Filming and photography: our place on the world stage

New Chair for Community Consultative Committee

Mardi Gras says thanks with a tree
Welcome to the autumn issue of Parklands’ magazine.

This year will see significant milestones for Centennial Parklands. On Australia Day Centennial Park turned 120 years old, and in December the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust will celebrate its 25th year as custodian of these Parklands.

Throughout the year, in this magazine and through various events, we will aim to showcase the three Parks that make up this wonderful space – Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park.

The Parklands play a number of roles for the community – providing recreation space, scope for enterprise and urban habitat. It is a place that often surprises (read on page 3 about the discovery of a new native species of fish), regularly entertains (read about upcoming events on page 6) and always provides a picturesque backdrop or setting for an occasion or venture (read about filming activities on pages 6-7).

With 360 hectares to manage and more than 10 million visits a year, provision of high quality information is essential. Brochures, signs and our visitor centres provide information within the Parklands.

We are also dedicated to providing a high quality and accessible online presence. To this end, the Trust has recently redeveloped its website: www.centennialparklands.com.au.

Finally, as a member of the peak international body Parks Forum, I would like to pay tribute to the late Sir Edmund Hillary – patron to Parks Forum, pioneer, adventurer and advocate. His immense presence will be sadly missed by all who work in or believe in a healthy and sustainable environment.

Enjoy the changing colours of autumn.

Steve Corbett
Director and Chief Executive
Centennial Parklands

Contents

Autumn events line-up
Feature: Filming & photography: our place on the world’s stage
Witcher’s Corner: Little Pied Cormorant
Business profile: The Travelling Barista
Plant of the Season: Imperial bromelia
Native Watch: Pouched Coral Fern
Friends / Healthy Parks Healthy People
Foundation / Volunteers
Visitor Information

Make sure you bookmark the new and improved Centennial Parklands website. Not only does it have a new look, the information has been restructured to allow users to find information quickly and easily.

The new website includes an interactive map using the latest aerial and street mapping technology. The map gives users a bird’s eye view of all your favourite locations, sports fields, barbecues, toilets and bus stops. We welcome feedback on our new site. Visit www.centennialparklands.com.au and check it out.

New sports field at Moore Park

The Trust, in conjunction with the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust, has undertaken construction of a premium sporting field at Kippax Lake. This quality field will be available to professional sporting teams and community sporting groups. It will also reduce on-grass car parking spaces during events.

A number of eucalyptus trees removed during construction were identified for removal in the Tree Master Plan 2002. The trees were of low level heritage and design significance. Replacement trees have been planted at the northern end of Kippax Lake and at Moore Park-West and future plantings in this area will result in a net increase in the overall tree population around Kippax Lake.

A fishy find in Lily Pond

A new species of native fish – not seen before in Centennial Parklands – has been identified in Lily Pond. The Cox’s Gudgeon (Gobiosoma cavo) was recently found during a survey to assess the population of the introduced Gambusia species. Though only 150mm long, the Cox’s Gudgeon is the largest native fish naturally present and able to breed in Centennial Parklands’ pond system. As yet, this species has not been identified in any other Parklands’ ponds.
Mardi Gras says thanks with a tree

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras will celebrate its 30th birthday this year with its traditional parade on Saturday 1 March 2008. From turbulent beginnings in 1978, Mardi Gras has become a firmly established event on Sydney’s calendar, growing in terms of both tourist and spectator numbers.

Over the years Moore Park has been the finishing point for this world-famous parade and the location of its post-Parade parties. To celebrate this anniversary and mark the event’s long association with Centennial Parklands, Mardi Gras has dedicated a tree in support of the Centennial Parklands Foundation.

The tree is sited adjacent to the route followed by the Mardi Gras Parade. In recognition of Mardi Gras’ generosity a plaque has been placed at the base of this beautiful Moreton Bay fig.

This year’s parade theme, Brave New Worlds, encourages a reflective look at how far Mardi Gras has come over the past three decades while looking to the future.

Visit www.mardigras.org.au for more information.

New Chair for Community Consultative Committee

A new Chair, Ann ‘Mairaed’ Bilmon, has been appointed to the Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee (CCC). Mairaed has been a member of the Committee for two years and replaces outgoing Chair Allan Young, whose maximum two terms on the Committee have expired.

A local resident for many years as well as a former councillor and Mayor of Woollahra Municipal Council, Mairaed brings a love of the Parklands and wealth of local knowledge to the Committee. Mairaed said, ‘I am honoured to have been elected Chair of the Community Consultative Committee. There are challenges and rewards being part of the Parklands network and the broader community. A number of new members have also been appointed to the Committee, and I am keen to welcome and work with them as they bring their special skills to the CCC.’

Reflecting on his four years on the committee, Allan said he thoroughly enjoyed it: “Two years were spent as Chair of the Committee. There have been many challenges during this time, including providing input into key planning documents, major capital works such as the restaurant refurbishment and the staging of large events.”

Allan extended his thanks to the Parklands community for its support. He especially thanked his fellow members, Don Caneldine, Michael McDonald, Sandy Patten and Peter Reid, whose terms have also expired, for their ‘commitment and friendship’ during their tenure on the CCC.

