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President's letter

I hope that you all had an enjoyable and safe holiday and congratulate Ian Gillfillan on his appointment as Gunta Groves' deputy on the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) Board. I also thank Minister Paul Caica for his consideration of the Association's recommendation.

Apart from this welcome news, I regret to report that the lead-up to Christmas and the New Year delivered disappointments for the Park Lands. 'Rare' State Conservation-rated remnant native grasses are threatened by gazettal of an expanded Clipsal 500 'declared area'. We received Council's ill-informed draft Landscape Master Plan, bizarre proposals for north-eastern Parks 4 and 5, and Government's release of its New Royal Adelaide Hospital Planning Statement and unnecessary road widening into Park Terrace Park Lands.

The startling claim that the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* prevents Council's opposing the alienation of Park Lands for road-widening is surely mistaken. While purporting to be 'An Act ... to provide for the protection of' Adelaide's Park Lands 'to be preserved as an urban park for present and future generations', the legislation is being used to achieve unprecedented executive destruction of our Park Lands. Surely the Council does not have to stand idle nor assist in pillaging them? Similarly, the *South Australian Motor Sport Act 1985*

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: Windmill Grass bathed in sunlight in Park 24. Photo taken by Kelly Henderson in January 2011.

does not stop Council from preventing destruction of rare and remnant native species or protecting Victoria and Rymill Parks as part of the Adelaide Park Lands National Heritage Place.

The first tasks of the new Council should be to restore the integrity of the City's open-space system, rectify Council-inflicted damage and repel new proposed incursions by the Departments of Health, Transport, Education, Environment, Police, Premier and Cabinet, and the SA Motor Sport Board. Such incursions include:

- SA Health's attempted re-alienation of the Park Lands railyards and Council lease of unalienated Park Lands (to facilitate thousands of square metres of multistorey subterranean carparking for a private consortium's hospital)
- the Adelaide High School's five (all involving Park Lands) expansion options
- the SAPOL Road Safety School's relocation from its Adelaide Railyards location to Thebarton Police Barracks and Bonython Park
- the Botanic Gardens' 'wetland' excavation project
- Adelaide University's multistorey construction on the spoil of the historic Union Hall
- the AFL's targeting of Adelaide Oval and the Riverbank
- the SA Motor Sport Board's expanding 'declared area' and contempt for Victoria and Rymill Parks.

With all due respect to the Lord Mayor, who commendably kept APLA's January meeting in open public session despite the new RAH's proponents' preference for secrecy, there is a difference between proper 'use' of the Park Lands and Government's squatting and maladministration. Rather than construct a 'wellness' precinct or increasing 'the use of the Park Lands' to help 'spread the road-safety message', the most fitting gift to the City to mark its 175th anniversary would be fast-tracking return of Park Lands and removal of government departments via the nearest exit.



If we are to become a sustainable society, as I believe our new Lord Mayor envisages, then Council and Government have some serious work ahead to rout existing and projected abuses of the Park Lands. This is easily achievable with some basic principles, and a ready-made template exists for establishing an Independent Trust to conserve the Park Lands. At APLA's January meeting, Gunta Groves made the point that the Corporation of the City of Adelaide was originally constituted to have the care, control and management of the Park Lands by providing that 'it shall not be lawful for the City Council to sell, alienate, or lease said reserves in any way or manner to use them, or suffer them to be used, contrary to the purposes for which they have been so set apart'.

The attitude that Adelaide's piece of country must be urbanised to 'activate' it is in sharp contrast to Ebenezer Howard's view that for vitality a community must combine the advantages of urban and country life. At least we can draw comfort from the evidence of nature's powers of recovery; several damaged areas, benefiting from years of benign neglect, have naturally regenerated and, since my last report to the membership, we have recorded hundreds of data points for remnant species to contribute to the Nature Conservation Society's Biological Survey of the Adelaide Park Lands. These inspirational places within the Park Lands are a timely reminder of the value of perseverance and triumph over adversity.

Kelly Henderson

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

30 April 2011

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

2010 Feast Festival and Light Square

The 2010 Adelaide City Council-sponsored Feast Festival was staged in Light Square despite persuasive submissions from APPA and others, who opposed this use of Light Square by the Adelaide Lesbian and Gay Cultural Festival Incorporated. The December 2010 edition of *Park Lands News* carried details of APPA's objections to this use of Light Square. Many issues of concern caused by this use of Light Square were observed and reported to the ACC, and a summary is provided below:

1. No protective barriers in place for the Light Monument
2. No tree protection zones
3. Equipment was shunted hard up against trunks of trees
4. Marquees were shunted hard up against trees
5. Cables were run hard up against trees, including ones under strain
6. Trees were being used to run power cables through the air; the electrical cables were run to the tree, up the trunk, then tied to the branches and strung through the tree canopies. Birds were nesting in these trees at the time
7. Obvious signs of widespread soil compaction, trampling and unconstrained vehicle tracks
8. Council had presumably set no heavy-vehicle load limit on the Square—a large semi-trailer was standing on-site inside the fence-line
9. The central south pathway was fenced off, preventing pedestrian access through the middle of the Square from the Morphett Street pedestrian crossing lights. This left pedestrians stranded against a fence after crossing at the lights, and then forced the pedestrians to walk around the edge of the Square between the fence and the roadway
10. People on the site said the Adelaide City Council issued them with a permit to camp overnight on the Square, and they were camped overnight in a caravan until the ACC

revoked the permission previously granted. The caravan remained on-site for the duration of the event, however

