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President's letter

The 25th anniversary of the founding of the Association is fast approaching in 2012, coinciding as it does with the 175th anniversary of William Light and James Hurtle Fisher first protecting our Park Lands from government misappropriation, and the committee is exploring new ways of raising awareness of the Park Lands in the lead up to the celebration of those events.

For the first time the Association will participate in History Week by providing a 'Landscape and legacy' tour of Victoria Park's surprising survivors. An ugly trifecta threatens the south-eastern Park Lands: mania for crowd 'events' with heavy haulage vehicles, explosives ordinance, infrastructure, fencing, commercial use, and a massively expanded Clipsal 500 'declared area'; the Brownhill/Keswick Creek Stormwater Project wetlands and detention ponds proposed to violate the Park Lands to address someone else's problem; and environmental vandalism of precious remnant plant communities, trapdoor spider habitat, and flora and fauna for nonsensical sports fields and fireworks that could go elsewhere. It was shocking to see the Clipsal fireworks show bombarding the south-eastern Park Lands, raining shattered and smouldering explosives' casings over park, people, Dog Obedience Clubrooms, and setting off a grass fire. The ongoing failure to

clean up the detonators, wires, casing shrapnel, cable ties, bolts and other event trash adds insult to injury.

An appeal for conservation of Victoria Park put to Allan Holmes, Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Heritage (who was a panel member at the Biodiversity and Legal Forum convened by the Environmental Defenders Office on 3 May), fell on deaf ears. On ABC Radio's 891 Mornings program on 25 May Mr Holmes stated, in response to a follow-up question, that it would be interesting to see if State Heritage listing was achieved for 'grasslands' and suggested the Victoria Park matter was better negotiated with Adelaide City Council. If our democracy is not expected to function by State Government or the *South Australian Heritage Places Act* being involved in conservation of the Adelaide Park Lands—which Mr Holmes seems to think of as a 'small' local issue—one must wonder what is the use of DEH and the seemingly neutered Heritage Act?

Given Dr Lynn Arnold and Professor Jan De Graeve's interest in William Light's Adelaide Plan and World Heritage potential it seems that DEH has missed the point. Issues raised by Dr Arnold in his thought-provoking address at the Association's AGM, such as the importance of our Park Lands for the wellbeing of our community and in promoting social equity, World Heritage listing, and deficiencies in the National Heritage listing, deserve serious consideration by all levels of government.

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is also to consider the proposal for World Heritage nomination of William Light's Adelaide Plan after it was raised at the FIG's pre-Congress History Workshop at Sydney's Old Government House in April. Professor Jan De Graeve, Director of the FIG's International Institution for the History of Surveying and Measurement, who had a key role in the first World Heritage inscription of surveying heritage (the Struve Geodetic Arc comprising thirty-four survey stations in ten countries), was invited to visit Adelaide in the first week of May to examine the site, survey instruments, artefacts, and documents. Whilst in Adelaide he gave a presentation on the World Heritage listing of the Struve Geodetic Arc at a public forum hosted by the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute, met with His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, AC CSC RANR,



Governor of South Australia, and was a guest at Parliament House.

Whilst DEH takes out the 'Stubborn Mule' award for twenty-four years of State Heritage nay-ing, it only seems fair to confer on Minister Conlon the Park Lands 'Cow Pat' award for hoisting himself and Government with his own petard by likening our Park Lands to an abattoir's waiting room. The Park Lands City Cattle Market has long since morphed into State Government appropriated Park Lands railyards, under the care of Minister Conlon. Government should be condemned for their unwelcome loitering and blatant abuse of that particular Park Lands 'paddock', and deserve to be led off to slaughter.

A responsible minister and government would earn themselves honourable mention in the history of the Park Lands if they salvaged this last opportunity to retain a remnant of William Light's North Terrace Park Lands and returned these lands to open space to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of our Park Lands and seat of government. In any event it is high time to end the farce, which State and Local Government have peddled to the destruction of the Park Lands, that this land is 'Crown' land. Such false assertions are patently unsustainable. The railyards Park Lands, like all land in South Australia apart from roads, were required to be declared 'Public Lands' by the Commissioners, and sold. Prevented from becoming

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ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Alienated Park Lands
Biodiversity survey
Britannia intersection land grab
Dying elms and other trees
Flood mitigation works
Glenelg Adelaide Pipeline damage
Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings
Land grabs at RAH site, railway yards and for tram extensions
O'Bahn Park Lands grab
SACA carpark push and expansionist ambitions
Stadium Management Authority
Watering regime during drought
World Heritage listing

Front cover: The south-eastern corner of Victoria Park with the morning dew still heavy on the ground. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 8 August 2009.

