

ParkLANDS news

April 2013 Number 50



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President's letter

Dear members and other readers of our Newsletter,

There are some items of good news, some of exciting news and some of reassuring news and if that does not fire up your curiosity then turn to another item.

The good news is that we continue to put out newsletters of admirable quality in content and presentation drawing praise far and wide.

Two items of exciting news. First we are printing a new brochure inviting people to use and enjoy our Park Lands and to join APPA. We are posting all members a copy with the expectation that the brochures will enthuse you to help spread them about. Watch your mail box!

Second is a bold step to organise and run an Art Competition for entries reflecting the Park Lands. Now this is no pip squeak gimmick. It has a first prize of \$20,000 and has been widely applauded by those in the art community who have been let into the secret! It will be a formal professionally run event open to entries of a wide genre; painting, photography and sculpture. It will be open to entrants from around Australia provided they have shown a real and physical contact with the Adelaide Park Lands.

We believe this APPA Art Prize will stun the many indifferent people into realizing the wondrous and irreplaceable quality of our Park Lands. You will hear and see more of this soon. The final judging and exhibition will be in March 2014.

ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Adelaide High School expansion
Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize
Alienated Park Lands and land grabs
Australian Heritage Strategy
Biodiversity and dilapidation surveys
Britannia intersection
Brownhill/Keswick Creek Stormwater Plan
Cirque du Soleil/Park 24 Event Venue
Dying elms and other trees; White Cedar Avenue; War Memorial Oak and Drive
Adelaide Oval Footbridge Interim Operation Development Plan Amendment
Lounder's boat-building shed
'Purple water' regime and damage
Riverbank 'Project' and \$40m footbridge
Royal Adelaide Show car parking
SACA, SANFL, AFL, SMA and DPTI
Adelaide Oval demolition/expansion
World Heritage listing

Cover: *Elder Park looking west to Victoria and Morphett Street Bridges*. Photo taken by K Henderson, 26 March 2013. Rear cover inset: *'Vested Interests'*, The Bunyip; Gawler Times, Northern Advertiser and Gold Fields Reporter, 14 August 1874.

Now for something reassuring. You have a good keen committee in place with some new blood recently joined. Professor Emeritus Damien Mugavin and former Magistrate Jonathan Harry are now with us and vigorously contributing to our work. Damien will be our guest speaker at the AGM in April. From his experience in international cities and inspired appreciation of open space he will give us a presentation you can persuade your friends to come to!

Gunta Groves retired in February as our nominated member on the Adelaide Park Lands Authority and will be replaced by Stephanie Johnston with Jim Daly as her deputy. Gunta has been outstanding in that role and appreciated particularly because of the powerful and informative written reports she distributed after each meeting of the Authority.

There has been some diffidence in welcoming the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* which set up the Authority. I take this opportunity to say that as an MP I was afforded the opportunity to help craft the Act and to guarantee APPA a seat at the Authority. This is the only body dedicated to the cause of the Adelaide Park Lands jointly involving the Adelaide City Council and State Government. It has not been used to the Park Lands' best advantage to date, but I believe the scope for significant improvement is there and indeed in my opinion it is gradually doing so. Helpful and firm pressure from APPA can assist! No time or space to expand on this now.

Ian Gilfillan

WORLD HERITAGE DAY decision: *Park Lands News* to go to the National Library of Australia

On 18 April 2013
periodicals specialists decided
to accession *Park Lands News*
into Australia's national archival
collection, the National Library
of Australia, Canberra.

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE: 27 May 2013

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



Editorial

This 50th issue completes a year of editions since the 2012 AGM, exposing government greed and a council that's made rolling over on Park Lands protection into an art form. With Philip Groves' retirement as contributor-in-chief, we welcome his parting salvo of articles, will miss his high quality copy, and wish Philip and Gunta well. On 18 April 2013, World Heritage day, the National Library of Australia decided to accession *Park Lands News* into Australia's archival collection in Canberra. Achieving this honour is due to members' ongoing support and many contributors, thank you each and all.

Similar success would follow a Park Lands World Heritage nomination. Sadly, this edition shows Adelaide City Council is lagging. Sister city George Town, Penang, was World Heritage listed in 2008; 'Wild' Austin, Texas, conserves natural heritage of an area larger than council-managed Park Lands. Since taking up office, the Lord Mayor's assurances of progressing World Heritage nomination have proven woefully lacking in substance. Given tree-felling chainsaw gangs reported herein, working Pennington Park, riverbanks, and Victoria Square, it seems Premier Weatherill and Lord Mayor Yarwood are vying for top tree-killing tally rather than entry to UNESCO's elite List. Council was custodian of these trees, woodchipped on site by government and council contractors. On Lord Mayor Yarwood's watch, untimely felling and shredding of Victoria Square's historic war memorial trees—first of the RSL's state-wide scheme—de-activated their 75th anniversary. Government's wasteful riverbank footbridge works, wreaking havoc on the Torrens Lake, could have been stopped dead by council, as it required council's consent. By issuing a Park Lands construction 'licence' council de-activated (formerly) treed acres and Black Swan breeding habitat, seemingly

Continued on p 3

Park 21 garden open day



Above: Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood and Jane Manifold, Walyo Yerta Community Garden Open Day Easter Sunday, 31 March 2013, south of Veale Gardens, Park 21. Photos taken by K Henderson, 31 March 2013. Insets: Walyo Yerta signage (left) and Open Day poster (right).

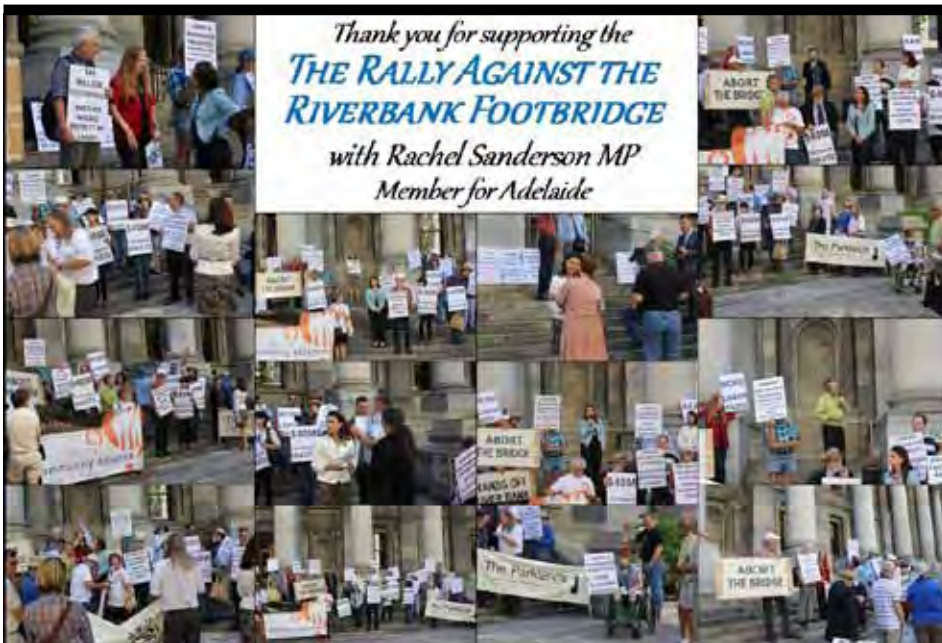
Continued from p 2

too busy with costly 'Splash'ing of vehicles onto Park Lands to 'activate' free environmental protection. Thanks to an Adelaide & Inner Suburbs Branch of the National Trust of SA *Atlas of Living Australia* pilot project, reported by Gary Goland, such losses will be recorded on this national database, described by *The Australian* as 'one of the world's most powerful information systems ... revolutionising biodiversity conservation'.

Courtesy of SkyCity Entertainment Group Limited, readers will see conceptual images of the proposed new casino; from Michael Sando, a Victoria Park fire, and thanks to Airservices Australia's aircraft track diagrams, traces of the unauthorised private helicopter landings in the West Park Lands on 18 December 2012. These were 'permitted' by sporting licence-holder Adelaide High School, reported by Cirque du Soleil's production manager, and not approved by Council.

We thank all correspondents: a 12-year old Dulwich writer taking on Minister Rau; Yoon-Jeong's international viewpoint, and Peter's feisty carbon riposte. Thanks also go to another special contributor, Matthew Stanton, UK director of photography of Simon Terrill's *Crowd Theory Adelaide*, featuring pre-apocalypse Victoria Square and John Dowie's *Three Rivers Fountain*. Matthew kindly permitted publication of his production shoot preparation photographs. *Vale* Victoria Square.

In closing this 50th edition we commend the Lord Mayor and Councillors supporting Lounder's boatshed centenary and invite the Lord Mayor to provide an update on his World Heritage listing activities. —Ed.



Above: Rally against the riverbank footbridge, Parliament House, hosted by Rachel Sanderson MP, Member for Adelaide, 19 March 2013; supported by APPA Inc. and Community Alliance SA Inc. Photo poster courtesy of Rachel Sanderson MP.

Festival Park Lands

During the May 2013 'About Time' History Festival three Park Lands guided tours will be offered by the Adelaide & Inner Suburbs Branch of the National Trust of South Australia. Bookings are required (ph: 0432 989 676), and school class tours are available throughout May by appointment.

Kathleen Patitsas

Branch Chairperson

Adelaide & Inner Suburbs Branch of the National Trust of South Australia

Harry Lounder's Boatshed: 100 years of history on the Torrens

1-2pm Sat 4 and Sun 5 May
Gold coin donation

T Simpson, B. Arch., B. Arch. St.

The boatshed was built in 1913 by boatbuilder J W Greenland specifically for construction of lightweight timber rowing boats. Mr Harry Lounder took over the business in 1937 and continued building boats in the boatshed until 1976, since when the building has served as a base for Popeye launches.



Conflict and conservation in Adelaide's south-west Park Lands

10-11.30am Sat 11 & Sun 12 May
\$10 NTSA Members; \$15 Non-Member

K Patitsas, G Goland, K Henderson

From Gallipoli memorials to modern day conservation, highlighting aspects of the natural and built environment: 1915 Dardanelles monument; Anzac Memorial Wattle Grove; Princess Elizabeth Children's Playground; 'Million Trees' invasion and secret grassland ecology. The circuit's 2nd stage visits Cirque du Soleil's legacy, Wirranendi Bush Care volunteer sites and West Terrace Cemetery.



Radical Adelaide

1.30-3pm Sat 18 & Sun 19 May
\$10 NTSA Members; \$15 Non-Members

Kelly Henderson

North Terrace Park Lands and Torrens River valley walk exploring the City of Adelaide's radical history including: South Australia as a radical Benthamite experiment, landscape, natural, cultural and war memorial heritage, and the starting point for surveys of the City and District of Adelaide.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr Gilfillan,

I sent the letter below because I love living in Dulwich and I enjoy the Victoria Park Park Lands.

*Dear Minister for Planning,
I am 12 years old and I live in Dulwich.*

I understand that there are good and bad sides to the inner Metro growth planning.

I may not be affected now but I know some people love living in Dulwich because it's not like other places.

We don't have tall buildings but we have great hearts.

Hopefully the government will see why most of us don't want big tall building up to 12 stories in our area.

We do want to evolve but not in this way.

Thank You :)

Like you say on your website:

The amenity of the Park Lands should not be impaired by inappropriate development of nearby lands.

Can you help me please?

Dulwich (Name supplied)

International correspondent:¹ Busan, South Korea

On 14 February 2013 Yoon-Jeong, a landscape architecture student of Busan National University, met with APPA President Ian Gilfillan and APPA committee member Emeritus Professor Damien Mugavin (formerly on the staff of Seoul University).

Yoon-Jeong is working on a study of the revitalisation of parks in Busan through citizens' participation. One of the purposes of her paper is to 'describe how to draw citizen's participation on preserving and managing parks effectively' and she was introduced to the Adelaide Park Lands through a Korean newspaper.



Above: Busan landscape architecture student Yoon-Jeong (left), and Haelim (right) with Ian Gilfillan and Damien Mugavin. Photo provided by Yoon-Jeong, 21 February 2013.

