

e-Gazette No. 64 - July 2020

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MINISTER PINGED FOR 'HOLDING THE BALL'



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19 MONTHS OF DELAY ON STATE HERITAGE ENDORSEMENT

Everyone knows that in sport, you have to keep moving the ball and trying to score.

Don't delay - or else you'll be penalised for "held ball" or "holding the ball" or a shot clock violation.

But it doesn't appear to work that way in the South Australian Government.

Environment Minister David Speirs has been holding the ball for 19 months and still shows no signs of wanting to move it on.



Since December 2018, Mr Speirs has avoided acting on a Heritage Council recommendation that the Adelaide Park Lands should be declared a State Heritage Area.

The Adelaide Park Lands received National Heritage status in 2008, but despite lobbying from APPA and others since 2009, successive State Governments have failed to legally recognise their heritage values at a State level.

In 2017, after eight years of delay on a valid nomination, the Government commissioned an independent State Heritage assessment of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Squares. In that same year, 1,747 people responded to the Government's invitation to comment. Here's the results, as posted on the Environment Department's website:

ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND CITY SQUARES YourSAy Consultation 2017

Snapshot of survey results - Heritage South Australia, November 2017

You said...

"The park lands are a rare jewel"

"Without the park lands, it is not Adelaide."

"Park lands are vital to our health and pleasure"

1,747 people did the 9-question survey.

97% agreed that the Adelaide Park Lands were important to them.

88% thought that the Adelaide Park Lands should be State heritage-listed.

The facts are clear. The proposed State Heritage listing easily complies with legal criteria.

The Adelaide Park Lands were the world's first planned public park and Adelaide is the world's only city in a Park - internationally recognised as a model design. There is overwhelming, documented public support for such a listing. What more does the Minister need?

The inaction by Minister Speirs since December 2018 is an insult to the people of South Australia and the 1,747 who responded to the Government's consultation. It is a snub to Adelaide's world-unique treasure.

In the intervening period, the Adelaide City Council has started investigating potential World Heritage listing. It is ridiculous that Adelaide's world-unique asset is considered worthy of national and international recognition, yet its values are studiously ignored by our own South Australian State administration.



If this Government supports the State's heritage then why is it overlooking the single largest and most significant heritage item in South Australia?

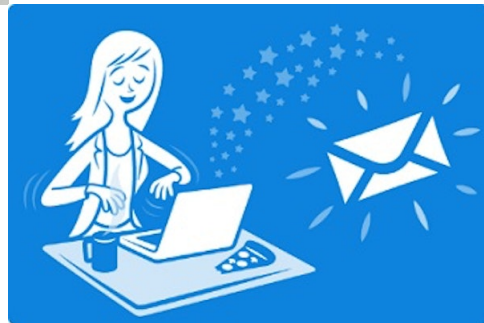
The time for dithering is over. It's well past time for action. Minister Speirs has had plenty of prior opportunity. It's time he was penalised for "held ball".

Read more here: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/heritage

What can you do?

You can write to your own Member of State Parliament about this.

Here's [the list of State MPs](#).



Simply send your MP a link to our webpage: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/heritage

and/or [a copy of our letter of 30 June to Minister Speirs](#)

and ask your MP to take it up with Minister Speirs without further delay.

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THREATS STILL ALIVE DESPITE COVID-19

The global coronavirus pandemic has forced a pause in plans for at least three very large proposed new buildings on the Park Lands.

However in each case, their backers have not given up. They are just biding their time, until economic conditions improve.

One of the biggest Park Lands threats is the suggestion of a new multi-purpose stadium to replace both the Entertainment Centre and the soccer stadium at Hindmarsh.

The Chairman of the Adelaide Venue Management Corporation Bill Spurr says he will "continue to explore a range of options with the Government". ([\\$\\$ Subscriber-only link](#))



Six of the seven options so far identified for a new stadium are on Park Lands.



In the meantime, outgoing Chairman of the Adelaide Crows, Rob Chapman has made it clear that the club is still interested in putting its office headquarters on Park Lands:

"I think we will look at that again in a couple of years" he's said.

([\\$\\$ subscriber-only link](#))

And in a surprising move the State Government [has opened tenders](#) to develop an "initial scoping study" for a new Concert Hall (artist's impression below) even though there is no funding, yet, for any construction.

