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# Deputy President's letter

For this edition of *Park Lands News* the President's letter has morphed into the Deputy President's letter, with Kelly Henderson being engaged in mysterious and secret Colonel William Light matters in Spain and other countries.

How many South Australians are weary of the one-sided city stadium 'debate', driven principally by the local chapter of the Property Council and its subsidiary *The Advertiser*? Only last year Max Basheer, a former South Australian National Football League (SANFL) director who played a key role in the establishment of Football Park, took exception to claims that Football Park was a bad design in a bad location, saying the best engineers were consulted to design the best stadium for football, and that staying at Adelaide Oval had become impossible for the SANFL. Max Basheer also wondered why no private consortium had come up with a new venue if it is so desirable, as they did with the Telstra Dome in Melbourne. Why would the SANFL depart from its freehold, purpose-built headquarters at Football Park for the uncertainty of a shared facility somewhere else? All suggestions for a new stadium are based on developers obtaining 'free

land' in the Adelaide Park Lands and taxpayers footing the construction costs. If developers are so convinced of the viability (and demand) for a new stadium, then what is stopping them from purchasing land and building their own complex to lease out?

I understand that, despite their best efforts, *The Advertiser's* 2009 survey of 'footy fans' failed to elicit the desired response for a new city stadium. No new stadium could survive financially without the SANFL as the anchor tenant or owner. The continuous campaign by the Property Council and *The Advertiser* for a new city stadium is remarkably reminiscent, and just as ill-founded, as their twelve-month campaign to install commercial horse-racing and motor-racing interests in Victoria Park. It has been suggested that *The Advertiser* should put up its own site at Mile End for a new stadium on the basis that they don't have much use for it for a newspaper.

And now we have Isobel Redmond, the latest Leader of the Opposition, resurrecting the previous leader's ill-founded scheme for a stadium in the railyards west of the Morphett Street Bridge, where the Labor Government wants to build a new hospital (*The Advertiser* 10 November). Both schemes are equally unacceptable, as the railyards are on alienated Park Lands and should be returned to Park Lands. 'Taser' Redmond cannot bring herself to use the words 'Park Lands', preferring to describe the alienated Park Lands as the 'City West precinct'. 'Taser' is trotting out the same old political jingoism about how 'We need leaders with courage and conviction, strong enough to see a vision, make decisions and see the benefits that sound planning can bring to the city' and claiming 'The lack of extended shopping hours leaves much of the city of Adelaide a "dead zone" in the evenings and on public holidays'. She goes on to say that 'The Adelaide City Council, members of which can be elected on just over 200 votes, is deciding the future of our city. It is time that we all had a say. Planning and development for the CBD and our



Riverfront precinct should be the responsibility of the State Government'. What is her point about being elected on 'just 200 votes'? How many votes did it take to elect 'Taser' Redmond to the dead zone of Leader of the Opposition? About thirteen, I think! Why do politicians and business lobby groups have a problem with democratically elected councillors and councils?

Moving on from building in the Park Lands to events in the Park Lands, APPA has long held views about the types of events that should be considered for staging in the Adelaide Park Lands. The Adelaide City Council has now released its *Draft Park Lands Events Policy and Operating Guidelines*. Members are encouraged to view the policy document under the 'Consultation' pop-up at [www.adelaidecitycouncil.com.au](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com.au) and make their own submissions. The APPA Committee sees this as an opportunity to contribute to defining the type of acceptable events that should be held in the Adelaide Park Lands, as well as the level of fees and charges. APPA believes there should be a more realistic fee structure for 'commercial events', as distinct from 'community events', and that charges should be levied for the whole time the Park Lands are alienated, which would

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## ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Land grabs at RAH site, railway yards and for tram extensions

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 and expansionist ambitions

Alienated Park Lands

Flood mitigation works

Watering regime during drought

Front cover: Aleppo pine, one of a few still remaining in Botanic Park south of new entrance to zoo. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 23 July 2009.

### NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

31 January 2010

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

## Deputy President's letter

*(Continued from page 2)*

include set-up and pull-down times and any periods of remediation. Submissions close at 5.00 pm on 11 December 2009.

Hands up all of our readers who thought SACA's core business is cricket. If you did, you might ponder why the Sheffield Shield final, slated for 17–21 March 2010, has been replaced by Rugby Sevens, whatever that is. (I believe it is a taxpayer-funded activity favoured by the Premier.) One thing is certain: when the Redbacks make the final, they won't be playing it on Oval Number 2 either. Is there no limit to how far SACA will prostrate itself in the hope of receiving more taxpayer funds for their Cirque du Soleil look-alike in the Park Lands?

