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e-Gazette No. 058 - January, 2020

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A \$40 MILLION GIFT OF PARK LANDS?



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WILL YOU LET THEM PROSTITUTE THIS PARK?

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The Adelaide City Council has spent most of the past year clearing the way to allow Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla ([Park 2](#)) to be offered to a commercial bidder.

The Council is currently undertaking what it calls "consultation" on two issues at once - confusing the public by linking the fate of its aquatic facilities with a proposed private Park Lands takeover by the AFL-controlled Adelaide Football Club.

The Council's double "consultation" closes on Wednesday 19 February.

The land value of the proposed gift to the Adelaide Football Club is at least \$40 million, based on the price that the Council itself paid for nearby land at 88 O'Connell St. However you won't find that proposed gift mentioned in the Council's documents.

We explain, below, what you can do in response to this "consultation".

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

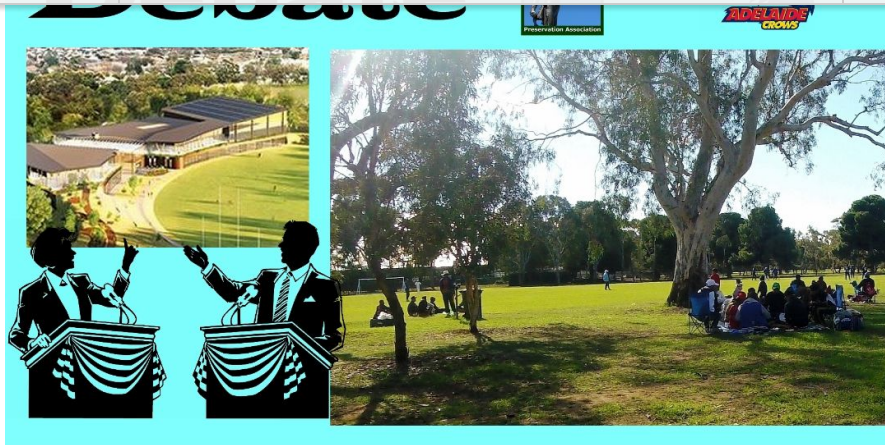


- **Firstly**, please contribute to [Denise Norton's fundraising campaign](#). We are up against big-money. Funds raised are going towards advertising and alerting the public. Our current priority is funding a leaflet drop throughout the City, North Adelaide and nearby suburbs.
- **Second**, take part in the City Council's flawed [consultation process](#). Here is [our suggestion \(Word document, 2 pages\)](#) for how to respond to each of the the three questions that the Council is asking.
- **Third**, contact the Crows CEO, Andrew Fagan, directly on afagan@afc.com.au to encourage him to focus on some other site, rather than the Adelaide Park Lands. We suggest that the Crows might like to consider buying a commercial property in O'Connell Street or Barton Terrace..
- **Fourth**, come to the **PUBLIC DEBATE** on the future of this Park - Wednesday 12 February 8.00pm to 9.30pm at the North Adelaide Community Centre, 176 Tynte Street. See below.

DEBATE THE FATE

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Debate

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Wednesday 12 February 8.00pm to 9.30pm at the North Adelaide Community Centre, 176 Tynte Street.

Topic: "That the Adelaide Football Club plans for Denise Norton Park / Pardipardinyilla (Park 2) be approved."



Speakers for the AFC Proposal:

On Wednesday 15 January, AFC Chief Executive Andrew Fagan contacted APPA to reject our invitation to this debate. Nor would he suggest anyone else to speak on the AFC's behalf.

APPA is now approaching several high-profile people who have spoken up in recent media debate in favour of the AFC's plans, to invite them as alternative speakers at the debate.

The debate WILL go ahead – but we cannot confirm at this stage the speakers for the affirmative.

Speakers against the AFC Proposal:

- Dr Ingrid Wangel (on behalf of her mother, Denise Norton-Wangel),
- Dr Jane Lomax Smith (former Lord Mayor and former Member for Adelaide)
- Shane Sody (President, Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association)



Dr Ingrid Wangel

Shane Sody

Dr Jane Lomax-Smith

Independent moderator:

- Stephen Yarwood (Former Lord Mayor of Adelaide, 2010-14)

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Seating is restricted to 150. Please reserve your seats here:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/519107632065185/>



VIDEO OF THE MONTH - #STANDWITHDENISE 2020



Our video #StandWithDenise has been updated to respond to the plans and drawings released by the Adelaide Football Club.



