

ADELAIDE SOUTH WEST *community newsletter* September – November 2023

Published by the South West City Community Association (SWCCA)

Referendum for a Voice to Parliament

Greg Martin offers some background to the upcoming referendum.

The referendum to give a voice to Indigenous Australians in the Constitution is likely to be held sometime in October.

The question we will be asked is "... to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"

Before the referendum those registered to vote will be sent a 16-page pamphlet listing arguments for both YES and NO. Voting is compulsory.

The idea of a Voice enshrined in the Constitution came out of the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart. The statement involved thousands of First Nations people from hundreds of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It called for a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata or compact to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations.

The Voice involves a simple request of the Australian people. It asks that we agree to an advisory body that represents First Nations people from across Australia to provide their input into Federal Government decisions, policies and laws that affect their lives.

It would not have powers to overrule or veto Parliament. It would purely be an advisory body on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters.

Many Indigenous communities believe the Voice, because of its constitutional force, will cut through bureaucratic culture and poor administrative accountability that has plagued the effective delivery of services, particularly to remote communities.

It's not surprising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders should give priority to a voice with constitutional certainty.

There was no consultation when John Howard abolished the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) in 2004, with support of the then Labor Opposition led by Mark Latham. Nor

were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders consulted in 2014 when Tony Abbott announced the Indigenous Advancement Strategy that stripped \$534 million from the Indigenous Affairs budget. Programs that had run successfully for decades such as men's groups and the award-winning women's night patrols that protected women and children from violence lost their funding.

The referendum has come out of a long history of inaction by the Commonwealth: from the Fraser Government in 1983 instigating a Senate enquiry into a Makarrata; Bob Hawke's broken election promise of a treaty; John Howard's constitutional preamble; to numerous committees of enquiry set up by the Rudd, Gillard, Turnbull and Morrison governments.

A criticism of the NO campaign is that the Voice proposal lacks sufficient detail. However, a constitution deals with principles not details. The detail of how the Voice to Parliament will be enacted, if the referendum is successful, will be left to Parliament to discuss and legislate.



Voting YES offers hope that we can go some way towards addressing past and present injustices, and 'close the gap' of disadvantage. Voting NO is another dead end for Indigenous Australia.

Source: *Everything You Need to Know About the Uluru Statement from the Heart* by Megan Davis & George Williams (2021) UNSW Press

Recommended reading:

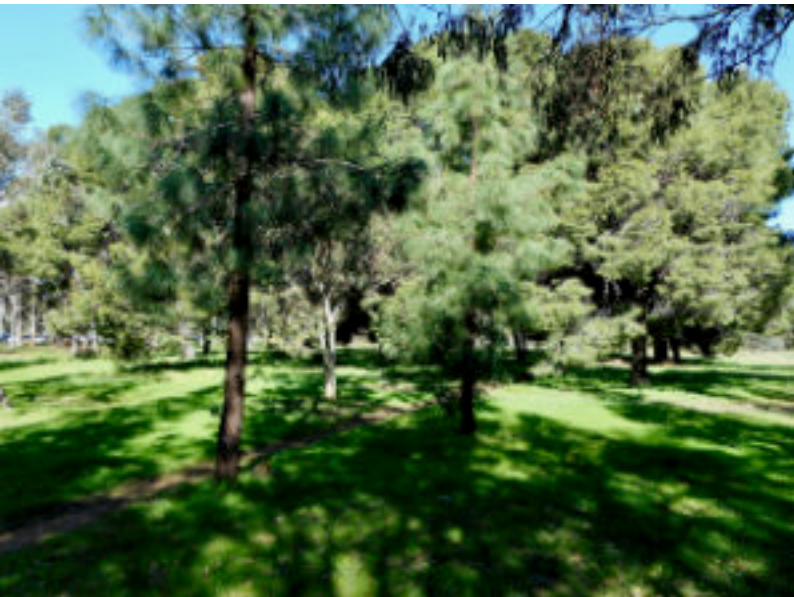
The Voice to Parliament Handbook

Thomas Mayo & Kerry O'Brien

2023 Hardie Grant, Melbourne 98pp (\$16.99)

This small book is an effective introduction to the referendum and answers a range of questions and concerns we may have about the Voice.

