

# ParkLANDS<sub>news</sub>

December 2011 Number 45



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# The saga of Private Simpson and his donkey

Plans by the RSL to erect a memorial statue in the Park Lands of John (Jack) Simpson Kirkpatrick, affectionately known as 'the man with his donkey', have finally been resolved. The life-size bronze statue of Private Simpson, his donkey and a wounded Australian soldier was funded by the RSL and the Simpson Foundation. Renowned South Australian artist Robert Hannaford was commissioned to produce the work, believed to have cost in the vicinity of \$400 000 to craft and cast.

The RSL's original preferred site was outside the existing Royal Adelaide Hospital. With the new RAH now proceeding, alternative sites were proposed and discussed. Suggestions included incorporating the statue into the new RAH development, behind Government House, next to the Torrens Parade Ground, and in Pennington Garden near the Cross of Remembrance Memorial.

The final site chosen is the Angas Garden near the War Memorial Drive, Sir Edwin Smith Drive and King William Road intersection. This section of Park Lands contains the State Heritage Listed memorial to GF and JH Angas within the 1.82ha garden.

## ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Adelaide Bowling Club activities

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World Heritage listing

*Front cover: Possum Rock, by Silvio Apponyi, Wirranendi Interpretive Trail.  
Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 14 September 2011.*

The development application was supported by the Adelaide City Council's Development Assessment Panel, and the full Council in its capacity as custodian and manager of the Adelaide Park Lands.

The Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board also provided advice to Council that it supported the application. Under delegation from the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Heritage Unit of the Department of Environment and Heritage (DENHR) opposed the application on the grounds that:

- It would compromise the setting of the State Heritage place by detracting from the Angas Memorial as the focal point of the Angas Gardens.
- It would dominate the view of the Angas Memorial from the King William Road/Sir Edwin Smith Avenue intersection.

Readers should take particular note of the Minister for Environment and Conservation's take on the importance of settings for State Heritage objects. Opportunities will arise in the future to test the consistency of the minister's thinking.

The Development Assessment Commission (DAC) meeting of 13 October resolved to concur with the Simpson Foundation's application to site the statue in Angas Garden. It was difficult to see how the DAC could resolve otherwise, given the largely pedantic objections raised by the DENHR's Heritage Unit under delegation from the Minister for Environment and Conservation.

Elsewhere in the country there are at least five statues or statuettes in honour of 'Jack' Simpson, the man with his donkey, including one in Melbourne and one outside the Australian War Museum in Canberra. Sculptor Robert Hannaford's new Adelaide contribution, dedicated to the fallen comrades of the Defence Force Medical Services Personnel, is a magnificent addition to that collection. This outcome is a credit to all those who have contributed to making it happen.

**Philip Groves**

*ParkLANDSnews December 2011—2*

# Victoria Park sell-out

So said the headline by Deputy Lord Mayor David Plumridge in his newsletter *Notes from Councillor David Plumridge's desk* (Issue No 70, 26 October 2011). This is the text of his newsletter story:

*South East residents and the many casual users of Victoria Park were excited by the plans announced last year and readily admit that some good work has been done. However, the 2 over-engineered bitumen roads just built across the park are a visual disaster and a far cry from what the artist's impressions led us to expect. What's worse is that due to a cost overrun on building the playing fields there is no money left for the all-important landscaping that was promised! Locals are distressed at what appears to be an ever increasing network of roads and gravel tracks all over the park which are being provided by the Council for no other purpose than to facilitate the staging of the Clipsal race which has now become a 6-month intolerably intrusive occupation of the once heralded People's Park.*

It is difficult to see how the laying down of hundreds of additional square metres of bitumen roads sits with the ACC's claim that 'The proposed Victoria Park Masterplan aims to transform the Park into a "People's Park" rivalling some of the great city parks of the world'. The great city parks of the world that I am familiar with do not give over their spaces to commercial motor racing activities for up to six months of the year. There is no likelihood of Victoria Park joining their ranks unless the ACC is disabused of its contradictory behaviour.

## And another thing ...

The Victoria Park Masterplan includes a 'premium playing field' directly in front of the Heritage Listed grandstand. Now completed at great expense to city ratepayers, the playing field has been put through its paces in November 2011, firstly by the Adelaide International Horse Trials event, followed a week later by a national polo event.

Just why the premium playing field should be the venue for four-legged events that inflict significant damage to the premium playing field is known only to the ACC. And who will be footing the remediation bill?

**Philip Groves**



# Adelaide City Council's Memorials and Monuments Policy

According to the ACC's policy document:

*Capital cities play a key role in the commemoration and honouring of people, history and ideas that are central to a society's sense of identity and value. Memorials and monuments are a tangible and easily recognisable celebration of a City's civic life and therefore play a vital role in enriching the physical and social environment of a City. Council is committed to a clear and robust process to actively respond to proposals for a diverse range of memorials and monuments, to ensure that the City continues to honour people, history and ideas.*

ACC definitions for memorials and monuments include:

- **Memorial**—an object or a landscaped feature designed to preserve the memory of a person, event or place
- **Monument**—an enduring physical object created in memory of a person or event or place
- **Donor**—any person or group applying to commemorate a person or event or place that conveys a positive message for the City
- **Plaque**—a bronze bench plaque mounted flush, with a text message

displayed that does not exceed the accepted plaque size for the bench as per Operating Guidelines for the *Placement of small memorials in the Park Lands and Squares in the City of Adelaide* noted by Council 29 May 2006.

