

ParkLANDSnews

March 2009 Number 34



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President's letter

Each year brings new challenges to preserve our Park Lands. Just when you think no one would want to diminish the value of parklands, new threats arise. Before identifying some possible new threats, it is useful to consider the following rationale for preserving public open space.

Private shrinking, public expansion

A news item in the *Advertiser* in December last year touched on the changing lifestyles and the loss of private open space as the typical family home with its 'quarter acre' block, 'with room for a game of cricket or a kick of the footy out the back is gone, never to return'. A consequence of this change is that our public spaces are becoming more important as the place where children and adults have room to be active, where family and friends can enjoy nature and meet for picnics and other pleasant outdoor experiences.

As Adelaide grows with the surge in high rise apartments and office blocks, the need for parklands becomes evident; they must be safeguarded and enhanced, rather than used to build politically inspired monuments such as the wine centre, a hospital, a sports stadium or

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*Front cover: Ghost gums (possibly Corymbia apperrerinja) in Tuttangga (Park 17), December 2007.
Photo taken by Gunta Groves.*

other built facilities that alienate open space. Consider if our forebears had not fought to preserve the Park Lands, as has occurred in other cities, then we would have little or no open spaces now or for future generations. The *Advertiser* article concluded: 'State and local government must not buckle to developers seeking to extract the maximum dollar from properties. Our community health demands it'.

Threats

Now, let me identify the following threats to the Park Lands in the upcoming year.

Adelaide Oval

Unfortunately, planning approval for the new grandstand will probably mean the use of Adelaide Oval Number 2 as a construction site from 2 March 2009 to the 31 December 2010 (that's 21 months when this beautiful area becomes an inaccessible, degraded eyesore. I wonder how other construction sites in the city for large apartment blocks and offices are built without intrusions on adjacent sites. Perhaps the builders of cricket grandstands are not very clever!

Victoria Park

With the Clipsal 500 about to take place, I must say, Victoria Park looks like a disaster area. The worry is that it may all become 'too hard' and the enormous temporary grandstand may become permanent and the Victoria Park Master Plan might become a memory.

Major Entertainment Events

Increasing use of the Park Lands for major events requires careful management and rehabilitation of the surfaces between these events. Perhaps, other areas need to be developed for major events; for example, the area known as 'River Park' near the Morphett St Bridge should be brought into public use as soon as possible.

Illegal Camping in the Park Lands

Public interest generated by the press seems to have died down, but the problem still exists. Both the Adelaide Council and the government are sensitive to the social issues such as homelessness, use of alcohol and economic hardship that are part of the problem, but there are other issues such as public safety and legal liability if members of the public are put at risk by, for example, violent actions of the campers. Part of a possible solution might be testing illegal actions in court.



Welcome to Olivia

Unfortunately, our Secretary, Deanne Sheppard, resigned in December to take up a government planning position in Western Australia. We were grateful that Olivia Franco was able to step into the position of Secretary and, although completing studies in planning, she is prepared to continue in this role in 2009 and will stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting in April. Which reminds me that there will be a number of Committee vacancies, and a new President is necessary, so please give consideration to nominating suitable people for the Committee who can represent the membership as we face future challenges.

National Heritage listing

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the year was the National Heritage listing of the Park Lands by Hon Peter Garret MP, Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts. It remains to be seen what extra protection such a listing will provide for the Park Lands. We hope to invite the SA Environment Minister to a public meeting later this year to explore the ramifications of heritage listing. Such a meeting will also provide members and potential new members with an opportunity to learn more about the work of APPA.

I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting in April. You will receive agenda papers and more details closer to the event.

Jim Daly

NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

30 April 2009

Always in search of pithy articles, educational information and comment on current issues

A SUCCESSFUL REVEGETATION PROJECT

Since European settlement, the Adelaide Plains have been almost completely cleared of native vegetation. This has resulted in the loss of plant diversity and animal life, including many species of birds and most marsupial species.

While the Park Lands, which cover 720 hectares, have been mostly retained as open space, virtually none of the original vegetation remains. What was once an open woodland with a shrub layer and understorey has been converted into a complex of paddocks, playing fields, tiny patches of woodland, formal gardens, avenues of trees, and buildings (mainly sports amenities).

Current vegetation consists principally of exotic trees and shrubs, with an understorey mainly of foreign forbs* such as sour sobs and plantains, and grasses (buffalo grass, couch and kikuyu). While there are a few indigenous trees, including river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), most of the trees are either foreign to Australia, such as olives, plane trees and exotic pines (aleppo, athel and radiata pines), or 'imports' from other parts of Australia, such as Western Australian eucalypts.



A report published in 2003^[1] indicated that field surveys had recorded 514 plant taxa, most of which (309 species, 60 per cent) had been introduced.