On behalf of the President and Committee of APPA, I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas, hopefully followed by a happy and productive New Year in 2010.

*Philip Groves*  
*Deputy President*

## The threat continues ...

Writing in *The Independent Weekly* (23–29 October 2009, p 2), Hendrik Gout states: '*The Independent Weekly* understands that the government is still considering confidential options to allow a privately built and operated hotel in the city parklands. The plan involves building the hotel on land originally excised from the parklands for [the] RAH, which under the hotel plan will not be returned to the Botanic Gardens.'

So, the threat of commercialisation of the Park Lands continues.

*Philip Groves*

## The State Liberal Party's Park Lands policy A soulless exercise

The Opposition Liberal Party's vision and policy document for the Park Lands was released in May 2009. It deservedly provoked almost no reaction as it contained little policy but much postulation. Entitled 'The Park Lands—A Balanced Approach', it remains the current Park Lands policy document of the Liberal Opposition, although they now have a new leader who is yet to endorse the previous leader's promise to 'seize control' of the Adelaide Park Lands if they were elected to Government.

The document's foreword makes the almost obligatory observation that 'It is impossible to imagine what Adelaide would be like without our Park Lands'. On the one hand it talks about forging new partnerships with the Adelaide City Council and then says that 'The Park Lands are best protected if leadership is provided by the State Government on policy and planning for the Park Lands on behalf of all South Australians'. 'All South Australians' is a recurring theme throughout the document. Implying that the Liberal Party has a special relationship with Colonel William Light, the closing statement in the foreword states that 'Sport and recreation, cultural and heritage users and major events are exactly what Colonel Light envisaged. That vision must be delivered'.

It is difficult to have serious regard for an alternative government's Park Lands policy that, when defining the Park Lands, proceeds to excise the Squares and Gardens. The policy states:

*Whilst the squares within the City of Adelaide, known as Victoria Square, Light Square, Whitmore Square, Hurtle Square, Hindmarsh Square and Wellington Square together with the Palmer Gardens and Brougham*

*Gardens are included in the definition of the Park Lands, for the purpose of this document they are excluded.*

The railyards receive special mention:

*The City West Rail Yards precinct extending from Morphett [Street] Bridge to the Thebarton Police Barracks and north to the Adelaide Gaol has been alienated from the Park Lands almost from their inception. This parcel of land should ideally be remediated and brought back to public use. Rather than build a hospital at the site the State Liberals believe that the site should be greened and returned to the people for arts, heritage, sporting and events use. This will be the subject of a separate policy statement by the State Liberals.*

There is no overarching policy for the Park Lands, just separate piecemeal wish lists. And why is a stadium less alienating than railyards or a hospital?

The document states: 'The overlapping controls of State and Local Government have for a long time contributed to various political wrestling matches to the detriment of the Park Lands' and that 'State Government must accept responsibility on behalf of all South Australians for uplifting and protecting the Park Lands'. Having identified the governance issues between the State Government and Local Government as having a detrimental effect on the Park Lands, a Liberal Government's answer would be to confer more power over the Park Lands to the State Government. They obviously could not possibly concede another alternative that would have the Adelaide Park Lands placed into the custody of an independent trust, removing them once and forever

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# The State Liberal Party's Park Lands policy

## A soulless exercise

*(Continued from page 3)*

from State and Local Government bastardry. A Liberal Government would also seek to designate areas of the Park Lands into predominately recreational, cultural or natural precincts. They also propose more infrastructure such as barbecues, toilets, parenting rooms and playgrounds located throughout the Park Lands.

No funding commitments are made for the Park Lands apart from some vague reviews and audits. There is also a promise that a 'State Liberal Government will seek Federal Government investment in this nationally-listed heritage asset'. To what end is not explained. In the spirit of cost-shifting (something the document recognises past successive State Governments have been guilty of), it is expected that 'The current level of Council expenditure will need to be maintained, and increased over time'.

With regard to the West Terrace Cemetery, which is situated within the Park Lands, the policy states that 'A State Liberal Government, over a period of ten years, will consider providing funding to the Adelaide Cemeteries Authority for the specific purpose of upgrading this state asset'. This curious initiative is contained under the heading 'Value Neglected Heritage'. The same section devotes a single paragraph to the placing of the Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout onto the National Heritage List on 7 November 2008. It also notes:

*The Adelaide City Council has plans to guide rehabilitation and the upgrade of Victoria Park and the heritage grandstand. These works need to be undertaken as soon as possible so that the site contributes to the amenity and aesthetics of the rest of the Park Lands rather than being an eyesore.*

APPA congratulates the Adelaide City Council for not only second-guessing the Liberal Opposition heritage policy on the 1851 heritage grandstand, but paying for its restoration as well! We won't mention that the parlous state of the grandstand is due entirely to the failure of that august body, the South Australian Jockey Club Inc, which, in failing to adhere to its lease conditions (which included the restoration of the grandstand), brought about the 'eyesore' referred to in this document.

