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President's letter

In May, the Committee met with Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation, and greatly appreciated the Minister taking the time to discuss the Adelaide Park Lands. Issues covered included State, National and World Heritage listing; the need for a management plan modelled upon higher standards already implemented by the Department for another site; and return of alienated land. Confirmation was also sought regarding the undertaking given to the Association by Minister Hill for the current Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) to be returned to open space, under the care of the Adelaide City Council, if the hospital is relocated. Minister Weatherill has subsequently stated in writing that the government stands by the *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* Section 23 Reports with regard to the railyards and RAH and also that the majority of the RAH site 'may form part of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens'. Transfers from one government agency to another do not reduce the government's footprint upon the Park Lands, and seems even more questionable given the recent destruction in Botanic Park. On a better note, the Minister also confirmed that he has been advised that the time required to complete the work of erecting and dismantling of the

temporary grandstand at Victoria Park will be reduced.

On other good news, I hope members will join me in congratulating Philip Groves, who has been appointed as Deputy President by the Committee, and I take this opportunity to commend Philip and Gunta for their hard work, dedication, and highly effective advocacy for the Park Lands. I would also like to thank Kelly Russ for putting together our newsletter and Olivia for her work in developing the APPA Vision statement, which members are invited to comment upon. With the release of the State Government consultation on the draft 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide there is also an opportunity to make a strategic statement about the Park Lands, and I would urge members to lodge submissions about the Adelaide Park Lands before the closing date of 30 September.

In expressing our appreciation for Bill Gibberd's contribution to APPA's efforts, I defer to past President Ian Gilfillan to record our vale in memory of Bill, an Honorary Life Member of our Association who passed away on 26 June 2009.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed the destruction of more historic plantings in Park Lands, invariably at grave risk whenever they have the misfortune to be within the ambit of government projects. In the bitter chill of the last Monday night in July, Botanic Gardens contractors laboured in Botanic Park long after dark, struggling to extricate a heavily bogged double-trailer logging truck—fully laden with Park Lands timber—from the muddy morass of wheel ruts which it had gouged through the root zones of a 'most significant' group of Morton Bay fig trees near Frome Road. In light of their stated aim to deliver the logging truck's shameful burden of felled historic Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) to a 'Wingfield sawmill', I like to think the Park Lands meted out punishment for an unconscionable act of aggression against admittedly healthy trees. Having stood on this earth for over a century—longer than the Gallipoli Cemetery 'Lone Pine'—most of these trees were



assessed a few years ago by professionals as having a life expectancy of 50–100 years and were given the same bill of 'fair' health as over 3000 other trees in the Botanic Park and Gardens. From a risk perspective, several plane trees along the Drive at the rear of the Gardens were evaluated as posing a far greater 'tree hazard' risk to the public.

The felling of this timber along the Dell, where the watercourse winds through Botanic Park near Frome Road, recalls to mind the words of Park Lands protector David Gall, an Adelaide printer and proprietor of *The Comet*, who had saved this area from the Acclimatization Society's attempt to acquire this Park Land in 1882 for their Zoological Gardens.

It is only another of the too frequently recurring instances in which public rights are trampled to gratify the desires of a few parties especially interested in some pet hobby, be that hobby cricket, acclimatisation, or whatnot [...] the spirit of aggression must be carefully watched, and nipped in the bud whenever it shows itself ...

The Committee resolved to apply for Provisional State Heritage listing seeking interim State Heritage protection, since proposals which may despoil the Park Lands are currently not required to be

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31 October 2009

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ISSUES ON THE TABLE

World Heritage listing

Land grabs at RAH site, railway yards and for tram extensions

Biodiversity survey

Heritage listing of 1889 Arbor Day plantings

Adelaide Bowling Club's activities

Hurtle Square redevelopment

Britannia intersection land grab

Dying elms and other trees

SACA car park push and expansionist ambitions

Alienated Park Lands

Flood mitigation works

Watering regime during drought

Front cover: The rings of an Aleppo pine, one of those cut down in Botanic Park near Frome Road. Photo taken by Kelly Henderson, 23 July 2009.

President's letter

(Continued from page 2)

referred to Heritage SA for consideration, or mitigation, of impact upon Park Lands cultural heritage. Large areas currently have no formal heritage recognition whatsoever, because the National Heritage listing explicitly excluded land along North Terrace from the Royal Adelaide Hospital site to the Thebarton Police Barracks, and the Old Adelaide Gaol. Highlighting the lack of State Heritage protection, the *City Messenger* has published an article, 'Protect our Parklands', featuring the William Light Survey Monument. After 23 years of bureaucratic bungling we must now make every effort to ensure that the government and South Australian Heritage Council heed David Gall's advice—'Be wise in time, 'tis madness to defer!'.

Kelly Henderson

Treasurer's report

The 2008–09 membership year ran for a period of 15 months because of the change of membership year from 1 April–31 March to 1 July–30 June.

After the record membership growth in 2006–07 and 2007–08, APPA has entered a period of consolidation and our membership remains at a record high. I would like to thank all of those members who renewed their 2009–10 memberships so promptly. Members who have yet to renew will have received a renewal notice reminders in mid-July. A 'final renewal notice' will be mailed in September to members who have not renewed. It would be appreciated if members who are not planning to renew their memberships could advise us so that APPA's membership records can be adjusted accordingly.