Editor's Note: Busan (pr. 'pusan') Metropolitan City is South Korea's largest port city; second largest metropolis after Seoul and has Korea's largest beach and the embouchure of Korea's longest river, Nakdong River.

According to the article, the Park Lands are well reserved as a place for public recreation. Through further research, I found that APPA has played an important role in preserving the Park Lands. I was so impressed by the fact that APPA has drawn citizens' participation on preserving the Park Lands effectively.¹

Yoon-Jeong provided information about Busan's park management and appreciated the information received from APPA.

... Busan is one of major cities in Korea. For 50 years, the number of parks in Busan has been increased and the quality of parks has been improved. However, citizen participation in operating parks is still low. Only the Government and city council have a leading role in operating major parks in Busan. To be cranked up a notch in managing parks, citizen participation is needed.

Fortunately, there is a civil organization named 'Busan Green Trust (BGT)' which is trying to get citizens' voluntary participation. It was established 2008 by citizens and has worked to build partnerships among citizens, enterprises, and government.

Although BGT has taken out citizen participation in some degree, it has difficulties getting deeper and wider participation. In this situation, it needs to study advanced cases and to be advised from professionals.

We need advices about how to draw deeper citizen's participation in an effective way. I believe that APPA, as an advanced case, can give us a valuable advice.

... Through the APPA magazines, which you gave me a couple of days ago, and the meeting, which you arranged for me, I learned more about the APPA and I got valuable ideas which can be applied to my graduate paper. Also, I do believe that your advices will play an important role in improving the civil organization in Busan ... I hope I can show you the improvement of the civil organization in Busan, in the future.

Thank you once again for your helping.

Sincerely yours,

Yoon-Jeong

1. Communications to APPA President, 14 and 22 February 2013.

Two degrees of tree cooling

The thesis of Detlef-Schulze (*Park Lands News* Dec 2012 p 14) is interesting, but I can not accept that soil carbon loss could balance out the great contribution of atmospheric CO₂ to the mass of a young tree. Some readily available facts lead quite simply to evidence of fraud and deceit, and indeed of ignorance, by the protagonists of trees as a means of reducing global warming. Perhaps it needs to be said that a tree removes CO₂ from air by taking it into its structure. It does not act as a 'filter'.

Surely it is common knowledge that the structural mass of a tree, the lignin and cellulose, is practically all derived from atmospheric CO₂, with necessary additions of water and elements from the earth. The latter may well include carbon, but surely in minuscule amounts compared to the mass derived from the atmosphere. Eventually wood consists of, very roughly, 50% water, perhaps 25% other elements (ash and oxygen), and 25% carbon. The figures may well be inaccurate, but not so much as to affect the following conclusion.

A 60 year old tree weighing 10 tons will have fixed in its lifetime 2.5 x 44 / 12 tonnes of CO₂, which is near enough to its own weight. Australia produces over a million tonnes of CO₂ per day, so that a million of these trees weighing in total ten million tonnes at harvest will have removed in 60 years about 10 days worth of CO₂ from the atmosphere. There are 22,000 days in 60 years, so that 22,000 x 100,000 trees planted now will in 60 years time have taken up 60 years worth of CO₂, but 100,000 will have to be planted every day from now on to keep up the good work. This is quite a project, but we could promise the world, and we could chip the timber.

My small backyard is covered by a 17 year old tree. A thermometer in its shade consistently tells me that peak temperatures are two degrees cooler under the tree than they are at the Bureau of Meteorology (Kent Town, Adelaide).

There may be a moral in this. Einstein said that everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.

Peter Stobie

Louder's boatshed centenary Lord Mayoral morning tea

The centenary of Louder's Boatshed on the Torrens Lake was celebrated on Wednesday 13 March 2013 with a 10–11.30am *Popeye* cruise starting and finishing at Harry Louder's boat shed, east of the City Bridge.

The cruise was conducted as a Civic Reception hosted by the office of the Lord Mayor further to council voting:

to retain and restore Louder's Boat shed in accordance with Burra Charter principles and to formally celebrate its Centenary rather than demolish it on the eve of its anniversary.

The Deputy Lord Mayor Michael Llewellyn-Smith spoke on behalf of the Lord Mayor; tour guide Keith Conlon impressed all with his encyclopaedic knowledge of Adelaide history and events, and ABC891's Spence Denny relayed some of the centenary celebration live to air that morning.

Among the guests were State Member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson MP, Harry Louder's daughter Jan Donato, former long-term *Popeye* operator Keith Altmann, and the current owner of the *Popeye* business, Tony Shuman. The event was also attended by guest and architectural consultant Tim Simpson to whom we are indebted for his efforts in providing a comprehensive report detailing the significance of the uniquely constructed early timber boatshed.

The report provided the justification to retain, rather than demolish, this piece of Adelaide's history. It described the shed's unique boat-building construction technique whereby the walls are clad with ship lapped planks laid in such a way that they cup against each other to form a weatherproof seal, and revealed the reason for the shed's sand floor—to enable trestles supporting rowing eights to be levelled easily as part of the traditional boat-building method of the time (*Park Lands News*, October 2012).

We hope to celebrate the reopening of Louder's Boatshed once it has been restored by the Adelaide City Council, in the coming year.

Councillor
Sandy
Wilkinson

City of Adelaide
North Ward
Councillor



Top right: The Lord Mayor's guests celebrate the centenary of Louder's boat-building shed: daughter of Harry Louder, Jan Donato, and former Popeye co-owner 1951–2011, Keith Altmann; (in background, from left) Councillor Sandy Wilkinson, and Deputy Lord Mayor Michael Llewellyn-Smith (representing the Lord Mayor).



Right: View from Popeye of Torrens Lake south bank footbridge construction site, the day before tree removal. Photos taken by Gunta Groves, 13 March 2013.



DPTI dishonours Popeye

On 24 February 2013 in a 'Riverbank Pedestrian Bridge Project' presentation to a Parliamentary Public Works Committee (PWC) public hearing, the Department of Planning Transport and Industry (DPTI) plumbed new depths.

DPTI's luxury SkyCity casino-bound footbridge intends a nine-month mid-Lake closure, cutting the Torrens Lake in two, with no compensation for *Popeye*. It seems as far as DPTI is concerned, the much-beloved small business with which tourists and locals used to cruise the Torrens Lake from the weir to the Zoo, can go die in a ditch.

Despite government having no intention of compensating South Australia's iconic Torrens *Popeye* business, DPTI CEO Rod Hook blandly told the PWC that state government may consider compensation for the commercial operator of the Festival Centre's bistro, Food Business. Will this commercial Park Lands occupant, with reviews citing over-priced food, bad service and short opening hours, be the recipient of government largesse denied to the *Popeye* business?

In any event, the entire PWC process was farcical. The 'public hearing' refused to hear submissions from the public, and seemed intent on rapidly rubber-stamping the Trojan footbridge replete with Park Lands Festival Theatre office suite and commercial restaurant expansion.

Kelly Henderson

Bouquets and sin bins

SA Parliament—Legislative Council

On 20 March 2013, the *Development (Interim Development Control) Amendment Bill 2013*, presented by Mark Parnell MLC, passed the Legislative Council with the support of the Opposition and independents The Hon Kelly Vincent MLC and The Hon Anne Bressington MLC. The Bill seeks to rein in the blackguard *fait accompli* developments delivered by the state government via interim operation of Ministerial Development Plan Amendments (DPAs), such the Adelaide Oval Footbridge DPA.

It seems **APA Group (APA)** spurned their non-Park Lands works depot bouquet (*Park Lands News*, December 2012) and sin binned themselves by erecting an illegitimate APA GasNet compound, without public consultation, in Park 22 (a sensitive area of the Park Lands for rare remnant native vegetation). They occupied, and disturbed, areas publicly known to contain, and mapped by Adelaide City Council as, remnant native vegetation (*Park Lands News* Dec 2012 p6). APA's signage was almost undetectable and possibly intended to be nonexistent, but a parts label smaller than a postcard identified the miscreant Park Lands squatter as 'APA GasNet'.

Kelly Henderson

Did you know?

Victoria Park Grass Fire

On the evening of 15 February 2013 (the Fringe Festival opening night) a grass fire burned through the butterfly conservation zone in southern Victoria Park. Commencing in the east between the inner and outer loops of the former Racecourse, it burned in a westerly direction towards Beaumont Road until the Metropolitan Fire Service arrived, followed later by the Burnside CFS.

Archives indicate that in the 1930s Adelaide City Council used fire in its management of the Park Lands.

Michael Sando



Victoria Park grass fire east of Beaumont Road. Top: north-east of River Red gums; bottom: north of River Red Gums. Mobile phone photos, using torchlight to illuminate smoke and trees, taken by Michael Sando, 15 February 2013.

The Register News Pictorial
Thursday 27 Nov 1930 p1:

FIRST GRASS FIRE OF SEASON SWEEPS SOUTH PARK LANDS

When City Council employes were burning grass in the south parklands yesterday, the fire became uncontrollable in the fierce north wind, and the Fire Brigade had to be called. Elms along Lewis Cohen avenue suffered damage.

Atlas of Park Lands species pilot project

The Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) is an exciting project that Donald Hobern, Peter Doherty, Miles Nichols and others began at CSIRO and ANU in Canberra in 2009. It then also incorporated interests within national museums, and now has the involvement of Alexis Tindall at the SA Museum.

The ALA's web site was established to develop a digital database on incidence and location of species. Enthusiastic response by many who could see the usefulness of such information has seen the site expanded to service access to other databases. The ALA is a source of information about biodiversity across Australia, with an open invitation to you to discover and contribute to species information in your neighbourhood.

www.ala.org.au

There are guidelines to assist the integrity of information offered for recording, so that it can service a range of projects at both an academic and community level.

The Atlas was recently funded by the SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources for hardware and staff training to provide a dedicated facility for the Adelaide urban area.



Above: (top) Wallaby grass and (bottom) Windmill grass on the Adelaide Park Lands, Park 24 'Major event' works site, north of Sir Donald Bradman Drive; over 2,690 remnant native plants surviving Cirque du Soleil's occupation reported to the Atlas of Living Australia. Photos taken by K Henderson, 29 March 2013.

When Peter Brenton (ALA community liaison) came to Adelaide to assist staff in their development of the local web site interface, he also caught up with members of the Adelaide & Inner Suburbs Branch of the National Trust of South Australia and Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association to talk about the potential of community members being involved in discovering what exists in the parks now, and perhaps also incorporate historical reference. Peter was very positive and related how important such a record would be in reference to changes occurring.

Since the departure of Cirque du Soleil, 2690 remnant native plant incidences have been reported to the Atlas of Living Australia for Park 24, on the site where Adelaide City Council proposes to construct an event venue. Photographic data collected at the site is also able to be uploaded to the Atlas to illustrate what is there before the earthworks begin.

Gary Goland

Committee Member
Adelaide & Inner Suburbs Branch of the
National Trust of South Australia

*the Atlas of Living Australia ...
is one of the world's
most powerful biodiversity
information systems.
It is revolutionising
biodiversity conservation.*

Cheryl Jones, 'Budget Threat Stalks Science', *The Australian*,
24 April 2013, p11.

Editor's Note:

On 24 April 2013, Cheryl Jones of *The Australian* reported on scientific research infrastructure under threat because of delays to a federal government decision on a new long-term national scientific infrastructure funding plan, and a 'ministerial revolving door since 2011'. According to Jones:

The infrastructure, across Australia, is central to research ranging from biodiversity conservation to climatology...

... infrastructure at risk [includes] the Atlas of Living Australia, a continuously updated, continent-wide database recording information on plants and animals. With tens of millions of entries, including taxonomic, genetic and species distribution data, it is one of the world's most powerful biodiversity information systems. It is revolutionising biodiversity conservation.

National heritage casino

In late December 2012, concept plans for a \$350 million expansion of the Adelaide Casino were announced.