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President's letter

(continued from page 2)

'Crown' land by direct purchase from the Commissioners with a title secured by Act of the British Parliament, these Park Lands are held upon trust for the people, intended as inalienable open space.

It is time to remind Government, the South Australian Cricket Association, Australian Football League and others of their ilk, that the Adelaide Park Lands do not belong to them. Like the English brewer who successfully defended the right of the people to free access to Richmond Park against wrongful Royal exclusivity, we must defend our right to free access and peaceful enjoyment of our Park Lands and remind those who essay to appropriate any portion that the land and its improvements belong to the people in perpetuity.

In coveting constructions on Park Lands the Labor Government's morally bankrupt policies, not caring to keep promises to protect the Park Lands and tossing taxpayers' money to a privateering Park Lands stadium, have regrettably culled its own Cabinet Minister and former

Member for Adelaide, Hon Dr Jane Lomax-Smith. Jane's staunch opposition to Government's attempted annexation of Victoria Park deserves our ongoing gratitude. On behalf of the Association I warmly thank Jane for her advocacy for the Park Lands and defence of Victoria Park, and wish her well for the future.

Our new Member for Adelaide, Rachel Sanderson MP, has already impressed us with her interest in the Park Lands and her gracious welcome of Professor De Graeve. During the busy commencement of the new Parliamentary Session Rachel met with Professor De Graeve and secured an invitation for our international guest to Parliament's Opening Ceremony, which was greatly appreciated. With such an auspicious beginning we hope for further progress toward securing benefits associated with a successful World Heritage nomination.

South Australia's first World Heritage site is the Naracoorte Fossil Caves and I am pleased to report that our Association was invited to address the Naracoorte Parklands Preservation Association's AGM on the subject of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Thanks to the efforts of Anne Hannaford, NPPA's President, the visit also provided an opportunity to visit three school classes who seemed very interested to hear about William Light, one of our first protectors of the Park Lands. My thanks to the NPPA members and particularly to Anne and Jim Hannaford, who were wonderful hosts, Secretary John Flynn, and the principal, teachers and students of Naracoorte South Primary School for their warm welcome.

To those young children and other potential Park Lands protectors who shall come after, as well as those like JH Fisher, William Light, and our own Association's founders, who have come before, we have the solemn duty to protect the social as well as the physical essence of our unique Park Lands as a space dedicated to the wellbeing of the community, freely and equitably accessible to all. As our patron's closing words averred with such perception and clarity: 'It is the right thing for us to do with the opportunity that we have'.

Kelly Henderson

Was this the beginning of the end?

Re-printed from *Parklands News*, August 2003, 'President's letter'.

We have spawned a monster! I can hardly express my disgust at the annexation, now in progress, of a portion of Cresswell Gardens for the spread of the Adelaide Oval! To have this insult added to the injury of the monstrous lights at the Oval is very hard to bear.

This may seem strong language but unless those of us who care protest loud and strong it will be done again and again. Maybe another organisation or even the same SACA will push for a further alienation and annexation of Park Lands.

Please use this outrage of a government authorised amputation of part of the Park Lands as a way of enrolling new members.

Ian Gilfillan

Treasurer's report

The 2009–10 APPA financial year, ending 31 March 2010, resulted in a healthy net surplus which was achieved in the main by careful management of expenditure by the committee and from significant 'donations' of unclaimed expenses incurred personally by office bearers and committee members, who give so generously not only of their time but frequently of their own resources in relation to APPA business. This invisible and unheralded contribution to APPA is greatly appreciated, and deserving of acknowledgment.

Members, too, played their part by promptly renewing their memberships. Donations from members also represented a significant part of APPA income, for which the committee is extremely grateful.