Philip Groves
Treasurer

Right: The rear half of the logging truck, comprising a second stack of felled Aleppo pines removed from Botanic Park. Photograph by Kelly Henderson, Monday 27 July 2009.

Vandalism and pandaism

As Premier Rann's media unit and Zoos SA's marketing department prepare to unleash PANDAMANIA on South Australians, spare a thought for the significant trees and numerous others located on and around the northern and southern banks of First Creek in Botanic Park. The trees, some more than a century old, found themselves in the vicinity of the new Adelaide Zoo entrance precinct and giant panda enclosure in the south-western corner of the zoo. An application by the Botanic Gardens for the removal of six significant Aleppo pines was heard by the Adelaide City Council's Development Assessment Panel (DAP) on 22 June 2009. Sitting on the DAP were Ms Shanti Ditter, Presiding Member; Mr Rob Cheesman, Deputy Presiding Member; and Adelaide City Councillors Henningsen, Moran, Plumridge and Wilkinson. The Specialist Members of the DAP were Prof Mads Gaardboe, Mr David Grieve and Dr Alpana Sivam.

The Botanic Gardens' application for the removal of the trees was based 'on the inability to rectify their faults by pruning to Australian Standards and to reduce the risk of injury and death to members of the public upon the opening of the new Zoos SA entrance and Plaza'. Just how or why the trees were allowed to degenerate into this alleged state the Botanic Gardens

staff did not indicate. In actual fact, the canopy of only one Aleppo was overhanging the intended entrance area, and posed little or no risk to the public, any more than hundreds of other trees in the Botanic Park, Botanic Gardens or in the grounds of the zoo itself. Nor are there any records of injury or death amongst the hundreds of thousands of people attending events in Botanic Park in the past!

To its credit, the DAP did not support the removal of the six Aleppos. In rejecting the application, the DAP considered that the significant Aleppos contributed to the overall majestic character and amenity of the local area and that they were considered to act as habitat to native fauna. However, in remarks unworthy of an Adelaide City Councillor who is charged with the care, control and management of the Adelaide Park Lands, Councillor Michael Henningsen was quoted on the AdelaideNow news website of 23 June 2009 as saying the trees were an 'environmental weed' and the panel should support their removal. 'The Aleppo pine [is] not a native species', he said. Councillor Sandy Wilkinson was quoted in the same story as saying the trees were 'majestic pine trees' and added character to the park. 'They're part of what makes Adelaide a

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Vandalism and pandaism

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beautiful city,' he said. 'I think we've got too many native tree zealots that want to purge the Park Lands of any exotic trees.' Councillor Henningsen would appear to be oblivious to the fact that Botanic Park was established as an arboretum and the collection includes numerous exotic species.

Two days after the DAP rejected the application by the Botanic Gardens for the removal of the Aleppos, the State Government's so-called independent Development Assessment Commission (DAC) applied its much-used rubber stamp to the application and the fate of the Aleppos was sealed. The Aleppos had committed the crime of being less-than-perfect specimens and found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time, after giving a long period of untroubled service (with the potential of many more years to come) to Adelaide's cultural and environmental landscape. It is true that the area where the Aleppos were located was somewhat degraded by a lack of care and maintenance by the Botanic Gardens. After all, it was the Botanic Gardens which once used the nearby area as a green waste tip. The Aleppos would also have been witness to the adjacent Speaker's Section where from the mid-1920s large crowds of people once gathered on Sundays to listen to all manner of political and social commentators.

The stately Botanic Park's history dates back to the early 1870s when ornamental planting in the park

commenced. Today, there is an increasing public perception that significant harm is being visited on the park by the frequency and extent of major events like WOMADelaide and Parklife music festivals. WOMADelaide has gone from a bi-annual three-day event with a small footprint and low impact on the park to an annual event, now four days long, spread over virtually the entire park and entailing bumping in and bumping out hundreds of tonnes of equipment with heavy vehicles. This ever-increasing and unsustainable use of Botanic Park will inevitably lead to extensive soil compaction caused by heavy vehicles, resulting in the lack of oxygen and water reaching tree roots. The 2008 event turned the park to a dusty desert, brought about by a combination of dry conditions and tens of thousands of event goers. Numerous healthy trees are continuing to vanish from Botanic Park, with Plane Tree Drive alone recently seeing the removal of more than twenty trees.

How paradoxical that the Aleppos—large, healthy, drought-resistant and significant trees—had to make way for a conservation program, a contradiction that does not appear to have occurred to the Botanic Gardens. Dr Chris West, CEO of Zoos SA, said that, as an ambassador species for conservation, the giant pandas will help to educate the Australian public about the importance of conserving endangered wildlife. Who is going to educate the Botanic Gardens about the need to conserve every single tree under its control, whether the tree is exotic or otherwise?

The Botanic Gardens should revisit its mission statement, which includes landscape conservation and the responsibility to maintain species, rather than behaving like a division of a certain Tasmanian company whose name begins with the letter 'G'.

Philip Groves

SACA calls for demolition of heritage walls

The South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) has applied for development approval for 'partial demolition of State Heritage-listed wall [Giffen Stand] at Adelaide Oval'.