11. Waste dumping—the liquid sewage hose from the caravan was run out onto Light Square
12. HAZCHEM gas canister labelled as 'DANGER' and must be 'SECURED AT ALL TIMES' was standing up against the trunk of a tree in the open park of Light Square, completely unsecured outside the fenced areas, with a 'safe bucket' full of sand at the foot of the opposite side of the tree
13. In full public view, outside of the lease area, was extensive third-party advertising of alcohol including the following brands: Carlton Draft Brewery Fresh, Carlton Dry, Carlton Corona, Yellow Glen, Carlton Natural Instinct Superior Dry Lager, Crown Lager, Bulmers Original Cider, Original Blonde Now in Cans
14. The Square is a declared dry area under the Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas—Long Term) Regulations 1997 under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*
15. Third-party advertising is not permitted if it can be viewed from outside the site. Not to be outdone and obviously proud of their sponsorship, the ACC logos were prominently displayed around the outside and the inside of the fenced areas.

This account of an event on the Park Lands is not an attempt to nitpick the organisers of the Feast Festival, although it is patently obvious they need to lift their game. Rather, it serves to give members and readers some idea of what is happening in and to our Park Lands from events, remembering that there are hundreds of events approved annually by the ACC. Whether the events run for a single day, or days, or weeks, or months, the way in which they are managed (or not managed) is profoundly impacting the Adelaide Park Lands and the public's use of them.

Philip Groves

Late news:

The City of Adelaide 2011 Australia Day Awards were presented by LM Yarwood at the Adelaide Town Hall on 26 January. The awards were presented for three categories to local citizens or groups that had made a significant contribution in 2010 or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years.

The Citizen of the Year Award went to Margie Fischer, the Artistic Director of the Feast Festival. Our congratulations to Margie. No, the Feast Festival did not win *The Community Event of the Year Award*; that went to the 2010 Malaysian Carnival, held on 12 September 2010, which showcased Malaysian culture and racial diversity, and promoted social integration.

The Young Citizen of the Year Award went to Julian O'Shea, named Australia's 15th Most Inspiring Engineer, who volunteers for Engineers Without Borders.

Dulcie Jay passes

Dulcie Jay, who was a long-time member of APPA, died in February after a long illness. She is remembered by all those who knew her as a very dear, unassuming woman with a lively wit and strong sense of justice, particularly as it applied to protection of the Park Lands.

She served on APPA's committee for several years and as Treasurer in '94, '95 and '96. The committee enjoyed her hospitality for our meetings over many of those years, during which, although caring for her bedbound husband, she always provided a beautiful supper. She earned our deep affection and admiration.

Ian Gilfillan
Former Chair of the Committee

Is Rex Jory right?

Well-known Adelaide journalist and writer Rex Jory has suggested:

*South Australians seem to have lost the appetite to fight to preserve Adelaide's Park Lands. It's as if we have been worn down by the pernicious demands of governments and developers to nibble away at our unique city green belt' ('Rex Jory at large', *The Advertiser* 29 November 2010).*

He also suggested:

We no longer care that the city's lungs have, over the years, slowly been filled with bricks and concrete. The insidious march of cement-grey across the green grasslands and forests seem inexorable. It must stop ... The responsibility for the Park Lands ultimately lies with State Government and the recently-elected Adelaide City Council.

He praised the previous Adelaide City Council for its 'surprisingly tenacious resolve' in its opposition to Government plans to build a corporate entertainment 'grandstand' for the benefit of commercial motor-racing and horse-racing interests in Victoria Park. Mr Jory maintains it is 'the people who have the loudest voice, the greatest capacity to have poor decisions—based on short-term economic and political convenience reversed'. He suggests that it is a voice rarely heard today, along with that of the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association and its 'strident and outspoken campaigners of a quarter of a century ago'.

I think Mr Jory has little knowledge of the role played by APPA in influencing the Adelaide City Council to deny State Government a long-term lease for the proposed corporate entertainment complex at Victoria Park. Perhaps Mr Jory did not realise, or has forgotten, the extraordinary tactics used by State Government, led by Kevin Foley, and the Adelaide City Council, led by Lord Mayor Michael Harbison, to force Adelaide City Council's approval of the lease. Of course *The Advertiser* lent its full commercial weight to the development proposal as well. It was halted only because this Association, supported by like-minded bodies, galvanised massive public opposition to the proposal and left the Adelaide City Council no choice but to reject the proposal, which the

newly-elected 2007 Council did with a 9–2 vote. It remains the largest campaign ever mounted by APPA (or any of its predecessors), and its most successful.

So how do we measure the appetite to fight for the preservation of Adelaide's Park Lands when the debate is so demonstrably one-sided? Rex Jory failed to identify his employer, Advertiser Newspapers, as one of the entities making pernicious demands over the Park Lands with an unremitting pro-Park Lands development campaign for at least the past ten years. The newspaper's stance curiously tracks the Rann Labor Government's ambitions for Park Lands developments, yet the Rann Labor Government came to power in 2002 promising legislative protection and no more developments for the Adelaide Park Lands. It also promised the preservation of other publicly-owned open spaces.

The Advertiser's decade-long pro-commercial development campaign for the Adelaide Park Lands has been characterised by demonising, marginalising and belittling any individuals or organisations with an opposing view. At the same time, the development lobby has been measurably over-represented in its pages. Much of the other commercial media in Adelaide, some of which have ties to *The Advertiser*, have followed suit.