Membership growth for 2009–10 was modest. However, the membership retention rate of 98 per cent is a very pleasing result to report, attesting to the commitment of our members to maintaining APPA as the only dedicated

community-based Adelaide Park Lands advocacy body.

Members attending the 2010 AGM voted to accept the committee's recommendation to maintain the 2010–11 membership rates at their 2009–10 levels. The committee intends to keep membership fees as low as possible.

The Association has also received several inquiries from members asking APPA to consider offering one-off, lump sum, 'life' memberships. The APPA constitution has provision for such a membership class and the committee seeks feedback from members as to whether there is much demand for this class of membership.

Members at the 2010 AGM supported a motion thanking David Carver, Managing Partner of BK Partners, Chartered Accountants, for his services as auditor to the Association. David was re-appointed for the 2010–11 financial year.

Philip Groves
Treasurer

McAdelaide Stadium and the sounds of silence

At the time of writing (early May 2010), the silence from the players in the Adelaide Oval redevelopment proposal is deafening—deafening, that is, in terms of providing the taxpayers of SA, the sporting public and the cricket and football fraternities any detail that would enable them to assess this 'proposal'. There is a surfeit of spin emanating from the State Government and the SACA and SANFL managements who, at every opportunity, refer to the proposal as if it is a fait accompli. This is aided and abetted by a compliant media, some members of which have vested commercial interests. This deprives their readers, listeners and viewers from any serious and detailed examination of this proposal. How depressing it is to observe the Rann Government's style of spin over substance permeating the management of the SACA and SANFL organisations.

McDodgy Funding

When announcing the development proposal in early December 2009, the government said the \$450 million budget would be financed through a \$100–\$150 million contribution being sought from the Commonwealth Government, \$200 million by deferring the proposed tramline to West Lakes for two years, and the \$100 million already earmarked for Football Park upgrades to be withdrawn and applied to the Adelaide Oval proposal. Treasurer Foley said this development proposal was affordable and would not affect the budget. Is the \$100 million earmarked for Football Park the same \$100 million removed from SANFL after the State Government withdrew its guarantee in October 2008 due to the global financial crisis?

More McDodgy Funding

By 8 April 2010, Treasurer Foley was saying the Rann Government is committed to providing no more than \$450 million for the upgrade and that the Commonwealth is considering chipping in some money. So, in the space of four months, the State Government has committed the taxpayers of SA to an increase of \$150 million for this proposed development. Are we to assume this won't affect the state budget either? Treasurer Foley has not confided where this extra \$150 million is coming from. Perhaps it is coming from the \$750 million in government spending cuts the Sustainable Budget Commission has been ordered to find over the next three years, or is Barnaby Joyce now a consultant to the State Government?

Letter to SACA

Meanwhile, APPA has written to the president of the South Australian Cricket Association seeking clarification of media reports that SACA may be intending not to adhere to the existing Park Lands Management Strategy and Community Land Management Plan for Park 26, where the Adelaide Oval is located. Our letter sought to clarify SACA's position on the following matters:

1. Does the stadium redevelopment proposal intend an expansion of the current 'footprint'? If so, what area of expansion is intended and where would this be intended to occur?
2. In particular, does the stadium proposal intend to expand into the Park Lands to the east of the existing boundary? If so, could you indicate what area is expected to be involved and to what extent this would protrude from the existing fence line?
3. How consistent are SACA's current plans with the Strategy, CLMP and the Adelaide Oval Conservation Plan?
4. Has SACA's membership been consulted about conversion of Adelaide Oval into a stadium, and any departure from the Strategy, CLMP and Conservation Plan? If so, what was the result of that consultation?
5. Has SACA's membership been consulted about World Heritage nomination of the Adelaide Park Lands and/or Adelaide Oval?
6. Do SACA's plans for Adelaide Oval intend continued, or increased, use for carparking on or under Park Lands, or does the stadium plan intend Park Lands carparking?

The letter made the point that 'Although SACA may be just one of the parties involved and the new Stadium Management Authority would be the body managing the process of converting Adelaide Oval into a stadium, the Association expects SACA would take to the negotiating table its current publicly stated commitments to retaining the heritage values of the Adelaide Oval and the integrity of the Adelaide Park Lands'. It also drew SACA's attention to the fact that there are several sites near the city which may provide a more appropriate stadium location.

