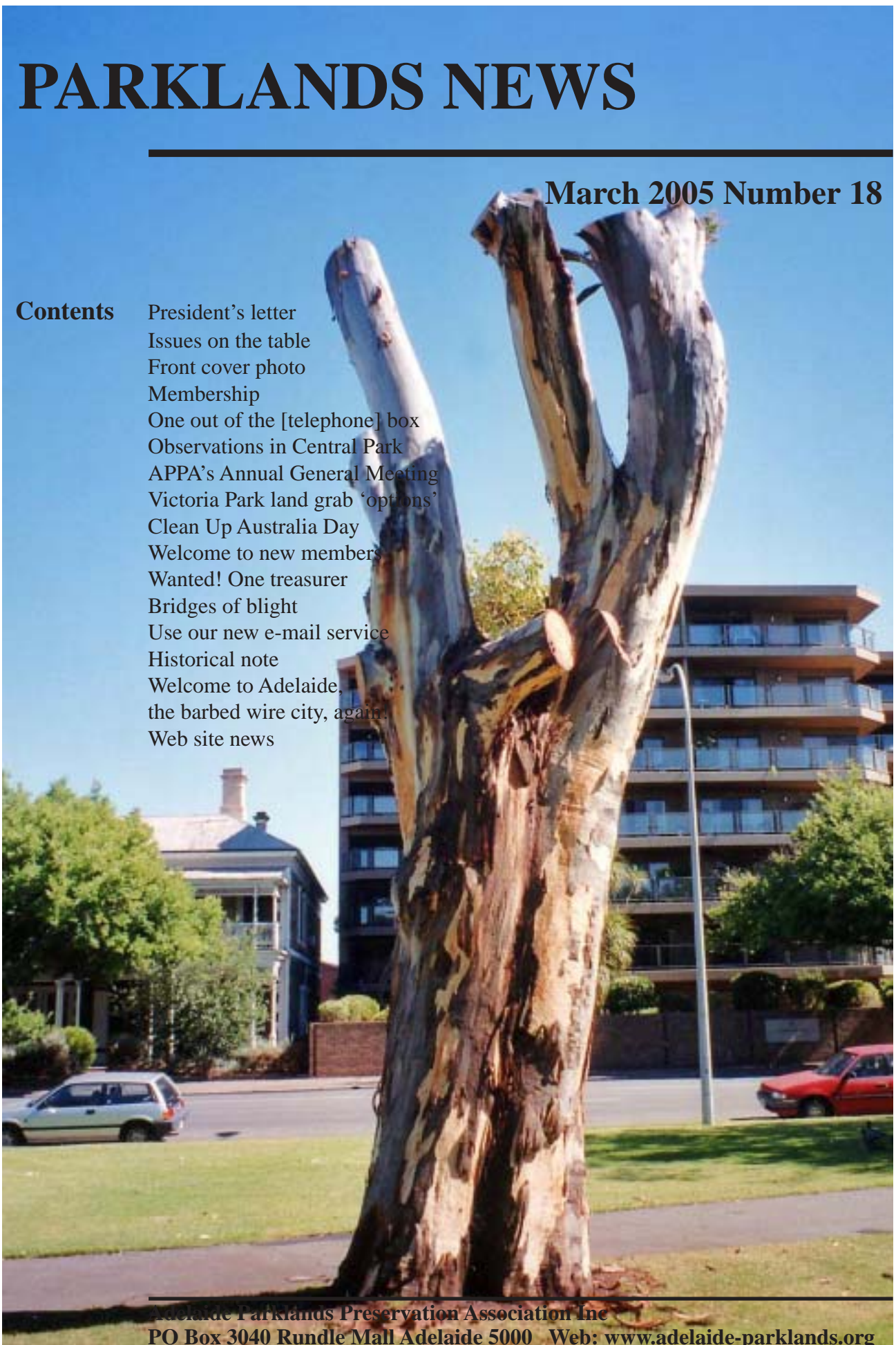


PARKLANDS NEWS

March 2005 Number 18

Contents

President's letter
Issues on the table
Front cover photo
Membership
One out of the [telephone] box
Observations in Central Park
APPA's Annual General Meeting
Victoria Park land grab 'options'
Clean Up Australia Day
Welcome to new members
Wanted! One treasurer
Bridges of blight
Use our new e-mail service
Historical note
Welcome to Adelaide,
the barbed wire city, again!
Web site news



Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide 5000 Web: www.adelaide-parklands.org

President's letter

Dear Members

This year could be (let me emphasise *could be*) a germinal, seminal and sensational year for the Adelaide Parklands and Squares!

