



APPA [has written to the Lord Mayor](#) (in his capacity as Chair of the Park Lands Authority) urging the Authority to revisit this decision.

We've suggested that the Council has jettisoned 122 years of Park Lands history and is contributing to confusion by removing Park numbering.



Here (above) is the Council's new idea of a useful guide to the Park Lands.



And this is APPA's idea of something more useful. We've simply overlaid the historic numbers. Even ignoring the 122-year heritage, the numbers serve a practical purpose, as an index. See what we mean at <http://www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/explore-parks>

The Park numbers had been in use since 1895. (See below.) They were (and still are) a useful shorthand way of referring to each Park and acknowledging that each numbered Park is part of the greater whole.

APPA is continuing to use Park numbers (as well as the English and Kaurna names for each Park). We are happy to use both the old and new names, but we won't abandon the numbers, because they are:

- much more practical and convenient;
- a signal of the relationship between adjacent Parks;
- a signal that each Park is part of a larger whole;
- the only way of describing parts of the Park Lands that are in the control of various State agencies; and
- part of the historic integrity of the Park Lands.

Read our letter to the Lord Mayor: [http://archives.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/Submissions%20and%20Letters/LordMayor\\_letter\\_Jan2018\\_re\\_Park\\_Numbers.pdf](http://archives.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/Submissions%20and%20Letters/LordMayor_letter_Jan2018_re_Park_Numbers.pdf)







An 1895 map showing the Park numbers – some of which have changed over the years, but now all gone as a result of a City Council decision.

[Here's the list of at least 68 English names and 37 Kaurna names that are used for various parts of the Adelaide Park Lands.](#)

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**'TREE CLIMB' GETS APPROVAL FROM PARKLANDS AUTHORITY**





The City Council, at its meeting on 30 January is scheduled to decide whether to grant a lease over some of the tree tops in Blue Gum Park / Kurangga (Park 20) off Unley Rd.

The proposal already has the approval of the Park Lands Authority which last month recommended the City Council approve the idea.

A [recent article in the Eastern Courier Messenger](#) focussed on the "Tree Climb" proposal which is planned to include flying foxes, bridges and climbing obstacles across 16,000 square metres of tree canopy near the existing BMX bicycle park in Park 20.

Provided that the Council endorses the proposed eight-year lease, work is likely to start in March and be completed by August 2018. APPA has expressed support for the concept on the basis that it will bring thousands of new visitors into the Park Lands and hopefully raise awareness of the need to protect them.

We were glad to learn that the area underneath the "Tree Climb" would remain open for public use. Our only concern was for the size of any administration or storage facilities that might be installed, on the ground.

The proponents are the people who run the [Bounce SA indoor trampolining facility on Richmond Road at Marleston](#).



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### WHAT'S THAT BULLDOZER DOING?

It can be hard to keep up with all the construction work that is under way, at any one time, in the Park Lands.

Here's a few of the projects currently under way, with pictures taken just a few days ago, in January 2018.



#### NETBALL COURTS.

Resurfacing (and expansion) of netball courts in Josie Agius Park / Wikaparntiu Wirra (Park 22). Later, it's intended that these hard courts will be supplemented with two new hard-surface hockey courts as well, with a new sports building to cater for both sports.

#### COMMUNITY HUB

Landscaping works for a new "community hub" and upgraded "Marshmallow playground" off Glen Osmond Rd in Pelzer Park / Pityarilla (Park 19).

You can read about the plans for this Park here: <http://yourfutureadelaide.com.au/projects/pityarilla-activity-hub/>

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**FORMAL GARDEN**

Landscaping work under way in Gladys Elphick Park / Narnungga (Park 25) between Glover Avenue and Port Rd near the new Royal Adelaide Hospital

**FESTIVAL PLAZA**

Construction huts alongside King William Road to facilitate the re-construction of the Festival Centre and Festival Plaza, alongside Elder Park in Tarntanya Wama (Park 26)

**OTHER RECENT OR CURRENT CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT PARK LOSSES**

- [The O'Bahn busway](#) next to the lake in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) is still not finished. Remediation of the landscape will take some time yet.
- [Botanic High School, Frome Road](#), permanently alienating a slice of Park 11 - due for completion early 2019
- [Uni SA's new "Health Innovation building"](#) North Terrace - taken from Park 27 (along with the new RAH, SAHMRI building etc alongside it)
- The [SA Cricket Association's new three-storey pavilion](#) in Gladys Elphick Park / Narnungga (Park 25). Work on the new building seems to be nearly completed but there are not yet any signs of removing the old red brick building nearby, which was part of the approval

**RECENT LONG-TERM (but hopefully not permanent) LOSSES**

- [The Adelaide Festival's pontoon/barge](#) in the River Torrens, Elder Park / Tarntanya Wama (Park 26) - to stay in place until at least autumn 2019.

