Adelaide Oval, was asked what he thought of the proposed development. After some

thought he said ‘it looks great—for a football stadium’.

The proposed redevelopment of Adelaide Oval would seat 50 000 spectators. The SANFL has some 20 000 members and SACA 15 000 members, with many more fast-tracked memberships promised to coincide with the completion of the Western Grandstand project in October 2010. It does beg the question, where does Joe Public fit into this equation? Or is Joe Public just getting to pay for it without having much hope of experiencing the facility—not dissimilar to the earlier proposed corporate entertainment facility at Victoria Park?

Should the South Australian taxpayer fund this ill-conceived and clearly hastily cobbled together development by the Rann Government as a matter of political expediency? Why should taxpayers provide \$450 million to the country’s wealthiest two major sporting codes? Presumably the members of SANFL and SACA will be given the opportunity to comment on this matter when their respective boards of management deign to communicate with them. The Local Government Association made its views known immediately after the announcement, with its president saying it was ‘obscene’ that both Government and the Opposition were competing over plans for a city stadium when community sport and recreation receive less than \$1.5 million a year in funding. It is impossible to fault the Local Government Association’s assessment of this proposal.

Philip Groves

(The writer is a longstanding SACA member. He is extremely indignant at the arrogant manner in which the SACA Board of Management is selling cricket, the Association and its members down the river.)

* ‘Oval control on SANFL wishlist’ by Jesper Fjeldstad, *Sunday Mail*, 6 December 2009

** ‘From village green to McAdelaide Oval’ by David Nason, *Weekend Australian*, 5–6 December 2009

Ducks and rockets don’t mix

On 27 February the Adelaide Festival of Arts was launched in Victoria Park. The Festival opening event was billed as ‘A Little More Light’ but one could have wished for a little more sense.

Saturday night, 13 March, the ducks and other fauna of Rymill Park will get an equally rude disturbance. The Skyshow has been incorporated into this year’s V8 Supercar event to further diversify its activities and justify its existence. The fireworks will be launched from the rose garden area of Rymill Park, about 200 metres from one of the biggest duck populations in the Park Lands. The arrangements were approved by Adelaide City Councillors on 25 January 2010.

The ducks in Rymill Park include Mallards and native Wood Ducks. Both species already encounter the dangers of traffic along Bartels Road and the effects of the annual car race. Dead ducks are usually reported after the event. Whether they die from noise stress, as Arnie Rossis is reported as saying, or from being kicked to death by drunken louts, as an RSPCA officer surmised, they are dead nevertheless. Both causes are believable and totally avoidable.

Now the Skyshow will add another totally avoidable danger. The noise in the air and the noise from launching the fireworks will be debilitating, terrifying and possibly lethal to the ducks. I don’t need a veterinary report or a statistical study to be able to predict how the ducks will react. Their fear and panic are easy to imagine if you have seen other animals affected by fireworks.

The RSPCA is apparently unable to take pre-emptive action, according to its CEO Steve Lawrie. Veterinary reports about dead ducks would be required before it takes action.

So, bear a thought for all the fauna in the Park Lands when you ooh! and aah! at the money going up in smoke on 13 March. The sounds of February and March in Adelaide seem to be the sounds of pyrotechnics, heard across the eastern suburbs, the City of Adelaide, the Adelaide Park Lands and anywhere else in the pathway of the prevailing wind.

Gunta Groves

State election news

Members of the 'Save the RAH Action Group' and their new party 'Save the RAH' (as reported in *Park Lands News* December 2009) have announced their intention to field fourteen candidates at the March 2010 election. Dr Jim Katsaros, director of reconstructive surgery at the RAH, will be the number one candidate for the Legislative Council (known as the Upper House). The three other candidates on the same Upper House ticket with Dr Katsaros are former RAH board member Dr David McGowan, Holdfast Bay Mayor Ken Rolland and businessman Mark Taplin.

Candidates for the House of Assembly (or Lower House) are businessman Kon Briggs (West Torrens), Dr Philip Harding (Norwood), Dr Suren Krishnan (Newland), Dr Ruben Sebben (Adelaide), Dr David Senior (Mawson), Dr Simon Stewart-Rattray (Light), Dr Peter Maddern (Morialta), Dr Max Van Dissell (Frome), Ms Meredith Stock RN (Bright) and Dr Robert Waltham (Hartley). The party stands for preserving the Royal Adelaide Hospital on its present site and rebuilding rather than relocating it. The party considers it imperative to build on the strengths of the RAH and the adjoining Frome Road facilities, which are complemented by the association with the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. Party spokesman Dr Jim Katsaros says, 'We are asking the people of our state to take ownership of this cause [saving the RAH] and tell the Rann Government that enough is enough'.