Getting to Know Adelaide's Unique Park Lands



The Park Lands surrounding the city of Adelaide are a world first. They were the first planned public parks. In the 1830s parks around the world belonged to royalty and their nobility. They were not available to the working class. Entry to parks was by invitation only.

The Industrial Revolution saw people migrate from the countryside to dirty, crowded cities, often living in cramped conditions with no access to greenery. In this climate, social reformers in London were promoting a radical idea – that it would be good for the working classes to have access to nature. Before trying it out in the UK, they said, it might be tried first in the colonies. Colonel Light read those pamphlets and was inspired in his 1837 City Plan for Adelaide to surround the city with parks.

Adelaide remains the only city in the world built inside parklands: a figure-8 wrapping around the city and North Adelaide.

The health and wellbeing aspects of our Park Lands were brought home to us during COVID. Now, with increasing temperatures due to Climate Change, we'll need the cooling impact of nature. So get to know your Park Lands.

There are three great ways to explore Adelaide's Park Lands using Adelaide Park Lands Association website on www.adelaide-parklands.asn.au/

- on foot, with a Park Ambassador on the scheduled guided walks;
- on screen, using 'the explore' pages; and
- on foot, using the self-guided walk Trail Guides.

All APA's Trail Guides and Guided Walks are on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people. APA acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and elders of these lands.

Through September to the end of November there will be eight Guided Walks. Don't miss out, check details on the APA website and book in.

Central Market Shopping Bus

Older South West residents can use a Council-funded bus to pick them up from home and drive them to and from the Central Market.

The service is available to all older City of Adelaide residents living in the postcodes 5000 and 5006. To arrange for the service contact Council's Healthy Ageing staff on 8203 7203 or email CHSP@cityofadelaide.com.au

You'll be picked up mid-morning from your home to go to the Central Market to shop and socialise. The cost is \$2 and you return home by 2.00pm.

The photos above celebrate saving Park 21W from the proposal to relocate the Mounted Police Unit from Thebarton Barracks. The biodiversity of this park, plus some of these magnificent Sugar Gums, would have been destroyed by the relocation. It's another example of the ongoing threat to our Park Lands. So get out and enjoy them, particularly as we move into Spring.

PHOTOS: Marjon Martin

December is Our Last Newsletter

The December 2023 issue will be the last to be produced and distributed by SWCCA. So if you would like to submit an article or notice please send your contribution to swcityca@gmail.com by Friday 17 Nov 2023. Short items preferred.

The time has come ... SWCCA said

SWCCA has announced that it will cease operations at the end of 2023. Susan Collins, SWCCA chair, explains the reason and reflects on its history.

Community meetings were regular events in the South West from the late 1990s. Many small working groups reported on progress to these meetings. Each group had a particular focus for improvement – from street gardens, lighting, sharing the public space, informing the community via the South West newsletter, and getting to know each other through community events.

The major achievement of that work was the establishment of a community centre in July 2005 at 171 Sturt Street, creating a community-focused meeting place for the South West.

So, when the State Government in 2012 introduced the Development Plan Amendment (DPA) – and, even before it was debated in Parliament, gave a developer permission to build five tall buildings on the former Mayfield site in Sturt Street – locals were incensed.

A rally was organised in Whitmore Square, and out of the large number of residents attending, the South West City Residents Association was formed.

Writing endless submissions and attending



The poster announcing the 2012 rally in Whitmore Square

planning meetings eventually dampened our spirits. We needed some enlivening activities to help people focus on the South West. So SWCCA organised Christmas parties, Neighbour Day gatherings and guided walks during History Month.

We also accepted responsibility for publishing the SW Community newsletter and holding regular community meetings and shared meals at our community centre. We also supported the Walyu Yarta Community Garden by including it as a sub-committee of SWCCA.

The DPA work ground on, as did the need for State and Local Government submissions. SWCCA morphed into SWCCA, meaning a committee-based organisation rather than a membership one.

COVID changed us all, and now that the Planning Code is legislated, and communities like ours are locked out of planning, we have run out of steam.

We thank everyone for their support and encouragement. We trust that as needs arise requiring community action, other South West residents will come forward with a new focus.

End-of-Year Musical Picnic & Plant Sale Sunday 10 December 10.30am to 2.00pm

To celebrate summer and the Festive Season, Walyu Yarta Community Garden will hold a Plant Sale and musical picnic in Veale Gardens.

