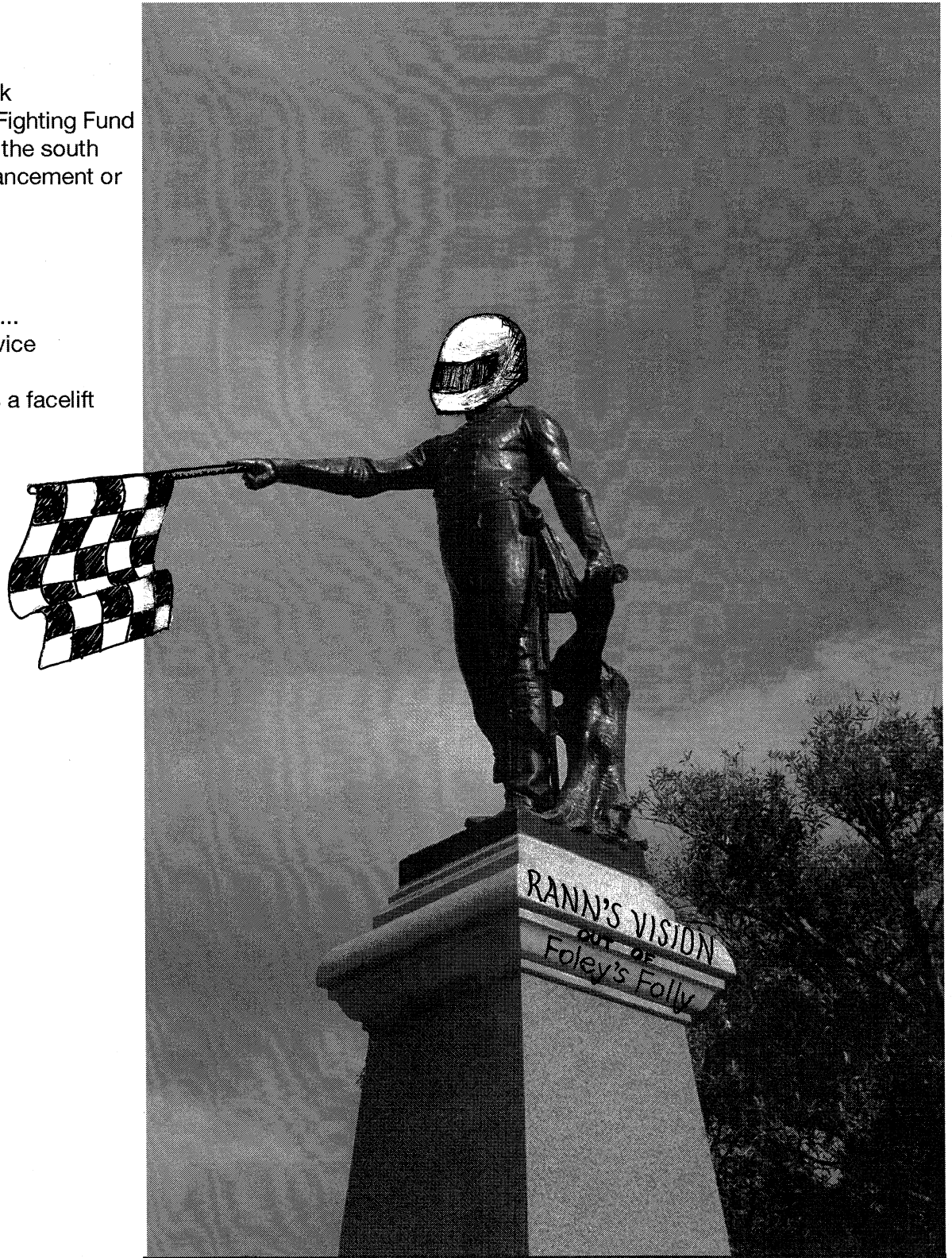


PARKLANDSNEWS

June 2007 Number 27

Contents

President's letter
Issues on the table
AGM 2007
Saving Victoria Park
Save Victoria Park Fighting Fund
Flood mitigation in the south
 Parklands: Enhancement or
 exploitation?
A secret no longer
From the Treasurer
APPA is not alone
If trees had voices ...
Use our e-mail service
Morally flawed!
APPA website gets a facelift



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

President's letter

What a year it's been! As I said at the Annual General Meeting on 29 April 2007, 'Never did I expect as President to have such a tumultuous term of office as this, and it is likely to continue'.

I emphasised the following three highlights of the year at the AGM.

1. The excellence of our publication, *Parklands News*

We are indebted to our editor, Gunta Groves, for the excellent quality of this publication. I know that it is required reading in some official areas to keep up with what is really happening about Parklands matters. Thank you Gunta for your professional editing capabilities—they are appreciated.

