

PARKLANDS NEWS

June 2004 Number 15

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Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000 Web: www.adelaide-parklands.org

President's letter

We launch into a new APPA year with a fresh committee: same faces but with even more determination to protect and enhance our Parklands. Congratulations to Peter Austin who has been re-elected Deputy President, and has been a tower of strength over the past year.

I can give you a litany of issues and events which we have been concerned about over the past year, but for the sake of brevity I will indicate just a few: Adelaide Bowling Club activities, LeFevre Terrace playground, encroachment on Hindmarsh Square by RAA site redevelopment, designs for the Britannia intersection, Kent Town highrise development, and MacKinnon Parade flood lighting. And one of the more unusual: we were approached by the people of Port Lincoln to help save their public space Centenary Oval! We were successful.

The Adelaide City Council has finalised its biodiversity survey. Sadly, it falls short of the thorough inventory we had hoped for and expected.

One effect is that it leaves the delicate issue of the pine trees in Park 17 in no man's land. But, having heard a submission from Bushcare Australia about their native vegetation project at our first committee meeting, the new committee decided that in our opinion the pines should stay, and the Adelaide City Council should extend the area for the Bushcare project to the south where there is ample open space—surely a win-win situation.

The AGM in April was attended by 27 members. The Hon Iain Evans MP kindly agreed to be guest speaker. He talked about the concept of a Green Bank that could be used to finance conservation. His address provoked interesting questions and discussion.

Also at the AGM we enthusiastically supported a motion that Kyle Penick be awarded a Life Membership of APPA. Congratulations Kyle! He is currently in the US and missed the AGM. Sadly, his mother died recently and he remains there assisting his father. We send our sympathies to him.



The previous committee held a strategy meeting on 7 April to assess our progress and steer our efforts in the optimum direction. This is a 'work in progress' and we will consider strategy further at future meetings. We feel frustrated that we are constantly playing 'catch up' instead of being proactive and steering from the front.

Thank you for your support in the past year. The exciting challenges continue, so please, each of you, enrol at least one new member, for all our sakes.

Ian Gilfillan

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Redevelopment of Victoria Park Racecourse

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

RAA site redevelopment

Britannia intersection

*Front page:
Photograph of River Red Gums
(Eucalyptus camaldulensis) in Victoria
Park, March 2003.
Photo by Gunta Groves.*

Letters to the editor

Mistletoe query

Does anyone know how long mistletoe takes to establish itself?

Mistletoe (*Amyema sanguineum*) seems to grow only on mature trees. Does the germination take a long time? I have not seen mistletoe birds in the last ten years where I live just outside the East Parklands and near the river. We used to see two or three singing on the power lines in the street, where the trees had many bunches of mistletoe (lately tidied up).

However, on my 30-year-old Crepe Myrtle suddenly there is a mistletoe with half metre sprays. If it had been there last winter I would have seen it at leaf fall. Can I assume a mistletoe bird has visited us in the last year or so?

Here is a message: do not be keen to tidy up old trees too much.

*Rae Sexton
Gilberton SA*

It was the saddest of times

The last couple of months have been the saddest that I have encountered regarding the Adelaide Parklands.

First, there was the final decision by the Adelaide City Council to go ahead with cutting down five significant trees in Hurtle Square despite there being no cogent reason for doing so except that the trees were in the way of a 'grand' design.

Then, I witnessed the final, intensive preparations for the car racing (sorry, 'entertainment' as it is now being described) in Victoria Park and the alienation of vast tracts of the Parklands for this event.

During the four-day event and even a few days before, the Parklands became a public toilet, a free-camping area, a gigantic car park and a garbage dump.

The already water-deprived areas turned to dust as thousands of cars were driven and parked in the centre of Victoria Park and along the Fullarton Road edge up to Greenhill Road. One afternoon, looking back along Gilles Street from Victoria Park, I couldn't see more than 50

metres because of the dense cloud of dust from cars driving across dry Parklands. Of course, the areas within the race circuit that were going to be featured in camera angles and were for the amenity of the participants were being watered conscientiously right up to the event.

