

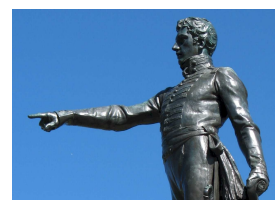
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\$31,000 PARK LANDS ART PRIZE - AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

The winner of the \$20,000 first prize in the second biennial Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize, Leabrook's Nick Mount "will be very disappointed" that he missed out on attending the exhibition opening, according to his daughter Peta Mount.

Around 200 invited guests were on hand last night (Friday 15 April) for the official opening of the 2016 Park Lands Art Prize at the Adelaide Festival Centre 'Art Space'.

Nick Mount's first-prize winning entry (pictured below) was last to be announced, after ten others each received \$1,000 "Commendation" prizes. The 59 finalists on display left our compere, John Schumann, feeling "fascinated, exhilarated and awed".

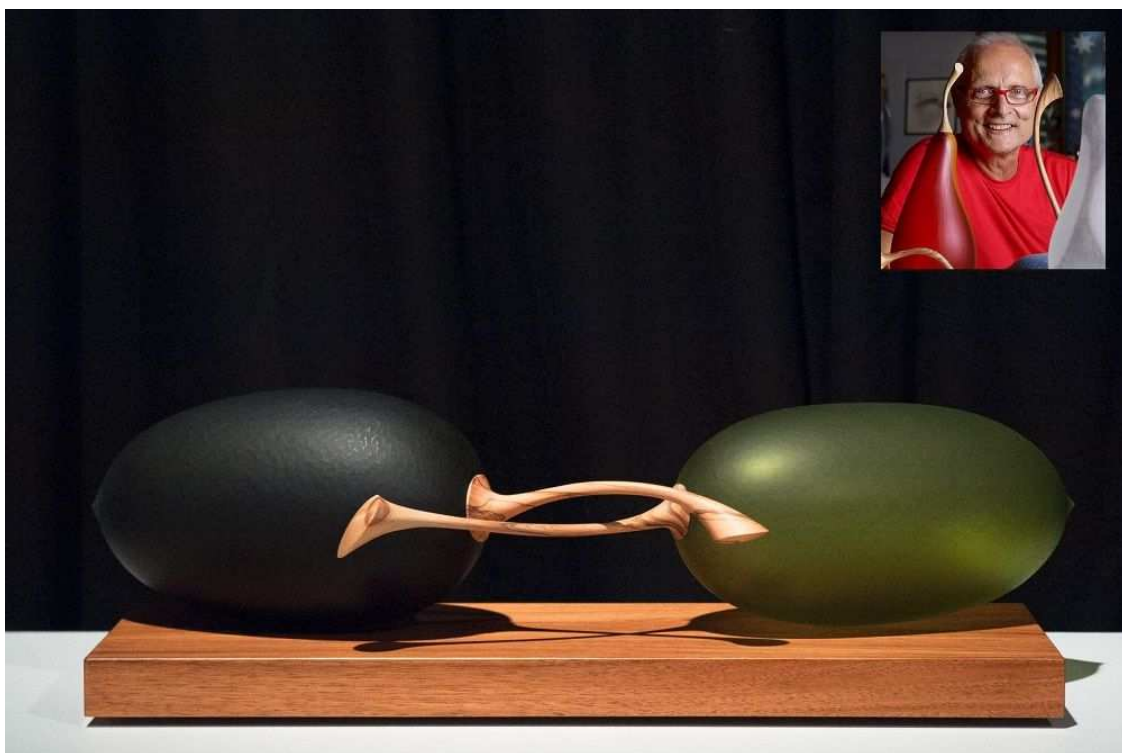
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Nick Mount couldn't be there to receive his prize as he was attending the opening of his solo exhibition at Sabbia Gallery at Paddington in Sydney.



The first-prize winning entry, "*Wakefield and East: A Still Life*" (photo by Lara Merrington) and [inset] the artist Nick Mount. The name of the glass sculpture refers to the grove of ancient olive trees in Ityamai-itypina (Park 15) near the corner of Wakefield Rd and East Terrace.



Peta Mount accepting the \$20,000 first prize on behalf of her father, Nick Mount from (at right) Hamish Ramsay of the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association. (Photo by Lara Merrington).

The second biennial Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize carries total prize money of \$31,000, making it one of the richest prizes in SA.