It is claimed that the applicant is under pressure to meet the project completion date. If the State Government Development Assessment Commission (DAC) supports the proposal, it has been recommended to delegate its decision-making process to the Presiding Member of the Commission or the Acting Principal Planner.

Adelaide City Council (ACC) staff has advised the DAC that SACA's application will be considered by the ACC's Development Assessment Panel on 7 September 2009.

The *City Messenger* (27 August 2009, p 14) reports that SACA spokeswoman, Rebekah Rosser, has stated there was no immediate risk of collapse and that the issue is whether the old stand would support the new structure, as engineers had concerns following SACA's partial demolition: 'it was mainly the pressure of everything around it that was holding it up'. The new stand was to be 'a massive structure going over the top of it', and 'SACA argue they [the walls] are structurally unsound and cannot stay' (Phil Smith, State Planning Department assessment director).

Kelly Henderson

Right: A pile of Aleppo pines in Botanic Park, approved by DAC to be felled by the Botanic Gardens to make way for the new zoo entrance. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 23 July 2009.



South Australia's planning and heritage net

Who should be held accountable for the ongoing despoliation of Adelaide's Park Lands, for approvals for destruction of historic trees, and for failure to enter the site onto the South Australian Heritage Register or into the City of Adelaide Development Plan as a State Heritage Area? A closer look at the decision-makers seems warranted, given an appalling litany of destruction associated with government projects and/or supported by government funding, and an incredible 23 years' lack of action on the Adelaide Park Lands State Heritage nomination, dating back to February 1986.

The **Development Assessment Commission¹** (DAC) is a statutory body comprising seven Commissioners, usually appointed for a term of two years or for a term of up to five years in the case of the Presiding Member. The Commission is supported by the State Government's planning agency, Planning SA, which provides research and advice and is able to delegate administrative and decision-making responsibility to Planning SA officers.

Ted Byrt (DAC Presiding Member): Company director of Advoc Asia Pty Ltd, Dynix Pty Ltd and Chairman of China Cluster. Australia China Business Council Ltd State President² and commercial lawyer (areas of commerce and public law, town planning and development, corporate governance and international business). Consultant with legal firm Norman Waterhouse and 'has been with Norman Waterhouse for over 30 years'. A specialist strategic advisor for major projects. Previous experience as a board member includes: Bedford Industries Inc; Port Adelaide Football Club Ltd (AFL); Business SA (Employers Chamber of Commerce & Industry); and member of Federal Government's Foreign Affairs Council.

Betty Douflias (DAC Deputy Presiding Member): 27 years' experience in local government with 17 years in development assessment unit of several councils. Has Bachelor of Management Construction and Economics (Honours) specialising in building surveying and project management, Diploma in Business Management and Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning. Committee involvement includes: executive member of Australian Institute of Building Surveyors; Building Fire Safety Committee Member; member of Access for People with Disabilities Committee within local government; member of Port Adelaide Waterfront Development Committee; building surveyor with City of Holdfast Bay.

Geoff Loveday: Background in major project development and politics. From 1990–2006 was Chief of Staff to the South Australian Minister for Environment and Planning, Water and Lands; Chief of Staff to the Minister for Education; advisor to Leader of the Opposition and Members of Shadow Cabinet (1994–2002); and Chief of Staff to Minister for Health.

Damien Brown: In manufacturing and commercial sectors. Non-executive Director of Urbis JHD (multinational Australian company) and Managing Director of Dequetteville Pty Ltd (South Australian development company). On the Property Council of Australia (SA Division) Management Committee, member of Port Waterfront Redevelopment Committee, appointed as member of SA Heritage Council Register sub-committee from 20 July 2006.

John Dagas: Over 10 years' experience in senior project management roles, with experience and knowledge in environmental, project, and asset management. Degree in Environmental Management, Associate Diploma in Civil Engineering, Graduate Diploma in Business Administration. Member of DPAC and Australian Institute of Project Management.

Megan Leydon: 17 years' experience as urban planner. In 1991–2001 worked for local government in development assessment and strategic and policy planning roles. Established consultancy in 2002, providing planning services to building industry and local councils. Member of Planning Institute of Australia and a Certified Practising Planner.

Carolyn Wigg: Architect and building surveyor with postgraduate qualifications in urban and regional planning and management. Has experience in public policy, heritage management and development assessment in state and local government. Member of the South Australian Heritage Council, chair of its Register sub-committee, and member of Local Heritage Advisory Committee (LHAC) and Australian Institute of Architects SA Chapter Council. Elected member in local government (Walkerville Council) and part-time lecturer (University of Adelaide).

The **Development Policy Advisory Committee³** (DPAC) is a statutory planning body with responsibility for key planning decisions, comprising ten members. Term of office is usually two years, with members eligible for reappointment.

Mario Barone (Presiding Member): CEO of Norwood Payneham and St Peters Council, past member of SA Heritage Council predecessor (State Heritage Authority, 4 November 2004–30 June 2005).

Davina Quirke: Recently appointed⁴ as an elected member of Burnside Council and stated to be an Executive member and Convenor of Labor Women SA, a subsection of the National Labor Women's Network described as the official national women's network within the ALP⁵.