I have deliberated at length with myself whether to share this information with you at this stage and, as you can see, come down on the side of disclosure.

A representative group of your committee—Peter Austin, David Plumridge, Kyle Penick and myself—have been discussing possible Parklands legislation with representatives of the government, including Minister John Hill.

I believe the state government and the Adelaide City Council are, with us, determined to do something good for the governance and future of the Parklands.

Now, may I say tritely 'nothing in this world is perfect'. So, I do not want to raise unreal hopes that the new perfect 'era of the Parklands' is about to begin.

But we wear so much sad news as our Parklands' protection is sorely tried (take note of the extent of unsightly superstructure for the V8 car race already blotting out Victoria Park, and see pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter).

So, I thought I would share some good news. Please wish us well as the discussions continue.

Best wishes to you personally for 2005 and thank you for your support for and membership of APPA.

Ian Gilfillan



ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Parklands Trust legislation

World Heritage listing

Land grab at Victoria Park Racecourse

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

RAA site redevelopment

Britannia intersection

General and Park Lands Plan Amendment Report

*Front page: Sugar gum
(Eucalyptus cladocalyx)
in Veale Gardens, December 2004.
Photo by Gunta Groves*

FRONT COVER MEMBERSHIP PHOTO

What were they thinking when they did this? This wasn't the work of 'vandals' but ACC workers.

The sorry sight on the front cover of this newsletter can be seen from South Terrace and is towards the western end of Veale Gardens.

This eucalypt—a sugar gum, but how can you tell?—will put out new shoots soon. However, some experts believe that the new branches that develop will not be strong and will be in danger of breaking off easily. Hopefully, such a dramatic prune will be left to more knowledgeable people in the future.

Gunta Groves

APPA's financial year is from 1 April to 31 March. New memberships received after 1 December will be valid up to 16 months or through to the end of the following financial year.

Officers and committee members are elected annually at the Annual General Meeting held in April each year. Election to the Committee is open to all financial members.

Committee meetings are open to the members and are normally held on the fourth Tuesday each month.

Please contact the Secretary for details and an agenda if you would like to attend.

Brian Mitchell

One out of the [telephone] box

From the historical display in the North Terrace Railway Station (at the foot of the stairs, on the west wall, in a converted telephone box) the following interesting little literary gem caught my eye. It reminded me that we fight not only for the Parklands, and for future generations, but also so that past efforts of all parklands protectors shall not have been in vain.

Protests as part of transport history

From the time the first rail line was laid, Adelaide people have fought to preserve a balance between convenience and our special landscape and lifestyle.

Protests that the railways and trams were eating into the Park Lands, disrupting the normal way of life or scaring the grazing cattle have been long and loud.

Occasionally the venom and vitriol were flavoured with wit, as in this anti-tram poem submitted to a newspaper in 1911.

The writer urged a rethink on the proposed West City tram line:

*'On Whitmore Square the Tramways Trust
Is casting longing eyes,
It seeks to run its gleaming rails
Where grassy sward now lies.*

*Let tram tracks take another route;
We do not deem it fair
If they're allowed to even cut
A whit more off the square.'*

Kelly Henderson

Please do not use 'APPA' in cheques and money orders. Please use 'Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc'.

OBSERVATIONS IN CENTRAL PARK

My November journey to Central Park began early with my cousin driving me to Prospect Park Station not far from his work at Philadelphia Airport. The weather was cold but clear from the previous day's rain and I was already happy that I could bite the Big Apple for just \$29.50 return via a three-hour train to Penn Station. What a bargain! Perhaps Franca will be able to go next time—Macy's was just across from the station while Central Park was an interesting two-mile hike down Broadway. Somehow I did not expect sidewalk vendors in this fashionable district selling quality T-shirts for \$2. I should have bought more!

New Yorkers are proud of their Park; well at least they were in the southern and central part. Time did not allow me to venture as far as Harlem at the northern end. For such a heavily used area, the Park was largely free of litter, graffiti, dog do-do and the bottle-in-a-bag brigade. Alcohol is not allowed in Central Park but dogs, children and the elderly are, and no one seemed worried about being mugged while the sun was shining. The Great Lawn was aptly described but there were some areas where the grass had taken a beating.