We are not expecting a reply to our letter anytime soon, realising that we are dealing with a SACA Board of Management so secretive that SACA's thousands of members have been told little or nothing of the most radical plan in the 139-year history of SACA. Perhaps the board is struggling with how it is going to break the news to SACA members that they will be travelling to Glenelg for Sheffield Shield, State One Day and 20/20 matches if they approve this development, leaving only Test Matches and One Day International matches to be staged at Adelaide Oval.

Philip Groves

Do you want fries with that?

On 7 May 2010, SACA and the SANFL finally broke their silence, sending more than 80 000 members of SACA, the SANFL and the Adelaide and Port Adelaide Football Clubs a 28-question survey that supposedly canvasses views on whether fans would be more likely to go to AFL matches at Adelaide Oval, their opinions on Football Park, where they go before and after matches and what membership options they might take up if matches are played at Adelaide Oval. The survey states 'The views of members and supporters are central to our planning for the future and in making important decisions about the proposed development'. It consists of throwaway, simplistic and obscure questions that would defy the ability to form qualitative conclusions, even if the questions were relevant to the proposal, which in the main they are not. There is also clearly no way of controlling who responds to this survey—redolent of some Rann Government survey techniques witnessed in the past.

Any serious survey for this plan should be placed before the entire memberships of the parties concerned. The survey would require complete disclosure of all the facts, relative to each of the parties concerned, and then an independent ballot of all the members should be conducted. Somehow I suspect SACA and SANFL managements do not willingly want to go down this informed, democratic path.

Philip Groves

2010 AGM introduces new patron

At APPA's 2010 Annual General Meeting, members received the opportunity to listen to Dr Lynn Arnold AO speak on the subject 'Would or should Colonel Light be turning in his grave?'. Lynn Arnold addressed members of the Association regarding the Park Lands and whether or not the residents of Adelaide have succeeded in, if not fulfilling Light's vision for Adelaide, then not destroying it. He chose the topic because he thought it 'might be a way of focusing the mind as to whether or not there were issues here that we should be thinking about today in terms of what the original plan might have been'.

He began with the reminder of the contributions Colonel Light made, not only in the creation of the Park Lands, but in his very method of surveying and even in terms of the vision itself. This comment led into the observation that there were two points to keep in mind while asking whether or not he should be turning in his grave: 'The first point is that he was probably already turning in his grave even before he had put a foot in it ... But we also need to acknowledge that we owe to such an able and intelligent man the capacity to recognise that changing circumstances sometimes require new responses, and the issue is to preserve the essential, the meaningful, foundational concepts.'

Lynn Arnold said that to understand what might cause Colonel Light to turn in his grave, we need to understand his motivations: specifically, his family background, his instructions and the time period he lived in. The first point relates to his father, who was cautioned about the wanton removal of trees in the creation of a colony and then passed such a mindset onto Light himself. In terms of his instructions, we know Light resigned over the ultimate decision to change Adelaide's surveying techniques to one less tree-friendly; however, there are also aspects of the city, such as open access to the coast, which were included in his orders and which were carried through. Thirdly, Light lived in a period in which, in the UK, the commons

were enclosed and awareness was growing regarding the public's need for places of public recreation.

Lynn Arnold went on to note the range of issues bringing us to the present, from the alienations that have happened to the returns that have occurred. He made mention of the potential of the open space, not part of the Park Lands, around the city which has been lost, and the long history of squatting on the Park Lands. That brought him to what kinds of uses the Park Lands should have today. Obviously, today we have no need to use the Park Lands as pastures for livestock as they were in the past, but he points out that there are still parts of the Park Lands which could certainly be used to celebrate the Park Lands, such as the olive plantations. '[Craig Hill] believes that we should be doing all we can to preserve what's left of the olive plantations. He actually even suggested we should have an olive harvest festival, an invitation to the public to pick olives under supervision for a fee, olive tasting, presentation on the history of the Park Lands, walking tours of the Park Land olive sites ...'.