Small remnants of native vegetation have survived, often around grown trees. The surviving species include native grasses, peas, daisies, lilies, saltbushes and sedges. Examples are spear-grasses, wallaby-grasses, vanilla lilies (*Arthropodium* species), native lilac (*Hardenbergia violacea*), native sorrel (*Oxalis perennans*) and ruby saltbush (*Enchylaena tomentosa*). Some of these may have survived because of the difficulty in mowing in close proximity to trees!



Fortunately, an effort has been made in recent years to protect such important 'survivors', by flagging the areas where they exist and by adding to the species diversity by planting indigenous forbs and grasses. Examples of such planting can be seen in Tuttangga (Park 17), which is adjacent to the eastern section of South Terrace, where Bush For Life volunteers have re-introduced indigenous plants. The plan is to simulate the original flora of the pre-European Black Forest as originally present in this area. Similar plantings can be seen in North Adelaide near Kingston Terrace in Nanto Womma (Park 6).

Some five years ago, it was realised that greater efforts should be made to restore native vegetation^[1]. One of the main outcomes was a plan to revegetate the banks of the River Torrens below the weirs in Tulya Wodii (Park 27). Planting by the Adelaide City Council's biodiversity team was begun in 2005 and continues. The species planted include grasses, sedges, rushes, forbs, shrubs and trees

planted in three zones: riparian, along the rise of the embankment, and on its upper level. Examples are spear-grasses (*Austrostipa* species), wallaby grasses (*Danthonia* species), sedges (including *Carex* species), rushes (*Juncus* species), New Holland daisies (*Vittadinia* species), *Acacia pycnantha*, *Acacia acinacea* (*rotundifolia*), *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Hardenbergia violacea* and eucalypts, all native to the region. The banks are closely planted. The dense planting of seedlings should help to inhibit the growth of weeds and, as the plants grow in width and height, the vegetation may provide suitable protection for small passerines, which are now uncommon in the area. These include superb fairy wrens, pardalotes, white-eye (silveryeye) and thornbills.

With the return of 'normal' winter rains in 2008, the River Torrens flooded the adjacent 'flats', inundating much of the planted area. This natural flooding has helped to ensure good growth in spring!



*forb—an annual plant or a perennial plant which dies back to rootstock in dry periods

[1] Long M (2003) A biodiversity survey of the Adelaide Park Lands South Australia in 2003, Adelaide, Department for Environment and Heritage

Acknowledgment: It is a pleasure to thank Ms Zoe Dreschler, Biodiversity Officer, Adelaide City Council for providing information which

David Hansman

At the ACC

SACA's grandstand redevelopment

At the Adelaide City Council meeting of 9 February 2009, despite an attempt to keep the debate public, five elected members of Council succeeded in keeping Agenda Item 18—SACA's proposed western grandstand redevelopment at the Adelaide Oval in camera.

The Councillors voting to exclude the public (opposing public debate on the

issue) were Ralph Clarke, Joe Cullen, Richard Hayward, Stephen Yarwood and Bill Zaharis. Councillors who did not support the motion to exclude the public were Anne Moran, David Plumridge, Sue Clearihan and Sandy Wilkinson. (Apologies for the meeting were Councillors Wong and Henningsen.)

Coast to Coast Tramline extension

In the City Strategy Committee meeting, the motion giving in principle approval for the tramline extension was passed, with very little comment, despite the proposed destruction of up to 18 significant trees in the Park Lands and up to 7 significant

trees in alienated Park Lands which are the former SA Water site. The only Councillor opposing this motion, voting against it, was Anne Moran.

Kelly Henderson

Editor's note:

Wouldn't it be interesting to know which Councillors have taken advantage of SACA's hospitality regarding complimentary membership of SACA?

On 16 February, the ACC's Development Assessment Panel rejected the tramline extension because it took away Park Lands. Read more detail about the implications for the Park Lands on page 8.

SAVING OUR HERITAGE

Native Adelaide Plains plant species in Victoria Park



Left: *Calostemma purpureum*, a bulbous herb with white, pink to red flowers; a Plains species still found in Victoria Park.

I first got interested in the native vegetation of the Adelaide Plains in 1954. Previously, I had been intrigued by a number of botanical articles in the magazine of the South Australian Field Naturalist Society. They had been written by Professor Ralph Tate, Ernest Ising and Professor John Barton Cleland, who detailed over 250 Adelaide Plains native plant species in a 1950 article.

