



The Adelaide Parklands: A balancing act Threats – Challenges – Solutions

Sunday 12 November
Adelaide Town Hall

Co-presented by:

- The Centre for Settlement Studies, Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, UniSA
- The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre, UniSA
- Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc (APPA)

Unedited transcript:

MS HO:

It's my great pleasure to welcome you. My name is Liz Ho, and I'm Director of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at the University of South Australia. I welcome you on behalf of the Centre for Settlement Studies, at the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture in the University, the Centre, and particularly our partner, the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association. The association holds an annual memorial address for the Parklands and this forum is part of that address.

It's my great pleasure to welcome you. We are, as you can see, talking about threats, challenges and solutions for the Adelaide Parklands and this follows our Friday symposium at which 16 papers were presented, and this is now available as a publication for those of you who are interested. We're really delighted by the response to our weekend of activities and thank you all for your clear interest in one of the most enduring and important reminders of Adelaide's heritage, our Parklands. Indeed, a respect for nature and good planning is about future generations, not just the present one and that's part of the reason why we are gathered here today.

As you know, the purpose of the forum is to enable the community to consider the value of the Parklands as public spaces, to learn from interstate and overseas practices, and to participate in a lively discussion which will take place after the speakers.

Points of view raised at this forum will be communicated to the Adelaide City Council, the appropriate State Government department for their information, and also the Adelaide Parklands authority when it is established. The format today: the proceedings will take the form of two short addresses - the Parklands Oration by Sarah Whyte, and then an issues session led by Mr Jim Daly, who is President of APPA.

Before commencing, there are a few formalities. I'd like to formally acknowledge and welcome some very special people: the Honourable Jane Lomax-Smith, Minister for Adelaide, and also holding the portfolios for Education and Tourism; the Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Mr Michael Harbison; Sandra Kanck, Leader of the Democrats; Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Kurna Elder; Sarah Whyte, Chair of the NSW Centennial Parklands Foundation; and Ian Innes, also of the NSW Centennial Parklands, and former Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Susan Clearihan and Chris Magasdi have joined us from the Adelaide City Council, and we welcome all of you and the whole audience. Thank you for being here.

It's my pleasure to invite Kurna Elder, and a very good friend to the University of South Australia, Uncle Lewis O'Brien, to welcome delegates on behalf of the Kurna People. Thank you, Lewis.



UNCLE LEWIS O'BRIEN, Kurna Elder:

On behalf of the Kurna people, I welcome you all to Kurna Country, and I do this as ambassador of the Adelaide Plains people. My brothers, my sisters, let's walk together in harmony.

MS HO: Lewis, it was really good to see the strong and enduring Kurna connections to the Parklands, including continuing spiritual practices noted at our symposium on Friday. It's good to hear about the co-operative efforts to name and sign many places in the Parklands, in accordance with Kurna traditions, and we're very honoured that you're able to welcome us today, thank you.

The Adelaide City Council is a major contributor to today's forum, and importantly to the present and the future of the Parklands. Planning and financial resources have been devoted over many years to the well-being of the Parklands. It's my great pleasure, therefore, to introduce the Lord Mayor, the Right Honourable Michael Harbison, to welcome you on behalf of the City of Adelaide, thank you.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MICHAEL HARBISON, Lord Mayor:

Thanks Liz. I begin by acknowledging the Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, MP, the Minister for the City of Adelaide; and also Sandra Kanck, the Leader of the Democrats; Mr Jim Daly, the President of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association; Ms Sarah Whyte, our Guest Speaker, and Chair of the NSW Centennial Parklands Foundation; Elizabeth Ho, the Director of the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at the University of South Australia; Dr Christine Ghano, Research Fellow at the University of South Australia; our Deputy Lord Mayor, Dr Chris Magasdi; Councillor Sue Clearihan; members of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association; and ladies and gentlemen.

I'm very pleased to be here to open this public forum, and I'd like to congratulate the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre at the University of South Australia, the Centre for Settlement Studies, the Louis Laybourn-Smith School of Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia, and the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association, on their innovative and practical organisation of this weekend including the symposium, the Parklands tours, and this forum today, and I'm sure it's been a great success. But today's forum is titled "The Adelaide Parklands: Threats, Challenges and Solutions".

Let's start with threats. A current and important threat is water, or lack of it, in the Parklands. South Australia is currently at stage 2 water restrictions, and we're likely to go to stage 3 water restrictions, and possibly even further.

Now, every South Australian grew up knowing that this was the driest State in the driest continent in the world. The Federal and State Governments are trying to come up with long-term solutions to water issues federally and also in this State. But, as a Council, we know we're going to be faced with tough decisions on watering, particularly because of our responsibilities for the Parklands.

The No. 1 challenge and priority for our Council is to save the trees - all of them, preferably, but especially our significant trees. Realistically, the turf can die off, or brown off, but there must not be damage to the health of the trees because of these water restrictions. In the meantime, the State Government has introduced water restrictions, and that is something that we do all have to deal with.

At this point, I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of Jane Lomax-Smith, the Minister for the City of Adelaide, and the Capital City Committee, who did help us in our discussions on water restrictions with SA Water.

The objectives for the State Government and the Adelaide City Council are to provide for the appropriately reduced use of water, while maintaining the look and feel of the capital city, to support economic, environmental and cultural outcomes, ensuring that the city is capable of safely hosting major events of economic, sporting and cultural significance; ensuring that the squares and the parklands maintain their



recreational and health benefits for residents, workers, students and visitors to the city; ensuring that the Parklands continue to play a central role in reaching climate change targets set by the State Government, but also, and most importantly, ensuring the survival of Adelaide's trees.

The importance of the Parklands, at the economic and environmental/ cultural centre of our State, really can't be overstated. In 2005 to 2006, there were almost 800 events held in the Parklands, including 130 significant major events. More than 200 weddings take place in the Parklands each year. There are 33 sporting licence holders, eight lease holders in the Parklands, and many more sub-licence holders. They all encourage the physical activity the State has strongly supported through the Department of Health and its sport and recreation programs.

The Parklands receive approximately 27,000 visitations per day. That's almost 10 million visitations per year. That's more than the Central Market, more than any other location other than Rundle Mall. Using equivalent figures to those used in Sydney for the valuation of parks, this would result in health benefits to South Australia worth more than 500 million dollars per annum, and more than 600 million dollars per annum, when other values are added.

As our population density increases, the Parklands, and its facilities, will be a key element in Adelaide being a sustainable city. Some simple examples include: our Parklands Week, identified in our Visitor Growth Plan; and Healthy Parks, Healthy People, a national program, which will assist people to maintain their own health in an environmentally friendly manner in the Parklands. So it is important that we have flexibility for our watering in the Parklands, if they're to be used in the way that we would like them all to be used. For example, it's just physically impossible to water parks the size of Elder Park or Bonython Park, if we could only water on two days of the week, the allowed limit for public parks. On the other hand, we do have a wider responsibility to the State to show leadership, and to not only take the restrictions seriously, but to be seen to be taking them seriously by the public.

SA Water have asked us to save on the volume of water we use about 11 per cent, and rather than impose on us the strict time and day restrictions on watering faced by domestic users and others, I do believe we have reached a sensible and workable solution with SA Water that will help us to preserve most of the Parklands during stage 2 water restrictions. For example, we are observing Mondays for the Murray, the State government's requirement for no sprinkler watering on Mondays, and we are reducing water use in some of the turfed areas of the outer northern parklands. On the other hand, we're still watering as usual other than on Mondays in some of the major parks, to keep them fit for use as well as ensuring they retain their health and visual appeal. We have arranged the manual watering of many of our trees all over the city.