From 202 entries, 59 art works made it through as "finalists". All 59 are now on display at the Festival Centre Art

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six weeks (Wednesday to Saturday each week, 11am to 4pm)

Visitors can nominate their favourite work and the "people's choice" award (another \$1,000 prize) will be revealed at the close of the exhibition on Saturday 28 May.



Some of the estimated 200 invited guests enjoying the opening night of the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize Exhibition at the Art Space, Adelaide Festival Centre.

The winners of the \$1,000 "Commendation" prizes were:

- Jennifer Ahrens - "Xanthorrhoea"
- Peter Barnes - "Big Old Bugger – Botanic Park"
- Alice Blanch - "Box Brownie Panorama #14"
- Sum Chow - "Seeds: Botanical Musing"
- John Foubister - "Park lives. Our age old world's love for love's lovers"
- Laima Guscia - "Seed"
- John Lacey - "Morning Parkland Shadows"
- Helen Sherriff - "Regeneration"
- Laura Wills - "Victoria Park Race Course"
- Dan Withey - "The Three Rivers Painting"

Photos of many of the finalists were published yesterday (Friday 15 April) by InDaily: <http://indaily.com.au/arts-and-culture/2016/04/15/20000-park-lands-art-prize-announced-tonight/>

RYMILL PARK - TREE-FELLING JUST THE BEGINNING

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Felling of trees in Rymill Park on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th April was just an initial step in what will be construction of a deep trench through Rundle Park and Rymill Park to accommodate an extension of the O-Bahn busway, linking it from Dequetteville Terrace to Grenfell Street.

Despite the urgent appeals of hundreds of South Australians to the Premier and the Transport Minister to prevent this carnage, neither Minister publicly contemplated any alternative option to achieve their aim of improving busway access to the city.

APPA was among many groups and individuals suggesting alternatives, but none of our members or supporters (to our knowledge) received even the courtesy of a considered response to their suggestions. The Ministerial responses (if any) focused only on transport issues, never the value of what was to be destroyed in the process.



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Now that the trees are out of the way, the earthworks are next. In the coming weeks and days the public will see the extent of what's been long proposed and planned.'

Many people still mistakenly believe that the project is for a "tunnel". The reality is that the Government is now digging a trench. The trench will be only partly covered. The busway will emerge to ground level adjacent to the Rymill Park lake, with buses every few minutes forever shattering the tranquility of this formerly-favourite Adelaide Park Lands location.

We wish that there was something we could do, but (as [we reported in the March e-Gazette](#)) the battle was lost in February when the Development Assessment Commission granted Minister Mullighan his wishes.



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A WOLF GUARDING THE SHEEP: 'RENEWAL SA' & the OLD R.A.H.



Would you put a wolf in place to guard a flock of sheep?

"Renewal SA" is the State Government's real estate agency.

In its own words Renewal SA exists "to facilitate unique development opportunities for the private sector through access to government land holdings."

That means that it looks upon any vacant, Government land as an opportunity to sell it.

Last year, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption found there was "maladministration" in a 2013 deal in which Renewal SA sold Government land at Gillman without a public tender.

Now, believe it or not, Renewal SA has been named as the agency that will prepare a report on "the action that would be required in order to make [the old RAH site] suitable for public use as park lands."

The Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005 requires the Government to get such a report. However, documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request by Greens MP Mark Parnell indicate that the Government has been trying to dodge this responsibility.

Former Minister for the Adelaide Park Lands Act, Ian Hunter last year told the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association that returning the site to Park Lands wouldn't even be considered until after the Government had assessed world-wide commercial interest in the site.

After being alerted by APPA's inquiries, FOI documents now reveal that Minister Hunter's advisers told him he could safely *outsource* his duty to get a report on returning the old RAH site to Park Lands. His advisers told him that the required report could be written by Renewal SA, which is "managing the potential future development of the site".

Let's get this straight. The report that is required is NOT a report on commercial interest in the site. The report does not need to compare any commercial use to Park Lands use. That is not the point of the Adelaide Park Lands Act. The Adelaide Park Lands Act is not about selling Park Lands, or gauging commercial interest in Park Lands.

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The required report is on one thing, and one thing only: how might we return the site to Park Lands.

But the Minister with responsibility for getting this report was asleep at the wheel - ignoring his duty. In effect, the Government denies it has any responsibility to even look at returning the site to Park Lands. And where is it getting this advice? From an agency with a mission to sell Government land!

Minister Hunter has since lost responsibility for the Adelaide Park Lands Act. It's been handed to Minister John Rau as the Minister for the City of Adelaide.