'Normal' ACC 'Memorials and Monuments Policy Process for Approval' includes public consultation for installations in the Park Lands.

A monument in honour of American cyclist Lance Armstrong has been installed in Bonython Park adjacent to the Gate 4 entrance. It is on the edge of the shared pathway running along the western length of the park. Earlier this year, that 1.5 kilometre stretch of shared pathway was declared the 'Livestrong Pathway' by then Premier Mike Rann, presumably because of his very public admiration of Lance Armstrong, an admiration bordering on idolatry, although it has been the SA taxpayer providing the funds to laud Lance Armstrong. (The rest of the world remains divided over the cycling achievements of Lance Armstrong, calling into question the worthiness of ex-Premier Rann's unilateral gesture inflicted on the Park Lands, as well as Council's interpretation of its own policy.)

Whether or not the Livestrong monument should have been considered under the

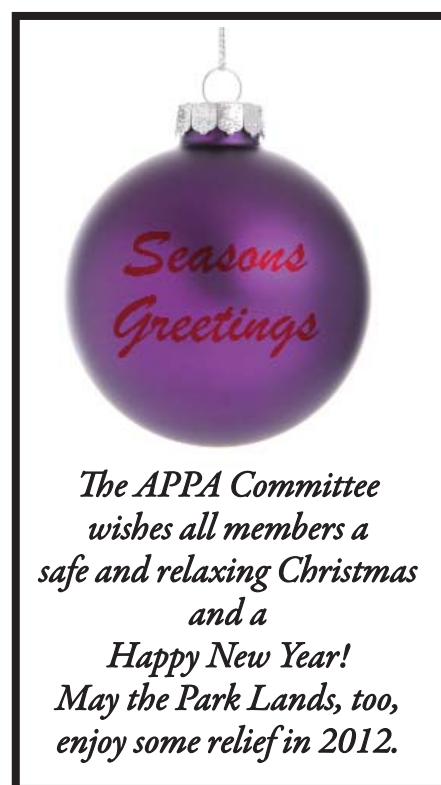
ACC Memorials and Monuments Policy criteria has been rendered academic by the ACC conveniently describing the monument as 'directional signage' because it's supposedly identifying the shared pathway called the Livestrong Pathway!

Should we expect to see a monument (sorry, directional sign) installed in the Park Lands in honour of ex-Premier Rann? Not long before the departure of Mike Rann from the office of Premier, the State Liberal Opposition Party pre-empted what they believed to be an imminent State Government announcement for another tramline loop extension running along Gouger Street. This was denied by Premier Rann, even though trams seemed to run second only to his preoccupation with all things Lance. Perhaps the naming of a tramline might best reflect Rann's legacy. A commentator on the *Advertiser's* 'Adelaide Now' website certainly thought so, and expressed it thus:

*Unlike buses, if a tram breaks down, the others find it difficult to go around it. Face it, trams are Rann's way of creating himself a legacy and an apt one at that: They're very visible but next to useless.*



The Livestrong Pathway 'directional sign' which doesn't really give any indication of direction, either from the pathway or from the road. It looks like a substantial monument/plaque. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 6 November 2011.



# Advertising in the Park Lands and corporate citizenship

The photograph below was taken on the occasion of the Woodstock Revisited 2011 event in Rymill Park on 30 October 2011. At least seven Coopers advertising banners, measuring approximately 2 metres by 1 metre, were attached to the temporary event fencing fronting East Terrace, blotting the landscape and in direct contravention of the Adelaide City Council's Park Lands advertising policy. Decide for yourself the standard of corporate citizenship on display from Coopers Brewery Limited.



Above: Corporate citizenship or corporate contempt? Fences that keep out the public (except those who can pay) from the Park Lands display prominent advertising. Photo taken by Philip Groves, 30 October 2011.

## Thinking outside the Park Lands

The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's deputy chair, Anthony Steele, has recently been trumpeting the orchestra's (and Adelaide's) need for a dedicated concert auditorium and drama theatre. There is little or no disagreement that Adelaide is long overdue for a new dedicated concert hall. The Adelaide Town Hall is still the most acoustically acceptable concert venue in Adelaide, well ahead of the Festival Centre. Both venues have performed outstanding service to Adelaideans, despite the venues' differing shortcomings.

Writing in the October edition of *The Adelaide Review*\*, music critic Dr Graham Strahle said 'What Adelaide needs is a 1,500 to 1,800-seat auditorium of classic shoebox design with optimum acoustics' but that 'Eyes roll of course at the talk of another expensive icon for Adelaide'. Enter Tim Horton, the Commissioner for Integrated Design in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, who brings a refreshing take on the possible location of a new music and drama development. Graham Strahle said 'Many have assumed the Riverbank development is the obvious place to site a new performance venue but Horton says we should not look to Riverbank as the answer to everything'. Horton is quoted as saying there are alternative ideas: 'Look at Sydney's City Recital Hall, situated at the bottom of a 35 level commercial tower, it represents another way to go. It's not necessarily a public purse matter'.