BUSHFIRES, CLIMATE CRISIS AND PARK LANDS

You don't need an APPA newsletter to remind you of the tragedy of this bushfire season. Just look at any news media. It is heartbreaking to see the devastation in every Australian State, including so close to home in the Adelaide Hills and especially the tragedies on Kangaroo Island.



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Photo: Kelly-Ann Oosterbeek

There are still a handful of ill-informed people in prominent positions who don't understand that climate change has increased the length of the fire season and increased the flammability of vegetation, which has made this bushfire season so much worse than ever before, as was predicted by scientists more than a decade ago.

On the positive side, it is heartening to see protest rallies across Australia drawing tens of thousands, some of whom have never protested before, demanding action to address climate change.

This was the scene from the steps of Parliament House on North Terrace, on Friday 10 January:



What does this have to do with the Adelaide Park Lands?

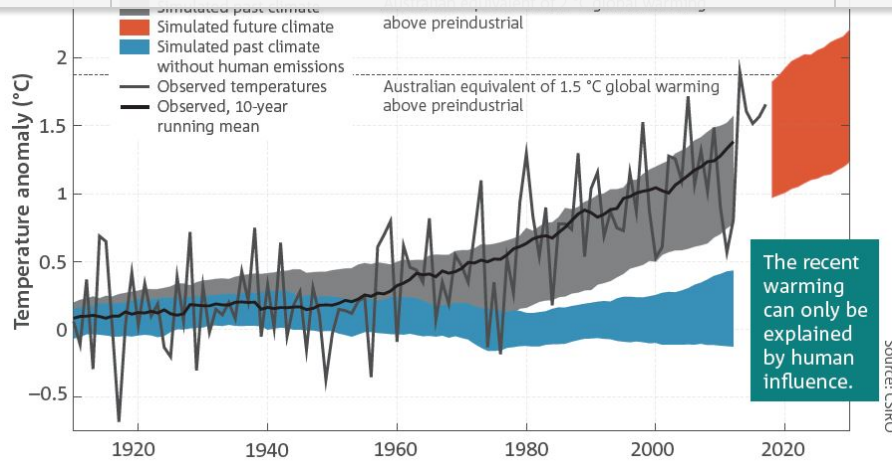
The most recent (2018) ["State of the Climate" Report](#) by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology predicts further increase in temperatures, with even more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days.

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Urban structures, hard surfaces and shortage of vegetation cover in cities are cited as the major contributors to an even higher artificial temperature increase in cities, commonly known as the Urban Heat Island effect.

Studies have shown that Adelaide's unique Park Lands [contribute to reducing the Urban Heat Island effect](#).

During this horrific summer, with global carbon emissions still rising, it beggars belief that in Adelaide we are still battling to prevent commercial and enormous new structures being erected or proposed on the world-unique, National-Heritage listed Adelaide Park Lands.

- Festival Plaza could have been returned to Park Lands. Instead it will contribute to the Urban Heat Island effect with [a new office tower and shops](#)
- The bulk of Adelaide Oval is being increased with [a new five-storey private hotel](#), and
- The State Government has abandoned any efforts to capitalise on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore any part of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site to Park Lands, and proposes only massive new buildings. See [the story below](#).



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ART PRIZE - ENTRIES CLOSING SOON

The Lord Mayor, Sandy Verschoor (pictured) has confirmed that there will be a Lord Mayoral reception for finalists in the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize 2020.

The Park Lands Art Prize was initiated in 2014 and has been conducted since then in alternate years (2016, 2018 and now in 2020.)

The Adelaide City Council is the single largest sponsor of the event.

For past events the Lord Mayoral reception for about 70 to 80 finalists has been one of key events in the lead-up to the exhibition opening.



