

# gazette

ADELAIDE PARKLANDS GAZETTE | PUBLICATION OF THE ADELAIDE PARKLANDS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



*Courtesy of the Botanic Gardens*

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of "The Adelaide Park Lands Gazette." It follows on the rich tradition of previous publications. After looking at a number of publications produced by other voluntary organisations, we decided to call this publication a 'Gazette' rather than newsletter, journal or magazine because according to my dictionary it means 'a public or official journal'. In addition, the term Gazette has an historical ring to it being the title of the first SA publication called 'The South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register'.

We have tried to keep the layout simple with a balance of informative news items and an article that explores an element of the Park Lands at some depth. Most editors seem to always be looking for copy that would be of interest to members, so please contact me (details on back page) if you have some suggestions.

Jim Daly

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am pleased to welcome and contribute to our first newsletter NOW called a "GAZETTE" with Editor Jim Daly, who is greatly admired already for his sterling efforts as a former President, campaigning successfully against the Clipsal Building to be erected in the middle of Victoria Park.

There are some new members on our Committee fast becoming informed and participating. They are:

**Marisha Matthews** - who as an exhibitor in our Art Prize and experienced organiser of Art Events is particularly welcomed.

**Hero Weston** who has been a long-time campaigner for the Park Lands. She has from time to time brought extra support to APPA events, her enthusiastic

dog Timmy, our youngest member daughter Imogen and partner Witold. She has instigated a group of members to craft responses to the most frequent criticisms levelled at APPA.

**Walter Dollman.** What a find! He popped up virtually unannounced from an illustrious past. We quickly found profitable ground for him to work on including being on the editorial board of this publication.

**Nigel Mitchell** has joined keeping the Mitchell heritage of father Brian alive and well; speaking of which we are delighted that the said Brian is back to robust health (and gopher driving) after a trying bout of ill health last year.

**Kyle Penick** returns after a gap to his unique and quizzical role in APPA. Not for nothing has this boy earned his live membership - always a fount of new ideas! His was the inspiration which fired up our push of World Heritage Listing.

It is important to acknowledge the marvellous contribution of our retiring Treasurer **Luciana Larkin** gave to APPA for several years. We wish her and "magician" husband Bernard well for a more relaxed future.

Similarly to acknowledge the tireless contribution of former Secretary **Brian Mitchell** and his efforts covered exemplary minutes and collation of APPA documents for our Archives.

He relinquished the secretaryship to **Shane Sody** who has excelled in picking up that baton and leading us into the electronic age, especially with our fascinating Facebook which posts a different photo of the Park Lands each day. THIS MUST BE PROMOTED TO CAPITALISE ON THE TREASURE THIS IS. It includes APPA Statements on issues that come up regarding the use or abuse of the Park Lands.

Thanks to **Kelly Henderson** for her capable contribution to the production of the Newsletter over several years; always attractive and informative editions.

There are thanks due to lots of very helpful members but as I want to include other matters they must be taken as read.

Some of you will have noted these issues before and I apologise for duplication but

for many members this is the only record of issues we have taken up:

- The dredging of toxic waste from the river by the University Footbridge. Previously it had been spread over the Park adjacent to Robe Terrace.
  - Under pretence of replacing old sports facilities with a new edifice, an intrusive sports stadium is now on the oval leased by the University, bars and whatever else poses a serious threat and abuse of the privilege of the lease. The university sports clubs attempted to exclude other users on the oval, although there was no university event there of scheduled.
  - The State Government blatantly ignoring firm promises of a previous Labor Government to return the old RAH site to open space to build a major High School there.
  - The predictable hullabaloo over disability parking at the Adelaide Oval neatly camouflages a relentless push for more parking on the Park Lands. APPA is sympathetic to disability needs, argues that able bodied parking should be allocated adjacent to the Northern access in the Northern Car Park.
  - To avoid populist renaming of Bridges over the Torrens APPA urges the Adelaide City Council to immediately erect prominent signage of the historic names, true to their policy of accurate interpretive signage.
  - A \$2million hockey arena is threatened at the corner of Glen Osmond and Hutt Roads. APPA supports hockey having facilities equivalent to other sporting codes but no extra.
  - Adelaide Council is seeking opinion of an off leash dog area on Victoria Park, adjacent to an area to be allocated for model aircraft. APPA has no objection to designated but not exclusive use for these uses, similar to current practice: BUT NO FENCES.
- Your committee looks forward to a constructive and effective year in the essential task of preserving and enhancing our UNIQUE Park Lands.