Part of the issue, as far as Lynn is concerned, is the definition of a 'garden city'. 'The problem with things that are taken as just a given—they tend to also be forgotten about unless they become a living part of the city as an organism.' He discussed the potential of high-rise living space: 'This is the issue of dealing with houselessness as opposed to the issue of dealing with homelessness.' For Lynn, open space is about the ability of people to use it as equals, not just about it being simple physical space.

Lynn concluded that he does not believe that Colonel Light would turn in his grave, but that he 'would want us to keep in mind these important issues: that the developments we do, or are about to do, keep the need for a socially integrated community and the space available for all ... I am concerned that some of the propositions will see the Park Lands being dealt with as an area of available land,

rather than as Park Lands, and there is quite a different concept involved in that.'

Following Lynn's lecture, the members of APPA were presented with the nominees for the Honorary Life Memberships, which Lynn Arnold awarded: Jim Daly, Brian Mitchell, and Philip and Gunta Groves. All four of them have been serving members of the APPA Committee, with Philip Groves currently serving, and all four are now being honoured for their unceasing efforts to preserve Light's vision. Congratulations Jim, Brian, Philip and Gunta!

The meeting continued with the apologies and the minutes of the previous meeting being confirmed with minor amendments, before Kelly Henderson gave her president's report for the 2009 year. She covered a range of issues beginning with the agreement with Lynn Arnold that the Park Lands are valued too much as real estate, and going on to discuss current building issues, such as the possibility of building on the railyards and 6–8 storey high-rises around the squares. She reported that the emergency State Heritage listing has not been processed, and although some of the threatening activities had been halted until it has been, some of them have also continued.

Threats and pressures on Victoria Park, particularly by the Clipsal 500, are increasing, and Kelly Henderson recommended that APPA take the opportunity to support the movement of the Clipsal to another location. Meanwhile, there is opportunity to advocate the inclusion of Park Lands from Thebarton to the RAH on the National Heritage list, from which they are currently excluded. There is also opportunity to oppose the increased use of Park Lands as parking spaces near the Adelaide Oval. Finally, she reported that the International Federation of Surveyors has taken an interest in looking at the Park Lands to evaluate them for World Heritage listing, an indication of international interest which is very encouraging.

Kelly thanked the previous members of the committee for their work, especially Olivia Franco, former secretary, who has retired from the committee to pursue her Honours studies, and Rod Hartley, who was responsible for bringing the Association and Lynn Arnold together. The new committee includes Kelly Henderson as president, Philip Groves as treasurer, and Michael Sando, Kelly Russ, Kyle Penick, Mike Hudson, Luciana Larkin and Sue Whittington.

Kelly Russ

From left to right, Brian Mitchell, Jim Daly, Lynn Arnold AO, and Gunta and Philip Groves, recipients of APPA's Honorary Life Membership. Photo taken by Kelly Russ, 18 April 2010.



Sign of the times

In welcoming 'repairs' to the Park Lands we need to examine the circumstances necessitating the repairs in the first place. The example in the photograph depicts an area at the western end of Rymill Park/ Mullawirraburka which is subjected to intensive event use. This situation is being exacerbated by once-biannual events becoming annual events, and the insatiable demands being made on the Park Lands to host these events. Roping off large areas of the Park Lands for 'repairs' is simply the consequence of overuse. Large areas of our Park Lands are given over to so many events (many of them purely commercial in nature) that there is little or no opportunity for them to recover. Trucks, forklifts and all manner of other vehicles are constantly going backwards and forwards across the Park Lands, setting up and pulling down structures which are often in place for weeks at a time. The resulting turf, tree and soil damage is plainly evident, and is scarring beyond repair some areas of the Park Lands that were once popular with families. (Little wonder some politicians, local media and business councils, hostile to the concept of 'unused' public spaces, have described the Park Lands as 'a dustbowl' and 'a wasteland'. But they fail to acknowledge the practices that are turning much of the Park Lands into dustbowls and wastelands in the first place!)

This insidious overuse of the Park Lands is being driven by a State Government that displays an indifference to the natural and heritage values of the Park Lands, and an events-driven Adelaide City Council who seem to have a policy of accommodating virtually every request for use of the Park Lands, regardless of the appropriateness of the activity. The council's fee structures are ridiculously low and do not differentiate enough between purely commercial use and community use.