'Save St Clair' spokeswoman Ms Kirsten Alexander, who has toiled long and hard for the community over the scandalous 'land swap' involving the State Government and the Charles Sturt City Council, is standing on the same ticket as Upper House independent David Winderlich.

APPA wishes a good outcome for all candidates who stand for preserving the Park Lands and public spaces elsewhere.

Philip Groves

APPA Annual General Meeting April 2010

Date: Sunday 18 April
Time: 10.30 am for 11.00 am start
Venue: The Box Factory
59 Regent St S, Adelaide, SA 5000

Guest speaker: Dr Lynn Arnold AO

Topic: 'Would/should William Light be turning in his grave?'

**ALL
MEMBERS
WELCOME**

Park Lands pragmatism A challenge for an Adelaide City Councillor

Those of you who know me know that I am a fully paid-up member of the Park Lands preservation lobby and was a member of the Association's Committee. Much of my time in Council is spent trying to secure the long-term preservation of what many consider to be Adelaide's defining and priceless asset, its Park Lands and the Colonel Light plan of our city and its squares.

Indeed, one of the reasons which led me to stand for Council was my concern for the preservation and enhancement of the Park Lands which are a very special and fundamental feature of Adelaide; they are of interest to town planners, to social historians and of course they are in strong demand for a whole range of recreational and events activities and a great drawcard for tourism.

But I am also a pragmatist who realises that the Park Lands are not a museum-piece but a living part of our city which should be allowed to respond to the changing needs of the people to whom they were bequeathed. As a Councillor I sometimes find myself at odds with the decisions of the APPA Committee which requires me to search my conscience.

The Adelaide Park Lands Authority—a joint State/Local Government body—is responsible for giving policy advice to the Council and has produced a Management Strategy (which recently has been signed off by the Minister). I realise that this was not the APPA-preferred model for Park Lands management and that the Authority has not delivered what APPA believes is necessary for the proper preservation of the Park Lands, but I believe that reasonable progress has been made and that Council has benefited from the independent advice of the Authority.

Over the last five years a revised Management Strategy and Community Land Management Plans (CLMP) for each of the parks in the Park Lands have been produced, and work has begun on an overall Landscape Master Plan. Other agencies that control parts of the Park Lands are also required to prepare management plans which, it is hoped, will reflect the overall Management Strategy.

On an almost daily basis new and ever more grandiose plans are being announced by our political masters

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Park Lands pragmatism

A challenge for an Adelaide City Councillor

(Continued from page 5)

and championed by various vested interests. They are usually spurred on by a relentless, unquestioning media circus led by *The Advertiser* and followed up by the daily chatter from the bloggers and so-called experts who haunt talk-back radio.

To the Park Lands Authority and the Council, all these proposals are of great concern, not only because we have a responsibility as custodians of the Park Lands but because the proposals have the potential to fundamentally change the direction of city planning and its focus of development.

Let's look at a few of them:

- Labor's plan to build the new RAH on the railway yards and to convert the existing RAH site into a major events area *aka* Adelaide's Federation Square
- Liberals' plan to build a sports stadium and other commercial facilities on the railway yards and on both sides of the Torrens by the weir
- AFL, SANFL and SACA plans to convert Adelaide Oval into a 50 000 seat all-sports centre

- Tram-line extensions and proposed O'Bahn upgrades which threaten Botanic Park

- The use of the Park Lands for storm-water detention basins and artificial wetlands.

Other issues of ongoing concern include:

- The continuing drought, which has taken its toll on many trees; some are perhaps already near the end of their life. The GAP recycled water should help but it comes at a cost which Council has to bear
- Projects such as the tram extension and Zoo upgrades, which have led to the loss of hundreds of trees
- The increasing expectation that Park Lands should be used for the parking of cars. This may be acceptable for large sporting and other special events, but not for commercial events or commuter parking on the roads that cross and surround the Park Lands
- The increasing demand for events that alienate Park Lands for many days at a time and which are fenced and ticketed at high prices. This lines the pockets of entrepreneurs at the

expense of our parks, which should not be seen as cheap open space to be taken over by private interests

- The loss of freely available open space to ovals and playing areas
- Sporting clubs that want to occupy Park Lands spaces, who should be able to show some affinity with the City or have a state-wide focus.

