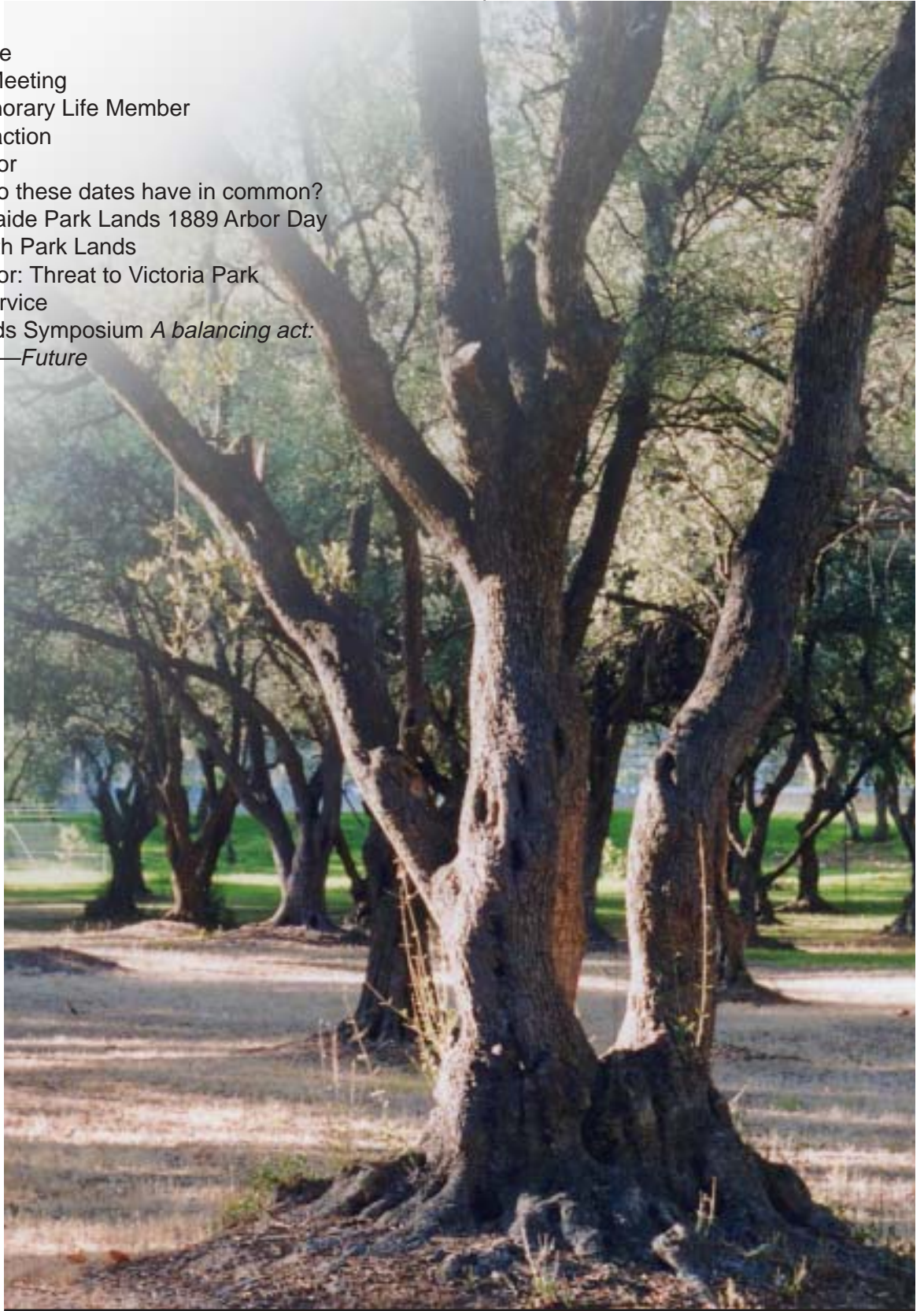


# PARKLANDS NEWS

March 2006 Number 22

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# Letter from the President

Welcome to another exciting year for carers of the Parklands!