Signage was kept to a minimum and the one sign I saw explaining park rules was worded in a friendly rather than authoritarian manner. No parking was allowed along any roads, speed limits were at a comfortable level and appeared to have a degree of acceptance as I

never heard squealing tires or saw obvious speedsters.

The outdoor ice arena seemed busy for a weekday afternoon. Perhaps the beautiful fall weather brought them out. New York is a lot cooler than Adelaide—10 degrees more latitude means the sun is not as high. Arnie's wish for ice on Rymill Lake might draw the patrons but he has to keep it from melting!

For me, Central Park's most impressive feature was how the heavily used roads across the Park were made to almost completely disappear. You can cross over 66th Street at 5.15pm and not realise it is there. The roads are below ground level and crossed by wide pedestrian bridges. The bridges themselves as well as the road edges are planted with thick shrubbery and trees concealing the traffic and reducing noise.

I returned via 5th Avenue, admiring the nice large crystals shining in jewellers' windows as I munched pretzels and hot dogs from sidewalk vendors. The peak period crush in Penn Station brought memories of India but at least I had my feet on the ground and did not have to go where the crowd took me.

Shortly, I am returning to Arizona for another few months. New York could get another visit if my ticket (Airline Mileage Award) lets me go that far. Hope to return sooner this time.

Kyle Penick

APPA's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Sunday 17 April 2005
10.30am for 11am**

Venue:

Disability Information and Resource Centre
195 Gilles Street, Adelaide

An inspirational speaker will inform and divert us before we vote on committee members.

Victoria Park land grab 'options'

After the Adelaide City Council's Victoria Park consultation day last year, the Lord Mayor and Mal Hemmerling were asked to publish further options on the redevelopment of the Victoria Park Racecourse. APPA considered it odd and unethical that only one option was offered as the 'solution' to SAJC's woes and the ACC's ambitions for this area. In the mail, just before Christmas, members of the public who had given feedback during the consultation received a mysterious document that listed the answers to 'Frequently asked questions' which included 'What other options are available?' (see below). Some recipients were given a reply-paid envelope, implying that they were being asked for a response. Some were not.

Option 1

The current SAJC lease has expired and horse racing with the present facilities at Victoria Park is not viable. The SAJC could leave altogether, the Clipsal 500 car race would remain because the State Government deems it worthwhile and other uses of the Park would remain as is. There would be no benefit to other potential users such as cycling.

Option 2

The Park remains much as is along with the SAJC. The stables remain, a new grandstand and betting area are constructed and some of the outdated facilities are removed. Car racing remains as is. There is no improved public access or extra open space, no horse racing for three months while the car racing occurs, no alternative uses (eg cycling) and no use for the heritage grandstand.

Option 3

The horse racing track and grandstand is moved to the western side of the Park, closer to East Terrace. The car race track remains in its current location and the existing building area in the north eastern corner is cleared apart from the Heritage Grandstand.

In these three further options, there is no mention of improving the amenity for the prime users of this space; that is, community members engaged in private, active recreation, of whom there are many hundreds every week. They walk, run, fly model aeroplanes and kites, exercise dogs, train for football, play with frisbees, and recharge their spirits and immune systems by spending time in quiet, green open spaces. What is mentioned or implied are better facilities and greater access for organised, commercial interests to put on more frequent events for passive spectators.

Option 1 states that 'horse racing with the present facilities at Victoria Park is not viable'. Are we supposed to accept this statement without question? If it is so unviable, why were special races held on 16 and 18 December, and meetings scheduled throughout 2005?

Options 1 and 2 mention 'cycling' as though this was an activity deemed to be necessary in this Park. During the ACC consultation, criterion cycle racing was mentioned as a proposed new activity on a track in the northern section of the Park. Who wants it there and why it is necessary was not explained. More of such organised commercial activities would limit community members' access in terms of time, space, parking and the ability to have quiet enjoyment of the area.

