

# ParkLANDSnews

June 2008 Number 31



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# President's letter

I would like to get something off my chest about the Peter Goers article in the *Sunday Mail* on 4 May. In my opinion, it reached a new low in journalism when Goers tried to link APPA with class prejudice by suggesting that a small group of people in Adelaide want to preserve the Park Lands and Victoria Park for their own use. I was particularly unimpressed when Goers published my address and mobile phone number in his article and appealed to people to phone me to express their opinions against the temporary so-called grandstand. Such an abuse of my privacy indicates the bias that the *Sunday Mail* has shown in reporting on the Victoria Park issue. For the record, I received only twelve phone calls and five text messages—not the avalanche that Goers wanted, which says something about either a lack of readers for the said newspaper column, or perhaps people are generally happy with the decision. By the way, two of the twelve phone calls were in favour of the position that APPA and the Adelaide City Council took on the building. Peter Goers professes to be an ardent Port Power supporter, so no doubt he would agree that 'fair play' is important which means playing the ball, not the man. I wish he would apply the same ethics to his journalism.

For those members who could not come to the 2008 AGM, here are some short extracts from my address at the beginning of what turned out to be a very interesting event. Enough has been said on Victoria Park, so I will leave this item out.

## ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing  
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Front cover: Poplar copse of about 40 significant trees, south-east corner Victoria Park, June 2007.  
Photo taken by Gunta Groves.

### Membership

A large increase in membership is an indicator that we are doing something right. Last year we increased our membership by 47 per cent and this year by another 22 per cent—not many other voluntary organisations can boast a 69 per cent rise in membership over two years. However, donations have fallen off as the Victoria Park battle is considered to be over. However, a warning! Inevitably, there will be other threats to the Park Lands and again and again and again we will have to 'go to the barricades'.

### Finances

Our financial position caused some sleepless nights, but we obtained substantial financial support from a surprising number of people representing a large cross-section of citizens who supported a cause that they felt was worth fighting for. I wish to acknowledge and thank them for their generosity.

### Education

Most satisfying were the requests from over 30 students for information and interviews on APPA objectives and policies. These students came from the three universities, private schools and colleges, and high schools. It usually cost me a cup of coffee, but it is encouraging that we were consulted (incidentally, they were impressed with our website which also provided them with information). Maybe these requests show an interest that will lead to a younger membership.

### Newsletter and website

Let me comment on the excellence of our website and publication, *Park Lands News*. We are indebted to our Web administrator and editor, Gunta Groves, for the excellent quality of these valuable communication channels. We know the *Park Lands News* is read thoroughly by ACC staff who sometimes don't like what we say, but we are happy to receive and publish critical responses. Thank you Gunta for your professional editing capabilities; they are appreciated.

### Alienated Park Lands

The beat-up over 'The Marj' hospital versus a proposed sports stadium is topical at the moment. Let me remind you that the railway yards are really alienated Park Lands and APPA's preferred option is that the area should eventually be returned to Park Lands and NOT used for the development of either a hospital or sports stadium.

### Committee

My personal thanks go to the outgoing committee members. It has been a heavy year and we worked well as a team. I hope the new committee continues the momentum generated over the last two years.



We are sorry that Brian Mitchell is standing down as Secretary. He has been a great support to me, and his knowledge of procedures and personal friendship has been much appreciated. Also, we will miss the work of Kyle Penick who has served on the committee over a period of 15 years. Kyle has a great deal of knowledge about the Park Lands and I have asked him to assist us on special projects.

### Planning

I am concerned about the need for responsible planning. A requirement of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* is that an Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy be put in place by November 2008. My concern is that we don't just update the existing 1999 Park Lands Strategy Plan, which is now well and truly out of date. It is time that the government and council developed an overall vision for the Park Lands that establishes clearly what are acceptable landscapes and uses and what are not. Hopefully, such a vision will eventually persuade developers, both in the private as well as in the public sector, that we have a unique asset that is worthy of national and world heritage listing and that it should not be destroyed by development proposals like we have just experienced with Victoria Park.

I call on Martin Hamilton-Smith and the Opposition to stop using the Park Lands as a political football with which to beat the government over the head—it is time to develop a vision that is acceptable to everyone and to ensure that the Park Lands are given their rightful place as the most important asset of this city.

