

2.0 PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

2.1 Introduction

Due to the size and complexity of the project a full inventory, including photographs is reproduced in Volume 3, Appendix G of the Conservation Management Plan. This section provides an overview of that physical assessment and is based on physical assessments undertaken by Conybeare Morrison & Partners project team in June and July 2001.

All photographs in this section, unless otherwise indicated, were taken by Conybeare Morrison & Partners in 2001.

2.2 Natural Environment

Geology & Topography

- Climatic and edaphic (geographic, soil and geological) factors have limited tree growth across the Parklands. This has been reduced in recent times by the favourable microclimatic effects produced by mature tree plantings.
- The original remaining soil type is Botany Sands, with Hawkesbury Sandstone outcrops. This provides evidence that the Parklands lies on the boundary between these two soil types.
- Substantial modifications were made to the landscape in the late 1800s and in many areas fill has been used. Original sands are typically identified by their whiteness, having been leached of nutrients.
- The remnant sanddunes include Mount Steele (although highly modified on its northern aspect), the York Road area extending into Centennial Park, the Bird Sanctuary, Parade Ground Pine Grove, Randwick Gates Pine Grove and the Kensington Pond dune. Some of these areas support remnant vegetation known as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS).
- An area of poor tree growth occurs in the centre of Federation Way, opposite the intersection of Lang Road and Errol Flynn Boulevard. Investigations in 1998 revealed that this area sits astride a shallow sandstone peninsula, restricting access to the water table. Alluvial deposits were also found in this location, leading the investigation to conclude that the ancient shore of Botany Bay was once located there. The lowlying topography connecting this site to Botany Bay supports this conclusion.

Catchment Hydrology

- The Parklands Ponds system is a modified remnant of the original wetlands at the head of the Botany Bay catchment. The catchment function of the Parklands remains, with stormwater and surface runoff collecting in the Parklands and the vast and shallow groundwater table underlying the Parklands, before continuing downstream to the Botany Wetlands and Botany Bay.

Natural Areas & Biodiversity

- The Parklands contains rare remnants of the original Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. It is an endangered ecological community protected under State and Commonwealth legislation. The condition and size of these areas is variable and their viability requires further investigation due to the presence of fill material and invasive weed species. The Trust has an obligation to protect and preserve remnants of this vegetation type and to maintain their viability where possible.

- Other vegetation in the Parklands, while not original, provides habitat for a diversity of fauna.
- The Ponds system also provides habitat for indigenous and migratory birds, fish, turtles and frogs.

2.3 Indigenous Evidence

Areas associated with Indigenous use of the land are numerous but not well documented. Indigenous evidence of the place is an ongoing process. Studies include assembling recorded oral histories from various collections. Known Indigenous items and uses include the following:

- **Queens Park rock shelter** with associated rock art.
- **Darvall Road engravings** (now destroyed, but recorded in colonial times).
- **Toll House area** King Billy Timberly of La Perouse, reportedly the first Indigenous person employed in the area, operated a toll gate c.1860.
- **Indigenous Pathways** There is evidence that pathways were located through and around the perimeter of the swamplands and along the original ridges of the watershed between the Botany Bay wetlands system and Sydney Harbour. Colonial documents record travel along roads which now form the boundaries of Centennial Park and Moore Park.
- **Water Bodies** The water bodies are reported to have been used by Indigenous people over many years. The Lachlan Swamps may have been a place where family and other groups travelling through Gadigal clan territory rested, gathered resources, made implements and hunted. Remnants of the many plants that were originally plentiful here, including some seasonal fruits have survived. The associated presence of fresh water and food sources provides evidence that this area may have been used for overnight or other camps.
- **Lachlan Swamp** The Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail, constructed in 1998 by Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation, includes information about the wetlands and is important to Indigenous communities.
- **Ash Paddock** The Guriwal Bushtucker Trail is another site worked on by Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation CDEP trainees as part of their 1998 work program. Recent works have cleared weeds and replaced interpretive material on bushtucker foods.
- **Plants** Remnant vegetation sites in the Parklands and Lachlan Swamp contain indigenous plants used as sources of food, tools and medicine.
- **Indigenous Fauna** Small animals and birds frequented the area when the original ecology was in place. The removal of indigenous trees and fauna habitat contributed to the decline, however, recent replanting has encouraged a significant increase in bird life.
- **Picnic Area** between Busby's Pond and Randwick Pond – site of annual picnic held by Eastern Suburbs Organisation for Reconciling Australia (ESORA).
- **Storytelling spaces** Interpretive tours for school and other groups are now conducted, assisted by signage, artworks and replica tools to inform participants.