All you have to do is bring your picnic to Walyu Yarta Community Garden on Sunday 10 December from 10.30am. Plants and seedlings lovingly grown by the gardeners will be on sale as well as gardening books and a trading table.

From 11.00am *The Cornopean Company Orchestra* will perform. You may remember their brass band music from last year. Tea and coffee will be available, plus games to play for children and adults.

So put the date in your diary for an end-of-year picnic accompanied by some splendid music and the chance to snap up a plant bargain, all in Veale Gardens.

Let's Play Adelaide

Instagram: @lets.play.in.adelaide

Some of you might have heard about the Let's Play Adelaide Project, led by two Occupational Therapy Master students, Nhi Do and Nat Lowes, who were supervised by local OT Karen Darling of *green dots OT* on South Terrace.

After meeting locals and researching play needs, Nhi and Nat have created four useful resources for making the most of play in the three Play Spaces along South Terrace. Play builds relationships, confidence, and skills that underpin a child's ability to plan, problem solve challenges and transfer their skills from one activity to another.

It is hoped parents and children will enjoy using these resources. There is a QR code on each Play Space map and if scanned with your phone camera will take you to an Instagram page with more information and activities! Karen is happy for you to contact her directly on 0458 471 648 or karen@greendots.com.au to access the information or provide any feedback.



Our youngest gardener Jonny does the right thing and puts his banana peel in one of the compost bins located at the southern side of the garden

Food Scraps for the Community Garden

by **Sarah Jones**, a SW resident and regular at the Walyu Yarta Community Garden.

Last month Walyu Yarta Community Garden in Veale Gardens needed to purchase compost from Council. It's because we are not producing enough compost for our needs as an organic garden.

If you live close to the garden, or often take a stroll in Veale Gardens, we'd really appreciate it if you could 'bring a bucket' of your organic kitchen scraps to put in one of our black compost bins at the southern side of the garden.

We welcome raw organic matter like pumpkin skins and seeds, potatoes, tomatoes, watermelon, lettuce, banana peels and other fruit and vegetables; in fact, most of your kitchen scraps.

Did you know that our red wiggler composting worms especially like coffee grounds. It's like chocolate for them!

What we don't want in our compost is compostable bin bags, onion and garlic, meat, pre-cooked or processed meals, plastic bags and plastic containers.

If you're unsure about composting or you would like to join us as we continue to plot and take care of this peaceful community garden, our team of volunteers is at the garden on Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30am.

Or you can check us out on our Facebook page facebook.com/walyuyartacommunitygarden2017/

Drop In and Say Hello to ActNow Theatre

ActNow Theatre performs works that engage and challenge audiences by unpacking contemporary social justice issues such as racism, Islamophobia, Climate Change and sexual assault. Its work has been presented in theatres, schools, workplaces, healthcare settings and community spaces.

ActNow recently moved to Gouger Street in the South West and is keen to get to know its local community.

"ActNow creates a space for diverse storytelling," said Ayesha Aggarwal, Marketing and Development Coordinator. "We amplify the voices of traditionally marginalised communities and enable artists to tell their own stories in their own way."

The theatre company is a not-for-profit aiming to make education engaging, activism invigorating and citizenship empowering. "Our work has been commended in SA Parliament, praised by audiences, participants and community organisations," Ayesha said. "Our contribution to the SA arts landscape has been recognised by a number of awards."

ActNow Theatre is at 253 Gouger Street, opposite the Mail Exchange, with entry from Bailey Street. They would welcome anyone from the South West to drop in to say hello and share a coffee. For more details contact ActNow Theatre on 8123 0346 or actnowtheatre.org.au

Here's a very handy and easy-to-use App to report issues to Council: www.snapsendsolve.com

Diary Dates

Community meetings and special events:

Wednesday 6 Sept, 6.15pm for 6.30 start
CITY SOUTH ASSOCIATION AGM
Duke of Brunswick Hotel, Gilbert Street
 Nibbles and light refreshments will be served.
 Guest Speaker: The Hon Lucy Hood MP,
 Member for Adelaide
 If you wish to attend, please RSVP
 to coordinator@citysouth.org.au

Wed 8 Nov 5.30pm
SW COMMUNITY MEETING
 This will be the last community meeting organised by SWCCA. Come along and help us celebrate/commemorate.
Minor Works Building (Downstairs)
Ergo Apartment Bldg. Sturt Street