



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:  
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/0922  
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.  
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

**Title:**  
Speech at the Opening of the Gazebo Display Village, Flagstaff Hill

Please acknowledge the source as:  
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.  
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/0922

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

MR. HILLAN, MR. COATES, MR. DALTON, MR. SECKER, LADIES & GENTLEMEN:  
THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY TO OPEN YOUR NEW DISPLAY VILLAGE.  
LOOKING BACK OVER THE RECORDS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT I WAS DELIGHTED  
TO FIND THAT, IN DOING SO, I'M FOLLOWING AN ADMIRABLE PRECEDENT  
SINCE THE ESTATE WAS ORIGINALLY OPENED IN 1967 BY THE THEN LABOR  
PREMIER, FRANK WALSH.

GOING BACK A BIT FURTHER, THOUGH, I CAME ACROSS ANOTHER BIT OF  
HISTORY WHICH I'M SURE HOOKER-REX HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO WISH TO REPEAT.  
IT SEEMS THAT IN 1895 A GOLD MINE WAS ESTABLISHED AT FLAGSTAFF.  
AFTER SINKING SEVERAL SHAFTS - ONE OF WHICH WENT DOWN FULLY NINETY  
FEET - THE PROMOTERS FOUND THEMSELVES WITH GOLD WORTH A PRINCELY  
£14/2/8.

YOU COULD BE FORGIVEN, SIR, FOR HOPING THAT REAL ESTATE PROVES A  
MORE VIABLE GOLD MINE!

CERTAINLY YOU ARE WELL PLACED HERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRESENT  
DEVELOPMENTAL TRENDS.

PAGE 2.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF ADELAIDE AND ITS ENVIRONS IS SUCH THAT WE CAN BE  
ASSURED THAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENT WILL BE CONCENTRATED, AS NOW, TO  
THE SOUTH AND NORTH OF THE PRESENT METROPOLITAN AREA. WE CAN LOOK  
FORWARD TO THE CONTINUING RAPID EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS  
AS THIS DEVELOPMENT AND THOSE AROUND IT DEMONSTRATE. INDEED, IT'S  
NOT TOO FAR IN THE FUTURE THAT WE CAN LOOK TO URBAN OR SUBURBAN  
DEVELOPMENT BEYOND NOARLUNGA AS FAR AS WILLUNGA.

IN OVERSEEING EXPANSION OF THIS KIND, I BELIEVE THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
HAS A DUAL RESPONSIBILITY. FIRSTLY IT IS INCUMBENT ON US TO TAKE  
WHAT ACTION WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT LAND PRICES DO NOT ROCKET - AS  
THEY HAVE ELSEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA - BEYOND THE REACH OF THE  
ORDINARY AUSTRALIAN. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TO BE  
WATCHED INCREASINGLY CLOSELY AS PRESSURE ON AVAILABLE LAND INCREASES.  
THE GOVERNMENT'S SECOND RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES  
THIS NEW POPULATION WILL REQUIRE AND TO DO ALL IT CAN TO ENSURE  
THAT THE AREA IS PLANNED FOR PEOPLE RATHER THAN HOUSES OR  
POPULATION UNITS.

I AM WELL AWARE, SIR, THAT THE DEVELOPERS HERE TODAY ARE CONSCIOUS OF THIS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE "A TOTALLY PLANNED COMMUNITY WHICH IS IN HARMONY WITH ITS SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT", INDEED THE WORDS ARE YOURS. AND THERE ARE OTHER EQUALLY WELL PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS AT WEST LAKES AND ATHELSTONE. BUT THIS IS BY NO MEANS GENERALLY TRUE.

WE STILL HAVE WITH US A CORE OF INSTANT SQUALOUR MERCHANTS WHO FEEL THEIR OBLIGATION TO THE HOME OWNERS OF THE FUTURE IS FULLY DISCHARGED ONCE THEY HAVE THOUGHTFULLY RAZED ALL THE TREES AROUND AND LAID OUT A NEW SUBDIVISION ON AN INFLEXIBLE GRID PATTERN. I THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE PLANNING AUTHORITY AND CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS ACROSS THE STATE MUST CAST AN EVER MORE JAUNDICED EYE ON THIS TYPE OF GROWTH.

WE ARE ALL AT PRESENT HIGHLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO PROTECT A FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT. BUT THERE IS MORE TO THIS THAN PREVENTING NOXIOUS EMISSIONS OR PRESERVING NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA.

THERE IS AN AESTHETIC DIMENSION TO PLANNING WHICH IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE.

I SAY THIS NOT AS A RESULT OF FANCIFUL INTELLECTUAL THEORISING BUT OUT OF CONCERN WITH BASIC LIVING STYLES. PEOPLE STUCK IN THE MIDST OF BARREN, STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN HOUSING ESTATES WITH NOTHING TO LOOK ON EXCEPT THE OTHER TICKY-TACKY ON THREE SIDES OF THEM FEEL ISOLATED, DESOLATED AND EVENTUALLY ALIENATED. ON THE OTHER HAND, A HOME IN A PROPERLY PLANNED AND LANDSCAPED AREA IN WHICH THE ROADS CURVE, THE TREES SPREAD AND WHERE HOUSES ARE PROPERLY SITED, MAYBE ON ROADS, MAYBE FACING COMMONLAND, MAYBE IN CLUSTERS, FEEL PART OF A COMMUNITY AND IDENTIFY STRONGLY WITH IT. THOUGHTFUL, PEOPLE-CENTRED PLANNING OF THIS TYPE ISN'T A PIPE DREAM - THE EXISTENCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT SHOWS IT CAN BE GOOD BUSINESS. IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY DEMANDED IN THE FUTURE. IT'S THE JOB OF STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO ENCOURAGE IT AND - SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY - TO REQUIRE IT.

BEFORE LEAVING THE MATTER OF THE AESTHETICS OF DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE THERE'S ONE OTHER POINT I'D LIKE TO MAKE.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE, SIR, THAT HOME OWNERS HERE ARE DISCOURAGED FROM ERECTING CORRUGATED IRON FENCES. NOW CORRUGATED IRON HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN OUR DEVELOPMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE SERIOUSLY CHALLENGES THE SUGGESTION THAT STUCK AROUND HOUSES, IT'S UGLY.

DRIVING TO MURRAY BRIDGE THE OTHER DAY I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING WHAT THE DIFFERENCE WAS BETWEEN THE ADELAIDE HILLS AND PARTS OF GERMANY WHICH I'D RECENTLY VISITED. THE TOPOGRAPHY WAS SIMILAR - IF ANYTHING THE HILLS WERE MORE ATTRACTIVE. BUT SOMETHING JARRED. THEN I REALISED, IT WAS THAT RUSTING RASH OF CORRUGATED IRON. BELIEVE ME, IN ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO USE SOME OTHER MATERIAL YOU HAVE MY FULLEST PERSONAL SUPPORT.

SIR, FLAGSTAFF HILL IS ONE OF ADELAIDE'S MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS. IT'S A VERY GOOD ONE.

YOU'VE GIVEN A LEAD HERE SHOWING WHAT FORETHOUGHT AND CAREFUL PLANNING CAN ACHIEVE. IT NOW GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE TO NAME IT THE GAZEBO DISPLAY VILLAGE AND OFFICIALLY TO DECLARE IT OPEN.

THANK YOU.