Renewal SA is a wolf that has been placed in charge of a flock of sheep. It has no interest in Park Lands. It's been talking to developers about how much money they'll make from the site. The head of Renewal SA has already made it clear he's not interested in the requirements of the Park Lands Act. "It's not going to happen" he says.

<http://indaily.com.au/news/2016/03/31/its-not-going-to-happen-hanlon-dismisses-old-rah-parklands-advocates/>

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- RAH Endocrine Unit
- Level 3 RAH Research Secretariat
- Medvet Science Pty Ltd and Aushealth
- University of Adelaide Medical School
- Adelaide Dental Hospital
- True Ground: Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery OPD

RAH apartment sales, yum!

Clearly, whatever Renewal SA prepares for the Government, it will not be a report on "the action that would be required in order to make [the old RAH site] suitable for public use as park lands."

If you're angry, upset, or disappointed about this: [TAKE ACTION.](#)

TWO COUNCIL PARK LAND STRATEGIES - WHAT THE HECK?

Don't be confused (like we were, at first). The Adelaide City Council is developing (and has consulted the public on) two separate Park Lands Strategies. One is really important and long-term, with big risks to the Park Lands. The other one is lower-key, and a pretty sensible initiative. But we need to look at them separately.

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1. The **Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-25**. More sports function centres & car parks. The "Sports Suits" seeking control of your parks. See the next story.
2. The **Park Lands Events Strategy**. How to manage demand for short-term public events. See the story '*Spread the Love Around*' below.



CRUNCH TIME LOOMING FOR THE SPORTS SUITS 'TAKEOVER'



As we warned [here](#) in our [February e-Gazette](#), and again [here](#) in the [March e-Gazette](#), the State Government is trying to lead the Adelaide City Council into allowing the construction of seven major sports function centres on Park Lands. In effect, they are looking to privatise and commercialise these new so-called "hubs". Lots more car parking in the Park Lands is also part of the plan.

APPA has been resisting these suggestions. However, as you can imagine, there are several powerful sports bodies fighting hard in the corridors of power to get sections of Park Lands reserved for each of their own sports groups.

On Monday 9 May, the Park Lands Authority has called a special meeting to try to thrash out a resolution before it finalises its *Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-25*. The meeting at 5.30pm in the Colonel Light Room could represent a battle ground: special interests versus the public interest.

It's a public meeting. We hope you can attend and show your support for keeping Park Lands **public**.

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SHORT-TERM EVENTS: SPREAD THE LOVE AROUND

APPA loves to see people enjoying the Park Lands either as casual visitors or attending one of the many events that are held throughout the year in a variety of Park Lands locations.

Some misinformed commentators spread the lie that the Park Lands are mostly empty and little used. In fact the opposite is the case, with an estimated 8.87 million visitors per year.

The Adelaide City Council is attempting to balance demand for Park Lands event locations with a need to prevent some parts from being "loved to death". There are, of course, risks of damage from large crowds of people, and grass often needs to be relaid where many feet have trodden in a short space of time. This is especially true after 'mad March' as a result of the crowds who attend Fringe and car racing events.

The Parks most at risk of 'over-loving' are Elder Park, Rymill Park, Rundle Park, and Victoria Park, along with Victoria Square. Sensibly, the City Council is looking at whether some other parts of the Park Lands (with large grassed areas) could be used as alternative "event" spaces.



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APPA encourages this investigation. We especially welcome the statement in the draft Strategy that "Council aims to restrict alienation of the Park Lands by events and to prioritise events that are free entry, unfenced and enhance the surrounding business and community environment."

The consultation period closes on 22 April. APPA encourages you to also have your say:

<http://yoursay.adelaidecitycouncil.com/plemp>

MOTOR RACE DEBRIS LINGERS ON



How long does it take to get rid of temporary grandstands and fencing?

The Clipsal 500 event finished on Sunday 6 March. This picture was taken almost seven weeks later, on Thursday 14 April.

APPA has asked Adelaide City Council for a copy of any permit that it issues to the SA Motor Sport Board to occupy Victoria Park/ Pakapakanthi (Park 16). We'd like to know whether the Council is being generous in allowing such a long time to dismantle the facilities, or whether the organisers are taking longer than permitted to return the site to Park Lands.

Although the event itself lasts only four days, large parts of Victoria Park is off limits to the public for a very great deal longer - something in excess of four months annually. No other event in the Park Lands has anywhere near that impact. If you're angry, upset, or disappointed about this: TAKE ACTION.