Finally, I recently came across a quote from Margaret Mead, a renowned cultural anthropologist who saw the power of committed small groups such as APPA. She said:

**'Never doubt what a small group of thoughtful citizens can do to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has'.**

*Jim Daly*



# FESTIVAL NEED or COMMERCIAL GREED?

The area known as Rundle Park is situated in the eastern Park Lands and is bounded by Rundle Road, Botanic Road, East Terrace and Dequetteville Terrace. It is the site of the World War 1 Light Horse Memorial and the World War 1 War Horse Memorial water trough. Essentially, Rundle Park is the north-eastern gateway to Adelaide's East End.

The Adelaide City Council (ACC) has in recent years let this area to an event known as the Garden of Unearthly Delights (GUD). It is meant to be a Fringe event, originally held bi-annually, but now annually. The event has changed in nature and is now little more than sideshows, a Ferris wheel and enlarged substandard beer gardens. If the artistic presentation is unappealing then there are always refreshments, the sideshows and the Ferris wheel (although the Ferris wheel failed operationally this year and was hastily and prematurely sent off to Melbourne, where also all the unsold liquor is sent to). One could suggest that the Ferris wheel is marginally better in appearance and function than the five or so stacked prestige small cars, one on top of the other, in the same area in a previous year.

All this is immediately opposite the licensed establishments in East Terrace. These licensed hotel and restaurant establishments are situated no more than 100 metres across East Terrace. They are permanent council rate-paying establishments whose principal business is selling food and beverages. One wonders why these well controlled rate-paying licensed premises do not complain. Or have they given up?

East Terrace rate-paying residents must also tolerate the event. They would be better off joining the Park Lands Preservation Association than complaining individually to the ACC about the outrage occurring upon their doorstep. The ACC, at best, remains supinely inert to the damage it has encouraged at the cost of the city-going public and local residents. After the 2008 GUD, the park was a disgraceful desert with damage to trees, turf and public fixtures, from which there will be no real recovery. In ten months it will be occupied again by the same 'Festival' event. If the GUD was truly an artistic

display of festival fun and activities, the event would survive without the beer gardens, sideshows and Ferris wheel. It is the complete lack of supervision and commercial leasing expertise which has left the area in a severely degraded state.

The annual event has led to turf destruction and scarring. The perennial grasses are predominantly dead, rendered that way by soil compaction, lack of daylight, prolonged lack of watering during the lease period and scarring through vehicular traffic allowed in the park during the lease. The mealy-mouthed public explanation that this state is brought about by the drought is just an inaccurate excuse for permitting total exclusion of moisture and light over nearly the whole area for six weeks. The concrete barriers remained until 10 April and the associated rubbish remained long after. The state of the turf is not caused in any way by the drought. It is caused by tents, shipping containers, caravans, trucks and extensive foot traffic in a confined area. Adjacent areas not so used have survived the drought conditions and are green at present.

Trees have suffered as well. One young plane tree has been split in its trunk longitudinally, and is dying. It had been used as a support for fixtures and was subjected to impact damage. Years of growth have been wasted. Another tree, an aged elm, had been obligingly chain-sawed to accommodate the increasing number of tents and other accommodation and create more room in the confined space. The off-cuts were left for collection at the cost of the public purse. None of the tree root systems were protected from compaction as occurs, for example, for events in the Botanic Park.

The apparent incompetence of the ACC is masked in soothing words that 'the event is popular'. Of course, the event is popular for reasons other than artistic display and merit. The ACC argument is nonsense. One would have no doubt that mud wrestling would be equally as popular if accompanied with the appropriate alcoholic lubricants. Apparently no-one in the ACC with the power to make decisions can be bothered to actually look at the reason for local residents' anger and complaints at the



*Above: Rundle Park in the eastern Park Lands looking towards the public toilets and East Terrace. This is part of the Garden of Unearthly Delights site occupied for six weeks, including set-up and pull-down. Photo taken by the author in April 2008 after most of the infrastructure was removed.*

*Editor's note: For those seeing this in the black and white print version, there is barely a blade of green grass to be seen. Most of the ground is bare earth.*

# FESTIVAL NEED or COMMERCIAL GREED? *continued*

poor management practices. Even more aggravating is the denial that damage is being caused to an area that is used regularly by the commuting cyclists and pedestrians who work in the city. These people far outnumber the attendees at the GUD. The commuters are justifiably angry at the damage and at their six-week exclusion, even during the times the GUD is not operating. Likewise, the picnicking public was excluded during the same period.

