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# President's letter

In thanking the former Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Michael Harbison, for his interest in the Park Lands, I would like to applaud his initiation and maintenance of the Lord Mayoral Park Lands Rambles and public Light Commemoration Ceremony. I also thank all outgoing elected members for their efforts on behalf of the Park Lands and welcome the newly-appointed Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Stephen Yarwood, and Councillors. I look forward to progress with the long-sought State Heritage and World Heritage status for the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands, and conserving and restoring the Park Lands as an essential component of William Light's sustainable design.

If we aspire to be a sustainable city we need a well-informed and environmentally responsible management, one that refuses to permit destruction of the Park Lands masquerading as 'progress', 'redevelopment' or 'activation'. In November, real progress was achieved in identifying Victoria Park's threatened ecological communities with the Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Inc's design, funding and commencement of a formal Park Lands Biological Survey. Thanks to NCSSA ecologists Anthelia Bond, Tim Jury, Tim Milne, survey coordinator Andrew Allanson, Darrell Kraehenbuehl, Penny Paton and other

## ISSUES ON THE TABLE

Alienated Park Lands  
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SACA carpark push and expansionist ambitions  
Stadium Management Authority  
Watering regime during drought  
World Heritage listing

*Kniphofia caulescens, known as the Red Hot Poker (or Torch Lily) in Wita Wirra (Park 18) just south of Himeji Garden. Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 26/06/10.*

NCSSA and APPA volunteers, gaps in our knowledge of Victoria Park's natural heritage are being addressed.

The abject failure of the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *South Australian Heritage Places Act 1993* and *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* make it clear that fundamental reform is essential. These Acts fail to rein in government initiated or sponsored misappropriation, maladministration, and vandalism. South Australia's heritage regime is so grievously flawed that it recently caused the Property Council of SA to produce their 'Heritage in the City: A New Paradigm to deliver a City with Vision'.

Although far from new, this recognises systemic failings and proposes that 'preserving a single example' of a type is more than sufficient. It seems we agree that our heritage regimes are grossly dysfunctional and, as the Adelaide Park Lands and Light's Plan are the only examples of their type in the world, we look forward to the Property Council's full support in preserving and restoring the outer, city square and riverbank Park Lands as open space.

Every unmitigated abuse perpetrated against these Park Lands over the last two and a half decades can be attributed to the inaction of members of the State Heritage Authority and Heritage Council, who have had it within their power to enter the Park Lands on the State Heritage Register. By directing the Heritage Council to deregister the Park Lands' State Heritage-listed Union Hall, the Minister has put it beyond doubt that Australia's farcical heritage regimes are undermined by a State Heritage Register that is a political toy and its ineffectual puppet administration.

The Minister obtained compliant deregistration of a State Heritage-protected site whilst that building and its site were awaiting assessment at the State and National level. As the proponent for destruction of South Australia's heritage (and potential National Heritage), the University of Adelaide has abused its privileged position on Park Lands and shown contempt for the Park Lands that is at odds with evident international appreciation of Adelaide's uniqueness.



At a November Town Hall Civic Reception for the Penang Delegation, I discussed our World Heritage aspirations with delegates, including the manager of Penang's George Town World Heritage site, and received very positive responses. It seems Penang would be supportive of Adelaide's World Heritage nomination and that Adelaide has a stronger case for World Heritage recognition than sister-city Penang's successful nomination.

On another positive note, we have commenced the preliminary planning for our 25th anniversary, which coincides in 2012 with the 175th anniversary of William Light's planning and founding of the City of Adelaide and its Park Lands. I invite you to contribute to the development of a program of activities that celebrate the Park Lands.

In wishing each and all the best for the festive season and a happy and safe New Year, I would like to thank members for their ongoing support during the past year, express my appreciation of the exceptional efforts of our Deputy President Philip Groves, and commend the committee for its efforts on behalf of the Association and in defence of the Park Lands.

**Kelly Henderson**

### NEXT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE:

31 January 2011  
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# The threat to Adelaide Oval: Continued

There has been something of a lull in plans to turn the world-famous Adelaide Oval into a concrete stadium for football, where the playing of occasional cricket matches would eventually become something of an afterthought. No doubt the lull has been caused by the South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) and the South Australian National Football League (SANFL) having a rethink of its hastily cobbled together announcement to re-unite cricket and football at the Adelaide Oval. Having adopted the Rann Labor Government's model of announcing first and consulting second (if at all!), one can't avoid concluding that the two parties are discovering that two into one doesn't compute.

The pause in the once-daily announcements may be attributed to SACA and SANFL having to perform a loaves and fishes exercise to accommodate the requirements of 50,000 members from the Adelaide Football Club (The Crows), 30,000 members from the Port Adelaide Football Club (The Power), and approximately 25,000 members of SACA into a redeveloped Adelaide Oval with a capacity of 50,000. The 'AO Ultimate' package (sounds like a brand of condoms) would give access to the new members' stand for all cricket, SANFL and AFL matches. If 'only' 40 per cent of football club members (who are not already SACA members) were to require what is likely to be the most sought-after membership category, then not only would the new members' area at the Adelaide Oval be at capacity, but the entire Adelaide Oval would be over capacity by 7,000! In that scenario, there would be no provision for non-members (that is, members of the public) to gain access to the oval.