The morning after, some of the discussion on 891 ABC Radio went along the following lines: there are so many people attending now that the promoters need more space and more permanent infrastructure; and the temporary grandstands sway when the people in them stand en masse and panic could result, therefore permanent grandstands are necessary. Oh, dear—here we go again.

As the constructions were dismantled, the true horror of dead grass, compacted soil, dust bowls and new 'roads' emerged. By the time everything has been removed there will be a bare seven months for remediation and recovery before it all starts again. This can't go on. It is unsustainable.

Gunta Groves

CLEAN UP BY APPA

APPA's cleanup effort this year was in Wikaparndo Wirra Park (Park 22), containing the netball courts and sometime Showgrounds parking, between Anzac Highway and Goodwood Road. Clement weather and an enthusiastic (nay, determined) band of APPA volunteers gave us a clean sweep for the day, with the entire area tidied and ten bags of rubbish under the gum tree for Council to collect.

Although an earlier site inspection showed a great deal of paper litter in this park, there was much less found on the day. Doubtless the prevailing winds had in the meantime moved it all closer to Victoria Park! However, there was plenty of other debris, large and small, to collect.

We were disconcerted by the vast number of cigarette butts and old bus tickets around the bus stops in the vicinity, and have written to relevant authorities in the hope that small litter/butt bins will be provided at some future date.

Photographic proof of our efforts, with a few satisfied volunteers, is below. We can hardly wait till next year!

Peter Austin



*Clean Up Australia Day
7 March 2004 in
Wikaparndo Wirra Park
(Park 22).
Photo by Bob Laws.*

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association

MEMORIAL ADDRESS

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Wednesday 21 July 2004

Adelaide Town Hall 7.00pm to 10.00pm

**Guest speaker: Professor Lawrence St Leger,
Deacon University**

Professor St Leger is one of Australia's leading health promoters and educators. He is also part of an International Strategic Partners Group looking at the health benefits of contact with nature in a park context.

This night is an opportunity to meet others interested in the Adelaide Parklands and to hear about the benefits parks have on the health of people.

Ticket price reduced to \$20.00 per person

(This includes pre-function drinks and a supper)

Further information: Phone Jim Daly on **8267 4192** for further details and publicity information.

Ticket reservations: Brian Mitchell, our esteemed Secretary, will again be handling the ticket sales and he can be contacted on **8263 5168** for reservations.

It's on again in July!

After the success of last year's Centennial Celebrations, we are planning another major event for this year.

We are fortunate to have obtained Prof Lawrence St Leger of Deacon University to give this year's Memorial Address on Wednesday 21 July (see more details on page 4).

Prof St Leger has been involved in preparing a report for Parks Victoria and the International Park Strategic Partners Group on 'Healthy Parks Healthy People'. His current research interests are *building the mental and physical health of people through enhancing environments in which they live, work and play*.

Through the generosity of the Adelaide City Council and State Government, we have been able to reduce the cost this year to \$20.00 per person.

This is an opportunity to join our President at a function to highlight the work of the Association and introduce leading city and state officials to the importance of preserving the Adelaide Parklands. Please use the accompanying pamphlet to tell other people about this important event.

Jim Daly

BRITANNIA INTERSECTION THREATENS PARKLANDS

The Britannia roundabout has long been a bone of contention for motorists and a potential issue of great concern for the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association.

Recently Transport SA produced a Concept Status Report which looked at a number of possible solutions to the problem of increasing traffic congestion and accidents at this major intersection.

The strategic decision to create an inner ring route around the city and to provide for substantial increases in commercial traffic, including B-Doubles, has put added pressure on the Britannia roundabout.

After a most informative briefing by Transport SA project officers, the APPA Committee is concerned that the traffic-light controlled multiple intersection proposal favoured by the experts would involve a substantial intrusion into the Parklands, mainly in areas currently leased to the South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC).