However, you only have to look over the border to see that greater water restrictions are looming unless we get some serious rain. One of the long-term solutions to the problem of water will be the use of recycled water, including grey and black water, where appropriate. We are looking at how we can recycle the water used at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre as water for the Parklands. I hope we'll hear more about recycling proposals, including proposals from the State Government and the Federal Government, in the very near future. The Adelaide City Council is also setting a standard of greenness for the Parklands.

For many thousands of years they were not artificially watered, and so how green do our Parklands really need to be? It's not just a question about water, but also about the look and feel of an Australian parkland which reflects this Nature's varied history and cultures. We have asked that a proposal go out for public consultation so that we can seek the views of the public about how green they want the Parklands to be. I have mentioned earlier we need to ensure that the Parklands can still play their role in reaching climate change targets set by the State Government.

There were almost 10,000 trees planted in the Parklands last year, many of which were planted under climate change agreements or funding. In addition, there may be some excellent areas of the Parklands that can demonstrate new environmental technologies and sustainable landscapes. There are other challenges we face. Adelaide City Council will start to pay for its water from 1 December for the first time after the passage of the Adelaide Parklands Act. The Adelaide Parklands Authority will be up and running very soon



and we're currently finalising the charter for the authority with the State Government.

Work on the Parklands off Frome Road being returned to Parklands is continuing, but this site was a trade school before it was a car park, and the rehabilitation of the site will be more extensive than we initially thought. This is a sensitive area environmentally, next to the River Torrens and the Botanic Gardens. We're working with the State Government departments and authorities to ensure we have the correct plan in place to rehabilitate this site. Work on rehabilitation of the Parklands to the west of Morphett Street Bridge also continues. But don't expect to be seeing signs of tremendous action there soon. This area was the site of railway yards and there will need to be a lot of soil remediation and analysis before any rehabilitation of this site commences.

We continue to remove structures from the Parklands: sheds, unused sports change-rooms and some of the dilapidated structures in Victoria Park, and all of the other work that provides the care and control of the Parklands. There are always threats and challenges to be faced, but we're also convinced, after many years of being involved in the care of the Parklands, that there are solutions, too, that will preserve the Parklands, while they continue to provide the economic, environmental and cultural soul of our city. So it is with great pleasure today that I now declare this public forum open. Thank you.

MS HO: Michael, again we're very grateful for the support provided by the Council today, and thank you very much for being here to welcome us. I'm very glad that you raised the issue of sustainability. One of the main reasons why the Hawke Centre is involved in this forum is because we, too, are very concerned with sustaining societies, and there can be no doubt that the Parklands occupy a very central place in sustaining our city and its worth as a human space as well as a place of biodiversity.

It's very appropriate, therefore, that we now move to invite Minister Jane Lomax-Smith to address us. She has had a long and enduring interest in the sustainability of the Parklands and their future. She has not just spoken about the value of the Parklands, she's actually worked in them. I know she's planted trees; I know she's got muddy; I know that she's breathed the scent of the eucalypts, and she's walked the many trails and met with residents and members of AAPA to plan improvements. She's been out there for a long time making sure that others understand their value, and we've invited her here today, not just as minister but as someone who has a passion for this topic. Thank you, Jane.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH, Minister for the City of Adelaide:

Can I firstly thank Liz for her introduction, and for the honour of being here today, because you all realise I may be the Minister for the City of Adelaide, but I'm not the Minister for the Parklands. However, that doesn't stop me having a view, and it never will, because I'm passionate. You've probably heard me say before many things about the Parklands. I've joined on many occasions with the Lord Mayor and Uncle Lewis, and I acknowledge, of course, Kurna land and recognise that the Parklands are special, not just to Kurna people, who owned and have walked on these lands for many thousands of years, but to us newcomers, who immediately see our Parklands and know we see something special, something unique, something we want to preserve.

The phrase that I so often use when I meet a developer with a good idea is these are not cheap lands, they are priceless. And if you keep that sentence in your mind, you can begin to understand why there is so much conflict, not just in the 20 years that I've been involved in the Council, involved in living in the City, involved in arguing about the Parklands, but there's been conflict for nearly 200 years about the use of this land, and always the underlying argument that it is limited, it is in a limited area; it's precious, and once it's gone, it's lost forever.

What I want to do today is talk about the challenges I've seen over the last 20 years. There's a saying in German: "The devil doesn't know everything because he's the devil, but because he's been around a long time." And every time I hear a new idea, I think I've heard it before; in fact, there are very few new ideas that I haven't heard before, and they fall into a range of categories. One of the observations I'll first make is it's



much harder for a croquet club to put up a shelter shed than it is for a major development to be built.

The full force of the law seems much harder for small individuals and clubs than it does for major developers. And that's always worth bearing in mind when you look at the new proposals that come forward. The other argument that is always a challenge, and has been a challenge for 20 years, and will be the biggest challenge for the new authority, is there are no prescriptions. There are no rules that say: "You will not. Something is prescribed". So that whenever somebody has a good idea - and they're always a good idea - it's hard for someone to say up front, "Well, that's stupid, you shouldn't even progress it."

I remember when the Olympic Stadium was proposed in the western Parklands, the argument was: "This is a sporting facility, and therefore should be allowed in the Parklands". It would have meant a whole stadium. It would have meant a ticket office. It would have meant changing rooms, car parks, and it looks beautiful on the other side of the railway lines where it now is as the Santos Stadium. Apparently we needed a helipad, because it was a good idea, because it's too far to drive from the airport, and you should come out by helicopter. Can you believe that? You can't come from the airport except in a helicopter!

Someone else thought it was a good idea because there was unused Parklands in the south to have a museum of childhood, a re-created John Martin's Centre, where you could have a pageant termination and go through the Magic Cave and meet Father Christmas. The most bizarre idea was a giant flora and fauna park that you entered through a 40-foot wallaby pouch - I'm not joking - to the sounds of the didgeridoo and Aboriginal singing and chanting and bird noises. That's not made up; that's true - and we needed that because it gave people a taste of the Outback. These plans sound horrendous, but mysteriously, nowhere in the plans does it say: "You will not build a 40-foot wallaby pouch." So people always think it might just be a good idea.

The other problem with a good idea is that usually it's developed when you drive through and think, "This is the most beautiful place in the City of Adelaide", which of course it is, but apparently that's why we got the Wine Centre where it was, because someone drove through and thought it was the most beautiful place. But very often, then the only good view that's left is the view from inside looking out, because otherwise when you're outside looking in, you see the size, the lighting, the alienation.

The other argument that comes up time and time again is: "We will be the only city in the world that has a road race through the CBD. We will be the only place that has four-wheel drives in the major park in the city - a four-wheel drive festival." And I feel like saying, "Yes, but why is that?" No-one else is daft enough to think of shipping in tons of soil, and I might say that soil comes with a cost. The soil that comes to something like a four-wheel drive show brings with it weight, dust, millipedes, and things that shouldn't be here. They land on top, if you're not very careful, of native remnant species, and those sorts of activities should be in the Showgrounds. The reason no other capital city is daft enough is they're not daft enough. Why do we even think about it?

The other issue that is so bizarre is the idea that we're not competitive unless we do it. And the reality is you have to ask who we're competing against, and what difference it will really make. And very often the argument is that if we don't do it, someone will take it somewhere else. But the truth of the matter is that something like the Memorial Drive Tennis Club can't be dug up and taken to Sydney, because it's there. So any development has to be on that site, so the argument "We will lose it" is spurious.