Therefore, it is obvious that only a limited number of 'AO Ultimate' membership packages will be offered, meaning that demand will be far exceeding supply and that probably the only way members will receive 'AO Ultimate' membership packages will be by ballot. SACA members voting for the proposal to turn the Adelaide Oval into a concrete stadium for football will effectively be consigning themselves to a slight chance of an 'AO Ultimate' membership package, guaranteed 'drop-in' wickets, and every chance of watching all but Test Matches at another venue, most probably at the Glenelg Oval.

Of course, the SACA Board of Management has yet to reveal this likely scenario to its membership, raising grounds for potential action by members against the Board of Management if it continues to mislead members and deny them the complete facts. The irony is that SACA members, who do have a vote on the redevelopment proposal, are still very much in the dark. Meanwhile, many members of the Adelaide Football Club, in particular, who don't have a vote, have worked out that this proposal very much disadvantages them. The SACA chief executive John Harnden has publicly stated that the new arrangements for membership packages will work. 'Simplistically, whether you be a cricket or football member of the various types, you are not going to be worse off as part of this', he said. That is patently untrue.

The SACA Annual General Meeting of 29 September provided those in attendance with an insight into SACA President Ian McLachlan's woolly thinking. He warned that members who vote against the proposed Adelaide Oval redevelopment could regret a decision that denies the state a sporting future, and that members had to set aside self-interest and consider the legacy they could leave by voting for the redevelopment proposal with SANFL. McLachlan said members have to think about what they could be denying this city and state and the enormous benefits the city will derive from this arrangement with SANFL.

McLachlan did not expand on the 'enormous benefits' to be gained by the city and state, nor did he explain why cricket-loving SACA members should have such a responsibility. The 'benefits' for SACA members would appear to be homogenised drop-in wickets, the real prospect of all interstate cricket being played elsewhere, and only a slim chance of a members' package which would include what little cricket that is left ... and football. McLachlan, who was once twelfth man for Australia, said 'Adelaide Oval has been a stadium for 120 years, but a stadium is just a playing field with stands around it'. I suspect no Australian cricketer who has ever played at the Adelaide Oval would agree with that assessment.

The Adelaide Oval is considered to be one of the finest cricket grounds in the

world and, with the completion of the new western grandstand development, it will accommodate about 40,000 patrons. Football Park is considered to be one of the finest all-weather football grounds in Australia and accommodates about 50,000 patrons. Both grounds could be retained with comparatively minor expenditure, suggesting there are other reasons for the SACA Board's enthusiasm for handing Adelaide Oval over to AFL interests.

Perhaps the clue to this enthusiasm resides in the state of SACA's finances. Although SACA President Ian McLachlan claims SACA is 'completely comfortable' with its level of debt should the redevelopment not proceed, this is not supported by any detailed facts that would enable members to feel comfortable with that assertion. For instance, the western grandstand development is at least \$25m over budget. McLachlan blames at least \$16m of the blowout on costs related to the retention of the heritage-listed grandstand arches, which were begrudgingly retained by SACA in the redevelopment. The blowout in costs required a State Government loan of at least \$30m to stop SACA exceeding its \$55m bank loan for the western grandstand development.

SACA's debt at the completion of the western grandstand development is likely to be more than \$85m, or at least 40 per cent more than was budgeted for. How cosy for the SACA Board of Management that, if the redevelopment proceeds, SACA's debt will be expunged. Of course, it would only come at a cost to SACA members that they lose control of their lease and, apart from an occasional Test Match at the Adelaide Oval, the rest of their cricket-watching would be elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the proposed footbridge (or the 'totally unnecessary' footbridge as Premier Rann called it) linking Adelaide Oval with the southern side of the River Torrens is reported to be attracting the philanthropic attention of the New Zealand-owned SkyCity Casino Group, which operates the Adelaide Casino.

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# The threat to Adelaide Oval

(Continued from page 3)

Its general manager has stated that SkyCity would move to bankroll facilities which would include a 1,200-space carpark and a footbridge, which is outside State Government's funding cap for the proposed Adelaide Oval redevelopment. The Minister for Infrastructure 'Cow Pat' Conlon considers the casino to be a logical partner in the Adelaide Oval redevelopment proposal and was quoted in *The Advertiser* of 7 September as saying, 'There is little doubt SkyCity would be excited about the prospect of having 50,000 AFL fans regularly in the city, little more than a torpedo punt from their front door'. (Will someone tell 'Cow Pat' that they don't do torpedo punts anymore.)

South Australia's Independent Senator Nick Xenophon said it was for the government and the cashed-up AFL to pay for such facilities if the redevelopment proceeds, not the Adelaide Casino. Senator Xenophon also fears a 'venus fly-trap' effect, funnelling footy fans into the clutches of gambling, according to *The Advertiser* report. APPA's view is that to permit, or in this case, encourage, a New Zealand-owned casino group to fund developments in the Adelaide Park Lands would be a new low, even for the Rann Government.

APPA wrote to SACA about six months ago, seeking clarification from SACA as to its intentions regarding the redevelopment proposal and, in particular, as to whether the redevelopment proposal intended an expansion of the current Adelaide Oval footprint into more of the Adelaide Park Lands. (This was covered more fully in the June 2010 edition of *Park Lands News*.) SACA has yet to reply to our letter.

*Philip Groves*

(The writer is a long-standing SACA member and will be voting against the redevelopment proposal.)