Operated by New Zealand-owned SkyCity Entertainment Group Limited (SkyCity), the casino already occupies the Adelaide Railway Station on alienated Park Lands. The redevelopment proposal outlined by SkyCity says it will transform Adelaide Casino into a world-class integrated entertainment complex over a four-year building timeline. The expansion would include high-end retail experiences, a six-star boutique hotel, and outstanding signature and celebrity restaurants.

The notable omission in the announcement, claimed by SkyCity to be one of the largest private sector investments in Adelaide, is when did SkyCity acquire the land on which this expansion would be constructed?

From the artist's concepts of the multistorey glass-walled 'world-class' monstrosity, the expansion is intended to be tacked onto the heritage railway building, occupying alienated Park Lands and towering over the Festival Centre complex.

During a radio appearance on 21 December 2012 to discuss the mid-year budget review, the then Treasurer Jack Snelling was asked by a caller how much state government was contributing to SkyCity's proposed casino expansion. 'Not a cent' was Snelling's emphatic reply.

On a later occasion, now departed Infrastructure Minister Patrick 'Cow Pat' Conlon claimed there has been no approach from SkyCity for the land on which to build the proposed expansion, illustrating the Weatherill Government's contempt for the people of South Australia. Not only is it planning to facilitate the casino expansion on community-owned Park Lands, an additional 505 poker machines and 110 more gaming tables are proposed. Unsurprisingly, *The Advertiser* gives the proposal its seal of approval. Its editorial of 20 December 2012 said in part:

The Government expects the transfer of 500 gaming machines from pubs and clubs to the casino will actually reduce the number of machines available to the general public, with the majority of them going into VIP suites for use by tourists.

Only tourists to be exploited? That's all right then.

SA gambling expert Senator Nick Xenophon dispelled *The Advertiser's* curious contention that only 'VIP suites for tourists' would be exploited by this



Right and above: Conceptual images, 19 December 2012, of the proposed SkyCity Adelaide Casino redevelopment, the design of which is not yet finalised.

Images courtesy of SkyCity Entertainment Group Limited.

increase in gaming, explaining¹ that a 'VIP' is defined by the casino as anyone who loses more than \$12,000 a year, meaning that thousands and thousands of vulnerable South Australians are included.

Senator Xenophon says that, according to the Productivity Commission, 95,000 severe pokies addicts lose an average of \$21,000 a year. He noted state government will allow the casino to install, **for the first time**, cashless poker machines, even though studies have shown gamblers lose more when they don't have to physically handle real money. Has there ever been a more immoral government than the Weatherill Labor Government in the history of South Australia?



Above: Detail of frame from SkyCity Entertainment Group Limited flythrough, 19 December 2012, showing proposed Adelaide Casino expansion between the Torrens Lake and Adelaide Railway Station (at far right); proposed footbridge appears at left of image.



Increasing the footprint of the NZ-owned casino operator by handing over yet more community-owned Park Land (for nothing) is obscene. Instead of increasing the presence of this family unfriendly, socially destructive activity, its footprint should be reduced, if not eradicated entirely.

National ALP vice-president Tony Sheldon has said there is a political and moral crisis inside the Labor Party. Quoted in *The Weekend Australian* of 2–3 February 2013,² Mr Sheldon told Young Labor members at their annual conference in Sydney that the party faced a 'catastrophic situation' with its brand damaged by a failure to focus on what matters to members and supporters.

'Our crisis is more than just a crisis of trust brought on by the corrupt behaviour of property scammers and lobbyists' he told the conference, 'It's a crisis of belief brought on by a lack of moral and political purpose.'

Mr Sheldon was referring to the former rotten-to-the-core NSW State Labor Government and present ICAC inquiry, but could just as easily have been referring to the SA Labor Government.

Philip Groves

1. *The Advertiser*, 20 December 2012.
2. 'ALP facing moral crisis: party boss', *The Weekend Australian*, 2–3 February 2013.

Big Top vandals



Above and right: Cirque du Soleil 'OVO' site, Park 24, north of Sir Donald Bradman Drive. Photos taken by G Groves, 10 January 2013.

The Canadian environmental vandal Cirque du Soleil completed its Adelaide season in early January 2013, leaving in its wake the usual degradation of Park Lands. The plateau area of Tambawodli/ Park 24 was the site for this latest abuse of the Park Lands by Cirque du Soleil. The soil in the area between Ellis Park and the Cirque's 'Big Top' location was reduced to the fineness of talcum powder because of Adelaide City Council approval for parking of hundreds of Cirque patrons' cars. The adjoining mini-city area for Cirque's 'Big Top' and attendant logistical support structures and vehicles will see that area degraded for months to come.

The *Sunday Mail* of 9 December 2012¹ quoted a number of Cirque goers, and reported that

Families are angry they have to pay \$15 to park within walking distance of Cirque du Soleil's big top venue in the West Parklands.

'Walking distance' in this case was a few metres from the Park Lands car park to the Cirque 'Big Top'! Real 'walking distance' would have been parking in city streets for free, followed by a short walk across West Terrace.

In the *Sunday Mail* of 9 December 2012, Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood was reported defending the \$15 parking charge, estimated to earn \$250,000 over the month-long, 40-plus performances. The Lord Mayor said the revenue generated from parking fees would be 'invested' back into the Park Lands.

People need to appreciate there will be thousands of cars over many, many days driving over the parklands and that takes its toll', he said. 'We need to make sure

we are able to restore that site afterwards. Fifteen dollars for up to four or five people in a car is an exceptionally small proportion of the cost of a ticket. We spend more money on the parklands than we ever generate from car parking in the parklands by a very substantial margin.

There is no publicly available audit trail for revenue received by the ACC specifically from Park Lands car parking. Therefore, there is no way of corroborating the Lord Mayor's claim that revenue generated from parking fees would be invested back into the Park Lands. Remediating sites desecrated by inappropriate uses is hardly an investment, as the Lord Mayor describes it. There would be no need to 'invest' the fees back into the Park Lands if the ACC stopped encouraging the damaging car parking in the first place.

The *Sunday Mail* editorial of 9 December 2012 accused the ACC of having 'form' for charging fees for Park Lands car parking. However, there was no mention of the fact that Cirque du Soleil has 'form' for its ongoing abuses of the Adelaide Park Lands that have been unmitigated environmental disasters; and no criticism by the *Sunday Mail* of the extortionate ticket prices charged by Cirque, ranging from \$53.50 to \$405, with associated rip-off merchandise, food and drink charges.

On the issue of 'form', there was no disclosure by the *Sunday Mail* that *The Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail* newspapers were the Cirque du Soleil's 'media partner' for its Adelaide season. Did *Advertiser* and *Sunday Mail* staff and clients enjoy free tickets, free car parking on Park Lands and lavish hospitality?

For years, South Australians have suffered the editorial bias of these Adelaide newspapers, and the non-disclosure of the conflict of interest brought about by the commercial activities of this Murdoch monopoly in Adelaide.

South Australians must decide what they want for the community-owned Adelaide Park Lands. Do South Australians want a city in a park, or a city in a car park? Do they want the continuation of unsustainable events and associated car parking that degrades the Park Lands to the point where, eventually, they cannot be rehabilitated?

Are the comments by some Cirque patrons, as published in the *Sunday Mail*, who think that because they paid extortionate prices for their tickets that they should get free car parking on the Park Lands, representative of the community values we hold about the Park Lands? And, why does the ACC continue to abuse its Park Lands custodianship role through the promotion of commercial, unsustainable and destructive events in the National Heritage listed Park Lands, whilst the wonderful facilities of the Adelaide Showground and the Adelaide Entertainment Centre remain in disuse for much of the year?

Disclosure by the Adelaide City Council of all free tickets and hospitality enjoyed by ACC Councillors and Administration staff for events held in the Park Lands is long overdue.

Philip Groves

1. 'OVO Oh no! \$15 for a car park' by Alice Higgins, *Sunday Mail*, 9 December 2012.

Minister axed

Former Transport and Infrastructure Minister Patrick 'Cow-Pat' Conlon resigned his ministry on 14 January 2013. I use the word 'resigned' advisedly, as it is believed Cow-Pat received a 'time to move on' message.

Renowned for his almost pathological disdain for the Adelaide Park Lands, Cow-Pat will not be missed by the majority of Park Lands supporters who, if the government were to conduct a referendum on the matter, would be the overwhelming majority of South Australians.

Tributes to Conlon's contributions to good government were very thin on the ground. Apart from a glowing back-slap message from Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Chief Executive and government attack dog Rod Hook to DPTI staff, it was only Premier Weatherill who tossed a few compliments in Cow-Pat's direction.

According to Premier Weatherill, Patrick Conlon has literally rebuilt South Australia, conveniently overlooking that most of the road funding comes from the federal government. There were few references to the new RAH and Adelaide Oval developments—fiascos South Australians will be paying for over the next 50 years. No doubt the grateful Property Council will be demonstrating its gratitude to Minister Conlon privately.

Editor's Note: Also retiring was Health (formerly Environment and Conservation) Minister John Hill whose Park Lands infamies include:

- ignoring majority public support for an independent Park Lands Trust, instead delivering the quibbling-quango Park Lands 'Authority' and incompetent *Adelaide Park Lands Act*,
- the Park Lands Railyards Hospital—long ago flagged 'high priority for return to open space'.

A perceptive letter writer to *The Advertiser* on 30 January 2013 neatly summarised Cow-Pat's contribution to the state with this very succinct offering:

'Patrick Conlon literally rebuilt South Australia,' says South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill. He just forgot to pay for it.

Patrick Conlon has now sloped off for a few months of slumber on the back benches, from where he will be occupied planning his next move after the 2014 state election. Will it be an ambassadorial appointment to, say, North Korea, or will he be joining those other Labor and Liberal luminaries in their Hutt Street trough?

The Adelaide Park Lands will need to remain on high alert as Conlon's replacement is 'Turbo-Tom' Koutsantonis, who once regarded the whole of metropolitan Adelaide as a car-racing circuit. Along with his mate, the unlamented Kevin Foley, they viewed the Park Lands as the province of 'poodle-walking' East Terrace residents and, therefore, ripe for development.

As 'Turbo Tom' considers himself a future party leadership chance, there is a slender possibility he might display some maturity. That is expressed more in hope than expectation.

Philip Groves

Park Lands sell-out?

Short-lived state treasurer Jack Snelling was discussing the SA mid-year budget review on ABC radio 891 on 27 December 2012 when a caller asked him: 'Would the state government consider selling the Park Lands?', presumably as a means of reducing spiralling out-of-control state government debt.

Snelling, half laughingly, said 'no'.

State government is achieving the sale of Park Lands by other means instead.

Witness the Adelaide High School extension, new RAH, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Adelaide Convention Centre expansion, Adelaide Oval redevelopment and expansion, and now the proposed SkyCity casino extension, all expanding, or being newly built, on Park Lands.

Another caller asked Snelling just how much the new RAH (presently being constructed on the alienated North Terrace Park Lands railyards) was costing South Australians over the 35-year contract entered into by the State Labor Government.

Snelling's answer illustrated why he was not long for the treasurer's job.

Although he said he didn't have the figure in front of him, he could say it was in the 'millions and millions'.

No, ex-treasurer Snelling, the answer is billions and billions of dollars.

Philip Groves

\$30,000 Park Lands art prize



The Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize
Capturing the essence of the Adelaide Park Lands
an initiative of APPA

As part of its program to stimulate public awareness of and interest in the Adelaide Park Lands, APPA is well under way with organising the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize. There is no other Art Prize which focuses specifically on Adelaide. The Prize will be awarded to the artwork which best captures the spirit of the Park Lands, solely on artistic merit, as follows:

Best overall: \$20,000
Commended (5 prizes): \$2,000

The Prize is expected to be largely self-funding, but there are a number of private guarantors in case of any shortfall in funds; the Prize has financial support from the

Adelaide Park Lands Authority which will be of great assistance in the early stages of setting up the project.