No site has been selected but Elder Park (Park 26) has been suggested.



See <https://indaily.com.au/news/local/2020/06/25/tenders-open-for-city-concert-hall-but-govt-wary-on-funding/>

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LORD MAYOR RESPONDS TO RESTORATION CAMPAIGN



Adelaide Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor has responded to our "Restoration" campaign.

This APPA campaign is focussed on "re-greening" or returning some of the many alienated areas of Park Lands back to a more natural state.

A survey of APPA supporters late last year selected Edwards Park, the bitumen expanse off Anzac Highway in G S Kingston Park / Wirraminthe (**Park 23**), as our 2020 restoration focus.



In a letter dated 24 June 2020 the Lord Mayor has agreed with our sentiments and says the site "has the potential for improved presentation and is worthy of a more productive use".

Lord Mayor Verschoor promised that Council staff would contact APPA to "discuss the prospects for a working group and the project in general".



See <http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/restoration> for background information and a template letter to use to back this campaign.

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WHERE SHOULD THE DOLLARS GO?



The City of Adelaide is putting together its draft budget for 2020-21 and is inviting your comment.

This would be a perfect time to urge the Council to invest in:

- **Restoration of the disused former bitumen netball courts in Park 23;**
- A feasibility study for **the 'Rainbow Circuit' - the proposed unbroken walking/running/cycling loop around the Park Lands;** and
- plans to **move the Aquatic Centre off the Park Lands into a City location** such as Franklin Street

Your feedback is sought by midnight, Thursday 23 July. Here's where to do it:

<https://yoursay.cityofadelaide.com.au/draft-2020-2021-business-plan-and-budget>



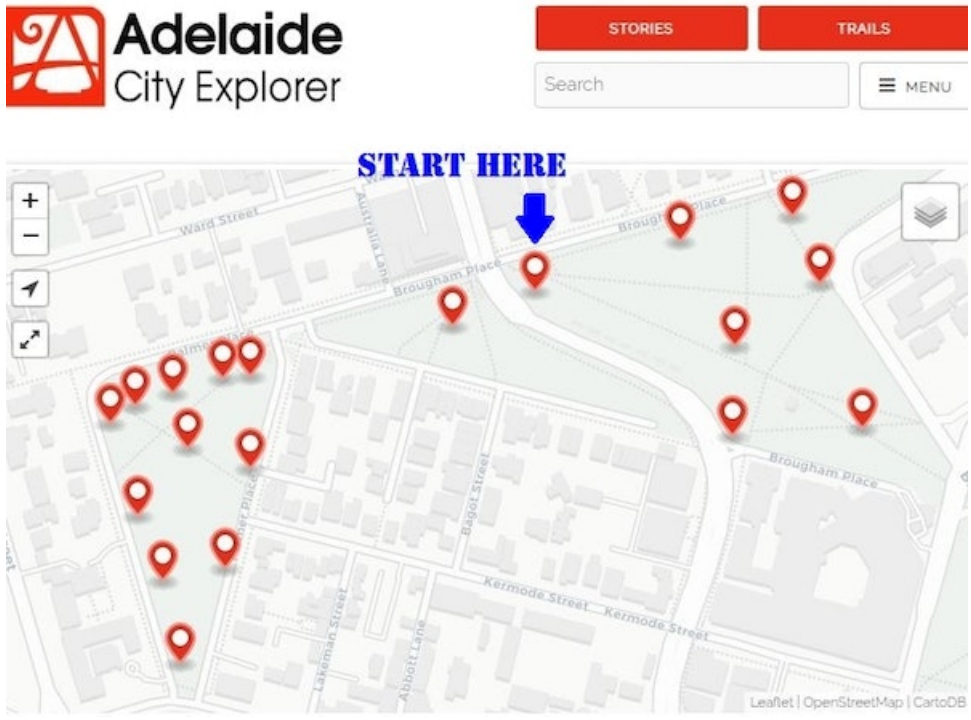
NEW SELF-GUIDED WALKING TRAIL

We're happy to announce publication of the tenth in our series of self-guided walking trails in the Adelaide Park Lands.

Continuing our partnership with the National Trust, using their "Adelaide City Explorer" app and website, the latest Trail or Tour is "The Formal Gardens of North Adelaide".