It is customary to wish all friends good things for the New Year. So, in that vein, I wish the Parklands the benefit from a genuine surge of awareness, responsibility and action from those in government, the Adelaide City Council and the community who will be charged with implementing the new Adelaide Park Lands Act!

Our Association has been acknowledged by the Parliament and the Adelaide City Council as having played a significant role in helping to shape the Act. As I have said before, it is not perfect but it gives us a good base to work from and will always be amenable to amendment when we can orchestrate support from the right sectors.

You will see in this edition news of a Parklands symposium for later in the year. APPA has been vitally involved in designing the event.

You may have noticed that *The Advertiser* caught up with the scandal of the dead

elm trees in the west Parklands which was featured in the last edition of this, your newsletter. It took them a while to wake up!

Also, you may be aware that David Plumridge is spearheading a residents' campaign to save Victoria Park, with APPA's involvement. Jane Lomax-Smith and Diana Carroll were invited to declare their parties' attitudes to the threats to the Park. Which all goes to show that your committee is constantly vigilant and active.

One action which gave me particular pleasure was the presentation of Life Membership to Bill Gibberd. He and Joyce have been stalwarts of APPA for many years. Thank you dear people.

As a New Year's resolution, I have chosen to target the alienated Parklands north of North Terrace and west of the Morphett Street Bridge. There are mongrel areas there which, in various degrees, have been contaminated, left derelict or illegally acquired by Transport SA and surrounded by detention-centre-grade wire barriers.



Just imagine the exhilarating experience of a beautiful Parkland vista stretching from North Terrace to the river! There will have to be some railway lines and the occasional passing train but these are small inconveniences compared to the present state of the area.

Watch that space.

I send my warm regards to you all.

*Ian Gilfillan*

## ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Parklands legislation implementation

World Heritage listing

Land grab at Victoria Park

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

Britannia intersection

Dying elms

SACA car park push

Alienated Parklands

Bakewell Bridge

Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 30 April 2006

10.30am for 11am start

**Disability Information and  
Resource Centre**

**195 Gilles Street, Adelaide**

Tea and coffee available from 10.30am

*Front cover: Parklands olive grove on southern side of Wakefield Road, February 2003. Photo taken by Gunta Groves.*

# Bill Gibberd—Honorary Life Member



Bill Gibberd is a foundation member of APPA and was its Treasurer for many years. He and his wife, Joyce, hosted many APPA Committee meetings in their home in St Peters, provisioning the members so well that there was always a 100 per cent attendance.

In December 2005, he was presented finally with his certificate of Honorary Life Membership of the Association for his long and exemplary service to APPA.

In true Gibberd style, the afternoon tea that he and Joyce prepared ensured a good attendance by APPA Committee members to witness the ceremony.

*Gunta Groves*

*Bill Gibberd in 'full flight', describing how he worked for the Parklands, and campaigned to save St Peters from the threat of high-rise buildings. Photo by Gunta Groves, December 2005.*

## ALL SPIN AND NO TRACTION

**In the first week of January, the five-month desecration of Victoria Park started once again—five months of alienation and ugliness for four days of drunkenness, environmental pollution, health and safety endangerment and promotion of motoring behaviour that contributes to SA's death toll. This unequal and wholly repulsive ratio is described by government spin as providing enormous economic and social benefits to South Australia.**

These 'benefits' have been challenged by Luciana Larkin, an APPA member who is a chartered accountant. She is concerned about the lack of standards and transparency in government reporting about the effects of the annual V8 Supercar race. Luciana Larkin wrote to Kevin Foley on 5 April 2005, asking some questions about how the 'benefits' are quantified. This began a sequence of letters between Ms Larkin and various ministers, deputy premiers and acting deputy premiers who kept passing her queries around, until 6 December when it again became the turn, apparently, of Kevin Foley to answer her letters.

Premier Mike Rann, in the meantime, had disassociated himself from the process. Needless to say, Kevin Foley reiterated the government's belief in the stated 'benefits' and its delight in having secured the race to 2015. At no time in this extensive correspondence did any of the government ministers address Luciana Larkin's main concerns.