Option 2 is breathtaking in its many hidden agendas. Here are just a few of the questions that need to be answered before you can understand its import. Option 2 states that 'a new grandstand and betting area are [to be] constructed'. Why? During race meetings no more than a handful of people use the grandstand, if that. The existing betting area is relatively new. Why is another or better one needed? This option also implies that if the horse racing and car racing circuits are separated, as desired by the SAJC, that horse racing could continue during the construction and pull-down phases of the V8 car race. That equates to even more events that limit community members' access to the area. The statement that there 'is no use for the heritage grandstand' begs the question first asked: why is a 'new' grandstand needed when there will be a beautiful, refurbished and historic grandstand available? It also shows an ignorance of the intrinsic value of historic items—they don't have to 'turn a dollar'. Or is it a veiled threat that, if there is 'no use' for it, it may not be looked after or it could even be demolished.

Option 3 does not offer anything new—it is basically the same proposal as was thrust at the public during consultation. It merely omits mentioning the realignment of the V8 car race track to run along the front of the Heritage Grandstand.



Victoria Park on Boxing Day Holiday 2004, 10 days after the last racing fixture run by the SAJC. Photo by Gunta Groves.

'The tenancy by the SAJC should be reviewed ...'

In light of this kind of appalling grab for community assets, I would like to offer my own 'option'. It places community users in their rightful place—first. All commercial activities in Victoria Park should occur in the shortest possible time and with the least possible intrusion on the quiet amenity of the area for community users. The tenancy by the SAJC should be reviewed so that the tenant shows greater responsibility towards the privilege of using community land for profit. This would entail better upkeep of all facilities, and reduction of the building and hard paving footprint. All arrangements with commercial events should include penalty clauses that cover exceeding time limits for set-up and pull-down

and damage to the environment, and requirements that areas used are rehabilitated. The activities of the prime users of the Park—community members actively recreating—should be supported and enhanced. For example, a community noticeboard at each end of the east-west path should be erected to allow people to announce finding/losing keys (a frequent occurrence), finding/losing dogs, special events of the model aeroplane enthusiasts, and horse race meeting times (we don't all read the racing pages in the newspaper). Facilities such as taps, rubbish bins and 'doggy-do' stations should be increased and maintained. One 'doggy-do' station

at the most frequently used entrance to the Park was knocked down and removed in November 2004 and was belatedly replaced at the end of January 2005. Another has never had a rubbish bin or bags installed. The pole leans drunkenly with its useless green tin attachment and gets inspected regularly for the presence of bags by hopeful dog walkers. Eyesores abound, as illustrated by the photographs.

Let the ACC, SAJC and the state government attend to the short- and long-term interests of ordinary people before they consider grandiose projects benefiting business and alienating the community.

Gunta Groves

Left: Work shed at Victoria Park.

Below: Work shed used regularly by a 'temporary fence hire contractor' and the horse trials jumps makers.



Above: Rollers left to rust for years at Victoria Park.

Right: 'Convenient' storage of unwanted SAJC infrastructure.

Photos by Gunta Groves, January 2005.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

PARKLANDS VOLUNTEERS WANTED SUNDAY 6 MARCH

APPA has organised the cleanup of the southern section of Victoria Park and Bakkabakkandi (Park 16). The area is bounded by Fullarton Road, Greenhill Road, Beaumont Road and the central east-west path through Victoria Park.

Rendezvous is at
the corner of South and East Terraces.

Start time is 0900 and finish about 1230, or any time in between. Sausages will be sizzling!

**WE NEED YOU—PLEASE HELP WITH
OUR CLEANUP!**

Contact <appa@senet.com.au>
or call Peter Austin on 0412 959 346 to enlist

**Welcome to
new members**

Trevor and Margaret
Pound

Mr and Mrs EJ Ralton

WANTED! ONE TREASURER

Do you like money, and who doesn't? This is the position for you. APPA needs a treasurer for 2005–06. The job requires receiving money, issuing receipts, keeping the books of account, and presenting a balance of APPA finances at each General Meeting.

Kyle Penick, the current treasurer, is unable to continue because of his overseas commitments.

Please contact Brian Mitchell on 8263 5168 to nominate, or nominate yourself at the AGM on 17 April 2005.

Bridges of blight

The most diehard opponents of the V8 car race intrusion into our beautiful eastern Parklands must accept that the SA Motor Sport Board has been given carte blanche to do what it deems necessary to stage the 'world-class' event.

Work begins early in January, weeks before the event, to slowly but surely wreak havoc in the Parklands. Barricades appear, scaffolding begins to grow, fences keep us out and a ramshackle and motley collection of sheds grows like a cancer over the racecourse.