During early March 2008, the ACC leased the area north of the GUD as a rock concert venue. Lesser destruction occurred in that area over a shorter period. The intensification of use obliged the GUD to cease its activities on one night because patrons' differing interests at each venue conflicted. Each area had its own security firm and alcohol was available at both venues. More is to come no doubt. Since that time, trees in the rock concert area have been cut down, including an aged but healthy pine tree, no doubt to create more entertainment room.

Clearly, the emphasis has shifted away from Fringe Festival entertainment and artistic display to more substantial and popular revenue sources. One must assume that a walk across East Terrace for refreshments is deemed fatal to attracting parents and children to performances. However, by becoming a licensed area, the GUD has increased the need for security officers to police and exclude the public, thereby increasing costs to the events.

One look at the permanent destruction caused by the letting of Rundle Park reveals it is being used too intensively and at a cost that is not represented in the ACC financial statements. The specific cost of damage disappears into a number of ACC budget lines (Park Land lease revenue, parks and gardens costs, etc). Who actually makes the decision in the ACC and recommends to Council that the destruction is a necessary sacrifice for a sham Fringe Festival event?

## It need not be this way

If minded to let the area to the GUD as a cover for an alcoholic fast food sideshow alley rather than artistic festival performances, the ACC should embark on true cost recovery and protection of the area concerned. The public accepts a wide range of temporary use and alienation of Park Land areas for legitimate reasons. However, when members of the public complain, they do not deserve to be told that the price



*Above: New road created by transports accessing the GUD site from Botanic Road. This is normally grassed. Photo taken by author in April 2008.*

of destruction and Park Land alienation is the popularity of the event. Without doubt, the councillors are fed a similar line. Those having the grit to raise the negative aspects of leasing to a limited few for monetary gain as opposed to artistic performance are at least entitled to suggest that, after use, the areas should be returned to the original state. How does one balance these interests?

- I suggest, as a former city council Finance Committee chair, that the ACC should properly cost the lease and pass on the expected costs of prompt rectification.
- The elected ACC councillors should scrutinise the actions, inactions and explanations of their municipal employees more closely in this regard.
- Common and regular damage such as fractured culvert covers and gutters, uprooted saplings, heavy transport wheel gouges, graffiti and permanent destruction of turf should not be buried in various budget lines from the prying eyes of councillors. In fact, these events should each have an *anticipated budget line*, later reconciled with the actual specific costs incurred by the lessees' use.
- A substantial bond should be required and not released for some months until the actual rectification costs of the event are known.
- It is beyond the abilities of the beleaguered parks and gardens staff to reseed and regrow seeded grasses only to have them destroyed two or so

months into the summer of the next year. For the most visible and badly damaged grassed areas, turf replacement by private contractors should occur, financed by correctly costed lease revenue.

- Council should impose a term in its lease banning the sale and distribution of alcohol in the GUD. Consequently, the event would attract those persons truly interested in the artistic merits of the GUD.
- The *true cost of the event in all the hidden budget line costs* (eg broken culverts, drain covers, kerbing, footpath and pavement damage, parks and gardens cleanup activities, tree replacement, turf replacement, graffiti removal, watering costs and subcontracted work) should all be *accurately assessed and reimbursed* in the manner described (or at least the true cost of the desired subsidy made known). Trees, which represent a substantial investment of time and money, should not be obligingly cut down to accommodate greater intensity of use in relation to a given area.
- The ACC should be prepared to appear in the Licensing Court to *oppose temporary permits for events so very close to similar rate-paying amenities*, both in the interests of its own rate payers and to preserve the condition in its lease. If the character of the Festival event is represented to Council as being suitable and as entertainment for adults and children, is an extensive crude sideshow and Park Land beer garden really necessary while there are similar



# FESTIVAL NEED or COMMERCIAL GREED? *continued*

higher standard outlets nearby? The event should survive based upon its artistic and entertainment merit, not sideshows and alcohol, as a Fringe Festival event in such a well-used and critical gateway to the city.

## Significant questions

Is the leased area really about artists, actors and their performances, or is the leased area simply another way to enlarge the distribution of alcohol and sideshow entertainment, with the artistic performance thrown in to obtain the leased area? If the artistic merit is the cloak, is the sacrifice really worth it without requiring Council's employees to at least attempt actual estimates of remedial work factually costed on past events? Is the proposed event at the proposed site really worth the permanent sacrifice of amenity in relation to such an attractive and frequently used area? Should the ACC really stand for the values of the Park Lands it purports to promote? Should the councillors examine the business case for a proposal to use the Park Lands in terms of the actual cost of

the event to the Council, public exclusion as well as the claimed notional 'benefit' to sections of the public? Should there be a faint attempt by the ACC to establish the actual cost of reinstatement? Finally, if threatened with the event bypassing Adelaide, is the claimed artistic merit really worth the actual cost to the ACC, bearing in mind there are many activities truly earning the title 'Festival Fringe' and far less destructive throughout Adelaide during this period?

