



## Parks Alive! 2010

Parks Alive! – A South Australian state-wide program of arts, cultural, learning, recreation and environmental activities in neighbourhood parks and reserves on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 October 2010

***Parks Alive! is an initiative of Creative Communities Network (CCN), supported by the State Government's be active and Healthy Parks, Healthy People programs, the Local Government Association (LGA), Community Arts Network of SA (CAN SA) and participating SA metropolitan and regional Councils.***



*(pictures taken from 2007 Parks Alive! Events across Adelaide)*

We are encouraging everybody across South Australia to get out into their local park or reserve at the same time, to enjoy the Spring weather and meet their neighbours.

The Parks Alive! program aims to promote community engagement and the role of Councils in parks and reserves through coordinating a large number of small events and activities taking place across South Australia on the weekend of 30 and 31 October 2010.

Activities which invite people to use their own local park or reserve are encouraged, rather than large Council-organised events or festivals. The focus will be on neighbourhood events: activities organised collaboratively with local communities and residents groups. Like Pack a Picnic, have a party in the park, BBQ's, performances by local musicians and dance groups, games, art and other learning activities, street cricket games – the activities are endless and the fun immeasurable.

Each Parks Alive! event/activity will benefit from State-wide publicity and marketing. It is possible for Councils to participate in the Parks Alive! program without committing any additional budget or resources by programming existing events/ activities to coincide with this date.

## **Parks Alive! Objectives**

- Provide opportunities for the expression of local community identity through a range of community celebrations, cultural activities and events
- Develop public environments as 'Living Spaces' and encourage community capacity building activity in parks and reserves
- Invite and inspire local people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in life-long learning activities
- Raise the profile of state-wide local government collaboration and support for communities
- Foster partnership approaches within Councils (open space services, libraries, cultural, recreation, neighbourhood centres) to community engagement
- To promote physical activity in the community

## **Parks Alive! in your Council area**

Many Councils are already delivering activities and programs which coincide with Parks Alive! and can be promoted as part of the event. The day provides an opportunity for cross department collaboration, encouraging areas such as Community and Cultural Services, Youth, Recreation, Safety, Neighbourhood Centres, Libraries, Environment and Open Space staff to work together in new ways.

### ***Some activities in your area might be:***

- Park parties, BBQs, celebrations in local reserves with 'Meet your Neighbour' theme
- Activities by community and residents groups supported through small grants from Council's Community Grants program
- Performances in the park by local musicians
- Games, arts workshops, story telling and other learning activities
- Learning activities embracing water-use and native vegetation awareness
- 'Come and try' activities by local sports and recreational clubs

### **Rationale**

Local people want to see their neighbourhood parks and reserves used more actively in ways that support people to come together, enjoy themselves and feel part of a connected community. The Local Government Association SA (LGA SA) identifies a need to support greater social cohesion and the development of social capital within our community through an improved cross-Council community engagement approach.

## **Outcomes**

- Increased sense of neighbourliness, and greater engagement of local residents and with their local park or reserve
- Positive profile for Local Government and its role in supporting community enjoyment of open space
- Support for local arts development and provide performance opportunities
- Potential to publicise environmental initiatives within parks and reserves
- Opportunities for multicultural groups to celebrate local cultural diversity in visible way,  
and increase respect for and understanding of diverse cultures
- Inclusive events showcasing parks and reserves as low-cost recreation option
- An active healthy community

*Parks Alive! Council & Community Kits are available on the website*

[www.parksalive.sa.gov.au](http://www.parksalive.sa.gov.au)