As a chartered accountant, Ms Larkin recognises the need for integrity and standards. In her first letter to Kevin Foley she wrote:

'Governments and corporations worldwide are adopting ISO 14000 to satisfy the expectations of a broad range of stakeholders and to improve environmental management to reduce environmental impacts and costs ... does the "economic benefit" to the state that is spruiked annually for the Clipsal 500 event include the adoption of this standard?'

The ISO 14000 series of standards were published by the International Organisation for Standardisation to assist entities develop an 'environmental management system'.

This system measures and monitors the environmental impact (eg air pollution) of

an entity's activities, processes and products.

In a global environment with an ever-increasing awareness of environmental impact from activities and an expectation of reducing environmentally damaging incidents, it is appropriate that the government, as a responsible entity, leads by example and incorporates such a system in its decision-making processes. By recognising and quantifying such impacts in financial terms, we can assess more accurately the real economic benefit of an activity.

At no stage, I understand, have the government or its consultants McGregor Tan Research quantified the impacts of the Clipsal 500 event on the environment.

To date, Luciana Larkin is waiting on an adequate response to her questions.

*Gunta Groves*

**Next newsletter deadline:**

**30 April 2006**

# Letters to the editor

## Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005

I am writing to advise that on the 25 January 2006 the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* was committed to the Minister for Environment and Conservation and parts proclaimed to commence on the 1 February 2006. The Gazettal notices can be found on the SA Government Gazette website at <<http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>>.

In particular, only Part 1 of the Act and Parts 1 and 7 of the Schedule to the Act have been brought into operation at this stage. These parts include preliminary statutory interpretive provisions and those related to the National Wine Centre.

The commencement of most other provisions will be dependant upon either the Authority, Regulations, funding agreement or the Plan (and its schedule) being significantly progressed. Given the detail and consultation required for all these arrangements you will appreciate that it will take some time before all remaining provisions of the Act come into operation. Nevertheless, the Department is endeavouring to try and progress these arrangements so that they can hopefully be brought into operation by the start of the next financial year.

For further information on this matter, please contact Russell Starr on 8222 9347 or <[starr.russell@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:starr.russell@saugov.sa.gov.au)>.

*Stephen Forbes*  
Director  
Science and Conservation  
Department for Environment and Heritage



## Remember this?

Well, that's all it will be shortly—a memory. This Aleppo Pine was ringbarked on 5 June 2004, World Environment Day (see *Parklands News*, September 2004, page 5). The perpetrators may have been misguided supporters of the Bush for Life group cultivating native grasses in the area or protesters against the cutting down of old growth forests in Tasmania or, on the other hand, just mindless idiots. The SA Police made enquiries but never arrested anyone.

It now appears that this pine, one of three damaged at the time, is not going to survive despite the efforts of the botanist Dean Nicolle. He is reported recently as saying that the Aleppo Pine will soon be a danger and needs to be cut down and that one of the other pines, a Canary Island Pine, is showing stress (*City Messenger*, 10 November 2005, page 9).

The cutting down of these three pines was the cause of some dispute between the Bush for Life group and the Adelaide City Council. The ACC wisely decided that significant trees should not be cut down willy-nilly and the Bush for Life people withdrew their application, but then the ringbarkers struck. I hope they are all happy now with the result. I don't think I am.

*Gunta Groves*

## Ringbarking revisited

I was extremely disappointed to read the misinformation pertaining to Bush For Life in the 'Remember this?' article by Gunta Groves (*Parklands News*, December 2005) dealing with the ringbarking of three exotic pines in the south parklands more than twelve months ago.

There never was a 'dispute between the Bush for Life (sic) group and Adelaide City Council' and neither was there an application from this organisation that needed to be withdrawn. It is true that as part of our management plan for the regeneration of native species in that vicinity we originally recommended that the ACC give consideration to removing the three exotic pines. An ACC report independently concurred. In cooperation with the Council, however, a compromise

solution was developed that included the retention of the pine trees.

When some time later the ringbarking occurred I joined with Lord Mayor Michael Harbison in publicly condemning this act of wanton vandalism. To say, as the *Parklands Newsletter* article does, that the 'perpetrators (of the ringbarking) may have been ... supporters of the Bush for Life (sic) group cultivating native grasses in the area' is, in my view, mischievous at the very least.