Other members: **Rosa Gagetti, Demetrius Poupoulas, Peter Torr, Elizabeth Hollidge, Angela Veitch, Paul Ogden, Jane Moore, John Fitzpatrick.**

The **South Australian Heritage Council⁶** provides strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on heritage issues and administers the State Heritage Register.

Judith Carr (Chair 2009–): Architect and senior public servant within the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

Mary Marsland (Chair 2005–2009⁷): Recently became a government appointee to the Adelaide Park Lands Authority. Former senior executive in South Australian public sector; prior to retirement in 2004 held position of Executive Director, Building Management, Department for Administrative and Information Services (DAIS); held positions in DAIS and its predecessors for thirty years. Has chaired the South Australian Housing Trust, Construction Industry Training Board, and been a Non-Executive Director of Masonic Homes Inc.⁸

Dr Judith Brine (2005–): Local Government Association (LGA) nominee 2005–08, past Chair of South Australian Heritage Committee, retired lecturer in architectural history and previously an elected member of Adelaide City Council.

Dr Christine Garnaut (2005–): Lecturer in Architectural and Urban Planning Design History, University of South Australia, with a research focus on Australian 20th century architectural, planning and urban design history and heritage; Director of the Architectural Museum. Has been a member of the Local Heritage Advisory Committee (sub-committee of DPAC).

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South Australia's planning and heritage net

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Mr Alan Graham (2005–2007): CEO National Trust of South Australia to December 2006.

Ms Helen Haltis (2005–27 Aug 2007): As of 30 June 2006 was teaching Business Education, secondary school and adult education level; President of Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia (SA) Inc; member of Multicultural Communities Council and Vice President (Grand Lodge of South Australia) of Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

Mr Gavin Leydon (2005–): Partner in legal firm Norman Waterhouse Lawyers. Joined Norman Waterhouse in 1990 and 'leads the firm's Planning and Environment team and is a specialist in property development, urban and regional planning, environmental and administrative law', and is 'focussed on advising and representing private industry and the firm's significant local government client base', including the Corporation of the City of Adelaide. Married to Megan, a planner². Also Presiding Member of State Government's Local Heritage Advisory Committee (LHAC), a sub-committee of DPAC consisting of six members which provides advice to the Minister for Urban Development and Planning.

Mr Michael O'Connell (2005–): Principal Strategic Planner for QED Pty Ltd. Has worked as senior planner and administrator within local government including holding senior positions at City of Adelaide, Adelaide Hills and former Port Adelaide Councils and on major projects in Port Adelaide Heritage Area, and had overview of City of Adelaide's Heritage Incentives Program.

Mr Lew Owens (2005–): Law degree and experience as senior public servant and as a Director of the National Trust of SA and the Australian Council of National Trusts. Currently CEO of ETSA Utilities.

Ms Carolyn Wigg (2005–): See details under DAC. Also chairs SA Heritage Council Register sub-committee, member of LHAC. Appointed as a contractor on heritage and planning matters to Adelaide City Council.

Mr Mark Staniforth (2008–): Associate Professor at Flinders University in field of archaeology (primarily maritime).

Mr Robert Donaldson (2008–): Local Government Association (LGA) nominee.

The **South Australian Heritage Council Register Subcommittee**⁹ makes recommendations to the South Australian Heritage Council regarding the State Heritage Register.

Ms Carolyn Wigg (Chair 2005–): See DAC and SA Heritage Council. Also a member of LHAC.

Dr Peter Bell (2005–): A director of Adelaide consulting firm Historical Research Pty Ltd. Was with the South Australian Heritage Branch for 11 years (1983–1994), obtained a PhD in Australian history from James Cook University specialising in the study of mining settlements, teacher of architectural history at University of Adelaide.

Mr Damien Brown (20 July 2006–1 July 2007): Knowledge of property development industry, on Property Council (SA Division) Management Committee, and a member of DAC.

Mr Peter Donovan (2005–): Principal of Donovan and Associates (History and Historic Preservation Consultants) formed in 1980, MA from Flinders University and studied architectural conservation at the International Centre for Conservation in Rome.

Dr Susan Marsden (2005–): A professional historian who runs a consultancy business. Worked as South Australia's State Historian and as National Conservation Manager for Australian Council of National Trusts Canberra.

Ms Katrina McDougall (2005–): Arts graduate of University of Melbourne; Partner in McDougall & Vines, Conservation and Heritage Consultants since its establishment in 1987. Has previously worked with Heritage Branch.

Mr Michael Queale (2005–): Registered architect with experience in site superintendence of restoration including the Torrens Parade Ground Depot (project architect for Grieve Gillett Pty Ltd) and Adelaide Fruit & Produce Exchange. Recommended in July 2008 (then Senior Heritage Architect of Grieve Gillett Pty Ltd) for contract position with Light Regional Council. Heritage Advisor for Light Regional Council and Adelaide Hills Council¹⁰.

Mr Paul Stark (–15 June 2006): Previously managed Adelaide City Council's heritage program and heritage grants scheme. Resigned from Committee on joining Heritage Branch of Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) as Principal Conservation Architect. Left DEH for position with Planning SA 26 September 2008.

Ms Robyn Taylor (16 June 2006–): Architectural historian and planner. Works part-time as City of Adelaide's Heritage Advisor (acting as consultant to Heritage Branch) and part-time as Development Assessment Planner for Adelaide City Council.