2. Adelaide Parklands Symposium

The second highlight for 2006 was the Adelaide Parklands Symposium, presented by APPA, The Centre for Settlement Studies in the Louis Laybourne-Smith School of Architecture and Design, and the Hawke Centre at UniSA. This symposium arose out of a meeting between our Deputy President, Ian Gilfillan, and Prof Don Johnson of UniSA, who had the vision that led to this event.

The three-day symposium entitled 'A Balancing Act: Past—Present—Future' opened with 16 peer reviewed papers on Friday 10 November 2006. On the

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Parklands legislation implementation

World Heritage listing

Land grab at Victoria Park

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

Britannia intersection land grab

Dying elms and other trees

SACA car park push

Alienated Parklands

Flood mitigation works

Watering regime during drought

*Front cover: Light's Vision as seen by the Rann government.
Photo taken April 2007 by Gunta Groves and adjusted for accuracy.*

Saturday, walking, cycling and bus tours of the Parklands were conducted, and on the Sunday a public lecture and forum were held in the Adelaide Town Hall at which Ms Sarah Whyte, Chair of the Centennial Parklands Foundation in Sydney, was the guest speaker. Our thanks to Ms Elizabeth Ho, Director, The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA and to Dr Christine Garnaut, Research Fellow and Director, Architecture Museum, Louis Laybourne-Smith School of Architecture and Design, UniSA for their work in organising this event, with input from APPA.

Over \$20 000 was raised to sponsor this event and there were donations of hosting and catering for the public forum on the Sunday in the Adelaide Town Hall by the Adelaide City Council—we appreciated all these contributions.

The Proceedings are available from the Bob Hawke Centre and they add to the body of knowledge on the Adelaide Parklands. I hope this event and perhaps others on an annual basis will encourage someone to take up the challenge to update the present history of the Adelaide Parklands.

3. Victoria Park

The third highlight, or rather 'lowlight', is the continuing battle against the Victoria Park 'masterplan'. As I said at the APPA public meeting on 20 March 2007, the APPA position on the Victoria Park proposal is quite clear:

'This building must not proceed in any shape or form and, although there have been modifications to the original proposal, they are really only cosmetic and this building is the **wrong** building, in the **wrong** place for the **wrong** reasons, and a waste of taxpayers' money'.

APPA is not opposed to horse racing and the restoration of the existing facilities, including the realignment of the track. Using the heritage grandstand should be encouraged. But to build this enormous monstrosity in our Parklands is just not on!

Some of us put a lot of work into the new Parklands Act and the establishment of the Park Lands Authority on the promise that this government was serious about protecting the Parklands—so much for that promise!



I must thank all of you and the members of other organisations which have come out in support for our fight for Victoria Park. Let me assure you that the fight is not over!

However, I have been thoroughly disillusioned by the apparent lack of integrity shown by the Rann government and the Adelaide City Council over the Victoria Park decision-making processes. I don't mind disagreement, but downright dishonest tactics are a little hard to tolerate. Immediately after the Council meeting on Thursday 29 March, I felt compelled to write some comments about the morality of the decision-making process (see page 11).

At least the integrity of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association remains unblemished. The Association remains true to its objectives of protecting the Parklands against the erection of permanent built facilities—in this case, a monstrous building for two commercial organisations, namely the SAJC and the Motor Sport Board.

By the way, our membership has jumped 46 per cent, so a significant number of people think we are doing something right!

The future

I cannot promise a return to more peaceful times. Our fight continues for Victoria Park and we put the government and the Adelaide City Council on notice that the Adelaide Parklands are not for sale to the highest bidder.

Thank you for your support. Undoubtedly, more will be needed.

Jim Daly

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 31 JULY 2007

AGM 2007

A packed meeting room of almost 80 people greeted this year's guest speakers, Prof Mads Gaardboe and Senior Lecturer Matt Davis, from the Louis Laybourne-Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia.

Their topic was 'Major international competition for a masterplan for the Adelaide Parklands'—a timely address given recent developments in the Victoria Park saga. Prof Mads Gaardboe predicted that with higher residential density in the city, residents would increasingly rely on public urban space for recreation. Therefore, leaving the Parklands untouched may not be realistic. Mads Gaardboe and Matt Davis explained that a masterplan was needed because:

- The Parklands Act requires a management plan.
- A masterplan would acknowledge the uniqueness and significance of the Parklands.
- A masterplan would acknowledge the need for a process of commensurate significance.

They explained that central to the masterplan was the management plan but that it must evolve from a designed process. (In this sense, design encompasses architecture, landscape design, planning, and urban design.) 'Without a clear masterplan we have no measure for the isolated proposals such as Victoria Park' said Mads Gaardboe.

The rationale for an international competition was that it declared two things: the Parklands were valued and were believed to be genuinely significant and, more importantly, an inclusive, open process was valued—everyone's ideas were valued.

Matt Davis believed that the competition process allowed 'everyone' to enter and, importantly, exhibited all of the work for public comment. It was a transparent process.