# Adelaide City Council elections

APPA extends its congratulations to the newly elected Lord Mayor and Councillors. We also acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing members of Council, from Lord Mayor Michael Harbison to the Area and Ward Councillors. In particular, APPA thanks all members of Council who advocated and upheld what is one of the core responsibilities of an Adelaide City Councillor—the role of the Council as custodians and managers of the Adelaide Park Lands on behalf of all South Australians.

This election, APPA chose not to press candidates with a questionnaire seeking their views on the Park Lands. Past experience has shown that candidates invariably respond with answers tailored to what they think we want to hear. As all candidates were given the opportunity to make pre-election statements about themselves and their policies, which were posted on the Local Government Association website, APPA has extracted statements made by candidates pertaining to the Park Lands. Some candidates were more effusive than others, particularly about themselves. Not all candidates mentioned the Park Lands. The comments about the Park Lands made by successful candidates are provided below.

## **Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood:**

*I believe an economy based on innovation, education, arts and culture will make us prosperous and I respect our heritage and Park Lands as strategic assets ...*

*Adelaide and North Adelaide will buzz with many more pedestrians enjoying high-quality streets, squares and Park Lands providing events and places for people to mingle, giving greater opportunities for local businesses ...*

*Our activated riverbank and greener Park Lands will hustle and bustle as a result of quality infrastructure, ensuring they are used by thousands every day for a wide range of activities, be it water capture, a glass of wine or a sporting or cultural event.*

## **Area Councillor Anne Moran:**

*Supports ... protecting and improving our unique Park Lands and built heritage [and is] ... determined that the Park Lands and residential streets do not become carparks.*

## **Area Councillor Michael Llewellyn-Smith:**

*... Whether cycling, walking or driving to the city from suburban councils, it is a very satisfying and enjoyable experience to have to go through the Park Lands. It is the continuous belt of Park Lands that makes Adelaide unique, as they provide a very clear boundary and sense of identity. The environmental significance of Colonel Light's 'Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout' has recently been recognized by their addition to the National Heritage List. I believe the outstanding legacy of Light's plan for the City and the integrity of the Park Lands should be enhanced and promoted to ensure the future prosperity of the City and the State.*

## **Area Councillor Natasha Malani:**

*Natashi Malani lists one of her strengths as ... having a strategic view on issues such as the historical, cultural and heritage context of Adelaide's major assets, including its Park Lands.*

*She also says she believes ... in a green city and respects our surrounding Park Lands and gardens.*

## **Area Councillor Mark Hamilton:**

*He ... has a particular interest in planning and development, building and urban design, built heritage, Park Lands, and community services for the underprivileged.*

## **Area Councillor David Plumridge:**

*... I am committed to preserving the Park Lands as a place for all to enjoy. I support the Oval and Riverbank developments subject to Council retaining control of the precinct and resolution of parking needs ...*

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# Adelaide City Council elections

*(Continued from page 4)*

## **North Ward Councillor Sue Clearihan:**

Sue Clearihan advocates for ... *making good planning decisions to protect and enhance ... our precious Park Lands and our unique heritage.*

## **North Ward Councillor Sandy Wilkinson:**

Sandy Wilkinson ... *believes Adelaide should capitalise on its historic assets, for the benefit of his children and all who call Adelaide home.*

## **Central Ward Councillor Megan Hender:**

Megan Hender ... *stands on a platform of protection for the Park Lands ... solid compliance with planning regulation, preserving built heritage, improving the city's green credentials ...*

## **South Ward Councillor Michael Henningsen:**

... *I remain committed to preserving our Park Lands and built heritage ...*

## **South Ward Councillor Anthony Williamson:**

... *There is a need for ... Adelaide ... to be environmentally conscious ... with the development of the Cricket Oval and its impact on the Park Lands ...*

... *Adelaide needs to be ... progressive ... in particular with regard to the development of Victoria Square and Victoria Park ...*

From the newly elected Lord Mayor, five Area and six Ward Councillors, all but one of the new Council members recognised the importance of the Adelaide Park Lands to the City and South Australia on their statements. Provided this understanding is supported by deed in Council, we can look forward to a Council that takes its responsibilities very seriously with respect to the National Heritage-listed Adelaide Park Lands.

*Philip Groves*

# Remnant vegetation in Victoria Park

APPA's nomination of Victoria Park/Bakkabakkandi remnant plants for listing on the SA Heritage Register in September 2009, and subsequently for emergency provisional listing in the same month, drags on. As reported in previous issues of *Park Lands News*, the remnant vegetation finds itself slap-bang in the middle of proposed new playing fields forming part of the Victoria Park/Bakkabakkandi Masterplan.

The Adelaide City Council's (ACC) idea of resolving this issue was to dig up the plants and care for them in the Council nursery prior to relocation somewhere else. Following APPA's emergency provisional listing application in September 2009, the Heritage Branch intervened and obtained an agreement from the ACC to halt the relocation work because it endangered the vegetation's heritage significance.

The ACC is caught between a rock and a hard place because with all the events in the park the Council has limited windows of opportunity to work on the proposed new playing fields. It is APPA's view that the Adelaide Park Lands already contain more than enough playing fields. Therefore, the fact that the proposed new playing fields have been 'held up' for more than ten months is not the critical issue in our opinion.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), formerly the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), has investigated the question as to whether or not the remnant plants are indigenous to the park location or have been introduced to the area by some other means like soil dumping. The Department has concluded that the plants are most likely to be indigenous to the area, which supports APPA's expert research into the matter. So, the critical issue is going to be how the remnant vegetation can be guaranteed its survival from the proposed new abutting playing fields, and the intensification of use this will herald.