Kelly Henderson

1 Extracts sourced from DAC webpage <<http://www.dac.sa.gov.au>>; for members information see <<http://www.dac.sa.gov.au/index.cfm?objectId=43C61AAD-96B8-CC2B-EA21863C760A3262>>

2 Norman Waterhouse website <http://www.normans.com.au/people/tbyrt_details.html>

3 Extracts sourced from DPAC webpage <<http://www.dpac.sa.gov.au/>>; for members information see <<http://www.dpac.sa.gov.au/index.cfm?objectId=187CC110-96B8-CC2B-673F3A222CAD4306>>

4 City of Burnside Council Meeting Minutes 21 July 2009, Mayor's Monthly Report, <http://www.burnside.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/20090721_General_Council_minutes_only_public.pdf>

5 <<http://www.sa.alp.org.au/lhsmenu/women.php>> (Authorised by M Brown, 141 Gilles Street, Adelaide SA 5000)

6 Sourced from *Heritage South Australia Newsletter* Winter 2009, edition 34, page 19 and/or Department for Environment and Heritage SA Heritage Council website <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/about/sa_council.html>, and Norman Waterhouse website

7 South Australian Heritage Council First, Second and Third Annual Reports (from July 2005 to June 2009)

8 Evidence given to the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry, 27 August 2002

9 South Australian Heritage Council First, Second and Third Annual Reports (from July 2005 to June 2009)

10 <<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/heritage/conserving/contact.html>>

'Developer' is a dirty word

'Developer' has long been a dirty word in the lexicon of parklands preservationists. In APPA's experience, it encompasses all the wrong attitudes associated with the worth of open spaces. If you don't agree with these sentiments, then read on.

On 26 May 2009, the *Advertiser* published a story by Sarah Martin (p 44) about high-density developments, mentioning particularly the development intended for the old Clipsal site at Bowden. One of the main themes of the article was the increased cost of creating high-density developments and the need for developers to make accommodation areas smaller to make them affordable. Because of these increased costs, developers—according to Stephen McMillan (Citta Property Group's managing director)—need to be helped through the infusion of public money (read taxpayer money) to achieve more than just dog boxes. Mr McMillan also was reported as complaining that community action groups were 'becoming "increasingly difficult" for developers to manage'.

Wow! Not only do developers need taxpayers' money to make a profit from a prime site whose value is increased exponentially by overlooking the Park Lands, but taxpayers are expected to shut up and not be 'difficult' when they disagree with what developers want to do.

Gunta Groves

Right: Alienation on a grand scale: vast plastic-covered mounds of soil lie over much of Oval No 2. This was an illegal dumping by SACA until retrospective permission was granted by the ACC on 24 August. Not a word of this need to dump was mentioned in the public consultation.

Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 23 August 2009.



Where has Oval No 2 gone?

As the photograph below shows, there's not much left of Oval No 2. It is occupied by vast quantities of soil dumped by the SA Cricket Association from the works on the new western grandstand and Adelaide Oval itself. The dumped soil will be removed eventually but the dumping has occurred without permission and at no cost to SACA until the third week in August. Retrospective permission and reduced fees were decided by the Adelaide City Council on 24 August.

The public consultation and previous information leading up to the Adelaide Oval redevelopment did not include use of most of Oval No 2 as a dumping ground. In fact, the space left available on Oval No 2 was presented as a virtue of the arrangements around the redevelopment.

You can't tell me that the architects, engineers and quantity surveyors did not factor into their thinking the location and cost of storing vast quantities of soil. So, the questions are: who knew about the lack of honesty in the public consultation information, and why is the ACC allowing this kind of dishonesty to occur and even rewarding it by giving retrospective permission and reductions in usage fees?

Gunta Groves

SA Health requests lease of Park Land on North Terrace for new RAH

To extend the proposed new Royal Adelaide Hospital site, SA Health requested that Adelaide City Council transfer Park Land on North Terrace/Port Road to the State Government for incorporation (as open space) into a private consortium (Public Private Partnership) hospital development.

At the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Special Meeting, Thursday 27 August, government-appointed Mary Marsland and Councillor Ralph Clarke supported a recommendation that Council grant a lease to government. Cr Moran, Mr Gilfillan, Ms Chapman and Lord Mayor Michael Harbison voted against this and the motion was lost. The Authority instead resolved to recommend that Council retain custody of this Park Land. The Authority's agenda papers disclose that SA Health (Dr Tony Sherbon, SA Health Chief Executive, to ACC CEO, 7/8/2009) envisages the Council-managed Park Land can be 'rolled into one single title' with the railyards site, which 'would be held by the Minister for Health, with the NRAH Project Co holding a licence over the title'.

Government rezoned this Park Land to Institutional (Metropolitan Hospital) on 21 May 2009, and Council staff advised the Authority that rezoning would facilitate construction of a research facility on Park Lands under Council custody, not only the railyards. The maximum possible lease term is 42 years, but the PPP/NRAH Project Co lease may be 38 years. Adelaide City Council is yet to decide whether to proceed with transfer, lease, or retention.