The winning entry in the 2018 Art Prize "Spheres and Reflections" by Christopher Meadows (pictured below) was purchased by the City Council, and is hanging in the Lord Mayor's office.

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The number of entries received this year is running well ahead of entries received at the same stage in 2018. This suggests that judges will have a more difficult task to narrow down the field of entries to a list of finalists (in February–March) before the final stage of determining winners with judging in late March.

The exhibition of finalists at the Adelaide Festival Centre will run throughout April and May.

The total prize pool of \$38,500 is also larger this year than in previous years.

The prize pool includes:

- a first prize of \$20,000
- an APPA Young Artist's prize of \$2,000
- Ten "commended" prizes of \$1,500 each; and
- a "People's Choice" prize of \$1,500

All entrants have the opportunity to publicly highlight the beauty and fragility of the world-unique, National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.



Entry fee is \$50 per artwork entered.

If you know an artist with an appreciation of the Adelaide Park Lands, please let them know about this biennial Art Prize.

Entries close 31 January 2020.

See www.parklandsart.com

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SHORT WALKING TRAILS FOR SENIORS

APPA offers a series of free guided walks through various parts of the Adelaide Park Lands. [We schedule one per month.](#)

In addition, we have partnered with the National Trust to offer a self-guided walking trail guide to many parks. You can see historical photos, read about each site and/or listen to audio commentary as you follow the "trail" using the National Trust's "[Adelaide City Explorer](#)" smartphone app.

Now the Adelaide City Council is getting in on the act, offering something similar, but tweaked to appeal to seniors, with shorter, easy walks through various parts of the Adelaide Park Lands.

The City Council has produced printable one-page guides to a range of options, all of which feature smooth, paved walking paths. Most routes are under one kilometre. Some are as short as 200 metres. They include:



Easy walking trail in Lefevre Park/
Nantu Wama (Park 6)



Easy walking trail Bunday's
Paddock / Tidlangga (Park 9)



Easy walking trail Pelzer Park /
Pityarilla (Park 19)



Easy walking trail Gladys Elphick
Park / Narnungga (Park 25)

Click one or more of the pictures above to go to the "Easy Walking Trail Guide" to each respective Park.

Or browse a wider range of City Council walking guides here:
<https://explore.cityofadelaide.com.au/guides-maps/itineraries/>



LAW TO RECLAIM PARKS PROVES TOOTHLESS

There are few real protections for the Adelaide Park Lands within the

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005](#)[Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005](#)[We've previously argued \(APPA\)](#)[Translate ▾](#)[RSS](#)

An Act to establish a legislative framework that promotes the special status, attributes and character of the Adelaide Park Lands; to provide for the protection of those park lands and for their management as a world-class asset to be preserved as an urban park for the benefit of present and future generations; to amend the [Crown Lands Act 1998](#), the [Development Act 1993](#), the [Highways Act 1926](#), the [Local Government Act 1934](#), the [Local Government Act 1999](#), the [National Wine Centre Restructuring and Leasing Arrangements Act 2002](#), the [Roads \(Opening and Closing\) Act 1991](#), the [South Australian Motor Sport Act 1984](#) and the [Waterworks Act 1932](#); and for other purposes.

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2 Commencement

3 Interpretation

4 Statutory principles

Part 2—Adelaide Park Lands Authority**Division 1—Establishment of Authority**

5 Establishment of Authority

Division 2—Board of management

[Gazette, November 2018](#)) that the law is broken and incapable of protecting the Park Lands from privatisation, commercial development or exploitation.

It is certainly ineffectual on those very rare occasions when previously-alienated Park Lands might become available for reclamation or restoration.

This (below) is the only mechanism that the Act provides (at section 23) for restoring previously-lost Park Lands:

23—Steps regarding change in intended use of land

- (1) If land within the Adelaide Park Lands occupied by the Crown or a State authority is no longer required for any of its existing uses, the Minister must ensure that a report concerning the State Government's position on the future use and status of the land is prepared within the prescribed period.
- (2) A report under subsection (1) must include information on the condition of the land and on the action (if any) that would be required in order to make the land suitable for public use as park lands.

