

# Park Lands news

April 2014 Number 53



TALAVERA BUÇACO ALBUERA SALAMANCA VITORIA NIVELLE NIVE ORTHEZ TOULOUSE

Colonel William Light, *Self portrait*, c.1815, Art Gallery of South Australia, 866P21

# Civic reception for Park Lands artists



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Front cover: **LIGHT, Colonel William**  
Australia, 1786 - 1839  
**Self portrait**  
c.1815, Britain  
Oil on canvas on board  
83.8 x 61.8 cm  
Gift of Standard Chartered Bank Australia Limited to mark its inauguration in South Australia's 150th Anniversary Year 1986 and the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide 866P21



*Top: Detail of Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood, Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc. President Hon Ian Gilfillan and Master of Ceremonies Councillor Sue Clearihan, Lord Mayor's Reception for the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize finalists, Queen Adelaide Room, Adelaide Town Hall.*  
*Above centre: Detail of State Member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson MP, APPA Committee member Ian Hordacre and Jeanette Hordacre.*  
*Above: Detail of APPA Art Prize sub-committee members, President Hon Ian Gilfillan, Hamish Ramsay and Alison Mitchell. Courtesy of the City of Adelaide. Photos by Clark Rodda, Festival City Photography, 12 February 2014.*



## Editorial

To commemorate the bicentenary of William Light's Peninsular War service we are thankful for assistance received in publishing Light's self portrait (front cover), courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia. This depicts Light in his Peninsular War Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General's staff uniform indicating his cavalry reconnaissance officer role in its details of spurs and telescope.

This issue republishes Napier's account of Light's heroic gallop in March 1814 along the French main line to report to Wellington the disposition of troops (p 11). This was shortly before the combat of Tarbes, France (20 March); Napoleon's abdication (12 April); the battles of Toulouse and Bayonne, and armistice (17 April). Courtesy of the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal we also publish an extract from Lopez's 1811 military map of the Kingdom of Portugal (p 7).

Light's military experience ultimately contributed to Adelaide's unique Plan—a topographical masterpiece. We thank History SA and the Migration Museum for providing Light's 1837 Adelaide Plan 'Provincial Survey A' (back cover), displayed in last year's OzAsia Festival's *The Visionary Lights* (p 9).

Instead of honouring Light's and others' service, we see disrespect for memorial sites masquerades as 'vibrancy' (p 8):

- commercial footy closures of War Memorial Drive and road block at O'Connell / Ward Streets obstructing access to the Cross of Sacrifice, Brougham and Palmer Gardens, and
- Splash Adelaide's commercialisation of Light's burial site with tacky vending vans, turning Light Square's main axial vista into a truck park, within spitting distance of the National Heritage plaque.

Our thanks to Minister John Rau, to all contributors, and to Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood, the City of Adelaide and Clark Rodda for photographs of the Civic Reception held for Park Lands Art Prize finalists, hosted by the Lord Mayor with MC Councillor Sue Clearihan. —Ed.



# Opinion: So much for the vibrant city

A peculiarity of the current government is that it appears to have two ministers for heritage—one for and one against.

Ian Hunter oversees the Heritage Council which looks after places of importance to the State and occasionally adds some.

John Rau, Minister for Planning, acts as the Minister Against Heritage, using veto power to prevent local councils from implementing their recommendations for the listing of Local Heritage Places.

While I haven't personally checked, it's quite possible Minister Rau's department employs more staff and consultants to quash heritage listings than Minister Hunter employs to protect heritage places.

Over the last five years the Adelaide City Council has gone to a great deal of trouble to identify places worth adding to its register. When they forwarded a list of 77 new places to the Minister for approval, he vetoed 41 of them. Many of the grounds listed for refusal appear dubious. For example, several were said to occupy 'strategic sites'. Others were said to be of a type 'over-represented'. These reasons have nothing to do with the legal criteria for heritage listing.

Minister Rau is also on record as saying that too much heritage listing imperils his goal of making Adelaide a more vibrant city by raising the Council area's population to 50,000.

Anyone who knows what goes on within our ring of Park Lands knows this is hogwash.

The most vibrant areas of the city – and the most populous – are to be found where old buildings abound. The most desolate and underdeveloped parts of the city are where heritage buildings have been wiped off the map.