Ian Gilfillan  
**President**



# COLONEL LIGHT'S BOTANIC GARDEN

**Stephen Forbes**, Director, Botanic Gardens of South Australia

Colonel William Light's water-colour tinted 1837 Plan of Adelaide held by Adelaide City Council includes the 'Botanic Garden' on the River Torrens west of the City. Unsurprisingly, given the Botanic Garden was on island between the main river and an anabranch, the site proved flood prone and was soon abandoned. This original location for Adelaide Botanic Garden surrounds weir no. 2 a little way downstream from the main weir on the River. Subsequent sitings and endeavours finally saw the Gardens reach their current location in 1855 – these peregrinations are well explored by Jim Daly and Richard Aitken while Donald Johnson's recent work revisiting elements of their geography). While the State Library can reasonably claim its origin prior to the establishment of the Colony, the Botanic Gardens apparently begins in 1837 – the year after the Colony was proclaimed.

The inclusion of a 'Botanic Garden' along with other essential infrastructure such as 'Government House', 'Hospital' and 'Cemetery' in the Park Lands suggest Light's acknowledgement of a critical role for a botanic garden in the Colony. Light would have been familiar with botanic gardens and their role – likely through his time in Calcutta from 1805 and perhaps in greater measure through time in Europe. Clearly, Light considered the institutional framework of a botanic garden as an essential one for South Australia. Light's purpose for Adelaide's botanic garden is less clear.

The purpose of living plant collections established '*for the furtherance of learning*' – the foundations of botanic gardens – has changed historically in line with our changing relationship with plants. British colonial botanic gardens were largely explicitly aligned to economic ambitions. Colonel Robert Kyd's proposal to the East India Company of '*... the Propriety*

*of establishing a botanical Garden, not for the Purpose of collecting rare Plants (although they also have their use) as things of mere curiosity or furnishing articles for the Gratification of Luxury, but for establishing a stock for the disseminating such articles [as] may prove beneficial to the Inhabitants [of India], as well as Natives of Great Britain and ultimately may tend to the Extension of the National Commerce and Riches.*' Colonel Kyd found a role as first superintendent of the Calcutta Botanic Garden at Howrah at its establishment in 1787. Elsewhere in south-east Asia the British established the Ceylonese botanic gardens beginning at Slave Island in 1810, Bogor Botanic Garden in Java in 1817 and Singapore Botanic Garden in 1822. While Penang Botanic Garden wasn't established until 1884, various gardens were established from 1800 to 1806 and again from 1822 to 1834 to facilitate the acclimatization of new crops for Penang, including spices such as cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and black pepper, teak for timber and fruits including mangosteen. In Australia, botanic gardens were established in Hobart in 1818, in Sydney, widely accepted as 1816, in Melbourne on a site selected in 1846 and in Brisbane on a site selected in 1828 and dedicated as a Botanic Reserve in 1855.

While economic ambitions likely influenced Light's Plan of Adelaide, in a Utopian city plan the philosophical role of the botanic garden must also be considered. Light's tour of Italy had included, according to Geoffrey Dutton's account, visits to Padua, Pisa and Florence – the sites of the most celebrated Renaissance botanic gardens. Whether Light visited these botanic gardens is a matter of conjecture. However, Light would likely have known of these gardens and their history. Although British colonial botanic gardens may have focussed on economic ambitions other colonial powers illustrated other purposes. The establishment of the Spanish colonial Mexico City Botanic Garden in 1788 was modelled on the

1755 Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid. The colonial garden '*... represented an exact equivalent of the Madrid institution and not a subordinate acclimatization center whose entire purpose consisted in furnishing the metropolis with desirable commodities*'. The colonial Gardens support for trade, agriculture and medicine complemented their role as a locus for public education and the arts. Light had also visited Madrid, where Dutton notes, '*... there was time, surprisingly enough to admire the architecture and the gardens.*'