The resultant removal of many of the tawdry buildings erected over the

years by the SAJC, and presumably sanctioned by the Adelaide City Council, would be a positive outcome together with much-improved pedestrian crossings. But the cost is too high. The sad fact remains that, once again, appropriating dedicated Parklands is seen by the authorities to be an easy and acceptable way of solving a problem.

The continuing threat to Parklands preservation is incremental encroachment—the slow but relentless loss of the amenity which Light saw as the very essence of his visionary plan for Adelaide.

Whether it is motor sport, multi-function centres, commercial uses, carparking or the removal of trees, the impact on the Parklands is always the same: a loss of public access and enjoyment of our unique Parklands heritage.

Your committee will continue to closely monitor developments at the Britannia roundabout and work to ensure that there is no loss of Parklands to the ever-voracious demands of the motor vehicle.

David Plumridge

BROKEN PROMISES

Remember last year's promise by the Adelaide City Council (ACC) to end the use of the Parklands by the Australian 4WD and Adventure Show?

The *Parklands News* reported in December 2003 (p 4) that the ACC said it could not refuse the event being held in Ellis Park last year because there wasn't enough time to organise another venue.

Well! Surprise! Surprise! Six months have passed and that is still not enough time—it's to be held once again in Ellis Park this year.

Gunta Groves

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD TO KYLE PENICK

Kyle Penick has been, and continues to be, a tireless and effective champion of the Parklands. After over a decade of service on the APPA Committee, several of those years as Treasurer, the Committee believed it was fitting that he should be recognised with a Life Membership Award.

Kyle has been the inspiration for the push for World Heritage listing of the Parklands. This has been picked up by many of the principal players concerned with the Parklands—thanks entirely to Kyle.

Kyle has also been the organiser of many AGMs and Clean Up Days. He

has represented APPA at a host of meetings with the Adelaide City Council and other bodies. He has the eye of a hawk in finding errant advertising or other undesirable activities on the Parklands. His capacity for research and presenting the results of that research is awesome. He is regarded with great respect by all those who deal with him.

The Committee had no hesitation in recommending his Life Membership Award, which was agreed to by the APPA members present at the AGM on 18 April 2004.

Ian Gilfillan



The final decision was made on 23 January to kill five significant trees in Hurtle Square.

Despite everyone's efforts, the Adelaide City Council (ACC) rejected all appeals to spare mature and significant trees in Hurtle Square. On the same day that Kelly Henderson was told that there would be a stay of execution to investigate legal implications of the decision, the 'Decision Notification Form' was being signed. It took five weeks, though, to convey this information—presumably the investigations were taking place.

What makes this process so difficult to understand and to fight, is that the developers making the application to remove the trees are the ACC, and the body giving approval is the ACC. See what I mean?

Apart from responding to the initial public consultation and subsequent notification, there are no other mechanisms that members of the community can employ against a Category 2 (which this one is) development.

One hopes that the public consultations about Parklands management will result in a better system. Please make sure that you participate in all opportunities to make your opinion known. The Parklands are being assaulted in small and large ways by people and organisations that see them as a tax-payer and rate-payer funded limitless resource for their own aggrandisement and/or for increasing their profits.

... but wait, there's more

On 13 April 2004 the Adelaide City Council members met to decide the fate of pines in the Parklands immediately south of the main entrance to St Andrew's Hospital.

The removal of these two Canary Island pines and one Aleppo pine has been long campaigned for by the Trees for Life and Bush for Life groups. They believe the conservation of native grasses in that area would benefit from these three trees being removed.

Ignoring commonsense and viable other solutions to the perceived problem, and apparently limiting their insight to the report prepared by the Trees for Life group, the councillors voted overwhelmingly for the trees to be cut down.

The councillors' decision may now go to the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) according to some reports. The DAP may then set the final seal on the death of the pines.