Take a walk along King William Street south of Victoria Square and see for yourself. Where old buildings stand along the west side there is life. Otherwise the streetscape looks like postwar London, dotted by empty blocks.

Compare the bustle of Leigh Street with its bustling restaurant scene with nearby Peel Street or Bank Streets which are anything but vibrant. What makes the difference? Old buildings.

If what we want is more population, where do we find most people? Near the heritage clusters in North Adelaide,



North Terrace and the southeast corner. Where do we find the least? West of Morphett Street where old buildings are few and far between.

As far as people are concerned the Park Land frontage of West Terrace is as dead as the cemetery across the road.

By vetoing considered recommendations of the City Council, the Minister Against Heritage shoots down the prospects for a more vibrant city, and shoots himself in the foot.

*Professor Norman Etherington*  
President  
National Trust of South Australia

[www.adelaideheritage.net.au/all-campaigns/so-much-for-the-vibrant-city/](http://www.adelaideheritage.net.au/all-campaigns/so-much-for-the-vibrant-city/)

## Opinion: Park Lands advisory group

### Comments on the establishment of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Advisory Group

In theory, the establishment of a committee or advisory group to help the Adelaide Park Lands Authority to create the next version of the Park Lands Management Strategy is a good idea. In practice, the advisory group will most probably complicate the process and prolong it.

The resolutions made already by the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board make most of the thoughts below redundant. However, there may still be some value in bearing the following in mind when negotiating/communicating about the next version of the Park Lands Management Strategy.

#### **Makeup of the advisory group**

The biggest challenge for the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association has always been to retain open space and preserve habitat in the Park Lands.

This challenge will become even greater when the Authority receives its advice from the advisory group made up chiefly of people who always cast greedy eyes on the development and exploitation potential of the Park

Lands. Out of the ten people making up the advisory group, and assuming it functions along the normal lines of majority votes rule, you can expect one or more of the Authority representatives, the Renewal SA representative, the DPTI representative, and the three inner rim council representatives all to push for and vote for greater built form and development (eg special facilities, hard surfaces, access roads); that is, seven or more of the ten members would be pushing for things that APPA will find mostly repugnant.

#### **Inner rim council representation**

What evidence is there that ratepayers in the metropolitan inner rim councils are more frequent users of the Park Lands compared with the rest of people in metropolitan Adelaide?

My experience during the Victoria Park 'corporate box' campaign led me to believe that the people I met in the Park Lands came from many council areas and not just those adjacent to the Park Lands.

Continued on p 4

## APPA AGM

10am Sunday  
27 April 2014  
Morning tea from  
9.30am

Guest Speaker:  
**Stephanie  
Johnston**

Adelaide Park Lands Authority  
Board Member; Mt Lofty Ranges  
World Heritage Bid Manager

*Pursuing  
World Heritage Listing  
as a Placemaking Tool*

# Interview: The Hon Minister John Rau MP

On Wednesday 26 March 2014 Planning Minister Hon John Rau MP was gazetted as Minister for Housing and Urban Development, and the *City of Adelaide Act 1998* was committed to the Minister for Planning.

Prior to the state election, on 23 January 2014 *The Advertiser* reported 'Charles Sturt, Prospect, West Torrens, Burnside and Unley all want membership' on the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board. That board was mistakenly characterised as 'responsible for planning decisions and the future direction of the entire parklands' and according to *The Advertiser* West Torrens Mayor John Trainer viewed current arrangements as unrepresentative.

The *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005*, and experience, tells us the Authority is only **advisory**, and mostly ignored by government when it comes to construction on Park Lands.

Burleying up further urban development of open space with an election promise of \$20m over 4 years Premier Weatherill claimed 'Adelaide needs a new vision for our parklands (sic)' (News Release, 3 November 2013). The Minister for Planning The Hon John Rau and Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, The Hon Ian Hunter—both



Thank you to Minister John Rau (above, right) and City of Prospect Mayor David O'Loughlin (above, left) for allowing the Editor to record an interview with them for the *Park Lands News*. Adventure playground, Bonython Park, Adelaide Park Lands, Sunday 3 November 2013.

guiding an 'independent' person to be appointed to manage this process—'will be leading conversations about how this new vision can be delivered and how these new funds will be spent.'