In 2008, the Liberal Opposition introduced legislation into the Legislative Council to 'assist' the Rann Labor Government to build its controversial (and universally opposed) corporate entertainment complex in Victoria Park, to serve commercial horse-racing and motor-racing interests. In the policy document this action is explained away as the Liberal Opposition's contribution to minimising the impact of temporary infrastructure for car-racing. How permanent alienation is preferable to temporary infrastructure is not explained. Of course, most people know this was really a last-ditch effort by the Liberal Party to ensconce their SAJC 'mates' in Victoria Park until the end of time, at the same time ensuring the SAJC and horse-racing remained firmly fastened to the taxpayer welfare teat.

That old chestnut, Barton Terrace in North Adelaide, also rates a mention:

*Access to the North of Adelaide through Barton Terrace has for many years been debated. The Liberal Party remains opposed to opening Barton Terrace and will ensure that the road remains closed.*

This 'policy' appears to dovetail neatly with action by the Labor Government since, although the Labor Party promised to re-open the road, it remains closed except to buses

(and innumerable motorists and motorcyclists who ignore the closed signs).

There is little comfort for the Adelaide Park Lands (minus the Squares and Gardens) in this policy document. The document concludes that 'People bring life to public spaces. Without facilities in the Park Lands there will not be an increase in the use of the Park Lands'. Once again we encounter the mantra calling for increased 'use' of the Park Lands. Like their Labor counterparts, the Liberal Opposition have no concept of the intrinsic value of the Adelaide Park Lands. There is not a single word in this document about potential World Heritage Listing (and the benefits that would flow to South Australia) if our unique and famous Park Lands were to be granted that honour.

Far from being a credible policy document on the Adelaide Park Lands, this document is merely a lightweight grab-bag of platitudes and motherhood statements. If anything, it only reaffirms why the Adelaide Park Lands remain in constant danger from political parties. It perpetuates the dysfunctional thinking and lack of true vision for the Adelaide Park Lands that we are all too familiar with from both major political parties in this state.

(Exemplifying the Liberal Party's woolly thinking on the Adelaide Park Lands, an article in the *City Messenger* of 13 August 2009 reported that the Liberal Party promises to expand Adelaide High School, which already alienates a prominent part of Park 24, if it wins next year's state election.)

*Philip Groves*

# SACA soils the Park Lands

The September 2009 edition of *Park Lands News* carried a page 7 story concerning the appearance of hundreds of tonnes of soil excavated from within Adelaide Oval in connection with the Western Grandstand project. We continue to question the processes first raised in that story.

In early May 2009, the Adelaide City Council (ACC) became aware that the project builder Built Environs Pty Ltd had been dumping soil outside the approved construction site lease area on Oval Number 2. The dumped soil takes up half of Oval Number 2. SACA holds a Park Lands sporting licence for use of Oval Number 2. The licence expires in August 2010. In causing hundreds of tonnes of soil to be dumped on the oval, SACA breached its licence conditions. Tests have revealed contamination in some of the soil, which, until ACC intervention, had been left uncovered.

The ACC council meeting of 24 August 2009 dealt with this matter retrospectively. ACC administration's recommendation to the Council was that a City Work Permit would be required to encompass the area of the soil-dumping for the period 1 May 2009 to 31 October 2010 if the dumped soil was to be permitted to remain. It was also recommended that fees of \$500k per annum be charged. ACC administration also detailed a number of 'Issues with the soil remaining on Oval Number 2':

- soil is in public view
- licence conditions (for Oval Number 2) have been breached and it is no longer being used for sporting purposes
- the community may see Council as not reacting positively to an unauthorised activity
- public access is restricted

- there is a potential public safety risk
- further deterioration of the Park Lands beneath and around the site is possible
- requests have been made by other construction companies from time to time to use the Park Lands for temporary storing of soil—these requests have previously been and continue to be refused
- this sets a precedent
- this increases the need for inspections by Compliance Officers, thus potentially reducing capacity to deal with other issues
- additional costs will be charged to SACA for an extension to the permitted City Works area.

Why this last point should be an issue for Council is unclear.

During discussions on this matter, Councillor Clarke identified an interest but not a conflict of interest in this matter, because he and his daughter are financial members of SACA.