## Conclusion

The major gateway to East Terrace, North Terrace, Botanic Road and Rundle Street deserves better treatment than being received at present. While gardens along the pathway to North Terrace, the War Memorial and the RAH will never regenerate, the winter grasses after May-June 2008 will conceal the state of the turf until approximately November 2008. Thereafter, the drying area will become the unsightly denuded dustbowl it is at present until reoccupied in February-March next year for approximately six

weeks. At least the pedestrians and cyclists can move through the area until the reappearance of security guards and the next onslaught.

New councillors are to be congratulated upon their recent election and upon the significant principles for which they stood for election. Subsequent events have vindicated their stand. Closer supervision of the municipal leasing practices is urgently required. The rate payers in the area as well as the daily city-going public will applaud their interest and investigation.

*Former City Councillor and Finance Committee Chair  
(Name supplied)*

### NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

31 July 2008

Always in search of pithy articles, educational information and comment on current issues

## *There WAS a conflict of interest!*

**On Friday 11 April 2008, Judge Barrett of the District Court revealed his decision in the conflict of interest case. APPA was one of three parties involved in challenging the ability of Adelaide City Councillors to vote on motor sport matters in Council while the Councillors were government-appointed members of the SA Motor Sport Board.**

APPA perceived such Councillors to have a conflict of interest. This argument was presented to Judge Gordon Barrett on 20 September and 10 October 2007 by Dr Steve Churches on behalf of APPA, Michael Henningsen and Heather Nimmo.

The relevant Council meetings in which Councillors Moran and Hayward, the ACC representatives on the SA Motor Sport Board at the time, took part occurred on 29 March and 14 August 2007. The two Councillors voted for 'in principle' support for the then proposed permanent building in Victoria Park. Because this was only 'in principle' support, the Judge said that the plaintiffs had no 'standing' (ie they were not affected) but would have standing if they could demonstrate that the resolutions were going to affect them. But he also said that the Councillors did have

a conflict of interest and *should not have voted*. The Court did not annul the vote because Judge Barrett considered the matter 'moot'; that is, subsequent events had overtaken the outcome of the vote. No costs were sought or awarded.

Since the Court's judgment, ACC CEO Stuart Moseley claimed victory for the ACC based on the fact that the vote had not been annulled. He seemed to ignore the broader implications of the judgment for the future behaviour of ACC Councillors on the SA Motor Sport Board. (The current ACC representatives on the SA Motor Sport Board are Richard Hayward and Francis Wong.)

The judgment's effect goes beyond the ACC as it will affect how councillors in all local governments behave in similar situations. The Local Government Association's Executive Director, Wendy Campagna, was reported as saying that legislation may have to be amended.

APPA committed much time, effort and members' money to this case to achieve this landmark decision.

*Gunta Groves*

## Letter to the editor

As I write this in March, summer shrubs are dry and fields of grasses yellow throughout our rolling land and rugged hills. The air feels thin under a canopy of bright sunlit skies. But drive around winter time and note the air and landscape have changed: grey clouds offer rain and grasses have revived or reseeded, now green. One is acutely aware of the seasonal cycles to which plants respond. And so it must be in Adelaide's Park Lands.

Articles in the March *Parklands News* about sources and uses of water were valuable. But APPA also needs to remind the community as to what grasses and understorey plants (native or not!) best survive summer's season of limited rainfall. (In our home garden we never water the lawn; that is, grass. After a summer shower a variety of sun loving clover produces a cover of white blossoms among abundant green leaves.)

Also, the community must be sensitive in maintenance of the Park Lands' colonial landscape designs, cherishing their historical significance even if pared down in the future.

*Don Johnson, Kangarilla*

# 2008 AGM brings changes

Now in its third decade, the Association used its 2008 Annual General Meeting to mark its achievements, adjust its Constitution to current requirements and issues and give itself a metaphorical shake to get rid of the angst of the past year and prepare for fresh approaches to recurrent problems.

Jim Daly revisited the events of 2007–08 and the landmark outcomes achieved by APPA through the hard work of committee members and generous donations of members and Park Lands supporters.