The other argument that I find quite bizarre is, "It's replacing something ugly", or, "It's replacing something bigger", or most insidious of all, "It has a smaller footprint." If I can just explain that: you can replace a one-storey shed with an open lot car-park, and creative accounting will tell you that the new building is smaller. That's a very interesting argument, particularly because with the open lot car-park it has the chance that one day it will turn back into grass. But a three-storey building will never turn back into grass. It's an absolutely spurious argument. It was used by the Olsen Government when they built the Wine Centre, and it was a fabulous argument that's worth re-living now because I think it actually gives you a good argument for a whole range of developments. John Olsen's argument was that he would demolish the Herbarium, which may have been ugly, but I could never see it, it was behind the bushes. Three potting sheds, a lawn mower



shelter, a compost heap, and a few open lot car-parks, and they would build something smaller! Do you get that? The Wine Centre would be smaller than the three potting sheds, the Herbarium, and the things it replaced. It was: it had a smaller footprint.

So you have to ask yourself when you hear those sorts of stories, "What really does that mean?" And when you drive past the Wine Centre, I'd like you to recall that, and just remember that it's much smaller than the potting sheds, because that's the argument that was used.

The same argument was used by Joan Hall, I must say, when she first showed me the Clipsal stand. And the argument then was very much, "It's smaller, it's less expensive." But my argument for that is, "Less expensive?" People have to understand the cost of the Parklands. The Lord Mayor has spoken about it. And if we are prepared to let out, say, a four-wheel drive extravaganza into the Parklands and only charge, say, \$5000, and they have to charge \$20,000 at the Showgrounds, where do you think they'll want to go? They will always want to go into the Parklands. So we need to cost the use of our Parklands, so that people understand it is not cheap land. And until we do that, people will always say, "It's beautiful; it's nice", but underlying that, it's very cheap.

The other argument is a variety of the national interest, or the State interest, and I've spoken of the idea that they might move it to Sydney. But the more insidious argument is, "You're not a good South Australian if you oppose this". When I first heard that argument when I was on Council more than a decade ago, when the then Labor Government - because all political parties do the same thing; it's not one party or another - wanted to have the Commonwealth Games in Adelaide. And a Commonwealth Games needs a village, and a village takes 10-15,000 houses, and who do you think was the only person who opposed the Commonwealth Games bid, and why do you think that was? They were going to be in the Parklands, and I was told I was a South Australian. What was so wonderful was that they genuinely believed that a developer would put 12,000 houses in the Parklands and they would be temporary. They genuinely believed they'd be pulled down. It is extraordinary, and I have to say I am the only person who is perhaps grateful that we didn't win that bid, because I know those temporary houses would still be there now.

But if you look at the finances, the most interesting financial argument against development in the Parklands is very much one for the developer. If you can think of a business plan for a commercial development in the Parklands, line one will always be the cost of the land - zero. The building will always cost money and once an event space, a commercial property, is built, they need to keep it open and viable, of course, all the year. But the real issue is, every time you build something large in the Parklands, whatever it is, whether it's the Next Generation Centre or the Wine Centre, which are the most recent buildings, they compete, and they compete, if you like, on an uneven playing field, because the developers who develop in the CBD, in the suburbs and in Adelaide, have to buy land, and they're competing all the year round with those developers; they're competing for wedding receptions, school formals, conventions, Melbourne Cup events, a whole range of activities, where they have not had to pay the cost of the land, but we have.

We have given them those pieces of land that they can then use. So the issue is a very commercial one. The bottom line is always the dollars. And the issue that perhaps people don't remember is that that public land is our land. I said historically there have always been fights about it. I don't know if any of you remember the Children's Hour magazine - you're too young, of course, which went out through South Australia. Even in 1905, they were begging children to look after the Parklands, and I have a copy here that says:

To the boys and girls of South Australia. The Parklands surrounding Adelaide and other towns and the trees and plants in the squares of all South Australian towns belong to the people. The parks are your playgrounds. You have the right to use them for your games, but you must look after them and never harm them. Think of them as your own property and protect them accordingly.

The message is the same, because the land is finite, and once we've given it away, we will never get it back. So the challenge for the future? Well, the government has done something truly incredible. They have given up the right to have major developments in the Parklands. It was a pre-election commitment which we



have delivered on.

And now with our new era, we're on the brink of the authority taking on the role to manage and develop strategy. We have the challenges of water, of course, which will have a significant impact, I think, on major events, and how we can use the Parklands. But more importantly, we now have to get down to what those planning conditions will mean for the Parklands, because whilst the Government won't take the power away from Council and the Development Assessment Commission, the most critical documents to save the Parklands now are the land management plans that have been dealt with on a fairly local level, but no-one knows what's in them, and when they find out they're often quite shocked, and they're being used to some extent as a development plan - and the fine print of the development plan itself.

The next battle has to be, not in making decisions about development, but having a development plan which actually prevents developments occurring - actually prescribes what is a legitimate use, not just for permanent buildings, but for temporary activities as well - and which of those temporary activities should never be considered in our Parklands, because that land is irreplaceable. So for me, we've come a long way. We have no major developments, but I promise you the debates that I have run through will recur.

The arguments that are put to us will be the same, and the arguments against developments have to be finalised, shaped and improved, because we know what they will say about every development: "It's always a good idea. It's always in a beautiful place. It will always go to Sydney if we don't put it here." And it will always have, as the bottom line, "It's cheap land." But it's not cheap; it's priceless. And the people in this room, I think, have come together because they have a common purpose, which will be to preserve our Parklands, because it is finite; it is irreplaceable; it is priceless, but regrettably, not everyone in our community understands that, and we must be ever vigilant. Thank you.

MS HO: Thank you very much, Jane. We're going to prove that we're not parochial, and invite Sarah Whyte, from New South Wales, to address us, and give us a perspective that really brings to bear her work in the foundation, where money is being raised to support the Parklands there, her work as well in looking at parklands in overseas locations and, I believe, a genuine and deep interest in parklands as places for human well-being, and also for sustaining our environment. We're really delighted, Sarah, that you're able to come all the way from Sydney, and most grateful to you, and we welcome you to speak to us now. Thank you.

MS SARAH WHYTE, Chair of the NSW Centennial Parklands Foundation:

Hello. I would like to begin by acknowledging Uncle Lewis O'Brien, representing the Kaurna people, of the Adelaide Plains; the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Michael Harbison; and the Minister for Adelaide, Jane Lomax-Smith. Also my thanks to the Hawke Centre, the University of South Australia, and the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association.

I am so pleased to be here on behalf of Centennial Parklands Foundation, but in the interests of full disclosure, I should say that I'm also a member of the Centennial and Moore Park Trust, but I speak today as the Chair of the Centennial Parklands Foundation. I'm very grateful that I was able to encourage Ian Innes, who is our Director of Park Assets at Centennial Parklands, to come with me because - we always laugh - and I do soft and fluffy, and he answers serious questions.

But today, I would like to talk about the challenges facing Centennial Parklands, and the way in which we, as the Foundation, are endeavouring to better engage the community in assisting us. We all, as park managers, park users, and those committed to the preservation of open space within cities, face the common tests of seeking additional funds, managing increasing visitations, and meeting the demands of a growing continuum of recreational, cultural and environmental opportunities.

There is a myriad of challenges to be worked through, and I feel that in our industry the very best result is that our park users are able to seek their respite or exercise in our parks, without being overly conscious of



all the very hard work and planning that has had to go on behind the scenes by teams of extremely talented and dedicated people.

There is a concept in the non-park world that working in a green world surrounded by ducks and possums and eels, and plenty of green space and ponds, is not unlike spending the day at a very swish spa. Lots of knowledgeable and professorial types, chatting quietly about the need to replace saplings in the lower fields. This is not at all how it is. I had no idea how robust the work of park managers is, and this is carried out by public servants.