Our carers continue to work in the area and the results of natural regeneration bear testament to their dedication. As members of the Association, we consider that our volunteers have been poorly served by the publication of the article.

*David Mitchell*  
President, Trees For Life

*Editor's note: The article referred to above was based on factual information and conversations with people close to the issues.*

## QUESTION: What do these dates have in common?

9 October 2005  
6 November 2005  
15 November 2005  
18 November 2005  
25 November–8 December 2005  
15 December 2005

19 December 2005  
22 December 2005  
11 January 2006  
14 January 2006

Go to **page 6** for the answer.

## NEW AUDITOR

APPA extends a warm welcome to **David Carver** who has offered to be the Association's honorary auditor. His contribution will be much appreciated.

# The Adelaide Parklands

## A TOUR OF THE ADELAIDE PARK LANDS

### 1889 ARBOR DAY PLANTINGS, SOUTH PARK LANDS

This article is the fourth in a series on the international significance of Adelaide's Park. Having explored the history of the establishment of the 2,332 acres of Park Grounds, it is now proposed to visit sites in Adelaide's Park of outstanding universal value which demonstrate aspects of human history of importance for present and future generations.

#### Significance

The Arbor Day plantings are significant because they:

- represent the official inauguration of Australia's national annual Arbor Day holiday<sup>1</sup>
- mark the nineteenth century extension from the United States to the Southern Hemisphere of what was to become an international environmental movement for management of climate change
- remind us that South Australia was first of the Australian colonies to establish a Forest Department under the superintendence of a practical arboriculturalist and to coordinate this environmental management with its education system.

#### A remedy for climate change

During the late nineteenth century, the benefits of forests were recognised and tree planting considered essential after scientific observers noted that deforestation resulted in climate changes such as diminution of rainfall, desertification, and extreme flood and drought events.

*...That a country's forests cannot be laid waste without injury to its climate is a lesson that has been brought home to many nations by the best teacher of all—experience.*

*... In Southern France deforestation in numerous places has had a remarkable result ... in violent downpours, separated by long periods of drought ... the good soil is washed away ...*

*...The consequences of deforestation are only to be remedied by replanting.<sup>2</sup>*

#### First Arbor Day—Nebraska 1872

The first Arbor Day, held in Nebraska on 10 April 1872, had been suggested at a State Board of Agriculture meeting on 4 January 1872 by J Sterling Morton<sup>3</sup> and Nebraska's Arbor Day was officially proclaimed<sup>4</sup> on 12 March 1874.

*According to accounts from the Nebraska City News, April 1885, the City celebrated Arbor Day with a grand parade and a speech by J. Sterling Morton. Students of different grades met at their respective school rooms in the morning for the purpose of planting at least one tree. Each tree that was planted was labeled with the*

*grade, the time planted, and was to be specially cared for by that grade.<sup>5</sup>*

#### Arbor Day in Australasia, 1889

The site chosen for South Australia's first official Arbor Day, held on 20 June 1889, was along Beaumont Road<sup>6</sup> (since closed) in the south Parklands, which became 'the scene of the first lesson in practical arboriculture given to South Australian school children'.<sup>7</sup>

One of the people who organised the event was John Ednie Brown, South Australia's first Conservator of Forests. Brown had previously carried out extensive research on the Adelaide Park Lands for the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, had made detailed recommendations in his *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880), based on his assessment of soil types and conditions, and had been appointed as Supervisor of Plantations involving supervision of tree plantings in the Parklands until he resigned in 1882.

The city schools and schools in East Torrens, Hindmarsh, Parkside, Unley and Goodwood were represented in the tree-planting ceremony.<sup>8</sup>

*Aleppo pines, with other trees were planted in the parklands, at Beaumont and Greenhill Road, on 20 June 1889, by the 5,000 schoolchildren who were marched from Victoria Square, in 800 squads, with flags and fife and drum bands, for a mass simultaneous tree-planting ceremony before the Governor, the Earl of Kintore. It was Adelaide's first Arbor Day.<sup>9</sup>*

In the following year, New Zealand's first Arbor Day planting took place in Greytown, 3 July 1890.<sup>10</sup> The first official celebration in Wellington, in August 1892, planted pohutukawa and Norfolk pines.<sup>11</sup>