The guest speaker was Prof Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, recently appointed as the new Head and Chair of the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Adelaide. Prof Pollock-Ellwand is an internationally renowned Canadian landscape architect who, for the previous 17 years, had been teaching design and researching cultural landscapes at the University of Guelph in Ontario. Her aim in Adelaide is to foster the holistic approach of her department and to build on the international connections.

Her recent experiences have included a three-month teaching appointment to the University of Tokyo, and participating in a conference in Kyoto which examined sustainable cities that are trying to bring vegetation, fresh air and water back into inner city areas.

Her interest in holistic approaches, sustainability and quality of life was the focus of the 'conversation' she had with the audience. Stephanie Johnston facilitated the conversation on the theme of 'What is the vision and what strategies do we use to get there?'.

One of the major items on the AGM agenda was changes to the Constitution. Apart from minor adjustments of language, two important aspects were involved: bringing the name of the Association into line with current usage that is legislatively and historically more appropriate ('Parklands' to 'Park Lands'), and including clauses required by the Associations Incorporation Act. All changes were approved by the AGM, which means that APPA members should now refer to the version supplied as part of the AGM papers sent out to them. One of the minor amendments was the definition of the membership year, as distinct from the financial year. The membership year will now be 1 July to 30 June. This provides a benefit to current members who have gained three months free membership. The new membership year will start on 1 July 2008 and end

30 June 2009. (See below for a summary of main changes to the Constitution.)

An aside to the Constitution changes was a suggestion from the floor by Kelly Henderson that perhaps the Association should change its name in another respect; that is, change 'Preservation' to 'Conservation'. (A dictionary definition of the two words does not make any clear



Above: Guest speaker, Prof Nancy Pollock-Ellwand (left) with Stephanie Johnston. Photo taken by Gunta Groves.

distinction between the two. Perhaps members have an opinion—send in your thoughts.)

Another important activity at every AGM is the election of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to eight Committee members. Jim Daly was re-elected unopposed as President—not surprising, considering the sterling work that he had done in the previous year under trying circumstances. Brian Mitchell retired as Secretary (again, and possibly for good this time, after giving so much good service over the years) and was replaced by Deanne Sheppard. Philip Groves was elected unopposed as Treasurer, and the other eight Committee members are: Peter Austin (returning to the fold), Ian Gilfillan, Gunta Groves, Mike Hudson, Stephanie Johnston, David Plumridge, Michael Sando and John Underwood. The Deputy President will be elected at the first meeting of the Committee.

Gunta Groves

## SUMMARY OF CONSTITUTION CHANGES

### 1. USE OF 'PARK LANDS' INSTEAD OF 'PARKLANDS'

(a) Change all references to 'Parklands' to 'Park Lands', including in the name of the Association.

### 2. CHANGES DUE TO LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1985

(a) Add clauses regarding membership classes, resignation, expulsion, and provision of register of members.

(b) Increase notice to 21 days for the AGM and Special General Meetings.

### 3. OTHER MINOR CHANGES

(a) Under OBJECTIVES, add 'open space' to Objective E, and add new Objective H regarding heritage listing.

(b) Under MEMBERSHIP, define the membership year.

(c) Under COMMITTEE, add clauses:

- empowering the Committee to fill any position not filled at the AGM
- including e-mails as a means of communication
- clarifying the ability of the Committee to act in areas where the Constitution is 'silent'.

(d) Under ELECTION OF COMMITTEE, wording change to require nomination for election to Committee to be received by the Secretary at least seven days prior to the AGM, and to allow e-mailed nominations; and a new clause defining tenure of Committee Members.

(e) Under AUDITOR, add clause to enable the Committee to appoint an auditor if such appointment is not made at the AGM.

(f) Under DUTIES, add words to allow the Committee to appoint a Public Officer.

(g) Under FINANCE, add the words 'for accounting purposes' to the financial year date, and add new clause re income and capital.

(h) Under DISSOLUTION AND DISPOSAL OF ASSETS, delete 'personally or by proxy'.

# Victoria Park grandstand— what's really going on?



It took this ad in the *City Messenger* (8 May 2008, p 2) placed by the Adelaide City Council to spell out clearly the situation regarding the new demountable building for Victoria Park. Mixed messages have been reported in mainstream media. The text is reproduced below (with permission) so that we can all be clear about the '11 months' that the new demountable building will take to put up and pull down.

Constructing and removing the temporary grandstand for the Clipsal 500 will take no more than five months and one week each year from 2010 onwards.