As the demands on our resources grow, these same public servants are completely disproving the Sir Humphrey Appleby theory, and embracing the world of the entrepreneur with a skill and determination which is admirable. We need to remind our visitors that parks do not develop on their own, and everyday maintenance is an ever-increasing responsibility.

The challenge is to engage these already dedicated users and to draw on their enthusiasm to support the need for funds to maintain these oases in the city. The threats - and I have to say quickly here that when I first read this I thought we were talking about the treats of a park, because I skipped the H, and I spent a lot of time thinking that, really, parks generally are just treats, but now we're with the threats. The threats which we are facing as park managers, can be divided into two categories for today's discussion: firstly, the financial challenge caused by shifting revenue demands; and secondly, the fact that Centennial Park is a defined space with no chance for expansion, but a rapid increase in the urbanisation around it.

The solution, as Centennial Parklands sees it, is to successfully encourage a connection between all facets of the community, and to translate that into practical and, more importantly, financial help. I would just like to take a minute to give you a background of Centennial Parklands and how it operates. The Parklands comprise three distinct parks: Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park. In total, these parks cover approximately 360 hectares, and are home to 15,800 trees. The Parklands is one of the world's finest and most used urban open spaces, and it is certainly well loved. Formerly, it was a part of the Sydney Common.

Centennial Park was dedicated by Sir Henry Parkes in 1888 to commemorate 100 years of European settlement in Australia. It is the site of the formal proclamation and swearing in of the officials of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, and as such, holds a special place in the heart of the Australian nation. We have 10 ponds that are linked to the Botany Wetlands, and are therefore of vital importance to the wetlands ecology of the Sydney basin.

As water conservation is now an extraordinarily hot topic, these wetlands become more vital to eastern Sydney. The Parklands are less than five kilometres from the CBD and are close to the city's eastern beaches. Our sporting facilities include E.S. Marks Athletics Field, Moore Park Golf Course, a driving range, tennis courts, netball courts, sporting fields, and an equestrian centre.

We are one of only two major parks where horses can be stabled within the Parklands. Other venues include the Centennial Parklands Restaurant, the Royal Hall of Industries, the Hordern Pavilion, the Entertainment Quarter and Fox Professional Studios. We at Centennial Park embrace a diversity of facilities and activities within the Parklands which many of you might consider to be well outside the range of normal Parklands administration.

The Parklands has a total asset base of \$650 millions and attracts over five million visits a year to the three parks. Six per cent of our visitors are domestic or international tourists, so Centennial Parklands helps to generate tourism income for the State. The remaining 94 per cent are obviously Sydney residents.

The Foundation is a major part to the solution of the challenges of running a park, and although we are still a fledgling organisation and have only been going for about a year, we dream of great achievements. Our mission is to contribute to the value of Centennial Parklands through its environmental, cultural and recreational significance. We aim to ensure that the Parklands continues to be enjoyed now, and by future generations.



The purposes of the Foundation are: to preserve the natural environmental value of Centennial Parklands, to encourage and promote enjoyment of recreation and activity within natural surroundings, to recognise and appreciate the natural and historical significance of Centennial Parklands, and to enhance and promote all other aspects of the environmental benefits provided by Centennial Parklands, to be enjoyed by all members of the public.

Parks and nature brought into cities - and even a city as blessed with natural beauty as Sydney is suffering, as the current trends in urban design are failing to deliver a higher quality of life for city dwellers. Our cities are less healthy than they could be. Scientific research is just catching up with that which our Victorian era park creators believed intuitively: the value of nature in the healing and redemptive process. At the time of the dedication of the Park, poets such as Wordsworth, Shelley and Banjo Paterson were being read. So the idea that nature was a necessary part of a good life was very much in the forefront of people's thinking.

There is now evidence that green time relieves the symptoms of hyperactive children, and people suffering from the rigours of city life recover faster, given time to contemplate trees and open green spaces. Evidently, prisoners are less violent if they can see green trees from their cells, and post-operative patients who look at trees and open spaces recover faster and need fewer drugs than those who look at blank walls. This another way in which we at the Park, contribute to the New South Wales state revenue.

Parks offer a sense of mystery. They're non-judgmental and tranquillity can be experienced independently of other people. The knowledge that the Park exists gives comfort to even those who do not visit it. The fact is that most of us will never see a tiger in the wild, and realistically and financially our lives would not change at all if they all died out. But the knowledge that somewhere out there, there are such animals living as they have always lived, prowling through jungle, enriches us spiritually and connects us with our wilder ancestry. So it is with parks. We need them for more than the formal gardens.

I know myself, having grown up in the country, and trying to give city daughters a taste of the freedom I had had, how I actually needed to take them to Centennial Parklands when they were small and let them run until they ran out of breath, and experience a sense of green space as far as they could see, and then just lie and watch the clouds.

Sydney is growing rapidly, and there has been an explosion of apartments built in recent years. More people are now living alone than ever before, and I believe these people require more open space than a window box. It was recently reported in the Sydney press that one of our more prolific developers had suggested that if people wanted to see trees they could travel to the Blue Mountains and that land close to the city should be set aside for development. Horrible - absolutely horrible, especially, though, as a large development belonging to this developer is on the other side of the road from Centennial Park, and I would bet the purchasers of these apartments found the proximity to the park to be a major consideration for choosing to live in the development.

Is this a threat or a challenge? I think it's a challenge, and I think the solution will be to invite the developer and the other ones in our neighbourhood to come for a walk through the trees of Centennial Parklands, and we might also invite them to bring their cheque books with them.

Many of our park users are vocal, opinionated, and quite correctly view the Parklands as their own, which of course they are. We on the Trust of the Parklands take very seriously the responsibility vested in us to care for the Parklands on behalf of the people of New South Wales.

Having so many owners presents its own challenge. Cyclists have to get along with joggers, dog walkers and equestrians who, in turn, share the park with school sports teams, the Sydney Swans, the Waratahs as well, picnickers, outdoor concerts and the open air cinema. I am an optimist, and I see this as a solution. As cities become larger and less personal, the population is likely to keep to smaller groups of like-minded people, and sharing the open space is a wonderfully democratic way of interacting with other members of the community with whom they might not otherwise come into contact. But we will not be able to fulfil our



purpose as a Foundation unless we can harness the support of all these groups.

The fact is that to maintain the excellence of the Parklands we need money. In Sydney, the great natural icons are the Harbour, Bondi Beach and Centennial Parklands. All Sydneysiders know that these open spaces are their birthright and are there to be enjoyed by all, without cost. Waverley Council, which maintains Bondi Beach, has recently installed parking meters, and extraordinarily zealous rangers along the beach-front. On Friday morning, I saw a furious man running across Campbell Parade and fishing around for change for the meter. He didn't look as if he was having a relaxing experience. We at Centennial Parklands have resisted the parking meter route and have opted for community support. We are yet to see how well we do, but I expect, confidently, to do better than parking meters.

The Foundation of Centennial Parklands is relatively new, and our next step is to bring the awareness, both practical and financial, to the people that we need to help us. Our first major appeal is the tree replacement program. The Trust needs to plant 180 trees, increasing to 600 per year within 10 years, so that we can leave the park in the prime condition it deserves. Many of the great trees were planted in the 19th Century, and these trees are now reaching the end of their lives. Some of these are the large holm oaks, Port Jackson figs and Norfolk Island pines, while others are the native eucalypts, and can be smaller at the planting stage. This is something that the Trust is not able to take money to do without drawing money from other projects which also add to park users' enjoyment, like children's playgrounds and other capital works.