To date the Prize has endorsements from a number of artists including Robert Hannaford, Harry Sherwin, Patrick McDonald, Geoff Wilson and David Dridan; from art critic John Neylon, and from gallery proprietors Russell Starke OAM, of the former Greenhill Galleries, and Sam Hill-Smith, of Hill Smith Gallery. Importantly, the last two will alert their 'stable' of artists and anyone on their mailing list. No doubt many more endorsements will follow. The finalists are expected to be displayed

at the Adelaide Festival Centre Gallery from late February to April 2014. More information will be available on www.parklandsart.com.

If APPA members would like to contribute financially to the Prize, or to register interest in taking part, please communicate to:

ian_gilfillan@bigpond.com
or to:

The Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize
c/- APPA, PO Box 7334
Hutt Street, Adelaide 5000.

Hamish Ramsay

(Not) taking care of trees

To those who remember Taylor Cullity Lethlean's (TCL's) redesign of North Terrace, the furore over Victoria Square trees comes as no surprise. The untimely felling of healthy trees cost the cultural boulevard hundreds of years lost lifespan. The consultants whose unnatural designs triggered death knells and controversy, carving up the Terrace with hard surfaces and prickly no-go zones, strolled on to other state government (Oval Footbridge) and Adelaide City Council (Victoria Square) tree-killing commissions. Without mitigating its damaging impact, behind the scenes the ACC's implementation departed from TCL's plan, removing or butchering core elements and adding design-defeating embellishments, whilst still squandering Victoria Square's trees.

The heated plane vs gum trees debate waged over Adelaide's chainsaw-felled civic heart exemplifies Council's failure to value living heritage. Council 'takes care' of trees with chainsaw-wielding woodchipping contractors, capable of shredding entire trees in minutes. With tonnes of timber to be laid waste, the electric-car Lord Mayor, with the carbon credibility of a River Murray-reliant rice farmer atoning for environmental sins with a dual flush toilet purchase, puffed about preserving a single Kurrajong. Lord Mayor Yarwood reportedly stated Victoria Square's Kurrajong was the 'oldest and most substantial' tree affected and '[i]t would have been highly inappropriate to cut that one down.'¹

Having survived relocation for the Transport Department tram extension in 2007, cynics may say the successfully transplanted Kurrajong was on the public radar, and hence saved by Council fear of public condemnation. High regard for Victoria Square's Kurrajong in the press dates back to the 1920s and 1930s.

Every year during December we are reminded through the daily papers of a ... beautiful [Kurrajong] ... in Victoria square, planted by our forefathers many years ago ... let us have avenues of such beautiful trees ...²

Superb specimens can at present be seen in ... Victoria square ...³

The Lord Mayor was silent on reasons for his Council consigning other notable trees in Victoria Square to industrial shredders. By 2008, the ACC's expert cultural landscape assessment recommended protection for many trees, such as the first of 54 RSL war memorials, decorated with its own commemorative plaque. These Desert Ash trees were planted in the Square in July 1938 and Yarwood's Council celebrated these living memorials' 75th anniversary by having them killed.

Former living memorials

On 20 June 1938 the Council decided spaces in Victoria Square reserved for planting 52 ash trees would be made available to the RSL for their state-wide tree-planting scheme.⁴ At 11 am on 2 July 1938, this scheme inaugurated by the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' Imperial League as a memorial to the fallen was launched in Victoria Square by Governor Sir Winston Dugan planting the first memorial tree.⁵ The Premier (Mr Butler), Lord Mayor (Mr Barrett), Council's markets and parks committee Chairman (Cr AWB Sims) and RSL State President (Mr WS Hosking) were invited to plant trees (47 were to be planted later).⁶ At the Premier's request, with the RSL's assent, the tree he planted was dedicated to the memory of the late Major Lance Lewis, formerly chairman of the Sailors and Soldiers' Distress Fund.⁷ One of many trees council has 'taken care of' recently.

Kelly Henderson

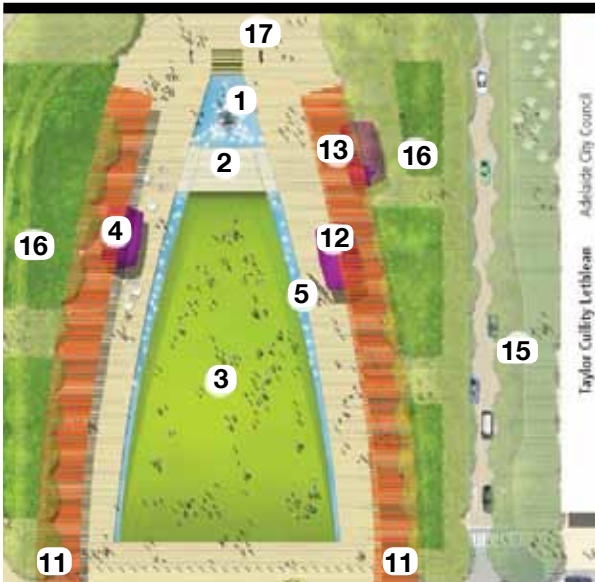


Above: 'The Governor planting in Victoria square on Saturday the first tree of the State-wide planting campaign. The president of the RSL (Mr Hosking) is holding the tree, and the Premier (Mr Butler) is on the extreme left.' *The Advertiser*, 4 July 1938.

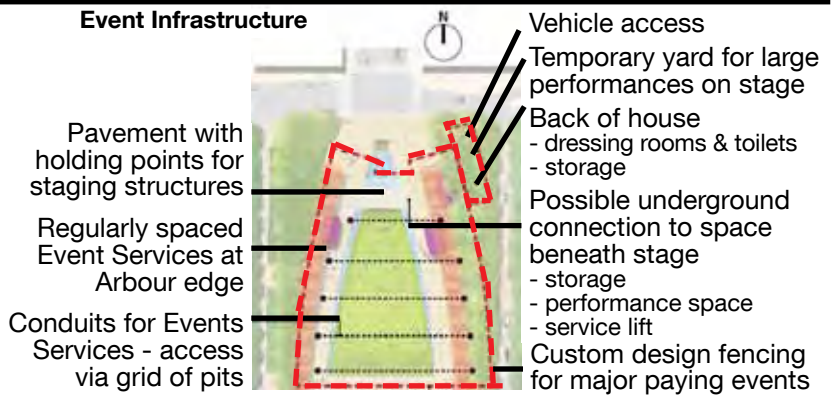
Below: Adelaide City Council contractor Taking Care of Trees, Victoria Square. Photos taken by K Henderson, 13 March 2013.

1. Tim Williams, 'Victoria Square tree to cost \$100,000', *City Messenger*, 7 March 2013.
2. *The Advertiser*, 8 August 1935 p18.
3. 'The Sterculias', *The Register*, 18 December 1922 p9.
4. 'English Ash Trees in Victoria Square: RSL Planting Scheme to Open on July 2', *The Advertiser*, 21 June 1938 p22.
5. *The Advertiser*, 29 June 1938 p12.
6. *The Advertiser*, 28 June 1938 p18.
7. *The Advertiser*, 4 July 1938 p21; *The Mail*, 2 July 1938 p8.





Taylor Cullity Lethlean Adelaide City Council

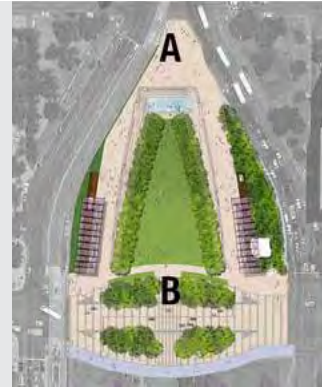


Legend

- 1. Three Rivers Fountain
- 2. Stage
- 3. Event lawn
- 4. Cafe / kiosk
- 5. Big screen
- 11. Arbour
- 12. Tourism Info Centre
- 13. Storage / Amenities Hub
- 15. Avenue Planting
- 16. Perimeter Garden
- 17. Flagpoles

Left and above: Extracts from Adelaide City Council (ACC) Victoria Square / Tarndanyangga Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) (Victoria Square / Tarndanyangga Masterplan, Taylor Cullity Lethlean).

Right: ACC Victoria Square redevelopment— Stage 1 implementation, showing Queen Victoria Statue relocation Options A and B. Non-compliance with CLMP: tramline not moved west; diagonal roadways not removed; fountain removed; arbour truncated; type and location of trees.



‘Crowd Theory Adelaide’

On 3 May 2013, the *Simon Terrill: Crowd Theory Adelaide* exhibition will be unveiled at the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Hawke Building, University of South Australia (assisted by Arts SA).

Simon Terrill: Crowd Theory Adelaide
Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art

3 May–5 July 2013

Tuesday to Friday 11am–5pm
Saturday 2pm–5pm

About Time History Festival, Open House Adelaide
Sunday 5 May 10am–1pm

This seventh installment of London based Australian artist Simon Terrill’s *Crowd Theory* series was staged in Victoria Square / Tarndanyangga, Adelaide, on 27 February 2013, with John Dowie’s *Three Rivers Fountain* as its centrepiece. Samstag commissioned and produced the event, and it was Director of Photography Matthew Stanton’s first visit to Adelaide and fifth time as *Crowd Theory* director of photography.

Kelly Henderson

1. ‘The 8×10 inch camera rig in position.’
2. ‘Simon Terrill [centre] with production crew members Dave Franzke [right] and Sime Nugent [left] on location the night before the event.’
3. ‘Crowd Theory Participants start to gather around John Dowie’s *Three Rivers Fountain* in the early evening prior to the event.’
4. ‘A deserted, post *Crowd Theory*, pre redevelopment Victoria Square.’

Images and captions courtesy of Matthew Stanton, see <http://matthewstanton.com.au/2013/>. Photos taken by Matthew Stanton, 27 February 2013.



Unseasonal green

On 31 January 2013 Nathan Paine, Director of the Property Council of Australia (SA Division), made a presentation to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. The Property Council's hankering for all-year lush green Park Lands got a robust no-nonsense response from the Hon Frank Blevins—it's un-Australian.

Summer greenery is often a sign something's amiss. East of Main North Road, Park 4's unseasonal green hue is due to a broken water pipe, promptly reported to SA Water by an early morning dog-walker on Sunday 3 February 2013. Despite rapid red-flagging that morning it gushed all day and night, drowned acres of heatwave parched Park Lands and revived the browned-off weed kikuyu.

Park 23's putrescent green sludge is a recycled-sewerage-leak-induced (GAP) algal bloom. Ahead of Soundwave and FutureMusic bashes Bonython Park's lush long grass—knee-deep in places—read as a deliberately drenched area, a la the Clipsal500's water-wasting Victoria Park green livery for corporates and cameras. Another false form of lush-look greenery proliferating this summer is Adelaide City Council's 'Splash Adelaide' pop-up plastic-grass parklets, product of an unsustainable spin city.

With asphalt, carparks and construction crews invading Park Lands, rolling plastic greens over City bitumen seems bizarre. Has the irony of concrete and car parks taking over real Park Lands, whilst Council staff, trucks and forklifts busily bump plastic parklets in and out of City streets, escaped Town Hall?

Lest they forget, splashing ratepayers' resources about is fiscally improper.

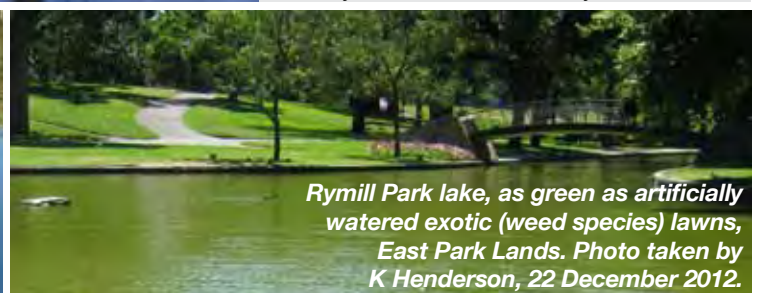
Kelly Henderson



Above and right: Burst water pipe left gushing day and night, Park 4, North Park Lands, east of Main North Road. 4 February 2013 (Day 2).