This legal provision is relevant to what is happening at the so-called "Lot Fourteen" where the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site on [Park 11](#) is being transformed into a multi-use site for commerce and industry.

APPA has been writing to the State Government since 2015 about the legal requirement for a report on how the old RAH site might be restored and made "suitable for public use as Park Lands".

- We wrote to former Minister Ian Hunter about it in [September 2015](#);
- We wrote to the incoming [Minister Stephan Knoll on 9 April 2018](#); and
- We wrote [to the Premier in May 2018](#).

No Minister provided us with any such report in compliance with this law.

Therefore we were surprised to find out recently that a token report has in fact been produced.

On 28 February 2019, Minister Stephan Knoll provided the House of Assembly with [THIS REPORT](#). Mr Knoll made no media release nor even informally advised APPA, despite our interest on behalf of the public.

This is even more surprising because we welcomed Minister Knoll as the guest speaker at our [Annual General Meeting on 28 April 2019](#), some two months after he had made his report to Parliament. Perhaps he was so embarrassed about the inadequacy of the long-awaited report that he didn't want to mention it.

Minister Knoll's report to Parliament claims that "to make the land suitable for public use as park lands" would require:

- Refurbishment of six existing heritage buildings; and
- Demolition of all existing non-heritage listed buildings including bulk filling basements with imported material, and site remediation; and
- Landscaping to the whole of the site including premium level pavements to North Terrace frontage to complete the cultural boulevard.

[The report](#) claims, without evidence, that the cost to complete this work would be \$300 million.

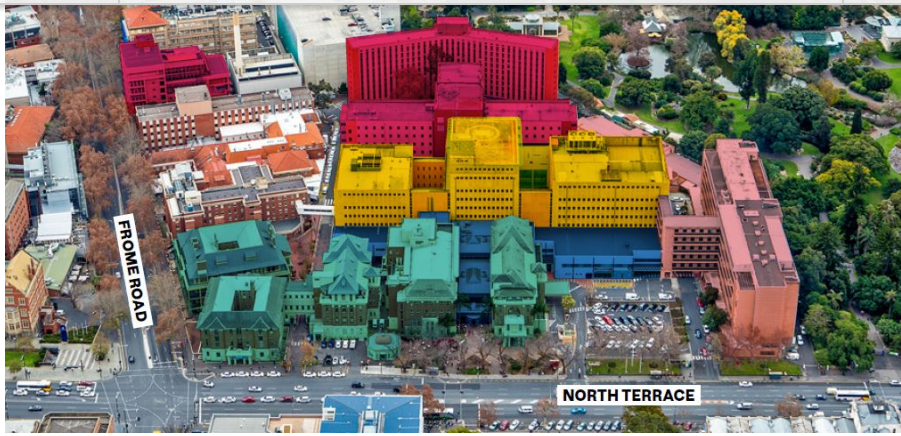
[The report](#) fails to include:

- Any explanation of why each of the dot points above was considered essential for Park Lands purposes ("imported material" for filling basements?)
- Any discussion of less-expensive options; nor
- Any explanation of how the Government calculated the supposed cost of \$300 million.

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Rather than Park Lands, the Government's plans for this site (above) include only a grab bag of multiple new and repurposed buildings that would increase the Urban Heat Island effect in Adelaide. Their wish list includes:

- a retail strip
- an "innovation and start up hub"
- a defence industries site
- a space agency office
- a new art gallery
- a "centre for tourism hospitality and food studies"; and
- yet another hotel.

The common thread running through these plans is the assumption that the land should be re-zoned for commerce or other sectional uses. NOT for Park Lands. That re-zoning process is under way, despite [APPA's advice to the State Government](#) that such a re-zoning would be in conflict with the provisions of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025, which envisages cultural and community land uses for the site.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY

The end of life for the old Royal Adelaide Hospital on [Park 11](#) represented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to return at least some of this site to its rightful status as part of the world-unique, National Heritage-listed Park Lands.

Not only has the opportunity been ignored and lost, the State Government has made what can only be regarded as a meaningless, token effort to comply with its own Park Lands law.