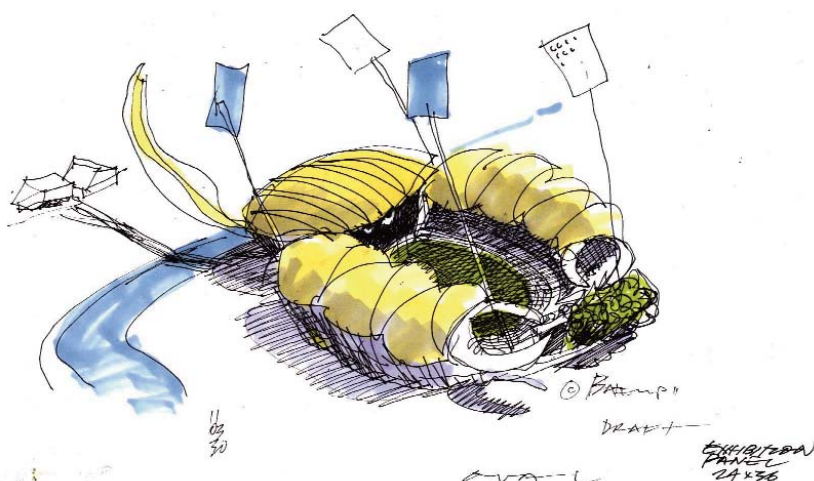
Other alternative location suggestions attributed to Horton include the West End and, daringly, beyond the city's fringe at sites such as the Bradken Foundry in Kilburn, the former Clipsal site in Bowden, or Mitsubishi's old Tonsley site. (Football Park is another site Tim could have listed!)

Tim Horton's development views are resonating more and more with South Australians, in particular as he appears to see the Adelaide Park Lands as an integral part of the City's reason for being, rather than a starting point and dumping ground for every new development proposal that comes along.

**Philip Groves**

\* 'Performance space' by Graham Strahle, *The Adelaide Review*, October 2011. Go to [www.adelaidereview.com.au](http://www.adelaidereview.com.au).

## I'm coming to get you!



BATEUP URBAN CARTOONS  
© Ross Bateup

The sinister likely outcome of the Adelaide Oval redevelopment proposal is captured with great prescience by cartoonist Ross Bateup.

Ross is an architect with Masters Degrees in Urban Design and City Planning from Penn University. He is also internationally known for his political and urban cartoons. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *London Times*, *The Australian*, *The Bulletin*, *The Advertiser* and the *Sunday Mail*.

Ross Bateup consults as an Urban Design specialist and is currently researching the use of cartoons as observation, commentary and criticism in urban design and environmental issues.



# Afloat again in Bonython Park

The Adelaide City Council has completed an upgrade of the Bonython Park model boat pond which was closed in late 2006 because of water restrictions and now is re-lined and filled with recycled water. An ACC press release said the Adelaide Model Power Boat Club are thrilled to see the pond refilled again. The club secretary Wayne Schutte said 'The first ever Australian Model Boat Championship was held in the pond in 1973. Now that the pond is restored it means we're able to come back to the middle of the Park Lands and start racing again'.

The pond was originally constructed in 1962 and, at that time, was the only one of its type in Australia. Expect to see

both formal regattas and casual model boat enthusiasts showing off their model boats once again. Sail model boats have use of the pond Sat–Sun, 7.30am–1.00pm, and motorised model boats have the use of the pond Sat–Sun, 1.00pm–sunset, according to Council signage at the pond.

Unfortunately, Council's decision to support the re-location of the Road Safety Centre adjacent to the boating pond is likely to impact the current restful and scenic garden setting enjoyed by the pond's location.

*Philip Groves*



Above: The Bonython Park pond for model boats is open for business once again. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 6 November 2011.

## ADVANCE NOTICE APPA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Please make a note in your 2012 diary, specifically for the afternoon of Sunday 29 April 2012. Your Committee is arranging a 25th Anniversary event where members can celebrate the achievements of the Association, and honour some of its longstanding members. It will be an event short on speeches, with the emphasis on the coming together of APPA members in a social setting to celebrate Adelaide's greatest asset, the Adelaide Park Lands. Music, food and drink, together with good company, will be the order of the day.

Formal invitations will be mailed to all members in late February 2012. A suitable RSVP period will accompany the invitation. It will be necessary to RSVP your acceptance of the invitation to enable the finalisation of numbers for catering purposes.

This will be a rare opportunity for members to gather and enjoy each other's company.

## OBITUARY

**Elliott Frank Johnston AO QC**  
**26 February 1918–25 August 2011**

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Elliott Johnston. A man of great intellect and compassion, Elliott passed away on 25 August in a city hospital which looks out over the eastern Park Lands, not so very distant from his city residence adjacent to Victoria Park.

Having graduated in law from the University of Adelaide in 1940, Elliott Johnston was in the vanguard of the progressive law movement in South Australia. He famously joined the Communist Party of Australia in 1941, together with Elizabeth Teesdale Smith, who was to become his wife the following year. He established his own law practice in 1946 and the work of the practice (which survives to this day) reflected his lifelong obsession and commitment to improving the lives and wellbeing of ordinary Australians, a philosophy shared with equal passion by Elizabeth, an accomplished lawyer in her own right. Elliott's legal skills were used to good effect in achieving award wages provisions for workers, and the establishment of injured worker rights and financial compensation entitlements. He was also highly regarded as an exceptional criminal lawyer.

For a modest man, Elliott Johnston's achievements and honours were many. He was the first Communist to take silk when he was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1970, and he joined the South Australian Supreme Court Bench in 1983. After he retired from the Bench in 1988, he was appointed head of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and, in 1994, he received the Order of Australia. Honorary doctorates from Flinders University and the University of Adelaide followed.

Elliott's biographer, Penelope DeBelle, has written a definitive account of his extraordinary life and accomplishments—*Red Silk*. The back cover notes say Elliott Johnston is a working class hero. And he was.