2.4 Archaeological Evidence

Background

The report provides an assessment of both the pre- and post-1788 archaeological potential for archaeological remains within the study area.

The assessment of potential for pre-colonial remains to exist in the study area is found in the report by Dr Val Attenbrow (Vol.3 AppendixS). The post-contact historic land-use assessment completed by Tony Lowe indicates the type of archaeological remains likely to be present in the study area. Volume 3, Appendix B contains the full Lowe report.

Assessment of Pre-Colonial Indigenous Archaeological Potential of the Study Area

Low to medium archaeological potential (that might render evidence of high significance) is considered to exist for Tuggerah soils, Aquatic pond soils, boggy soils and areas underlying filled playing areas, as long as the level of disturbance does not extend to bedrock or pre-human land surface.

Assessment of Post-Contact non-Indigenous Archaeological Potential of the Study Area

Phase 1: The Sydney Common

The *archaeological potential* of this phase is assessed as minimal, with possible remnants of footings of one of two mills located within the northern Parklands.

Phase 2: Sydney's Water Supply

The *archaeological potential* of this period includes the route of Busby's Bore, the site of the pump house at the swamp end (presumably powered by a steam engine), and various embankments and dams built to alter the swamps. There may be remains of the 1840's Ranger's house with two enclosed gardens and the platform of a second steam engine associated with Busby's pond.

Phase 3: Centennial Parklands

Activities such as landscaping, construction of roads, garden beds, ponds and dam embankments in this phase led to disturbance of evidence from earlier phases. Various buildings dating from this period fall under the provisions of the *Heritage Act* (1977)

General Results

Centennial Parklands has a restricted archaeological potential. Potential sites for post-contact non-Indigenous remains are shown in Figure 2.1

- Busby's Bore
- Sites of steam engines
- Dam embankments
- Remains of buildings in Frog Hollow dating to the 1840s
- Site of mill
- Administration and accommodation buildings from the Centennial Park period
- Tollhouse
- Proposed cemetery