I would suggest to Rex Jory that the public's appetite (and certainly APPA's) for the preservation of the Adelaide Park Lands is stronger than ever before. The shared difficulty we have is getting our voices heard in a monopolistic (and duplicitous) media, and a State Government whose Ministers sneeringly dismiss public opinion on Park Lands and other public lands issues. Rex Jory should be asking why the Rann Government created the utterly toothless and unfunded Adelaide Park Lands Authority, which was the least preferred model chosen by the respondents to the public consultation for the protection of the Adelaide Park Lands.

Recommendations of the Authority's Board (it has only advisory powers) are regularly ignored by the State Government and the Adelaide City Council—the Board doesn't even meet regularly because of State Government and ACC ineptitude (or worse) in

appointing and gazetting Board members. Meetings are cancelled or changed, and both Board members and interested members of the public are 'jerked around' by changes to meeting times.

Unfortunately, this Labor Government is not alone in its attitude. The Liberal Opposition in South Australia is as untrustworthy as the Rann Labor Government when it comes to meaningful and enforceable protection of our Park Lands and open spaces, given their past record and present policies.

The vast majority of South Australians want to see the Adelaide Park Lands and other publicly-owned open spaces preserved in perpetuity. It cannot be the sole province of individual citizens and associations like APPA to make this a reality. Although ownership of the Adelaide Park Lands is vested in the citizens of Adelaide, this fact has failed to prevent Government and Council from hiving off portion after portion of the Park Lands for their own purposes. State Government even issues Torrens titles over parts of the Park Lands to its own departments! Various bodies occupying parts of the Park Lands behave as if they are the freehold owners, whilst paying no rates and taxes and ludicrously low leasing fees to the Adelaide City Council. It is APPA's long-held view that the ownership matter must be legally defined once and for all.

Surely the time has now arrived for a new political party in South Australia to advocate and legislate for legal clarity over the ownership issue of the Adelaide Park Lands and to create a dedicated trust to manage the wellbeing of the Park Lands, free of governmental tampering and development. Such a party would have universal appeal to South Australian voters and it would also champion legislation to prevent the wholesale selling off of our publicly-owned open spaces and the urbanisation of important food production rural land in South Australia. It would provide South Australians with a voice in Parliament that is sadly lacking at the moment. APPA would like to see that. Perhaps Rex Jory would care to be one of the candidates?

Philip Groves

The threat to Adelaide Oval: Continued

Publicly, little has changed since our last coverage of the proposed Adelaide Oval redevelopment in the December 2010 *Park Lands News*. SACA President Ian McLachlan remains bunkered down, as does his SANFL counterpart Leigh Whicker. Either they have nothing to say, which is unusual for these two men, or they may be under orders from State Infrastructure Minister 'Cow Pat' Conlon to remain silent. Minister Conlon has been handballed the proposal now that the dimmer switch has been turned down on Treasurer Foley's illustrious career.

Numerous deadlines have come and gone for agreement on this proposed redevelopment. State Government's August 2010 ultimatum for a SACA-SANFL agreement is a distant memory. In September 2010, SACA foreshadowed a November 2010 special general meeting to enable SACA members a vote on the proposal. This came to nothing. In early February 2011, SACA is still saying it is not in a position to present members with any meaningful information for them to consider. The one thing we can be sure of is that, behind the scenes, the Rann Government 'development style' will be being applied to the Adelaide City Council, this time partnered by the rapacious commercial interests of SACA and the SANFL.

Australia's bid for the 2018 World Soccer Cup (subsequently dropped in favour of a bid for the 2022 Cup) was revealed to be just a pipedream when Australia's bid received only a single vote. With it went State Government's dream of obtaining some Federal Government money for the proposed redevelopment, and that was before rebuilding from the catastrophic

Queensland and Victorian floods began soaking up massive amounts of Federal Government funds. Minister Conlon has denied there was any reliance on federal money. Costs for the proposal remain as clouded (and hidden) as ever. South Australian taxpayers, who are being asked to foot the bill for a stadium they would have little access to, are being kept in the dark regarding likely costs by the State Government. SACA members continue to be kept in the dark by the SACA Board of Management concerning the state of SACA's finances. Some SACA members are so concerned about the withholding of financial information by the SACA Board of Management that they are wondering if SACA is even solvent. There is an increasing likelihood of some SACA members calling their own special general meeting to force full financial disclosure of SACA's affairs by the SACA Board of Management.

Recent events conducted at the Adelaide Oval have proven what many people either know or suspected—an Adelaide Oval capacity of more than 40,000 is simply not sustainable in the Park 26 precinct. The January 2011 T20 match between Australia and England had about 34,000 patrons and demonstrated just how difficult the location is for crowds of that size. There was traffic gridlock from road closures in the surrounding roadways and general pedestrian mayhem. For regular football crowds of up to 50,000 there would have to be a curfew placed on the rest of the city to enable orderly access and egress from the precinct. Even then it would be like the annual V8 car race and its effect on city traffic flow, only it would be on a weekly basis (or more) for months of the year.

Writing in *The Advertiser* on 22 January 2011, Graham Cornes continued his analysis of falling crowds at Football Park and dwindling memberships at South Australia's two AFL clubs. The vested interests that are pushing for a taxpayer-funded redevelopment of Adelaide Oval, and who are claiming it will be the salvation of AFL football woes in South Australia, are selling a falsity. Graham Cornes identifies the main issues for AFL in South Australia as revolving around AFL-controlled match scheduling and the televising of games. Why on earth is that a problem for members of SACA and South Australian taxpayers? Simply relocating the underlying problem would change nothing. In fact, Graham Cornes had this to say:

Perhaps it's time for some home truths. Football Park has the best surface in Australia. The worst seats at Football Park are better than some of the good seats at the MCG and Adelaide Oval. It is easier to get to the toilets at Footy Park than either of those other two iconic grounds. Most importantly, it's ours and it's our home.