However, I always considered there must have been many more species occurring on the Adelaide Plains because of the variety of different plant habitats, including coastal white sand scrubs, red sand dune areas, mallee woodlands, open eucalyptus woodlands, native callitris pine forests, swamplands near Lockleys (very similar to those in the Lower South East of South Australia), and a goodly number of water courses, including the Little Para River, and the River Torrens which flowed across the Plains. Ultimately, during the 1980s, I was able to search the botanical material at the Melbourne Herbarium, including the collections of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller who collected plants across the Adelaide Plains from 1844 to 1848. Much to my surprise, the total number of native plants occurring on the Plains from Gawler to the vicinity of Aldinga surpassed 850.

The Plains areas that I particularly liked searching included Ferguson Park (Erindale), the areas further to the west like Kensington Gardens Reserve (formerly known as Piles Paddock), and remnant sites nearer Norwood.

A *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* open woodland extended from the direction of Erindale and Burnside and, almost certainly, areas throughout Kensington, Dulwich and Kent Town, towards the area of Victoria Park in the Adelaide Park Lands.

The listing of low understory shrub species at Kensington Gardens Reserve includes *Dillwynia hispida*, *Grevillea lavandulacea*, *Cheiranthra alternifolia*, three *Lomandra* species, *Dianella revoluta*, *Pimelea glauca*, and *Pimelea humilis*; perennial herbs such as *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, *Drosera whittakeri*, *Arthropodium strictum*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Calostemma purpureum*, and several *Vittadinia* species; and grass species such as *Themeda triandra*, *Elymus scaber*, *Enneapogon nigricans*, several *Poa* species and five *Danthonia* species.

So it is really no surprise that a number of the preceding plant species like *Calostemma purpureum* (quite numerous in Victoria Park), *Themeda triandra*, *Elymus scaber* and *Bulbine bulbosa*, and a *Hypoxis* species, have extended their range to the Victoria Park area.

... we now have a chance to save a very interesting area from desecration.

It should also be noted that at least 28 native plant species once found at Kensington Gardens Reserve have become extinct at that reserve because of the construction of several small buildings for sporting activities and continued mowing of open grassland areas. Now that we know the Victoria Park area is a genuine extension of the Plains flora, we certainly don't want any extinctions here. Fortunately, a small number of keen naturalists, anxious to conserve a number of botanical sites, have worked very hard to record the remnant flora at Victoria Park. They obviously have an appreciation of this state's past history.

From my point of view, I find that the Victoria Park area is a remarkable remaining grassland community that has survived 173 years of European settlement—an important survivor of South Australia's colonial history. Much of the native vegetation of Adelaide has been lost—at least we now have a chance to save a very interesting area from desecration.

Darrell Kraehenbuehl BA, AM

THE DISAPPEARING BACKYARD

Reinforcing the need for preserving the open spaces of the Adelaide Park Lands (and other urban open spaces like Cheltenham Park), the latest figures released in December 2008 by the Housing Industry Association and RP Data reveal that South Australian housing allotment sizes are now the smallest in the nation. Hannah Silverman in the *Advertiser* (02.12.08, p 10) revealed that the average SA allotment size is now just 420sqm and falling. RP Data is reported as saying lot sizes are shrinking around Australia, and more so in Adelaide. The average lot size is down 149sqm on 1998 figures, leaving SA with lot sizes at least 100sqm smaller than any other state.

With urban consolidation approvals continuing apace, along with plans for dense housing developments along transport corridors, what a total 'no brainer' it is to be selling or developing any of our remaining open spaces. Where will future generations recreate as our population increases and the urban sprawl is consolidated? The importance of the Adelaide Park Lands and its open spaces assumes more importance daily. Perhaps that is another reason why our federal government has seen fit to confer National Heritage listing on the Park Lands, recognising the need to put the Park Lands out of reach of short-sighted state governments.

Philip Groves

**APPA Annual
General Meeting
April 2009**

**ALL
MEMBERS
WELCOME**

**Date and venue
to be announced**

True verdict

It has been hinted to me that Mr Kingston took to himself the Credit of the site and plan of this Town. If he did, it is false he had nothing to do with it but marking off some acres and in doing this he blundered. When I had constructed the plan (and the surveys performed by myself) Mr Kingston asked me to allow him to make one Copy (of my own drawing) I gave him leave. He set his apprentice to work to Copy several which he sold at 12 Guineas each as his own surveying and drawing ... (Light to Palmer, 16 July 1838, Mortlock Library of South Australiana PRG 1/2/115).

When Galileo challenged Ingoli's absurdities and nonsense—the geocentric view of a fixed Earth with neither daily nor annual rotation—he wrote 'let us try, as far as possible, to prevent you or others from multiplying errors'. Let us also prevent multiplying the error of puffing up GS Kingston to usurp William Light's place as the Planner and Founder of Adelaide.