In his 92nd year, Elliott was still letter-boxing on behalf of APPA.

He is survived by son Stewart. A memorial service for Elliott Johnston was held at Elder Hall on 9 September 2011.

Vale Elliott, you were a Park Lands hero as well.

*Philip Groves*

# Flooding, the rotunda and the Riverbank project

On 30 September 2011, the government announced the Riverbank project including its intention to move the heritage listed 1882 Elder Park Rotunda closer to the bridge. This encouraged me to study Adelaide's well-documented flooding history and flood map forecasts, which I am now questioning. The flood forecasts seem to be based essentially on weather and historical data with no analysis of the effect that bushfires can make on peak flows and frequencies. Politically, local councils (whose rates are determined by assessed valuations) and the mortgage lenders may use their influence to get a more conservative estimate of flood frequencies to be portrayed, lest properties in affected areas were to decline in value. Though outside the general scope of our newsletter, I hope to include a brief summary of my findings in a later edition.

Moving the Rotunda towards the Adelaide Bridge would place it at a lower elevation, thus increasing risk of damage by floating debris during a flood. Other arguments against moving it include visual appearance, acoustics, potential damage during transfer, and cost. Any change to its location should benefit the Rotunda and not be simply a move of convenience because the Rotunda is perceived to be in the way.

Details of the Riverbank Plan were presented by the project team (which includes two prominent figures who were involved in the Victoria Park debacle) at the 16 October meeting of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. Concerned by the effect the height of the proposed pedestrian bridge would have on vistas, they announced that the bridge would be lower and end at War Memorial Drive instead of crossing above it. Noting the great concern these individuals had for the amenity of Victoria Park, I surmise the change in the bridge design has more to do with dollars than aesthetics.

Adelaide's highest flood since records began occurred 15–18 April 1889 following excessive rainfall in the hills, principally on 17 April when over 140mm fell at Gumeracha and 209mm at Crafrers. Due to Adelaide's surrounding topography, it is generally expected flooding in the city will occur in two crests several hours apart as flows from 1st to 6th creeks arrive sooner than water from

the upper Torrens catchment. According to *The Chronicle* of 20 April 1889, floodwaters crested about 1.8m over the weir, 1.8m deep in the Water Police Station, and washed away or damaged many of the boathouses. Since that time, catchment run-off volumes have increased due to the extensive addition of hard surfaces and covered areas, and the removal of vegetation in outlying areas. Compensating for this are numerous flood control measures which have been implemented over the years.

One map of interest is the Possible Maximum Flood, which shows what will get wet if Kangaroo Creek Dam fails. The geology of the dam is interesting reading and raises concerns about landslips into the reservoir, the proximity of fault lines (Eden Fault and Kitchener Fault) and steps made to secure the dam abutments into the rock. During 1982–1983, the capacity of the dam was reduced 20 per cent due to modifications of the spillway, and sedimentation over the years has further reduced storage. The good news is that concrete-lined rock-filled dams seem to have a good tolerance for seismic activity, so if you live in the Torrens valley and the earth shakes a lot you can probably afford to walk rather than run to higher ground. The new RAH hospital being constructed on our Park Lands next to the Para Fault, and too close to the airport flight path to allow helicopters to land, is also included on the maximum flood map as a wet area. Will the hospital have flood insurance? Apart from its minimal role in flood control, interest in Kangaroo Creek dam comes with the knowledge that Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona, holding America's second largest reservoir, almost failed in 1983. In 1971, a 6.6 earthquake extensively damaged the Lower San Fernando Dam near Los Angeles threatening the lives of 80 000 residents. Admittedly, these dams were of a different construction, though everyone there was probably told they were unquestionably safe.

Colonel Light's excellent planning has ensured the built areas of the city he laid out are free from flooding. Many areas of our Park Lands which were not supposed to be built on are not.

**Kyle Penick**

*ParkLANDSnews* December 2011—6

# Victoria Square Master Plan hiatus

The Adelaide City Council has announced it remains committed to the Victoria Square Regeneration Masterplan despite missing out on the first round of grants from the new Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). The ACC's application for a grant from the Federal Government's RDAF prompted regional South Australian councils to question why a capital city council should consider itself eligible for regional development funds. The grants are intended to support priority community infrastructure projects, but there is some confusion over eligibility criteria from some quarters.

The RDAF eligibility criteria state that for Round Two of allocations:

*Applications will be accepted from all regions across Australia, however those projects located in all capital cities need to demonstrate how the proposed project will benefit the broader region, or other parts of regional Australia. Applicants must provide written confirmation of the benefits of the project from either the RDA in the region that will benefit from the project or the state or territory government, where the benefit will accrue to more than one region.*

Applicants also need to address each of the selection criteria as published by the RDAF.

***Selection Criterion 1: The extent to which the project will contribute to and sustain regional economic growth***

*This criterion will assess the long and short-term impacts of the project on the region's economy. Projects that sustain the regional economy or drive innovation and growth will be given priority. Benefits must accrue beyond a town or community and have broad regional impact.*

...

***Selection Criterion 2: The extent to which the project will provide a community benefit***

*In assessing this criterion,*



consideration will be given to the number of people that will utilise the approved project, the contribution that the project will make to community amenities and social capital, and the level of local support. Where relevant, reference should be made to 'Closing the Gap'. A key element of this criterion is the extent to which the project enhances social inclusion in the region. Benefits from the project should be both short and long-term.