Top: Park 4 burst pipe site over seven weeks later, North Park Lands, east of Main North Road, 27 March 2013. Below left: Blue-green algal bloom pollution, Torrens Lake, 26 January 2013. Photos taken by K Henderson.



Rymill Park lake, as green as artificially watered exotic (weed species) lawns, East Park Lands. Photo taken by K Henderson, 22 December 2012.



Victoria Park artificially watered exotic turf (weed species), East Park Lands, 10 March 2013.

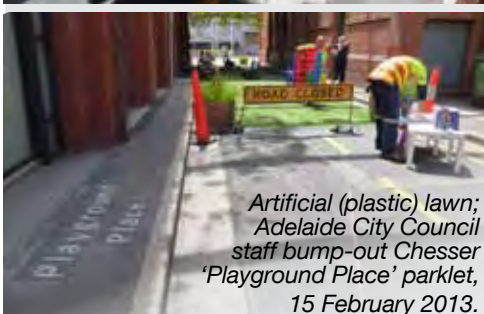
As part of the remediation works of the Southern Playing Fields, Adelaide City Council is working with SA Water and SA Health to implement Best Practice Irrigation Management.
RECYCLED WATER will be used during the day and night for irrigation.
For your safety this area will be fenced from the public until the playing fields have been established.



Hockey / tennis courts, Park 20, South Park Lands, plastic lawn right up to gum trees' trunks, 7 April 2013.



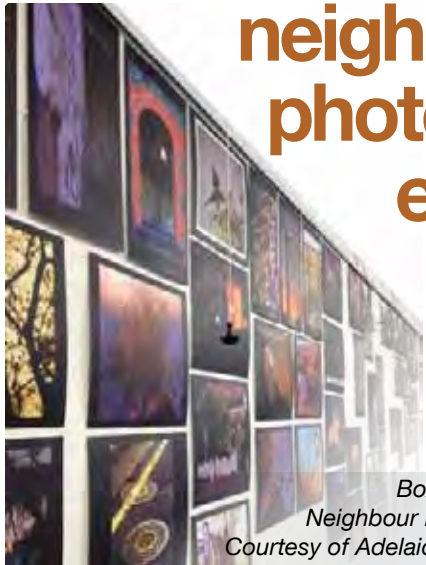
Artificial (plastic) lawn; Adelaide City Council staff bump-out Chesser 'Playground Place' parklet, 15 February 2013.



Recycled-sewerage (GAP) leak-induced algal bloom, Park 23, West Park Lands, 29 March 2013.

Box Factory Community Centre

neighbour day photographic exhibition



Box Factory Community Centre
Neighbour Day Photographic Exhibition.
Courtesy of Adelaide City Council, 5 April 2013.

On 5 April 2013 the Neighbour Day Photographic Exhibition opened at the Adelaide City Council Box Factory Community Centre, Regent Street South, and was open for public viewing 4–6pm Monday to Friday, until 26 April 2013.

Jess Flynn
Co-ordinator
Adelaide City Council Box Factory Community Centre



Federal Box Factory

Images (clockwise from top right): Federal Box Factory; *Tree, Victoria Park* (Heather Nimmo); *Diversity and similarity* (Allan Adams); *Lunchtime Walk South East Park Trail* (Chris Byrnes), *Trees for Life Bush Care site, Park 17, South Park Lands, South Terrace* (James Iannaccone); *Tree next to Box Factory / Parrots in top of tree, Manitoba* / *Bird and nectar, McLaren Street* (Daryl Gray).

Editor's Note: Natural Australian grey-green and amber views of the South Park Lands, contrasting with a Rainbow lorikeet's striking green and richly hued gum-blossoms, are amongst the diverse views exhibited of people, streets and features of Adelaide's SE corner.



(Rainbow lorikeet)

Parrots in top of tree, Manitoba

Tree next to Box Factory



(New Holland honeyeater)

Daryl Gray

Bird and nectar McLaren Street



James Iannaccone

Trees For Life Bush Care Site, Park 17, South Park Lands, South Terrace



Heather Nimmo

Tree, Victoria Park



Chris Byrnes

Lunchtime Walk South East Park Trail



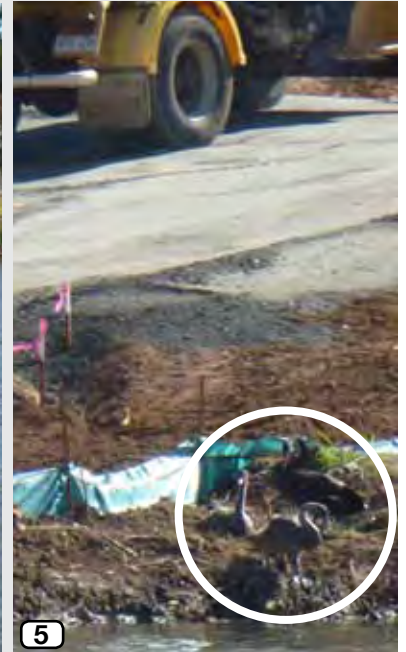
Allan Adams

Diversity and similarity

Nested interests

The sudden start of footbridge construction during the Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) breeding season disturbed nest sites on the Torrens Lake north bank where demand has focused since the south bank's breeding habitat was displaced by hard-edge built form.

Continued on p 15

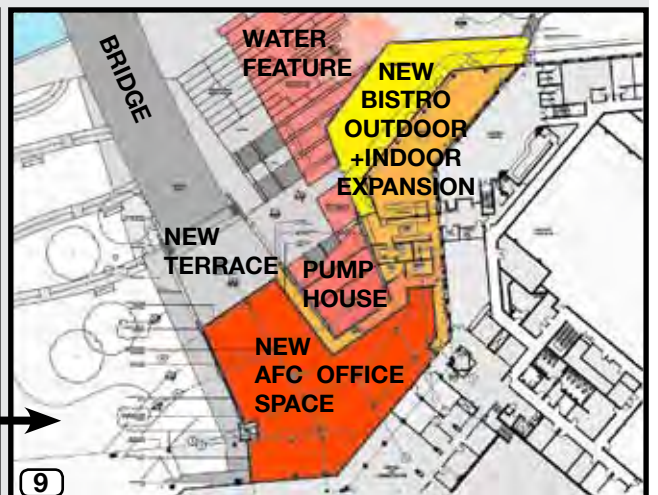


1,2. Austral Tree Services woodchipping Park Lands trees on the Torrens Lake north bank: (1) felling and onsite woodchipping of eucalypts from riverbank Tree Protection Zones, 19 March 2013; (2) pruning of War Memorial Drive Significant River Red Gum on 26 March 2013 (including removal of nesting hollow and woodchipping off-cuts onsite).
3,4,5. Cygnets and damaged Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) nest sites, Torrens Lake north bank. Photos taken by K Henderson, 26 March 2013.

6. Details from 18 February 2013 City of Adelaide Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Agenda Item 4.1, Torrens Lake north bank east of the footbridge north landing, based on Attachment 73 Government of South Australia-DPTI drawing dated 21/12/2012, amended by K Henderson to show the Torrens Lake (blue) and Tree Protection Zones (red) of trees felled and woodchipped by Austral Tree Services on 19/03/2013.



7. Torrens Lake south bank, looking towards the City Bridge from west of the Adelaide Festival Centre Playhouse, after tree removal and commencement of earth works for pedestrian bridge, waterfall, AFC offices and bistro expansions, etc.
8, 9. Details from 18 February 2013 City of Adelaide DAP Agenda Item 4.1, based on Attachments 38 (see 8) and 52 (see 9) Government of South Australia-DPTI 21/12/2012 drawings, annotated and coloured by K Henderson to show Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) office (red) and commercial bistro (yellow+orange) expansions.



Wild Austin, world heritage George Town

Austin, TEXAS (Adelaide's sister city since 1983)

Austin has over 2200 acres of preserve land (acquired since 1935).

Preserve land is a unique type of park land that is set aside because it provides essential endangered species habitat, includes a unique natural feature such as a cave or stream, or provides a prime example of a specific type of ecosystem.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/nature-preserves-0>

Austin's PARK RULES protect

1.13 NATURAL RESOURCES

All sites, objects, buildings, artifacts, implements, and locations of historical, archaeological, geologic, scientific or educational interest of every character located in, on, or under the surface of any park facility and wildlife preserve are protected.

No person may remove, excavate, take, dig into, or destroy any site, object, building, artifact, implement or location of archaeological, geological, scientific or historical interest without having permits as required by the State of Texas Natural Resources Codes, and without having permission of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The City of Austin Wildlife Austin Program, 'demonstrates national leadership' and has 'a continued commitment to Keeping Austin Wild!'

In March 2007, the City of Austin passed a council resolution to obtain National Wildlife Federation (NWF) community level certification.

On March 12, 2009 Austin realized that goal and was recognized as a certified community during the Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Ceremony.

To date, the City of Austin has over 1,700 certified wildlife habitats and the number is steadily increasing ...

The Community Wildlife Habitat project is part of the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program. These projects benefit the entire community through education, outreach and promoting the use of native plants and landscaping to develop natural habitats that attract wildlife and birds, use little or no fertilizer and require modest watering.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/wildlife-austin>

George Town, Penang, MALAYSIA (sister city since 1973)

Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008.

In 1786, the year of William Light's birth, his father Francis Light established a trading settlement on the Island of Penang. William later said he wanted to found a settlement, like his father.

In 1826 George Town became the capital of the Straits Settlements (Penang, Malacca and Singapore), but by 1832 Singapore had overtaken George Town's role. George Town was granted city status by HRH Queen Elizabeth II on 1 January 1957.

In 1986 a concerned group established the Penang Heritage Trust, and collaborated with the State Government, resulting in nomination by Malaysia for UNESCO world heritage status.

Now a World Heritage site, the people of George Town have an opportunity to inject new money into their town within the rapidly developing knowledge economy, which does not require sprawling factories or warehouses, and can co-exist with tourism.

Kelly Henderson

Continued from p 14

Busy feathering its own nest on the south bank, the Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) intends to hatch new tax-payer funded offices and a restaurant expansion in the footbridge south landing between Torrens Lake and SkyCity casino.

At the 21 February 2013 Adelaide Park Lands Authority meeting, Board member Councillor Henningsen questioned a deputation stating office space was intended. Adelaide City Council (ACC) staff replied with an unequivocal 'No', contradicting public documents.

An *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act* referral to the Federal government, dated 16 January 2013, and plans provided to the ACC Development Assessment Panel (DAP) for its 18 February 2013 Agenda Item 4.1, clearly stated AFC offices and 'bistro redevelopment' in the footbridge works. Cr Henningsen was an apology for that DAP meeting, but DAP and APLA member Cr Anne Moran's silence on the killing of significant trees and Park Lands office and restaurant expansion is disappointing.

Recipients of government Park Lands largesse warrant enquiry. Established under the *Adelaide Festival Centre Trust Act 1971*, the AFC is a statutory authority, managed by the AFC Trust. The Trust is an eight-member board; one nominated by Adelaide City Council and the rest by the Arts Minister (*SA Government Gazette*, 14 December 1993, p2965). The AFC's 2011-2012 Annual Report¹ identifies Douglas Gautier (CEO and Artistic Director), Carlo D'Ortenzio (Chief Financial Officer) and Trustees:

Barry Fitzpatrick AM (Chairman); Peter Goers (to 10 Sep 2011); Hieu Van Le AO (from 11 Sep 2011); Councillor Sue Clearihan; Bill Spurr; Zannie Flanagan AM; Ian Kowalick AM; Caroline Cordeaux and Carolyn Mitchell.

The AFC's Report reveals annual deficits over \$15m, \$855k accumulated deficit, and \$261k 'profit' eked from state government funding 'attributable to the SA Government as owner' (pp61, 64). The Auditor-General noted the AFC received a \$500k 'operating grant' that had 'no documented and agreed enforceable stipulations to trigger repayment' (p84).

The AFC gave state government a 'proposal to upgrade the Festival Centre and its surrounds', that is, Park Lands. The 'proposal' is described as focused on 'creation of a new cultural and social heart for Adelaide' (the Festival Plaza), with 'surrounding developments' as a backdrop to 'year round activities in the new square' (p28). Release of this document is in the public interest, as the tax-payer funded AFC is on Park Lands.