Since at least 1983, a major role has been claimed for an unwilling Kingston in the design/plan and layout/survey of Adelaide. Donald Johnson (*Park Lands News*, Dec 2008) adds nothing to the historical record, does both Light and Kingston a disservice, and continues to multiply old errors despite strong criticisms of the Kingston theory:

Recently there has been an unconvincing attempt¹ to give Kingston the credit for not only the choice of site but also the plan of Adelaide ... (one of the authors has even a distant kinship, Kingston having as his second wife married his great-great-aunt). But there is no getting away from the fact that [Kingston] was a dunce as a surveyor ... Also Light, unlike Kingston, had the benefit of many years of observation of terrain and layout of cities in his career in the Peninsular War and in his later years ... [and] was also a talented topographical artist.²

Johnson's article may be 'disturbing', but not because of so called 'evidence' conspicuous by its absence. Rather than deciding between Light and Kingston, we should be asking the burning question: *Why champion Kingston when the facts and Kingston, Light and others confirm Light as the Planner and Founder of the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands?*

Strike One, Strike Two

Claim: Light was not Adelaide's founder, and did not find the site.

Fact: Credible eye-witnesses confirm Light as Adelaide's planner and founder:

'For the selection of this delightful spot, the plan of the township ... the province

is deeply indebted to the highly cultivated taste of Colonel Light' ... Gouger ... would certainly have known if there had been a 'set' plan for the town which Light was ordered to copy.³

Fact: At a public meeting on 10 February 1837 Kingston acknowledged Light's selection of the site by seconding, and voting for, amendment of the third resolution: '... in the site selected by the Surveyor-General for the first town, [Light] has secured ... advantages ... contemplated as essential'.⁴

Fact: The site was discovered on Light's own orders, despite Kingston:

Mr Kingston was sent by me in this direction to find out a fresh water river which I felt sure must exist in these plains ... It was not Mr Kingston's judgement that brought us here, for if he had his will he would not have disembarked at Holdfast Bay, and it was only my positive orders that made him land the men and stores at Glenelg.⁵

Fact: Kingston had no authority to select the site, nor to plan the town; the Commissioners appointed Light with sole and total responsibility.

Strike Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine

Claim: In 1835, the Commissioners instructed Kingston, as head of their survey department, to design a city plan (presented in October), including 1000 town acres, as required by parliament, and providing encircling park lands.

Fact: Light, not Kingston, was appointed as leader of the Commissioners' 'First Expedition' to South Australia, and Surveyor-General at the head of the survey. Initially, Kingston failed to obtain the position of Deputy Surveyor and was an Assistant⁶ (like Finnis, among others) until November 1835.

Fact: The Commissioners did not instruct Kingston to plan South Australia's capital and there is no record, and no evidence, of any town design by Kingston in 1835–7,

or of his taking any plan to South Australia, nor did he claim to have done so.

Fact: Two town plans were designed and drawn by Finnis and O'Brien in London in 1835 (neither claimed to have planned Adelaide). The course of the River Torrens and Para scarp were not then known, and there is no direct evidence of how many acres nor what size parcels were used (varying from 3000 half acres; 1000 half acres; and finally 1000 one acre plots during 1835), nor of these designs having any further role in founding Adelaide.

Fact: Parliament wasn't involved in planning Adelaide. Commissioners gave Light instructions—guidelines for site selection and town design, and their *Regulations for Disposal of Land* called for 1000 saleable acres.

Fact: Park Lands were painted on William Light's watercolour sketch map of the site of Adelaide, dated 7 February 1836. These were proposed by Light and not Kingston. On his own map Light wrote, 'The dark green round the Town I proposed to the Resdt. Commissioner be reserved as Park grounds.'⁷

Fact: Kingston agreed the Park Lands were due to Light, stating North and South Adelaide were:

... surrounded on all sides by a large area of vacant land which Colonel Light ... described as parks, to be reserved from sale, and dedicated as Park Lands for the use and recreation of the citizens.⁸

Fact: Light's intended Park Lands were laid out with no help from Kingston who was absent for 12 months (sailing June 1837 and returning June 1838).

Strike Ten

Claim: There were no instructions to Light on how to plan the capital.

Fact: Light's instructions contained guidance: wide streets; public walks, etc, leaving the rest to Light. The outline of the 'plan', in words, was published in the *Regulations for the Disposal of*

... Claims in the 1980s that the deputy surveyor-general George Strickland Kingston, and not Light, was the creator of the Adelaide town plan are based on conjecture and flimsy evidence and have been effectively rebutted ... (Professor Michael Williams, Oxford Dictionary of Biography entry for 'Light, William (1786–1839), surveyor and founder of Adelaide', Oxford University Press, 2004–07).