**OTHER CURRENT CONSTRUCTION IN THE PARK LANDS**

- The [Torrens Rail Junction Project](#) - alienating large swathes of Park 1 and Park 27A - although when eventually finished it is not supposed to be taking any more Park Lands than the existing rail lines.



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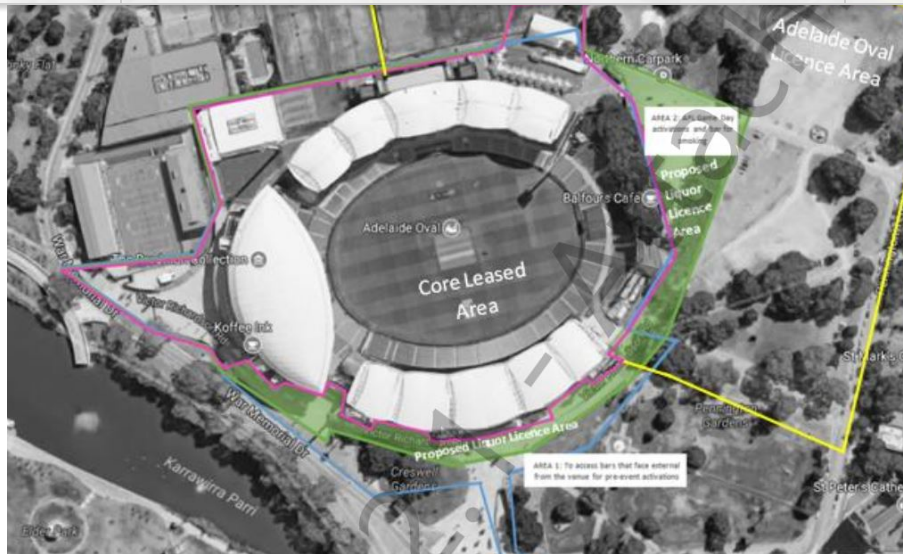
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**CHEEKY GRAB AND CHEEKY RESPONSES**



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As we [highlighted in the e-Gazette of November 2017](#), the Stadium Management Authority has hit a setback with its plans for an expanded liquor licensing area to the north of Adelaide Oval (marked in green on the plan above).

The liquor licensing bid was part of a push to hold concerts, with attendances up to 18,000, OUTSIDE Adelaide Oval, on the slopes of Stella Bowen Park, just down the hill from Light's Vision. APPA loves to see people enjoying outdoor events in the Park Lands, but as the North Adelaide Society has pointed out, there is already a perfectly suitable venue for massive concerts INSIDE the Oval. The City Council has been reluctant to subject North Adelaide residents to loud events (of that scale) outside the stadium, in addition to the many events inside the stadium.

*The Advertiser*, in an editorial on 5 January, obliquely took aim at both the Council and the North Adelaide Society:

## Open parklands

ADELAIDE Oval authorities' plan to host concert and community events in the northern parklands is a concept that will not be permanently shelved, despite North Adelaide-based opposition.

It is not unlike the Victoria Park grandstand proposal of last decade. This sensible plan was thwarted by a relatively small group of opponents, despite the obvious merits for the general public.

Concerts and similar events for up to 18,000 people – not major festivals – would seem entirely reasonable uses for parklands.

There is a shibboleth among some that the parklands are best preserved by their use being confined to a privileged few. This is an outmoded and elitist view.

Sensibly managed events – like the recent Midnight Oil concert – bring people into the city and help Adelaide Oval achieve necessary income.

As opponents of the Oval's \$535 million upgrade have discovered, progress cannot be resisted forever.

The parklands are not the exclusive province of those who are fortunate enough to live nearby. With appropriate events, they can be both enjoyed and preserved.

This editorial conveniently ignored the fact that nearly all alienations of Park Lands over the past 180 years have taken away public access to give restricted access to various categories of the "privileged few".