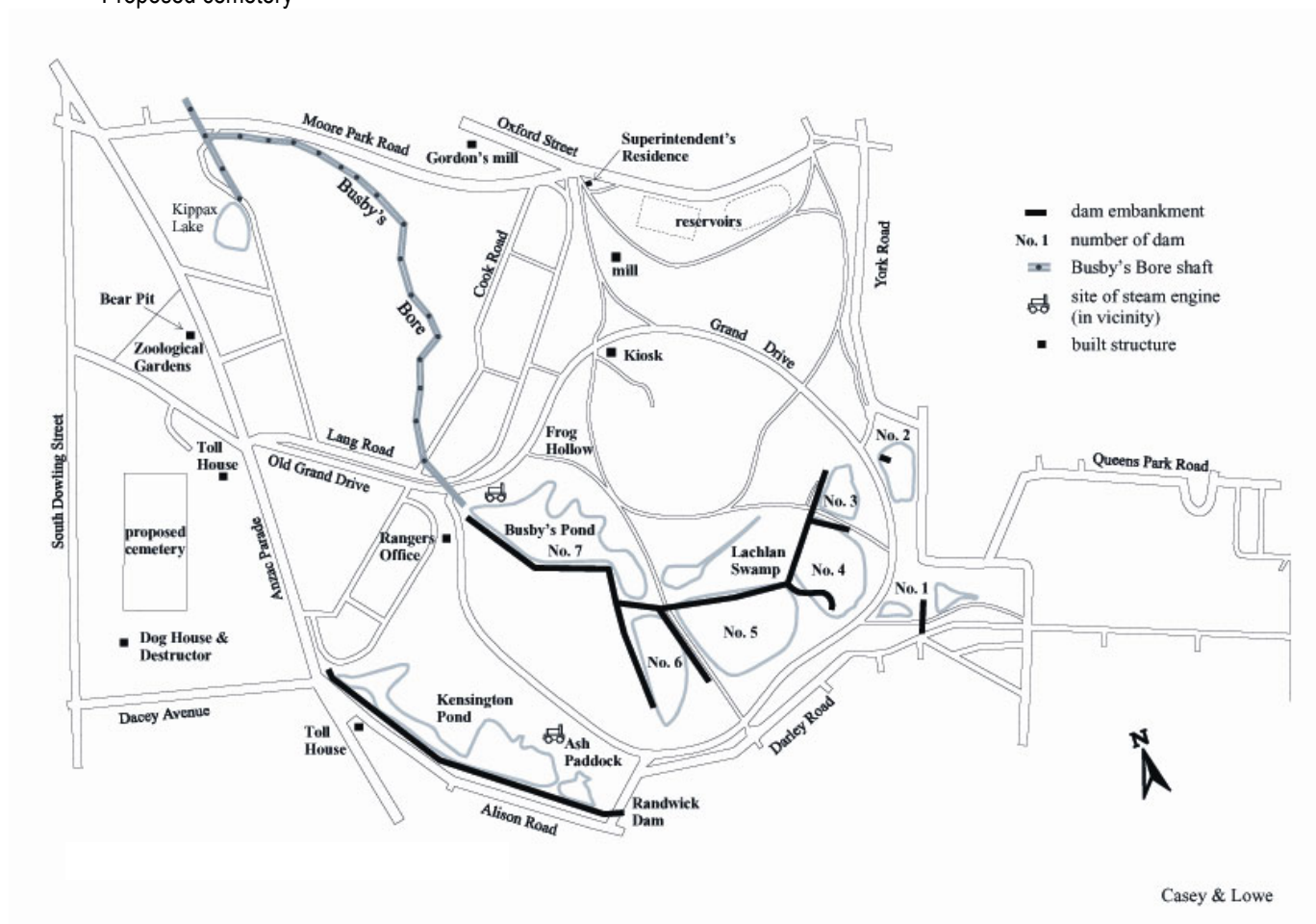


Figure2.1 Plan showing archaeological potential. Source: Casey & Lowe, 2001

2.5 Landscape

Six major influences have given Centennial Parklands' landscape its overall character and configuration:

- Natural evolution and ecological processes;
- Indigenous occupation and management;
- Establishment of the Sydney Common in 1811;
- Creation of part of the Common as the Lachlan Water Reserve in 1820 and the modification and management of wetlands and water courses; and
- The transformation of the Common lands into three public parks during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Each with its own distinctiveness and varied recreational uses; and
- Ongoing management and evolution of the cultural landscape.

The overall landscape character unites the Parklands. In particular, the consistent use of plants, especially figs and evergreen oaks. The landscape is consistent with Victorian period planting and is defined by expanses of grassed fields surrounded by umbrageous trees. Late 19th century picturesque landscape plantings include occasional groves and clumps of trees which contrast and punctuate views, the minimal use of shrubs to maintain the flow of space and provide areas of useful shade, as well as the various ornamental ponds, gardens, monuments, statues and artworks which form focal points within the parklands. Changes in planting have occurred and reflect fashion and the influence of a relatively small number of people.

The spatial structure of Moore Park is a broad, flat and low lying area punctuated by modified remnant sandhills and water bodies with relatively straight lines of plantings following road alignments. Linear plantings have subdivided the park into a series of spaces, open in character yet defined by walls of trees. In contrast, Centennial Park and Queens Park are partially contained by Hawkesbury Sandstone that has eroded into terraced slopes, gullies and cliffs. Queens Park is dominated by a central terraced area of grass with contrasting edges of natural cliffline and planted roadside forming the Darley Road alignment. A dwarf sandstone wall along the western edge of Queens Park is similar to the wall around Centennial Park which reflects changing boundaries.

Centennial Park is distinguished from Moore and Queens Park by features such as a dwarf stone wall with iron palisade perimeter fence; a series of sandstone gates and associated lodges which mark the major access points; Grand Drive with its associated avenue plantation, and the picturesque quality of vistas and views across ponds and open fields punctuated by informal and ornamental plantings. The design was modified by a succession of Directors, Head Gardeners, Overseers, Superintendents, Landscape Gardeners and Landscape Architects as they responded to site conditions, Indigenous plants and changing styles.

Landforms

The original natural landforms have been considerably modified to adapt to engineering and architectural works and the varying aesthetic interests of a public park. Landforms have contributed to the landscape character and spatial quality of the Parklands and are identified as follows:



Gully



Cliff



Steep Terraced Slope of Mt Steele

- **The plateaux** are mostly man-made and form the upper surface of the reservoirs and a small section of Queen's Park.
- **The ridges** are associated with the weathered sandstone geology which outcrops in places and is covered with aeolian sand deposits. This results in steep slopes and gentle undulations. There is considerable survival of outcrops.
- **Steep slopes** are mostly man-modified areas of the natural topography or associated with structures such as the Reservoir, Road and Pond embankments. More natural, yet modified, steep slopes occur as part of the sand dune formation overlying the sandstone geology.
- **The Gentle Slopes** dominate the Central Zone and the majority of Queen's Park and have been adapted for various public functions but most commonly for active sport.
- Gullies include modified natural landforms that discrete drainage catchment of an apparent natural character and exhibit a degree of spatial enclosure.
- **Cliff** refers to a natural sandstone formation location at the eastern end of Queen's park. The vertical drop provides an element of contrast in the setting of the Park.
- **Sand hills** are almost isolated, well vegetated, hillocks and are represented by the Bird Sanctuary in the Central Zone and a hill immediately west of the Darley Road Entrance gates.
- **Islands** are both man-made and natural. Man-made islands are free-form low hillocks, densely planted so as to obscure the landform and create a sense of romantic gardenesque placement within the ponds.

Tree Population Overview

The total tree population across the four main areas of Centennial Parklands is over 11,500 individual trees. This total population includes over 115 different tree species and at least 59 genera. The largest variety of specimens and species are concentrated within Centennial Park.

Centennial Park

The current tree population of approximately 7900 trees in Centennial Park represents the most diverse mix within the Parklands with at least 95 different species within 51 genera. In spite of this apparent diversity of species, the population is numerically dominated by a few tree species. The two most dominant tree species are *Melaleuca quinquenervia*; and *Pinus pinaster*.

Although visually dominant within the five to six areas in which these groves of Maritime Pines and Melaleucas occur, they only form part of the broader palette of trees associated with Centennial Park, in particular, the large Figs, Holly Oaks and Norfolk Island Pines that dominate Grand Drive and that are distributed throughout the park.

A large proportion of these numerically and visually dominant trees are in the mature to over mature age category. Many are in a state of reduced vigour and decline. Many specimens, particularly those along Grand Drive, have been adversely impacted upon by modifications to the soil conditions and ongoing usage compaction will limit the opportunities to improve the viability of many of these specimens.



Phoenix canariensis



Araucaria heterophylla

Moore Park

Moore Park has approximately 1140 specimens. The species mix is limited to 44 species among 25 genera. Numerically and visually, the most dominant species in Moore Park are the Morton Bay and Port Jackson Fig trees. Older specimens are in a declined state and numbers have been boosted by replacements.

Queens Park

Queens Park has a total tree population of approximately 460 trees. Generally, there is a very limited species mix of only 25 species among 14 genera. Reliance on only a small number of large trees species presents a problem due to the short life span of many of these species.

Moore Park Golf Course and ES Marks Field

Surveys suggest that the tree population totals approximately 2000 specimens. There is a fairly diverse species mix of at least 50 different species.

The Golf Course contains a higher proportion of longer-lived species critical to the core and perimeters of the fairways. There are however, areas of highly modified soils that have restricted successful tree planting. These will require extensive amelioration to establish long lived specimens in the exposed areas of the site.

Visually dominant species have been assessed as mature to over-mature or have structural defects which reduces their viability.

Trees within ES Marks Field are restricted to the perimeter and tend to be smaller growing, short-lived species. The high proportion of Olives along the western edge of the site pose an ongoing weed problem. Groups of Peppercorn and Fig trees near the southeastern edge have the potential to be visually prominent.

Weed species threaten the viability of other species. Wattles provide a strong visual impact on the landscape in some areas and need to be managed due to their short life span. Eucalyptus spp. suffer from poor growing conditions.

Plantings

Centennial Park

Centennial Park features recreational fields, gardens, ponds, varied woodland and avenue plantations, and contains the greatest diversity of landscape character in the Parklands. Feature plantings in the Parklands that give it a strong identity include Grand Drive, the paperback and palm avenues, the fig dominated woodland rim of the park, the display gardens in Frog Hollow, the ponds, Federation Triangle, Snake Gully, and the Parade Grounds.

Many of the plantings in Centennial Park are entering a stage of decline. Those at risk are the avenue plantations on Grand Drive, and all the palm avenues. Other poorly performing plantings are the indigenous species planted in the 1960s. A low maintenance regime in a number of the woodland plantings is leading to the proliferation of self-sown species and diminished spatial quality.

Some landscapes are less defined than others. The diversity found in the park is a major part of its appeal to many visitors. An emerging issue affecting the cultural landscape is the growing awareness of the



Pinus radiata



Quercus



Salix babylonica

value of indigenous flora and fauna and the need to provide wildlife habitat.

Moore Park

Moore Park is a series of playing fields segmented by major and secondary roads. The distinct landscape character of Moore Park is one of large-scale elements, comprising extensive avenues of majestic figs which line the roadways and set off the expansive fields.