The argument against cutting down the trees is based on the following:

- the pines are very old (more than 100 years)
- one of the pines is perhaps the tallest tree in the Parklands
- all the pines are important to Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos as roosts and/or food sources
- the argument that nothing grows under the pines is also true of the large eucalypts in the same area and yet they have not been attacked by Trees for Life
- the area for further propagation of native grasses extends significantly from the original site and is not over-shadowed by any trees to the south
- grasses can be encouraged to spread and establish themselves in one or two years; the pines

have taken over 100 years to achieve their size

- the effort that volunteers have made to conserve native grasses, as laudable as it is, does not justify cutting down three significant trees.

The argument for cutting down the trees does not need elaboration here because it has been the most promulgated in all forums and supported by the extensive resources of Trees for Life and the ACC.

The outcome of this debate is still to be decided.

If you are a rate-payer in the city of Adelaide, remember to ask the councillors what they stand for and how they voted in this matter when you come to vote at the next council elections.

Gunta Groves

NEW SERVICE: E-MAILS

If you would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail as a PDF, and other APPA notices by e-mail, fill in the form below and mail it to:

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall
Adelaide 5000.

You can also download PDFs of newsletters (from August 2003 edition onwards) from our Web site at <www.adelaide-parklands.org>.

I would like to receive the following by e-mail instead of in the post:

- Parklands News* OR
 Parklands News and other APPA notices including notice of AGM

My e-mail address is: _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Sharing our commonwealth of knowledge

Have you ever needed to find out some current information about the Parklands or its political or natural history? Or perhaps you just needed confirmation of some knowledge?

I recently would have liked to confirm the species of some trees that I photographed in Victoria Park and felt sure that someone in APPA would know. But apart from phoning around some committee members and going to the Botanic Gardens, I had no specific, easily accessible source.

Much knowledge and expertise resides within our membership. If you would like to share some of that

knowledge and expertise, place yourself on our register of contacts.

Here is how it would work. You nominate the topic that you have some knowledge in and provide contact details, as broad or as specific as you want—for example, just a telephone number, or just an e-mail address, or a postal address and telephone number. The register of topics and contacts is published periodically in this newsletter. A person who needs some information contacts you in your preferred way and you provide how much or how little information you want.

Send your topic and contact details to me and I will coordinate the register for the newsletter. My contact addresses are on the last page.

Gunta Groves

FEEDBACK TO ACC

Please continue to use all the avenues available to give your responses to the Adelaide City Council.

There are times when it appears futile but every effort is worthwhile in the long term. The other option is to do nothing. However, you then have to accept the consequences and can have no complaint.

The current pressing need is to respond to the Community Land Management Plans. Contact:
Web site
www.adelaidecitycouncil.com
Telephone
8203 7203
Postal address
Community Land Management Plans
Adelaide City Council
GPO Box 2252
Adelaide SA 5001

**Next
newsletter deadline:
31 July 2004**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

Name
 Address
 Telephone E-mail Date

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 single (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renew |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> New |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 family (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Send <i>Parklands News</i> via e-mail, OR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 family (concession) | <input type="checkbox"/> Send <i>Parklands News</i> and other notices via e-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 single (concession) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$..... |

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached

Please make cheque/money order payable to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
 Send to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

06/04

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:

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

Committee 2004–2005

President: Ian Gilfillan
 Deputy President: Peter Austin
 Secretary: Brian Mitchell
 Treasurer: Kyle Penick

Committee members:
 Gunta Groves (Newsletter Editor)
 Kelly Henderson
 Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
 David Plumridge
 Michael Sando

Patron
 Robert Champion de Crespigny AC

Auditor
 David Mead

DISCLAIMER

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**WHERE
 WILL YOU
 BE AT
 7.00PM ON
 WEDNESDAY
 21 JULY
 2004?
 See pages 4 and 5
 for details**

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Next newsletter copy deadline:
 31 July 2004

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 Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
 Telephone: 8357 8851

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