One of the main themes of the guest speakers was that the current focus was on solutions, but there was no clear definition of the 'problem'. They believed that a carefully considered brief arrived at after extensive consultation with professionals and stakeholders would be the starting point, and that the success of



Above: Stephanie Johnston thanking guest speakers, Matt Davis (far left) and Mads Gaardboe.

Photo taken by Gunta Groves.

a competition and the masterplan would rely on a clear and considered brief.

Prof Mads Gaardboe said: 'What we have at the moment is an enormous opportunity ... for a design and management of significant parklands that could be a model worldwide'. He also pointed out that South Australia, apart from Tasmania, is now the only state in Australia that does not have a government architect who can champion and guide quality design in the public realm.

Lively questions and statements of opinion about 'masterplans' came from members eager to join in the debate.

Election of officers and committee members was managed by Peter Austin—an uncomplicated procedure this year as there were 11 nominations for 11 positions. Jim Daly was elected President, unopposed. He had done such a good job in difficult circumstances last year that no-one felt a need to challenge. Jan Davis and Julian Stefani on the 2006–07 committee were replaced by Stephanie Johnston and Brian Mitchell.

Stephanie Johnston has already made her mark in the campaign to save Victoria Park, being the person responsible for introducing the white elephant heads to the mix of metaphors used by APPA to get the message out to the public. The heads and Stephanie are sure to continue to have a high profile. We can't wait for her next creative suggestion.

Brian Mitchell was elected Secretary, a position he has held in APPA before. This time his job will be somewhat easier because he does not have to combine it with the responsibilities of Treasurer and membership records (two jobs now undertaken by Philip Groves). The new committee held its first meeting on 23 May 2007.

Gunta Groves

A special thank you to

David Carver

of BK Partners, Chartered Accountants. David audited APPA's accounts for 2006–07 and will continue to be APPA's honorary auditor.

BK Partners was established in response to a need amongst small to medium enterprise businesses for results-driven, commercial accounting information and advice. Their expertise comes from personal experience across a wide variety of businesses and industries.

Saving Victoria Park

Right: Jim Daly addressing the APPA public meeting on Tuesday 20 March 2007.

Below: Symbolic white elephants gathered outside the TPI hall as people entered for the meeting.



The threats to Victoria Park were revealed fully by the Rann government just before Christmas last year. Since then, APPA has been very active in opposing the intended land grab.

During the last few months, APPA committee members have been meeting with individuals and groups to gather support in APPA's fight to save Victoria Park. APPA has also organised protests and a major public meeting to publicise the issues.

Most Adelaide City Councillors and many state politicians have been lobbied for support, and numerous media releases and letters to editors written. Significant print and television coverage was achieved.

One prominent event in Rundle Mall on 18 February resulted in accusations by Treasurer Foley that could not be substantiated. For the record, no APPA member disparaged Mr Foley's then

girlfriend, Emma Forster, or touched a staff member at the government display. Also for the record, an APPA member was physically removed from camera shot by one of Mr Foley's party.

The presence of APPA members at this display was legitimate and peaceful and, given the style of presentation of the government's case for a commercial development in Victoria Park, entirely necessary to ensure that the public got a more balanced message about the proposal.

The public meeting in the TPI hall in March, organised by APPA, was attended by over 260 people who unanimously endorsed the following three resolutions:

1. This meeting supports the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association (APPA) in its fight against this proposed permanent multifunction complex in Victoria Park.
2. This meeting calls on Premier Rann to withdraw his government's plans

for the development of Victoria Park and to assure us of his government's continued commitment to the preservation of Adelaide's Parklands.

3. This meeting calls on the Lord Mayor and the City Council to oppose the construction of the proposed permanent multifunction complex in Victoria Park and requests that the City Council not grant a lease to the government for the construction of this building.

Jim Daly, John Letts, Steve Condous and Stephanie Johnston were impassioned speakers arguing against the multifunction, multi-storey building.

More recently, at Colonel Light's birthday celebrations on 27 April in Light Square, APPA members and friends, especially from the South East City Residents Association, mounted a passive protest to highlight the hypocrisy of the Lord Mayor celebrating Light's legacy while undermining it in Council by voting *for* the proposed development.



Left: APPA members and friends from like-minded groups campaigning at Light's birthday celebrations.

Right: Jim Daly in the media scrum in Rundle Mall on Sunday 18 February 2007.



SAVE VICTORIA PARK FIGHTING FUND

The campaign to save Victoria Park from the development aspirations of the government, Adelaide City Council, the Motor Sport Board and the South Australian Jockey Club is going to be long and expensive.

The APPA committee members have already put in their own resources and will continue to do so, and some people have donated previously. However, some aspects of the campaign will cost money, and lots of it.

APPA has received generous and significant donations recently, due to the 'masterplan' being revealed. More money is needed, so please consider donating to ensure that APPA puts up the best fight possible.