The physical fabric of this cultural landscape is affected by the encroachment of urban development. The fig plantings, many over 100 years old, are in a state of gradual deterioration due to age and stress. Work on Federation Way, undertaken in 2001 was intended to strengthen the historical character and the physical link between the Parklands and the city.

Moore Park Golf Course

Moore Park Golf Course covers approximately one third of Moore Park. The topography of the golf course has been modified several times since its construction in 1927. Much of the planting has occurred since the 1960s. There are over 10 species of trees and shrubs in the Golf Course creating highly varied belts and groves throughout.

Restrictive growing conditions, poor stock and planting techniques have resulted in many stunted and/or poor specimens throughout the course.

Queens Park

Queens Park is notable for the dramatic contrast between its steep, wooded sandstone cliff face and the series of playing fields below. The dominant tree species in Queens Park provide visual continuity between Centennial Park and itself. However, physical continuity is impeded and unplanned. The condition of mature trees is a safety issue.

Shrubs and older plantings on the northern and eastern slopes of Queens Park provide shelter and seasonal colour.

Surfaces

Surfaces include roads and paths. These two elements have been put together because of their like functions, although a distinction is made between pedestrian, vehicular and equestrian use. A further distinction of the vehicular use is that of motor vehicle and bicycle use.

- Pre 1890's roads and paths were formed out of compacted earth and tramways ran along some peripheral roads.
- Centennial Park was initially intended as a suburban drive for equestrian and carriage use. The main drive evolved as a main entrance road, main road and drive.
- Initial construction materials of roads impeded cycling and equestrian traffic.
- Various road closures and construction techniques were employed over the years to manage large volumes of vehicular traffic.
- Footpaths allowed for new plantings.



Walking path, Grand Drive



Example of various surface material used in Centennial Park



Swamp Drainage

- Improvements in road construction resulted in increased traffic speeds causing damage to trees. Kerbing was introduced to prevent undesirable parking activity.
- Resurfacing of pedestrian footways, new footpaths and widening of entrances facilitated pedestrian entry and exit and increased casual and competitive walking.

Gate closures, traffic lights, new cycle tracks, and a one-way traffic direction are some of the methods employed over the years to cope with this problem.

Ponds and Drainage

Centennial Park

- Marshes, fed by natural aquifers, were transformed into dams during the Water Reserve phase. Dams were reconstructed throughout that time. This has influenced the layout of ponds and the design of Centennial Park. Present ornamental water bodies reflect the early layout. Each of the ponds has an individual character.
- Centennial Park continues to function as a drainage basin.
- Several rusticated sandstone bridges for both pedestrian and vehicular use cross the drainage lines and enhance the nineteenth character of the park.
- Water supply associations with the Park have resulted in the construction of three reservoirs. Formerly, playing fields have been used on their surfaces. Recently restoration works have been undertaken.
- Siltation has been a persistent maintenance issue for the ponds and open drains in Centennial Park.

Queens Park

The removal of a dam wall across the park and the reclamation and leveling of the swampy areas provided the current active sport areas.

Moore Park, Moore Park Golf Course and E S Marks Field

Kippax Lake is the only water body to remain in Moore Park. All other swampy areas have been filled and levelled for playing fields. The pond has been urbanised with constructed edgings and base.

York Road Remnant, Alison Road and Dacey Street corner

There are no drainage lines, ponds or bridges within these areas.

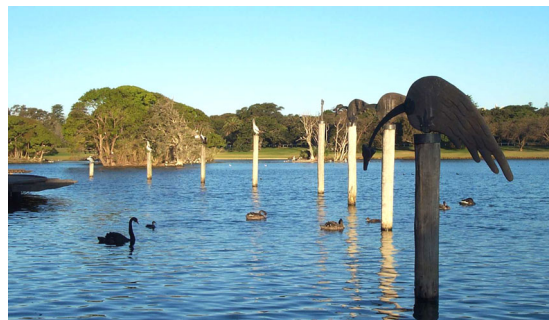
2.6 Built Fabric

Buildings

Buildings in the Centennial Parklands can be listed according to their function: residences, water supply buildings, depot buildings, pavilions and amenities (including toilets). The majority of the buildings within the Centennial Parklands are the work of the NSW Government Architect's Office.

Centennial Park

There are thirty-three buildings within Centennial Park which date to the establishment of the Park. Sandstone prevails as a building material and harmonizes with structures such as gates and fences. Most of the subsequent buildings, other than toilets and sports facilities were introduced during JH Maiden's period of influence. Buildings are



Duck Pond. Source Centennial Parklands



One More Shot Pond



Golf Clubhouse



Vernon Pavilion

generally in a good/fair condition. The Superintendent's Residence was refurbished in 2001.