After the moving of an amendment that required SACA to indemnify Council for any issues arising from the stockpile of dumped soil, Council approved a City Works Permit to encompass the area containing the dumped soil and for the period 1 May 2009 to 31 October 2010. Council agreed to a fee of 10 per cent of the scheduled rate recommended for the area of the stockpile as at 24 August 2009, and any further stockpiling to be charged at the full rate. In other words, instead of SACA being charged fees of \$500k per annum for this outrageous and illegal act in dumping hundreds of tonnes of soil (some of which is contaminated) on Oval Number 2, Council has rewarded SACA with potential fee reductions in the order of \$675k.

SACA must be laughing all the way to the bank on this outcome. The cost (and therefore savings) to SACA on transportation, dumping and replacement costs for the soil are estimated to be in excess of \$1.5m.

APPA has some issues of its own with this illegal soil dumping by SACA and has concerns about other matters, including such questions as:

- Did ACC planning staff query how Built Environs Pty Ltd was planning to deal with hundreds of tonnes of excavated soil from the Adelaide Oval? Surely this sort of basic detail would have been contained in the development application.
- Was the estimated cost of \$1.5m for transportation, dumping and replacement costs included in the \$95m Western Grandstand project cost or was SACA and Built Environs Pty Ltd always intending to dump the excavated soil on Oval Number 2?
- Did Built Environs Pty Ltd (on behalf of SACA) comply with the provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* with respect to stockpiling of soil before they dumped the soil on Oval Number 2?
- Why has the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) allowed Built Environs Pty Ltd and SACA to circumvent the community consultation guidelines for soil stockpiling?
- Is the EPA planning to prosecute Built Environs Pty Ltd and SACA for breaches of the Act?
- Which ACC Councillors (if any) are financial members or are in receipt of free membership benefits from SACA and voted on this matter?

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# SACA soils the Park Lands

(Continued from page 5)

- Why is SACA being given special treatment by Council by permitting SACA the use of other parts of Park 26 during the Western Grandstand project?
- Why is SACA receiving massive fee reductions for its use (some of which is illegal) of prime Adelaide Park Lands?

SACA has revealed itself to be an appalling corporate citizen with its behaviour. It appears to take for granted the privileged lease it holds for the Adelaide Oval, located as it is in prime Adelaide Park Lands. Few people would be aware that SACA pays lease fees of less than \$30k per annum and no council rates and taxes for their activities at Adelaide Oval. SACA hosts large numbers of commercial events and functions throughout the year, for which they pay lease fees approximating the cost of renting a medium level city apartment. No doubt we will continue to receive lectures from its president (as we have in the past from its recently departed CEO) that SACA generates millions of dollars of economic benefit for the state. That spurious claim cannot be at the expense of trashing our National Heritage Listed Park Lands, nor should SACA enjoy peppercorn lease fees for what is essentially a major commercial operation in the Park Lands.

*Philip Groves*

(The writer is a longstanding SACA member and believes the SACA Board of Management should be censured by the membership for this behaviour.)

# Visions denied

## No transparency in 30-year Plan process

Two days after the closing of submissions on 30 September 2009 for the draft 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide, Urban Development and Planning Minister Paul Holloway announced that more than 350 individuals, community groups and organisations had lodged submissions. Minister Holloway was 'delighted', according to *The Advertiser*, that so many people had taken the time to contribute responses to the draft plan. By 20 October 2009, Minister Holloway was telling Parliament that there were 570 submissions to the draft plan. This represents an increase of 63 per cent on the original closing date figure. Minister Holloway was also reported as saying that size limitations prevented putting the 570 submissions on the website. However, submissions could be viewed, he said, by attending the Department of Planning offices at Roma Mitchell House, 136 North Terrace, Adelaide. (One wonders what the late Dame Roma Mitchell would have thought of this latest demonstration of open and accountable government by the Rann Government.)

The Greens MLC Mark Parnell said that by not uploading all of the submissions onto the plan's website, the State Government could bury any negative feedback of the plan. He said the government had managed to upload more than 4000 public submissions on the Olympic Dam expansion environmental impact statement for Roxby Downs. The Greens, therefore, had strong suspicions that many of the submissions on the 30-year Plan were highly critical of the government's vision for Adelaide's future, and wondered what it was that the government was hiding by limiting access to the submissions.

This attempt at secrecy has echoes of the past. We all remember the three-month public consultation the State Government conducted over its plan

to erect a three-storey 200-metre-long corporate box in Victoria Park. The government claimed the responses supported the proposal but the results could not be made public for 'privacy reasons'.

That can be contrasted with the Adelaide City Council's public consultation over the lease proposal for Victoria Park. The ACC received its largest ever response to a public consultation, with 766 responses from people, organisations and businesses across the city and metropolitan Adelaide. An overwhelming 97.5 per cent of the respondents opposed the government's so-called 'grandstand' plan for Victoria Park. The ACC had no difficulty uploading all of the responses on its website.