Starting at the corner of O'Connell Street and Brougham Place, the trail will take you about 90 minutes to visit the 19 marked locations in Brougham Gardens / Tantutittingga (**Park 29**) and Palmer Gardens / Pangki Pangki (**Park 28**).

You can go as fast or as slow as you like. View all the historical photos as you walk. You can read the guide notes yourself, or listen to the narration as you walk.



APPA's aim is to eventually cover all of the Adelaide Park Lands with walking trail guides such as this one.

See the list of nine other available trail guides at www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/guided-walks



VIDEO OF THE MONTH - PARK 26

This month, we feature the Park that is at the heart of the Adelaide Park Lands. Park 26 includes Elder Park, Adelaide Oval, Pinky Flat and a huge range of enormous buildings that have chipped away at this Park for decades:



Catch up with videos for most of the other Parks (Park 1 through to Park 25) [at our YouTube Channel](#).



WILDLIFE SANCTUARY TO ALIENATE PARK LANDS

The City Council has opened the door to yet another privatisation on the Park Lands.

The "Team Adelaide" majority faction on Council pushed through a motion during a late-night sitting of Council on Tuesday 14 July.

After being ridiculed earlier this month for wanting to set up a koala hospital in the Park Lands (see Channel Seven News story below), the Deputy Lord Mayor Cr Alex Hyde has doubled down.

He has now led his majority faction on the Council to violate their own Park Lands Management Strategy.



The City Council will now start advertising for "Expressions of Interest" from non-profit organisations, to set up an ill-defined "wildlife sanctuary" at some unidentified location.

Park Lands are **supposed to be open, green and public**. A wildlife sanctuary in the Park Lands (even if run by a non-profit organisation) would not be open land. It would not be publicly run. It would be an another privatisation of public land.

No part of the Park Lands Management Strategy authorises this sort of private use for YOUR Park Lands.

Such an operation would also be competing against or undermining existing operations at the Adelaide Zoo, Monarto Zoo, Cleland Wildlife Park, the Gorge Wildlife Park and elsewhere.



This Channel Seven News story (above) on 7 July led the Deputy Lord Mayor to change tack, but double down on his apparent ambition to alienate more Park Lands.

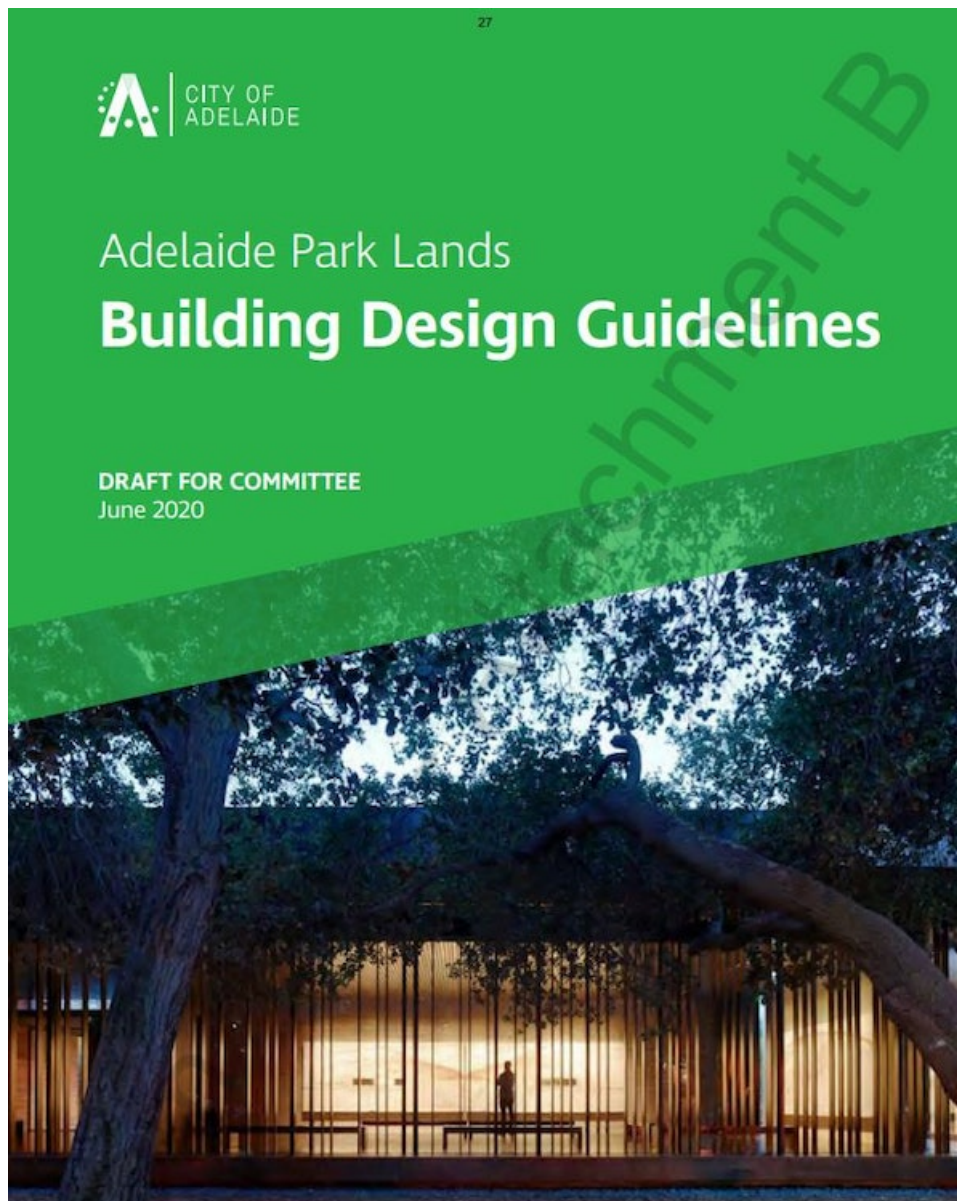
You can ask Cr Hyde and his factional colleagues to get their heads out of their Park Lands "privatisation burrow":