Light's intent in including a botanic garden in the original plan for Adelaide remain opaque. However, the inclusion of botanic gardens likely reflected both an economic and a philosophical purpose in line with the imperatives that drove the Edward Gibbon Wakefield's scheme for the settlement of South Australia. The Park Lands were certainly extensive enough to provide open space enough without the requirement for a botanic garden. Donald Johnson suggests that the Gardens were proposed by the Commissioners in London as early as 1835 or by the Governor's Council in Adelaide in February or March 1837. In the context of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835 the botanic garden, had the scheme been resolved, might even have been the first British botanic garden or park to be publicly financed and freely accessible.

The establishment of the botanic gardens also represented the colonial government's first investment in agricultural research and extension prior to the establishment of the Woods & Forests Department in 1882, Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1885, the Agricultural Bureau in 1888, the Department of Agriculture 1902 and the Waite Institute in 1924. In this 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society (RAHS), the importance of the Society in communicating agricultural

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# MAYORAL CANDIDATES HAVE THEIR SAY ON THE PARK LANDS

## What I will do to preserve the Park Lands...



**Martin Haese**

The future of the Adelaide Parklands cannot be left to chance. William Light's plan for a 'city within a park'

was visionary. Light planned for the parklands surrounding our city to be the lungs of the city. In the future, more than ever, we will need to retain this (approx) 7.6 square kilometre green belt as a place for the men and women of Adelaide and their children to meet and recreate.

Whilst I support the State Government's plan to gradually grow the population of our beautiful city - those residents will need a place to walk, run, exercise, play, compete and celebrate. The 29 parks that make up the Adelaide Parklands is their backyard. In a time of increasing urban density, we must maintain safe, green, clean, attractive and friendly areas for us all to enjoy. If we are to build a prosperous city with a growing population we will have to offer these residents world class amenities - housing, medical, education, business, cultural, retail and entertainment. But we must also provide them with a healthy, green city in which to live and our Parklands are the very key to this.

William Light intended for the Parklands to contribute toward the healthy lives of Adelaide's residents and today's leaders and planners are the custodians of that responsibility. The Parklands are more than a nature reserve. They are more than beautiful open spaces. They are there for the people of Adelaide. Like the city itself, the Adelaide Parklands are a multi-purpose environment; enshrined to preserve the health of the city and its residents. This includes festivals, playgrounds, sports, relaxation, entertainment and no doubt new uses we are still to discover

– however, the heart of the Parklands, as the lifeblood of the city, must be preserved.

When faced with any proposal for the Parklands, if elected as your Lord Mayor, I would ask three key questions:

1. Does it protect and preserve the beauty, safety and health of the Parklands?
2. Does it benefit the people of Adelaide?
3. Does it enhance the reputation of the City of Adelaide?

If the answer is yes to all three, I would encourage the council to consider it. If the answer to any is no, I would fight it with all my power. In order to protect William Light's vision, any decision regarding the Parklands must be made with due consideration to the long term impacts as the Parklands must be preserved for future generations.



**Mark Hamilton**

### **Park Lands Protection And Upgrading Action Plan**

- Light up park land verges.
- Irrigate and manicure all of the park lands, particularly those with road frontages.
- Resist state government attempts to use the park lands for commercial development.
- Rationalise and consolidate all existing buildings and structures for community use.
- No new permanent buildings or fencing.
- Beautification of park lands for passive recreation and sport.
- Put all electricity services underground.
- Appoint a city arborist to be a passionate advocate for the care and protection of our existing trees.

- No permanent Clipsal grandstand or pit area in Victoria Park.
- Keep Barton Road West closed.
- Obtain handover of government car park west of Morphett Street bridge next to festival drive.

"Our Park Lands are one of the greatest advertisements for Adelaide. Let's keep it that way."

### **Council Must Keep Lifting Its Game In The Park Lands**

Our unique Park Lands play a vital role in Adelaide's vibrancy, our lifestyle and our mental well-being. Every day people walk, jog, exercise dogs, ride bikes, play sport and games or just relax and breathe in their natural ambience. Just driving through the Park Lands on the way to work is an important aspect of the function of the Park Lands and our mental health and enjoyment of life.