The matter currently rests upon a recommendation from the Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA). At its September 2010 Board meeting, APLA considered the suggestion by DENR that

a way of protecting the vegetation could be through a management agreement between the Minister for Environment and Conservation and the Adelaide City Council. The intention of the management agreement is to provide protection for the vegetation under the provisions of Section 205 of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and, at the same time, allow the ACC to progress with building the playing fields around the protected area. APPA President, Kelly Henderson, was given leave to address the APLA Board meeting and pointed out to the Board that the proposed protected area, as shown in the APLA agenda papers, was inaccurate, and quite possibly smaller than sustainability would require. Ms Henderson also suggested to the APLA Board that the playing fields could be located elsewhere. The APLA Board added a rider to the DENR suggestion for a management agreement:

*That in coming to a management agreement, the Council consults with the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association regarding the actual areas involved and any other relevant matters.*

At the time of going to print, this matter has not progressed much beyond some discussions between Council administration and representatives from APPA in attempts to definitively identify the areas that would need to be protected. In the meantime, in early November 2010, the Nature Conservation Society undertook a survey of remnant vegetation in Victoria Park. The survey aimed to gather information to assist likeminded community organisations, such as APPA and the Adelaide City Council, to protect, manage and restore this precious remnant. Information collected will also serve as a long-term historical record of the flora of the Adelaide Plains. The noted historical botanist Darrell Kraehenbuehl said of this remnant that it is a remarkable remaining grassland community that has survived 173 years of European settlement and it is an important survivor of South Australia's colonial history.

*Philip Groves*

# A SOP by name or a sop by nature

Several months ago, the Adelaide Park Lands Authority Board requested that the Adelaide City Council (ACC) prepare guidelines for operators of events in the Park Lands. The concern was to prevent damage, both short- and long-term, caused to the Park Lands by events. The Standard Operating Procedures for Events in the Park Lands are now in operation, with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) document forming part of the Council's new Customer Event Kit. It aims to prevent damage to the Park Lands through thoughtless event operators disrespecting the resource they are using.

Unfortunately, within three weeks of the SOPs being released, the Adelaide International Three Day Event people apparently asked Council horticultural staff to clear branches and trees from the proposed cross-country course. The photos below show the way this was done. Now, everyone concerned is very apologetic but that doesn't undo the damage. Apparently lines of communication between event operators, horticultural staff and ACC event organisers were not as well coordinated as they should have been. The SOPs were meant to enhance understanding and communication and to ensure accountability. Somehow, this hasn't happened in the case of the horse trials.

Besides the obvious loss of trees, another issue may be pertinent. It was suggested that some of the trees affected may have been ones planted by Ms Hazel Hawke some twenty years ago, a fact still waiting to be confirmed.

## Gunta Groves

*Right and far right: Trees get in the way of the Adelaide International Three Day Event. Several trees along the western edge of Victoria Park were cut down and one was severely and inappropriately lopped.*

*Photos taken by Peter Davis, 06/11/10.*

# Corporate Victoria Park revisited

In a series of coincidences, several recent references to the universally-rejected corporate entertainment complex for motor sport at Victoria Park have been observed. The instances of coincidences reported here are in addition to references that continue to appear ad nauseam in *The Advertiser*.

## Coincidence 1

Firstly, the 2010 Auditor-General's Annual Report highlighted concerns about two large contracts entered into by the SA Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) for the annual V8 race. The concerns revolved around a \$1.8m contract and the other for \$4m. The first contract had not been approved by the Minister for the SAMSB (guess who the Minister is?) and the second contract had received ministerial approval and was not submitted to competitive public tender. Both these contracts breached government audit regulations because of a lack of transparency with taxpayers.

The Clipsal 500 race organisers also received over \$3.4m to reimburse losses caused by the withdrawal of corporate support for the race from Holden, General Motors and Ford. There was no comment from Treasurer Foley on the withdrawal of more than \$3.4m sponsorship (which was replaced with taxpayer money) by those entities that benefit most from the race, but he could find time to again berate the Adelaide City Council for its withdrawal of \$40,000 dollars of sponsorship from the 2011 event!

Treasurer Foley told State Parliament's Estimates Committee that the \$1.8m contract was for the annual construction of the pit shade structure in Victoria Park

but, then, that the annual cost to erect the pit building and shade structure and pull it down again was \$1.9m. The shade covering is actually for the main temporary grandstand opposite the corporate entertainment and pit building, suggesting again that Treasurer Foley's command of facts and figures continues to be found wanting ... or perhaps it's a deliberate muddying of the waters.

Rather than taking issue with the Auditor-General's criticism of breaches of audit regulations by the SAMSB and the minister responsible, the Liberal Opposition Shadow Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith served up a diversionary Dorothy Dixier to Treasurer Foley, asking whether the State Government should have proceeded with the (permanent) Victoria Park corporate entertainment and pit building. The Treasurer replied that he agreed 'We should have it there, permanent'. Of course it was Martin Hamilton-Smith, in his former role of Liberal Leader of the Opposition, who introduced a Private Member's Bill into Parliament to attempt to enable Government to override the overwhelming public opinion that opposed the proposed permanent corporate entertainment and pit building at Victoria Park. Luckily, the Bill was defeated.