It is notable that the State Government received only 350 submissions up to the consultation deadline (or 570, apparently after the government did a re-count) in response to the draft 30-year Plan, whereas the ACC received 766 responses to the Victoria Park 'grandstand' lease issue.

Giving weight to the Greens' assertion that many of the responses may have been critical of the draft plan, a story by Amanda Ward in the *Adelaide Review*<sup>1</sup> pointed to the government's claim that the draft document is 'the result of a whole-of-government process led by the Department of Planning and Local Government, with valuable contributions and assistance from the KPMG Consortium, South Australian Government agencies, local government, industry, interest groups and the community'. Amanda Ward thought it curious this list included interstate-based firms and a Sydney university, but the representatives of the South Australian professional

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<sup>1</sup> 'Grand designs ... but where are the designers?' by Amanda Ward, *Adelaide Review*, Issue 354, August 2009, pp 54-55.

# Visions denied

## No transparency in 30-year Plan process

*(Continued from page 6)*

institutes, design, planning and landscape architecture were not invited to participate formally in the drafting of the plan. Perhaps we should not be surprised by this, given Premier Rann's predilection for importing consultants and 'Thinkers in Residence' in preference to consulting our own home-grown planning and design professionals. Amanda Ward's story also quoted the Design Institute's national president Jo Sys, who summed up concern with the draft plan from within the professional community in saying: 'As it stands the draft plan does not demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the urban realm. The concern is that transport will be the only orientation of new developments. The plan is relatively bereft of reference to how we will deal with localised production, social needs and quality of life for Adelaide's population'.

The government's draft 30-year Plan seems to be a developers' picnic. The intention by the Minister for Urban Development and Planning not to provide the community with complete and easy access to all of the submissions does little to assuage perceptions that the State Government has something to hide. With the future of our state in the balance, surely total transparency of all submissions on the draft 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide should be given.

APPA's own submission to the draft 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide can be found in this issue of *Park Lands News*.

*Philip Groves*

# APPA's submission on draft 30-year Plan

This Association is dedicated to the preservation of the Adelaide Park Lands and the following submission deals with matters affecting the Park Lands. The Association was not consulted in the preparation of the draft plan but would be pleased to assist with the development of a Plan for Greater Adelaide that recognises the significant contribution of Adelaide's Park Lands, City Squares and Gardens to the cultural, environmental, social and economic vitality of South Australia; preserves the Adelaide Park Lands; and extends the exemplary planning of Colonel William Light 'for the greatest good' for the planning of future development of the Greater Adelaide area.

It is appropriate to preface our remarks by the following statements made before the 2002 state election by the then Labor Leader, and now Premier, Mike Rann concerning Adelaide's Park Lands:

*Adelaide's Parklands help make our city special. We are the city in the park.*

*The open, green space of the Parklands, including our city squares, is an amenity enjoyed by people who live in the metropolitan area as well as those who live and work in or around the city.*

*For visitors from overseas or interstate, the Parklands set our city apart from others. Yet our Parklands seem to be continually under threat.*

*In the past there has been no clear, agreed vision for the Parklands as a whole that is shared by State and Local Governments and the community.*

*Too often the Parklands have been seen as land on which to build, as empty space. Meanwhile, their*

*economic role and value in terms of tourism and their impact on the value of adjacent property is continually discounted.*

*Quality of life is a highly marketable commodity, if difficult to quantify. Of course, the value of the Parklands to those of us that love them cannot be assessed in purely monetary terms.*

*Parkland isn't cheap land ... it's priceless.*

It is disappointing that the sentiments above have not been reflected in the draft 30-year Plan, which pays only lip service to the important role of the Adelaide Park Lands in the provision of urban open space. The document tokenistically 'book-ends' Light's vision for Adelaide and does not give it its due significance.

### **Fundamental deficits**

Fundamental deficits of the draft plan are that it contains no future role for the Adelaide Park Lands as a cultural and natural asset, and nothing concerning the Park Lands' protection, preservation and management. This is all the more remarkable because the Adelaide Park Lands make the city of Adelaide unique, and their significance is now recognised through the National Heritage Listing. Further recognition and protection will occur through State Heritage and World Heritage Listing, which should be planned for in the draft 30-year Plan. In addition, given that the government is aiming for an increased population housed in denser accommodation, the amount of open space should be increased proportionately to the population increase.