Our Park Lands hug the city, protect bird and wildlife and clean our air. Yet the council's level of care of one of the city's greatest assets can be improved.

People who want to develop on the Park Lands say they're under-utilised. But Mark says that's rubbish, reminding us that the Park Lands' major role is to beautify Adelaide and to provide a green backdrop to living – and even driving - in Adelaide.

Mark wants Council to lift its game to yet another level and focus on irrigating, lighting and beautifying our Park Lands so they remain a wonderful asset to our city. Mark will fight to snap the Council out of its Park Lands apathy and into a Park Lands action plan.

### **And The State Government Must Butt-Out**

A principal role of council over the last 173 years has been to act as the protector of Colonel Light's wonderful Park Lands legacy for the citizens of Adelaide.

This fight has continued over the last

decade with various attempts by the Rann/Weatherall State Government to alienate Park Lands as cheap development land – for example, the attempt to construct a motor sports grand stand in Adelaide’s wonderful Victoria Park.



**Dr Michael Henningsen**

The Adelaide Park Lands remain under constant threat from short sighted individuals

who do not value the enormous their amenity in terms of recreation, cultural events, casual everyday use and biodiversity. Importantly Light’s plan in 1837 established a 2,300 acre green belt surrounding the City. Today the ACC has 1,700 acres of Park Lands under their care and control. Further erosion must be stopped and, if possible, alienated areas returned to Park Lands.

It is my firm belief that people value something when it has relevance and meaning to them.

The preservation of our Park Lands will occur if society sees them as a valuable asset where they walk and ride, where their children play sport and enjoy fabulous playgrounds. Places where they walk their dog, row, play tennis, croquet, lawn bowls even have a great casual BBQ.

To maintain and enhance the use and enjoyment of the Park Lands by as many individuals as possible therefore is one of the most important things I (and Council!) could do to preserve our Park Lands. By high quality asset management of all our Park Lands the public will become the fiercest supporters of Park Lands preservation. The “Glass Dome” approach is a recipe for further erosion because these open spaces are perceived to have no use or relevance.

These last seven years have seen an increase in the area of Park Lands which is welcome with the return of the old SA Water site and the capping of portion of the former rail yards south of the Torrens near the weir. The new Bonython Park

Play space has attracted a huge new population to this part of our Park Lands people who now really value this part of the Park Lands and the amenity it provides.

Progressing the Park Lands trail is a priority in conjunction with the State Government.

Maintaining the strong governance role of the Park Lands Authority with broad and appropriate representation is vital together with an overarching management strategy combined with robust CLMP’s managing individual areas of the Park Lands. The proposal by the State Government to bring a “Riverbank Precinct” under separate control has potential to open a Pandora’s Box of unwelcome development and must be very carefully considered.



**Stephen Yarwood**

The Adelaide Park Lands are an integral part of Colonel William Light’s vision and their integrity

must be protected for generations to come. As the largest urban park system in Australia, sensitive development that provides a healthier living environment and offers recreational and sporting choices and high quality informal recreation experiences are important.

The Parklands Strategy is to be reviewed in 2015 and I am committed to the following principles:

- Restoration of alienated Park Lands
- Maximisation of Park Lands biodiversity
- Improved management of the Torrens Lake, native vegetation and significant trees
- Minimising the impacts of major events, parking and commercial activities
- Provision of way finding signage plus electronic and hard copy information; and
- Limiting fencing and reducing net bitumen and built form via appropriate infrastructure consolidation.

I am committed to transparency of

all Park Lands administration and will promote and support the process of world heritage listing. Additionally I am committed to developing a Master Plan for each of our city squares that will guide future investment and include:

- Minimisation of bitumen/ maximisation of green space
- A long term tree planting plan
- Safe access onto the squares
- Traffic calming to increase amenity and use
- Appropriate community infrastructure including, but not limited to, playgrounds and seating; and
- Place making infrastructure to maximise community use whilst minimising impacts to green space and trees.

An Urban Planner by training, I am personally committed to protecting the long term integrity of the Park Lands as a core element to our international reputation as a ‘City in the Park’. The Park Lands define our values as a community and our aspirations for the future of Adelaide. Their integrity is paramount.