#### Aleppo Pines, protectors or pests?

*Today all visitors notice the conspicuous Aleppo pines along Hackney Road and Botanic Park, and in North Adelaide on Mann Terrace at Melbourne Street. There, and at the 1889 Arbor Day site, they are accompanied by Roman stone pines (pinus pinea).<sup>12</sup>*

The fate of these historic first Arbor Day trees seems strangely ironic. Planted in response to blindly stupid tree-felling, and for public health and education as part of a growing environmental

movement to protect against climate change, the remaining few original Arbor Day trees in Adelaide's south Parklands may yet be cut down as environmental 'pests', in blind ignorance of their *raison d'être* and their historical value to our nation and the world.

#### A plea for our Park

The evidence of Adelaide's defining character as the implementor of nineteenth century public health, educational and environmental reforms is visible today to the passer-by because our Parklands are a veritable open-air museum of the advances in human understanding over past generations, but in minutes this could be damaged irreparably with a single chainsaw.

Our heritage is valuable, and vulnerable. The Adelaide Parklands should be declared a State Heritage Area and granted National Heritage listing.

*Kelly Henderson*

#### Note

Detailed research by APPA member Kyle Penick has identified the precise location of the surviving 1889 Arbor Day trees.

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Frost, *The origin of Arbor Day in South Australia* (1989), p 2

<sup>2</sup> *The Advertiser*, Friday, June 21, 1889

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/history.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/treasures/j\\_sterling\\_morton.htm](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/research/treasures/j_sterling_morton.htm)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/history.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> South Australian Parliamentary Paper (SAPP) (1890) Vol 3, Paper 44, Reports of the Boards of Advice, p 31

<sup>7</sup> *The Advertiser*, Friday, June 21, 1889

<sup>8</sup> SAPP (1890) Vol 3, Paper 44, Reports of the Boards of Advice, p 31

<sup>9</sup> Thomas, 'The five trees of Adelaide', *The Adelaide Review*, June 1991, p 9

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Parks/Trees/arborday.asp>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.doc.govt.nz/Community/002~Events/Arbor-Day/index.asp>

<sup>12</sup> Thomas, 'The five trees of Adelaide', *The Adelaide Review*, June 1991, p 9

# THE COMMON FACTOR: Threat to Victoria Park

Towards the end of 2005 and continuing into 2006, there appeared to be a concerted effort by SAJC 'connections' to soften up the public in preparation for the disfigurement of Victoria Park with the building of a multi-storey, multi-function facility in the centre of the northern half of the Park.

The ten dates listed on page 4 mark the articles in the press covering aspects of the so-called upgrade. Some of these articles were promoting the idea of the 'upgrade' quite overtly, while others embedded the message in a story with a different focus.

All these ideas for Victoria Park have to be put in the context of various plans for bits of the Park by bodies such as the Adelaide City Council, the Motor Sport Board, the state government and even local government. For example, the creation of a wetland and aquifer recharge in the southern section is partially driving the 'change the straight' issue. The beneficiaries will be the SAJC (it will get a cheaper or free water supply) and the Unley and Burnside councils (flooding in Unley will be more controlled and will cease to be such a problem for the two councils).

The details of the articles are on the right.

9 October 2005 *Sunday Mail* p 46 Kevin Naughton's article on the SAJC's rundown facilities at Victoria Park

6 November 2005 *Sunday Mail* p 42 Kevin Naughton's article on upgrading facilities at Victoria Park

15 November 2005 *Advertiser* p 100 Tony Reed's article on the SAJC deciding to proceed with the sale of Cheltenham and redevelopment of Victoria Park

18 November 2005 *Advertiser* p 9 Angus Redford announces that Liberals want to give a 99-year lease over Victoria Park to the SAJC

25 November–8 December 2005 *Adelaide Review* Lance Campbell's article reporting on the vision of John Naffine, chair of the SAJC, for horse-racing at Victoria Park

15 December 2005 *City Messenger* p 1 Promotion of a 'Racey Christmas' at Victoria Park; p 17 Emma Graham's article on ACC's decision to demolish 'unwanted' buildings as a step towards the SAJC's vision for Victoria Park