Kelly Henderson

4 hours of car racing, 7 months of blight

Finally, in early June 2009, the last of the detritus of the V8 supercar infrastructure within Victoria Park disappeared. It took more than seven months from the race setup commencement date in November 2008 for the 19–22 March 2009 race! (A collection of portable huts had also occupied the centre of Victoria Park continuously from the 2008 car race.) The South Australian Jockey Club's hopelessly neglected and decaying structures are finally removed and new park vistas have emerged. South Australians are now able to see the wondrous potential of the park as significant inner-city open space parkland. After an extensive consultation process, the Adelaide City Council produced a new masterplan for Victoria Park, to be implemented over a number of years, subject to budget considerations (perhaps even some federal/state government funding?). The ACC has already allocated \$3.275m of ratepayers' money for the financial years 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11 for stages 1 and 2 of the masterplan, which is now underway. For full details of the plan go to <www.adelaidecitycouncil.com.au>.

With the countdown to the 2010 state election underway, South Australian electors might want to refresh their memories of *Labor's plan to save the parklands*, a document which included the Labor Party's draft 'greenprint' directions statement for Adelaide's Park Lands. This document can be viewed on the APPA website (<www.adelaide-parklands.org> under 'hot topics') or, alternatively, a hard copy can be posted to you at your request. The statement purported to be the definitive Labor Opposition plan for the Adelaide Park Lands and it was the basis of the Park Lands policy the Rann-led Opposition Labor Party took to the 2002 state election. Consider the many undertakings in the document and ask yourself if the government has delivered on its promises, particularly when measured against the statement contained under 'Light's vision blurred?' which states: 'But without full and genuine commitment to the parklands at the State Government level, their

future can never be adequately guaranteed. A Rann Labor Government will bring that commitment and that vision'.

The section under 'Special events' had this to say:

The use of the Adelaide parklands for special events has been a bone of contention in recent years. While a few maintain such events should not take place, others recognise broad community support for certain special events that bring people into our parklands. However, there is widespread concern about the time it takes to remove some of the 'temporary' structures erected to facilitate events like motorsport.

Labor supports the use of the Parklands for suitable special events but under the strictest conditions, requiring the prompt restoration of the parklands after the event. Tough fines and penalties should be introduced for event organisers and managers that fail to clean up adequately and on time.

Contrast this 'policy' with what actually happens at Victoria Park with the annual car race. There is no remediation of the heavily compacted and damaged surfaces within Victoria Park, despite undertakings by the South Australian Motor Sport Board. Every year many cigarette butts, drink-can pull-tabs and temporary fencing fasteners are left to litter the park (and all the Park Lands adjoining the race track). All manner of nuts and bolts are left behind for conscientious park users to collect and dispose of. With the SAJC running-rails removed from Victoria Park, workers employed to set up and pull down the infrastructure are able to drive their vehicles any which way over the park, creating new roadways by exiting and entering Victoria Park wherever they choose (this was particularly prevalent during this year's pull-down phase and a security employee has reported that many workers choose their own exit path to avoid vehicle searches at the authorised entry/exit points).

There is no sense of urgency with the pull-down phase at Victoria Park. On many occasions there is no activity whatsoever, suggesting a complete lack of emphasis on pull-down timelines, if in fact any exist. How many fines and penalties have been imposed on event organisers and managers? Perhaps Premier Rann will tell us.

Elsewhere in the world, temporary event set-up and pull-down times are achieved speedily and with an emphasis on minimising disruption to their surrounds. Although the Rann Government prefaces virtually every taxpayer-funded event or development as 'world-class', we don't see that descriptor being attached to the set-up/pull-down performance from the Adelaide race organisers. Is it beyond the wit of the companies associated with the Adelaide race to quickly and efficiently set up and remove the infrastructure?

The State Government says the new corporate entertainment and pit building is the world's largest (naturally), most technically-advanced (of course) fully demountable building. The chairman of the South Australian Motor Sport Board says the upgrade of facilities for the 2009 event made the Adelaide circuit the world's most advanced temporary circuit (the 'upgrade' consists of shade sails over the temporary stands). He does not elaborate on how many other cities in the world Adelaide is competing against for this dubious claim, nor does he mention the fact that Adelaide must hold the world record for the longest set-up/pull-down time of any temporary facility going round!

And all this for a couple of two-hour car races; or, as some people have observed, four concerts with two two-hour car races thrown in! This incompetent performance surely makes Adelaide a 'world-class' laughing stock. Contrast this 20–28 week set-up/pull-down time with that of another street circuit, the Monaco Grand Prix, held annually on the streets of Monaco since 1929. It is reported that construction of

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4 hours of car racing, 7 months of blight

(Continued from page 8)

that circuit takes six weeks, and another three weeks to deconstruct the circuit after the race. The Circuit de Monaco is infinitely more complicated than Adelaide's street circuit and much more challenging to construct, yet race organisers there take less than half the time to construct and pull down Monaco's circuit. They are even able to open streets after race practice. The V8 race to be staged on a street circuit at Homebush in Sydney in December 2009 will take eight weeks to build and four weeks to dismantle.