You can donate by:
sending a cheque or money order, made out to
'Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc', or
making an electronic payment into the APPA bank account:
BSB: 015-310 Account no: 4063-53172

Postal address: The Treasurer, APPA, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000

*The Adelaide Parklands and future generations
will thank you*

Continued from page 4

At the same time as keeping up a public protest, APPA is also seeking legal opinions and working at the level of the planning approval processes to make sure the land grab does not go ahead. Compared with the entities APPA is opposing (ie the state government and horse and car racing businesses), we have very limited financial resources but are rich in passion. We will continue to mount an opposition frugally but with dedication.

Your continued support as an APPA member will be important. Please continue to write letters, lobby your Members of Parliament, respond to our calls for help when we need bodies at protests and, of course, continue to make generous donations to enable us to preserve the Parklands for future generations.



From left: Philip Groves, Kelly Henderson and Kyle Penick, in Rundle Mall Sunday 18 February during the government's public consultation display.

Gunta Groves

All photos on pages 4 and 5 by Gunta Groves.

FLOOD MITIGATION IN THE SOUTH PARKLANDS: ENHANCEMENT OR EXPLOITATION?

THE PLAN

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (NRMB) prepared the draft Brown Hill and Keswick Creeks Flood Management Master Plan—December 2006 (the Plan). It is a comprehensive plan for flood mitigation throughout the whole of the catchment areas of the creeks. The local government councils concerned (Burnside, Adelaide, Unley, Mitcham and West Torrens) commissioned the Plan. The final plan will not be prepared until the NRMB has received the advice of all these councils.

It would entail rehabilitation of the Park Lands Creek (laying back of the creek banks) and building a set of earth moulded levee banks to form six temporary retention basins as shown in the diagram opposite: 'Proposed Flood Mitigation Works in the South Park Lands'.

Five levees would be in Parks 17 to 20 and the sixth in Victoria Park. Each levee would be 3 metres high near the Park Lands Creek and taper away to nil where the existing land levels are higher than the levee. The retention basins thus formed would be dry most of the time and would empty within a few hours of any flood. The total proposed temporary storage for the 1 in 100 year average rainfall incidence storm event would exceed 215 ML. This is equivalent to 45 per cent of the capacity of the Torrens Lake. It would be one of the most important flood mitigation measures in the Plan.

The Plan states that it will provide opportunities for the following multi-purpose benefits:

- *Water reuse through aquifer storage and recovery to provide an irrigation resource for the South Parklands*
 - *Potential water quality improvements through wetlands*
 - *Improvements in biodiversity*
 - *Passive recreation opportunities*
- These opportunities will be further investigated in conjunction with detailed design of the scheme.*

Approval status

The Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) recommended that the Adelaide City

Council give in principle support to the Plan, subject to:

1. *Careful design of infrastructure*
2. *Additions to the scope of projects in South Park Lands to ensure opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, recreational benefits and aesthetic quality maximised.*
3. *Appropriate consultation and approval processes.*

Although 'biodiversity enhancement' and 'recreational benefit' requirements already appear to be included in the draft Plan (see the four dot pointed opportunities above), the requirements specified by APLA are essential. However, I make the following points:

1. Infrastructure should be minimal, unobtrusive and well designed. It is hoped that these are the objectives of 'careful design' in this context.
2. Understandably, the draft Plan is flood mitigation driven and, if implemented as drafted, aesthetic quality would not be maximised. Indeed, some elements could be seriously ugly.
3. The combination of benefits of the scheme will not be optimum unless there are effective consultation and sound approval processes. The qualifier 'appropriate' is unfortunate. It can be a weasel word that could justify anything, depending on who is deciding what is inappropriate.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 May are not available on the Council Web site as this article goes to press, so the details of its decision are not confirmed. However, the APLA advice was included in Attachment A of Agenda Item 12.3 (Attachment A) and it is understood that Council approved the Plan as advised by APLA.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE PLAN

Landscape

Parks 17 to 20 (ie those parks west of Beaumont Road) would be greatly enhanced if the Plan aimed to maximise the benefits to the Parklands while meeting the flood mitigation objectives. These benefits would be long lasting. Within a few years these parks will be in desperate need of renewal. A key

feature is the set of long straight avenues of trees along pedestrian and cycling paths. Many of these trees are nearing the end of their life so this plan provides a well-timed opportunity to redesign these parks to optimise their recreational and aesthetic values for the long term. In particular, establishing the levees in straight lines along the existing avenues as proposed in the draft should be reconsidered so aesthetic and functional values are improved. A landscape design team with a commitment to aesthetic and biodiversity values as well as meeting flood mitigation objectives should drive the Parklands design process.

Soil moisture replenishment

'Opportunities to replenish soil moisture stores for terrestrial plants over large areas of the South Park Lands through water infiltration during major rainfall events' is mentioned in Appendix B. However, this replenishment is not included in the list of multi-purpose benefits to be pursued in the design (see the dot points above). This is unfortunate because, unless this is considered in the design, widening the creek as proposed in the draft could reduce opportunities for replenishing soil moisture over wide areas during small or moderate floods. This consideration should be included in the design brief.