*Outlining the announcement made of a change in management of Park Lands:*

**Minister John Rau:** [A]t this stage it's an offer about increased finance which we hope will improve the cooperation between the various groups that are involved, [that] have an interest in the Park Lands.

At the moment from a purely legal point of view, it's only really the Adelaide City Council and the State Government that have any direct representation in relation to the Park Lands and even then the legislation constrains the State Government at least in terms of the sort of qualifications that the participants need to have.

That means that in terms of people like Unley, West Torrens, Prospect—even though they've got their faces pressed against the glass looking at the Park Lands [they] don't actually have any formal participation in any conversation about that.

Now, if we can improve that conversation about that, and get improvement in the cooperation between everybody, and use government funds to achieve that, that's a great outcome, and my preferred position is that we achieve everything that we need to achieve without the need to get too hung up about formal governance structures. But it may be that we can achieve great things by everybody sitting around the table and working together. Now that's my preferred position.

Continued on p 11

## Comments on the establishment of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Advisory Group

Continued from p 3

It may be that the inner rim councils see the Park Lands as the default open space option for their ratepayers and this attitude, supported by developer-instigated state government planning policies, allows them to sell off their own public open space and campaign for some control over the adjacent Park Lands.

The argument that there will be greater housing densities in the inner rim councils, leading to more people requiring Park Lands open space for their recreation (because they no longer have space around their homes), does not stack up because all metropolitan council areas are expected to increase housing density.

The sincerity of the inner rim councils should be tested as soon as possible by requiring financial commitments by them towards Park Lands management. The participation of these [inner rim] councils in this advisory group will immediately raise their expectations that their views will count, but this has to be strongly

connected to their willingness to part with money. If this is not achieved, the battle to get funding from them will be long and ineffectual, a little like the situation with the state government that was hot on the rhetoric, then bullied its way into more of the Park Lands—all without really supporting Park Lands management financially. The \$20m over four years is still to be seen, and I'm doubtful that the Lord Mayor's request for \$52k will be received well.

### Place making

The 'place making' philosophy currently guiding the ACC and state government thinking has the potential for creating more fragmentation of the Park Lands in physical, visual and conceptual terms.

One of the over-riding concerns of the Authority and ACC a few years ago was to attempt greater unification of the Park Lands, both physically and conceptually. Place making has many positive aspects but the negatives have to be considered and avoided.

Gunta Groves

## WOMAD Stage fire

Before sunrise on Tuesday 11 March 2014, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) was called to a fire at the main WOMAdelaide stage, Botanic Drive, Botanic Park. According to the MFS the cause of the fire was 'undetermined' but possibly an 'accidental electrical fault':

*workers say a wind storm event occurred at the site about 20 mins before a security guard noticed fire at one of the stages ... the security guard tried to extinguish the fire and called 000 to report the incident*

*40 MFS fire fighters from 9 appliances saved the structure of the stage, however the fire caused an estimated \$300,000 damage to electrical equipment, a piano, and flooring of the stage.*

Kelly Henderson



Below: Before and after images of the South Park Lands, concept images of state government's plans for Adelaide City Council managed Adelaide Park Lands. On 3 November state government 'launched plans for the Parklands (sic) that complement the housing policy' (launched in the previous week). [Premier Weatherill and Deputy Premier John Rau (Minister for Planning), Joint News Release Sunday 3 November 2013]

see [http://dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/adelaide\\_parklands](http://dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/adelaide_parklands)

The News Release also announced (on page 2):

*An independent body will be established to undertake the community engagement process, reporting to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation ... All interested individuals and groups are encouraged to view a presentation about the new parklands vision and leave their feedback at*

**[www.vibrant.sa.gov.au/parklands](http://www.vibrant.sa.gov.au/parklands)**

(i.e. [http://dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/adelaide\\_parklands](http://dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/adelaide_parklands))





# Montemor-o-Velho and the Mondego River: a Portuguese source for Adelaide's river park

Montemor-o-Velho, a picturesque historic castellated town, is located between Portugal's capital, Lisbon (on the Tagus River), and the northern city of Porto (on the Douro River). The Mondego River flows via Coimbra, by Montemor-o-Velho and floodplains, on its way to the sea near Figueira da Foz.

When Wellington's Army was in winter cantonments in 1810, British cavalry officers were accommodated in Montemor-o-Velho's Convento de Nossa Senhora dos Anjos (Convent of Our Lady of the Angels).