Various suggestions to speed up set-up/pull-down times in Adelaide's Park Lands include a ticket/attendance 'levy' creating an instant fund to be used to speed up the process. Stringent conditions should be imposed on contractors with those 'tough fines and penalties' being triggered when timelines are not met. The Adelaide City

Council should exert some pressure as custodians and managers of the Park Lands and make the Council's annual donation to the event conditional on a much shorter set-up/pull-down time. With the ACC planning to spend millions of dollars of ratepayers' money on the Victoria Park Masterplan to support a variety of community activities, they should be very proactive in ensuring that the commercial motor sport activities are moved out in the shortest possible time-frame after the conclusion of each event. Is it too much to ask that the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) shows some initiative and acts on its charter to provide advice to the Environment Minister with respect to what clearly is a management issue affecting the Park Lands? The members of the Motor Sport Board should have their competence as directors challenged as they seem to place little importance on removing infrastructure expeditiously.

According to Premier Rann, the new (in 2009) 'temporary' \$20 million plus taxpayer-funded corporate entertainment and pit building complex ensures 'Adelaide maintains its pre-eminent position as the host of world-class motor sport events' (2009 official program, p 6). The reality is the new temporary building merely replaced the old temporary facility, and the vast majority of racegoers will never see the inside of this structure. They simply get to pay for it. This building is not, and was never going to be, a grandstand. It is a 200-metre-long garage with a corporate bar on top. The Rann Government should stop allowing the Park Lands to be treated with contempt by the Motor Sport Board and honour its election commitments to the Adelaide Park Lands, starting with minimising the impact of motor racing in Adelaide's nationally recognised Park Lands.

Philip Groves

Committee report: APPA's Vision for the Park Lands

As Park Lands' protectors, how can we secure unassailable protection of inalienable Park Lands? The Association's Committee has been working on strategies for securing the long-term conservation of the Park Lands. Building on work begun by the previous Committee, we present the first stage of a draft Vision for consultation. Other initiatives will be needed, and the Committee welcomes suggestions. The following extracts from the Burra Charter* are provided to encourage readers to contribute to identifying what APPA's Vision for the future of the Park Lands should be.

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are historical records that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience. Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities, telling us about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape.

Definitions:

Cultural significance: Aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.

Conservation: All the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

*The Burra Charter, 1999: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance. <<http://www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html>>

CONSULTATION ON APPA DRAFT VISION Closes Friday 18 September 2009

What should be APPA's Vision for the future of Adelaide's Park Lands, City Squares and Gardens?

APPA's (Draft) Vision:

The Adelaide Park Lands, consisting of the open spaces surrounding the City of Adelaide and the six City squares and exemplifying the visionary planning of Colonel William Light, are integral to the cultural identity of past and present inhabitants of Adelaide and are the defining feature of the City of Adelaide. The conservation of the City of Adelaide's great urban Park is important for present and future generations of South Australians. Management of the Park Lands and all activities affecting them must be consistent with conserving their cultural, natural, environmental and recreational heritage and contributing to the biodiversity and sustainability of metropolitan Adelaide as a whole.

As the first stage of Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association's development of a strategic policy statement on the Park Lands, a draft Vision statement has been prepared for consultation with Park Lands protectors. Submissions and comments on the draft Vision statement are invited and should be posted to:

'Submission on APPA draft Vision Statement'

The Secretary

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association Inc

PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000

or e-mail to:

Olivia Franco (Secretary): olivia_appa@hotmail.com

Enquiries:

Kelly Henderson (President): Telephone 0432 989 676

Adelaide as it might be

The State Government's draft 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide 'Planning the Adelaide we all want' covers an area reaching from Fleurieu Peninsula and Encounter Bay through the Adelaide Hills and Metropolitan Adelaide to the Barossa, Kapunda and Mallala.

Within the Plan's timeframe, South Australia will celebrate the bicentenary of William Light's founding of the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands. However, the draft Plan proposes targets which may significantly impact upon the natural and cultural heritage values of Light's unique Plan and Park Lands. For example, the draft Plan suggests:

- creating a restaurant precinct on the Torrens River bank (p 87)
- a draft target for major sporting facility hubs to be developed in 'potential locations' including the Adelaide Park Lands—Adelaide Oval/Memorial Drive (p 134)
- other venues to host major sporting events, including Victoria Park (p 134)
- proposed (new) Royal Adelaide Hospital on the site of William Light's Hut and Survey Office, Park Lands opposite Newmarket Hotel (p 123, Map D18: 'Major planned infrastructure expenditure, public and private')

- locations in south, east and north Park Lands for stormwater harvesting (p 141, Map D23: 'Investigation areas for potential stormwater harvesting schemes').

The draft Plan fails to:

- clearly define the proposed new planning implement, 'Structure Plans', which is proposed as a means of 'speeding up' and 'fast-tracking' development and removing requirements for separate rezoning applications
- identify the Adelaide Park Lands as having any environmental significance (p 128); they are mapped as having no environmental significance (p 129, Map D20: 'Areas of environmental significance')
- recognise the potential for Adelaide and its Park Lands to be eligible for World Heritage listing, despite these having been assessed as holding the potential to meet three or more of UNESCO's World Heritage Convention criteria.

Adelaide might be a city which could take its place with other elite sites on Earth, inscribed by UNESCO as part of humanity's patrimony, but this 'Plan' does not deliver that Adelaide.

Kelly Henderson

Vale Bill Gibberd

Sadly, we record the death of a doughty warrior for the protection of the Park Lands.