Predictably, AFC staff have refused to permit public scrutiny of the 'proposal', claiming the document went to Cabinet, but an internet-published puff (AFC's Hassell-designed 'Vision for the River Torrens Precinct', 22 April 2012) mentions a 350 seat cinema and 'new 15-storey Commercial building' (see 'Offices of artful Theatre', p22).

Kelly Henderson

1. *Adelaide Festival Centre Annual Report 2011-2012*, see http://www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/media/131457/final_afct_annual_report_2011-12.pdf.

Heli park

On 18 December 2012, Park Lands behind Adelaide High School (AHS) were misappropriated by a Bell 206 III helicopter VH-SYC (Serial No 4529), operating as a private flight for its registered owner,¹ rather than by its registered operator since 24 July 2010, Helistar Aviation Pty Ltd (Air Operators Certificate No: C585948).²

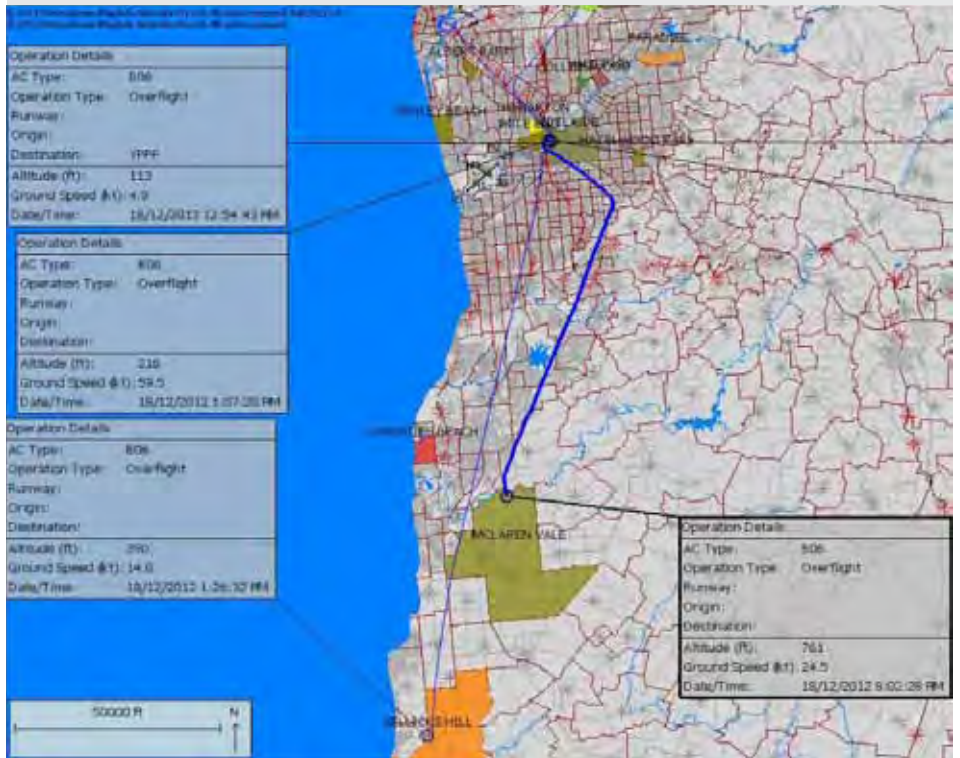
Following an aircraft noise complaint, Airservices Australia tracked the flights, and aircraft track diagrams show VH-SYC set down in the Adelaide Park Lands before 1pm, enroute to Sellicks Hill, and after 8pm, on returning from McLaren Vale.

Continued on p17

Top right: Detail of Aircraft Track Diagram (ATD) depicting aircraft's Park Lands arrival and departure times, 18 December 2012; right: detail of ATD depicting aircraft Park Lands area arrival / departure, arrival time at Sellicks Hill area, evening departure from McLaren Vale area and Park Lands area evening arrival / departure, 18 December 2012; sourced from Airservices Australia.

Below: Detail of Aircraft Track Diagram depicting (non-police, non-rescue) helicopter traffic in the Park Lands area 15–23 January 2012, sourced from Airservices Australia.

[Ed: Helicopter air traffic in January 2012 coincides with the Tour Down Under.]



Airservices Australia Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is for information purposes and is indicative only. Aircraft movements and flight paths are affected by variable factors such as weather, separation requirements and congestion at relevant airports, and can therefore change without notice. While Airservices Australia has taken reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of this information, Airservices Australia makes no warranty or representation that it is current, accurate or complete. Information required for operational purposes must be checked against original sources. Contact the relevant section of Airservices Australia for more information, or obtain the appropriate Airservices publication.

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Continued from p16

The website of the Victory Hotel at Sellicks Hill states:

*Helistar can fly you to the [Sellicks Hill] Victory Hotel for that special occasion.*³

According to Helistar, they use Adelaide Airport and the Victory Hotel carpark as helipads but cannot pick up / setdown in the Park Lands. December's landings had permission from AHS, not Adelaide City Council (ACC). ACC confirms:

- no requests for permission were received and no authorisation given, for landing of helicopters at Adelaide High School in December 2012, and
- a permit with 'very strict conditions around' it was granted to Heli Experiences Pty Ltd⁴ to operate from Park 21, between 15–23 January 2012, as a decision of Administration under delegations with no Councillor vote, and landings were not permitted before 10am nor after 8pm.

18 December 2012 Aircraft VH-SYC

1241 hrs Departed Parafield Airport

1254 hrs Arrived Park Lands area

1307 hrs Departed Park Lands area

1326 hrs Arrived Sellicks Hill area

2002 hrs Departed McLaren Vale area

2016 hrs Arrived Park Lands area

2020 hrs Departed Park Lands area

2029 hrs Arrived Parafield Airport

According to ACC, the Production Manager of Cirque du Soleil reported a helicopter flight, and the matter was referred to Adelaide Airport and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

No doubt quiet moments in Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" performance did not benefit from being overflowed by a low flying helicopter, nor its landing or take-off. Cirque du Soleil brought the problem of aircraft noise disturbing quiet parts of their performances to Council's attention when a concerted campaign averted Cirque attempts to ensconce themselves in Park 21 West, and redirected Cirque to Bonython Park in the Adelaide Airport flightpath.

Helistar's website claims the company, 'operator of the Westpac Surf Life Saving South Australia Rescue Helicopter'⁵ and 'holder of the aerial tour rights at the 2007 Adelaide Clipsal 5000',⁶ recognises:

its ability to sustain growth depends on an unwavering commitment to the safety and health of all employees, contractors, passengers and the protection of the environment, and that this commitment is fundamental to [its] reputation and success.

Notably, this doesn't mention safety of the general public nor park users.



Above: Bell 206B VH-SYC landing west of Adelaide High School to set down four passengers, enroute from McLaren Vale area to Parafield Airport.

Above left: Passengers set down by VH-SYC on Park Lands west of Adelaide High School, admiring their wine and (bottom left) chatting with ACC Mosaic contractor (in fluoro vest) operating UPark Cirque du Soleil carparking. Photos by K Henderson, 18 December 2012.

Heli Experiences Park Lands Helipad

In seeking SA Environment Protection Act and Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) approvals⁷ to operate Kangaroo Island helicopter tours under strict guidelines,⁸ avoiding sensitive natural habitat areas, the Victorian company Heli Experiences faced 'prolonged Legal attempts to stop [the] Company conducting business'.⁹ Heli Experiences Kangaroo Island is proud of being 'a new breed of aviation' ensuring they maintain 'natural heritage':

*Many of Heli Experiences shareholders and employees have young families, with a view to preserving the environment for future generations, the team are proud of our environmental work on Kangaroo Island including commissioning professional Wildlife studies to ensure we maintain the Islands natural heritage. Welcome to the new breed of aviation, where the environment is regarded as a partner to be looked after.*¹⁰

What about the Park Lands environment?

Heli Experiences, 'the official helicopter provider to the Tour Down Under',¹¹ advertised 10-minute / \$99 per person helicopter joyflights over the Adelaide City 'Down Under Classic', held on 15 January 2012. Redesignating Park Lands as commercial-use 'CBD', they described their joyflights as operating from

*CBD helipad site: Park 21, 300 metres south of Pavilion on the park restaurant next to Peacock Road. CBD Adelaide.*¹²

The Tour Down Under and associated helicopter operators' contempt for residential amenity and Park Lands natural heritage is clear from Air Track Diagrams, with nil 'Wildlife studies'.

Kelly Henderson

1. Pursuant to Civil Aviation Regulation 232, Helistar Aviation Pty Ltd personal communication, 28 March 2013.
2. Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Aircraft Register Search "SYC": http://casa-query.funnelback.com/search/search.cgi?collection=casa_aircraft_register&query=SYC&session=254518088; CASA AOC Search, http://casa-query.funnelback.com/search/search.cgi?collection=casa_aoc&query=helistar.
3. http://victoryhotel.com.au/?page_id=236.
4. Victorian company Heli Experiences is a fully owned trading arm of The Experiences Group Pty Ltd, Air Operators Certificate No: 1-L7QRU-01,⁵ registered operator of: VH-ONE Bell 206B SN:1240 (Registration holder National Australia Bank Ltd, as of 2/9/2011); and VH-XDZ Robinson R44 II SN:11885 (Registration holder Australasian Jet Pty Ltd, as of 18/9/2012);

- http://www.heliexperiences.com.au; see http://casa-query.funnelback.com/search/search.cgi?collection=casa_aoc&query=The+Experiences.
5. <http://www.helistar.com.au/main6302.html?d=.83>.
6. <http://www.helistar.com.au/main03ab.html?d=.78>.
7. EPBC referral, http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=referral_detail&proposal_id=5524.
8. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-05-11/helicopter-joy-flights-kangaroo-island/4005046>.
9. <http://heliexperiences.com.au/incentives/tag/kangaroo-island; Kangaroo Island Eco Action>.
10. Ibid.
11. <http://tourdownunderhelicopters.com.au>.
12. <http://tourdownunderhelicopters.com.au/stages/down-under-classic>.

New formalised event space go-ahead

The ACC has given the go-ahead for Stage 2 of the major event space planned for Tambawodli (Park 24), the location recently occupied and devastated by Cirque du Soleil's Adelaide season.

The ACC's original plans for this site included a 10,000m² 'hardstand' area to cater for Cirque du Soleil. Hardstand is council-speak for bitumen. The ACC had proposed a ten-year lease agreement with Cirque du Soleil to justify laying this vast area of bitumen. APPA and others opposed the ten-year lease agreement, and the event space plan, to no avail.

In July 2012, Cirque du Soleil withdrew from ten-year lease negotiations, which would have seen them contributing an undisclosed sum towards water and sewerage infrastructure costs in Stage 1 of the project. The ACC is pressing ahead with the event space, changing the design from permanent bitumen to irrigated grass. And the cost to ratepayers? A snip at \$2 million, after the original concept plan was costed at \$8m!

The ACC's City Infrastructure and Public Works Committee argued for instant turf rather than the significantly cheaper option of hydroseeding, once contamination remediation and capping of the site with imported fill is completed. Instant turf is costing ratepayers a mere \$500k more than the hydroseed option.



Top: Adelaide City Council notification sign obscured by fencing and blue netting. Park 24 plateau 'Major event' works site west of Adelaide High School / Ellis Park soccer fields carpark from which 2,690 remnant native plants were reported to the Atlas of Living Australia in March 2013. Photos by K Henderson.

The City Infrastructure & Public Works Committee argued that:

- *The risk of the project not proceeding is the potential loss of large music / events, including Cirque du Soleil as event spaces in the Park Lands are currently at capacity and noise and impact issues are affecting the viability of major music festivals in the eastern Park Lands.*
- *Such an increased availability of the space for events would have positive benefits from both an economic perspective bringing people into the City whilst also enhancing vibrancy. It would also reduce the pressure from events to use the East Park Lands.*

This new event site is to 'reduce the pressure' on other Park Lands event sites which are 'currently at capacity'. On the other hand, it is to increase capacity for new events.