And if it does come down to toilets, the brains trust at the South Australian Cricket Association have just spent well in excess of \$100 million on the new members' western grandstand. The main members' bar holds around two hundred patrons—two hundred patrons with above average-sized bladders, presumably, as the bar has no toilets.

*Philip Groves
(Long-standing SACA member)*

ADVANCE NOTICE

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING*

Sunday 17 April 2011

10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. start

Box Factory Community Centre Regent Room
59 Regent Street South, Adelaide

Light refreshments available from 9.30 a.m.

*Further details will be mailed to members during March 2011

Vibrant adjectival redundancies (And Freudian slips from the Adelaide City Council)

The use of the words 'vibrant' and 'vibrancy' has reached epidemic proportions in South Australia. Surely the origin of this epidemic must lie with the Premier's Media Unit; if it doesn't, it should, given that the words are usually used in cringe-making contexts. They are the favourite words of

The Advertiser's editorial and other writers, especially when writing about the city and its events. Of course, it is *de rigueur* for events to be 'vibrant' (and generate and/or bring 'vibrancy' to the city) or else forget it. Regular editorials and stories about the Adelaide Park Lands insist that Park Land development equates with 'vibrancy'. It appears that usage of the words 'vibrant' and 'vibrancy' is compulsory in the real estate and property development industries. Usage of the words is routine in polli- and council-speak.

Any more 'vibrancy' and we will all need a course of tranquillisers.

The Adelaide City Council has streaked to the head of the field with its creation of a 'City Vibrancy Committee' to deliver for the city a 'vibrant and exciting future'.

(Did you spot the redundancy?) A recent ACC job advertisement in the local press called for applications for an 'Event Consultant, Vibrant City' and, amongst the qualifications sought from the job applicants, were tertiary qualifications in Event Management, Tourism, Marketing or a related discipline. And I always believed the only qualification required to work in the ACC's events department was how to wield a rubber stamp. Surely it is only a matter of time before our educational institutions see the need for a degree or diploma course in vibrancy. The advertisement said of the successful candidate:

You will be responsible for the successful coordination and implementation of significant events for the Adelaide City Council and the facilitation of events for users and hirers of Council Park Lands and facilities.

Did you spot the Freudian slip in the above? Rather than employing more rubber stamp wielders, it would be far more beneficial for the Park Lands if the Adelaide City Council employed some dedicated 'events compliance' officers to

ensure events staged in the Park Lands comply with the event conditions set by Council. The 'Events in the Park Lands Policy and Operating Guidelines', ratified by the previous Council, is just another bit of Council hyperbole unless appropriate resources are provided in the form of compliance officers to oversee events in the Park Lands. Elsewhere in this edition of *Park Lands News*, you will have seen an example of just how effective Council events policy is.

APPA members are invited to submit their own observed examples of the use of 'vibrant' and 'vibrancy' by business, government and local government. Alternatively, if you wish to make up your own entry, APPA will require you to assign the copyright for APPA's exclusive use! Extra points will be awarded if your entry is used in the Park Lands context. A magnum of 2002 Wyndham Estate Cabernet Sauvignon awaits the best entry, as judged by a professional and 'vibrant' editor.

*Philip Groves
'Vibrancy' Department, APPA*

New books of interest

The Adelaide Park Lands: A social history

Adelaide historian Patricia Sumerling's latest book is due for release in March 2011. Pat Sumerling has a formidable reputation as a professional historian, researcher, specialist hotel historian, heritage survey consultant and past historian for the Adelaide City Council.

Some of Pat's previous works include *Heritage of the City of Adelaide* (which she co-authored), *The West End in William Shakespeare's Adelaide 1860–1930*, and *Down at the Local: A history of the hotels of Norwood, Kensington and Kent Town*.

In *The Adelaide Park Lands: A social history*, Pat's easy-to-read style presents the cultural and social history of the Adelaide Park Lands, filling in what is something of a gap in our knowledge of them. In her introduction, Pat explains

how the history is divided into two parts. The first part describes how people have used the Park Lands and includes their use as a place to live—both legally and illegally. Activities such as weddings, royal visits, bowls, netball and golf (and other sports), even during the era of 'continental Sundays' between the late 1930s and 1967, are highlighted. 'Continental Sundays' are so-called because Europeans did not close down their places of entertainment or refrain from playing sport on Sundays. Less known, but now addressed for the first time, are the sexual activities that have taken place on the Park Lands. Also included under 'activities' are events such as Aboriginal 'corroborees', public executions, high-wire tightrope walkers, circuses, balloonists, ostrich races, push-button birds, birdman rallies, grand prix and the building of air-raid shelters.

Part two of the book examines the physical development of the Park Lands,

from 1837 to the present day. Liberally illustrated with archival cartoons, photographs and newspaper advertisements, the work is complete with extensive references and a comprehensive chronology. For present-day Park Lands preservationists, the book reveals how little time was wasted by the early settlers in alienating and reducing the original 931 hectare belt of Park Lands by nearly 243 hectares, all within a single generation. Some things never change.

The Adelaide Park Lands: A social history is published by the worthy Adelaide publishing house Wakefield Press. Expect to find the book in bookshops sometime in March 2011, or contact Wakefield Press on 8362 8800 and through the website, <www.wakefieldpress.com.au>.