APPA is a rare voice always highlighting the public interest in keeping Park Lands "public". Accordingly, we couldn't resist a cheeky reply:

"Congratulations to *The Advertiser's* editorial writer "Open Parklands" (5 January) who has moved with the times to endorse what the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association (APPA) has been saying for



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...years, that Park Lands use should not be confined to a "privileged few". We look forward to *The Advertiser* continuing this campaign and joining APPA in resisting ongoing attempts by sectional interests of the "privileged few" (often with State Government endorsement) to curtail public access to more and more Park Lands spaces with concrete canyons and swathes of bitumen."

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PARK LANDS VIDEO OF THE MONTH



**The Olive Groves**  
Kuntingga (Park 7) and Parngutilla (Park 8)

**The Adelaide Park Lands**

Spend three minutes in The Olive Groves: Kuntingga (Park 7) and Parngutilla (Park 8)  
Next month: Bunday's Paddock / Tidlangga (Park 9)

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WHAT'S ON IN THE PARK LANDS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

There are always events scheduled in the Park Lands, many of them free, and there are always opportunities to explore the Park Lands on your own, or with friends or family. Take a look at [our picture gallery](#) for hints about interesting spots to visit. This month's featured opportunities are:



[Discover Wirraninithi](#). Wed 17 January 10am to 11.30am. Free guided walk through G.S. Kingston Park / Wirraninithi (Park 23), discovering the many sights and sculptures. Leaving from Adelaide South West Community Centre, 171 Sturt Street (weather permitting)



["Ride With Keith"](#) every Wednesday 9am to 11am. A weekly bike ride for cyclists of any ability around the Park Lands and river bike paths of Adelaide. Pace is leisurely and open to all. Coffee and socialising at the conclusion of every ride and hosted by Adelaide icon, Keith Conlon. Leaves from 124 Halifax Street.

[Guided walk through Blue Gum Park / Kurangga \(Park 20\)](#)

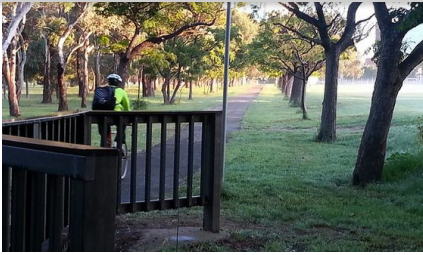
Saturday 20 January 2018 - 9.30am to 11.15am. Meet at the corner of Unley Rd and Greenhill Rd. More details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/371870996570688/>

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[Come 'n' try Junior Golf](#). Every Saturday, 9:30am to 10:00am & also 1:30pm to 2:00pm. North Adelaide Par 3 Course, War Memorial Drive in Possum Park / Pirltawardli (Park 1). Cost \$10 "My Golf" membership with two free rounds. Contact: Jamie Clutterham Phone: 8203 7273 Email: [j.clutterham@cityofadelaide.com.au](mailto:j.clutterham@cityofadelaide.com.au)

[Free Weekly Fitness sessions](#) - every Saturday 8.30 to 9.30am at Le Fevre Park/Nantu Wama (Park 6) next to the playground in Le Fevre Tce. A variety of exercises & stretching that you can pace, suited to your current fitness level, with a group of supportive & like-minded people. Suitable for ages 16 & over. Contact: Tony Neill. Phone: 0417 803 617. Email: [tony@programstofit.com.au](mailto:tony@programstofit.com.au)

[Free Community Yoga](#)  
Every Friday 12.30pm to 1.15pm at Pinky Flat, off War Memorial in Tarntanya Wama (Park 26). Contact Millie Walker. Phone 0409 928 417 or email: [mwfit500@gmail.com](mailto:mwfit500@gmail.com)

[Adelaide Festival Fringe](#) -16 Feb to 18 March  
There will be lots of venues in the Park Lands - too many to list here, but as usual Rundle Park, Rymill Park and Pinky Flat are in the mix. More details in our February newsletter. In the meantime, visit the Fringe website: <https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au/>



### ASHORTTALEOFTWOPARKS

*By APPA life member, Gunta Groves*

New Year's Day 2018. A brand spanking new year on a sparkling new day. Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) is full of people, some walking their dogs, some flying model aeroplanes, some trying out recently acquired Christmas presents. And some just sitting enjoying the passing parade. Vistas abound, marred only by steel infrastructure and assorted construction equipment at the northern end of this hard-working park.