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# APPA's submission on draft 30-year Plan

(Continued from page 8)

The value of the Park Lands needs to be recognised by planning for their future. The 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide requires the following inclusions regarding the Adelaide Park Lands:

- a plan for achieving State Heritage Listing
- a plan for achieving World Heritage Listing
- a plan for adding to the National Heritage Listing the areas of the Park Lands currently excluded
- provision for setting up an independent trust for the long-term protection, preservation and management of the Park Lands, to replace the current Adelaide Park Lands Authority
- a plan for natural and cultural heritage conservation management
- a review of current management structures with a view to removing threats such as building development and alienation of open space (e.g. the Next Generation gym complex, the National Wine Centre, Adelaide High School), and destruction of historic plantings (e.g. in Botanic Park, Bonython Park and the area opposite the Newmarket Hotel)
- provision for undertaking comprehensive studies such as a biodiversity survey and a dilapidation study.

## Specific concerns

- **Page 87**, Draft Policy 4, mentions the creation of a restaurant precinct on the Torrens riverbank. A restaurant precinct in the city centre is an acceptable aspiration

but it should not be established on the banks of the River Torrens because that is Park Lands. Nor does the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy provide for a restaurant precinct on the Torrens riverbank. Rather, it envisages rejuvenation of the riverbank and the possible creation of a 'great river walk'. The centre of William Light's city of Adelaide was always the River Torrens. The Park Lands along the river are actively used by thousands of residents, visitors and workers each and every day. The banks of the River Torrens should not be built upon, alienated or leased to private enterprise.

- **Page 87**, Draft Policy 5, implies that passive safety arises from greater use of the Park Lands but does not specify *sustainable* use, nor use consistent with *conserving* natural and cultural heritage.
- **Page 87**, Draft Policy 6, states that medium-rise development along the edges of the Park Lands will also improve passive surveillance. Policy 6 seems flawed. This seems to intend the Holdfast Shores-type development where open space is overlooked by apartments, thereby impacting upon the ability of people to escape from the city. This is a radical departure from the earlier Plan for Adelaide which prevented permanent residential occupation overlooking the Park Lands.
- **Page 123** of the draft plan shows a map that locates a new hospital on the Park Lands (the new 'Royal Adelaide Hospital'). The site proposed includes the place where William Light's Hut and Survey Office were located. This site, having now been declared by the State Government as no longer necessary for railyard use, should be returned to open space

Park Lands in accordance with the provisions of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*, and the cultural significance of Colonel William Light's Hut and Survey Office recognised and preserved.

- **Pages 128 and 129** do not acknowledge the environmental significance of the Adelaide Park Lands. In fact, the map on page 129 shows that no environmental significance is attached to the Park Lands. This is blatantly wrong. Current research has already established that the Park Lands are important environmentally, and a future comprehensive biodiversity study will add to our knowledge of their value.
- **Page 131**, in Draft Policy 3, the protected area mentioned is only the National Heritage Listed part of the Park Lands. This excludes large areas of William Light's Park Lands from this protective intention.
- **Page 134** lists the Adelaide Park Lands as being available for the establishment of 'major sporting facility hubs' with Adelaide Oval and Memorial Drive given as examples. The Adelaide Park Lands are available for community sport activities, ideally utilising soft (i.e. not sealed) surfaces. The Adelaide Park Lands are not available for developments such as stadiums and complexes such as the Next Generation which needs to be removed from the Park Lands. 'Major sporting facility hubs' lead to detrimental impacts such as soil compaction and periodic and permanent alienation.

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# APPA's submission on draft 30-year Plan

(Continued from page 8)

- **Page 141** shows a map of potential stormwater harvesting schemes that includes sites in the south, east and north Park Lands. Stormwater management that is needed because of activities and development outside the Park Lands should not involve the loss or alienation of areas of the Park Lands.
- **Page 214**, in Appendix B, there is no mention of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The first is fundamental to considering the role of the Adelaide Park Lands, City Squares and Gardens, and the second pertains to the sections of the Park Lands that have National Heritage Listing.

- **Page 219**, in Appendix D, South Australia's Strategic Plan Target 3.1 is stated as being met by the draft plan. However, the plan does not ensure that there will be no loss of species as a result of human impacts. How does the plan intend to prevent loss of any known species when it fails to identify the Adelaide Park Lands as a site of environmental significance and no plans are proposed for establishing studies to address this?

## Recommendations

The draft 30-year Plan should:

- be amended to more properly reflect the importance of the Adelaide Park Lands by including a section that outlines the history of the Park Lands and restates the government's commitment to

preserving the Park Lands, as well as how this will be done

- contain specific strategies to protect, preserve and manage the Park Lands for the future, including setting up an independent trust
- make provision for achieving State Heritage Listing and World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park Lands, and inclusion of areas currently excluded in National Heritage Listing
- ensure that research studies are carried out to establish the cultural and environmental credentials of the Adelaide Park Lands.