(Continued on page 7)

New books of interest

(Continued from page 6)

A thorn in the side: The story of a community's struggle to conserve North Adelaide's heritage character

This account of the history of the North Adelaide Society has been written by Adelaide journalist, writer and editor John Bridgland, who is the Society's long-standing honorary secretary. This could be the story of any number of Australian inner-city suburbs, and no doubt many of those communities wish they were as successful as the North Adelaide Society has been in advocating for its community.

John Bridgland tells the story of the Society's forty-year history, providing his insider's view of the Society as its honorary secretary for the past ten years while maintaining great objectivity. This is a definitive account of how a persistent group of people can achieve great things for their community despite chicanery from State and Local Government and the development industry.

In the book's foreword, long-time North Adelaide Society Chairman Ed Briedis tells readers:

I am particularly proud that the Society has survived continuously for forty years, with the same intent, same purpose and same vigour in reminding those in all tiers of government of their obligation to represent those taking an active part in civic affairs.

And so say all of us. I personally find the achievements of the North Adelaide Society inspirational. It is a role model for us all. Without its foresight and persistence, North Adelaide would be unrecognisable today. This account of a community's struggle to achieve a balance between heritage and development (or, translated, between liveability and profit), should be compulsory reading for planners, politicians, councillors and developers—especially developers! A copy should be in every North Adelaide household and business. It should be

placed on the syllabus of planning and architectural courses in our tertiary institutions as a textbook example of what community is about.

John Bridgland's compelling account is supported by numerous black and white photographs and illustrations. The book is backed up by comprehensive endnotes and appendices. I recommend the book to all people with a sense of the power of community.

A thorn in the side is published by John Bridgland. It is not a Society publication. Contact John on (08) 8211 8766 or e-mail him at <jbeditor@senet.com.au>. Cheques can be made payable to John Bridgland and mailed to: First floor, 95 Currie Street, Adelaide SA 5000. Cost of the book is \$25 (plus \$3 postage per copy within SA).

Philip Groves

O-Bahn threat to Park Lands diminishes

First announced in the May 2009 federal budget, the \$61 million federal funding to create dedicated bus-lanes for O-Bahn buses (from the termination of the kerb-guided system at Gilberton to the CBD) has undergone some major surgery. While it may be precipitate to pronounce the threat to the Adelaide Park Lands over, current information from the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) confirms that the proposal has been severely modified, if not suffering a near-death experience.

The September 2010 edition of *Park Lands News* (pages 6–7) contained extensive analysis of the proposal. It was critical of the alleged potential benefits of the proposal and highlighted the fact that it had not been subjected to a rigorous cost–benefit analysis. We described how Government was endeavouring to 'blame' the inefficiencies of the O-Bahn system on traffic congestion on Hackney Road and city streets. Part of the plan for widening Hackney Road meant the loss of up to 1800 trees and plants, including up to 100 significant trees from the Park Lands, and the loss of nearly 10,000 square metres of Park Lands bordering Hackney Road.

The DTEI's website's 'Fast facts' about the now modified project states that:

In developing the preferred solution, consideration has been given to minimising the impact on the Park Lands, heritage properties and structures, carparking and access for local business. It also aims to maintain a consistent traffic flow and enhanced safety for general traffic, cyclists and pedestrians.

Minister for Transport 'Cow Pat' Conlon's department has now gone from a proposal that argued it could only be achieved at the cost of 1800 Park Lands trees and 10,000 square metres of Park Lands to:

The Hackney Road link will not have any impact on the 'green space' of Park Lands or Botanic Park, but will require some minor vegetation removals.

The 'minor vegetation removals' include the rose bushes in the median strip of Hackney Road and the grapevines on the western edge of Hackney Road.

Elsewhere under 'Fast facts', it is stated that:

Modification to the Hackney Road median and line-marking is required to develop the central inbound bus-lane. To avoid Park Land acquisition it is necessary to remove kerbside carparking along the length of Hackney Road on the western side. This will result in the loss of thirty existing all-day carparks. Minor road widening will be undertaken on the western side of Hackney Road, resulting in the loss of fifty-four paid all-day carparks. However, an upgraded carparking facility will be created closer to the National Wine Centre in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Botanic Gardens board. This will replace the loss of carparks.

We await the detail of this scheme, as it sounds like the proverbial water-to-wine exercise if no Park Lands are involved.

The DTEI is coy on detail regarding local access, stating:

To ensure an appropriate level of bus priority and safety, some right-turn movements to and from Hackney Road will be removed.

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O-Bahn threat to Park Lands diminishes

(Continued from page 7)

In the absence of detailed information, it is not possible to assess impacts on local residents, but it would appear there will be only two right-turn opportunities for northbound traffic between North Terrace and the Hackney Hotel, one being a right-turn into St Peter's College and the other a right-turn into Richmond Street alongside the Hackney Hotel. Traffic exiting Botanic Park will be able to only turn left onto Hackney Road. There is as yet no indication what cross-over provisions will be made for pedestrians and cyclists wishing to cross Hackney Road to access the Botanic Garden, Botanic Park or the Adelaide Zoo.

The proposed dedicated O-Bahn bus-lanes down Grenfell and Currie Streets have been scrapped. It is planned to widen footpaths in parts of Grenfell and Currie Streets to install several 'gated stations' where commuters could validate their tickets prior to entering the waiting areas to make bus boarding faster. There remain potential risks to Hindmarsh Square and Light Square Park Lands if footpath-widening in their vicinity proposed to excise parts of the Squares. State Government is apparently now in negotiation with the Federal Government

to 'redistribute' some of the \$61 million project funds along the guided-rail section of the O-Bahn busway, including the Paradise and Tea Tree Plaza interchange stations.