- Deputy Lord Mayor Hyde: a.hyde@cityofadelaide.com.au
- Councillor Hou: s.hou@cityofadelaide.com.au
- Councillor Couros: M.Couros@cityofadelaide.com.au
- Councillor Abrahamzadeh: A.Abrahimzadeh@cityofadelaide.com.au
- Councillor Khera: J.Khera@cityofadelaide.com.au
- Councillor Knoll: F.Knoll@ityofadelaide.com.au

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COUNCIL SIGNS OFF ON BUILDING GUIDELINES

The City Council has signed off on a new document which aims to give guidance on the design of any new buildings within the Adelaide Park Lands.



The document was the subject of public consultation earlier this year. Unfortunately despite many public objections, the final version of the document continues to endorse the inclusion of "storage areas and multi-functional indoor clubroom facilities" within new sports buildings.

On the positive side, the document inserts some restrictions on ambitions for increased building footprint, and it specifies that any new sports building "must invite and include non-sporting community use."

However, the Guidelines also encourage "cafes and restaurants [which] may be designed for activation during key events ... with internal and external spaces catered towards small-to medium-scale events or performances".



A sports storage shed in Blue Gum Park / Kurangga (Park 20)

In [an article in the Adelaide Review](#), John Bridgland notes "this may encourage applications to construct new buildings to attract business by seasoned state or commercial event organisers with multi-year licences seeking to cut the costs of annually erecting and dismantling event infrastructure."



Before

After

Improved "design" for bigger multi-function clubrooms and function centre in Bullrush Park / Warnpangga (Park 10)

Another, more fundamental problem is the status of the document. It is not yet clear whether the State Government would pay any attention to the Park Lands Building Design Guidelines when it authorises new buildings.

Plainly the previous version of the Park Lands Building Design Guidelines was irrelevant to the State Government's decision to allow Walker Corporation to put a 23-storey office tower on Festival Plaza. It was equally irrelevant to the State Government's decision to approve a commercial hotel at Adelaide Oval.

Nevertheless Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor will be writing to the Planning Minister, Stephan Knoll, to urge that the Park Lands Building Design Guidelines be incorporated into the State Government's controversial new Planning Code.

This would be a two-edged sword. The hope is that the Guidelines might be used to constrain gross abuses of the Park Lands. But there are also fears the Guidelines might open the floodgates for a raft of commercial Park Lands intrusions.