Our toilets recently won the AILA Prize, of which we are extremely proud. So, at this point, enter the Foundation with our emphasis on excellence and the core belief that the Parklands must be passed on in better condition than we found it. In the next 10 years, we hope to raise \$10 million. Some of this will go as a corpus, so that we can draw down on the money when we need it, because the State Government contributes 16 cents in every dollar for us, for which we are extremely grateful, but the rest has to come from our own businesses.

We've given our new program the slogan of "Centennial Parklands needs a transplant", and to date we've planted 45 trees. We recently held a tree-planting day where trees were planted by donors. There were many touching family histories, and I so enjoyed the links going back through the generations. We were standing on a slightly raised area of the Parklands, and it was possible to give oneself a terrible jolt by looking down the slope to the Grand Drive, and envisaging a park without trees. This is frightening, but not altogether impossible unless we start planting now.

People's interaction of what is important is changing. Whether it's medical studies about work-life balance, or large companies talking corporate responsibility to employees, shareholders and consumers, the message is getting through that recreation and fresh air are important. And where better than a park? For the Foundation, this is another solution in how all levels of the community can be involved.

We have, at the moment, the Friends of Centennial Parklands, and the Friends' Reference Group, and these are a solution to use of the grass roots park users. These members are a wonderful resource to us, and they are fantastic ambassadors. We have groups of volunteers who are able to work in the Parklands alongside the rangers. Great work has been done on the restoration of the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, which is an endangered native shrub. This is a wonderful community project, and the more people that are actively involved in the Parklands, the more the word is spread.

We are planning a volunteer group to rid the ponds of carp. This sounds like something for the summer when the ponds are low, as it involves wading through the ponds, avoiding our precious eels and native fish. Just as Centennial Park offers a lifetime experience, so we at the Foundation are hoping to capture the imagination of all age groups. We are particularly keen to engage the schoolchildren of the area. We already have ranger-led tours, especially during the school holidays, but would hope to expand the focus of these onto environmental studies, which are of vital importance to the whole community, and it would seem that schoolchildren are already very attuned to environmental concerns.

Our Foundation operates within the context of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, and is still reliant



on the Trust for an annual financial contribution, and for operational support. The Trust also supports the Foundation through the provision of staff. All projects identified for fund-raising, must be approved by the Trust, and progress is reported back to the Trust through the Chair.

Key achievements in our first year of operation have been an Ibis Research Project, where we are in partnership with the University of Wollongong in studying the habitation of the ibis. This is a particular problem for us, as they compete for resources required by other bird species. We have also received grant money from both State and Federal Governments. This is for the recycling of water and will be used in our Equestrian Centre. The Foundation secured two water saving grants in the last six months as a result of work undertaken by Centennial Parklands strategic planning and projects team. A town water saving grant of \$140,000 was funded by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, along with an Australian Government community water grant worth over \$45,000 that has enabled Centennial Parklands to initiate a range of water saving projects which will save approximately 12 million litres of town water.

In conclusion, at Centennial Parklands we are focusing on the future and the legacy we leave, as this is as important to us as our achievements today. And as a dedicated park user, I think I might possibly have a rose-coloured spectacle view of my fellow park lovers. I can't see how people can fail to support such a worthwhile project as the Park. Trees, ponds, animals, fish and, most importantly, space, space, space in an increasingly harsh world, can only be a winning formula. And even our rabbits have some good value. I hope this to be so, and I would like to wish the new Adelaide Parklands Authority well in their endeavour, and their new incarnation.

MS HO: Thank you very much, Sarah, for sharing the experience in New South Wales. I think there are so many connections in terms of both the threats and the solutions, but to hear a different perspective, I think, helps us to re-visit some of our issues and, indeed, the last session this afternoon is an issues session.

I'm going to invite Jim Daly, who is President of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association, to run the issues session and to invite our speakers to the table, I think joined by Ian Innes from the Centennial Parks in New South Wales. I'll call you all to come up, if you'd like to. Thank you.

MR JIM DALY, President of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association:

This is the most exciting part of the proceedings as far I'm concerned, and I expect it to be a hot one; I'm taking my coat off for it. Also, the suggestion has been that you go to the microphones, and you can perhaps, if you like, queue up there and I'll call you to make your question brief. Keep the comments so that a lot of people can actually have an opportunity to pose the questions. You could either pose the question and identify one of the members of the panel, or I will do that for you.

As you heard, the title of the afternoon's session is: "Threats, Challenges and Solutions". I think we've got to identify the threats, look positively at the challenges and then look at the solutions in a rational way, and that will be over a period of time. I'd like to just say that two daft proposals that can beat the ones that the Minister put forward, I think, are (1) from the 1890s, that the River Torrens become White City, and along the River Torrens would be a Luna Park development with tin sheds where you would have sideshows. The Adelaide City Council, fortunately, knocked that one back at that stage. Could you envisage that now? The other daft proposal was last week I received a phone call from a student doing a project, and it was put to me: "The Adelaide Gaol is not now being used. I understand, Mr Daly, it's to be knocked down. What is the position of the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association on developing the Adelaide Gaol site as a commercial high rise with also low-cost housing?" My answer was: "No, no, no".

I think you've already been introduced to the panel members, but I must just introduce Ian Innes with more detail. First of all, he's the Director of Park Assets at Centennial Park. He's a landscape architect by profession. He's the former curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney, and he knows Adelaide because he worked on the master plan for the Botanic Gardens. He's travelled extensively overseas in his work, in a professional capacity, and his main interests are the cultural landscapes and open space



management. So he is part of the panel, and I'm sure there will be questions to all members of the Panel.

As Chair, I'd like to ask Sarah the first question, and as I'm asking it, if you'd like then to go to the microphones, I'll direct the questions accordingly. This one, Sarah, is that if you were the Chair of the Adelaide Foundation - it's a hypothetical; yesterday we went around the Parklands and showed you what we had - what would your first project be?

MS WHYTE: My first project, I think, would be to have some unifying force. It's very difficult for me, having only been here for one day and had a wonderful walk around and seen your amazingly impressive Parklands. It's very tricky for me because, of course, Centennial Parklands is in the middle of the city and so we have gates, so people know they've arrived there. As an outsider, I think I'd do something to unify all the parklands.

MR DALY: Yes, that was one of the things you mentioned to me as we were going around. There seemed to be parks 28, 4, 3, 2, and there's a little bit of a need to co-ordinate with an overall - - -

MS WHYTE: So water wouldn't be a bad idea, too, of course.

MR DALY: Ian, you are a landscape gardener. I've employed you in Adelaide. As a landscape gardener for the State, what would you do for the Adelaide Parklands?

MR IAN INNES, Director Park Assets at Centennial Parklands: Firstly, I'd want to take stock of what I've got and what the value and significance of the resource is, which includes the land, the buildings and infrastructure, and obviously the trees, which are a significant part of any Parklands. Then, I think you need a long period of study of what the key values of the Parklands are, and maybe you'd document those in a plan of management, so there are some agreed principles about how the Parklands will be managed and developed in the forthcoming years. A key aspect of that process of assembling a plan of management would obviously be effective community consultation and getting a broad cross-section of views about the values of Parklands for different types of uses and for different parts of the community.

MR DALY: Thanks, Ian. Ian Gilfillan?

MR GILFILLAN: Thanks, Jim. My question is to Minister Honourable Jane Lomax-Smith, and it relates to what a group of us believe - and I think many hundreds, if not thousands, of people share this view: the most substantial and imminent threat to the Parklands is the proposal to build a joint motor-racing and horse-racing facility in the middle of Victoria Park. It is quite ironic that the proposal comes to the surface at a time when the platitudes and the sort of sanctimonious words are just flooding about how valuable the Parklands are. Would you, Minister, be able to, or willing to, give an undertaking that this State Government, in no way will either fund or support such an edifice being put up to ruin one of the most precious parts of our Parklands?