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improvement outside of government should be highlighted, as well as the role of the (then) AHS in seeing the botanic gardens established on their present site in 1855.

The history here provides the context for the appearance of a Botanic Garden on Light's Plan of Adelaide, and assert the significance of the Gardens as a collections-based cultural institution distinct from the Park Lands – even if contained within them.

Today the Gardens' role is in connecting people and plants through endeavours in education, conservation, plant knowledge, recreation and culture. Adelaide Botanic Gardens attracts 1.6 million visitors.

70% of Adelaide households intend to visit the Gardens each year regardless of postcode and with 30% interstate and overseas tourists the Gardens are typically the number one Adelaide attraction on TripAdvisor. These numbers, far in excess of other Adelaide attractions, reflect the peace, beauty and tranquillity that the

Gardens' complex living plant collections and high horticultural standards present. Add to this landscape the memories South Australians associate with the Gardens through the courses of their lives and the lives of their families and friends and the Gardens sense of place is unrivalled. Perhaps there are some values in the Gardens that can offer insights for the future of the Park Lands – at the very least the Gardens' living plant collections provide an inspiration.

## APLA UPDATE

Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy Review

**Stephanie Johnston**

As a result of a meeting with Minister Rau in late 1013, the Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Park Lands Authority proposed the formation of a Project Advisory Group to provide advice on a scheduled review of the Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy, which commenced in July.

Made up of experts and representatives from a selection of inner metro rim councils, state government agencies and appointees of APLA, the advisory group is currently meeting monthly to provide advice on the review, in particular:

1. The overall plan and approach;
2. The conduct of stakeholder and community engagement and outcomes;
3. Planning considerations and concerns relevant to the communities and/or portfolios the members represent, and, of relevance to the general public of South Australia;
4. The development, format and content of the Strategy;
5. Work undertaken to support the development of the Strategy; and
6. Partnership opportunities, including funding, to support the review and implementation of the Strategy

The advisory group will also facilitate communication about the conduct of the project, development of the Strategy and consultation with adjacent Councils and Communities and the State Government.

The existing Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy was endorsed in 2010 following considerable community and stakeholder engagement and aims to:

- Increase the community's use of the Park Lands, both formal and informal
- Protect their integrity and National Heritage Values
- Ensure they are widely accessible to the public
- Safeguard and celebrate their natural, cultural and recreational values
- Improve the quality of their landscape and facilities
- Manage them in an environmentally and financially sustainable manner; and
- Improve the community's awareness of their natural and cultural heritage

In line with the requirements of the Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005, the Strategy must be reviewed every five years.

The formation of the Project Advisory Group was seen as a way to encourage engagement between Adelaide Council, APLA, State Government agencies and inner metro rim councils without having

to revisit the Adelaide Parklands Act or the makeup or role of APLA itself.

Members of APPA and the public in general are encouraged to become involved in the Community and Stakeholder Engagement process around the Strategy review, which will commence in early 2015.



# BRIDGES OVER THE RIVER TORRENS

Give our bridges prominent name plaques

**Walter Dolman**



*E.A. Opie: the first bridge over the Torrens.*

With the current debate over the names and naming of our Torrens Park Lands bridges APPA believes that several existing worthy and historic names are crying out for prominent signage and promotion.

Four significant, historic bridges span the River Torrens within and adjacent the boundary of the Adelaide Park Lands.

1. Today's *Hackney Bridges* are on the site of an earlier bridge called *Prescott's Crossing* constructed to give farmers access from North of the river to the South Australian Company's mill which occupied the current site of the Hackney Hotel. *Prescott's Crossing* was washed away in the great flood of 1851. A replacement named the *Second Company Bridge* was built in 1860 and was in turn replaced by the current bridge in 1885. This bridge is characterised by stone abutments, steel arch and a replacement deck of concrete that was installed circa 1950. A parallel bridge adjacent and on the downstream side has since been constructed of composite steel girder and concrete.