The case for the project against this criterion should identify how the project will address community needs and benefits that will accrue to regional communities.

For example, these benefits could be expressed in terms of improved movement of community members from welfare to work. Building community via infrastructure to support the relocation of families to work in mining communities, rather than fly-in fly-out workers, may also be addressed in the case against this criteria.

...

**Selection Criterion 3: The extent to which the applicant leverages additional funding from a variety of sources**

Priority will be given to applications that have a funding ratio of 1:1 for grants of \$5 million and less, and at least 1:2 for grants of more than \$5 million. Priority will also be given to projects that demonstrate funding from a variety of sources.

This criterion ensures that applicants have a strong commitment from within the community and that benefits of the RDAF funding are maximised

...

The regional councils of SA are right. The Victoria Square regeneration plan comes nowhere near satisfying any of the RDAF eligibility or selection criteria to qualify for a grant. The ACC's commercial intentions for aspects of the regeneration plan (which would also debase National Heritage Listing Values) also fails grant guidelines.

**Philip Groves**

# Late news

## Adelaide Oval redevelopment

SACA members (and members of the public) received another reality check from the SACA Board of Management, with plans already approved by the Development Assessment Commission, to allow the removal of up to 18 significant trees, including three Moreton Bay fig trees at the Adelaide Oval. Page 11 of the SACA Member Information Booklet, provided to members before their vote on the Oval redevelopment proposal, stated 'What doesn't change', and this paragraph: 'Iconic aspects of Adelaide Oval including the heritage scoreboard, Moreton Bay fig trees, cathedral views and the grassed northern mound are retained'. It does not say some of the trees might remain.

## Adelaide High School Park Lands land grab proposal

The Adelaide Parks Lands Authority Board Meeting of 14 November considered the school's expansion plans which would impact the Park Lands with another land grab in Tambawodli (Park 24). The Board voted to recommend to the State Government and the Adelaide City Council that it cannot support the planned expansion beyond the school's current site boundaries on the basis that:

- the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy and the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide does not support additional buildings in the Park Lands (for other than outdoor recreation and sporting purposes)
- the Adelaide (City) Development Plan clearly requires the high school's built form to be contained within the existing site boundaries
- expansion opportunities for the high school should be pursued within the city, especially given the long-term educational needs in the city.

The Authority also noted it is the responsibility of the State Government to liaise with the Australian Government to examine the impact of the proposed high school building expansion upon the Values of the National Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout.

Betting is now open on how much notice the State Government and the Adelaide City Council take from the Adelaide Park Lands Authority's considered (and correct) advice and recommendations in this matter.

## Bowden Village Park Lands land grab proposal

Representatives from the State Government's Land Management

Corporation (LMC) presented details of the Bowden Village Masterplan to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board meeting on 14 November. The Bowden Village site is the old Clipsal industrial site on Park Terrace opposite the north-western boundary of Bonython Park.

LMC ambitions for the development of the site include an orchard and community garden in the Park Lands for the use of village residents, and a pedestrian and cycle bridge between the village and the Park Lands that would enable the village residents to safely harvest their fruit and vegetables!

If we understand correctly, there are also plans to run the existing (and nearby) metropolitan railway line to an underground station in the Bowden Village. Evidently it is thought that would-be purchasers of apartments in the Village would be unable to walk a few metres in either direction to avail themselves of existing tram and bus services in one direction, or the railway in the other direction. The railway line would continue underground, only to emerge somewhere in the Park Lands to rejoin the existing metropolitan railway line! Surely this is all an early April Fool's Day joke.

## Telecommunication towers in Park Lands

Representatives from 'Yes' Optus made a presentation to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board meeting of 14 November with plans to install a so-called 'communication facility' (think towers starting at 20m in height) in Piltawodli (Park 1) just west of Mills Terrace. Another option is next to the North Adelaide Railway Station in Bonython Park.

These towers would require fenced compounds with round-the-clock access (think 'vehicle' access creating new roadways in the Park Lands).

The Board recommended to Council that this 'telecommunication facility' be denied—effectively 'No' Optus.

Again, we witness the mindset that sees the Park Lands as a ready-made site for corporate exploitation. Optus clearly lacks a corporate citizenship division, and any understanding of the values attaching to the National Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands.

**Philip Groves**

# Adelaide Park Lands back on the 'heritage at risk' list

As mentioned by APPA President Kelly Henderson in her President's letter (*Park Lands News* September 2011), the Adelaide Park Lands have once again featured on the annual National Trust of SA's (NTSA) top ten 'heritage at risk' list. At the announcement of the Ten Heritage Items Most at Risk for 2011, President David Beaumont said:

*The top ten was chosen from numerous nominations submitted by the general public and members of the National Trust. The people of SA know that the National Trust stands for saving, protecting, advocating and increasing knowledge of SA's heritage and they continue to submit numerous items under extreme danger of loss or degradation.*

The following risk description for the Adelaide Park Lands is reproduced from the National Trust SA website:

## **Threat:**

*Continual appropriation of open space for commercial and government use, compromising the landscape, its cultural heritage and further degrading the last vestiges of remnant grassy understorey habitat.*

## **Significance of Place:**

*The Parklands are a masterpiece of 19C urban planning being the most distinctive and unique asset of Adelaide's cultural and natural landscape. The Parklands are a place of character and natural beauty for solitude and recreation and a definitive social and historical icon.*