When all other infrastructure associated with the street race has to be removed, why does this obsession for a permanent corporate entertainment complex in Victoria Park continue to be raised? Given the huge sums of taxpayers' money pumped annually into this event, the cost of setting up and dismantling the new

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# Corporate Victoria Park revisited

(Continued from page 6)

demountable \$20m corporate entertainment and pit building is but one small part, possibly equating to Treasurer Foley's annual mobile telephone bill.

## Coincidence 2

In the *The Weekend Australian* of 9 October 2010, Ian Smith continued with his knocking of Adelaide with a story titled 'City of churches needs a modern makeover'. His opening words were 'Adelaide is stagnant'. He went on to tell readers that 'Having once competed with Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, it is now more of a match for Geelong or Townsville'. Apparently, Adelaide's 'torpidity' will remain in stark contrast to interstate 'vibrancy' if there is not 'action by all level of politics'.

He went on with: 'There is only one ASX-listed company of global significance headquartered in Adelaide: Santos'. Then followed a litany of criticisms of Adelaide, which begged the question of why Mr Smith wastes his time here. For instance, he claimed the coming City Council elections offer little hope for change, with five (I assume, Lord Mayoral) candidates of 'little apparent consequence'. He also criticised Adelaide's educational institutions as lagging a long way behind others; our shops for closing on public holidays (have you ever been in Paris on a public holiday Mr Smith?); and all the big law firms, investment banks and other international firms servicing Adelaide from afar.

Even when our shops are open, the city has few of the global brands seen in other states—according to Mr Smith. There is not even any accommodation of the quality that international business leaders expect. All of our youth continue to flock east and west and we have no national political influence. Mr Smith stated that 'Despite the fact existing sports facilities consist of the god-forsaken, windswept AAMI Stadium and a quaintly out-of-date Adelaide Oval, the debate about a new stadium has been embarrassing', and that plans for a new hospital were derailed for months by a vocal few. 'While other cities would have built both facilities by now, in Adelaide such sluggishness is nothing new' said Mr Smith. (Evidently Mr Smith has not yet heard about Tasmania's cancellation of a proposed new hospital in Hobart on the shores of the Derwent, or the cancellation

of a proposed new stadium in Perth by the WA Government.)

Mr Smith finally turned to his often-repeated whine about the rejected permanent corporate entertainment proposal to house the V8 Supercar pit building and luxurious suites for politicians (and those interstate and international movers and shakers that don't deign to reside in stagnant Adelaide). Mr Smith asserted:

*A couple of years ago, the sandals and socks brigade prevented the upgrading of Victoria Park. This rare jewel, a racetrack literally minutes from a city centre [albeit a 'stagnant' city centre according to him], could not be developed to provide night-racing or other activities for residents and visitors. Melbourne or Perth would have jumped at such a chance, but Adelaide fostered tumbleweeds. Those same Park Lands play host to the Clipsal 500, a successful event. However, in line with the demands of the protesters who took NIMBY politics to a new level, Clipsal buildings are temporary, put up and taken down each year during a nine-month period. Amazing, but a fact.*

(Actually, it takes the SAMSB six months, and many believe a competent company could do it in a much shorter timeframe.)

Ian Smith is a former public relations consultant and adviser to the Liberal Party. He is currently a partner in the business advisory firm, Bespoke Approach Pty Ltd, together with what at first might appear to be the most unlikely bedfellows: former Liberal politician Alexander Downer and former Labor politician Nick Bolkus. This merely demonstrates that personal gain will always overcome the political divide. The business operates from a quaint 19th century coach-house in Hutt Street and its name leaves little doubt about its services—'bespoke' meaning made or working to order. Perhaps more colloquially the illustrious partners are 'pedlars of influence'. Mr Smith should try his lobbying powers to persuade the government in his native England to run a V8 car race in Hyde Park in London, and then leave behind permanent race infrastructure!

As a gesture to Mr Smith, this writer is prepared to offer him a \$25 voucher for Vinnies, where he is guaranteed to be able to buy himself a rip-off global brand Armani suit.

## Coincidence 3

*Ian Smith should be applauded for his thought-provoking article in Commentary on 9–10 October about the need for a makeover for Adelaide. His points are poignant and well made.*

So said Stephen Gerlach in an article in *The Weekend Australian* of 23–24 October 2010. Mr Gerlach told us Ian Smith 'articulated very well the view of many in Adelaide who love our city but are frustrated by its people's attitudes to change, which go to the heart of the problem'. Mr Gerlach also told us 'Adelaide is a beautiful and well-equipped Australian city to live in but it needs to effect a fundamental and substantial change of attitude to keep pace with the world in the 21st century'.

Elsewhere in the article, Mr Gerlach stated:

*There are too many layers of government and bureaucracy and a clear inability to get critical infrastructure and development undertaken in a timely fashion, including new and first-class facilities and the extraordinary situation with the Clipsal 500 motor-race having only portable infrastructure.*

Mr Gerlach is a company director and corporate advisor. He was recently appointed Chancellor of Flinders University. He was a long-time Chairman of Santos Limited and former Chairman of Futuris Corporation, now called Elders Ltd. Are you, like me, wondering why Mr Gerlach would concern himself with a permanent corporate entertainment and pit building in Victoria Park for two two-hour car races? Does the connection come from Mr Gerlach's stated admiration for Tim Marcus Clark (remember him?) and those heady days of the Formula One Grand Prix and the near bankruptcy of the State of South Australia? A letter by Stephen Gerlach appeared in *The Advertiser* in August 1988, responding to a Tim Marcus Clark summation of what was wrong with Adelaide. The letter stated, in part:

*At last someone with a high profile like Tim Marcus Clark, [in fact, Marcus Clark was a small time banker from Melbourne]*

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# Corporate Victoria Park revisited

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with the interests of the state at heart and without political motivation, has stated what many of us in Adelaide in business have known for some time is a major contributor to slowing down our general development as a city and business centre.