Land. Before Light's appointment, the Commissioners established a policy of leaving the city's design to their delegate in South Australia; after selecting the best site for the first town their delegate 'will construct and publish a plan of the intended town, having reference to all local circumstances ...'.⁹

Strike Eleven

Claim: Kingston was a trained architect.

Fact: There is no evidence of Kingston being a trained architect by 1835–7. Professor Langmead criticises Kingston:

Without specialised training, lacking confidence, unable or unwilling to innovate, and developing no consistent personal style...¹⁰ Kingston's fickle flirtation with many styles precludes identifying any special attachment to a regional aesthetic or an historical period ... Between 1838 and 1843 Kingston invented his private, clumsy variations on several styles ... The evidence of buildings and images indicates that they were his perceptions—mostly academically and archaeologically incorrect—of those architectures.¹¹

Strike Twelve

Claim: Light (whilst in the Mediterranean) was 'concerned only with his personal society'.

Fact: Light was informed and aware of events in England and concerned about the proposed South Australian colony. Even whilst 'geographically' distant in the Mediterranean, Light had access to a British network: representatives, travellers, and newspaper, postal and shipping services.

Strike Thirteen

Claim: Professor Michael Williams supports (c1974) the Kingston theory.

Fact: Professor Williams' recent view (c2004) rejects this theory:

Claims in the 1980s that ... Kingston, and not Light, was the creator of the Adelaide town plan are based on conjecture and flimsy evidence and have been effectively rebutted ...¹²

Strike Fourteen

Claim: It is 'reasonable' to 'assume' that Adelaide's Park Lands were part of Kingston's own design, that 'Light claimed credit for *only*' founding the city

and selecting the site and, further (also according to Johnson¹³), that Light was *not* instructed to prepare a town plan and *never* stated—or even hinted—that he did so.

Fact: Light *did* claim that he, and not Kingston, constructed Adelaide's Plan (see introductory quote Light to Palmer, 16 July 1838¹⁴). Primary source evidence of Light's statement—readily available for decades—was published in 2006.¹⁵

Fact: Instruction to Light (No 17) stated, 'When you have determined the site of the first town ... you will make the necessary reserves for squares, public walks and quays'. Light wrote:

It was generally supposed that planning and measuring out a thousand acres for a capital was so easy a job that it would be completed in a few days and the disgrace heaped upon me again became warm ...¹⁶

Strike Fifteen

Claim: Kingston began laying out South Adelaide on 10 January 1837.

Fact: After preparing his plan, Colonel Light directed the laying out of Adelaide, beginning in January 1837 with Kingston and Neale and the survey labourers in South Adelaide at the corner where the Newmarket Hotel now is. Light said: 'Now, Corney, undo the chain and if you live to be an old man you can say you measured the first town acre'.¹⁷

Fact: Governor Hindmarsh witnessed Kingston's ignorance of the Adelaide Plan's basic unit—the square one acre:

The fact that Kingston could not solve questions of the simplest nature connected with land measuring ... was proved in my presence by Colonel Light requiring [Kingston] to inform us which was the length of a side of a square acre, which after a long trial and hesitation, he confessed he was unable to make the calculation required.¹⁸

Fact: By June 1838, it was general knowledge that Kingston was 'totally ignorant of surveying, theoretically and practically'—his measuring:

... so wretchedly executed that Col Light found it would take more time to correct Mr Kingston's blunder than to survey it again. The allotment of town acres was delayed fourteen days till Messrs

Finniss and Ormsby had done the very work that Mr Kingston lacked the skill to accomplish.¹⁹

Fact: Within two weeks (March 1837), remnants of Kingston's failed attempt at surveying (west of King William Street) were totally eradicated. (Landholders should be truly grateful the survey of the City of Adelaide, under Light's directions, is the work of Light, Finniss, Ormsby and their survey teams, and not Kingston.)

Strike Sixteen, Seventeen

Claim: Kingston reduced South Adelaide to 700 town acres, and declared river banks as a park because land formations prevented streets and allotments.

Fact: Light's preliminary design for Adelaide contained more than 1000 saleable acre plots, and sworn testimony confirms that Light reduced the number of allotments, not Kingston.

Fact: Light designed a city to fit river and landforms:

... to 11 January I [Light] was employed in looking repeatedly over the ground, and devising in my own mind the best method of laying out the town according to the course of the river, and the nature of the ground ...²⁰

(It is nonsense to say land formations prevented river bank allotments. Many layouts ignore steep gradients or river banks regardless of similar topography: Australind (WA), Christchurch (NZ) and Jamestown (SA), to name but few. Light chose the 'rising ground' and to preserve river banks with his figure eight of 'Park grounds', and opposed Governor Hindmarsh's request to extend Government House's domain to the river.)