The 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide envisages a large increase in the number of people living in the city and in the suburbs around the city, all of whom will look to the Park Lands for their family and community recreational needs. It is essential that in our rush to cater for the insatiable demands of organised sport and events organisers we don't deny future generations the chance to enjoy the sheer pleasure of freely available open space.

David Plumridge AM, Adelaide City Councillor and member of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority.

Regular Notes of Council news and views are available by e-mailing David at <dplumrid@bigpond.net.au>.

Call for new APPA secretary

Current APPA secretary, Olivia Franco, will be stepping down from this role as of the new APPA year. If you would like to be involved in the APPA Committee by becoming the new secretary, please contact Olivia Franco. Your role would include taking the minutes of committee meetings, checking the APPA correspondence, attending Park Lands-related events and helping to protect the Park Lands by being involved with the committee.

Possible candidates will need to nominate themselves before the AGM to be held in April and will be voted in at the AGM. If you have any queries about this role, please contact Olivia Franco via e-mail at <olivia_appa@hotmail.com> or by phone at 04123 14966.

APPA's patron: Dr Lynn Arnold AO

APPA's new patron is Dr Lynn Arnold AO, chief executive of Anglicare and once Premier of South Australia. With fifteen years of politics under his belt, Dr Arnold has, since his departure from politics, focused on humanitarian and community causes, as chief executive officer of World Vision Australia, Regional Vice-President (Asia/Pacific) for World Vision International and chief executive of Anglicare SA. In 2001 he received the Centenary Medal for his services to the Australian community, and his Order of Australia (AO) was awarded in 2004 both for his services to Australia through the South Australian Parliament as Premier and internationally through humanitarian aid assistance.

For this edition of *Park Lands News* we thought it appropriate to introduce APPA's new patron to the members of the Association before the AGM in April, and so we sat down to discuss with Dr Arnold his views on the Park Lands and why he agreed to become patron of APPA, his personal hopes for the Park Lands, their Heritage Listings—and lack thereof—and some aspects of the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide.

Dr Arnold has long been an advocate of the Adelaide Park Lands, stating that they are 'something which no other place has'. '... Not only because of the special history



Above: APPA patron Dr Lynn Arnold AO, current chief executive of Anglicare. Photo taken at Bishops' Court, North Adelaide in December 2008; used with permission from Dr Lynn Arnold.

of the founding of Adelaide as a special colony with a special founder; [the Park Lands] picked up elements of quality of life which have been a subtitle of everything about South Australia since.'

As far as he is concerned now, the Park Lands are more than deserving of being heritage listed. He agreed that not only should the band north of North Terrace be added to the National Heritage list (as part of Light's original vision, and therefore part of the heritage), but that he would support the State and World Heritage listing of the Park Lands as a whole, and admitted that he isn't sure why the State Heritage listing hadn't yet gone through.

Something Dr Arnold considers a major issue for the future is the potential erosion of Park Lands and the risk of forgetting that the Park Lands are precious and are there for the whole of Adelaide, not just a limited few or those who happen to live nearby. In particular he was concerned about an idea put forward in the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide, of building medium-rise developments on land abutting the Park Lands. He stated that doing so risks the use of the Park Lands as the residents' front- and backyards. '... One might say "well, that's okay, you can build that because they become the front- and backyards of the people living in medium- to high-rise". No. The Park Lands are everybody's space, not just the front- and backyards of the people living immediately adjacent to it. And the usage needs to be there for all people, not just for some.'

He was similarly doubtful about the possibility of the Park Lands being overused as a car-parking area (in reference to the Adelaide Oval redevelopment and how the redevelopment would handle the car-parking issue). 'It is one thing to say "it is okay for cars to park on the Park Lands a few times a year". It starts to be another proposition if that ends up being a regular thing. That is an erosion of the Park Lands; it is no longer Park Lands, it is now a car-park.'

Lynn agreed that the Park Lands are misunderstood with relation to their meaning and value, and that that is part of what contributes to their overuse. Part

of such a concern is the Adelaide City Council's view that the Park Lands should be 'vitalised' by drawing in more crowds. 'That tends to follow the "open space is there, and because it is there you can use it intensively with greater frequency" ... The Park Lands are mixed use, in the sense that part of the use is not being heavily used for extensive periods of the year by thousands of people.'