See John Bridgland's analysis of the problem in the July edition of the Adelaide Review <https://www.adelaidereview.com.au/latest/2020/07/03/new-park-lands-planning-rules-a-cause-for-concern/>



WHAT'S ON IN THE PARK LANDS

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.

Here are just some of the opportunities in coming weeks:



Guided Walk through Bonython Park / Tulya Wardli (Park 27)

Sun 18 July, 2.00pm to 4.00pm

[Click the pic for details](#)



Chalkin' Around - school holiday activity

Thurs 16th and Fri 17th July, Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16)

[Click the pic for details](#)



The Corporate Cup - running/walking

Each Wednesday, beginning 5 August 2020.

[Click the pic for details](#)



Guided walk through Golden Wattle Park / Mirnu Wirra (Park 21W)

Sunday 9 August 1.30pm to 3.00pm

[Click the pic for details.](#)



A WHIFF OF COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY IN PARK 9?

A private gym in North Adelaide has been encouraging its members to sign a petition to support a potential new building on Bunday's Paddock / Tidlangga ([Park 9](#)).

Over decades, the City Council has authorised the use of playing fields in Park 9 by Prince Alfred College and the College's Old Scholars. For several years PAC has been seeking Council permission to upgrade the leased old change rooms off Bundeys Road.



There is no doubt that these change rooms (above) need upgrading, but both APPA and local residents have been vigilant to prevent any new proposal expanding to include a function room, meeting hall, or "Pub in the Park" especially not close to a community playground, as is the case here.

A concept is due to be submitted on 6 August to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority, but "Fitness on the Park" in MacKinnon Parade is not waiting for the Authority's view on this.



Even before plans are considered, the private gym (pictured above) is urging its members to sign a petition supporting the (draft) proposal. Why? Members have been told that if PAC gets approval for its still-tentative plans, then Fitness on the Park would be able to use space in the proposed new building in Park 9 for its commercial operations..

Park Lands lovers cannot afford to wait for official "consultation" when private interests get an advance whiff of potential money-making opportunities on Park Lands.

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BRIEFLY, IN OTHER PARK LANDS NEWS

Known unknowns - plant biodiversity in the Park Lands

There are things we know, things we know that we don't know, and things we don't know that we don't know.

The extent of plant biodiversity in the Adelaide Park Lands is one of the known unknowns. That is to say; we know that knowledge is missing.

A 2020 [review of the research literature by Adelaide University student Saeema Shirin](#) has found that the most recent published analysis of biodiversity in the Adelaide Park Lands was undertaken in 2005, which in turn could rely only on data collected earlier (in 1996).



Our current lack of knowledge is more remarkable because the Adelaide plains were considered to have the richest biodiversity in the state before European settlement began in the 1830's. It's estimated that less than 4 per cent of pre-colonisation vegetation remains.