*The Albert Bridge*

2. The elegant *Albert Bridge* adjacent the zoo was named after the Prince Consort to Queen Victoria. The metal girders were manufactured in England and installed in 1879 replacing the earlier wooden and flood susceptible *Old Frome Road Bridge*.
3. The *Adelaide Bridge* servicing traffic along King William Road was built in the Art Deco style replacing the iron *City Bridge* in 1931. The first attempt at 'bridging' the stream occurred nearby in 1837 when the Fisher brothers constructed a footbridge roughly aligned to the present Adelaide Oval. A more permanent structure was needed and on 10 February 1856 the first substantial *City Bridge* was ready for traffic. It was constructed of iron shipped from England and was the first to align King William Road in a direct line to North Adelaide instead of wandering via the old ford. The first *City Bridge* was replaced by the second *City Bridge* on 25 April 1877.
4. The *University Footbridge* was conceived by Adelaide University engineering undergraduates in 1928. Between the *Albert* and *Adelaide Bridges*, its construction was delayed by the Great Depression. It was finally built in 1937 with support from the Adelaide City Council and SA Railways. All four of these bridges are on the Register of the National Estate.

## Other bridges

Upstream, the *River Torrens Bridge* is new and designed for cyclists and pedestrians. It is located between the *Hackney Bridges* and Adelaide Zoo and has a creative, clean and architecturally appealing design which is well accommodated into the surroundings.

Downstream, the *Victoria Bridge* opened in 1968 by then-Premier Don Dunstan carries traffic along Montefiore Road and replaced a series of earlier bridges built from 1871.

Sadly most Adelaidians are not familiar with the historic names and incorrectly refer to them as the *Zoo Bridge* or *Frome*

*Road Bridge, King William Street* or *City Bridge* and *Morphett Street Bridge*.

In Europe and North America the names of bridges are considered important and are usually posted on the approach to or prominently on the superstructure of the bridge. To do similarly in Adelaide would improve the general knowledge of the correct names and the important links our bridges have with local history.

The APPA suggests name signs should be standardised and in the form of a traditional casting particularly appropriate for the heritage listed structures or possibly in a more contemporary enameled design - incorporating of course the City of Adelaide coat of arms. This would be fully consistent with Adelaide City Council policy of "interpretive signage" for the Park Lands.

APPA urges Council to immediately erect prominent and tasteful name signage for at least the four heritage rich bridges spanning the Torrens. APPA is also concerned that the City Council should not succumb to any populist pressure to alter historic names which would be tantamount to "cultural vandalism".



*The new but as yet unnamed footbridge to Adelaide Oval*

# HOW TO CONTACT US

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## Committee 2014



*Standing L-R: Nigel Mitchell (Treasurer); Shane Sody (Secretary), Damien Mugavin (Vice-President); Brian Mitchell, Kyle Penick.*

*Seated, L-R: Hero Weston, Hamish Ramsay, Ian Gilfillan (President)*

*Absent: Jonathon Harry, Walter Dollman, Marisha Matthews*

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## UNVEILING OF THE TREE SCULPTURE IN GLOVER PLAYGROUND

Sculptor, Ant Martin's transformation of a tree trunk at Glover Playground was unveiled by Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood at a ceremony on Saturday 24 May at 10am.

The sculpture, carved from a dead tree trunk which would ordinarily have been removed and used for bark chips, brings new life to the Glover Playground on Le Fevre Terrace at North Adelaide.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood says this is a great example of Council looking beyond usual practice to find other ways to utilise a tree that is no longer living.

Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood officiating at the unveiling of the Sugar Gum wood-sculpture 'Animals at Play' designed and created by Anthony (Ant) Martin and Hatty O'Meara Martin, Glover Playground, Lefevre Terrace, Adelaide Park Lands. Photo taken by K Henderson, 24 May 2014.



*(From left to right) Kent Williams and Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood of Adelaide City Council, with Anthony (Ant) Martin and Hatty O'Meara Martin at the unveiling of their wood sculpture 'Animals at Play', Glover Playground, Lefevre Terrace, Adelaide Park Lands. Photo taken by K Henderson, 24 May 2014.*

## VALE

We were sorry to hear of the death of Doug Maschmedt, a valued member of APPA in June. We extend our sympathy to his family and particularly his wife, Audrey who celebrated her 100th Birthday the week before Doug, her husband of over 70 years passed away.

*Membership:* Membership of the Association is open to all who support the objectives of the Association.

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