Wetlands

Water quality improvement through wetlands is a prerequisite for water reuse through aquifer storage and recovery. Given that Adelaide has over-exploited the water resources of the Mount Lofty Ranges for many years and that the River Murray is in a state of long-term decline due to over-exploitation, the Parklands should be as near to self-sufficient for water as is practicable. Wetlands for aquifer recharge to provide an irrigation resource for the South Parklands is an important consideration for the Plan. Wetlands entail continuous long-term water storage and, to some extent, this conflicts with water retention for flood mitigation. Besides, apart from some potential for very small wetlands designed to improve water quality in the Creek when flows are small, the only feasible location for a wetland for aquifer recharging appears to be within temporary storage basin 6 in Victoria Park.

The design of basin 6 is different from the others. It is the only basin that appears to be suitable for ready incorporation of a wetland below the temporary storage volume. This is a desirable feature if a suitable aquifer were to be found within pumping distance.

Conflict between 'master plans'

The Council has recently given in principle support to two master plans that affect the same part of the southern end of Victoria Park. In the flood mitigation plan, the area just north of the southern boundary of the existing racetrack is

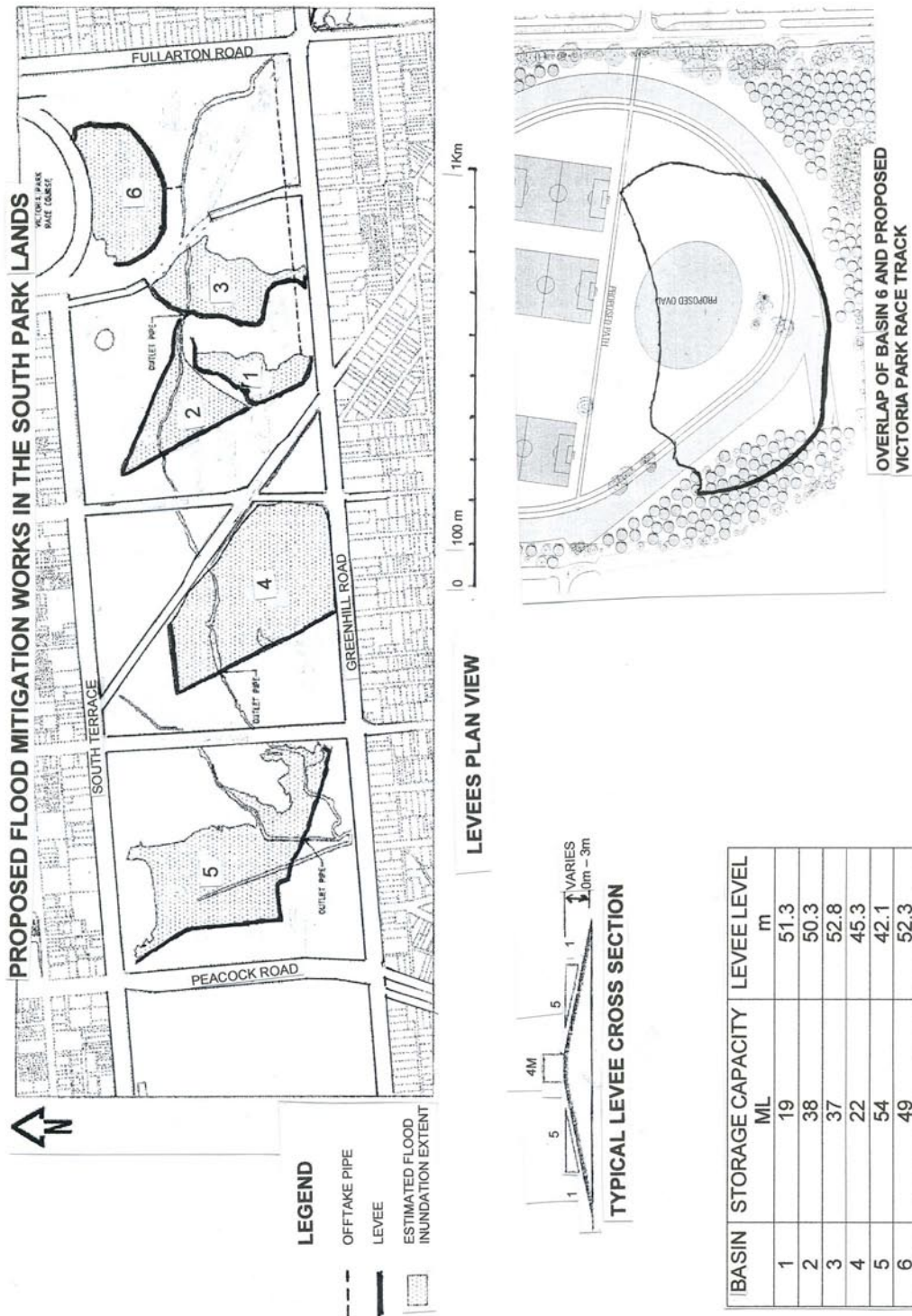
designated as a water retention basin. In the Victoria Park Master Plan the area is shown as part of the new racetrack. The overlap is shown in the diagram below. If the Victoria Park Master Plan goes ahead, the Council will have to decide how this conflict is to be resolved.