Some recent buildings and structures, notably the Federation Pavilion (1988) and Federation Place (2001) are the result of open and selective architectural competitions. Some of the new toilet pavilions are Architect designed.

Queens Park

The four Queens Park buildings erected between 1932-1988 are mostly utilitarian in nature. All are in good condition and generally provide the necessary facilities for the playing fields.

Moore Park

There are thirteen buildings in Moore Park erected between the 1890s and 2000. Generally the buildings are in good condition. Amenities built and maintained by sporting bodies tend to be in a poor condition and visually intrusive.

Moore Park Golf Course

Buildings in the Moore Park Golf Course primarily relate to the 1927 Golf Clubhouse and associated facilities. The earliest and most significant building is the Golf Club Depot (formerly the 1860 Toll House).

E. S. Marks Field Precinct

The buildings at the E.S. Marks field, erected 1936, are utilitarian and directly related to the successful operation of a track and field sporting venue. Generally they are in reasonable condition. The Centennial Park Children's Centre located to the north of E S Marks, erected in 1998 is in excellent condition.

York Road Bush Site and Tay Reserve

There are no buildings on either Tay Reserve or the York Road Bush Site.

Structures

This includes the following built items: fences, gateways, retaining walls, steps, bridges and pergolas.

Centennial Park

- Sandstone gateways flanked by sandstone and palisade fencing contribute to the Centennial Parkland's character. Generally, maintenance is required to prevent deterioration.
- Ramps and stairs accommodate changes in levels throughout the park. They are in good condition and require minor maintenance

Queens Park

- Timber post and rail fences around Queens Park are located on three sides. A low sandstone wall is located along York Road. There is no formal entrance. Further investigation is required to establish if the sandstone base is part of an early palisade fence and the extent of any palisade fencing surrounded this section of the Parklands.
- Graded walkways and concrete steps lead down to Queens Park playing fields.



Toilet Amenities, Paddington Gates



Stairs in Centennial Park leading up to Reservoir



Duck Pond Fence



Fence formerly used to protect Commonwealth Stone

Moore Park

- A variety of fence styles delineate the Moore Park boundaries. These include the 19th century sandstone and palisade fences and sandstone gates and remnants of the original gateposts. Further investigation needs to be carried out to establish the extent of the early sandstone and palisade fencing.
- There are also timber fences, concrete bollards and chain metal security fences.
- Original fabric from the inroads into the park has been removed.
- Generally all fences are in good condition. The overlay of differing styles is incongruous and confusing.



Moore Park Gate Posts

Moore Park Golf Course

The fences in the Golf Course are generally minimalist timber post and rail. Some are in very poor condition. Gateways are galvanized pipe vehicular gates. Three sets of sandstone steps are located to the east of the 1927 Golf Club.

ES Marks Field

Fences and gates around the boundary E S Marks Field are utilitarian in nature. Steps up to the spectators seating and the seating itself are of concrete.

York Road Remnant and Tay Reserve

Tay Reserve contains a dwarf sandstone wall along the Alison Road frontage. The York Road Remnant was fenced for rehabilitation works in 2003.

2.7 Moveable Heritage

Statues & Monuments

Statues

Centennial Park

In the original design for Centennial Park a total of 31 terracotta figures and statues ornamented the park and were used as a Victorian device to accentuate points of intersection and interest. Original sculptures included allegorical figures and political leaders. Most of these sculptures are no longer extant, with the exception of two sculptures on columns in the vicinity of the rose garden. The bronze sculpture "We Won" (also known as the "Footballer") was commissioned specifically for Centennial Park and displays a high quality of execution by the well-known sculptor, Sani.



"We Won" Sculpture

Moore Park

A fountain and sculpture, designed by Diana Hunt, is located in the centre of Kippax Lake. The sculpture portrays a female athlete and is constructed in metal on a concrete base.

There are no sculptures in Queens Park, Moore Park Golf Course, Tay Reserve, the York Road Remnant or the ES Marks Field.



A Renny Fountain

Monuments

Centennial Park

Centennial Park is itself a monument celebrating the 100th anniversary of European settlement in Australia. The Paddington gates contain plaques that acknowledge this status.