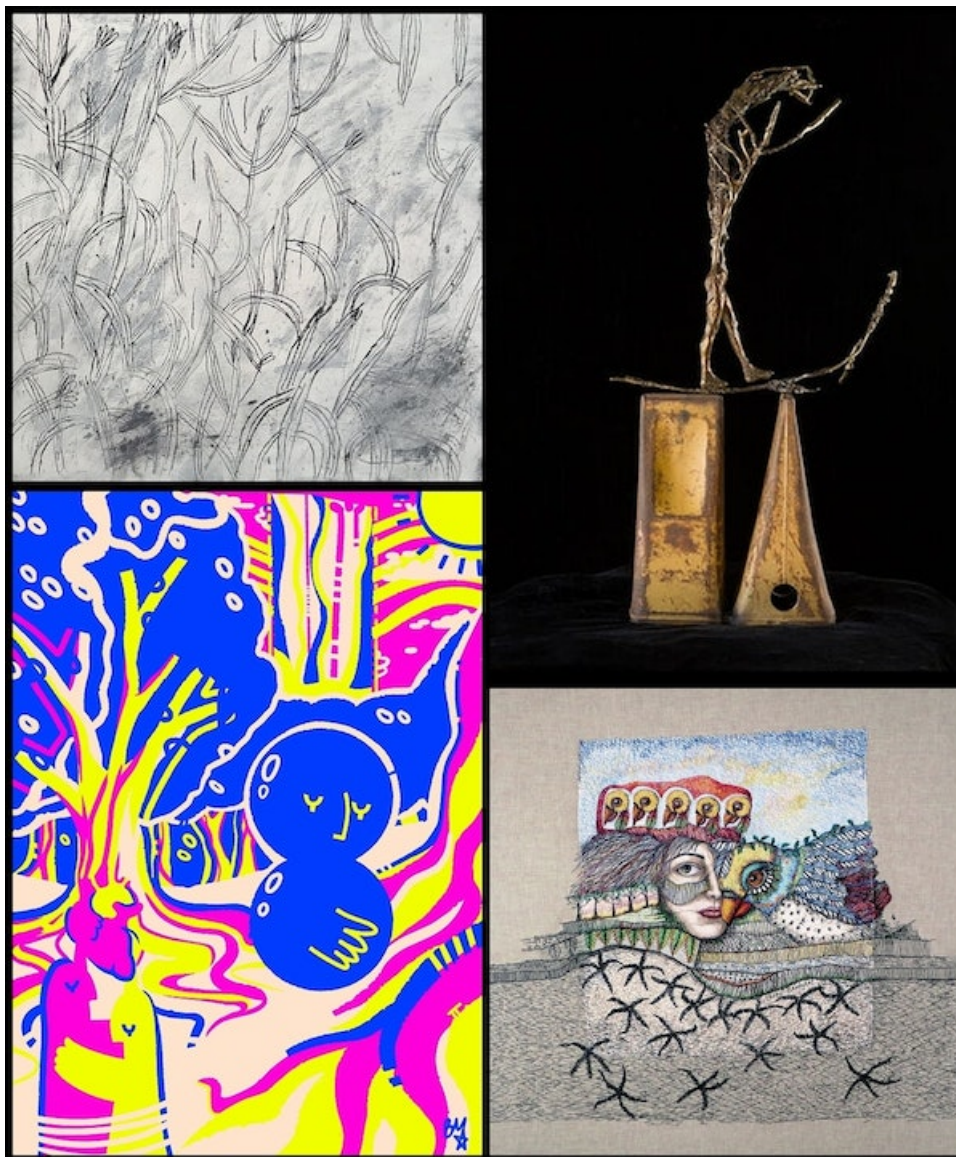
[Ms Shirin's paper](#) also looks at the current risks to what remains of Park Lands biodiversity, including invasive species (weeds), climate change-induced extreme heat and the urban heat island effect.

Park Lands Art Prize still on track for December

If all continues to go well in South Australia with COVID-19 cases (fingers crossed!) then the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize Exhibition of Finalists is on track to proceed with the rescheduled dates of 4 December 2020 to 30 January 2021.

You can purchase the finalists' artworks, even before the exhibition opens, at: <https://www.parklandsart.com/>

At least 19 of the 77 finalist artworks have already been sold. Purchasing artwork now supports the artists in these difficult times. (Note: purchased artworks will be available to collect at the close of the Finalists' Exhibition from 30 January 2021.)



Pictured above: four of the finalists. Clockwise from top left:

- Gordon Bain - "Wetland"
- Ingrid Morley - "Off the Freeway"
- Cheryl Bridgart - "Natural Harmony"
- Bella Marchesan - "Heartlands"

Boasting about a Park failure

Premier Steven Marshall has been boasting that the Government's plans for the former RAH site in Park 11 will lead to "thousands of jobs" on the site.



The new Development Plan for the misleadingly named "Lot Fourteen" within Park 11 has now come into effect. It signals the official legal go-ahead for massive new developments on the seven-hectare site that is still, in law, part of the world-unique, National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.

Showing a total lack of vision, the Government has refused to return any part of the site to Park Lands, authorising instead (among other things) a so-called "innovation centre", a hospitality school, a hotel, restaurants and shops.

Read more here: ([\\$\\$ Subscriber-only link](#))

Gluttony set to expand next year over Rymill Park

The Festival Fringe venue "Gluttony" in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka ([Park 14](#)) is set to expand, next year, to include the whole of the Rymill Park lake. See the map below. The red area was the event's 2020 footprint. The new larger footprint is outlined in purple.

The change was approved at a meeting of the Park Lands Authority on 2 July.