*The Parklands have been identified as potentially constituting a "Cultural Landscape" under UNESCO's Article 1 of World Heritage Convention (Jones 2007).*

## **Description of Threat:**

*The main threat is the lack of implementation of any protection under National Heritage listing. In 1986 the NTSA made a submission to have the Parklands State Heritage Listed but this has not been processed. A second threat is the lack of implementation of the Adelaide Parklands*

*Management Strategy established under the Adelaide Parklands Act 2005, eg. There has been no return of identified railway land to open space Parklands under the Park Lands Management Strategy (1999).*

*In addition;*

- *Parkland is being used for the new Royal Adelaide Hospital;*
- *The implications of the Adelaide Oval Redevelopment and Management Bill 2011 and Parkland are that parklands will be modified and used for car parking associated with the new Oval development;*
- *Indicative use of the Festival Plaza for a commercial development;*
- *Insertion of a special use pedestrian bridge into the parklands landscape on an, as yet, undetermined alignment from the southern exit of the Adelaide Oval to a position on the south bank;*
- *Further intensive development of the University of Adelaide campus on Parkland.*

## **Action Required:**

*Give inalienable immediate protection from further commercial development which removes parkland from open public use.*

*Prohibit further alienation of Parklands by existing users.*

*Initiate a social contract to restore open space.*

*Conserve and rehabilitate existing pockets of remnant grassy woodland communities.*

*Enforce existing planning and heritage listings.*

Some of the other nine entries for 2011 illustrate how the pressure of development in SA is undermining and wiping out our natural heritage. Threats to the Lower River Murray, Murray Mouth, Lakes and Coorong, threats to coastal mangrove and saltmarsh communities, along with declining bird populations of the Mount Lofty Ranges, are some of the other entries on the list. The list also includes Local Heritage items within the Adelaide City Council (City Heritage) and the State Government's 30-Year Plan and the

Inner Metro Rim. These plans threaten destruction of heritage items under development proposals.

For full details of the NTSA 2011 Heritage at Risk List, go to <[www.nationaltrustsa.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustsa.org.au)>. You might even wish to support the NTSA with a donation, or take up a membership. This Association selfishly hopes the NTSA's Adelaide Park Lands listing threat will progress to the National top ten heritage places at risk, which would bring national exposure and pressure to bear on a Federal Government bereft of any commitment to the Adelaide Park Lands since their placement on the National Heritage List.

**Philip Groves**

## Riverbank Rambos

The State Government's 'latest' draft masterplan for the Riverbank Precinct reveals it has abandoned any pretence of maintaining the integrity of the Adelaide Park Lands. This latest plan proposes intensive commercial and possibly residential infill development on our Riverbank Park Lands.

The largely unfunded (and totally uncosted) draft plan would have new buildings stretching from King William Road at the rear of Parliament House to the Victoria (Morphett Street) Bridge. Buildings would then continue beyond the massively extended Adelaide Convention Centre, and could ultimately join up with the new RAH on the other side of the bridge.

The area between North Terrace and the river's edge is already mostly alienated Park Lands, with Elder Park being the only extant public space. It takes a government and a council with a perverse sense of humour to categorise areas of alienated Park Lands occupied by Parliament House, the Adelaide Railway Station, the Adelaide Casino, the InterContinental Hotel and the Adelaide Convention Centre as an 'institutional precinct'.

The masterplan proposal would require that portions of the remaining open space Riverbank Park Lands currently under the care, control and management



of the Adelaide City Council are added to the so-called institutional precinct under State Government control. Yet another government authority would be created to manage it!

The majority of the building proposals have no assigned uses. Artist's impressions indicate medium level office and apartment blocks, hotels, casino extensions and, of course, cafes, bars and restaurants. There's that sense of a perverse sense of humour again: just the fit for an institutional precinct! People wishing to enjoy a true riverside walk would be doing so on narrow boardwalks at the river's edge.

The Property Council is opposed to this massive commercial development proposal on the Park Lands—but not out of any interest in preserving the Park Lands. Lest you thought the Property Council has undergone an epiphany over its reason for being, the SA executive director of the Property Council, Nathan Paine, was quoted in the *City Messenger* of 6 October saying:

*We think that this would not be a positive step forward for the precinct. There are almost 40 development sites in the CBD at the moment which have the potential to deliver over half a million square metres of commercial space ... Certainly there should be more retail and leisure and cafes and restaurants ... uses that are aligned with tourism and recreation.*

Mr Paine said he would be seeking a meeting with Infrastructure Minister Pat Conlon to express his concerns. Mr Paine would not have to travel any great distance to speak to Minister Conlon. They normally appear to occupy the same head space on most things.

Other contentious plans would replace the Festival Centre's Hajek sculpture with a Festival Square between the new buildings of unspecified use at the rear of Parliament House and the Festival Centre.