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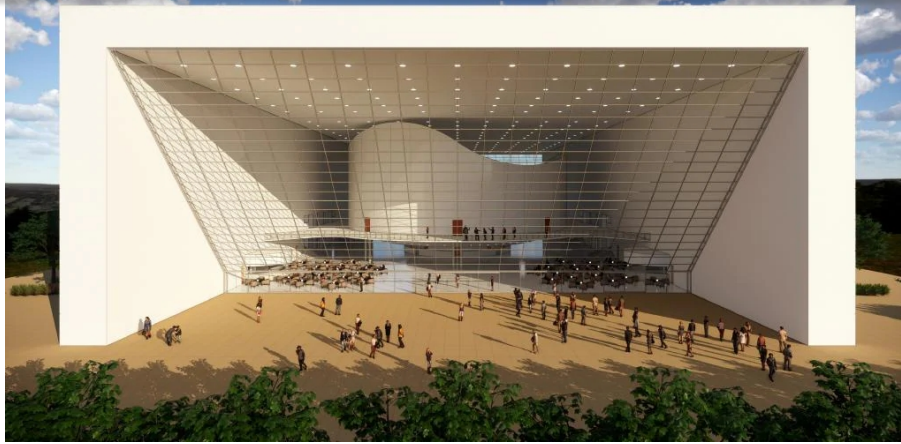
YET ANOTHER "ICON" PROPOSED

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This is the latest "thought bubble" that has cropped up to reduce the area of Adelaide's world-unique, National Heritage-listed Park Lands.

Architect Guy Marron has provided this concept to the Sunday Mail ([\\$\\$ subscriber-only link](#)) with a suggestion that it should be built in Elder Park ([Park 26](#)) or next to the Botanic Gardens in [Park 11](#).

Few people seem to realise that Adelaide's real "icon" is the irreplaceable garland of Park Lands that no other city in the world could match.

Our response to Mr Marron's suggestion is simple. It's in this video:



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WHAT'S ON IN THE PARKLANDS

There are always events scheduled in the Park Lands, many of them free, and there are always opportunities to explore the Park Lands on your own, or with friends or family. Browse our "[Explore Parks](#)" pages for hints about interesting spots to visit. This month's featured opportunities, in date order, are:

Moonlight Cinema, Botanic Park ([Park 11](#)) nightly until 16 February

Click the pic for program, ticket and location details.

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Guided Walk through Veale Park / Walyu Yarta ([Park 21](#)) Sun 19 January 10am–11.30am

A stroll around one of the most beautiful parts of the Adelaide Park Lands hosted by APPA Park Ambassador Peter Sansom. Learn some surprising history about not just Veale Gardens but also the larger Veale Park, and discover one of its hidden treasures – a community garden. Children, and dogs (on leads) most welcome. Click the pic for details.



Tour Down Under village – [Victoria Square](#) / [Tarntanyangga](#) daily until Sat 25 January

Racing starts on Sunday 19 January but the riders and their teams set up in Victoria Square from 16 January – creating a hub in the centre of Adelaide over 11 days of Australia's biggest cycling festival.

Click the pic for details.



Inner City Oasis – Rymill Park Island Party ([Park 14](#)) Sat 25 January from 12pm

An open-air day party on Rymill Park island. Featuring globally-influenced sounds from a line up of local artists. Tickets from \$15. Food and drink available.

Click the pic for details.



Australia Day Smoking Ceremony, Elder Park in Tarntanya Wama ([Park 26](#)) Sun 26 January, 7am–8am

A ceremony to honour Kurna ancestors and pay respect to the land, waters and sea of country. Includes a Welcome to Country, led by Uncle Fred Agius and Uncle Major "Moogy" Sumner, and performances by the Iwiri Choir.

Click the pic for details.



Australia Day Concert and Fireworks, Elder Park and River Torrens (Karrawirra Pari) in Tarntanya Wama ([Park 26](#)) Sun 26 January, 6pm–10pm

Click the pic for details.