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: Well, I've made it clear that I believe that the greatest threat to our Parklands has always been the State Government, and to date, they've always had a mechanism by which they could commit moneys to build infrastructure, and that has occurred over the last decades, if not centuries. My view is that, at least now, our Government has made it impossible to use the major project status and, therefore, has made sure that any proposal has to go through proper process, which is a big step forward. I can't commit to the Government doing anything; I'm only one member of it.

But what I find particularly bizarre about the joint development proposal that's been floating around for the last couple of years was that the architectural plans for one of the designs were actually paid for by the City Council, and to my knowledge, that's the first time that the Adelaide City Council has actually paid money to develop architectural designs for a piece of major infrastructure in the Parklands, and I have to say, as a rate payer, I was pretty shocked.

MR DALY: Michael, would you like to comment?



MR HARBISON: Certainly. The Council has an obligation to prepare community land management plans for all land under its care and control, as does every council. Inevitably, in the preparation of those plans, you'd have to look at what all the possibilities might be, and there's no doubt that in Victoria Park there are a lot of buildings that, frankly, should be bulldozed, so while there is no Council decision made to make plans of buildings, and so on, I think it's understandable that the staff involved in the preparation of documents in relation to the community land management plans for this area have to draw, or commission, diagrams of various things to be considered as possibilities. But there's no evil intent in that or any sort of feeling that this is what our staff want to happen, and I'd say certainly knowing them, if anything, they probably are dead against it, but this really is their obligation to present all of these possible outcomes to the public. So I don't think there was any evil intent in that, rather just carrying out of their obligations in terms of the preparation of these CLMPs.

What I've tried to do at my end is actually slow down the crystallisation of the community land management plan in this particular area, because I do think that the Council needs the assistance of the new Parklands Authority, and so that's what is the situation with that particular area, that there is no settled CLMP for that area, and I'm hopeful that we can get this authority in place just as quickly as possible, in order that we can get a resolution of the issue that, really, everybody supports.

MR DALY: Thank you. Now, the speaker at second mike, one mike, two mike.

MR HORDACRE: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I'm associated with a croquet club. I heard this mentioned before; it happens to be the South Terrace Croquet Club. My background: I was born in the country where we didn't have a water supply. So I've had the privilege of growing up and understanding that, when you turn a tap on, the water doesn't automatically come out. But I'd like to draw everybody's attention to the fact that it is 2006; we do have available to us solar energy, aquifers, the best available knowledge about dryland farming and the use of water at Urrbrae, which is only just up the road.

MR DALY: Do you have a question?

MR HORDACRE: We have got these facilities. I'm asking: when are we going to get on with using the technology that we have today to address the issues that we've been talking about for the last 50 years?

MR DALY: Any volunteers on the panel? Ian, I'm going to drop it in your lap, if no-one else volunteers.

MR INNES: Thanks, Jim. Australians have been very lazy about dealing with water conservation and water management, because we've had it good for so long, and because water has been cheap and in plentiful supply. In New South Wales, we're currently in the fourth year of significantly lower than average rainfall, and there have been phase 2 water restrictions in place for two and a half years. In the place where I work, Centennial Parklands, we have fully adopted the water restrictions put in place by Sydney Water, and we've looked at alternative water sources for Parklands purposes.

So, we have for some time been using harvested stormwater, which we collect in our ponds and treat and recycle through our irrigation system, and we've also had the great benefit of being sitting on top of an enormous sand aquifer, from which we extract over 260 megalitres of water a year. I think what we're coming to realise, though, is that the aquifers are equally as precious as our potable water supplies, and we can't just continue to extract water from them unsustainably. So, at this stage we're starting to look at being more ruthless with our extraction of water from recyclable water sources from grey water and black water, and I'm currently kicking off a study with University of New South Wales to try to determine an appropriate water balance and set up a water budget for all of our operations, and that will look at the availability of stormwater, which is a very variable matter.

In Sydney our rainfall comes in downpours or not at all, so being able to impound water to get you through the times when there's no rain is quite tricky, and also looking at the issues around the continued use of the aquifer. Now, in our case, our aquifer is a sand aquifer and the recharge rate is actually very fast. The



recharge rate is a matter of weeks, but I'm sure many of you will be aware that aquifers in other parts of Australia have extremely slow recharge rates, sometimes in tens of years or even hundreds of years, so ground water, although it's a great opportunity, also has some quite serious limits.

MR DALY: Thanks. I just was at the end of a conversation you were having with the Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, you were making a comment about the water. Would you like to expand on that a little bit?

MR HARBISON: Historically, the Adelaide City Council has had a right to an unlimited supply of water from what is now SA Water. This arises from the Adelaide City Council being the owner of the Metropolitan Waterworks until, I think, about 1940-something or other, when it was handed over to the State Government, and part of the consideration for the hand-over was the right to water for its needs. This has meant that there really hasn't been much incentive for the Council to look at alternative sources of water, and so for the last seven or so years that I've been on Council, I've really been trying to get us to get interested in ground water. But what we've been up against is the fact that it costs money, and we really had access to unlimited free water, so over time, as things like the pipeline from the Torrens Lake watering the west parklands sort of broke down and became difficult to fix, you found that the capital works people would replace that facility simply with a mains water facility, and that's always been the cheapest way to go. But now that we are about to start paying for water, I think the dynamic is there to actually encourage our administration to look at different sources of water.

Whether there is really a good aquifer source under the Parklands remains to be seen at the moment. We've done some drilling, and it hasn't been terribly encouraging, but certainly, this is an opportunity for us, but you do have to then be mindful of the protection of the aquifers as well. The sorts of things that will give us the early rewards, I think, are to look at the reclamation of the water from the Aquatic Centre. It may surprise you to hear that the amount of water which goes down into the sewer from the Aquatic Centre is something like 750 megalitres a year - straight down the tubes; down into the sewer, of all places. If we could harvest this water, it would involve creating some ponds, which not everybody is happy about, but all of that water could go to assist in the Parklands. If you're wondering how much water 750 megalitres of water is, it's almost two Torrens Lakes full.

MR DALY: Thank you. Next question?

MR: Phil, University of South Australia. I guess this is probably going to be mostly directed at Jane, but maybe Michael as well. I'm just interested in a very brief outline in respect of the proposed structure of this Adelaide Parklands authority, particularly how it's going to be funded, and even more in particular, how open an organisation is it proposed to be? In other words, the potential is tremendous, it seems to me, if it's a really open and interactive organisation and perhaps not quite as bright if it's the sort of body that goes around doing things without telling people how and why and when.

MR DALY: I think the thrust was for that to take place and it would be interesting to get the comments from perhaps you, Minister, to start with and then from the Lord Mayor.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: Well, Michael will actually be sitting on it as Chair, as I understand, and it is set up under the power of the Council and the representation is chosen jointly between the State Government and the Council. The representatives have special expertise; I think it's in landscape, architecture, sport and recreation, major events - things of that sort - and they are predominantly to set a planning, strategic role. I don't think they're there to manage the nuts and bolts of employing the gardeners but they will have input - the strategy will be their role. Michael, would you like to contribute anything more?

MR HARBISON: Yes there will be 10 members on the Authority, five appointed by the Council and five appointed by the State Government. The Authority structurally is a Local Government subsidiary under the Local Government Act and we're still waiting for the Act to be proclaimed in that respect, but I would think we're probably only three or four weeks away. I would expect it to meet in public in the Colonel Light Room downstairs. Its role is set out in a charter, and the Government is still having a little bit of a fiddle with the charter but we have signed off on the charter as presented to us, and that is a publicly available document.