The plans also include the levelling of Elder Park (once known as Rotunda Lawn) and relocating the 1882 Heritage Listed Band Rotunda virtually hard up against the Adelaide Bridge and King William Road. Most people consider Elder Park to be an important public recreation space. Its sloping lawns serve to reinforce the separation of the park from King William Road and the Festival Centre built form. For musical events there is also an acoustic benefit. The National Trust SA Branch president, David Beaumont, said in the *City Messenger* of 6 October that the iconic rotunda should be left alone:

*We are against the moving of heritage. We would also be*

*concerned that the rotunda is designed as a round structure to be enjoyed by the encircling audience and to move it close to a roadway would deny that round audience encircling the rotunda.*

The planned footbridge (apparently to be funded from the Convention Centre expansion budget) to the southern entrance of the Adelaide Oval has also been relocated further west, at least according to artist's impressions. A Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure spokesperson has said if the ACC does not approve this footbridge it will be necessary to close King William Road when football is being played on the Adelaide Oval! A wetland is also planned for the northern riverbank, encompassing the Park Land known as Pinky Flat. The Pinky Flat park is a charmingly secluded area of the riverbank, when it is not in use as a car park by the ACC. The park is not a part of the Riverbank Precinct; it is part of Park 26—the Adelaide Oval Precinct. Turning the park into a tokenistic wetland is hardly going to address the regular problem of blue-green algae outbreaks in the Torrens Lake. Until councils, including the ACC, address the issue of polluted stormwater and other urban/ industrial run-off entering the River Torrens and turning it into a cesspool for much of the year, the Torrens Lake will remain a murky, polluted embarrassment, Pinky Flat wetland or not.

This latest commercial development proposal to exploit the Park Lands is another half-baked designers' picnic. None of the proposals would attract serious numbers of people for a Riverbank experience. Why would people leave the confines of the CBD to experience a repeat of what is already (and properly) on offer throughout the city?

I don't suppose there is much point mentioning how this proposal would place at risk the National Heritage Values of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout. The philistines on North Terrace seem oblivious of its existence.

**Philip Groves**

## SAPOL Road Safety Centre in Bonython Park

Again, this Association finds itself reporting on a planned new act of misappropriation and alienation of the Park Lands.

This time it is a nine-year lease to enable SAPOL to construct a mock roadway and other infrastructure in Bonython Park for a new Road Safety Centre. The current Road Safety Centre is closer to the city, just off Port Road heading towards North Terrace, and finds itself 'in the way' of a construction works compound required for the new RAH. Rather than arguing for this centre to be relocated elsewhere, the Adelaide City Council is supporting the alienation and fencing of a sizeable area of Park Lands in the south-western corner of Bonython Park next to Port Road.

There was no compelling reason why a Road Safety Centre had to be located in the Park Lands in the first place. There is even less justification for creating a new facility in the Park Lands. No doubt this location is convenient for SAPOL, who plan to utilise one of the Thebarton Police Barracks buildings alongside the proposed lease area. Just what other sites, other than Park Lands, were considered is not known. An obvious option would be to locate the centre within the Thebarton Police Barracks. Much of the barracks are in disuse or little used. SAPOL should be consolidating its activities in the barracks, potentially creating a space for the Road Safety School within the barracks and out of sight. But, once again, the Park Lands are offered up as the automatic default option, with a proposed peppercorn \$1 per annum lease fee.

The lease itself is based on the now customary (and secret) chicanery between the ACC and the State Government over leases, deeds etc for use of the Park Lands. A nine-year lease period avoids triggering Parliamentary scrutiny of the lease arrangements. One of the provisions of the lease permits the lessee to transfer its rights and interest in the lease to another government agency without the consent of Council.

Intriguingly, the proposal also provides for the installation of two lighting towers. School programs are invariably conducted in daylight hours, and certainly not at night time in the Park Lands. To date, there is no explanation for the inclusion of lighting towers. The planned closure of Bonython Park's southerly exit onto Port Road will create traffic issues within Bonython Park. All vehicles (including buses) will need to traverse the park to exit. New roadways, or the widening of existing roads, will undoubtedly follow. As mentioned elsewhere in this edition of *Park Lands News*, the model boat pond now back in use will also be impacted by this proposal. What is currently a wonderful locale for the boating pond and its picnic setting in the surrounding gardens will be rudely disturbed with the introduction of a new Road Safety School.

**Philip Groves**

# Riverbank footbridge concerns



Mr Tauto Sansbury  
Chairperson

Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association Inc.

1 August 2011

## TO ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE AND FEDERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT RIVER TORRENS FOOTBRIDGE

The Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association Inc. represents the Kurna Nation, the original inhabitants of the Adelaide Plains.

The River Torrens, known to Kurna as Karrawirraparri (red gum forest river), is a highly significant area to the Kurna people. The area where the Karrawirraparri runs through the Adelaide CBD is particularly significant to Kurna.

Kurna do not want another footbridge to be built over the Karrawirraparri, nor do we want the area to be turned into a tourist entertainment attraction. To develop the Karrawirraparri in such a way would damage the area and be hurtful to Kurna people, their health and wellbeing.

The State Government's plans to redevelop the Karrawirraparri into an iconic tourist attraction must observe the river's Aboriginal heritage, spiritual significance and cultural value. The Kurna people remain to this day connected to the area. Our stories are still connected to the area, our culture is still connected to the area, our desire remains to care for country and our precious artefacts and ancestral remains are still present in the area.

Kurna people still observe the area for its connection to important Dreaming stories of the Red Kangaroo (Tarnda), the Black Swan (Kudlyo) and the Milky Way (Worli Parri). The area is also connected to the story of Yurrebilla (Mt Lofty), a creation ancestor who travelled through that country. Detailed knowledge about the stories of the area are privileged knowledge of senior Kurna men, who pass down their stories to the next generation.

Members of Parliament must understand that Kurna's heritage, spirituality and culture are interconnected with the area and this has not been lost throughout 200 years of European settlement and disturbance.

The area must be developed with the key objective of reflecting Kurna's spirituality, culture and heritage. The area must allow Kurna to care for country. This is true reconciliation. Simply recognising Kurna culture and spirituality on a plaque or monument is not reconciliation, it is tokenism.

