

SOUTH- EAST CITY NEWS - EDITION 13 – OCTOBER 2007

The meaning of life.....

It is very tempting to write about elections. No sooner have we completed the long-awaited Council election than we have been thrust into the even longer-anticipated Federal election. In City elections apathy seems to have ruled the day whereas Federally, fervour seems to be all the go if the rash of posters is anything to go by!

The media and some vacuous business commentators have been strident in their claim that Adelaide City Council is almost irrelevant because only 30% of enrolled voters bother to vote.

The reality is that the Adelaide Council roll is a joke! Of the 21000 enrolled "voters" many are businesses including such as car parks, bus shelters and signage rights on buildings. In fact some 10,000 actual people live permanently in the city and of those some 6000 did vote – 60% and that on a voluntary vote basis. If State and Federal elections were voluntary I doubt that they would do as well as that.

Democracy is about the will of the people and about one vote – one value. It is high time the franchise for Council elections was brought into line with the other spheres of government and, in my opinion, treated with the same degree of importance and made compulsory .

On a more uplifting note, I went to the 4th Whitmore Square Arts Festival last week and saw a great variety of works of art and craft produced by local artists. Adelaide has a fine record of supporting community arts and the various festivals that set Adelaide apart.

Art has many manifestations ranging through visual arts, architecture, all kinds of music, literature, drama and cinema, indigenous art and some might include graffiti.

Art is uplifting and can do so much to make our lives more meaningful whether we are actually artists in our own right or we are simply able to enjoy our preferred forms of art.

David Plumridge, Chairperson.

VICTORIA PARK – A BETTER SOLUTION? We have received from Dr Bob Such MP a copy of a letter he sent to Premier Mike Rann on September 28th suggesting that he revisit the plans for Victoria Park or adopt Dr Such's proposal that an all-weather synthetic horse racing track be created at Morphettville for weekly racing, with only a few picnic style races at Victoria Park, and that the 'scrappy buildings (except the Heritage Grandstand)' along Fullarton Road be demolished and a west facing car race stand (which could be used for community events) be built there. He has more details about his proposal if anyone is interested.

Like many of you, I chose to live near Vic Park because I considered it Park Lands temporarily taken over for motor sport (and a few horse races). If this Masterplan goes ahead then Vic Park becomes a dedicated motor sport venue (with up to 30 horse races a year). It will no longer be an urban park, open at all times (bar the four days of Clipsal) to the public for passive recreation. There must be over 400,000 Vic Park visits a year by people quietly using the park for such recreation. And yet this doesn't seem to count.

I cannot believe that the people of Adelaide will stand by and let Park Lands be lost to corporate guzzlers to satisfy the ego of politicians. And this from a Labor Government!

Heather Nimmo, Secretary

Handel's Messiah will be celebrated as a People's Messiah conducted by Corinthian Singers Musical director Christie Anderson at St John's Anglican Church, 379 Halifax Street, from 6.30pm on Sunday 9th December. The event will feature outstanding young soloists from State Opera of South Australia and the Adelaide Chamber Singers. Tickets at the door: \$25. Concession/students \$20. All proceeds go to St John's Youth Services for homeless young people.

AGM

Remember that our second Annual general Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 27th November at 6.00 pm. As usual the venue will be the TPI Building on South Terrace. We hope to shortly announce who will be our guest speaker and of course we will be doing all the usual AGM things including reports on the year's activities. **We are keen to have some competition for positions on the committee and you are reminded that nominations close on Tuesday 6th November with the Secretary at PO Box 7017 Hutt Street, Adelaide.**

CHRISTMAS DRINKS SECRA will host **Christmas Drinks** in the parklands at the end of Halifax Street (same place as last year) between 6 and 8pm on Wednesday December 12th. Please bring chairs and BBQ if you want to stay on. Nibbles and drinks provided. RSVP by December 5th.

Hutt Street Library Most of you will be aware of the wide range of services provided by our local Council library hub. These include internet access, photocopying, fax facilities, room hire (free for recognised community groups), dvds, audio books, magazines – as well as books. You can order in any books that are in the ACC collection and many of the library services are available on line.



Conflict-of-interest legal challenge. We are now awaiting Judge Barrett's decision which should be delivered around the middle of November. You will remember that this is the case brought by Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association Inc with Michael Henningsen and Heather Nimmo against the Adelaide City Council in respect to a decision made to support the Victoria Park development. Councillors voting included 2 who were members of the Motor Sports Board, a potential beneficiary of the decision.

Clipsal 500 We are still waiting for a response to our request that the Adelaide City Council request that the South Australian Motor Sport Board paint out the coloured race markings (authorized graffiti) on the kerbing in our streets, and remove the gravel arrestor bed in East Tce and that the recently-installed pedestrian refuges in Bartels and Wakefield Roads not be removed until the final road closures come into effect just before the race.

The set-up for the 2008 event will start in early December this year and we asked that the construction of the ugly pedestrian bridges and the prison-like fencing of Victoria Park be delayed until after the Christmas shut-down period. Many locals and visitors to Adelaide should be able to enjoy the public park over Christmas holiday period without the feeling of being in a construction site or an industrial zone.

HUTT STREET DEVELOPMENT SET TO START (?) The prominent corner of Hutt and Angas Streets which has been an unsightly car park for a couple of years is set to become a multi-storey building with commercial uses on the ground floor and four levels of apartments above. After residents successfully fought the original proposals in the ERD Court, the developer demolished the old hospital and set up a "temporary" car park. Then the Council conveniently changed the zoning which relaxed the height restrictions and cleared the way for the developer to achieve his original objectives.



CHANNEL 10 An elegant addition to the Hutt Street architecture is the new Channel 10 building on the corner of Wakefield Street. The only criticism of the building is the rather unsightly structure on the roof supporting the transmitting dish and the seemingly inevitable air conditioning ductwork. There was a time when Council planners required such industrial excrescences to be screened from view. Nevertheless, the building compliments the Hutt Street streetscape and has given yet another exciting and attractive place to indulge our tastebuds. Let's hope the Council quickly restores the landscaping to its former glory

Licensing SECRA made a comprehensive submission on the Council's Draft Liquor Licensing Policy which was considered by Council in August. A number of the points we made were accepted by Council which led to some significant improvements in the policy. The main problem we have had is the interface between residential and licensed premises, especially when entertainment licences are being sought.

When Council modified its Development Plan it introduced Mixed Use Zones which allowed a variety of different uses in the same zone. This was of particular concern in the northern end of Hutt Street where the Mixed Use Zone sits right alongside residential properties. Properties within 60 metres will be limited in their opening hours and a new clause in the policy will also impose stricter conditions on Entertainment licences. We are also pleased that Council agreed to more carefully consider the size and nature of areas to be security-patrolled including where necessary parking areas used by patrons of licensed premises.

A FINAL THOUGHT..... Professor Jan Gehl said: "**A good city is like a good party - people stay longer than they planned to because they are enjoying themselves**". This visionary Danish architect prepared a report in 2002 for the City of Adelaide "Public Spaces and Public Life" Let's hope the new Council will dust it off and begin to adopt some of its recommendations to make Adelaide a more people-friendly city.

We welcome your comments and suggestions.....

Committee: Clr David Plumridge AM, Chairperson, Heather Nimmo, Secretary, Doug Sweet, Treasurer, Jan Davis, Anne Melrose, Clr Michael Henningsen and John Underwood.

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