During Dr Arnold's time in government it was intended that 'there should be a return, wherever possible, of the Park Lands to Park Lands' usage ... that was the view that was being taken by both sides of politics at the time.' Similarly, he believes that it is important for both sides of politics today to be 'called upon to explain how they intend to honour the previous views that Park Land that has been alienated, wherever possible, should be returned to Park Land usage.'

He did point out that the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide has already been through public consultation and that makes it difficult to include additional provision for Park Lands issues beyond what has already been stated. Although the Plan itself does make mention of the Park Lands, he points out that it also seems to take them for granted, and that the goal for APPA and other concerned people should be to 'make sure that where it says things like "the Park Lands" that [the Plan] ends up being what it should be ... It could have been more positive about the value of the Park Lands to the very nature of Adelaide, not just something innocuous ... We have to hear the following message about the role of the Parklands—namely that they are a critical part of the wellbeing of Adelaide.'

As for himself, Dr Arnold has long enjoyed the Park Lands for family and personal recreation. 'In my late teens I had a big dog, an English pointer, and early in the morning I would go jogging around that park [Park 6] ... I have fond memories of that.' While a student at Adelaide High and later the University of Adelaide, he frequently used to walk to school through the Park Lands from his home in

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Water flows through the GAP

The Glenelg to Adelaide Pipeline (GAP) project has now been completed, with water flowing for the first time on 11 January 2010. (Previous editions of *Park Lands News* in September and December 2008 and March 2009 have carried stories on this project.) The Commonwealth- and State-funded project consists of a thirty-two kilometre pipe network bringing recycled water from the Glenelg Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Adelaide Park Lands.

Note the use of the term 'recycled water', which has replaced the less glamorous but more accurate descriptor, 'treated effluent'. Some cynics have suggested this is the only tangible new water initiative the government has been able to deliver—returning our own sewage to irrigate the Park Lands. Check out the Park Lands during certain events and you can see numerous examples of people bypassing the treatment process!

According to a government press release, several 'off-takes' were added to the eight-kilometre long trunk main during the construction stage to enable other

customers to draw water for irrigation purposes. The City of West Torrens and the City of Unley have indicated they intend signing up in March 2010 to draw water for their ovals and reserves. A twenty-four kilometre pipe network runs from the trunk main throughout the Park Lands, providing water to about a third of all the irrigated areas. There is the potential to deliver up to 5.5 billion litres of recycled water annually from the treatment works.

APPA remains concerned about the potential for harming the Park Lands, as opposed to the obvious benefits this initiative will deliver, unless thorough baseline studies are completed before irrigation programs are commenced. APPA has been unable to verify the existence of comprehensive baseline data, although we are advised the Adelaide City Council has carried out 'initial baseline monitoring' and arranged for 'twenty soil and groundwater monitoring sites around the Park Lands'.

It should be borne in mind that treated effluent is much more saline and nutrient-

rich than mains water. There is a time lag of up to ten years between actions and outcomes related to salinity changes in soil, emphasising the need for exacting baseline data across the Park Lands supported by regular and comprehensive monitoring. This will provide the basis from which harm-minimisation strategies can be implemented. After all, the Adelaide Park Lands are the city's greatest asset and must be treated accordingly.

Although APPA is generally supportive of and grateful for this Commonwealth-State initiative, the GAP project should not be seen as a panacea that will redress all of the issues besetting the Adelaide Park Lands. Providing the Adelaide City Council develops and resources an appropriate Park Lands watering program, GAP water will assist in revitalising and even saving some of the flora. However, no amount of water will save the Park Lands from the degradation brought about by the inappropriate and unsustainable use of South Australia's finest National Heritage List attraction.

Philip Groves

APPA's patron

(Continued from page 7)

Walkerville: 'fully a third of the trip was walking through Park Lands and it was just wonderful'. And when Lynn's children were young it was 'a very common thing' for the family to go to Botanic Park after church for its open areas and big trees. 'That had very special memories for us as a family because we would often have a picnic lunch there and play ball with the kids.' He freely admits that the Park Lands 'have been an important part of my enjoyment of Adelaide'. Perhaps with time and Lynn Arnold's support, he, along with many others, will be able to see the Park Lands properly acknowledged as an integral part of Adelaide.