Kurna artefacts and ancestral remains in the area must not be disturbed. The landscape must reflect Kurna traditional practices. Developments (such as footbridges and objects in the river) which destroy culture, must not be built.

We ask you to advocate on our behalf to have the Karrawirraparri recognised. Kurna must be consulted. This is an urgent matter, vital to the health of the Kurna people and the ongoing practices of our culture which is over 30,000 years old.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tauto Sansbury'.

Tauto Sansbury

Chairperson, Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association Inc.

Kurna Nation Cultural Heritage Association Inc. c/- Campbell Law, Level 5, 18-20 Grenfell Street, ADELAIDE SA 5000

*Published in the public interest with permission from Mr Tauto Sansbury.*



# Wirranendi Interpretive Trail opens

A new educational and interactive trail was opened on 14 September 2011 in the western Park Lands. Located in Wirranendi (Park 23), the trail is accessed from Sir Donald Bradman Drive and runs parallel to the northern boundary of the West Terrace Cemetery.

The trail was unveiled by former Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Sue Clearihan on 14 September at a delightful ceremony attended by children from the Sturt Street Primary School and St Mary's College. Aboriginal elder, Josie Agius,

introduced the ideas behind the trail in a lively and engaging talk.

The Wirranendi Interpretive Trail leads visitors along a loop marked with handcrafted stones and sculptures, with each piece of art in the four quadrants of the park identifying the main themes of Earth, Water, Wind and Fire. The collaborative artistic team included Silvio Apponyi and Martin Corbin, along with Kimberley Mann, John Nelson, Shereen Rankine, Debbie Saegenschnitter, Sally Wickes and David Zhu. Assistance also

came from Wirranendi Volunteers, members of the South West Community Group, and staff from the Adelaide City Council and the Department of Planning and Local Government.

The cost of the project, jointly funded by the Adelaide City Council and the State Government, was reported to be \$200 000. Fact sheets are available from the ACC website <[www.cityofadelaide.com.au](http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au)>.

**Philip Groves**



*Above: Some of the creators of the features of the Wirranendi Interpretive Trail were present at the opening. From left: John Nelson (cat sculpture), Sally Wickes (wind sculpture), Martin Corbin (consultant artist), Silvio Apponyi (earth sculpture, water sculpture, possum rock, albatross rock, entrance sign, trail stones), Josie Agius (Aboriginal elder), and Shereen Rankine (fire sculpture). (Absent from photo: Kimberly Mann who wrote the poems, Debbie Saegenschnitter and David Zhu.)*

*Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 14 September 2011.*



# Survey Marker Memorial Monument and Survey Camp site: next casualty of the new RAH

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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.

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Unnoticed by hundreds of thousands of motorists, the Adelaide Plan Survey Point Memorial Monument, usually located in the North Terrace plantation opposite the corner of North and West Terraces, has been 'temporarily' moved into storage while the new RAH is constructed. The Survey Marker Memorial Monument and former Survey Camp site becomes the second casualty of the new RAH, the Park Lands hospital site being the first casualty as the alienated Park Lands railway yards are now making way for their re-alienation as a hospital site.

The inscription on the memorial monument states:

HEREABOUTS IN JANUARY THE SURVEY  
OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE WAS BEGUN.  
HERE ALSO, IN 1837, WERE ERECTED THE FIRST  
PUBLIC OFFICES • LAND AND SURVEY • OF THE  
PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. ADJOINING  
THESE OFFICES, WHICH WERE BUILT OF WOOD,  
WERE THE DWELLINGS OF JAMES HURTLE FISHER  
THE FIRST RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND  
WILLIAM LIGHT, FIRST SURVEYOR GENERAL.  
THE BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE  
ON JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1839.  
ERECTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, 1928.

The temporary dwellings and offices making up the Survey Camp were destroyed in 1839 by a fire which started in Fisher's dwelling. The fire destroyed important Survey Office and other records of the Colony, as well as most of Colonel Light's lifetime collection of diaries and drawings.

This Survey Camp site is not only of geographical interest as the site opposite Town Acre No 1 and the survey point where Colonel William Light began the survey of the City on 11 January 1837, but it also represents the first formal demarcation and surveying point in South Australia.

An Adelaide City Council media release of 13 October quotes Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood as saying 'The monument will be restored before being placed among the new hospital landscape, bringing an important part of Adelaide's history into its future'. Is this a new form of cultural heritage transference?

Quoted in the same press release is this comment from the Minister for Health John Hill: 'It's good to know that this important monument will be taken care of while the new RAH is being built. Colonel Light's vision for Adelaide included a hospital of course and now Australia's most advanced hospital is being built on this significant site'. For this minister, the monument erected in 1928 is apparently more important than the 1837 significant site it was located on.

The hospital developer's representative said: 'Great care will be taken of this historic marker which means so much to the people of South Australia. We look forward to the day it will be returned to the site—a time which will indicate completion of the New Royal Adelaide Hospital'.

Memo to the Council, the State Government and developers: you can keep the Survey Memorial Marker Monument. Just get off the Park Lands and return to open space what should be the most venerated historical site in South Australia. For representatives of the Adelaide City Council and the State Government to promote the idea that a restored monument to be incorporated into the new hospital entrance landscaping will redress the shameful extinguishment of arguably the most important site in the settlement of South Australia is breathtakingly ignorant and no less than cultural genocide.

**Philip Groves**

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