Strike Eighteen

Claim: South Australia and its capital were founded by an Act of Parliament, 6 February 1836.

Fact: The Act of Parliament, 15 August 1834, empowering the King to erect a Province or Provinces, established neither the Province nor its Capital. Letters Patent, 19 February 1836, establishing the new British Province of South Australia did not found a capital. The Act authorised appointment of Commissioners responsible for all aspects of land disposal. Commissioners delegated *all* their authority for site selection and design and layout of the capital to Light, to his decisions alone.

As disreputable as Kingston appears from the record, he did not persist in taking credit due to Light. Kingston denies authorship of the plan of Adelaide and its Park Lands, and he defended Light's Plan and Park.

Strike Nineteen

Claim: Light selected 'five sites'.

Fact: Light's instructions required him to examine over 1000 miles of coastline and select the *best* site. Light notified the Commissioners of his selection of one permanent site for the seat of government, the site of the current City of Adelaide, spanning the River Torrens. Only Light was in a position to make that decision, having arrived in *Rapid* and examined Encounter Bay, Nepean Bay, Rapid Bay, Gulf St Vincent's east coast, lower Spencer's Gulf, Boston Bay's southern approach, and western St Vincent's Gulf (Yorke Peninsula). Kingston, who arrived aboard *Cygnets* six weeks after Light, did not assess these areas. As early as 18 November 1836, Light expected to select a permanent site at the foot of the Adelaide hills. Holdfast Bay was a landing place; Light did not select it as the site of the capital.

Strike Twenty

Claim: South Adelaide's street plan was taken by Kingston from a Cataneo plan published in 1567.

Fact: There is no evidence of Kingston, nor Light, nor anyone else involved in establishing South Australia knowing of Cataneo's plan.

Fact: Other plans are more likely to have influenced Light's design: Philadelphia, Mann's Plan of Toronto Harbour, Washington, and Loudon's plan (rings of country land for London). T.J. Maslen published a plan for an ideal Australian capital (*Friend of Australia*, 1830, 1835) and corresponded with Robert Gouger, Hon Secretary of the South Australian Association. Light was directed to look to examples such as in America, and avoid relocating the first town.

Other Strikes

By 1936, the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (South Australian Branch) had a reputation of presenting authoritative primary source evidence to the public. Far from acting with 'alarm' or 'haste', the Society's report brought together expert opinion from relevant areas after examination of evidence. The committee was not composed solely of geographers and one astronomer. Basic research easily elicits the names and broader expertise of its members: Dr A Grenfell Price (geographer, historian, educationist), Dr Charles Fenner (geographer, educator, Director of Education 1939–1946), Mr ET Day (former Surveyor-General), Mr GF Dodwell (Government Astronomer), Mr JM Maughan (Lands Department), and



Left: J.C. Loudon's plan for London (1829) in which a half-mile wide ring of open land (a breathing place) encircles each mile-wide ring of urban development.

Messrs FC Martin and KM Cornish (Hon Secretaries of the Society).

Langmead's research exposes false attribution of Kingston's architectural work, reassigning credit to O'Brien for Government House's east wing—based on O'Brien's design, not Kingston's as others asserted: 'Perhaps inserted to give the impression that research has been done, the statement ironically proves that it has not'.²¹

Adelaide's town sections, squares, and street pattern are distinctive.

Championing Kingston

Contemporary assessments of Kingston give a measure of the man being championed. H Mildred described Kingston as an 'ignorant substitute for a surveyor ...' who 'ever rendered himself contemptible to his superiors, obnoxious to his equals and a petty tyrant to all in the humbler walks of life ... a vaporizing, empty-headed, hollow-hearted, treacherous fellow, whose ravings are only equalled by his imbecility and petty tyranny'.²²

As disreputable as Kingston appears from the record, he did not persist in taking credit due to Light. Kingston denies authorship of the plan of Adelaide and its Park Lands, and he defended Light's Plan and Park.

Conclusion

Errors and absences of fact are disturbingly evident in claims that Kingston 'planned' Adelaide. Made on behalf of an unwilling Kingston, such claims haven't advanced past flimsy conjectures of the 1980s. Light claims Adelaide's Plan and its Park Lands as his own; Kingston (among others) admits these are attributable to Light.

The facts deliver the true verdict to the artistic, intellectual and expert William Light, *the Planner and Founder of the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands*.