Construction for the 2009 event will take longer because of the need to establish infrastructure, services, footings and so on that will then be used each following year. For the 2009 event, the total works period will be up to 11 months.

After the first time it is built, the temporary stand will take no more than one month longer than its predecessor to put up and take down each year.

On 27 March 2008, the Adelaide Park Lands Authority received advice from the CEO of the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB), Mr Andrew Daniels, including that:

"Planning for this infrastructure upgrade is underway, and construction activity is scheduled to commence following the conclusion of the 2008 Clipsal 500 event, to be completed in advance of the 2009 event."

Further advice responding to key questions regarding the temporary grandstand structure at Victoria Park included the following information:

"It is quite possible that these large temporary structures will take longer to build, however it is unlikely that this extra time would exceed more than two weeks for construction and two weeks for dismantling."

"In a normal year, it takes four months and one week to construct the circuit, stage the event and dismantle the circuit ... it is anticipated that the additional larger temporary facilities may increase this timeframe by up to two weeks at the commencement and two weeks at the end."

For more information on what was presented, please download the PDF file of the full agenda for the meeting of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority here: [www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/APLA-Agenda](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/APLA-Agenda)

Council accepts the advice of Mr Daniels and reassures its ratepayers and visitors that Victoria Park will not become a construction site for 11 months of each year.

**For more details about these stories contact: Adelaide City Council on ph: 8203 7203 or visit: [www.adelaidecitycouncil.com](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com)**

**As a further correction of the facts, I offer the observation that, for the last four years that I have been monitoring closely the set up and pull down times of the V8 car race, the time has not been four months and one week, as Mr Daniels claims. It has been at least five months, and sometimes one or two weeks more, before all the structures and rubbish disappear from Victoria Park. Any remediation time (what there is of it) is on top of that. But then again, he said 'In a normal year' and perhaps he doesn't consider any of the last four years to be 'normal' years.**

*Gunta Groves*

# TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO

On World Environment Day, 5 June 2004, three pines in the south Park Lands were ringbarked by persons unknown and never brought to account. Botanist Dean Nicolle was brought in by the Adelaide City Council to try to save the trees. It took eighteen months for the first one to die and, now, almost four years later, the second pine is dead. It was chopped down at the beginning of May. I counted the rings of growth on the stump and discovered it was 108 years old.

Now, there is just one pine left, still wearing its skirt of black plastic, placed there by Dean Nicolle after grafting bark across the ringbarked area. This tree is looking relatively healthy, but so did the other one just before its foliage started to turn brown. The drought may have been a factor, but the trees had received extra water brought in by Kyle Penick in an effort to save them.

The Bush For Life site that incorporates the pines is flourishing and no doubt will flourish even more now that another pine is gone.

I still think it's a shame.

*Gunta Groves*



*Above: The Canary Island pine on the right still survives. The one on the left was chopped down in May 2008.*

*Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 5 June 2004.*



## Protecting green space – A priority of London

This is part of Boris Johnson's acceptance speech after recently being declared mayor of London:

*We have a new team ready to go in to City Hall. Where there have been mistakes we will rectify them. Where there are achievements we will build on them. Where there are neglected opportunities we will seize on them, and we will focus on the priorities of the people of London: cutting crime, improving transport, **protecting green space**, [my emphasis] delivering affordable housing, giving taxpayers value for money in every one of the 32 boroughs.*

*And I hope that everybody who loves this city will put aside party differences to try in the making of Greater London greater still. Let's get cracking tomorrow and let's have a drink tonight. (Guardian Newspaper, Saturday 3 May 2008)*

It is interesting that the great City of London will give priority to protecting 'green space'. Maybe our Lord Mayor and the Council should give priority to the protection of our 'green space' called the Adelaide Park Lands.