I believe the best thing for the Parklands is to implement the flood mitigation plan and to cease horse racing at Victoria Park. The races that might have been held in Victoria Park could be run on a synthetic track inside the existing grass track at Morphettville. Besides reducing operating

costs for the SAJC, this would eliminate the need for watering any new track.

Setting priorities for use of water in the Parklands will be a key issue in the future. Should this limited resource be allocated to watering those playing fields that must be grass or to watering grass racetracks when synthetic tracks can be used? There is a possibility that, if horse racing were to continue at Victoria Park, the track will eventually have to be converted to a synthetic surface. This is a disturbing thought for those who don't want the Parklands stuffed up.

Richard Brown



A secret no longer

On 22 August 1974, Australia became a State Party (signatory) to UNESCO's *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the 'World Heritage Convention'. As a State Party, the Australian Government is obliged to identify, protect and conserve heritage within Australian territory in accordance with the Convention.

Australian states have their own state heritage legislation. However, they are not signatories to the World Heritage Convention and are therefore under no obligation to comply with the Convention. In South Australia, it is evident that state heritage legislation does not operate effectively. For over 20 years, in what must be a new record for obstruction of due process, South Australia's State Heritage Authority failed to process an application for State Heritage listing of Adelaide's Park Lands. This application was first lodged in February 1986!

As early as 1996, potential World Heritage nomination of the Adelaide Park Lands was raised by Kyle Penick in APPA's newsletter.

Adelaide City Council has stated its support for inclusion of the Park Lands in a potential World Heritage nomination. However, despite ample indication that a World Heritage nomination of the Park Lands and Light's Plan is likely to succeed, the state and federal



Left: APPA's T-shirts get an airing in Paris. Kelly Henderson outside the UNESCO building in Paris, March 2007. The photograph was taken by a friendly passer-by.

governments have failed to provide heritage protection for the site and its heritage values, and have taken actions which continue to damage the Park Lands.

This issue has now been raised at the international level with a presentation to an international gathering of heritage experts who met in Ghent, Belgium, for the 3rd Annual Ename International Colloquium, 21–24 March 2007, to discuss 'The Future of Heritage'.

At the colloquium, I presented a paper on 'Australia's heritage at risk and in crisis' which gave a community perspective

on Australia's failure to identify, protect and conserve potential World Heritage sites, such as the Adelaide Park Lands, Nullarbor Plain and Burrup Peninsula (Dampier Rock Art).

In a subsequent visit to Paris, I gave information about the Adelaide Park Lands direct to the Asia Pacific section of UNESCO's World Heritage Unit and ICOMOS (International Scientific Committee on Interpretation and Presentation), which assesses World Heritage nominations received by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. Information on the Adelaide Park Lands was also presented to English Heritage in London, UK.

In such quarters, it seems there was no prior awareness of the significance, or existence, of Adelaide's Park Lands or Light's Plan. However, this has now been rectified.

Adelaide's Park Lands and the destruction of our heritage are no longer South Australian secrets.

Kelly Henderson

From the Treasurer

Welcome to our many new members receiving this, their first, newsletter.

The response from members renewing their 2007–08 membership has been gratifying. I thank all members who have acted so promptly. For those members who still have to renew, a reminder is enclosed with this newsletter. Please use the renewal form enclosed and not the 'New member application' form on the back of the newsletter.

Donations to the 'Save Victoria Park' appeal have been pleasing—a big thank you, one and all, regardless of the size of your donation. Donations have also been received from supporters who wish to remain anonymous and from other community groups.

On behalf of APPA, I would also like to thank members and non-members who have assisted in letterboxing, which has saved APPA significant expense. Other community groups such as the South East City Residents Association and the Hutt Street Precinct Association, to mention just two, have helped in various ways to get APPA's message out about the land grab in Victoria Park.

APPA will need significant additional donations to fund legal opposition to the Victoria Park development proposal. Preliminary legal advice has been sought and there is a probability that more protracted (and expensive) legal action will follow.

Please continue to donate for this extremely critical cause.

Whilst on the subject of numbers, the Adelaide City Council has recently announced that some 28 000 people a day use the Adelaide Parklands. That is more than 10.2 million people a year, giving lie to the representatives of the state government who continue to peddle lies about Parklands' usage.

As I am writing this, our Parklands are receiving long overdue relief from the dryness. The rain is washing off the dust, filling the creeks and softening the trampled earth in the areas used by the V8 Supercar race. In the absence of any other remediation of the areas denuded by the motor race event, at least the rain brings some benefit to the Parklands.

