

Welcome to what we trust will be another active and successful year for SECRA.

With the refurbishment of the Box Factory (which SECRA actively promoted), the south east corner may finally have a true community facility. We will be able to hold our SECRA meetings there as it can accommodate up to 100 people and we will be able to hold our Committee meetings there as well. We shall also have representation on its Advisory Committee.

The major piece of work for the SECRA Committee currently is the preparation of a response to the draft *Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy: Towards 2020*. SECRA, along with various Precinct groups, the SW Community Network, and the Adelaide Park Lands Preservation Association was invited to attend a workshop on this document. Heather Nimmo, Glenyss Steedman, John Underwood and I attended on your behalf. Our feedback to the consultants at the workshop was that the document (available from the ACC) did not represent a useful management tool for decision-makers; rather it was a wish list without any guidance on how any conflicts between 'wishes' could or should be dealt with.

A submission will be forwarded putting this point more strongly and proposing that defence of the Park Lands should be the priority - particularly now they are National Heritage listed. We will not be doing the consultants' work for them and so our submission (soon to be placed on our website) will be brief but, we hope, helpful. We suggest that the first priority of any Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy should be **the preservation and repair of the natural systems and open space**. Without trees, shrubs, grasslands, vistas and open space there is no park land to manage.

I would welcome your comments and/or your priorities for 2009 and any suggestions of speakers for our public meetings. **Our first public meeting will be held on Thursday April 2nd, 6pm-7.15pm at the Waverley House Boardroom, St Andrews Hospital, 350 South Terrace.** Historian Ted Ward will talk about *History and Architecture: south-east stories*. There will be an opportunity for members and guests to talk about their particular knowledge of our area.

With best wishes for 2009,
Anne Melrose
 Chairperson

Some words from the new co-ordinator of the Box Factory Community Centre.

My name is Julie Jordan, and I have worked in the community services sector for 20 years, predominately in disability services. I am delighted to see the centre reopening having been involved in a number of groups that have used the centre over the years and for whom it holds many fond memories, including my own.

I have been employed as a part time coordinator, and in the first instance will facilitate community consultation, getting the centre up and running, and when open will work at the centre 4 – 9pm Monday – Friday and Saturdays 10 – 3pm. In the early stages part of the community consultation will be developing a community vision for the centre, establishing an Advisory Committee, and supporting community programs and groups.

The centre will operate in partnership with the University of The Third Age, who will run programs week days, with the broader community utilising the centre after hours and weekends. Currently the centre is in the process of an extensive refurbishment, and it is anticipated the centre will open in early May.

I look forward to meeting SECRA members and working together on the multitude of opportunities the wonderful resource of the Box Factory Community Centre will be for the south east community. *Julie Jordan*

Clipsal 500

Once again, Clipsal 500 has not included the starting and finishing times for concerts in their Local Residents and Business Information leaflet.

However - once again - we have rung their Community Relations Officer, Jane McDonough (83065500), and she has provided the following information:

Thursday 19th March:	5.30pm – 9.45pm
Friday 20th March:	6.45pm – 11.20pm
Saturday 21st March:	5.45pm – 9.20pm
Sunday 22nd March:	5.15pm – 9.20pm

Ms McDonough makes the disclaimer that if there is a major crash that delays the timing of the final race then that night's concert will also be delayed.

She has also sent us the following information:

"Following our conversation of February 25 2009, I provide you with information as requested for possible inclusion in the SECRA newsletter.

- Due to the large amount of new infrastructure for this year's Clipsal 500 Adelaide it is not possible to provide a firm date for complete site demobilisation, except to say that it will not be before the end of April for the 2009 event. It is the desire of the South Australian Motor Sport Board (SAMSB) to complete this work as soon as practical. However, as there are a number of new temporary structures being utilised for the first time the actual timeline in respect of dismantling, packing and transportation to storage cannot be more accurately defined at this stage.
- Gate 1 at the intersection of Halifax St and East Terrace will be operational from Friday 13 March to Sunday 29 March 2009
- The SAMSB has a SA Water restriction permit and this exemption applies to the restriction category: **Sports Grounds/Recreational Areas**. At the present time watering is being undertaken in high traffic areas to minimise dust dispersal, to the advantage of park users and south eastern city residents.
- The Glenelg Adelaide Pipeline project (to supply water to the Adelaide parklands) has resulted in a large trench being dug through the parklands. The SAMSB has recently undertaken the re-seeding of the filled trench with the aim of re-establishing growth. This activity is the reason for the use of sprinklers currently being concentrated in the southern areas of the park along the bike track.
- The SAMSB is committed to minimal use of water. The facts are that in recent years the usage has been well below the allowed allocation. In 2008 actual water usage was 20 per cent below the allocation."

Jane McDonough

It is well known that in the past the SAMSB has been watering grass next to the race track and stands "to look good for the tv cameras". We're certain that residents and park users would be happy if some of this water was diverted to watering the very stressed-looking trees in the Park. We also note with disappointment the "pruning" of a mature River Red Gum to make way for a shade structure.

We have asked the ACC staff responsible for planning the redevelopment of the Park to incorporate an area near Wakefield Street for a relocated contractors' camp in 2010. They have expressed their willingness to do this but say that they cannot compel Clipsal 500 to relocate the camp.

For your information

The Hutt Street Precinct will be hosting an after-race party in Hutt Street on Saturday 21st. The party will begin at 5.30pm. The music will go off at 11.30pm and the crowd will be dispersed at midnight.

During the Fringe Festival the Garden of Unearthly Delights will be open until 3am on Friday and Saturday, and until 1am on other nights. Opening night for the Fringe is Friday 27th February.

More Park Lands vandalism

To assist in the planning of the management of *our community land*, the Adelaide City Council commissioned an extensive (and, no doubt, expensive) environmental report into the value of the remnant pre-European plants in Victoria Park. The report states that: **“given the conservation significance of Adelaide plains flora, any native grassland should be conserved in situ wherever possible.”**

In Victoria Park there is an identified patch of native vegetation comprising bulbs and several grasses which could have taken up to 500 years in the development. Miraculously it has survived the variety of uses and abuses all of these years, however it would seem unlikely to survive the proposed expansion in the number of playing fields in the Park. The proposed translocation of the plants will be extremely expensive and possibly unsuccessful and utterly disrespectful of a valuable heritage vegetation site.

Surely an area the size of one soccer field could be left alone (as a long finger of preserved vegetation)? If a Grey Box woodland were to be established there, it would be an attractive break in the expanse of the playing fields as well as a shelter for the contestants and other users of the Park.

Your committee is considering applying for a recreation licence to cover this small area of the Park. We have been told by the recently appointed Community Development Officer for our area, Chandler Giles (who attended our last committee meeting) that “the feedback I have received from City and Park Lands Planning is that such a licence would be inconsistent with the adopted Community Land Management Plan for Victoria Park. However, they would be happy to work in other ways to achieve the conservation and management of the remnant native plants.”

We know that there will be some “fine tuning” of the CLMP for Victoria Park. It would be a great saving of ACC resources to leave the pre-European vegetation in situ and create a conservation area around it.

There's Much More to a Walk in the Park: “Researchers at the University of Sheffield have found that parks rich in species are not only beneficial for the environment but also for people’s general well-being. They have shown that the psychological benefits gained by visiting urban green spaces increase with the levels of biodiversity.” (Science Daily May 17, 2007 www.sciencedaily.com/releases)

In 2009 your committee will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month. Please contact our Secretary Heather Nimmo (82234458; hnimmo@westnet.com.au) if there are issues you want included for discussion.

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.....

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