

historic features

Centennial Park is Sydney's only example of an English-style suburban Park. The character of the Park's statues and traditional buildings is predominantly Victorian, the era in which it was designed.

Sculpture

Statues and sculptures were used in the Victorian period to accentuate intersections between roads and paths and to add interest to drives and gardens. Originally there were more than 31 statues in the Park. Vandalism and theft have reduced their number to two. One of the original sculptures, a woman and child in classical pose, sits atop a sandstone column west of the Column Garden. Brought to the park in 1890, the column is from the portico of the old Australian Museum. The statue was made by the famous Luxembourg pottery company, Villeroy and Boch.

Another survivor from the Park's early days is the Italianate 'We won' statue in the Cannon Triangle. Cast in 1893 by Italian sculptor Tommaso Sani, this striking 2.1 metre bronze artwork is of an heroic footballer with Apollo's face. The figure stands on a cylindrical pedestal decorated with panels of rugby-playing cherubs. Eight small bronze lions surround the statue. The two cannons guarding the sculpture are from the Crimean War.

On the corner of Parkes and Hamilton Drives, a 2.4 metre bronze statue of Sir Henry Parkes greets people arriving through the Paddington Gates. Parkes was one of the founders of Centennial Park. Created by sculptor Alan Somerville and unveiled in 1996, this statue replaces the original which was destroyed in the early 1970s.

Superintendent's Residence

Well-known colonial architect, James Barnet, designed this single-storey sandstone cottage as a gatehouse. Located next to the Paddington Gates, it was built in 1891, though the south-east corner was added in the early 1900s. Beautifully-detailed timber columns support the cottage's bull-nose verandah. The cottage also features ornate, timber-worked gables and eaves. The Residence is open to visitors on Wednesdays and weekends from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Gates and Fencing

All eight sets of entrance gates into Centennial Park were built between 1887 and 1900. With their massive carved stone pillars and ornate design, the Paddington Gates are the most imposing. These gates were built for the park's official dedication in 1888. A plaque on the street-side of the gates celebrates this event. Work on the cast-iron fence surrounding the Park also commenced in 1888.

Park Ranger's and surrounding houses

The Park Ranger's house sits on the crest of a small hill near the Robertson Road Gates. Built as the Park Foreman's residence in 1898, the house is a fine example of Federation-style architecture. It features decorative timber fretwork, brackets and pillars, and multi-panelled windows. This house is not open to visitors.

In Martin Road, behind the Park Ranger's house, you can see fine old residences built between the turn of the century and 1925. Houses in Martin and Lang Roads are built on land originally sold to help fund the park's development. Strict design standards were imposed to make sure the Park was surrounded by elegant homes.

Shelter Pavilion

The Shelter Pavilion stands in the centre of the Park near Randwick Pond. Built in 1898 to provide shelter in bad weather, the pavilion's sandstone walls and pillars support typical Federation features such as terracotta roof shingles, exposed rafters and lattice work.



Centennial Parklands is managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust
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Federation Pavilion

On 1 January 1901, thousands of people gathered in Federation Valley to celebrate the union of six independent colonies into the Federation of Australia. In an ornamental pavilion made of plaster, the nation's first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, and Federal Ministers were sworn in around the Commonwealth Stone.

This six-sided stone representing the uniting colonies was erected on a sandstone pedestal after the plaster pavilion deteriorated and was removed. In 1988 the Federation Pavilion, a new, classically-inspired building designed by Australian architect Alexander Tzannes, was built on this site. Made of concrete and sandstone, this pavilion was restored for the Centenary of Federation in 2001.

Moore Park sandstone gateway

Moore Park was opened in 1869. By the end of the century it was Sydney's most popular sporting and entertainment precinct. The tall, ornate, sandstone gateway now on the corner of Anzac Parade and Moore Park Road was erected to mark the Park's opening.

Sydney's first zoo

Moore Park was once the site of Sydney's first zoo and included a bear pit and elephant house. Sydney Girls' High School (1920) and Sydney Boys' High School (1928) and are now on this site.

Kippax Lake

Near the Sydney Cricket Ground lies Kippax Lake, named in 1888 after the council alderman and mayor, William Kippax. A sculpture dedicated to Australian sportswomen and a fountain were added when the lake was remodelled in 1967.

Anzac Parade obelisk

Anzac Parade was originally called Randwick Road. In 1917 a striking sandstone obelisk dedicated to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps was erected at the start of the road after it was renamed Anzac Parade. The obelisk was designed and constructed by R H Brodrick, the city architect.

Cricketer's Memorial

The Moore Park Cricket Association installed a drinking fountain near the corner of Cleveland and South Dowling Streets, dedicated to the memory of comrades who fell in the Great War of 1914 - 1918.

Former Tollhouse

Golf has been played at Moore Park since 1907. In 1927 the Moore Park Golf Club was built on top of Mt Rennie. The site also houses the former tollhouse built in 1860.



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