Kelly Russ

Who said this and when?

1: '... if they want a grandstand, they can build one themselves.'

2: '... the former government seemed to have a love affair with grandstands.'

3: 'I think we have enough taxpayer-funded grandstands in this city.'

See last page for the answer.

Brochure brigade

Sincere thanks to those members who have so enthusiastically given of their time (and shoe leather) to distribute in their suburbs the newly printed APPA membership brochure. With a State Government election looming on 20 March 2010, the APPA brochure will provide residents with welcome relief from all the election material cluttering their letterboxes.

The brochure will also serve to jog the memories of voters about the incumbent Labor Government's Adelaide Park Lands and other open space policies, and to then compare the government's past pre-election rhetoric with its actions.

Philip Groves

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 *Park Lands News* by e-mail as a PDF, fill in the form below and mail it to the following address:

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040
Rundle Mall SA 5000.

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

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

Gunta Groves

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

My e-mail address is:

Name Signature

Address

Thank you, Ian

The Hon Mr Ian Gilfillan is a legend in APPA history. He seems to have been around forever, always contributing, always there for the Adelaide Park Lands.

He was responsible for the establishment of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association in 1987. He was its President for ten years (1996–2006) and continues to serve on the Association's committee. Notably, in 2006, he was appointed by the Minister for Environment and Conservation to the inaugural Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board. His three-year term finished in December 2009.

The Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) was set up under section 5 of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*. You may remember that before the Adelaide Park Lands Bill was finalised, the public consultation about the management of the Park Lands resulted in a majority of the many respondents wanting an independent trust. But, we got the APLA on 14 December 2006, set up as a subsidiary of the Adelaide City Council (ACC) under section 42 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. The APLA Board's purpose is to advise the ACC and the State Government on the protection, management, enhancement and promotion of the Adelaide Park Lands.

The APLA consists of a ten-member Board, of which Ian Gilfillan was one. His Board position was created by the Act to enable an appointment to be made from

an organisation (in this case, the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc) principally concerned with preserving and managing the Park Lands for the community.

For three years Ian worked with, and sometimes against, the other Board members, to prevent the worst depredations of the Park Lands and to enhance and promote their attributes and their most important place in South Australia's and Adelaide's natural and cultural heritage. Thank you, Ian, for a sincere and continuing commitment to the Adelaide Park Lands.

Gunta Groves



Above: Ian Gilfillan at the 2006 APPA AGM. Photo taken by Gunta Groves.

APLA appointment: Gunta Groves

On 18 February 2010, Gunta Groves, former member of APPA's Committee and long-time advocate of the Park Lands, was gazetted as a member of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority.

Already Gunta has attended one meeting of the Authority. Her newsletter covering the activities of the Authority is included with this newsletter. If you wish to continue to receive it, please either contact her at <ggroves@chariot.net.au> or send a letter to APPA's standard postal address, specifying whether the newsletter should be in e-mail or hardcopy format.

Congratulations on your appointment, Gunta, and may your good work continue.

Kelly Russ

NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2009–10
Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000

Name

Address

Telephone E-mail Date

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 single (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Send <i>Park Lands News</i> via e-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 family (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 corporate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 single (student/concession) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 family (concession) | |

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:

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

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

Please make cheque/money order payable to: Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc (*not 'APPA'*)

Send to: Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000

03/10

Committee 2009–2010

President: Kelly Henderson
Secretary: Olivia Franco
Treasurer: Philip Groves

Committee members:

Ian Gilfillan
Rod Hartley
Luciana Larkin
Kyle Penick
Kelly Russ
Michael Sando

Patron

Dr Lynn Arnold AO

Auditor

David Carver, BK Partners

Web administrator

Kelly Russ

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**Answer to 'Who said this
and when?'**

The quotes are from Treasurer Kevin Foley on Friday 5 July 2002 on the occasion of his announcement of the withdrawal of an \$11 million grant for SACA's then \$57 million redevelopment proposal at the Adelaide Oval. Mr Foley said the money had been approved by the former (Liberal) government in the 2001–02 State Budget. (Source: 'Foley cuts \$11 million Adelaide Oval grant. Build a stand yourselves' by Leanne Craig, *The Advertiser*, 6 July 2002, p 1)

Contact

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30 April 2010

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Membership:

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