The Transport Department's project executive was quoted in the *City Messenger* of 15 December 2010 as saying:

There's some better value in spending the money in other ways, which could include that [station upgrades] ... There could be gated stations there and also some parking [improvements].

It has only taken the State Government nearly two years to reach the conclusion that others, including APPA, have known all along—the answer to making the O-Bahn system more efficient rests with ticketing and passenger-loading improvements, not creating problems for other users of our public roads to make the O-Bahn buses' passage on public roads faster. We are still waiting for the public consultation as at late January 2010.

Philip Groves

Park Lands battlegrounds

After ignoring the majority call for an Independent Park Lands Trust and the passage of the infamous *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*, the Rann Government has waged a shameful war on open space, turning Adelaide's Park Lands into a modern-day territorial battleground for its 175th anniversary celebrations.

No site better illustrates this than the Railyards and Riverbank proposals, where Government is seeking to alienate and re-alienate swathes of Park Lands for private profit, as well as trying to annex unalienated Park Lands on North Terrace with a nefarious lease (being negotiated by a strangely complicit Council). Government has ignored the electorate's culling of its previous Minister for Adelaide and proven itself unfit for office—contemptuous of all people, Park Lands and the rule of law, and engaged in an unjust war.

The Park Lands site where the Department of Health and others envisage palatial high-rise accommodations will confer no glory on its destroyers. A greater abuse of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage could not be envisaged in South Australia than this scouring of the City of Adelaide's foundations and its most significant historic battlefield.

Long before European settlement of the land that Glenelg, St Leonards and Somerton stand upon was 'the battleground of rival tribes' and 'the scene of many a fierce and stubborn fight' between 'Murray and Encounter Bay blacks'—the 'soil of few battlefields is more rich in human skulls "in fair fight crackt"'¹. The City of Adelaide's most significant territorial battle occurred on Park Lands now alienated by the SA Government, between North Terrace and the River Torrens.

(Continued on page 9 and 10)

STOP PRESS: O-Bahn threat goes away

On 27 January 2011, Federal Government announced the withdrawal of funding for the dedicated bus-lane extension of the O-Bahn service. Federal Government linked the withdrawal of funding for the O-Bahn to the necessity of diverting funds for the rebuilding of flood-ravaged Queensland and Victoria. Some commentators have noted the Gillard Government has cancelled a range of other dubious federal projects, including the cash-for-clunkers scheme, using the Queensland floods as a pretext for separating the Gillard government from the last of the wasteful projects sponsored by her predecessor, Kevin Rudd. The O-Bahn project certainly qualified for the wasteful project category.

The acting State Transport Minister John Hill said State Government was not intending to pick up the tab for the federal project. 'We are obviously very disappointed with this decision on behalf of the residents and commuters of the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide', Mr Hill was reported as saying. The Minister should take comfort that many of the residents and commuters of the inner north-eastern suburbs who were going to be impacted by this proposal will be delighted at the cancellation announcement. Mr Hill said, 'We will continue planning and designs for this important project so it is essentially shovel-ready for Federal Government to fund when economic circumstances permit'. Apparently this project was so 'important' that State Government could not find one cent for it.

I suggest to Mr Hill that the voters of South Australia are also shovel-ready, but unfortunately the next state election is still three years away.

Philip Groves

Park Lands battle- grounds

(Continued from page 8)

On the south bank of the Torrens, a young Boyle Travers Finniss (esteemed Assistant Surveyor to the City's founder and planner, and later Premier of South Australia) witnessed the battle victory of the Rapid Bay (Encounter Bay/Ramindjeri) people, who threw back northern invaders in defence of their territory²:

... Seeing a number of blacks assembling at that point, I repaired to the spot and was met by my old friend Peter, of Rapid Bay, and his tribe. The tribe were in their war paint, each man carrying shield and spear. Peter endeavoured to explain to me that they came to prevent the northern blacks from entering their territory, which seems to have been bounded by the River Torrens. However, Captain Jack, of northern celebrity, had already, with the northern tribes, crossed the river and were engaged in various tactical movements which threatened war.

There must have been at least a hundred blacks preparing for the fight. I saw Captain Jack, spear in hand, capering up and down the river flat in front of his myrmidons, talking very loudly and gesticulating violently. Captain Peter retorted in language which I did not comprehend. At last Captain Jack shook his spear, not at any one, but at a pretended foe, and after a few exclamations threw his spear into the ground, apparently in a great rage. This seemed the signal for combat. Captain Peter warned me to retire as the enemy were about to throw their spears. A few spears came. I stood out of the way of the combatants and watched the result.

My friend Peter was the captain of the southern hosts, evidently the chosen warrior of this tribe. He rushed to the front and threw himself on one knee, covering himself with his shield in the left hand and balancing his spear at arm's length in the right hand. His warriors followed his example and ranged themselves on his right and left, receding so as to form a wedge, of which Peter was the front and apex. It recalled to mind my school-boy recollections of the Grecian phalanx, described by Polybius, and the Greek wedge formation. A shower of spears came from

(Continued on page 10)

Early impressions of the new Adelaide Lord Mayor

The new Adelaide Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood is describing himself 'as his own man' and not following in the footsteps of his predecessor Michael Harbison. He is also displaying a tendency to feel-good popularist cliches. There is a measurable tendency to commit himself, and the Council, to some concerted forelock-tugging in the general direction of the North Terrace bully-boys. We can hope this is only a necessary passing politeness from a 'newbie' to the high table.