Bill died on 26 June, aged 92. He joined APPA in April 1989 and was its Treasurer for many years. I quote from the article (*Parklands News* March 2006, p 3) which marked the awarding to Bill of Honorary Life Membership as it is again relevant to acknowledge the great role Bill filled for APPA:

[Bill Gibberd] 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.

Our sympathies go to his widow Joyce and the family, with deep affection from his many friends in APPA.

Ian Gilfillan



Above: Bill Gibberd, while receiving his Honorary Life Membership. Photo taken by Gunta Groves on 19 December 2005.

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PLAN FOR GREATER ADELAIDE

Closes 5pm Wed 30 September 2009

A draft 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide has been released for consultation by the State Government under Section 22 of the *Development Act 1993* and is available online at <www.plan4adelaide.sa.gov.au>. Free CD-ROM disk copies of the Plan are available from the Department of Planning and Local Government, Level 5, 136 North Terrace, telephone (08) 8303 0760.

Submissions should be posted to:

'Submission on the draft Plan for Greater Adelaide'
GPO Box 1815 Adelaide 5001

or delivered to:

Level 5
Roma Mitchell House
136 North Terrace, Adelaide 5000

or e-mailed to:

<dplg.publicsubmissions@saugov.sa.gov.au>

All submissions are required to contain a cover sheet, available from the Department of Planning and Local Government, Level 5, Roma Mitchell House, 136 North Terrace, Adelaide, or <http://www.dplg.sa.gov.au/plan4adelaide/html/files/haveyoursay/haveyoursay_coversheet.doc>.

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:

Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association
Inc
PO Box 3040
Rundle Mall SA 5000.

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

You can also download PDFs of the current and past newsletters from our Web site at <<http://www.adelaide-parklands.org>>.

Gunta Groves

I would like to receive the *Park Lands News* by e-mail instead of in the post.

My e-mail address is:

Name Signature

Address

The old, and the older still

The Lord Mayor's Sunday morning Park Lands rambles are a good opportunity to become more familiar with particular sections of the Park Lands and also to ask questions of the Lord Mayor and/or other Adelaide City Council representatives. The ramble on 7 June covered the northern and middle parts of Victoria Park and revealed the passing of the old and the emergence of the older still!

In June, the start-stop demolition of old SA Jockey Club structures at Victoria Park was finally achieving more significant results. The removal of the betting ring, stables, restaurant and jockey facilities was followed by the more significant action of taking down the grandstand. It started in the first week of June with the stripping down of all the seating before the bulldozers moved in for some crashing and bashing.

The ramble included a visit to the centre of Victoria Park where significant remnant vegetation is struggling to survive. Despite insults of varying degrees for over 170 years (which have included annual trampling by patrons and cars for the V8 car races), there are a few plant species surviving. In some cases, they are the only remaining specimens on the Adelaide Plains. One had managed to put out a flower as if to prove that it did exist, because its presence is normally very hard to

detect. The tiny white flowers, barely a centimetre across, were of the native plant called Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*, previously *Anguillaria dioica*). There was no 'crashing and bashing' by the Sunday rambles as we all picked our way carefully through the tiny flags marking delicate plants and unseen bulbs of species existing from before European settlement.

A major recent concern over the survival of these remnant species has been the plan to establish playing grounds in the same area. This concern is easing because the ACC, as reported by Martin Cook on the ramble, is altering the location of the planned sports fields so that the remnant vegetation is not obliterated.

Gunta Groves



Above: (From left) David Plumridge, Michael Harbison and Michael Sando inspect the tiny flowers of Early Nancy, a remnant plant species in Victoria Park.

Left: The flowers of Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) hide their miniature beauty amongst the onion weed and clay of Victoria Park.

Both photos taken by Gunta Groves on 7 June 2009.

NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2009–10
Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Assoc Inc PO Box 3040 Rundle Mall SA 5000

Name

Address

Telephone E-mail Date

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 single (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Send <i>Park Lands News</i> via e-mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 family (full rate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$..... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 corporate | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 single (student/concession) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 family (concession) | |

Method of payment

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque attached | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

09/09

Committee 2009–2010

President: Kelly Henderson
Secretary: Olivia Franco
Treasurer: Philip Groves

Committee members:

Ian Gilfillan
Rod Hartley
Luciana Larkin
Kyle Penick
David Plumridge AM
Kelly Russ
Michael Sando

Auditor

David Carver, BK Partners

Web administrator

Kelly Russ

Words worth remembering

*CITIZENS! Have-a-care! Piece by piece
... here a little and there a little—a
barrack—a hospital—a police
station—a gaol enclosure—an exhibition
building—a printing office—a market—
this, that, the other; a public railway
station, and now a private railway
station—acre after acre taken up and
fenced in and off—landscapes blocked
out of sight—fresh air befouled—the
lungs of the city deteriorated—the play
grounds of the citizens swallowed up.
Surely if the park lands are not verdant
their should-be protectors are, and
by-and-by “vested interests” will be too
powerful to be gainsaid, and precedents
will be paraded as a reason for further
aggression on our rights. Here’s food for
thought. Be wise in time, ’tis madness to
defer!*

David Gall, Adelaide printer
The Comet, Monday, February 1 1869, p 2

Contact

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Next newsletter copy deadline:

31 October 2009

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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.

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