... Congratulations, Mr Marcus Clark. I hope you have started a non-political debate which will result in this great state of ours doing itself justice. It is somewhat embarrassing to think the process might have been started by an adopted South Australian.

Embarrassing indeed, Mr Gerlach; especially after the events that unfolded after Mr Marcus Clarke's tenure at the State Bank and his subsequent flight

from the South Australia, leaving behind a virtually bankrupt State Bank and a financially tottering South Australian Government.

The final word on the Victoria Park corporate entertainment and pit building proposal goes to Jason Allen, the short-lived former Chief Executive of the Clipsal 500. In an article by Stuart Innes in *The Advertiser* on 21 February 2009, Mr Allen was quoted as saying that a highlight of the upcoming event was the lavish new three-storey, albeit temporary, 200-metre-long pit pavilion (not a grandstand but a pit pavilion). Mr Allen said it's the biggest change to the track-build since the original structure was created for the first Formula One Grand Prix in Adelaide in 1985.

All of the grandstands were also to be shaded for the 2009 event. Funding for

the shaded grandstands and for the new pit building came from a \$20m State Government capital grant following the public outcry over the plan for permanent buildings in Victoria Park. The new pit building features deeper garages for race cars and larger, plusher and better air-conditioned corporate suites, official's rooms and a centre for the media. Whereas the old pit building was only three storeys for part of its length, the new pit pavilion is three storeys for its entire length and cleverly built of lightweight materials to make it easier to assemble and disassemble each year.

Ill-informed commentators and *The Advertiser* can dream on about 'permanent grandstands'—the rest of us were never accepting of the idea nor fooled by it.

*Philip Groves*

## Have you heard?

The proposed \$150m Victoria Square redevelopment may be shelved for up to thirty years, or even abandoned, because of a lack of State Government funds. In a significant economic setback, Government revealed it had made no decision on the development's future.

The shock revelation came after Government's Victoria Square project director, Mr Ray Power, said the development—once touted as a future architectural showpiece—had been stalled by a lack of finance. 'It's being held up; Government is, of course, having a pretty hard time of things at the moment,' he said. 'It could be thirty or forty years before work starts there'.

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## NEW EDITOR REQUESTED

In anticipation of Kelly Russ's departure from the APPA Committee in early 2011, the committee is seeking a new editor for the newsletter and administrator for the website.

If you're interested or know anyone who might be, please contact Kelly Russ at <k.a.russ@hotmail.com>.

## The destruction of Union Hall

The death knell for the University of Adelaide's Union Hall was sounded on 3 September 2010, when the Environment and Heritage Minister Paul Caica distinguished himself and the Rann Government by overruling the February 2010 provisional listing of Union Hall on the State Heritage List. Many people were confident Union Hall would receive permanent State Heritage Register protection after more than 100 submissions were received through the public consultation process, and notables such as one of Australia's leading architectural historians, Dr Ross Thorne, found that the building had state and national heritage values.

The hall was designed by well-known South Australian architect, Louis Laybourn Smith, and constructed in 1958. The University of Adelaide had been using the hall as a lecture theatre for some years, even though the hall was one of Adelaide's few still-standing purpose-built theatres. The University of Adelaide plans to replace Union Hall with a seven-storey, \$75m Photonics Institute. Apparently, the University of Adelaide is so short of space it has nowhere to accommodate staff and students if an existing building was to be demolished and replaced. That seems to be the basis on which Union Hall has become expendable. If the University treats its

own heritage with such disdain, how safe is Bonython or Elder Hall?

You might ask, what has the loss of Union Hall got to do with the Park Lands? Within a few days of the unfathomable decision by Minister Caica to overrule the provisional heritage listing of Union Hall, an Adelaide company suggested it could 'relocate' Union Hall for a figure of between \$2.5m and \$6m. The company suggested it could move the hall directly across Frome Road to Botanic Park, or the new Frome Park/Nellie Raminymmerin, which had only just been officially opened on 20 September 2010! (See the June 2010 edition of *Park Lands News* for details on the return of alienated Park Lands, to be called Frome Park/Nellie Raminymmerin.) It was even suggested the hall could be moved to areas being vacated by the intended move of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to the alienated Park Lands railyards!