It is also intended to displace all of those high-decibel music events from the eastern Park Lands to the western Park Lands. Residents of the City of West Torrens, with properties abutting the West Park Lands, should prepare for 'noise and other impacts' affecting their rights to quiet enjoyment of their properties.

Is the ACC breaching National Competition Policy?

As the custodian of the Adelaide Park Lands, it is implicit in that responsibility that the ACC should not inflict damage to the Park Lands. Not only does the ACC subvert its custodianship role by promoting damaging and unsustainable commercial events in the Park Lands, it uses ratepayer funds to unfairly compete for events against owners and operators of near-city purpose-built event facilities.

In a community consultation submission dated 20 June 2012 to the ACC on the new event space proposal, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia Inc (RA&HS) not only opposed the development of this event space on environmental grounds, it also effectively accused the ACC of unfair use of its position. The RA&HS letter stated:

It is to be expected companies such as Cirque Du Soleil will always pursue the lowest price option for siting events in Adelaide. South Australia introduced a Competitive Neutrality Policy in the year 2000 to address concerns in respect of artificially cheaper services subsidised by taxpayers or ratepayers.

The scheduled fees proposed to be charged to Cirque du Soleil represent a subsidy by ratepayers of the City of Adelaide.

The RA&HS was referring to the revised Clause 7 State Competitive Neutrality Policy of July 2002. This policy comes under the auspices of National Competition Policy (NCP), which includes the Competition Principles Agreement. Each State and Territory government were required to prepare a Clause 7 Statement on the application of competition principles to particular business activities and functions of local government, in consultation with local government.

The main aims of the NCP relevant to the ACC with its care, control and management of the Park Lands are to:

- *Ensure no buyer or seller in a market is able to engage in anti-competitive conduct against the public interest;*
- *As far as possible, apply the same rules of market conduct to all market participants, regardless of the form of business ownership—that is government business activities should not enjoy any net advantages solely as a result of their public ownership; and*
- *Ensure that regulation of business activities which restrict competition is subject to an assessment of the likely costs and benefits.*

Any reading of the NCP and its competitive neutrality provisions reveals that the ACC is a serial offender.

It can be readily demonstrated that the ACC enjoys advantages in the operation of its commercial Park Lands activities that the private sector simply cannot access.

For instance, the ACC doesn't pay any of the taxes paid by the private sector, it operates without the pressure of business risk courtesy of its ratepayers, and it has access to virtually unlimited finance, again courtesy of its ratepayers.

The ACC must be forced to adopt and apply all of the relevant provisions of the National Competition Policy and, specifically, it must use cost reflective pricing methodology to arrive at pricing for commercial events in the Park Lands which is competitively neutral.

If they are to survive, the Park Lands must receive respite from ACC promoted commercial abuses.

The vast majority of large-scale commercial events held in the Park Lands could be readily staged, far more comfortably for all, at the Adelaide Showground. Just ask the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Philip Groves

Foul felling of cedars

On Friday 4 January 2013, the state government made good the threat issued by Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Chief Executive Rod Hook to pursue 'other options' to override Adelaide City Council's refusal to approve removal of 27 white cedar trees forming an historic avenue in Pennington Park ('March of chainsaws and car-parks', *Park Lands News* October 2012).

The trees were clear-felled by workmen on the morning of 4 January 2013, despite protection afforded by the Community Land Management Plan for Park 26 that specifically identified and required retention of the historic avenue of white cedars, which had been signed off by the state government and was binding on both the state government and the ACC.

The Development Assessment Commission (DAC) meeting of 20 December 2012 conveniently listed the state government application for development approval to remove the trees under the not-so-transparent agenda item 'Any other business', with no reference to the nature of the government application—more Weatherill-style consultation at its finest.

DAC Members attending this meeting were the Presiding Member Ted Byrt (solicitor), Deputy Presiding Member Megan Leydon (planner), Members Damien Brown (property developer), Carolyn Wigg (architect and Walkerville Councillor) and Andrew Ford (architect). Megan Leydon advised of a conflict of interest and left the meeting. It was then resolved to defer consideration in order to take advice.

The DAC speedily re-convened for a Special Meeting at 4pm the next day, 21 December 2012, with only four members present. According to the meeting minutes, those members were: Ted Byrt (Presiding Member), Damien Brown, Carolyn Wigg and Andrew Ford. The only agenda item was 'the resolution of a dispute between the Minister for Transport (administering the *Adelaide Oval Redevelopment Management Act 2011*) and the Adelaide City Council regarding the removal of 27 white cedar trees'.



Above: View of former White Cedar Avenue from Montefiore Hill. Felling, woodchipping and stump removal of 27 trees on 4 January 2013, a day of maximum fire danger and scorching heat as Adelaide went to 45.3 degrees Celsius. Photo taken by K Henderson, 4 January 2013.

It was resolved at this meeting, conducted behind closed doors according to ACC Councillor David Plumridge,² that legal advice in respect of the DAC's jurisdiction in the matter be noted, and that advice be made available to the DPTI Minister and the ACC. The meeting further resolved, according to the minutes, that

pursuant to section 7 (13) 9a) of the Adelaide Oval Redevelopment Management Act 2011 (the "Act") that provision 4.1.2 in the Community Land Management Plan of the Council which is in the following terms;

"Conserve the White cedar (Melia azedarach van Australasia) (sic) pedestrian avenue and take aboriginal action to conserve its longevity and health"

is an unreasonable provision in connection with the proposed use of part of the Adelaide Oval License Area. And finally, resolved to direct that pursuant to section 7(13)(b)(i)(A) of the Act that the said provision 4.1.2 of the Community Land Management Plan be revoked forthwith.

The DAC members involved in this decision should resign. They might have received legal advice as to their jurisdiction to hear the matter, but did they receive legal advice over the Kremlin-style process attaching to their decision? The DAC members, not for the first time, demonstrated they are little more than government stooges, allowing themselves to be manipulated by the state government, and to do the

government's bidding. They contrived to ignore the critically relevant sources of advice available to them, namely the Community Land Management Plan, Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Park Lands Authority, which all called for retention of this historical avenue of trees. Furthermore, the ACC was given no opportunity to consider the DAC decision, a decision made at a hastily convened Special Meeting which denied the ACC (and other interested parties) the ability to seek opinions on what other options might be available to them.

ACC Councillor Anne Moran was reported in *The Advertiser*¹ saying that she would be demanding a judicial review into the process because the path was protected under the ACC's Community Land Management Plan. In the same news article, Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood was reported to have been unaware the trees were being felled that morning, but said it was time to 'move on'. No wonder the state government has stopped calling for the removal of the ACC.

The stench from this appalling process confirms little has changed since Premier Weatherill replaced Mike Rann. State government corruption and abuse of power continues unabated.

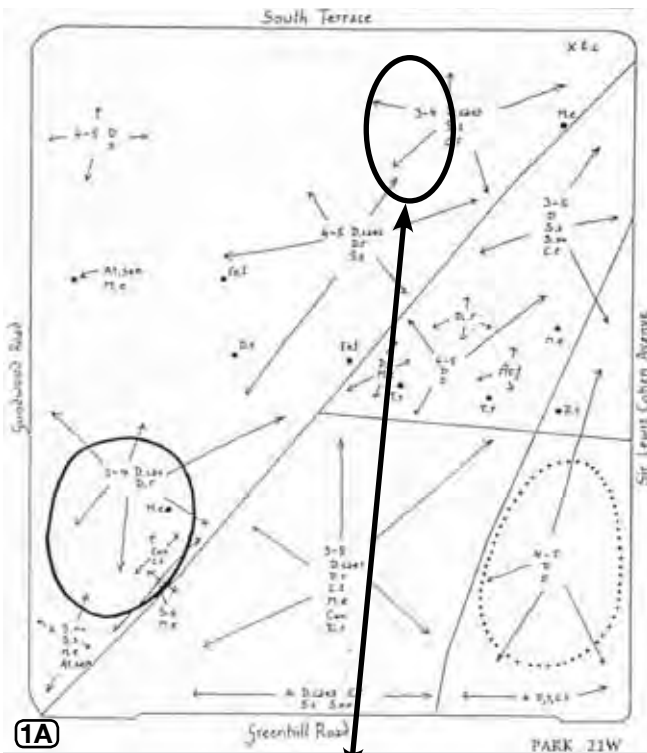
Philip Groves

1. 'Iconic city cedar trees cut down', *The Advertiser*, 5 January 2013.
2. *Notes from Councillor David Plumridge's Desk*, Issue No 89, 30 January 2013.

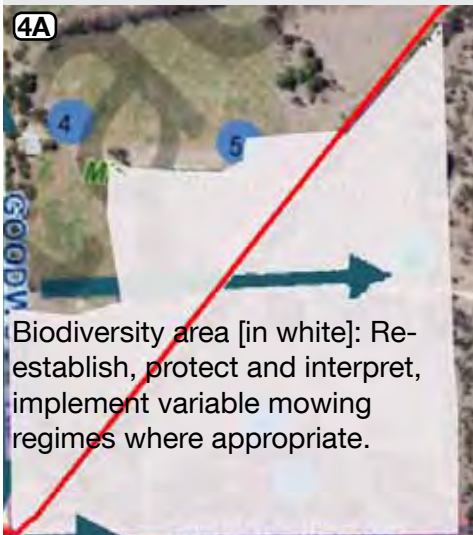
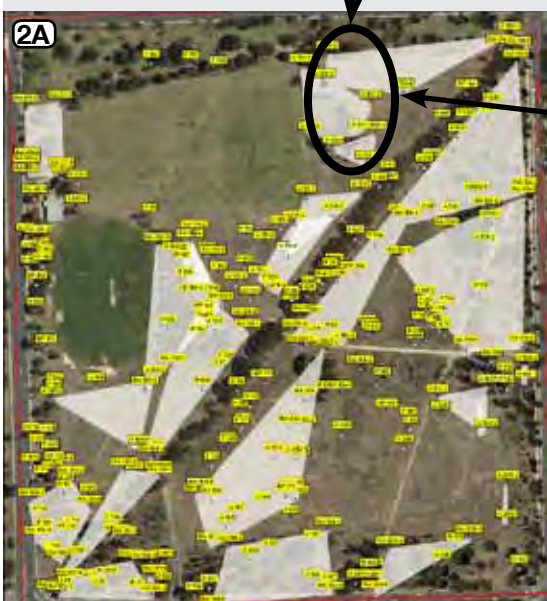
Minister Pat Conlon was reported as saying an arborist's report showed the avenue was susceptible to flooding ...

Alice Higgins, *adelaidenow*, 5 January 2013
see <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/axe-falling-on-cedars/story-e6frea83-1226547518318>

Unsustainable secrets: Park 21 West 'activity' hub



- 1B) Legend**
- D *Danthonia* sp.
Wallaby grasses
 - S *Stipa* sp. Spear grasses
 - At.sem *Atriplex semibaccata*
Berry saltbush
 - Ar.f *Arthropodium fimbriatum*
Nodding chocolate lily
 - En.t *Enchylaena tomentosa*
Ruby saltbush
 - M.e *Maireana enchylaenoides*
 - D.cae *Danthonia caespitosa*
 - D.r *Danthonia racemosa*
 - D.s *Danthonia setacea*
 - Con *Convolvulus* sp.
Native bindweed
 - C.t *Chloris truncata*
Windmill grass
 - S.s *Stipa scabra* Spear grass
 - S.no *Stipa nodosa* Spear grass
 - Di.r *Dichondra repens*
Kidney weed
 - T.r *Teucrium racemosum*
Grey germander
 - X E.c *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*
River red gum



Biodiversity area [in white]: Re-establish, protect and interpret, implement variable mowing regimes where appropriate.