19 December 2005 *Advertiser* p 42 Dennis Markham's article on the apparent 'need' to change the horse-racing straight in Victoria Park

22 December 2005 *Advertiser* pp 110–112 Dennis Markham's article on Victoria Park's 'outdated' facilities, including mention of the multi-storey facility

11 January 2006 *Advertiser* p 48 Dennis Markham's article on Liberal shadow minister for racing (and SAJC member) Angus Redford's ambitions for Victoria Park

14 January 2006 *Advertiser* p 111 Dennis Markham's article on a burst pipe at Victoria Park, including a comment from a trainer that it was another reason to 'get rid of the straight track'

*Gunta Groves*



This three-storey permanent structure with expansive bitumen surrounds now 'graces' Albert Park Reserve, Melbourne because of the annual F1 race. The Adelaide multi-storey, multi-function proposal is similar, if not larger, in size. Photo provided by Save Albert Park Inc.

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E-mailing newsletters saves us printing and mailing costs. You can download PDFs of the current and past newsletters from <[www.adelaide-parklands.org](http://www.adelaide-parklands.org)>.

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My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Adelaide Parklands Symposium *A balancing act: Past—Present—Future*

The Centre for Settlement Studies in the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia, the Hawke Centre at the University of South Australia, and the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc are pleased to be co-presenting a symposium on the Adelaide Parklands in November 2006. The public symposium will open a three-day event that will also include Parklands tours on Saturday 11 November and a public lecture and forum on Sunday 12 November.

With the passage through parliament of the Adelaide Park Lands Bill in 2005, the Adelaide Parklands are on the brink of a new era. The symposium has been organised as a timely investigation of their future, with the following considerations in mind:

- understanding the Parklands' intended original purpose, history, past uses and natural and cultural heritage significance
- appreciating and defining the potential environmental, planning, social, cultural and economic benefits of the Parklands
- distinguishing between the Parklands' protection and their conservation
- protecting the Parklands as a natural and cultural heritage resource while at the same time encouraging broad community use

- educating young people about the Parklands, including their purpose, legacy and the opportunities they might hold for younger generations
- giving voice to the community as well as the authorities in decision making about the Parklands
- comparing the status and potential of the Adelaide Parklands with other national and/or international green belt cities or cities with major public open spaces
- potential opportunities and challenges for the Parklands, and possible responses to these such as sustainable landscapes.

### Expressions of interest

The symposium organisers are calling for papers that cover the themes above. The full symposium papers should be 5000 to 6000 words in length and have notes and a bibliography. They will be refereed by two independent reviewers and returned to authors for revision. Final papers will be published in Proceedings to be distributed at the symposium. A detailed specification for papers will be provided to authors on acceptance of their abstract.

To respond to this call for submissions, authors need to prepare a 300 to 500 word abstract on a theme related to the nominated considerations above.

The following personal details need to accompany the abstract:

- Name and title
- Affiliation
- Contact details (e-mail, telephone, fax, postal)
- Brief biographical paragraph (100 to 150 words) including any research and/or practical experience in the area of the proposed paper.

### Deadline dates

Submission of expression of interest and abstract by: **Monday 13 March**  
Decision on acceptance of abstract by: **Friday 31 March**  
Full paper to be submitted by: **Friday 30 June**  
Referee comments to be forwarded to author by: **Friday 4 August**  
Changes to full paper back from author by: **Monday 4 September**

### Contact

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**  
**Adelaide Parklands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall Adelaide SA 5000**

Name .....

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- |   |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 single (concession) | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

03/06

**Committee 2005–2006**

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*Deputy President:* Kym Winter-Dewhirst  
*Secretary:* Brian Mitchell  
*A/Treasurer:* Brian Mitchell  
*Committee members:*  
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Jim Daly  
Gunta Groves (Newsletter Editor)  
Kelly Henderson  
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*Remember  
to set aside  
some time in  
the morning*

on

**Sunday 30 April 2006**

for the

**Annual General  
Meeting**

10.30am for 11am start  
Disability Information and  
Resource Centre  
195 Gilles Street, Adelaide

**News, comments and articles:**

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**Next newsletter copy deadline:**

30 April 2006

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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.