But surely the most arrogant act of all is the building of two totally unnecessary pedestrian bridges (locked off) in January, the main purpose of which seems to be to blatantly affront the beauty of the Parklands with brash and gaudy advertising slogans for nothing more than greedy commercial gain.

The more moderate amongst us reluctantly accept that the V8 car race is with us for the foreseeable future and that it is going to involve the Parklands, but it is hard to accept that the SA Motor Sport Board condones the long times required for

construction and clear up and the lack of sensitivity over such things as the bridges—the pictures speak for themselves!

David Plumridge



Wakefield Road, January 2005. Photos by Kelly Henderson.

USE OUR NEW E-MAIL SERVICE

Some people have already seen the light (pun intended) and sent in their e-mail addresses. If you would like to receive the *Parklands News* by e-mail as a PDF, and other APPA notices by e-mail, fill in the form below and mail it to:

Adelaide Parklands Preservation
Association Inc
PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall
Adelaide 5000.

E-mailing newsletters to members
saves us printing and mailing costs.

You can also download PDFs of past newsletters (from August 2003 edition onwards) from our Web site at <www.adelaide-parklands.org>.

Gunta Groves

I would like to receive the following by e-mail instead of in the post:

***Parklands News* OR
Parklands News and other APPA notices including notice of AGM**

My e-mail address is: _____

Name _____ **Signature** _____

Address _____

Historical note

**From the *Advertiser*,
5 May 1908:**

RABBITS IN VICTORIA-SQUARE.

Although it is well known that rabbits are to be met with in the park lands, and also in Light-square, the average citizen would scarcely credit that the rodents would venture into the heart of the city and live in Victoria-square. Yet the town clerk (Mr. Ellery), in a lecture at the Norwood Town Hall on Monday evening, assured his hearers that such was the case. He was alluding to the fact that in Sydney the railings surrounding some of the public squares had been removed, but said they could not very well take the fences from the Adelaide squares because of the danger to the grass and flower beds from wandering cows. "Round some of our flower beds in Victoria-square," said Mr. Ellery, "we have placed wire netting. We do not imagine for a moment that this netting will keep the small boy out, but it is intended to stop the rabbits from trespassing. You might be incredulous, but it is a fact that as many as 17 rabbits have been trapped in Victoria-square in a single night."

WELCOME TO ADELAIDE, THE BARBED WIRE CITY, AGAIN!



The V8 car race infrastructure began appearing again this year on 4 January. In 2004 it took a full five months before it disappeared. Let's hope that this year the SA Motor Sport Board can do better and make the ugly wire and shipping container blight go away sooner.

Next newsletter deadline: 30 April 2005

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000

Name
Address
Telephone E-mail Date

- \$15 single (full rate) Renew
- \$25 corporate New
- \$20 family (full rate) Send *Parklands News* via e-mail, OR
- \$15 family (concession) Send *Parklands News* and other notices via e-mail
- \$10 single (concession) Donation \$.....

Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:

- the Parklands be available for use by the general public
- the public should so far as practicable, have free and unrestricted access to the Parklands
- the Parklands should be reserved as a place for public recreation, leisure and enjoyment
- alienated areas of the Parklands are restored for recreational use, preferably as open space
- the character of the Parklands as a place dividing the City of Adelaide from the suburbs should be preserved
- the Parklands should be preserved and maintained in a manner that enhances their special place in the design of the City of Adelaide
- the amenity of the Parklands is not impaired by inappropriate development of nearby lands.

I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association. Signature

Please make cheque/money order payable to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc (*not 'APPA'*)
Send to: Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc, PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000 03/05

Committee 2004–2005

President: Ian Gilfillan
Deputy President: Peter Austin
Secretary: Brian Mitchell
Treasurer: Kyle Penick

Committee members:
Gunta Groves (Newsletter Editor)
Kelly Henderson
Mike Hudson (Publicity Officer)
David Plumridge AM
Michael Sando

Patron
Robert Champion de Crespigny AC

Auditor
David Mead

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**WEB SITE
NEWS**

Go to our Web site at
www.adelaide-parklands.org
to see the latest
developments.

All the news on our
activities is now
published there.

Find out about the
Association, the
Parklands and more.

www.adelaide-parklands.org

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**Next newsletter copy
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30 April 2005

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