Paradoxically, in the case of Rymill Park, it is becoming increasingly difficult for families, who once used the park in their thousands, to be able to access the park in a predictable way—areas are constantly fenced off for events, and then bunted off for repairs after the events. The signs asking people to keep off is a very public admission by the Adelaide City Council of its failure to manage the Park Lands in a sustainable way. This situation reinforces the urgent need for an independent Adelaide Park Lands management authority, removing the existing Adelaide Park Lands Authority from its toothless existence as an advisory committee to a heavily conflicted Adelaide City Council.

Philip Groves

A Paine by name, a pain by nature

The executive director of the SA division of the Property Council, Nathan Paine, took up that role in 2006. Prior to joining the Property Council, Mr Paine worked for Paul Holloway (now Minister for Urban Development and Planning), Business SA and the Motor Trade Association. Mr Paine's brief appears to include denigrating South Australians, councils, councillors and anyone else having the temerity to question anything to do with planning and development in the city or the state. The modus operandi for so many members of the Property Council is based on the creed of 'maximum profits in the shortest possible timeframe'. Perhaps Mr Paine's combative style is explained by his background as a bouncer.

Mr Paine's latest belittling of South Australians and SA was on 9 May at the launch of the Draft Regeneration Plan for Victoria Square. *The Advertiser* of 10 May 2010 reported Mr Paine as saying firm action must be taken at the site after years of fruitless talk. He was quoted thus: 'In Adelaide we criticise, complain and get nowhere ... That's why Victoria Square looks the same as it did back in the 1950s ... That's an indictment on every South Australian. If you don't like it, just shut up. Don't kill it for the rest of us'.

My suggestion to Mr Paine: after a short walk west of Victoria Square along Grote Street, he will find the Adelaide Central Bus Station from where regular services to Melbourne depart.

Philip Groves

New park off Frome Road

The rehabilitation of the parcel of alienated Park Land next to the Reid Building off Frome Road is nearing completion. The 1.7ha site required extensive remediation from past uses, such as a military storage site during World War Two, a Motor Trade School and, most recently, a carpark. The site is part of the land originally occupied in 1844 by the South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

This is the most significant return of alienated Park Lands since the Park Terrace wood-yard (Park 27/Tulya Wodli) was returned in 1993. The park will include a new western entrance to the Adelaide Botanic Garden, which opened in 1857. The project's budget of approximately \$4 million comprises \$2.8 million from the Adelaide City Council and \$1.2 million from the State Government.

The Adelaide City Council administration recommended to Council that the name Frome Park/Nellie Raminyemmerin be adopted in recognition of Captain Edward Charles Frome, successor to Colonel William Light as Surveyor-General in 1840, and Nellie Raminyemmerin who was the daughter of Ityamaitpinna (King Rodney) and sister of Ivaritji, one of the Kurna people's eight apical ancestors. This Association welcomes the return of alienated Park Lands, however small, and congratulates the Adelaide City Council and the State Government for their initiative.

Philip Groves



Left: Rymill Park under repair after consistent overuse. Photo taken by Philip Groves, 30 April 2010.

New plan for Victoria Square

A draft Regeneration Masterplan was released on 10 May for Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga. The month-long public consultation finishes on 7 June 2010. At first glance, the masterplan displays some redeeming features. APPA's formal submission will be made against the context of the August 2001 gazettal of the City of Adelaide Historic Layout when it was entered in the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission. The Victoria Square Conservation Area is a significant part of Adelaide's historic layout.

Details of APPA's submission will appear in the next edition of *Park Lands News*.

Members can access the Adelaide City Council website at <www.adelaidecitycouncil.com.au> to view the draft masterplan and download documentation. There is also a dedicated ACC site at <www.victoriasquareadelaide.com> where interactive details of the plan can be viewed. Alternatively, hard copy documents are available from the Adelaide City Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries and community centres.

Philip Groves

McAdelaide Stadium STOP PRESS

State Government funding has entered McBottomless pit territory, rising from \$300m in December 2009 to approximately \$550m close to the end of May 2010. Mike ('\$450m and not a penny more') Rann and Treasurer Foley continue to plumb new depths of the lack of accountability to taxpayers.