The Princess Elizabeth Children's Playground, commemorating the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York (*Park Lands News*, August 2012), is the target of an Adelaide City Council plan to construct a playspace / activity hub. Dubbed the *Princess Elizabeth Playground+Minno Wirra (Park 21W) Activity Hub Masterplan Draft Masterplan Report* (April 2013, Jensen Planning+Design in association with Bullseye Creative), the design push-polling the public suggests that its works would invade the 1915 Dardanelles / ANZAC memorial setting and known areas of precious remnant native vegetation. With no natural or built heritage conservation management plan in sight the project blatantly follows a flawed model: ill-informed development of 'key ideas about the future of the space' before carrying out 'consultation'.

Once the design team had developed some initial key ideas about the future of the space a broader invitation ... was extended ... children and adults were encouraged to provide feedback on the following topics ... [including] To compose a story [as] if 'you were a prince or princess on a journey' (p3).

Proposing a new fenced dog park and pathways that would result in damage to existing remnant native vegetation, the draft design proposes a 'journey experience' in proximity to 'important areas of biodiversity',

1A. Extract from *South Park Lands Wetland Feasibility Project Native Vegetation Study* (Crompton, 1998).

1B. As above, extract from Legend.

2A. Park 21West extract from ACC 2004 Mallen remnant native vegetation survey—large areas and many species recorded; mapping by K Henderson, April 2013.

2B. Park 24 extract from ACC 2004 Mallen data + 2012 community survey prior to Cirque du Soleil; mapping by K. Henderson, March 2013.

3. Detail of proposed fenced dog 'socialisation' park from draft Park 21W activity hub 'masterplan' (Jensen Planning+Design, April 2013).

4A. Biodiversity area approved by the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) for public consultation (white area); detail from Park 21 West Draft Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) 'Future Desired Character' map. APLA Agenda 10 May 2012 Item 7 Attachment E, p154.

4B. APLA approved; detail from Park 22 Draft CLMP 'Future Desired Character'

and 'Major Event' Park 24

This is the second article of a series. For the first article (on Park 22) see *Park Lands News* December 2012.

whilst actually proposing to construct upon important areas of biodiversity. The designers suggest 'a small, fenced area with seating for owners and acting primarily for dog socialization (rather than exercise)', having ignored the Park Lands Management Strategy, Tree Protection Zones, Community Land Management Plan, and major health issues such as obesity. Wanting to 'thin' out the 'backdrop' (more properly called a shelter belt) of the 1915 Dardanelles / ANZAC monument, the design seems unaware the 'backdrop' is protecting the memorial garden, the playground, and the public, from bitter prevailing winds.

Unlike other playgrounds constructed in the Park Lands by the Adelaide City Council (ACC), the Princess Elizabeth Children's Playground was built with monies held upon trust for a special purpose, to celebrate the Royal Visit. Custodianship of that commemorative site, constructed in the Park Lands on condition that Adelaide City Council maintain it, does not empower its current guardians to convert the Princess Elizabeth Children's Playground into a council folly.

'Major Event' Park 24

Although Cirque du Soleil's occupation devastated Park 24 'plateau' native plants, it failed to eradicate all. Carrying out total clearance of these hectares is therefore left to ACC's touted 'event venue', aided and abetted by a deficient Community Land Management Plan (CLMP).

The draft CLMP's under-representation of actual extent of native vegetation went from bad to ludicrous after Council stated to APLA that community consultation would include a biodiversity area on Park 24's western boundary.

Park 24 biodiversity was

- deleted from the CLMP public consultation documents;
- physically deleted—landfilled and bitumised—in works on the U-shaped 'plateau' Cirque du Soleil site, and
- planned to be replaced by exotic turf.

Like Park 22, ACC under-reporting of native species in Park 24 for CLMP consultation correlates with its UPark carparking operations. Added incentives of the ACC 'event venue' and Adelaide

High School expansion may also have generated an APLA, ACC and state government working party, unconstrained by public scrutiny. The public will no doubt be informed of a western Park Lands debacle as soon as it has been worked up to the *fait accompli* stage.

The ACC is a serial offender, in failing to conserve extant native vegetation and employing Park Lands in direct competition with commercial venue hire operators. Using the Park Lands, managed under the *Local Government Act*, to compete with commercial venues such as the Showgrounds has long since been exposed as an Adelaide ratepayer-subsidised under-cutting of the market. It is especially egregious when carried out by silencing Park Lands CLMP's on the subject of native vegetation, in the knowledge that project proposals entail and intend removal of native vegetation.

With their habitat reportedly reduced to less than 1% of its former extent, does the ACC intend to drive native grasslands species into local extinction? It seems so.

Kelly Henderson



map. APLA Agenda 10 May 2012 Attachment F, p168.
5A. Detail from ACC deleted-biodiversity CLMP public consultation version, APLA-approved (see 4A) biodiversity management area reduced. Draft ACC Park Lands CLMP Chapter 5 (Park 21 West).



5B. Park 24 deleted-biodiversity version released for public consultation by ACC with nil biodiversity areas.

6. ACC UPark carparking for 2012 Cirque du Soleil 'OVO', in Park 24 on remnant native vegetation mapped in the 2004 ACC Mallen survey. Photo taken by K Henderson, 18 December 2012.

7. Amended CLMP biodiversity map for Park 24 presented to APLA, Agenda 6 December 2012, Item 5 Attachment D, p107. Area (A) from West Tce along Glover Avenue designated a revegetation area, and rectangular area (B) east of the railyards 'with a management direction to seek opportunities to achieve additional biodiversity outcomes'.



Offices of artful Theatre

In addition to a 'Significant Tree' killing expansion of its commercial bistro, the Adelaide Festival Centre (AFC) intends to claw new office space out of Park Lands in the Adelaide Oval footbridge's 'south landing' (see 'Nested interests', p14). However, the AFC's potential negative impact on Park Lands extends further.

The AFC's Hassell-designed 'Vision for the River Torrens Precinct', published 22 April 2012, is a 'proposal for an upgrade and revitalisation creating new facilities and integration with the Riverbank Precinct'.¹ Like SkyCity's Adelaide casino riverbank precinct concept video,² it discloses intentions for further alienate Park Lands:

- 4-level, 1360 space carpark, under a new 15-storey Commercial building;
- 350 seat cinema, and
- 'world class' arts entertainment and events hub.

In January 2013, an application for Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) funding—to establish an Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Park Lands 'Art Prize'—proposed to use the AFC gallery exhibition space. APLA Board Member Dr Anne Sharp queried the proposed location, suggesting a more populous North Terrace location would be a better choice, like the SA Museum's Waterhouse Natural History Art Prize. APPA members might rather ask why would their independent community-based watchdog organisation seek APLA funding for anything?

Since State Government and Council co-finance APLA, that funding would ultimately be obtained from sources infamous for their abuses of the Park Lands. Notoriously, APLA's Council-nominated positions are filled directly by Councillors who then have the conflicted role of advising themselves, whilst APLA stumbles along without specialist archaeological, heritage conservation, biodiversity or urban ecology expertise.

It could be said accepting funding from the Authority would be tantamount to APPA selling out, to the doubly conflicted 'Authority' as well as the State Government and Adelaide City Council.

Sales of exhibited APPA 'Art Prize' artwork would also direct sales commissions to the gallery—AFC. Why would APPA reward the Festival Theatre for Park Lands alienations?

Such considerations must give pause for thought. Should APPA knowingly fund, directly or indirectly, any abuser of Park Lands?

Given the rampant environmental vandalism now in progress at the AFC's request or with its blessing, surely APPA must refrain from directing commercial sales commissions of artworks (however prize-worthy they may be) into the Festival Theatre's coffers. Like the Park Lands, APPA can do without the offices of the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Kelly Henderson

1. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hpb460ZIZA&NR=1&feature=endscreen>, 22 April 2012.
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxVYKKE3xNM>, uploaded 30 March, 2011.

\$plat Adelaide

How do Adelaide City Council's ratepayers feel about a hefty \$1 million expenditure in the ACC's 2012-13 Business Plan and Budget for fripperies such as *Splash Adelaide*?

Tagged as Project ID 1731: under the 'Vibrant City' Strategic Operating Projects Program; full project name 'Expansion of Events and Activities Throughout the Year', and described as being allocated to assist in delivering a range of events and activities at 'the Adelaide Town Hall, Squares, Park Lands and under-utilised City places' with 'components' *Splash Adelaide*, food / wine and Town Hall Fringe Festival events, Parklets, laneways activation, Place-making initiatives and 'developing partnerships with key stakeholders'.

The Business Plan and Budget Lord Mayor's Message spruiked *Splash Adelaide*, as well as advertising that

A new relationship between the Adelaide City Council and the State Government embraces collaboration and is resulting in great outcomes for Adelaide ... It's a great time to be Lord Mayor. Together, we're making Adelaide a world-class city.

Collaboration between council and government is resulting in unprecedented tree-felling / woodchipping. How is trucking plastic parklets in and out of streets, whilst damaging real Park Lands, 'world-class'? In a similarly sad delusion, *Splash Adelaide* has morphed from activating 'streets and laneways' into bumping infrastructure into Park Lands and Squares.

Splash Adelaide: 'Bringing our city streets and laneways to life'

North Terrace, in front of Library
Truck in Position: From 1-7 March 2013
Event: Imagination Playground
2 March, 11am-2pm

Womadelaide (Botanic Park)
Truck in position: 7-11 March 2013

Whitmore Square
Truck in position: 11-18 March 2013
Event: Precious Possum Kids Show
17 March, 10.30-11.30am

Wellington Square
Truck in position: 18-28 March 2013
Event: Veggie Growing Demonstration;
23 March, 10-12pm

Extricating *Splash Adelaide*'s salad truck from Wellington Square must have been a muddy exercise, as it hammered deep truck tracks through the waterlogged park. It next appeared in Victoria Square, where people were happily actively enjoying real grass and shady trees.

Kelly Henderson

Signs of the times



WOMADverts
in Botanic Park,
Frome Road, by 23
December 2012; using
Park Lands to spruik
corporate sponsors
three months before
the event, which then
erected long fence
lines on the Hackney
Road frontage bearing
large commercial
advertising banners
for these sponsors.



De-activation of
Lounder's Boatshed,
Torrens Lake.



Splash Adelaide trash,
Light Square;
'Splash Adelaide'
ForkOnTheRoad
@LightSquare in
partnership with the
Adelaide Food and
Wine Festival, Friday
12 April 2013.

Where not to park: then ... and now

WHERE NOT TO PARK

Within 3 metres of a BUS STOP or any sign stating HAIL BUS HERE.

On any BRIDGE or CULVERT.

On the CITY OF ADELAIDE PARK LANDS, SQUARES and PLAZAS.

Left: Extract from City Parking and You, 'Where not to Park' p19. Copyright Corporation of the City of Adelaide, June 1993. Illustrations by George Aldridge. Booklet reflects the law applicable to parking in the City of Adelaide as at 1 June 1993.

Below: Victoria Square, near Flinders Street; Adelaide City Council 'Splash Adelaide: Bringing our city streets and laneways to life' program, salad truck. Photos taken by K Henderson, 12 April 2013.



NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 7334 Hutt Street 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 (concession) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 family (concession) | |

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached Electronic Funds Transfer

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')

Electronic Funds Transfer to ANZ: BSB: 015-310 Acc No: 4063-53172

Send to: Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc, PO Box 7334 Hutt Street SA 5000

08/12

Committee 2013–2014

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Next newsletter copy deadline:

31 May 2013



The Bunnip

VESTED INTERESTS.

A NEW CRY ADELAIDEANS, BEWARE!

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It is amusing to observe the petty dodges of some leading “political economists” in South Australia—men whose actions, in my opinion, have been from the colony’s earliest days and still are opposed to its real interests. Recorded recent events have led me to imagine as substantially correct a memo. in the following style from the banks of the River Torrens to those of the Murray, viz.:—

“ADELAIDE AND ITS PORT.

“TO BIG MURRAY.

“Confound you and your projected canal and port. Would you ruin us? Wait at least until after our new Big Parliament Houses and their corollaries have absorbed the present available public monies.”

I am, Sir, &c.,

COSMOPOLITAN.

August 11, 1874.

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