*Jim Daly*

## Carbon neutral?

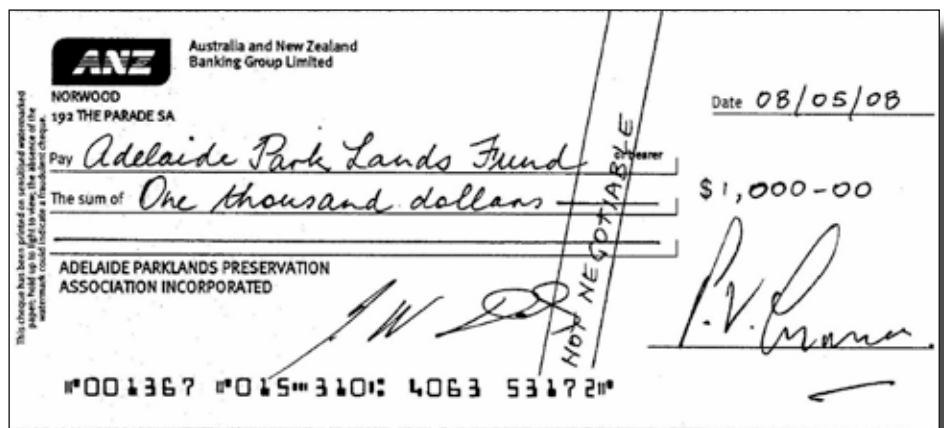
You may have missed this snippet in the *Sunday Mail* (6 April 2008, p 75). Kris Hanna, Independent member for Mitchell, asked the SA Motor Sport Board for fuel consumption details. The reply he received from Andrew Daniels was that the total consumption of fuel over the four days was 37 059 litres. The V8 cars used 28 119 litres of 100 octane unleaded, and the support categories used 8940 litres of 98 octane unleaded.

What was not given was the fuel used by all the vehicles involved in transporting, setting up and pulling down a street circuit. This has been worked out in Melbourne for the F1 race and adds up to many hundreds of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Someone needs to do the sums to work out what has to be done to make the race carbon neutral.

*Gunta Groves*

# HISTORIC CHEQUE



**When the Park Lands legislation was written, specific provision was made for the 'Adelaide Park Lands Fund' which was to be used by the Adelaide Park Lands Authority to support its work.**

The members of the 2007–08 APPA Committee felt that the Fund should be supported, something that had not yet happened. The Committee's information was that no money had been given to the Fund. Consequently, a cheque was prepared and sent to Mr Michael Harbison, Chair of the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. The accompanying letter said, in part:

*We understand that the donation is the first gift made by a non-government organisation to the Adelaide Park Lands Fund and we recommend that the donation is applied to one of the following purposes:*

- a. Increasing or improving the use or enjoyment of the Adelaide Park Lands for the public benefit; or*
- b. Increasing or achieving the beautification or rehabilitation of any part of the Adelaide Park Lands; or*

*c. Promoting or increasing the status of the Adelaide Park Lands; or*

*d. Providing for, or supporting, research into any matter relevant to status, use or management of the Adelaide Park Lands; or*

*e. Supporting the improved management of the Adelaide Park Lands.*

*It is our hope that the donation might be used by the Authority to stimulate corporate, private, public and government support for the Park Lands. The great parks of the world are better protected if they have wide financial support. We encourage the Park Lands Authority to actively seek other donations for specific Park Lands causes.*

The amount of \$1,000 might appear to be modest when compared with the budgets that the Adelaide City Council and the state government work with but, for an organisation such as APPA, it represents a very significant amount. For APPA it is a meaningful investment in the future of the Park Lands.

*Gunta Groves*

## Seven measures of city park excellence

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a US national, non-profit land conservation organisation started in 1972. Its report, *The excellent city park system. What makes it great and how to get there* (TPL 2003, updated 2006), lists seven factors that are a key to city park excellence. The seven factors emerged from a two-day colloquium, a detailed survey and telephone research involving park and urban experts and park directors across the US.

The factors are:

1. a clear expression of purpose
2. an ongoing planning and community involvement process
3. sufficient assets in land, staffing and equipment to meet the system's goals
4. equitable access
5. user satisfaction
6. safety from crime and physical hazards
7. benefits for the city beyond the boundaries of the parks.

*Gunta Groves*



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Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc  
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall  
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*Gunta Groves*

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## FROM THE TREASURER

The 2007–08 membership year proved to be the most tumultuous for years and coincided with the 20th anniversary of this Association. Following on from the record membership growth in 2006–07, membership is now the highest in its 20 year history!

APPA funded a variety of challenges to the government's development plans for Victoria Park, and significant sums were spent on planning advice to fight the ludicrous decision by the Development Assessment Commission to award Category 1 status to the proposed Victoria Park development. Also, APPA joined with two other plaintiffs to successfully challenge the right of ACC Councillors on the SA Motor Sport Board to vote on Victoria Park issues. This was very expensive but justifiable. APPA also expended significant sums in fighting in the court of public opinion. This was done by means of inserts in the local press, letterboxing and engaging the public face-to-face with the facts.

We may never know what finally caused the government to back away from their development plans, but we can be certain the efforts of APPA were a very significant contributing factor.