This Association, on behalf of thinking South Australians, expects of the new LM that he will uphold and stoutly defend the values of the Adelaide Park Lands. This is his role as the elected head of the body charged with the custodianship, care, control and management of our city and state's priceless asset. Some early signs are that the LM may be a little hasty in embracing Park Lands development proposals, perhaps in a bid to ingratiate himself with certain sections of business and government. We are yet to see a demonstration of his commitment to the preservation of the Park Lands, which was front and centre when he stood for the 2007 Adelaide City Council elections.

Members will no doubt remember the 2007 ACC elections with some satisfaction. Stephen Yarwood was one of eleven area and ward councillors elected that year. Subsequently, nine of the eleven councillors voted against the provision of a long-term lease which would have enabled State Government to construct its infamous corporate entertainment complex for commercial motor-racing and horse-racing interests in Victoria Park.

For the record, the APPA archives have been trawled to re-acquaint ourselves with candidate Yarwood's responses to APPA's questionnaire on the crucial issues related to the Park Lands on the occasion of the 2007 ACC elections. APPA received a surprisingly high response to its questionnaire, with thirty-two of the forty-four candidates responding. Seven YES/NO questions were posed to the candidates, along with two additional questions:

1. Do you believe the Adelaide Park Lands are worth preserving as a special part of Light's City of Adelaide Plan?
2. If elected, will you support the principle of free and unrestricted access of the general public to the Adelaide Park Lands?

3. If elected, will you argue for alienated Park Lands to be returned to open space available to the general public?
4. If elected, will you support National and World Heritage Listing of the Adelaide Park lands?
5. If elected, will you support a review of the Development Plan to strengthen Adelaide Park Lands protection and the restriction of the Park Lands for major commercial events and permanent structures for commercial activities?
6. Do you support the idea of an overall vision statement for the future of the Park Lands in the management plan?
7. If elected, will you vote against Government's proposed development of Victoria Park and, in particular, the proposed permanent 'grandstand' structure and an associated lease?

Candidate Stephen Yarwood answered an unequivocal YES to all seven questions. A summary of Stephen Yarwood's answers to the additional questions follow:

Question: In ten years' time, what would you like to see in the Park Lands?

Plan incorporating diversity and unrestricted community use, network of bicycle/walking paths, education of visitors, playgrounds, water management, native vegetation, accessible and attractive Victoria Square.

Question: What sort of commercial activities would you allow in the Adelaide Park Lands and under what conditions?

Temporary sport and cultural festivals, planned for minimal impacts on biodiversity and community use, which are resourced for monitoring and enforcement.

LM Yarwood will have a never-ending number of Park Land development proposals to deal with. Unfortunately, we have already seen a softening of his resolve on several important proposals. It would not be overstating the fact to say that LM Yarwood's election to the Adelaide City Council in 2007 was very much influenced by his declared position on the Adelaide Park Lands. We believe his Park Lands position also helped propel him to the position of Lord Mayor. The hope is that he does not disappoint his supporters.

Philip Groves

Park Lands battlegrounds

(Continued from page 10)

Captain Jack's party and the wedge grew restive. I could not see if any fell in this short contest, but I presume the northern tribes yielded to their fear of the southern prowess and began to disperse, while Peter rose up with his warriors and again entered into conversation with me, the result being that he was the victor. The northern blacks were tall, lanky figures, very lean and covered with white scales of a scorbutic appearance. I cannot say that they carried shields or that they fought like practised warriors. They were but a mob, while Peter's army were powerful, well-fed blacks, armed with shield

and spear, and apparently well trained to use them.

Whilst other countries recognise and respect their culture and historic battlefields, the new Park Lands hospital and federally-funded multistorey Medical Research Institute wishes to damage, destroy and interfere with not only a Registered Aboriginal Heritage site, but to corrupt the site of 'The Commencement of Colonisation in South Australia' and its vistas across the landscape that determined Light's plan for the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands. Thanks to Government's war on open space and cultural heritage, the

Torrens riverbank is a battleground once again. With lodgement of the Ramindjeri People's Native Title claim in 2010, the Government is a participant, not an onlooker, in the battle for territory from the River Torrens southward that will be fought in the Native Title Tribunal and the Federal Court of Australia.

Kelly Henderson

¹ *Glenelg Illustrated*, 1836–1896, Austaprint Adelaide, 1978, p 5.

² Extracts from the *Reminiscences of the Hon. Boyle Travers Finniss*, MLSA.

'Activity hub' in the north-east Park Lands

In December 2010, the Adelaide City Council announced it was considering 'enhancing' Parks 4 and 5 to meet community needs:

- a youth and family space that could include a bike jump and track component linked to picnic and other activity opportunities
- an enclosed (fenced) area for dogs off leash to provide a safer area for dogs and potentially reduce the risk of dog attacks in the Park Lands.

The ACC release said there is potential to provide both of these facilities within the north-east Park Lands, if there is demand, and that they could be located near each other in one park or located across two parks, but that, before developing design and location options for these facilities, Council was keen to firstly determine:

- whether the community believes it is appropriate to locate the above facilities in the north-east Park Lands
- whether the community has ideas on facility design and location that Council should consider.

Following the initial feedback phase, Council would develop three design options. The design options would be posted on the Council's website for feedback and a site meeting would be held in Kangattilla (Park 40 on Saturday 11 December from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.).