The changes will apply to the next two Fringe festivals in February and March 2021, and 2022.



Read more here: ([\\$\\$ subscriber-only link](#))

Excuses exposed: environmental heritage protection lacking

The Federal Government is considering slashing Australia's already-poor protection for sites of environmental and heritage significance, such as the Adelaide Park Lands.

See our newsletter of [May 2020](#) ("[Proposals to Weaken Federal Protection](#)")

Federal Ministers have complained that "green tape" holds up major developments, and that environmentalists engage in unwarranted "lawfare" to thwart damaging construction on such sites.

However these claims have now been exposed as baseless: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/jun/19/claims-major-projects-are-being-delayed-by-environmental-lawfare-dismissed-in-new-research>



Last month, the auditor-general found that the Morrison Government had repeatedly failed in its duty to protect the environment in its delivery of Australia's national conservation laws.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/25/morrison-government-has-failed-in-its-duty-to-protect-environment-auditor-general-finds>

Federal environmental laws need urgent strengthening, not weakening. APPA is part of a nation-wide campaign for better environmental laws. We are one of 56 organisations that together form the "Places You Love Alliance". See the link below.

Save the trees? South Park Lands Creek re-think

The Adelaide Park Lands Authority has sought a re-think on plans to remove some old trees, perched precariously on steeply eroded banks of the South Park Lands Creek in Blue Gum Park / Kurangga ([Park 20](#)).

We covered this issue in [last month's \(June\) newsletter \("Woody Weeds Out - Wetlands In"\)](#).



The Authority has told the Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Stormwater Management Board to re-think the extent of tree removal. More details here: ([\\$\\$ subscriber-only link](#))

Join us!

You can be a proud Park Lands supporter, with membership starting at only \$15 (for concession and student membership) expiring 30 June 2021. Longer-term memberships 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.

Join here: www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/membership

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](#);
- the opportunity to join the APPA Managing Committee;
- a printable PDF membership certificate (as below).



For existing members, renewal invitations were sent out during June.

Position Vacant - APPA Newsletter Deputy Editors



- Do you have media experience or training?
- Are you passionate about the Park Lands?
- Are you looking for experience or to give something to your community?

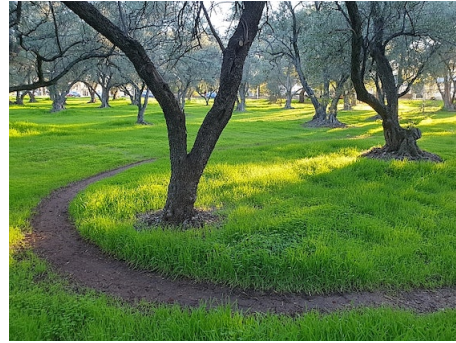
Then the APPA newsletter team could use your contribution!

We are seeking two Deputy Editors. You would assist the Editor with the sourcing and compilation of material for this monthly newsletter.

This is a volunteer position. Time commitment negotiable

Contact secretary@adelaide-parklands.asn.au to express your interest.

PHOTO OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



From the top:

- A pied cormorant and paddle boats on the banks of the River Torrens / Karrawirra Parri in Tanttanya Wama ([Park 26](#))
- School sport in Peppermint Park / Wita Wirra ([Park 18](#)) off Hutt Rd
- A trail through ancient olive trees in The Olive Groves / Kuntingga ([Park 7](#)) off Mann Tce near Gilberton
- Wood ducks on dewy grass at sunrise in Blue Gum Park / Kurangga ([Park 20](#))
- Dog play time in the dog park in Pelzer Park / Pityarilla ([Park 19](#)) off Glen Osmond Rd
- Walking to the city through Rundle Park / Kadlitpina ([Park 13](#))

The Park Lands "photo of the day" series has been running since May 2014, and the collection of Park Lands photos gathered over almost six years now numbers over 2,200.

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 #picoftheday 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.



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Here at APPA, we hate marketing (spam) emails. That's why we deliver news about the Park Lands, in this email format, only once per month. If you're after more regular information, please [follow us on Facebook](#) where we are posting every day.

Unlike marketing emails, we're not trying to sell you anything, so we hope you'll forgive this intrusion to your InBox.

Nevertheless, if you'd rather not hear from us in future, you can [unsubscribe here](#).