Philip Groves

New Adelaide Park Lands Trail footbridge

Stage 5 of the Adelaide Park Lands Trail was officially completed with the 18 February opening of a new footbridge linking northern Adelaide and Botanic Park. The footbridge provides walkers, joggers and cyclists with a new route to access the city and its attractions, not the least being the ambiance and sensual pleasures of the Adelaide Park Lands.

The joint opening was conducted by Lord Mayor Michael Harbison and the Minister for Urban Development and Planning Paul Holloway. The \$1 million, twenty-seven metre long footbridge crosses the River Torrens in Park 11 (Tainmundilla) just west of the Hackney Road Bridge. After crossing the footbridge from the north, users can then easily access Botanic Park, the Botanical Gardens and the Adelaide Zoo.

In commenting on the new footbridge in Council's media release, the Lord Mayor

said 'I encourage people to make use of the Trail as it is a family-friendly place to go whether it is for a bike ride or just a stroll around the City's picturesque Park Lands'. The Planning Minister commented that 'The State Government is proud to have contributed more than \$1.5 million towards the development of the Park Lands Trail through the Planning and Development Fund's open space initiative'.

The Adelaide City Council has yet to adopt a name for the footbridge, unable to settle on one of the many colourful names suggested by members of the public. Perhaps the Adelaide City Council should consider the following. Given Lord Mayor Michael Harbison's propensity to 'ramble' the Adelaide Park Lands, a fitting name could be 'Harbo's Highway'.

Philip Groves



*Left:
The new
footbridge
west of
Hackney
Bridge is
an elegant
addition to
the Park
Lands Trail.
Photo taken
by Philip
Groves, 10
February
2010.*

Membership renewals

The 2010–11 membership renewal advice for the membership year 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 will be mailed to all members in early June 2010. When you return your membership form, please advise any changes to your membership details (including e-mail addresses if you receive the *Park Lands News* by e-mail). As always, your prompt renewal would be appreciated as it saves APPA administrative costs in generating 'reminder' notices.

Kelly Henderson speaks to NPPA

Re-printed with permission from *Naracoorte Herald*.

A strong turnout heard an excellent guest speaker at Naracoorte Parklands Preservation Association's annual meeting on 22 April 2010. Adelaide Park Lands Association president Kelly Henderson, who had also visited some local schools, addressed the gathering, which included several guests who had come to hear her speak.

The meeting re-elected Anne Hannaford as president, with the rest of the committee comprising Treasurer Chris McDonald, Secretary John Flynn, Eugene Dunstan, Ted Limbert, Heather Kriesl, Jan Malpas, Brian Sherlock and Jane Waters.

Mrs Hannaford in her annual report urged people to continue their support 'so the parklands, this marvellous heritage we have, is maintained for future generations'.

Secretary Mr Flynn wrote the following report on the meeting:

'Ms Henderson gave a brief historical perspective as to how Adelaide, and for that matter most government-planned SA towns, were planned to feature parks. The role of Colonel William Light, the first Surveyor General, who was also one of the first parklands protectors, figured prominently in this part of her address.

Her next focus of attention was on the APPA itself, its objectives and where it had been successful. She stressed it was only because of ordinary people being prepared to organise and act that we had as much of our parks remaining as we do.

Some other colonies, later to become cities, have not been so fortunate. Christchurch,

New Zealand, for example, established on similar principles as Adelaide, has lost most of its parks. A previous government had seen fit to use parklands as a ready source of land for inner urban housing.

Ms Henderson then went on to explain some of the immediate problems threatening the Adelaide parklands. She was able to give insight into the machinations involved with Adelaide Oval development, the alternative Royal Adelaide Hospital sites being proposed and the harmful effects of recycled water delivered via the Glenelg Adelaide Pipeline.

Proposals are in the air for using the Park Lands for stormwater mitigation and developing the River Torrens area into a precinct similar to Melbourne's Southbank. Administrative changes have been implemented allowing more and more of this type of development to occur without it being open to public scrutiny.