Endnotes

- 1 Geoffrey Dutton & David Elder refer to: Donald Leslie Johnson and Donald Langmead, *The Adelaide City Plan*, Adelaide, 1986, and to critical essays by JR Porter (then Deputy Surveyor-General of SA, *Building and Architecture*, Nov/Dec 1986; David Elder *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, No 15, 1987; Christine Finnemore, 'Light Years Ahead: The City of Adelaide Plan', *Speakers Corner*, No 12, 1986
- 2 Geoffrey Dutton & David Elder, Melbourne University Press, 1991, *Colonel William Light*, p 187
- 3 *Colonel William Light*, p 187
- 4 David Elder, *William Light's Brief Journal and Australian Diaries*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 1984, p 112
- 5 Light to Wakefield, July 22, 1838; transcription of letter in Mayo, *The Life and Letters of Colonel William Light*, FW Preece and Sons, Adelaide, 1937, pp 243–248
- 6 Donald Langmead, *Accidental Architect*, Crossing Press, Sydney, 1994, pp 27–29
- 7 William Light's sketch of the site of Adelaide, c7 Feb 1837
- 8 *Advertiser*, 12 November 1877, p 6e-f
- 9 *Regulations for the Disposal of Public Lands*, Colonization Commissioners for South Australia, 1835
- 10 *Accidental Architect*, p 198
- 11 *Accidental Architect*, pp 188–9
- 12 Professor Michael Williams, Oxford Dictionary of Biography entry for 'Light, William (1786–1839), surveyor and founder of Adelaide', Oxford University Press, 2004–07
- 13 Donald Leslie Johnson, 'Disturbing Evidence: Adelaide's Town Plan, 1835–7', *Planning Perspectives*, 23 (April 2008) pp 225–231
- 14 Light to Palmer, 16 July 1838, Mortlock Library of South Australiana PRG 1/2/115
- 15 'History and myth: The origin of Colonel William Light's "Park Grounds" and their universal value' in *Proceedings. The Adelaide Parklands [sic] Symposium*, University of South Australia, Adelaide, 2006
- 16 *William Light's Brief Journal*, p 95
- 17 Attributed to Light, Register 20 Jan 1883, p 5b
- 18 JR Porter, 'Who designed Adelaide', *Building and Architecture*, Nov/Dec 1986, p 10
- 19 *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, 16 June 1838, p 2d
- 20 *William Light's Brief Journal*, p 95
- 21 *Accidental Architect*, p 184
- 22 *Register*, 14 July 1851, p 3

Kelly Henderson

CARS AND TRAMS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARK LANDS

Last year, the state government announced the extension of the tramline currently terminating at the City West Campus of UniSA to the Entertainment Centre. The inevitable public-consultation-after-the-decision was announced, and your Committee responded with a submission. The implications for the Park Lands of the proposed extension include further loss of land to appease the great god, CAR. The following submission was sent to the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, with copies to Peter Garrett, Jay Weatherill, Jane Lomax-Smith, Gail Gago and Michael Harbison.

The Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association (APPA) has reviewed the proposed road widening for the tramline extension to the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and has the following comments.

The proposal involves the widening of parts of Port Road and North Terrace, which includes taking away a strip of Park Lands along Port Road from James Congdon Drive to Park Terrace.

APPA is opposed to any such deletion of an area of Park Lands.

While no doubt the government would argue, as have previous governments, that the use of Park Lands is essential for the project, such acquisitions in the past have resulted in more than 30 per cent of Adelaide's original Park Lands being lost to development. It is for this reason that the other areas shown as being required for road widening for this project were also once Park Lands.

In particular, in the mid 1980s, the Bannon Government proposed that the current SA Water site be returned to the Park Lands. This decision was put on hold by a succession of later governments. In view of this, it is considered inappropriate for the current government, over 20 years later, to use the return of the SA Water site to Park Lands as an exchange for the taking of areas of the Park Lands for this project or any other projects.

The inclusion of dedicated bicycle lanes in the road formation is contributing towards the need to acquire land in order to be able to accommodate the tram tracks. While such bicycle lanes may be preferred by experienced cyclists, they are very hazardous for inexperienced and social cyclists, particularly during peak traffic periods. The alternative is to provide a pathway through the Park Lands and

the other areas alongside the roadway for the length of the proposed tramline extension. This pathway through the Park Lands would in effect be an extension to the Park Lands trail, which finishes at the Port Road just east of the bridge over the railway. This extension would then link up the existing Park Lands trail with the River Torrens Linear Park pathway.

The inclusion of bicycle lanes within the road formation is not the preferred option in European countries where cycling is encouraged. Cycling in safe circumstances should be encouraged in Adelaide, particularly from those residential developments close to the city such as the one proposed for the Clipsal site. Unless these residents are experienced cyclists it is most unlikely that they would be prepared to risk riding to and from the city along bicycle lanes that are located right next to busy vehicle lanes along the Port Road.

The proposal to retain the bicycle lanes within the road formation instead of using this project to take the opportunity to relocate bicycle paths outside the road formation will have the effect of discouraging cycling into the city from these adjacent rapidly developing residential areas.