When the University of Adelaide was founded in 1874, it was allocated five acres of the Government Reserve fronting North Terrace. In his book *Decisions and disasters—Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands*, author Jim Daly said this was the first occasion that a section of the Government Reserve in the Adelaide

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# The destruction of Union Hall

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Park Lands was allocated to an institution by an Act of Parliament. The book recounts that, even then, there was resistance to the use of the Park Lands for this exclusive purpose. The Honorable J Fisher became quite emotional on the subject when the Bill was before Parliament when he said that:

*... the Park Lands which were intended to be the glory of the colony were being alienated, acre by acre, so that young men amongst us would not improbably live to see almost every acre of them alienated, and the city deprived of the advantages which they were intended to have.*

Since its 1874 founding, the University of Adelaide has expanded far beyond the original five acre (2.02 hectares) allocation. In fact, the University of Adelaide is the recipient of a PhD in 'Park Lands creep', which has seen it expand its campus to the entire area of Park Lands bounded by North Terrace, Frome Road, Victoria Drive and Kintore Avenue, excepting those areas of Park Lands occupied by the Library, Museum and Art Gallery. North of the River Torrens, the University has the exclusive use of many hectares of Park Lands for playing fields in Park 12 (Karrawirra), Park 11 (Tainmundilla) and Park 10 (Warnpangga).

The University has even crossed Frome Road to the east with buildings on Park Lands south of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. And of course we should not overlook the white elephant that is the National Wine Museum, which has fallen into the hands of the University for use as offices. If the University has to be in the bulldozing business, they could start by ridding the Park Lands of the National Wine Museum, which would enable the Botanic Gardens to increase the size of its proposed wetland.

*Philip Groves*

# GAP water fears

David Lawry, Director of TreeNet from the University of Adelaide and the Waite Arboretum, has recently raised doubts about the Glenelg to Adelaide Pipeline (GAP) water quality. (GAP water is being delivered to the Adelaide Park Lands and other users.)

Mr Lawry was engaged by the State Transport Department to advise on the replacement program for the 40–50 dead and dying elms on the median strip on Greenhill Road between Anzac Highway and Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue. The median strip on Greenhill Road is immediately south of Park 21 West (Minno Wirra), which suffers greatly from the degradations of carparking during the Royal Adelaide Show.

The Transport Department has replaced the dead elms with smooth-barked apple-myrtle and Australian teak trees. Mr Lawry has recommended to the Transport Department that he had major concerns that the soil and trees would not have responded well if they were to be irrigated with GAP water because it is too salty and nutrient-rich. Consequently, the new trees are receiving mains water from the pre-existing water service points located in the median strip. The Transport Department has not indicated when, or if, GAP water or a cocktail of GAP and mains water might be used in the future.

APPA will be calling on the Adelaide City Council and the Adelaide Park Lands Authority to commence an enquiry into the extent of GAP water usage in the Park Lands, and whether or not effective controls have been put in place to detect any deleterious effects on the Park Lands flora. APPA has previously called for baseline salinity studies in the Park Lands to be undertaken before the widespread use of GAP water was commenced. To date, no information about these studies has been forthcoming.

*Philip Groves*



*Left: Union Hall in its death throes. The demolition squad has moved in and the once-significant purpose-built theatre will be no more.*

*Photo taken by Philip Groves, 07/11/10.*

# Light Square and the 2010 Feast Festival

The *Local Government Act 1999* requires the Adelaide City Council to undertake public consultation in relation to using a portion of the Park Lands for an activity that extends beyond three days. Following public notification, all that seems to happen is that responses to the consultation (if any) are attached to the Council agenda papers when the matter is considered.

The Act does not require Council to make decisions in accordance with the Community Land Management Plan (CLMP) for each park. APPA has been a long-time respondent to public consultations that concern the Adelaide Park Lands and their use. It is APPA's experience that the vast majority of applications for events in the Park Lands are approved with little or no reference to, or consideration of, the CLMP in question. APPA is of the view that this must change.

The Adelaide City Council advertised a public consultation in May 2010 on the proposed use of Light Square between 8 November 2010 and 2 December 2010 for the 2010 Feast Festival. The Feast Festival organisers (trading as the Adelaide Lesbian and Gay Cultural Festival Incorporated) have publicly stated that they have a vision to create a performance hub in Light Square, not just for their 2010 festival, but as a 'home' for future festivals. The Feast event description states:

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# Light Square and the 2010 Feast Festival

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The venue will be licensed with capacity for approximately 3,000 on Opening Night and Picnic after Party, and 1,000 per night for the Performance and Entertainment Hub. The Performance and Entertainment Hub will host up to nine shows per night.

... Opening Night and Picnic After parties both involve live music and/or DJs on two stages, one enclosed in a large marquee [of unspecified size] and the other proposed as open-air. The Performance and Entertainment Hub would contain a variety of venues hosting a range of performances including comedy, theatre, music and cabaret. Catering outlets and bar areas will operate in the event site. Entry to the area is free; however, performance venues are ticketed and a ticket office will be located on site.

All of these events are to take place between 13 Saturday November and 28 Sunday November 2010.

APPA submitted that it could not support the vision of the Feast Festival organisers for this use of Light Square. Rather, APPA supports the vision for Light Square as expressed in the current CLMP for the Square. The CLMP does not envisage events of this magnitude or duration in Light Square. Under the existing use, the CLMP identifies that the Square is not regularly used for events and that only some minor events occasionally occur, including a Sunset Festival, Colonel Light's birthday anniversary ceremony, International Peace Day performances, charity picnics, an occasional music festival, and performances as part of bus

tours. All of these events have been of one or two days' duration, and have not occupied the entire Square, as proposed for the Feast Festival.

The Square is also a declared area under the Liquor Licensing Dry Areas—Long Term Regulations 1997 under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*. The promoters of this event anticipate 'increased income through bar sales and catering opportunities'. APPA submitted that the West End is hardly short of licensed facilities already, without adding more drinking facilities to a major public square.