Guided walk through Ellis Park / Tampawardli ([Park 24](#)) Sun 9 February, 10am–11.30am

An exploration of one of Adelaide's

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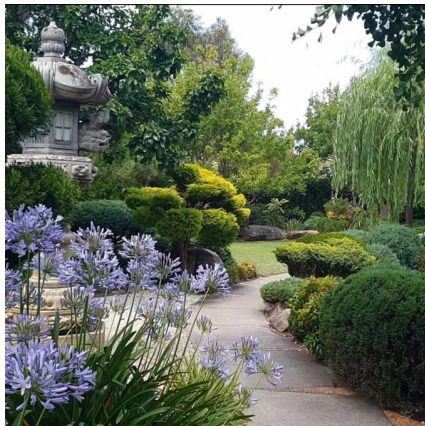
western Parks, best known as a sporting venue, but also with hidden remnants of native vegetation, and a key part of the Park Lands trail. A feature of this walk will be learning what USED to be here and is now long-forgotten.

Click the pic for details.



BRIEFLY, IN OTHER PARK LANDS NEWS

From rocky to tranquil for Himeji Garden



One of the most beautiful and tranquil spots in Adelaide would have to be the Himeji Garden, Peppermint Park / Wita Wirra ([Park 18](#)). A visit is highly recommended.

But it wasn't always this way. Over 30 years ago at its inception the Garden was peppered with problems. It even earned a nickname referencing a POW camp!

All is revealed in this recent *Adelaide Review* [article](#)

Parks not disappearing fast enough: Pyne

Despite the never-ending stream of Park Lands [alienations over the years](#) (with the rate ramped up in the past decade) some people still seem to feel that Adelaide's world-unique Park Lands aren't disappearing fast enough.

Former Federal Government Minister Christopher Pyne made headlines on Monday 13 January, declaring that even MORE private development should be encouraged on Park Lands ([\\$\\$ subscriber-only link](#)).

Without irony, Mr Pyne reversed a slogan used by the British Labour Party "For the Many, Not the Few" to claim that privatisation would be "for the many".

Mr Pyne is a lobbyist for various business interests. His company's clients include the Adelaide Football Club.



Cities suffer as public spaces go private

Around the world, public parks and open spaces are gradually coming under the control of private corporations.

Spaces that once were free to enter now require payment of an admission fee, discouraging their use especially by people who have limited financial resources.

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In Adelaide, this is typified by the current push to have the Adelaide Football Club take over a large swathe of Denise Nilton

Park / Pardipardinyilla ([Park 2](#)).

[This article](#) in "The Conversation" examines the trend and looks at the cities that are pushing back (such as Emmen in the Netherlands) by granting power over parks to the local population.

City parks are not luxuries



City parks are not luxuries; they are critical infrastructure. In some locations, parks can be designed to act like sponges, holding water during rain events and slowly filtering stormwater after the event has passed.

This natural capacity can complement the traditional alternative of building and maintaining large underground networks of pipes and tunnels.

Parks can do this all while improving air quality, reducing the Urban Heat Island effect and creating close-to-home opportunities for outdoor recreation and experiences with nature.

Read more at [US website: "The Hill"](#).

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MORE OPTIONS FOR HELPING THE PARK LANDS

APPA always welcomes any assistance with supporting our Park Lands.

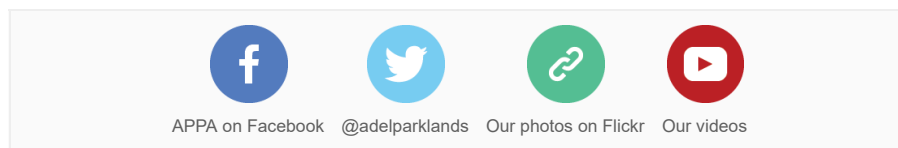
We have listed 10 ways that you can help at: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/take-action

Specific suggestions you could do right now are:

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1. Send a written (&/or pictorial) contribution to this newsletter or our social media feeds such as a letter to the editor, a news tip you've heard, or a personal anecdote. Send to secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au

2. Follow APPA on social media through one or more of these links:



3. Donate to #StandWithDenise



4. Send a letter or email on a current issue.

See the suggestions earlier in this newsletter about how to help the campaign to #StandWithDenise. Other current issues are identified here: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/current-issues

5. Join us!

Since 1 January, lower-price membership options have become available.