To include the bicycle lanes within the road formation as part of this project is very short sighted and in conflict with one of the objectives of the tramline extension which is to encourage people not to drive their vehicles into the city.

A similar conflict of principles is demonstrated by this grab for Park Lands for the proposed extension when the previous extension along King William Street was done at the expense of vehicle lanes, an action argued at the time as being desirable in discouraging vehicle

travel through the city. If that argument was sound for King William Street, why is it not sound for the new extension? Why not sacrifice vehicle lane space instead of taking Park Lands? This would reinforce the proposed 'park and ride' concept planned for the Entertainment Centre car park.

Most of the Adelaide Park Lands are now protected by their National Heritage status. The Australian Government's National Heritage Management Principles set out how heritage values are to be protected. Principle 4 states: 'The management of National Heritage places should ensure that their use and presentation is consistent with the conservation of their National Heritage values'. In this context, APPA notes with dismay that the proposed Park Lands grab includes an historic marker—the first formal demarcation and survey point in South Australia. It is the place where Colonel William Light began his survey of the City of Adelaide. This is an important location marking an important event which has been duly recognised by the recent National Heritage listing of the Park Lands and City of Adelaide layout. Two things matter here: the marker and location must remain intact, and the Federal government needs to be told that the proposed works will involve a National Heritage place being irrevocably changed by a development.

In conclusion, APPA considers the proposal to grab more Park Lands to be unconscionable, the design of the tramline extension to be flawed with respect to bicycle lanes, and the disregard of National Heritage status of the Park Lands and interference with the important historic marker to be a significant failure of the state government to abide by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

USE OUR 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 *Park Lands News* by e-mail as a PDF, fill in the form below and mail it to the following address:

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Gunta Groves

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THE GLENELG TO ADELAIDE PARK LANDS RECYCLED WATER

The joint project by the Australian Government, the Government of South Australia and SA Water to pipe treated effluent from the Glenelg Waste Water Treatment Plant to the Adelaide Park Lands is now into its fifth month of pipelaying. The Park Lands are not the only proposed beneficiary of this project, with industries and councils on the pipeline route having access to this water.

We are told SA Water is currently (as at December 2008) 'scoping' the detail that will be required to monitor the effects of applying this treated effluent to the Adelaide Park Lands. The potential for this project to greatly enhance the Park Lands and the survival of its thousands of trees and other vegetation is high. Equally, the potential for the application of this water to wreak havoc on the Adelaide Park Lands is also very high, unless certain studies are undertaken immediately.

Speaking on the ABC 891 radio program on 20 November 2008, David Lawry from the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus and Prof Wayne Meyer from the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department

of the University of Adelaide made a number of concerning observations about the Glenelg to Adelaide Pipeline (GAP) project and its potential for harming the Park Lands unless baseline studies are performed before commencement of watering.

Neither of these highly credentialed gentlemen are predicting the application of this water on the Park Lands to be inevitably dangerous, but they did agree with concerns by some of the GAP partners over the lack of data relating to the current state of the soil and vegetation of the Park Lands. They made the point that unless baseline data are collected this summer (2008-09), the changes that will result from the application of large volumes of nutrient rich 1200ppm salt content water will not be easily monitored, therefore making ongoing management difficult. They estimated a three year study would cost approximately \$400-\$500K over the three year period and both men believed it would be money well spent in a project costing some \$75 million.

They made the point that many people wrongly assume that, because treated

effluent has been used on other sites without obvious problems, this will be no different.

However, the GAP project is different in the quality of water and the intent, which is not water conservation necessarily but aimed at disposal of a waste currently damaging the gulf.

APPA members are aware that large areas of the Park Lands have never been watered artificially. They are also aware that large areas are already showing the effects of salinity. It simply beggars belief that preliminary studies have not been carried out already and that mechanisms are yet to be put in place to measure and monitor the effects of this project on the Park Lands. APPA also questions the level of recycling of this water. Perhaps the new Glenelg Waste Water Treatment Plant needs to be redesigned to produce recycled water closer to a potable quality, rather than the nutrient rich, highly salty water that is proposed to be applied to the Park Lands.

Philip Groves

An opportunity to make a difference

APPA NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED

Outgoing editor will provide support and advice if needed.

Start April 2009

Contact: Gunta Groves, tel 8336 8424 or e-mail <ggroves@chariot.net.au>

NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2008-09
Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000

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Method of payment

- Cheque attached Money order attached

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT:

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

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

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

03/09

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**Nominate
for the APPA
Committee
and
participate in
determining
the future.

The AGM in
April is fast
approaching.**

Contact

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Membership:

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