Philip Groves

APPA IS NOT ALONE

Jim Daly, President of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc, invited eminent South Australians to participate in APPA's defence of the Adelaide Parklands. The response has strengthened his belief that APPA is not alone in believing the government's development proposal for Victoria Park is unwarranted and against the interests of the majority of South Australians.

EMINENT PERSONS' STATEMENT

The Adelaide Parklands are a priceless asset, held in trust for the people of both the city and our State. They must be protected—for the citizens who enjoy them now, for the attention and praise they attract from around the world, and for the generations to come.

We have considered the Victoria Park Masterplan proposed by the State Government, which would see a large multi-purpose facility (grandstand) erected for motor sport and horse racing. We strongly believe it is not in the long term interests of the City and State, the present and future users of the Parklands, nor nearby residents. We also believe the proposal is not necessary for the limited purposes of motor sport and horse racing, when existing facilities can be upgraded and utilised.

We therefore urge the South Australian Government and the Adelaide City Council to reject this proposal and to direct their planned investment into other, more worthy projects.

We agree strongly with Lewis Cohen, Deputy Mayor of Adelaide in 1910, who said:

The parks are the pride and glory of this city—the best and greatest asset it has, or ever can have. To every generation they are becoming more valuable. Let us, therefore, keep them inviolate, keep them intact, keep them sacred from the hands of the despoiler.

Dr Michael Armitage (Former Member for Adelaide and Member of Liberal Cabinet)
Anita Aspinall (President National Trust of South Australia)
Warren Bonython AO (Former Chair Conservation Council and Patron of Friends of the Heysen Trail)
Ed Briedis (Chair, North Adelaide Society)
John Chappel (Former leading Adelaide architect)
Susan Clearihan (Adelaide City Council Councillor)
JM Coetzee (Novelist and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature)
Steve Condous (Former Lord Mayor of Adelaide and Liberal Member of House of Assembly)
Francene Connor (Former Adelaide City Alderman and Councillor)
Dean Fidock (Former Deputy Lord Mayor of Adelaide)
Chris Halbert (Businesswoman and publisher, Human Kinetics)
John Halbert MBE (Sturt footballer, Magarey Medallist and sports academic)
Barbara Hardy AO (Conservationist and scientist)
Prof Basil Hetzel AC, MD (National Living Treasure)
Kerry Heysen-Hicks (Film producer)
Scott Hicks (Academy Award nominated film director and screen writer)
Dr Don Hopgood (Former Deputy Premier of Labor Government)
Elliott Johnston (AO, QC Former Supreme Court judge)
Stephanie Johnston (Businesswoman and publisher Wakefield Press)
Jane Jose (Former Deputy Lord Mayor of Adelaide)
Prof Nicholas Jose (Author and academic)
Diana Laidlaw AM (Former Minister Liberal Cabinet)
John Letts (Former leading SA jockey)
Anne Levy (Former Labor Cabinet member)
RG Matheson AM QC (Former Chair State Heritage Authority)
Uncle Lewis O'Brien (Kurna Elder)
Lew Owens (Member of SA Heritage Council)
John Schumann (Singer and songwriter)
Anthony Steel (Adelaide Festival of Arts director)
Senator Natasha Stott Despoja (former Australian Democrats Leader)
Hugh Stretton AC (Emeritus Professor, historian and leading social commentator)
Jennifer Strickland (Former Mayor of Prospect)
Andrew Strickland (Former Commissioner Public Employment)

If trees had voices ...

there would be screams of pain echoing throughout the Parklands as trees die suddenly or linger, moaning gently in the breezes. If trees had voices they might also tell us what not to do to them, because we obviously need telling. The deaths recorded here, both actual and potential, are not 'natural'. They are all caused by human intervention.



Above: Three pines were ring-barked in the south Parklands on 05.06.04. One died and was cut down in 2006, the second is dying (on the left) and the third (on the right) is hanging on. No-one has been prosecuted.

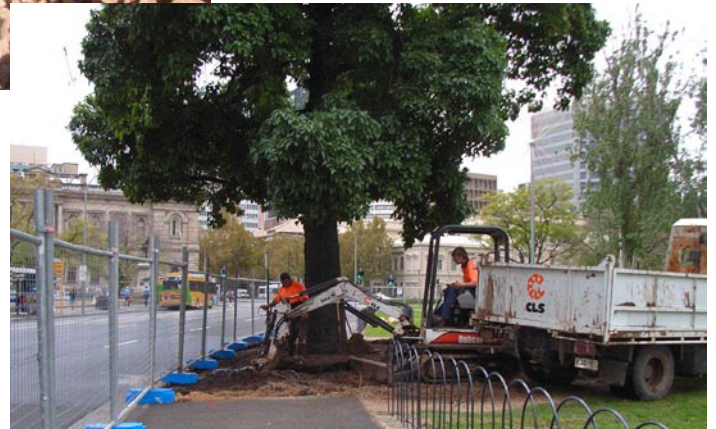
Below: The oldest tree in Victoria Square, a 65-year-old Kurrajong, was dug up on 03.04.07 and moved 14m on 08.04.07 because of the tramline extension. Will it survive its move?