You can be a proud Park Lands supporter, with membership starting at only \$7.50 (for concession and student membership) for up to six months. Longer membership options are also available.

We rely almost exclusively on annual membership fees to continue our Park Lands advocacy, so if you haven't already, please consider putting your money where your mouth is and backing APPA to keep up the Park Lands fight.

As a financial member of APPA, you receive:

- the priceless satisfaction of supporting APPA's work;
- free participation in our [monthly guided Park Lands walks](#);
- eligibility to become a Park Ambassador and lead an annual [guided walk through one Park](#);
- the responsibility to help guide APPA's activities through the [Annual General Meeting](#); and
- a printable PDF membership certificate (as below).

Those who've already paid their 2019-20 membership have already received one of these printable certificates.

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CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP 2019-20

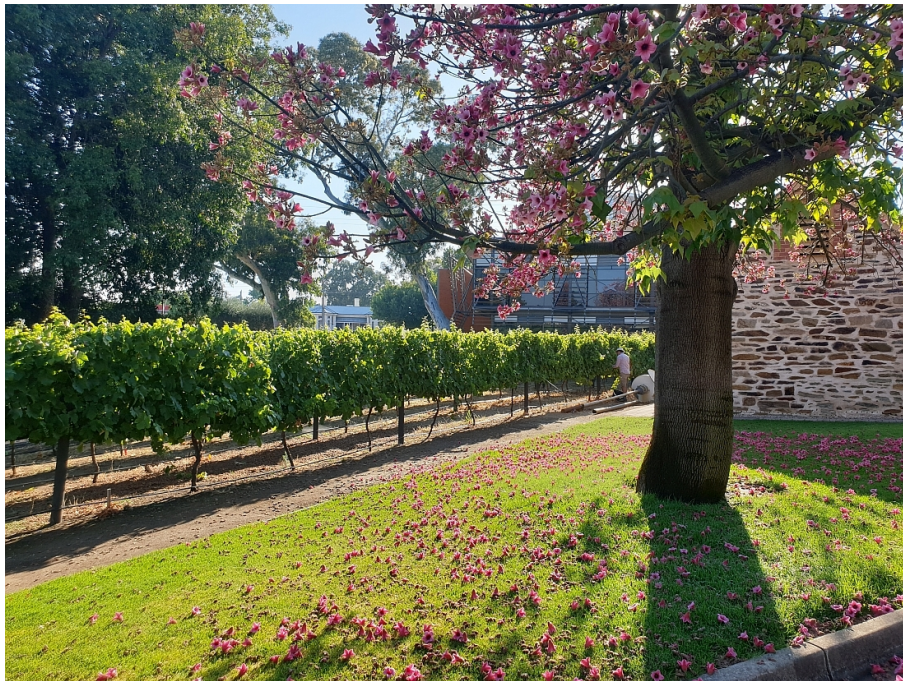
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PHOTOS OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



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From the top:

- a) Summer blooms and a vineyard near the National Wine Centre off Hackney Rd in [Park 11](#)
- b) Touch football in Carriageway Park / Tuthangga ([Park 17](#))
- c) Running on the "sweat track" in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi ([Park 16](#))
- d) Jogging across the island in the ornamental lake in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka ([Park 14](#))
- e) A bee in a rose, in the rose garden off Barton Terrace West, in Possum Park / Pirtawardli ([Park 1](#)).

The Park Lands "photo of the day" series has been running since May 2014, and the collection of Park Lands photos gathered over more than five and a half years now numbers over 2,000. We maintain (and gradually grow) more than 40 separate albums: one for each numbered Park and Square, along with several albums for "Alienations". Contributions are very welcome! To find out more about any of these featured Parks, click the link to the Park number.

To see the #AdelaideParklands Photo Of The Day as it's released each morning, just follow us on Facebook, Instagram &/or Twitter

Despite being a National Heritage-listed place, the Adelaide Park Lands are not well protected by Federal environmental laws.

That's why we've joined the [Places You Love Alliance](#), to campaign along with 56 other organisations for better environmental protection laws.

Adelaide Park Lands



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We are a member organisation of the national "Places You Love Alliance"

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