This proposal has its origins in the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy (APLMS) adopted by the ACC in April 2010 which included a recommendation for the 'Identification of youth activity hubs,

including a youth and family space in the north-east Park Lands (Kangattilla/Park4) with off-road bicycle tracks, jumps etc, picnic and community sports facilities (similar to Kurrangga/Park 20)'. The APLMS also has a recommendation for the 'establishment of unfenced dog off-leash recreation areas'.

The ACC's 'community' to be consulted regarding these proposals consisted of 'receiving feedback from key stakeholders including existing park users, school groups and surrounding residents', according to Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood. Council would also seek feedback from 'key interest groups including the North Adelaide Society, North Adelaide Community Centre Committee and the O'Connell Street and Melbourne Street precinct groups'. A letterbox drop was also undertaken inviting surrounding residents to give feedback either by attending the Community Site Day or by viewing the designs on Council's website.

The ACC's constant use of the words 'stakeholder', 'key stakeholder', 'interest group' and 'key interest group' is baffling and inappropriate in reference to Park Lands development proposals. Surely there is only one stakeholder for the community-owned Adelaide Park Lands: the entire community. The ACC's selected targeting of so-called 'key stakeholders' and 'key interest groups' gives Council a greater ability to manipulate outcomes or, at the very least, creates that perception. This 'activity hub' proposal was apparently open to all community members interested in the project, according to an ACC media release. Just how all members of the community were made aware of the proposal is a mystery, and unless you came under one of council's above-mentioned categories of

stakeholder, you would have been out of the loop, as APPA was.

This Association is the only dedicated community-based not-for-profit Adelaide Park Lands advocacy group and was recognised as such by the Federal Government on 7 November 2008. APPA is approaching its twenty-fifth year of advocacy for all of the Park Lands, yet the Adelaide City Council has difficulty recognising our role. APPA should not be placed in the position of learning about Adelaide Park Lands development proposals by media release from the ACC; nor should the rest of the community who are not privileged enough to be included on ACC selected stakeholder lists. When the latest Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga Regeneration Masterplan was announced in May 2010, APPA was not consulted by the ACC prior to the announcement. If APPA had been consulted, some of the errors of fact and draft design faults in the draft plan could have been avoided. The ACC chooses not to consult with APPA over Park Lands development proposals, yet it identified Central Market traders as 'key stakeholders' to be consulted prior to the creation of the draft plan. Surely the ACC staff must have confused 'stakeholder' with 'stall holder'.

APPA believes the Adelaide City Council should at the very least advertise all development proposals for the Adelaide Park Lands in the main newspapers to ensure the widest possible audience. It is not acceptable practice for the ACC to promote its own development proposals and choose target audiences for its own ends. In the meantime, APPA is seriously considering opening a stall at the Central Market to achieve 'stakeholder' status.

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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PO Box 3040
Rundle Mall SA 5000.

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

Gunta Groves

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

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Our NIMBY Premier

Among the many concerns of this Association, the retention of trees in the Adelaide Park Lands is an important one. Therefore, we share the anger of Stepney residents who were distressed at the axing of trees, including a lovely stand of casuarinas at The Avenues Shopping Centre on Nelson Street, Stepney. The casuarinas on the Nelson Street perimeter were a feature of the shopping centre and served to soften and enhance what was otherwise just the bland built form of a featureless suburban shopping centre. It is understood the centre has recently changed ownership, and that there have been incidents of falling branches from some of the eucalypts in carparking areas of the shopping centre.

The axing took place on Boxing Day 2010, and it was reported that at least twenty-three trees were cut down before the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council

(NP & SP) issued a stop-work order to the centre's owner. The issuing of a stop-work order seemed odd, given the remarks attributed to NP & SP Mayor Robert Bria that he didn't see what all the fuss was about as there were no significant trees involved, and all trees were less than three metres in height.

Local Stepney resident Premier Mike Rann said he was 'absolutely appalled' by the felling, which is a laudable reaction by itself. Unfortunately, Premier Rann is not on record as being 'absolutely appalled' at the hundreds of trees, many of them significant and historic, removed by his government from North Terrace Park Lands and Bonython Park for the tramline extension to the Entertainment Centre.

The tramline extension could easily have been accomplished without the wholesale

felling of hundreds of trees in the Adelaide Park Lands and the annexation of more Park Lands. Similarly, Premier Rann was mute on the removal of many trees in Botanic Park to pander to the panda enclosure, the new Adelaide Zoo entrance and increased carparking in Botanic Park. And what of the removal of approximately two hundred magnificent and significant eucalypts and other trees at the Glenside Hospital facility? They not only failed to have Premier Rann as a local resident; their presence and contribution to the health-giving open spaces of Glenside mattered little to the Rann Government, which ordained that a new taxpayer-funded commercial film studio complex, offices and a shopping centre should take their place.

Many South Australians find the conduct of the Rann Government over its destruction of hundreds and hundreds of trees on Park Lands and other public land to be absolutely appalling too.

Philip Groves

Footnote:

It is now known that more than a dozen of the axed trees were well over three metres tall. The NP & SP Mayor should acquire a measuring tape and, in the meantime, it is recommended that Mayor Bria refrain from involvement in building development considerations, given his apparent inability to gauge height differences of below three metres and more than ten metres.

Right: Mature casuarinas were cut down along the edge of The Avenues shopping centre. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 30 December 2010.



NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2010–11
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

03/11

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Secretary: TBA

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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.