Centennial Park and Queens Park

The Swearing-in Pavilion was constructed in Centennial Park during 1900 for the declaration of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901 and removed in 1903. In April 1904 the Commonwealth Stone was erected on a pedestal on the site of the Pavilion. The Commonwealth Stone still stands in the same location within the Federation Pavilion, designed by Alexander Tzannes and opened on 1st January, 1988.

Numerous other monuments are located throughout the Parklands. Included amongst these are the Brolga Gate and Busby's Bore Commemorative Cairn.

Moore Park

Many of the monuments in Moore Park also serve a functional purpose. Water fountains in particular, form part of the monuments. These include the so-called Renny fountains, and the Cricketers' Association WWI Memorial. There is also a boundary stone from the earlier boundaries of the city of Sydney located in the Bat and Ball area. The Anzac Parade Obelisk, located on the traffic island on Anzac Parade, marks the opening of the remodeled roadway.

Tay Reserve

Tay Reserve contains a monument marking the site of the Randwick Road Tollhouse. An explanatory plaque has been removed.

Furniture and Services

Furniture and Services include fixed and moveable items that contribute to the heritage character and setting of Centennial Parklands, due to their design.

Fixed items include; Bollards, Water fountains, Signs, Vehicle barriers, Sundial, Exercise equipment, Children's playground equipment, Horse trough, Bicycle track, B.B.Q., Rubbish bin, Sewer vent pipes, Grates and pit covers, Flagpoles

Moveable items include; Seats, Seat and table, Rubbish bin, Cricket practice nets, Football posts, Equestrian equipment, Viewing stands and Tree guards

Most of the items have been introduced in recent years (1970's and 1980's). The older items include: cast iron bollards (c1930), cast iron bubblers, sewer vents.

Artworks & Collections

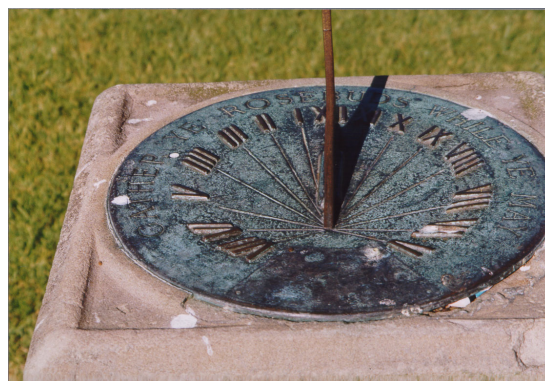
The Parklands has a growing collection of artworks and archival material relating to the Parklands. A collection of artworks by Austin Platt was given to the Parklands and is now being expanded. Other artists who have depicted the Parklands in art include Howard Ashton and Roland Waiklin. These works illustrate the condition of the Parklands at points in time and are a window into how the Parklands is perceived and valued as a place of aesthetic and social significance.



Seating for Public



Children's Playground Equipment



Sundial



Sculptural Bollard

2.8 Leisure and Sport

Centennial Parklands incorporates a number of distinct areas that cater for different aspects of leisure and sport. The main areas are described below, together with details of facilities and places that are considered to be of particular social value from a heritage and community perspective. The relevant Centennial and Moore Park Trust visitor management precincts are also indicated.

Leisure and sport are defined as follows:

Leisure refers to a diversity of less formal recreation activities such as walking, walking the dog, jogging, cycling, horse riding, picnics, play, exercise for health, social gatherings, events, participation in art or culture, or simply relaxing or appreciating the environment.

Sport is generally more structured and involves a commitment of time to a physical activity, possibly as part of a competition. This could include field sports such as soccer, cricket, softball, hockey and athletics, outdoor court sports such as tennis, netball or basketball, more structured equestrian activities such as a show jumping event, a game of golf or use of the driving range, or various indoor sports such as indoor basketball or competition swimming.

Moore Park (Precinct 2)

The precinct has a strong formalised sport and recreation focus. It incorporates the 18 hole Moore Park Golf Course and driving range, outdoor tennis and netball courts, playing fields and the ES Marks athletics facility. The precinct also includes viewing points from Mount Steele. Facilities and places include:

- The 18-hole Group 1 public golf course (only Group 1 public golf course in the region).
- The built structures of ES Marks and capacity of the facility to cater for organised sports, eg athletics events, fitness training, field sports.

Queens Park (Precinct 3)

The precinct incorporates a large expanse of playing fields and undulating and vegetated areas suitable for informal recreation, eg walking, children's play and picnics. It has a strong sports focus, but is also utilised for informal activity. The playing fields are a resource established since the 1930's for various sports and schools.

