THE ADELAIDE PARKLANDS
A HISTORY OF ALIENATION

by

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"A detailed history of some of these enroachments (on the Adelaide Parklands) would be amusing, showing how from small beginnings the insignificant hut of the squatter, by adding a piece here and squaring a corner there, has gradually grown into a building of respectable dimensions."

G.S. Kingston
Letter to the Advertiser
12th November 1877.

Sir George Kingston, Speaker of the House of Assembly was Assistant Surveyor General to Colonel William Light in 1836.
This thesis describes the methods by which sections of the Adelaide Parklands have been alienated since 1836.

To complete this task I was fortunate to have the advice of people who read and commented on various chapters. I particularly thank Bill Marchant, former Controller of Drafting Services, Lands Department, recently retired, who is probably the most knowledgeable person on matters related to the government reserves in the Adelaide Parklands. Harry Suckling, the former Deputy Town Clerk of the Adelaide City Council provided comments and gave me access to some valuable private records. My supervisor, Hugh Stretton has stretched my understanding of the subject and attempted to humanise what could be a dry institutional history. Noel Lothian, Retiring Director, Botanic Gardens made some useful comments on Chapter Two. Don Ridley, Manager of Property Services, Public Buildings Department and John Mayfield, Director of Educational Facilities, Education Department read and commented on Chapter Six. Val Ellis, Director of the Health, Parks and Community Services Department, Adelaide City Council made valuable comments on Chapters Seven, Eight and Nine. Finally, Sue Lysiak patiently typed numerous drafts, little realising at the outset, the work involved.
Many other unnamed people indirectly contributed to my understanding of the Adelaide Parklands, being one of the finest examples of urban recreation open space surrounding a major city, but the responsibility of the presentation of the material contained in this thesis must remain mine.
STATEMENT

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any degree or diploma in any University, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by any person, except where due reference is made in the text.

Signed

J.W. DALY
December, 1980.
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INTRODUCTION

Colonel William Light planned either by accident or design, a unique belt of Parklands around Adelaide. This priceless urban open space is recognised as a significant contribution to town planning.

Even before the location of Adelaide was decided by Light in 1836 there was conflict among vested interests. These included Governor Hindmarsh who wanted a city on the coast with an adjacent port. Also there were land hungry settlers who could not wait for surveys to be completed. Other conflicts particularly related to the use of two thousand three hundred acres of prime land that surrounded a growing city provided the underlying theme for this dissertation; hence the title "A History of Alienation".

There were five main reasons for writing this thesis. First, the Adelaide Parklands as an urban park system are of world importance, therefore they merit study in their own right. Second, the vision of the Parklands as conceived by Colonel Light has been blurred by expediency, ad hoc planning, and haphazard development. Therefore the extent of this alienation should be documented. Third, pressure groups have conducted successful campaigns resulting in the alienation of Parklands. The process by which individuals, public institutions and sporting organisations have achieved their objectives is worthy of study. Fourth, conflicts related to the care, control
and management of the Parklands exist between the State Government and the Adelaide City Council. No overall study of the Parklands development has yet been undertaken, therefore an historical development of these matters would be of some value. Fifth, changes in policy by the State Government and the Adelaide City Council over the years have created anomalies. Present day administrators and those interested in the Parklands would do well to understand how past encroachments have occurred.

Special attention has been focused on the planner, Colonel William Light, the first Surveyor-General of South Australia in order to assess the influences from his former experiences and from his contemporaries in Adelaide which helped to shape the idea and reality of the Parklands. The dubious methods by which the Parklands were acquired and purchased by Governor George Gawler, the second Governor of the new colony, are important to document.

Part One concentrates on the government reserves in the Parklands. These are identified and their institutional uses described in detail. Over twenty-seven existing users have in many cases gradually extended their land over time. These include government works depots, rail and bus terminals, educational institutions, cultural facilities, police, gaol and hospital buildings. An additional thirteen institutions no longer use the government reserves, for example the old Police Barracks, Destitute Asylum and old Legislative Council are no longer used for their original purposes.
Part Two discusses the role of the Adelaide City Council as the guardian of the Parklands and how Council management policies related to the Parklands have changed over the years. Emphasis has been placed on the methods by which sporting organisations have been successful in exerting pressure to obtain large areas for their exclusive use. In the final chapter, an attempt is made to trace the changing recreation use of the Parklands by the ordinary people. The values of unstructured recreation use and the natural environment are important as part of the intangible pleasures that many people find from the Parklands.

It could be considered that not all the alienations of the Parklands were detrimental. An attempt has been made to provide information on the underlying reasons behind the alienation of each section. It is up to the reader to make a judgement on whether the alienation was justified. By understanding how these have occurred in the past, maybe future attempts at alienation can be placed in perspective and hopefully prevented.