*Philip Groves, Deputy President  
30 September 2009*

## Brochure distributors wanted

If you are able to spare some time letterboxing a small part of your suburb (say 100–150 houses), please call Gunta or Philip Groves on 8336 8424.

Your help in spreading the APPA message would be much appreciated.

## State Heritage Listing update

In July, following the felling of a grove of Aleppo pines in the Botanic Park, APPA lodged a request for provisional State Heritage Listing of the Park Lands. In September, the State Heritage Council met with members of the APPA Committee regarding the emergency listing of areas within Victoria Park which contain remnant native vegetation and significant trees.

Now, in early November 2009, the Department for Environment and Heritage has contacted the Adelaide City Council regarding the provisional listing, requesting a postponement of the relocation of remnant vegetation until the issue could be assessed. According to the DEH, the remnant vegetation is likely to meet the listing's criterion as per the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. As of 12 November the ACC has acceded to this request.

*Kelly Russ*

## STOP PRESS

### Forum: Trashing our Treasure

How Adelaide is destroying its parks, trees, gardens and heritage

**Thursday 10 December 2009**

11.30am Balcony Room,  
Parliament House

Speakers from St Clair Residents Association, Save the Chelsea Action Group, Save Union Hall, National Trust SA, Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association

Sponsored by The Hon David Winderlich MLC,  
Independent

# Save the RAH Action Group gives birth to fight Labor

Members of the Save the RAH Action Group have formed a new party to contest the next state election in March 2010. The new party, unsurprisingly, is called the 'Save the RAH Party', and was registered with the Electoral Commission SA in October 2009.

Chairman of the Save the RAH Action Group Dr James Katsaros announced that the new party was planning to have candidates contesting the Legislative Council and 'some' marginal House of Assembly seats. With the significant groundswell of community opposition to the Rann

Government's plans for a new RAH to be built on alienated Park Lands at the western end of the city, APPA wishes the Save the RAH Party much electoral success. Not only might they achieve Legislative Council representation (remember that other highly successful single issue party?) there is also the potential to influence the outcome in some targeted marginal seats in the Lower House.

APPA applauds any efforts that highlight, either directly or indirectly, the Rann Government's failure to adhere to its own legislation in the form of the *Adelaide Park Lands Act*

2005, which specifies the return of alienated Park Lands once an existing use is discontinued. The alienated Park lands on which the railyards are situated should be returned to Park Lands once that existing use, being that of railyards, is no longer required. If the new RAH does proceed, no one should rely on the government of the day to return the old RAH site to Park Lands. Given the track record of both Liberal and Labor parties on matters concerning the Adelaide Park Lands, a lose-lose situation for the Adelaide Park Lands could become a reality.

*Philip Groves*

## Short fiction: A good day's work

I groan.

It hurts everywhere; I'm barely standing. They're all around me, too many of them—I couldn't stop them even if I tried. I need help, but no one who cares seems to hear my cries.

How did it come to this? I used to be so proud. I've endured cold, biting storms—more broken limbs than I can count—I've witnessed people broken, who came to me for comfort, and others so calm and peaceful that I wondered what their secret was and felt a thrill of pride that they would share it with me—and I've stood tall through all of it.

Another blow, and pain shoots up my sides. My limbs shake. I can barely stay upright, let alone fight back. I've never had the need to fight back, and now that I need to, I don't know how. I've never done anything to anyone. I was always approachable, for people to come to no matter what they needed. What did I ever do to deserve this?

I can feel myself shaking, and I know I can't stay upright for much longer. I like to think that if they could have,

the people who came to visit would have helped me. I like to think that they tried. I know I'm dying, and I'd prefer to think that someone cared than to die knowing I was abandoned.

The shaking's uncontrollable now, and I can't stop myself from moaning with pain. I feel my fragile balance collapse and I fall. I barely notice that I hit the ground; it doesn't matter anymore.

I won't be getting up again.

He wiped his forehead with a gloved hand, his face flushed with effort and satisfaction, turning off the chainsaw so that silence fell. He scanned his surroundings; the cleared land looked empty, the trees still lying where they had fallen. Soon they'd be removed and the building could begin.

'You done?'

He turned to face his colleague, tilting his head at the tree he had just felled. 'Yeah, the last one. Good day's work, eh?'