Central Centennial Park (Precinct 4)

The precinct incorporates large open expanses suitable for events, playing fields for various sports, picnic and play areas, natural vegetation areas and a number of ponds that provide appealing informal recreation settings. Facilities and places include:

- Parade Grounds and Brazilian Fields as spaces for large events and sporting use.
- Centennial Square is a paved marquee site for more formalised events.
- Rose Garden and Column Garden as more formal spaces for picnics and recreation.
- The various ponds as a focus for informal recreation including Busby's Pond, Randwick Pond, Duck Pond, Lily Pond, Willow Pond and Fly Casting Pond.



Amphitheatre



Dog Walking. Source: Centennial Parklands



School Sports. Source: Centennial Parklands

- The availability of dog walking areas, as a limited opportunity in an urban environment.

Outer Centennial Park (Precinct 5)

The precinct represents all land on the outer side of Grand Drive and has a strong focus on catering for informal recreation. It includes natural vegetated areas and open expanses, and provides viewing points along Reservoir No. 2. Facilities and places include:

- Federation Valley and Belvedere Amphitheatre as spaces for key events and social gatherings.
- Ash Paddock, Musgrave Area and Sandstone Ridge as more natural informal spaces.
- Pond areas as a focus for informal recreation, including Large Kensington Pond, Model Yacht Pond, One More Shot Pond and Musgrave Pond.
- A diversity of dog walking areas and particularly the 'off leash' areas as a limited opportunity in an urban environment.



Eastern Distributor at Moore Park edge

Roads (Precinct 6)

The road system in the Centennial Parklands and particularly Centennial Park supports a range of recreation and sport activities including walking, cycling (through the dedication of part of the main roadway), and equestrian activity (across roadways to a dedicated track). The roads also provide access to the inner areas of the Parklands for picnics and relaxation. Facilities and places include:

- Grand Drive as a resource for cycling and other non-motorised wheel based activity.
- Federation Way as an avenue for walkers and cyclists and as a link between Moore Park and Centennial Park.
- Centennial Park roads and gates linking the Parklands (on the perimeter).

2.9 Context of Centennial Parklands

- The periphery of Centennial Parklands is generally residential, with houses looking into the Parklands.
- Important external vistas include those to Botany Bay and the city centre.
- The visual curtilage of Centennial Parklands is considered to generally follow the water catchment line and major roads. This includes the area from Moore Park Road, Oxford Street, Bondi Junction centre to the north, Carrington Road through to King Street Randwick to the east, the Randwick Racecourse, boundary roads and hills in Kensington, nearby sections of Redfern East and Surry Hills and Flinders Street to the south.
- Pockets of home unit development are located along Alison Road, York Road, Park Road and Carrington Road.
- The prevailing character is freestanding federation bungalow and Queen Anne houses in generous gardens. These are evident along Lang, Cook, Robertson and Martin Roads. Original fencing is usually transparent, but increasing numbers of masonry or visually impenetrable fences are preventing the flow of Centennial Parklands out into the surrounding areas.
- Parking and traffic is a continual pressure in the densely populated area surrounding the Parklands.
- Moore Park and Centennial Park are separated by the historic subdivisions of Centennial Park, the former RAS Showgrounds and major roads.

- From Oxford Street, the prevailing impression of Centennial Park is of banked grass and low indigenous trees interspersed by figs flanking three underground reservoirs with decorative entrance gates into the parklands.
- The showground Precinct (Precinct 1) includes Fox Studios, the Royal Hall of Industries, Hordern Pavilion and the Equestrian Centre. The Sydney Cricket Ground and Football Stadium lie to the north.
- South Dowling Street has been severely impacted by the Eastern Distributor.
- The visual clutter of signage, bollards, safety fences, are intrusive elements between the Victorian terrace row of houses and Moore Park.
- The Moore Park Supacentra is inappropriately located within the south-west corner of Moore Park with further intrusions into the Parklands occurring due to underground parking beneath the golf course.
- Cleveland Street is dominated by Sydney Boys' and Sydney Girls' High Schools. Remnant zoological gardens planning and the former bear pit are still evident within the school grounds.
- The entrance to the Moore Park Golf club is discreet and the original stone Toll House are still evident at the south-eastern end of Cleveland Street.
- Anzac Parade is a major arterial road flanked by magnificent lines of figs
- The tennis pavilion at the junction of Anzac Parade and Federation Way (formerly "old" Grand Drive) is attractive within its green backdrop.
- Federation Way is fig-lined and a major historic entrance leading to Centennial Park, past the former RAS Showground. Driver Avenue leads from Lang Road.