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Let's have Victoria Park back again, looking more like this.

FREE GUIDED TOUR: PARK LANDS AFTER DARK



The Nature Conservation Society of SA is inviting you to go for a nocturnal walk through the Park Lands looking for possums, bats, water rats, owls, nightjars and other creatures.

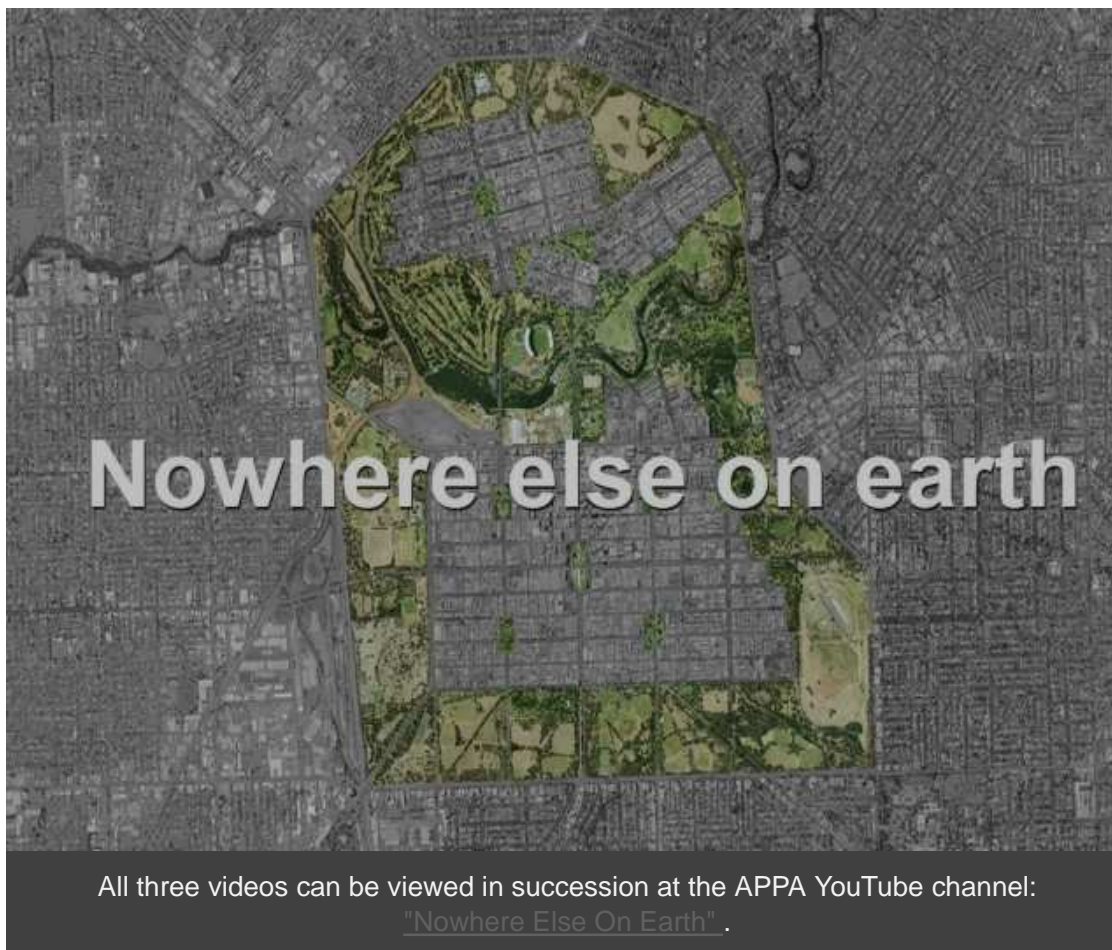
Learn more about the wildlife that shares your city. Participants are asked to bring a small torch, or headlamp.

When and where: Thursday, 12th & Tuesday, 17th May, 5:45pm to 7:30pm
It's a free event but bookings are essential. Contact details here: www.ncssa.asn.au/

NEW PARK LANDS VIDEO RELEASED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members and supporters who attended the APPA AGM on Sunday 10 April were the first to see our new 2016 mini-video.