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The poplar grove at the southern end maintains its mysterious dampness and slightly sinister quiet. No campers, no other visitors. An abandoned, muddied sleeping bag shows the way into the heart of the grove. Rubbish is at a minimum but still a reminder of previous times when every bush hid a motley collection of discarded clothes, bottles, packaging and human excrement.

Out in the bright sunshine, the native grasses draw the eye to the centre of the park. Protected by fencing, the sequestered site survives the car racing crowds. The area is no longer mowed and the grasses can grow naturally. Nor is it compacted year after year by hundreds of parked cars. This small area is exceptional because its vast surrounds are still used annually for parking, helicopter landings and heavy vehicle movements.

Cutting east-west through the middle of the park is the landscaped pathway popular with commuting cyclists and pedestrians. But it is now more than this. Its design invites further exploration. Side paths and angled open areas lead to large stone egg shapes begging to be stroked and sat upon, and to arrangements of native and exotic plants that are slowly becoming a feature of the area.



However (and there always seems to be a 'however' in the Adelaide Park Lands story), the effect of this very costly landscaping exercise is now undermined by the lack of maintenance—simple things really like weeding, topping up gravel and picking out rubbish from the denser shrubbery. The effect is of good intentions losing their way somewhat.

A park nearby, Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14) seems to have already lost its way and requires sincere and dedicated attention. On this sparkling day, families and couples enjoy their picnics and interacting with the ducks—wood ducks; all the mallards have disappeared, no doubt through human agency. The lake is very green and empty of boats, though. The green is not a worry because a dye has been added but the lack of boats signifies a problem: E coli is high and prevents any water activities. At the north-eastern edge of the lake, a somewhat sheltered area, floats a putrid collection of natural and unnatural debris. It's got nowhere to go and awaits extraction by council workers.

The island in the lake is another magical place like the poplar grove, much photographed and desired as a location for special events. What a shame to see it unkempt. The paving is broken, uneven and now incomplete. The retaining wall is broken through in places. Regardless, the island provides children with a stimulus for their imaginations and adults with a quiet, intimate space for reflection.



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But it could be better, much better, as could the north-eastern corner of Rymill Park. This is still not returned to Park Lands and looks like it will be some time before the government finishes alienating and desecrating this area for the benefit of three minutes less travel time for buses into the city. The O-Bahn now emerges next to the lake and crosses the park into Grenfell Street. Sitting on a bench on the north-western edge of the lake is no longer the peaceful experience it once was.



Looking south are the first hints of bridge and spectator stand building for the March car race. From now on, there will be more and more digging and fencing and restriction to movement until the whole park becomes a no-go zone.

Apart from the huge damage wrought by the O-Bahn project, Rymill Park and its special attributes, such as the lake and island, could be improved through some careful and regular attention. Maintenance here used to be managed by five hardworking council employees. In the last few years, these five are working even harder to maintain numerous parks extending round to South Terrace. No wonder that some of the prime parks of the City of Adelaide are not looking their best. What part of showcasing to the world is not understood by our city and state governments when it comes to the unique Adelaide Park Lands?



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ARTISTS! DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE PARKLANDS ART PRIZE

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If you know an artist who hasn't yet heard about the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize, then forward this email to them - or send them a link to this video or the website [www.parklandsart.com](http://www.parklandsart.com) . There's \$33,000 in prize money to be won. Entries close on 1 May 2018.



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### BRIEFLY, IN OTHER PARKLANDS NEWS



The World Congress of "World Urban Parks" is coming to Australia. As a member of World Urban Parks, APPA will be represented at the Congress in Melbourne from 14 to 17 October. More details [at this link](#).

### PHOTOS OF THE DAY - RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



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From the top:

- a) Family picnic, Botanic Park, Tainmuntilla (Park 11)
- b) Lawn bowls in Rymill Park / Murlawirrapurka (Park 14)
- c) One of the SA Police "greys" among the 19th century olive grove in Bonython Park / Tulya Wardli (Park 27)
- d) Eucalyptus blossom in Wellington Square / Kudnartu
- e) Cycling along the Torrens Riverbank in Red Gum Park / Karrawirra (Park 12)

The Park Lands 'photo of the day' series has been running since May 2014, and the collection of Park Lands photos now numbers more than 1,350. We maintain (and gradually grow) more than 40 separate albums: one for each one of our 30 numbered Parks, six squares (and several albums for 'Alienations'). To browse the photos follow the link below to '[Our photos on Flickr](#)'.



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