The CLMP identifies accessibility as an issue for Light Square and states: 'Park users need to readily access the Park facilities and recreational use by pedestrian's [sic] needs encouragement'. This can hardly occur when the whole of Light Square would be covered by infrastructure for up to a month. APPA also noted that it understands there is an intention to completely fence the event, even though the event description documentation did not reveal that. The events management provision of the CLMP also

... prohibit private events in the Square which exclude the general public by way of fence or barriers, and which are invitation only, except in extenuating circumstances. The Squares are community spaces which should not be used for exclusive events.

APPA's submission pointed out that entry to the area is 'free' according to the event description, yet all the performance venues are ticketed. APPA observed that this sounds very much like a private event,

unless weight is given to 'free entry' to the area for the purposes of purchasing food and drink.

APPA also submitted that the proposed intensive and lengthy use of Light Square was totally inappropriate and we noted no consideration had been given to Colonel William Light's grave and monument, which is centrally located in the Square. We do not believe that Light's grave and monument should be surrounded by circus tents, box offices, shipping containers, bars and other infrastructure, and no doubt those ubiquitous portable toilets. To desecrate this site, which is arguably the most symbolic place in the history of South Australia, is unpardonable. The Square should be freely accessible at all times to allow visitors to view Colonel Light's grave and monument with appropriate dignity, as befits all burial sites.

Needless to say, when the application was heard by Council on 28 June 2010, the application was approved with little debate. To their credit, two Councillors argued for Colonel Light's gravesite and monument to be suitably and discreetly fenced for the opening night, but this attempt to achieve some sort of dignity for Colonel William Light's resting place was rejected.

The Feast Festival is in its fourteenth year as the largest gay and lesbian cultural festival in the country. It merits a more appropriate location than Light Square.

*Philip Groves*

Right: Light's gravesite and memorial has recently been refurbished, just in time for the Feast Festival mid-November. This whole area was taken over by fences, marquees, shipping containers and portable toilets.

Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 07/11/10.



## Have you heard?

(Continued from page 8)

The 'shock' announcement is from *The Advertiser* of 9 March 1993, in an article by David Penberthy. The proposed development was a 1989 election promise made by former Premier John Bannon, who vowed to rejuvenate the city centre. The redevelopment of Victoria Square was a key element in his re-election bid.

*Philip Groves*

# 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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Rundle Mall SA 5000.

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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: .....

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Address .....

## Victoria Park masterplan continues

Implementation of the next stage of the Victoria Park/Bakkabakandi Masterplan commenced on 28 September. This stage follows the October 2009 completion of the northern loop running and walking track and other works forming stage one (reported in the December 2009 edition of *Park Lands News*).

The \$3.9m stage two will include more conservation works on the State Heritage-listed grandstand. According to an Adelaide City Council news release, the heritage work to the 1882 grandstand will range from some structural repairs and general restoration through to studying paint scrapings and old photographs of the grandstand in its heyday. The work will also include adding new toilets and community change room facilities. A new sports field is to be laid in front of the grandstand, along with plans for small sports fields to the south of the

grandstand. Sports warm-up areas and picnic and barbecue facilities are also being included in this new community recreation space. This stage is being funded by the Adelaide City Council (\$2.6m), the Australian Government's Local and Community Infrastructure Program (\$1.3m) and the Office for Recreation and Sport SA (\$240k).

Retiring Lord Mayor Michael Harbison said he was pleased to see the work progress and looked forward to seeing the park take shape. He said 'This part of the masterplan is all about creating recreational areas for sports groups and families to enjoy, so it's an exciting stage. Over the coming years we'll see this area transformed into a hub of community activity: a true asset for the city'.

*Philip Groves*

*Right: Earthworks for stage two of the Victoria Park masterplan. The Heritage Grandstand is also having further restoration work done on it.*

*Photo taken by Gunta Groves, 07/11/10.*



## Botanic Garden wetland proposal

Stephen Forbes, Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, has announced a proposal for a \$5.8m First Creek Wetlands Project for the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Adelaide Park Lands Authority (APLA) Board member Gunta Groves said in her regular news from APLA that although the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide operate under their own governing legislation, Mr Forbes presented the plans for the wetlands project as a courtesy to the APLA Board.

Ms Groves said the plans were very impressive and, if the project proceeds, it will be a very significant educational addition to the Garden. The wetland would be located in the south-east corner of Botanic Garden, based on First Creek. Replying to a question from Ms Groves concerning downstream effects of water harvesting within the Garden, Mr Forbes indicated that specific data were not available on downstream effects, but that the overall control of water could only be a good thing for the Torrens and the volume of freshwater out to sea. If the project proceeds, funding is to be shared between State and Federal Governments.

*Philip Groves*

**NEW MEMBERSHIP ONLY APPLICATION FORM 2010–11**  
**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                   |   |
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| <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

12/10

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**The APPA  
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wishes  
everyone a  
wonderful  
holiday and  
a happy New  
Year!**

**Contact**

**News, comments, articles and Web site suggestions:**

Kelly Russ (Newsletter Editor)  
PO Box 3040  
Rundle Mall SA 5000  
Telephone: 0411 647 306  
E-mail: k.a.russ@hotmail.com

**Next newsletter copy deadline:**

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**Advertising:**

Kelly Henderson (President)  
Telephone: 0432 989 676

**Information about APPA:**

Kelly Henderson (President)  
Telephone: 0432 989 676

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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.