Ms Henderson has only recently returned from Sydney where she was a contributor to the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Congress, speaking on the potential World Heritage values of William Light's plan at the pre-congress history workshop, and exhibiting her poster on 'Colonel William Light's Adelaide: the genius of place and plan'.

This was first presented at the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Scientific Symposium, Quebec 2008, and most recently displayed at the NPPA annual meeting.

With her enthusiasm, commitment and use of images to illustrate the point being made, she maintained the interest of those present.'

V8 race in Victoria Park

True to past form, the South Australian Motor Sport Board continues to occupy Victoria Park for six months. The Environment Minister has previously assured APPA that this length of time was to be significantly reduced.

In a new abuse of the Park Lands, the 2010 event included a transportable show home on display for the duration of the event, apparently due to a sponsorship arrangement between the race promoters and a transportable home company! This sets a new low, even for the South Australian Motor Sport Board. According to Adelaide City Council meeting agenda papers, there is at least one councillor, Councillor David Plumridge, who is prepared to challenge this type of promotion. It is completely inappropriate and sets a precedent that could see more and more of Victoria Park degraded by motor sport 'promotional' activities.

Philip Groves

Minister Pat Conlon puts foot in it

Speaking on 11 May from his comfort zone of a luncheon for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia Transport Infrastructure Review, Minister Conlon gave a gathering of major project heads and assorted business types the benefit of his extensive Adelaide Park Lands knowledge. Quoted in *The Advertiser* of 12 May 2010 (p 11), Minister Conlon said 'The parklands, a great deal of it, resemble the paddock you used to keep the cows in before going off to the abattoirs. We've got to do something about that, in my opinion.' Perhaps the Minister, henceforth to be known as 'Cow Pat Conlon', should lunch less and do what large numbers of South Australians do which is recreate in the Adelaide Park Lands at lunchtime.

Philip Groves

Kelly Henderson speaks to the grade 3/4 class of Naracoorte South Primary School. Photo taken 22 April 2010; used with permission from Naracoorte Herald.



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Gunta Groves

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The continuing saga of SACA soil

Following the revelations of the SACA soil dumping on Adelaide Oval Number 2 (see September and December 2009 editions of *Park Lands News*), the story has taken another twist with most of the soil being trucked away from Oval Number 2 by the end of April 2010. The Adelaide City Council had previously 'legalised' SACA's illegal action by granting SACA retrospective approval to stockpile the soil until 31 October 2010, at the same time adding insult to injury by reducing the applicable storage fees by a factor of 90 per cent.

The removal of the soil stockpile was accommodated by the removal of some trees from the roadside verge, allowing dump trucks to create a crossover from Oval Number 2 directly onto Montefiore Road. The removal of the soil now poses further questions:

- Why was the soil dumped on Oval Number 2 in May 2009, only to be trucked away in April 2010?
- What conditions did the Adelaide City Council attach to the removal of an estimated 20 000 tonnes of Park Lands soil, which was originally from the Adelaide Oval?
- Who is the beneficiary of any proceeds resulting from the removal of this large volume of Park Lands soil, which is being processed by a commercial firm for re-use?

- Was the potential for discovery of historical artefacts in the soil considered by the Adelaide City Council as part of its responsibilities as managers and custodians of the Adelaide Park Lands?

APPA will seek answers to these matters, just as we will continue to pursue answers to the legality or otherwise of the roles played by SACA, the Adelaide City Council and the Environment Protection Authority in this whole shabby process.

Philip Groves

Footnote: No sooner was most of the soil removed from Oval Number 2 than

the project builder for the western grandstand development at the Adelaide Oval, Built Environs Pty Ltd, started storing very large steel elements of infrastructure over hitherto undamaged areas of Oval Number 2. SACA and its builders clearly think they can do as they please on the Park Lands. Is there another retrospective approval from the Adelaide City Council on its way?

Below: One abuse going out and another abuse coming in on Oval No 2. As the huge piles of soil are taken away, the builders of the western grandstand begin using the area as a construction site (in addition to the area allocated as a work site). Taken by Philip Groves on 30 April 2010.



NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2010–11
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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

06/10

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secretary. If you
are interested or
know someone who
might be, please
contact the
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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.