Lieutenant William Light—later the first Surveyor-General of South Australia and planner and founder of the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands—arrived in Montemor-o-Velho on 25 February 1810, and was stationed there for two months.

Light witnessed the flooding of the town after heavy rains. In early March he recorded the water was well above his knee in the town's market place, and a vast quantity of cattle had been drowned. Given Light's experiences in Portugal and Spain, no wonder Light sited Adelaide on 'rising ground' avoiding land liable to inundation.

Although the Convent is usually closed, the municipal council, the Câmara Municipal de Montemor-o-Velho, kindly facilitated a site visit in November 2013.

The Convent originally belonged to the Order of Hermits of St. Augustine. It was founded in 1494 with permission from Pope Alexander IV and the chapel contains the tomb of Diogo de Azambuja (d.1518). The convent was abolished in 1834, the property dispensed with and sold. In 1935 the State acquired the cloister and commenced reconstruction of the roof frame, window frames, floors, and repairs to plaster and joinery.

Further repairs, of the cloister, cells and stables are needed to keep out pigeons and weather. Better still, by returning the building to active use as a tourism interpretative centre it could tell the stories of the Convent and of Montemor-o-Velho, and their connection to Adelaide.

*Kelly Henderson*

*Special thanks to Presidente Emílio Torrão and staff of the Câmara Municipal Montemor-o-Velho and Castelo tourism office for their kind assistance.*



The heraldic flag, arms and seal of said County is as follows:

**FLAG**—Quartered in yellow and black. Cords and tassels of gold and black. Rod and golden spear.

**ARMS**—On a purple field a gold castle, open, the central tower charged with a quina (11 circles) of ancient Portugal. The castle accompanied by two fleurs de lis, gold. Counter-chief over three tracks, two silver and one blue. Silver mural crown with four towers. Listel white with the words 'VILA DE MONTEMOR-O-VELHO' of black.

**SEAL**—Circular, with the central parts of arms, without indicating the glaze. In turn, within concentric circles, the words 'Câmara Municipal de Montemor-o-Velho'.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND CIVIL ORDINANCE No. 8,375; Ministry of the Interior, March 2, 1936; Interior Minister, Mario Pais de Sousa. [Government Gazette, Series I, of March 2, 1936; <http://www.cm-montemorvelho.pt/heraldica.htm>].





Above: *Detail of A New General Military Map of the Kingdom of Portugal by Don Thomas Lopez, Geographer to His Catholic Majesty. London. Published by John Stockdale, Picadilly, 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1811. Neele sculp.† Strand. Courtesy of the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal. C.A. 382 A.*

Right and top right: *Montemor-o-Velho castle walls.*

Top left: *River Mondego and Montemor-o-Velho.*

Left: *Convento de Nossa Senhora dos Anjos see Câmara Municipal de Montemor-o-Velho; [http://www.cm-montemorvelho.pt/patrimonio\\_historico.asp?ref=29MOV](http://www.cm-montemorvelho.pt/patrimonio_historico.asp?ref=29MOV); English translation: [http://translate.google.com.au/translate?hl=en&sl=pt&u=http://www.cm-montemorvelho.pt/patrimonio\\_historico.asp%3Fref%3D29MOV&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dconvento%2Bde%2Bnossa%2Bsenhora%2Bdos%2BANjos%2Bcm-montemorvelho%26biw%3D1317%26bih%3D870](http://translate.google.com.au/translate?hl=en&sl=pt&u=http://www.cm-montemorvelho.pt/patrimonio_historico.asp%3Fref%3D29MOV&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dconvento%2Bde%2Bnossa%2Bsenhora%2Bdos%2BANjos%2Bcm-montemorvelho%26biw%3D1317%26bih%3D870).*

Left centre: *cloisters; bottom left: kitchen and stableyard.*



River Douro, PORTUGAL



Madrid, SPAIN



Tordesillas, SPAIN



Salamanca, SPAIN



# Signs of the times



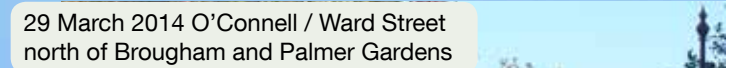
31 March 2014; Parks 21West and 22 (South Toe /Goodwood Rd)