It may change in the margins because there are some small legal aspects that are mostly about alignment of roads and so on, but by and large, if you wish to look at the charter, that is available in Council papers on the website or, if you can't find it, let us know and we'll find it for you; the charter is there. As Jane says, its role really is to set policy and strategy. It won't be involved in hiring the gardeners. The catch for the thing is that it hasn't got any money, because the Parklands - all the looking after of the Parklands is actually paid for by the rate-payers of Adelaide at the moment, and typically the Council spends about 10 or 11 million dollars a year doing that and I guess everyone's hoping that the Council will continue to spend 10 or 11 million dollars looking after the Parklands, but the Authority itself doesn't have any money but what it will do is set the rules under which Council will spend whatever money it wants to spend in the Parklands.

MR DALY: The Act itself is a public document and also the charter is in draft form on the website. I was a member of the working party and there are three things. One is that it's not a perfect situation but for the first time there will be community representation on a body that is involved with the actual setting of the policy. The second thing is, it closes off the special projects provision in the Development Act which I think is the fantastic thing. It's now enacted.

The third thing it does, really, is provide us with a condition imposed on the new Authority that within two years they've got to come up with a management plan; and the fourth thing is that they can raise money, and that's why we got Sarah down, because there is provision for this organisation to, in fact, raise money. I would suggest that the corporate sector put their hand in their pocket to the tune of millions as Sarah's organisation does and that's where they will get their money from.

MR HARBISON: That's good news.

MR DALY: I think the jury's out on whether this will work but at least we'll give it a shot and I'm hoping that the members of the Authority will really get past some of their own agendas and look at the whole thing in terms of the best suitable outcomes for the people of Adelaide.

MR HARBISON: I think that the Authority does three good things, too. The thing that I like best about it is that it actually defines the Parklands, because I think many of the mistakes with regard to the Parklands are made because people don't actually know where the Parklands are, silly as though that may seem. I've heard quite intelligent people say of the Wine Centre, "No, that isn't parklands", and a great thing about this Act is it actually defines in law for the first time where the Parklands are. The next thing that it does, as Jim says, it overrides the major projects legislation - terribly, terribly important. The Next Generation thing was built under the major projects legislation, wasn't it? Yes, so that's really important. The third thing it does is that it gets some outside help for the Council in terms of the protection of the Parklands, because the Council is sometimes an easy target in terms of being overridden on the Parklands, and to actually have these Government appointees adding a bit of strength to the arm in terms of protection of the Parklands is a very good thing, I think.

MR DALY: Thank you. Question from microphone 2.

MS NIMMO: My name is Heather Nimmo, I'm here representing residents of the South-East City Residents' Association. I'm glad that Jane Lomax-Smith has said that Governments have given up the right to have major developments in the Parklands and I'm hoping that means that from next year we won't have five months of major developments in the Parklands for the motor race. It starts in January and finishes in May. In many ways it really is an industrial site that's built there. We, as residents, managed to stop a four-wheel drive thing in Victoria Park: that was our group that mobilised that. Our attempts to actually get the Motorsport Board, who have their own Act of Parliament, to assist us to ameliorate some of what goes on there for both residents and park users and the Parklands, have been met with a big silence.

MR DALY: Your question?

MS NIMMO: I would like to ask the panel how they could inspire residents like myself and people I



represent to keep up the fight.

MR DALY: Any volunteers from the panel to empower the local community in terms of looking at those issues?

MR HARBISON: Yes, I'd be happy to say something on that. I think that everybody's support of the new Parklands Authority is going to be really helpful in that respect and even on the question that Jim raised, of raising money, if we can assist that new Parklands Authority to actually raise some money, there will be strength there. So I think getting behind the initiatives of this new Authority is a way in which I would hope that we really can get the community involved.

It's a bit hard to, sort of, get people to join the "Council club", as it were, but I think that an independent authority can be an attractive thing and I hope perhaps we can establish a sort of membership feeling about that. So I would suggest that we do all very strongly get behind this Authority. By all means, influence it, lobby it, but also give it some support too.

MR DALY: Thank you, Michael. I think the other thing is that the Parklands Preservation Association has a role in terms of representing the community along with the residents' associations and maybe an alliance between those, if a threat - a specific threat - comes up for some significant development particularly in the Victoria Park area, it might be that a number of organisations at the community level will go to the barricades together.

MR DALY: Is there a comment coming from microphone 2?

MR: Very quickly, I'm not sure whether it calms anyone's nerves, but actually APPA has initiated an interface with Clipsal 500, the Motorsport Board, in an effort to reduce some of the undesirable impact on the residents. So, in fact, I don't say this is inspiration at the highest level, Jim, but it does mean that there is very good opportunity for grassroots working with issues through APPA or other organisations, but certainly APPA is prepared to do it and meet the bodies or the authorities that are seen as the problem and with the motor sport, certainly maybe only small but we have had a receptive reaction.

MR DALY: Thank you.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: I think one of the interesting things is for those of us who are at the extreme, let's say, and I count myself as one of those - I mean, I'm not so extreme I don't want lavatories, I think you have to have infrastructure in the parklands, I'm not totally dopey; You have to have infrastructure and I recognise that the Victoria Park Racecourse is there, it's part of our heritage, as is SACA. There are things that are there; we recognise that, but I think one of things I find so challenging is that, if I don't like a major event and I recognise it's somewhere in the Parklands, I tolerate it. What I don't understand is the proponents of those major events who think I'm so whacky they won't even have a discussion and think we could make you a lot less resistant to our event if we had a set-up and take-down time that was faster. I think there's a lack of respect in the debate, because I am prepared to accept that people do things in the Parklands I'm not enthusiastic about, but so long as they do it with respect and don't damage the trees and go away, that's fine. But some people believe that they have the right to permanently and irrevocably damage the things we hold dear and I think that's disrespectful and very rude.

MR DALY: Another community force is that perhaps a few of you would like to join the Parklands Preservation Association after today to continue the fight, there are application forms and a nice new brochure, and they are available outside.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: One last thing. There are always elections and you should actually make it clear, for Council and State elections, what you believe.

MR HARBISON: That's another avenue.



MR DALY: Three questions are there and no more, please. This lady here has been waiting very patiently.

MS McNAMARA: Shirley McNamara, Heritage Preservation Association. I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Jane Lomax-Smith, just accolades for knocking on the head - or helping to - the daft suggestions which have already been put forward over the years, and I'd just like to ask: would it not be possible to have more public contribution to the body which is set up for the Parklands? I believe that a few years ago submissions were invited from the public and a number of renowned historians and other interested people put those forward. They've never hit the light of day so nobody really knows and given that the Parklands were dedicated to the people of Adelaide, would it not be possible to involve a trust, similar to the Centennial Parklands Foundation, to manage them instead of an authority? And the other question is that, if the Parklands are dedicated public land and are nominated on to the National Heritage List and if they meet that, they would be likely to be successful in the World Heritage List; is it not worth taking a step backwards and re-evaluating, especially given that Rann's platform was open and accountable public consultation?

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: Well, I think that, with due respect, Shirley, you put in a submission about a certain structure and that didn't come up with the structure of the authority. I think when that happens you sort of have to step back and say: well, I didn't get what I want; let's work with the organisation that's arisen. As we've said, this is a new body that's just been set up; give it a go, see if it works. It's almost counter-productive to keep saying: but you should have. We'll have to actually move on and work with the organisation we've got. As to the other area about accountability. I think this body has had its first iteration. The appointments, I think, are about to be announced. They have a range of people with specific skills, presumably you'd like them all to be elected and voted into office, is that what you mean?