I would like to extend my profuse thanks to all of our members who gave so generously to provide the committee with the means to fight the Victoria Park development plans. It was a fight we would rather not have, but we will not shirk from any further attempts to desecrate our unique Park Lands. Finally, I urge all members who have yet to renew their memberships for 2008–09 to do so promptly—we need the money!

*Philip Groves*

## Debunking the 'Military Theory'

Over the years, numerous sources have suggested or repeated the idea that because Colonel Light had a military background the Park Lands may have been created as a defensive perimeter. Typically, this myth refers to the Park Lands as being a 'cannon shot wide'. The originator of this fabrication is unknown but it may have started in 1838 when a letter to the editors of the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, signed X Q Z, was published. It stated: '... but no doubt the Surveyor General, having been a military man, has intimated to the Resident Commissioner the necessity of having sufficient space all around the town for a double line of moats, glacis, redoubts, bastions & c & c'.<sup>1</sup> Noted geographer Charles Fenner dismissed the theory in 1931<sup>2</sup> but it still persists on occasion in the press and remains generally unchallenged. A number of factors show the theory is false.

**A. Range of Cannon in 1837:** The Park Lands were surveyed to be 30 chains or 660 yards wide in most places. At the 1781 Battle of Yorktown in the American War of Independence, mobile field artillery had a range of over one mile.<sup>3</sup> Advances in technology, particularly in 'rifled' as opposed to smooth bore barrels and changes to projectiles further increased artillery range and accuracy. By 1813, range had increased to two miles.<sup>4</sup> The Park Lands were not nearly wide enough to be a 'cannon shot wide'.

**B. Congreve Rockets:** Words to the US national anthem were written in 1813 during the British bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry. The verse 'and the rockets red glare' refers to Congreve Rockets. These were designed by the British in 1804 as an improvement to

earlier weapons employed by the Indians during the Anglo-Mysore Wars 1761–99. By 1815, they had a range of up to two miles and came with explosive, incendiary or shrapnel warheads.<sup>5</sup>

**C. The Hospital:** Light set aside nine reserves in the Park Lands. One of these was for the hospital to be located in what is now Rundle Park.<sup>6</sup> The width of the Park Lands narrows at this location, meaning the hospital could be subjected to small arms fire in an engagement. If Light was planning a defensive perimeter he would not have placed structures on it or sited the hospital in such a vulnerable position.

**D. Trees:** Efforts were made to retain the trees on the Park Lands. This included appointing Nicholas Boys Bull as the first Superintendent of the Park Lands in October 1839<sup>7</sup> and efforts by Governor Gray in 1841<sup>8</sup>. A defensive perimeter would have been clear felled so as not to provide cover.

### References:

1. *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, 20 January 1838 p 2
2. *South Australia: A Geographical Study* by Charles Fenner, DSc 1931 pp 237–238
3. Artillery at Yorktown at <<http://xenophongroup.com/mcjoynt/yrtnarty.html>> accessed May 2008
4. Fort McHenry at <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_McHenry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_McHenry)> accessed May 2008
5. Congreve Rocket at <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congreve\\_rocket](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congreve_rocket)> accessed May 2008
6. *Plan of the City of Adelaide in South Australia surveyed and drawn by Colonel Light*, published by John Glidden, South Australian Agent 1837
7. *South Australian Gazette*, 10 October 1839 p 6
8. *History of the City of Adelaide* by Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk 1878 p 46

*Kyle Penick*

**NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2008–09**

**Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000**

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone ..... E-mail ..... Date .....

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

**Method of payment**

- Cheque attached  Money order attached

**OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:**

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

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

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

06/08

**Committee 2008–2009**

*President:* Jim Daly  
*Secretary:* Deanne Sheppard  
*Treasurer:* Philip Groves

*Committee members:*

Peter Austin  
Ian Gilfillan  
Gunta Groves  
Mike Hudson  
Stephanie Johnston  
David Plumridge AM  
Michael Sando  
John Underwood

**Auditor**

David Carver, BK Partners

**Web administrator**

Gunta Groves

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RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
FOR 2008–09?**

**A couple of  
reminders have  
been sent  
out already.  
Please use those  
forms to send in  
your renewal if you  
have not yet  
done so.  
Your membership is  
very valuable to  
the Association.**

**Contact**

**News, comments, articles and Web site suggestions:**

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**Next newsletter copy deadline:**

31 July 2008

**Advertising:**

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**Membership:**

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