4 February 2014  
Light's Vision



26 March 2014 Pennington Park /  
Montefiore Hill / Light's Vision



29 March 2014 O'Connell / Ward Street  
north of Brougham and Palmer Gardens



31 March 2014 Victoria Park (East Terrace):  
Clipsal500 construction exclusion zones



4 March 2014  
Botanic Park



National Heritage Place  
plaque, Light Square

2 April 2014  
Light Square



# Review: *The Visionary Lights*



View *The Visionary Lights* video online at:  
<http://vimeo.com/74429111>; or  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3nY-xnAF1I&noredirect=1>

The OzAsia Festival's *The Visionary Lights* (13–29 September 2013), advertised as an 'exhibition' at three locations—Festival Theatre, Migration Museum, and Adelaide Town Hall—seemed more like a Sister City infomercial.

Although the Festival Centre offered a trishaw, the rest of the display consisted of six paragraphs of text and a short video, summarising the father-son link between George Town, Penang, and Adelaide:

*[which] began way back in 1786 when British entrepreneur Captain Francis Light founded Penang as a British territory through strategic negotiations with the Sultan of Kedah. Fifty years later in 1836, Colonel William Light followed his father's footsteps and as the first Surveyor General for South Australia, selected the site for the new city of Adelaide, surveyed the area and laid out a brilliant city plan that is still held in high esteem the world over.*

*... Many Penang residents hold Francis Light in high esteem. He is a man who shaped their history, admired as Penang's founder, just as Adelaidians admire William Light and value the legacy of his unique city design and parklands that has given Adelaide a heritage envied throughout the world.*

The large format poster display at the Adelaide Festival Theatre was well illustrated, poorly referenced, and conveniently located for comfortable viewing with nearby seating. In comparison, the OzAsia Festival's display at the Migration Museum location disappointingly used a 'kiosk' installation that had technical and practical flaws. Despite the availability of a good selection of relevant and interesting illustrations, several images were omitted from the half-hearted cut-down poster and the stand-up kiosk had insufficient

thought given to its design and placement. The screen was too high to be readily accessible from a wheelchair or for younger children, and its placement next to a west-

facing full length glass window caused severe light glare to render the screen text and images virtually unreadable.

For those with limited time *The Visionary Lights* video provides a snapshot with colourful images and anecdotes. In addition to the narration by the South Australian Maritime Museum's Lindl Lawton, Glen Woodward, the Adelaide Town Hall's expert tour guide, gave a delightful rendition of historical

*Above: OzAsia Festival's 'The Visionary Lights' display (Adelaide Festival Theatre Foyer) consisted of a tv/video screen set in a poster panel, and trishaw / pedicab. Right: The display at the Migration Museum, Kintore Avenue consisted of a small poster (same text but absent several illustrations) and a video 'kiosk'. Photographs taken by K Henderson, September 2013.*

excerpts, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Stephen Yarwood spoke on the Sister City relationship, and local Adelaide businesswoman Wendy Wu provided a Penang / Malaysian perspective. This video is fortunately still accessible online and worth viewing, and the marvellous 1837 map with Park Lands is featured on the back cover of this issue, courtesy of the Migration Museum and History SA.

*Kelly Henderson*

## Adelaide Park Lands Authority new members

**Ms Stephanie Johnston**, on the basis that she has in turn been nominated by an organisation which demonstrates an interest in the preservation and management of the Adelaide Park Lands for the benefit of the community (pursuant to section 6 (4) of the Act).

As a Deputy for Ms Johnston **Mr James Daly**, a member of the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association and has extensive knowledge of the history and planning of the Park Lands.

**Dr Rosemary Anne Sharp**, Senior Research Fellow at the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science at the University of South Australia is a former Member re-nominated on the basis of

her "extensive experience in sustainable marketing and design matters and considerable exposure to working with federal, state and local government, primarily in the area of policy evaluation and program delivery preferences."

**Mr Roger Zubrinich**, nominated by Minister Ian Hunter for his 'extensive experience working across Government in relation to water management and his keen interest in the Adelaide Park Lands.'

As a Deputy to Roger Zubrinich, **Ms Elaine Bensted**, Chief Executive, Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, nominated on the basis of her accounting qualifications, MBA and Masters in Public Policy.