*Kelly Russ*

## Victoria Park update

The Adelaide City Council website <[www.adelaidecitycouncil.com](http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com)> carried a report that a major part of Stage One of the Victoria Park Master Plan was completed on 23 October 2009 when Lord Mayor Michael Harbison symbolically planted some native trees to signal the finish of some major work on the \$250k Victoria Park Northern Loop. A feature of the Northern Loop is a compacted rubble running and walking track which will ultimately form part of a 2km track wrapped around the park. The Lord Mayor said: 'The Northern Loop is just a small portion of what's to come. I'm pleased with the progress so far and I think the public will be too'. Council has also put in place a new irrigation system to deliver GAP water to the extensive grass restoration.

We can only hope the Motor Sport Board will show some respect and consideration for this public asset.

*Philip 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 *Park Lands News* by e-mail as a PDF, fill in the form below and mail it to the following address:

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*Gunta Groves*

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## Victoria Square: Christened for a princess

Today, most people in Adelaide believe Victoria Square was named for Queen Victoria, the doughty, solemn, unsmiling figure from 1893 portrayed on the square's central monument. This is incorrect. Apart from the statue donated by Sir Edwin Smith fifty-seven years after dedication<sup>1</sup>, the square offers little clue to its namesake, who was then a vibrant young lady full of life, with dreams to fulfil and worlds to conquer.

Victoria Square was named on 23 May 1837 for seventeen-year-old Princess Alexandrina Victoria<sup>2</sup>, born 24 May 1819 and then heir to the throne of England. Just four weeks after the naming, Victoria became Queen following the death of her uncle King William IV on 20 June 1837.

Thousands of sites worldwide are named for Queen Victoria (SA examples below), but nomenclature honouring Victoria as princess is rare and if publicised could set Adelaide apart from so many places which bear Victoria's name.

There had always been some doubt Victoria would become Queen. She became heir presumptive at age eleven in 1830 following the death of George IV but until she turned eighteen a regent would have been required if King William had died. Victoria became Queen

<sup>1</sup> *Silent witnesses: Adelaide's statues and monuments*, Simon Cameron, 1997, Wakefield Press, pp 21–24.

<sup>2</sup> *City of Adelaide reference book*, 1983, p 80.

twenty-seven days after her eighteenth birthday.

Throughout the time she was heir there was always the chance that King William and Queen Adelaide would have children. Several were born but died in infancy. This possibility was formally recognised in Victoria's accession proclamation by a caveat which stated: '... saving the rights of any issue of his late Majesty King William IV which may be born of his lay Majesty's consort.'<sup>3</sup> Doubt surrounding her accession may have limited enthusiasm for naming places in her honour while she was princess.

Places named for Princess Victoria, heir apparent are:

- Victoria Square Toronto was also named in May 1837. Originally it was six acres but for various reasons it is now only two. It was renamed Military Memorial Park in 1883 and in 1905 became Victoria Memorial Square<sup>4</sup>

- Princess Victoria Street in Bristol<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *The Times*, June 21, 1837, <[www.heraldica.org/topics/britain/brit-proclamations.htm](http://www.heraldica.org/topics/britain/brit-proclamations.htm)>.

<sup>4</sup> *Names for Victoria Square*, <[www.toronto.ca/culture/victoria-square/appendices.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/culture/victoria-square/appendices.htm)>  
*History of Victoria Memorial Square*, <[www.wellingtonplace.org/history/victoria-memorial-square.php](http://www.wellingtonplace.org/history/victoria-memorial-square.php)>.

<sup>5</sup> *The origin of district and street names in Bristol*, H C W Harris, 1971.

- Lake Alexandrina SA, named by Captain Charles Sturt on 9 February 1830.<sup>6</sup>

Places in Adelaide named for Queen Victoria are:

- Victoria Drive, opened on 2 June 1887, shortly before Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
- Victoria Park, formerly 'The Old Course', was renamed in 1897 for her Diamond Jubilee
- Victoria Bridge on Montefiore Road
- Former Queen Victoria Hospital on Fullarton Road
- Victoria Tower GPO Foundation, stone laid 5 November 1867
- *Gregory's Adelaide Street Directory* has over forty listings named Victoria.

Other sites may also exist that were named for the princess heir, but they remain unidentified. (Note: Queen Victoria's first child, a daughter, was named Victoria Adelaide.)

*Kyle Penick*

<sup>6</sup> *Alexandrina, Lake*, <[www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning/pn/a/a5.htm#alexandrina](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning/pn/a/a5.htm#alexandrina)>.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2009–10**  
**Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000**

Name .....

Address .....

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 single (full rate)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Send <i>Park Lands News</i> via e-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 family (full rate)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$.....                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 corporate                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 single (student/concession) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 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 SA 5000

12/09

**Committee 2009–2010**

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*Secretary:* Olivia Franco  
*Treasurer:* Philip Groves (Deputy President)

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**Web administrator**

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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.