

9. Grandstand and other buildings

The gates, RAC building and turnstiles are heritage-listed reminders of horse-racing history, each one re-purposed for commercial purposes. The 1882 grandstand is the oldest surviving building in this Park.



The Grandstand on a race day, 1912. Pic: SLSA

10. Kurna history and naming

“Pakapakanthi” means “to trot” and reflects the horse racing history of this Park.

In 1980, indigenous Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people established a camp here in a symbolic action to confront the State Government over land rights.



Pitjantjatjara campsite here in 1980. Pic: SLSA

The English name, Victoria Park, was assigned in 1897 on Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. Although Queen Victoria did not visit Adelaide, this Park has hosted several Royal visits.

11. Green corridor

This is a well-used cycling and pedestrian thoroughfare linking the SE city with Rose Park. Neighbourhood group “Green Pakapakanthi” has been upgrading the garden beds.



Pic: Shaun Li - “Capture the Present”



Adelaide Park Lands Association

EXPLORE

Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi (Park 16) North

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WHO ARE WE?

The Adelaide Park Lands Association is a community-based, non-profit organisation.

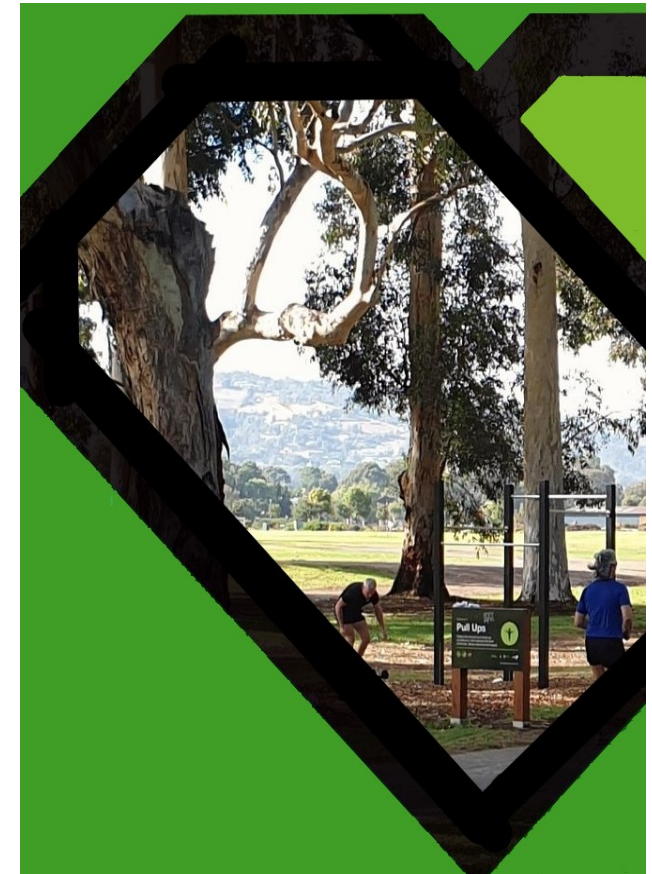
We help you **explore** with Guided Walks, and **inspire** you with art and images, as we **protect**, and **restore** Adelaide’s unique, National Heritage-listed irreplaceable garland of Park Lands.

Please join us, as a member, to support our work, and enjoy free participation in our regular Guided Walks



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www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au



This Trail Guide traverses traditional lands of the Kurna people. We acknowledge and pay respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of this land.

1. Context

At 72 hectares, this Park is about 10% of the entire Adelaide Park Lands, the largest single Park within them. Its history and development is linked to the horse racing and motor racing events which have dominated its use.

2. Petanque piste

A rectangular gravel patch, one of many sites within your Park Lands for playing petanque, or bocce.

3. Sweat track & Botanic Creek

Established in the 1970s, a popular fitness trail alongside the north-south shared use path.

The creek is an artificial channel draining into Botanic lake - lined with bluestone since about 1920.



"Fitness track" opening – 1971

4. Equestrian jumps

Wooden infrastructure, left in place throughout the year to facilitate an annual 3-Day Event for horses.

5. Ancient olive grove

One of many such groves established in Park Lands. This one dates from 1872.

6. Motor racing

The most controversial use of your Park Lands. A Formula One Grand Prix was held here from 1985 to 1996. A V8 supercar carnival followed for 20 years from 1999 and was revived in 2022.

For two years (2020-22) the racetrack area was used as a drive-through COVID-19 testing station.

7. Horse racing history

As early as 1840, horse racing dominated this Park, and was popular for more than 150 years – finally moving out in 2007.



A race-day scene about 1900

8. Cafe & Dragon Blood tree

This blue-painted hut dates from the 1880's when it was known as a "beer and refreshment stand" on race days.



Native to an island off east Africa, the Dragon Blood tree can live for thousands of years. Its sap is blood red.