Continued from p 4

**Q: Given the economic benefits that are now understood from World Heritage and the announcement yesterday at the Australia ICOMOS conference that property prices have sky-rocketed in George Town since its World Heritage listing, would you be supportive of World Heritage nomination of the Plan of Adelaide and its Park Lands and City Squares, excluding all private property?**

Well, look I don't want to dodge the question but I'm not actually sure of what the exact legal consequences of that listing might be, and for that reason ... for instance it might mean that we suddenly find that because that's done through some international covenant that the City of Adelaide winds up being run out of Canberra, and I certainly wouldn't be happy about that.

... I'm not saying I'm opposed to it, or anything else. I'm just saying because I don't have any advice about what the consequences are, it would be really foolish of me to say yes, I'm embracing something when I don't even know what I'm talking about.

But, can I tell you this, nobody in this government is interested in destroying or desecrating the Park Lands or the city. That is not what we're on about. What we're on about is activation and engagement. For too long, the Park Lands have been a moat between the Central Business District and those South Australians who don't live within the Central Business District. It's got to become an engaged element which joins the inner city with the CBD, that's the change that I'm talking about. It's nothing to do with desecration, it's to do with engagement and activation.

**Q: Are you concerned that the Adelaide City Council continues to self appoint to the [Adelaide] Park Lands Authority ... for example, there's no expert on biodiversity or archaeology?**

... All I can say is that so far as I'm concerned it's a matter of by their actions I shall judge them, if they cooperate with the government and the councils like Prospect Council, I'm not really too agitated about whether they've got an archaeology degree or whether they've got a biodiversity qualification, that doesn't upset me at all. All I'm interested in is whether they play the game. If they don't play the game, then that's a problem.

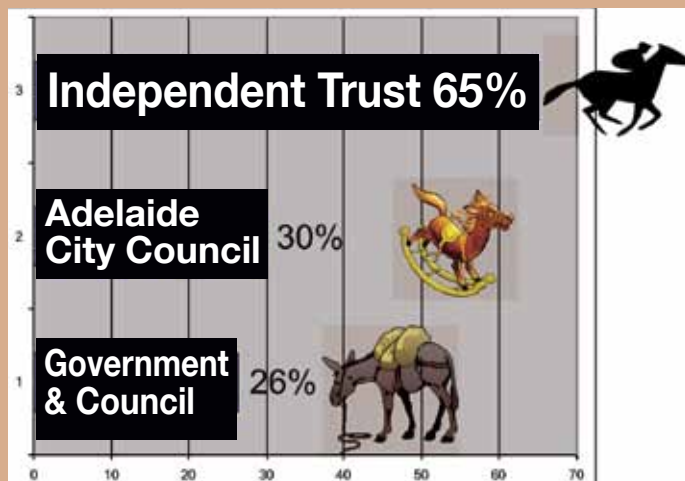
... before I was going to the wall over having an archaeologist or a biodiversity specialist, I'd be going to the wall about having Prospect at the table, or Unley at the table, or West Torrens at the table, because it is somewhat artificial and almost, sort of, Monty

# ADELAIDE PARK LANDS HANDICAP

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

STATUS QUO

JAYDED ALSO-RANN



Above: Park Lands management model cartoon presented at the Protecting Public Lands forum convened in 2006 by Kris Hanna MP; K Henderson, revised 2014.

Who would have thought Minister John Hill's retirement would ring-in the Premier's radical proposition: that the government-chosen advisory board management model—the Adelaide Park Lands Authority—enshrined in legislation by government's own Act, with government and council's hand-picked Board, is fundamentally flawed? The government selected the current model knowing it to be the most opposed option. Lest they forget ... the most supported option was an independent Trust.

On 5 November 2013 ABC reported the Park Lands Preservation Association President Ian Gilfillan said he thought the Government proposal was an attempt to gain greater control of the land from Adelaide City Council. Other comments indicate that other councils and commercial developers could expect to benefit:

*Residents of inner-rim councils should be recognised as important voices in how the parklands (sic) should be used, therefore councils bordering the parklands (sic) have an obligation, and a right, to have a say about their use ...*

Unley Mayor Lachlan Clyne

*We could have tram stops, there may be pop-up events, pop-up cafes, pop-up restaurants - really its up to the imagination of the people who live around the parklands (sic) about what they want to do with their own parks.*

Environment Minister Ian Hunter

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-11-04/residents-group-sceptical-of-adelaide-parklands-upgrade-plan/5066862>

Pythonesque really, to be moving down the path of looking at all these academic qualifications sitting around the table when the hundreds of thousands of people who live immediately around there have no direct voice at all.