MS McNAMARA: No, not necessarily. It just appears that often there isn't the amount of public consultation that there should be; for example, a lot of country people, who come to Adelaide love the Parklands.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: Well, I think that's one of the things that's been overcome because I'm a great believer in the City not owning the Parklands. I know they're in the care and control of the Adelaide City Council but they belong to South Australians. They're too important and iconic just for us to have the control over them. That's one of the issues; our neighbours get cross when we do things without telling them what we're doing across the boundaries.

So they are a South Australian structure and we're all proud of them - all South Australians are. But the way that consultation is done, I agree, is often very poor. I mean, the land management consultations that Michael was talking about earlier, are very cursory, and people didn't realise the significance of them or the detail and they might not have read them. A good community consultation is hard to come by and the plans that were done by the Council in Victoria Park were consulted on with SAJC, Clipsal and the Adelaide City Council but nobody in the public. So there are criticisms about consultation always, and we can always do it better.

MR DALY: I think the consultation issue is a separate one. I can provide you with some of that background information. I was on the working party and that is in the public sector, so see me later. Kelly, I think you're the next one. We have run out of time, so no more at the microphones. We will have the three questions there, no more.

MS HENDERSON: My name is Kelly Henderson; I'm researching the World Heritage values of Adelaide's Parklands. I'd suggest to the entire panel that the greatest threats to the Parklands are ignorance of the truth of the significance of the Parklands and the Adelaide Parklands Act for 2005 and the authority. One of the people involved in the establishment of South Australia was John Arthur Roebuck and he said,

We must create a public place - - -

MR DALY: Kelly, question please.



MS HENDERSON: You won't understand the question if I don't introduce it.

We must create a public trust and prevent by law, if necessary, the rights of the common people from being swept away at the hand of the proprietor who would enclose the land around our towns for his own future profit and the pseudo builder who would cover it with ugliness.

In the Adelaide Parklands Management Review there was another option; the trust was the most supported option, over 60 per cent supported it. The Adelaide City Council/Government partnership option was the most opposed option; over 60 per cent opposed it.

MR DALY: Kelly, the question please.

MS HENDERSON: The question is - and this is to everybody on the panel: do you understand that the World Heritage values of the Parklands are that they were established in accordance with Roebuck's ideas defined in "The Landscape" by Light and they were set apart by Light in 1837 and dedicated for the health and recreation of the inhabitants of the City of Adelaide in perpetuity; and if so, why are you supporting the option most opposed, which damages the World Heritage values of those very Parklands which you say to us that you intend to protect?

MR DALY: Thank you, Kelly. Would anyone on the panel like to have a go at that?

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: I really think my answer is the same as to Shirley. Sometimes you have to move on. It might not be what you want but it's what we've got and we have to see if it will work.

MR DALY: Anyone else?

MR HARBISON: I don't believe the establishment of the Authority takes us backwards in terms of world heritage listing. A necessary step towards world heritage listing is National Heritage listing, which I was very pleased that we did achieve a couple of years ago. Frustratingly, the Federal Government then demolished the National Heritage List and we've had to start all over again. They cleaned the list right out, pushed everything off it and you have to re-bid. We now have a new bid in to get back on to the National Heritage List, so that work is proceeding apace.

MR DALY: Thank you. Next question?

MR GREEN: Phillip Green, Winston Churchill Fellow in Environmental Education. Sarah, directed to you: you and your organisation obviously have a passion for the Parklands, the future and children - I think the picture of the little tacker up on the slippery-slide and the end sort of summed it up. What do you feel is the importance - because you are engaging children with ranger-led programs and I believe you're building on them - of those in Parklands?

MS WHYTE: I think this is part of the whole community becoming involved in the Parklands and I think probably, if one can engage the children through schools - and in there we have enormous numbers of children, as I'm sure you do, coming through the parklands playing sport and doing whatever it is that they want to do - you then can encourage the parents, who are probably at a busy time in their life are not quite so able to dedicate time to the Parklands. The Foundation, is completely separate from the trust. We have a board of governors of the foundation who are all active in various areas of the community and our mission is, in a nutshell, to raise money to support the trust to furnish the excellence that we think that the Parklands require.

So really, we just want to offer a 'cradle to grave' opportunity in the Parklands. I mean, we have people who want to donate trees because a child has been born or because their grandmother has just died, and this is good and we will then move on and hopefully get corporate support. I hope I can come back and talk to you, or maybe better still, you can come to Sydney and talk to us about how the Parklands are going, and in a few years' time we'll be able to say: look, we now have \$20 million and this is what we're doing with it.



MR DALY: Last question?

MR JOHN: My name's Jason John, I'm an Eco-Minister at Scotts' Church. With a few other people, I've been talking with Michael Kevin Lowe about the idea of a community garden on the land outside the Adelaide Gaol between the heritage wall and the fencing. I'm just wondering whether, either specifically or generally, any of you have comments about your overall feeling towards the idea of community gardens in parkland areas, either here or over in New South Wales?

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: I'm not sure of the geography. I think the nuns have one by the gaol.

MR JOHN: Yes, there's a garden which is run around behind the gaol which isn't open to the public, so the idea of this one would be a garden available for the public for food growing and environmental education.

MR DALY: Probably the Lord Mayor might?

MR HARBISON: No, I wouldn't be too keen on that. The problem with that is that, it sort of sounds nice but by and large I think you are excluding more people than you include, and I'd like to see those fences pulled down around the walls of the gaol and the area landscaped really in a way that fits in with the rest of the area. As Jane has said, there is a substantial community garden there already outside the gaol and I think that's probably sufficient. If you're interested in the ideas that are floating around for improving the landscaping around the gaol, there are some documents that were produced in about 1985, a landscape plan for the area surrounding the gaol, and John Hill and I are very keen to see the gaol made available to the public, I would hope the Council would be supportive of doing its part by removing those wire fences and so on and landscaping the surrounding areas so that it becomes a truly publicly accessible place.

MR DALY: Thank you.

THE HONOURABLE JANE LOMAX-SMITH: We've also been in negotiation with some south-west residents about a plot of land near the courts and, although I think we've all been fairly supportive of the idea, the reality is the judges think they're going to get a new courthouse and don't want, I think, to give it over, so it's actually quite difficult. But if there were a developer with a block of unused land that you could think of, they might perhaps look kindly towards some local residents wanting to beautify their plot. We could all think of a few plots of land.

MR HARBISON: I think this is the way to handle that opportunity. I think community gardens are a great thing but what we'd need to do is probably find the unused blocks of land within the city, and that site just north of Whitmore Square - the difficulty is reaching agreement with the developer - - -

MR DALY: There is a block of land in that area, isn't there?

MR HARBISON: I was going to suggest just north of Whitmore Square as well, there is another site you might look at.

MR DALY: I'd like to bring this to a close now and just remind you that over the weekend we've looked at the theme, really, about a balancing act past, present and future, and we must acknowledge the legacy of the great inheritance that we've had in the Parklands and learn from the past; but we live in the present, and the Parklands must be relevant to the people who need to appreciate their values and relevant to the lifestyles today, and we must also plan for the future. I certainly don't want to be part of the generation that is instrumental in destroying the legacy of the Parklands that encircle this beautiful city and you, as members and friends of APPA, must feel the same way, I'm sure. So the ball is really in our court. To learn from the past, while being relevant to the needs of the present city residents and people of Adelaide, while at the same time preserving and planning wisely for the future. By remembering the past and living in the present, we can build for the future. Thank you.

*Adelaide Parklands
Preservation Association Inc*



Contact:

Ms Elizabeth Ho
Director, The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre
T: 08 8302 0651 M: 0417 085 585
E: Elizabeth.ho@unisa.edu.au