The 3-minute YouTube clip: *"What's So Special?"* is the follow-up to last year's 90-second animation: *"Egypt Is Selling Off the Pyramids"* and our earlier 3-minute *"Insults and Injuries"*



The Annual General Meeting also saw some renewal in APPA's managing Committee. The 2016-17 Committee members, elected on 10 April are:

- President: Ian Gilfillan
- Secretary: Shane Sody
- Treasurer: Graham Pratt
- Committee Members (returning): Hero Weston, Damien Mugavin, Sarah Gilfillan, Hamish Ramsay, Marisha Noori and Walter Dollman.
- Committee Members (new): Michael Seager and Stephan Mavrakis.

In addition, a heartfelt thank you is extended to retiring Committee members Kyle Penick, and Jonathon Harry. Two days after the AGM, the new Committee elected Damien Mugavin to continue his role as vice-president for the coming year.

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endorsed, albeit with only relatively minor changes from the old Constitution. The most significant change was a refocussing of APPA's "Objectives" onto the desirability of 'green' open public spaces rather than hard artificial open spaces.

THANKS TO TWO KEY SUPPORTERS

Former SA Premier, the Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold has joined more than 1,800 others in supporting [APPA's petition to the current Premier, Jay Weatherill to "STOP trying to sell off or build over the Adelaide Park Lands"](#).

Thanks Dr Arnold!



In addition, the National Trust has (SA) has explicitly endorsed APPA's campaign to halt the destruction of Park Lands. The National Trust has placed on their web site a link to our video "Egypt Is Selling Off the Pyramids" <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/advocacy-sa/saving-adelaides-park-lands/>

PHOTOS OF THE DAY

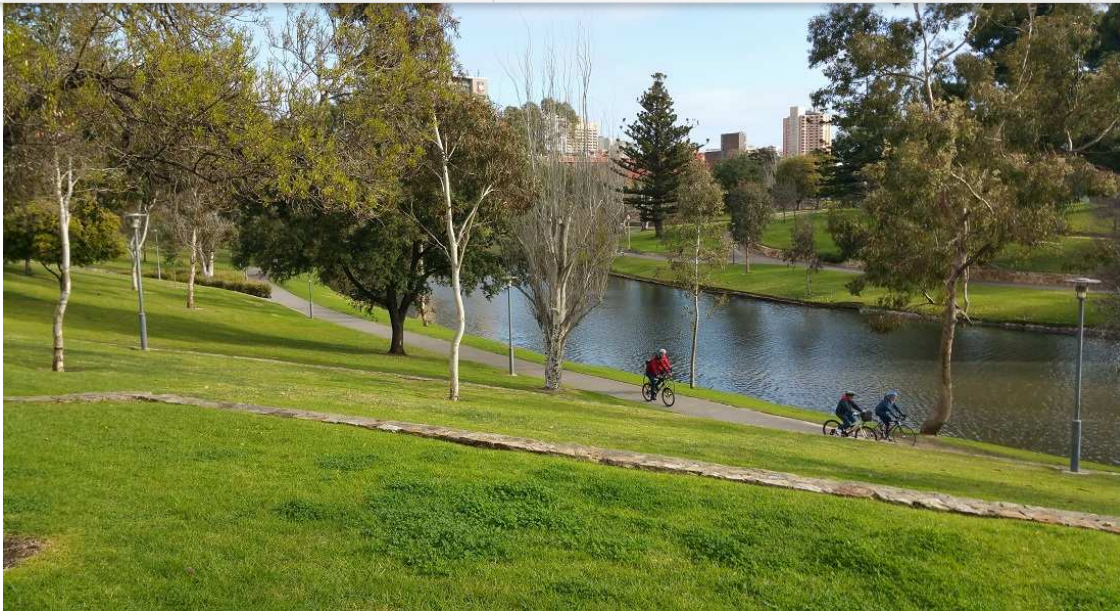
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From the top:

- a) River Torrens, Karrawirra (Park 12) off Victoria Drive
- b) Picnic site, Pityarilla (Park 19) off Glen Osmond Rd
- c) Drumming practice, Whitmore Square/Iparrityi
- d) Playground, Kurangga (Park 20) off South Tce
- e) Botanic Gardens, Tainmuntilla (Park 11)

The Park Lands 'photo of the day' series has been running for more than 22 months, and **the collection of Park Lands photos now numbers more than 700**. We maintain (and gradually grow) 37 separate albums for each one of our 30 Parks, six squares (and one album for 'Alienations'). To browse the photos follow the link below to '[Our photos on Flickr](#)'.

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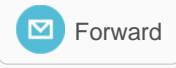
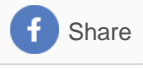
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