So I'm not disinterested in people with those qualifications being there, but in the order of priority they sit quite a bit lower than having, as I said, Prospect, West Torrens, Unley and other people in the conversation.

**Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

Only that the LGA I think has really opened up an historic opportunity here at the moment by coming to the conclusions they have. It's not often that you have a coincidence of two groups forming a similar opinion at roughly the same time so that you don't ... they're not butting heads. Now that's happening now, and we're crazy if we don't take advantage of it.

## Walk away

Adelaide City Council should walk away from Premier Jay Weatherill's request for \$2m from council to co-fund construction of an 'ANZAC Centenary Memorial Garden Walk' (14 February 2014), on Park Lands west of Kintore Avenue.

This Renewal SA project intends hard surfacing of greenspace, degrading Park Lands whilst soon-to-be centenarian war memorials languish, unfunded. With nationally significant war memorials in Park Lands under their care, will council fund conservation of the 1914 War Memorial Oak, 1915 Dardanelles Monument and Gallipoli Wattle Grove or the highly degraded (armistice) War Memorial Drive? Or will council jump on government's Park Lands slabbing, road-widening bandwagon?

Kelly Henderson



# Colloquium celebrates Peninsular War bicentenary

The Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar (Portuguese Commission for Military History) commemorated the bicentenary of the Peninsular War with its XXII COLÓQUIO DE HISTÓRIA MILITAR "Portugal Na Guerra Peninsular (1812–1815)", held in Lisbon, 12-15 November 2013.

The value of military service in peacetime was emphasised by a paper on William Light, first Surveyor-General of South Australia, and his topographical masterpiece—Adelaide and its Park Lands.

Thought to be the son of Portuguese-Siamese Martinha Rozells, Light was never absent from duty and, like the Duke of Wellington, remained on the Iberian peninsula during the winters, between military campaigns. As a cavalry officer, assessing topography, routes and rivers, Light gained valuable experience becoming 'pre-eminently qualified' for his role in founding Adelaide.

Kelly Henderson



*Special thanks to the President and staff of the Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar whose warm welcome, generous hospitality, and kind assistance with translation was greatly appreciated.*

*Left: (at far left) Tenente-General Alexandre de Sousa Pinto, Presidente da Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar (President of the Portuguese Commission for Military History); Kelly Henderson; Saj. Mestre Jorge Silva Rocha; (at right) Colonel Cavalry (Reserve) José A. M. De Ataíde Banazol (Secretary-general of the Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar).*

*Palácio da Independência – Largo de S. Domingos, Lisboa, 16 November 2013.*

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### Membership:

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

## Wellington's dashing cavalry officer

### Near Vic-en-Bigorre, France, March 1814:

*Lord Wellington was desirous to know whether a small or a large force thus barred his way, but all who endeavoured to ascertain the fact were stopped by the fire of the enemy.*

*At last captain William Light, distinguished by the variety of his attainments, an artist, musician, mechanist, seaman, and soldier, made the trial. He rode forward as if he would force his way through the French skirmishers, but when in the wood dropt his reins and leaned back as if badly wounded; his horse appeared to canter wildly along the front of the enemy's light troops, and they thinking him mortally hurt ceased their fire and took no further notice. He thus passed unobserved through the wood to the other side of the hill, where there were no skirmishers, and ascending to the open summit above, put spurs to his horse and galloped along the French main line counting their regiments as he passed.*

*His sudden appearance, his blue undress, his daring confidence and his speed, made the French doubt if he was an enemy, and a few shots only were discharged, while he, dashing down the opposite declivity, broke from the rear through the very skirmishers whose fire he had first essayed in front. Reaching the spot where lord Wellington stood he told him there were but five battalions on the hill.*

WFP Napier, *History of the war in the peninsula and in the south of France from the year 1807 to the year 1814* (Vol VI)

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William Light's 1837 Plan of Adelaide, South Australia—Provincial Survey A

History SA collection HT 2001.166

Drawn by Robert Thomas to Colonel Light's draft. History Trust of South Australia, Historical Records Collection. Courtesy of the Migration Museum and History SA.