Above: This Arbor Day 1889 tree fell over in high winds on 23.03.07 after the Parklands Creek was excavated and the tree's buffering pines were cut down.

Below: Compare the foliage density of the elms. The left photo is the south side of the elm avenue and the right image is the north side.

Because the plantings of native trees compete easily with the elms on the south side, they suffered more this summer. Note that the north side is largely free of competing vegetation. The native plantings on the south side are much too close to the elms and are ensuring their death. It's not just the drought.

All photos taken by Gunta Groves.



USE OUR E-MAIL SERVICE

Some people have already seen the light (pun intended) and sent in their e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail as a PDF, fill in the form below and mail it to the following address:

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

E-mailing newsletters to members saves us printing and mailing costs.

You can also download PDFs of the current and past newsletters from our Web site at <www.adelaide-parklands.org>.

Gunta Groves

I would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail instead of in the post.

My e-mail address is:

Name Signature

Address

Morally flawed!

There are serious ethical questions raised concerning the morality of the decision-making processes adopted by both the state government and the Adelaide City Council in agreeing to proceed with a multi-purpose facility as part of the 'masterplan' for Victoria Park.

First, the government announced a three-month community consultation period to provide feedback from the public. However, a lack of transparency became evident when the voice of the people was not considered by the government when it demanded that the ACC makes a decision without taking into account any of the feedback.

Second, at a council meeting on Monday 26 March, there was a clear majority vote against the proposal, even after two councillors declared a conflict of interest as members of the Motor Sport Board. Having obtained legal advice, they were allowed to vote, placing legality ahead of justice.

Third, a special meeting of the council held 72 hours later on Thursday 29 March, saw the presence of a councillor who was on leave of absence due to illness at the previous meeting now voting in favour of the proposal, thus tying the vote and casting doubt on the fairness of the voting process.

A tied vote required the Lord Mayor to exercise a casting vote, which he made in favour of the modified building proposal, demonstrating a lack of appreciation that the voting process was morally flawed.

Both the government and the council might well note the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr who said:

Cowardice asks the question—is it safe?

Expediency asks the question—is it politic?

Vanity asks the question—is it popular?

But conscience asks the question—is it right?

And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.

At least the integrity of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association remains unblemished by remaining true to its stated objectives of protecting the Parklands against the erection of permanent built facilities on public land for two commercial organisations, namely the SAJC and the Motor Sport Board.

APPA has consistently advocated that this is the wrong proposal in the wrong location for the wrong reasons.

Jim Daly

APPA WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

Courtesy of community-minded benefactors, the APPA website has been given a facelift. Shane Strudwick and Scott Bain of Design Train provided a fresh new look for APPA.

See the new look at the old address:

www.adelaide-parklands.org

The Web master has also changed. After several years of devoted effort, responding to demands for 'change this, change that', Peter Austin has relinquished the task to Gunta Groves.

Thank you, Peter, for a job well done.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2007-08

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

Name

Address

Telephone E-mail Date

- \$20 single (full rate) Send *Parklands News* via e-mail
- \$25 family (full rate)
- \$30 corporate Donation \$.....
- \$15 single (concession)
- \$20 family (concession)

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached Tick if receipt required

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.

I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association. Signature

Please make cheque/money order payable to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc (*not 'APPA'*)
Send to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

06/07

Committee 2007-2008

President: Jim Daly
Deputy President: Ian Gilfillan
Secretary: Brian Mitchell
Treasurer: Philip Groves

Committee members:

Gunta Groves
Mike Hudson
Stephanie Johnston
Kyle Penick
David Plumridge AM
Michael Sando
John Underwood

Auditor

David Carver, BK Partners

Web Master

Gunta Groves

Patron

Bruno Krumins AM

DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is presented in good faith to members of APPA Inc. While the information is believed to be correct, APPA Inc takes no responsibility for its accuracy. No liability is accepted for any statements of opinion or any error or omission. Although advertising material is accepted for this newsletter, such acceptance does not imply endorsement by APPA Inc.

Get a copy of *PLACE*

South Australian
magazine featuring
architecture, design
and placemaking

March Quarter 2007
Vol 2 No 4
features six lead
articles about the
Parklands

A MUST READ!

Contact

News, comments, articles and Web site suggestions:

Gunta Groves (Newsletter Editor)
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall
Adelaide SA 5000
Telephone/facsimile: 8223 1360
E-mail: ggroves@chariot.net.au

Next newsletter copy deadline:
31 July 2007

Advertising:

Brian Mitchell (Secretary)
Telephone: 8263 5168

Information about APPA:

Jim Daly (President)
Telephone: 8267 4192

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.

The membership year is 1 April to 31 March.