Newly appointed CCC members are Natalie Fisher, Sandy Libling, Fran Meagher, Stacy Warren and Harley Wright. Visit www.centennialparklands.com.au/ccc for background information on these new members.

The CCC is an advisory body whose task is to represent a broad range of community interests to the Trust. Members have diverse backgrounds and meet approximately eight times a year. If you would like to contact the Committee, please email ccc@centennialparklands.com.au or write to Locked Bag 15 Paddington NSW 2021.

Tour de Kids

Sunday 6 April 2008

Tour de Kids has raised $2.6 million over seven years for a variety of children’s health and wellbeing programs. This year, they will ride 1,100kms from Albury to Sydney via the Victorian Alps. Their Sydney route will take them through Centennial Park on Sunday 6 April. Their goal is to raise $700,000 for the Starlight Children’s Foundation and a range of smaller charities. Visit www.tourdekids.org.au

New CCC Chair, Mairaed Bilmon
Our growing place on the world media and entertainment stage

Centennial Parklands is growing in popularity as a versatile location for movies, television shows, commercials and photography shoots. ‘You will have seen the results — though you may not be aware of it — on a screen or billboard, or in a magazine or newspaper,’ says Ashley McLeod, Location Director from Sach Australia, a locations company that regularly recommends Centennial Parklands to film and photography clients.

Proximity to Sydney’s CBD plus open space is what draws Ashley back to the Parklands time and time again. ‘Centennial Parklands is one of the most well used and diverse locations on my files, offering open fields, wooded forests, mystic paths and room to move and build sets,’ he said.

Film shoots are subject to strict conditions and restrictions to ensure the environment is protected, says Kate Hooper: ‘We are always looking to minimise vehicle movement on grass and we undertake regular consultation with horticultural and aboricultural staff and rangers.’

Music Videos

Did you know that Australian Idol Casey Donovan’s ‘Listen to your Heart’ was filmed in the Pine Forest. The shoot was conducted at night with thousands of fairy lights creating a magical setting.

Children’s performers Hi-5 and Vanessa Amorosi have also used the Parklands to record music videos.

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Photography

The Parklands is very popular for photography shoots. You may have recognised our backdrops in the following catalogue shoots:

- David Jones, Reebok, Supre, Rodmans;
- Australian Country Style Magazine, Sass and Bide, Black & White.

‘No matter how big or small the film shoot is each one is attempting to create something unique. Our job is to help them find the best location that will meet their needs while balancing the needs of other park users and taking care of the sensitive Parklands environment,’ she says.

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Little Pied Cormorant

By Trevor Waller

The Little Pied Cormorant is a small black and white (pied) bird with a stubby yellow bill. It is black over the back and white on the underparts, has a long tail and neck and short black legs with webbed feet. The bill has a hooked tip to help it hold on to its prey. It has no black flank mark which sets it apart from the larger Pied Cormorant.

It swims low in the water and dives underwater to feed. The cormorant uses its feet to swim and keeps its wings folded out of the way. Its eyes are protected underwater by a nictitating membrane. It feeds mainly on fish, eels, frogs, crustaceans and insects. Feeding underwater means the feathers eventually become waterlogged and the bird must leave the water to dry off. This gives us that distinctive “snag on a rock” pose as it sits in the sun with its wings outstretched. This may also help it digest its food.

The main habitats for these birds are coasts, islands, lakes and dams, and they will follow rivers well inland. They will use any inland water to their advantage. Breeding can take place throughout the year, but is usually during spring and summer. They nest in colonies, often together with other cormorants, on well vegetated freshwater wetlands. The nest is a platform of sticks lined with leaves, and is placed in a tree overhanging water.

These birds are in the Parklands all year round and should be easy to find. Look for them swimming in the many lakes and ponds, or standing on a sculpture in Duck Pond. They also congregate in the trees on the islands in Willow Pond.

Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with more than ten years behind the binoculars. He is a member of various bird watching clubs in Sydney, including Birds Australia, and conducts the Parklands Birdwatcher’s Breakfasts and Birdwatching clubs in Sydney, including Birds Australia.

Native Watch

Pouched Coral Fern

By Frank Hemming

Pouched Coral Fern (Gleichenia dicarpa) is one of approximately 10 species in the genus Gleichenia. Found throughout the coast and tablelands of NSW, it also occurs in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, New Zealand, New Caledonia and the Philippines.

As with other Gleichenia species, the fronds have a distinctive and delicate appearance due to their narrow segments. The fronds arise from an underground stem (rhizome), may grow to 2 metres in length and branch repeatedly. Look for the growth bud at the end of each fork. Pouched Coral Fern gets its common name from one of its distinctive features – the final segments of the fronds are folded over into tiny pouches.

Pouched Coral Fern is found in damp and often sunny situations, especially around swamps and streams; but also cliff bases and margins of wetter forests. It sometimes forms dense thickets which provide hiding places for small birds such as Superb Fairy-wrens.

Where can it be seen?

In the Parklands it occurs in patches in the Lachlan Swamp where it forms part of the understorey of the swamp forest, especially on the northern margins but also in other parts. Smaller clumps occur along the streams south of Bubys Pond.

Frank Hemming is curator of the John T. Waterhouse Herbarium at the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of New South Wales.

The Imperial bromeliad (red form)

Imperial bromeliad (Alcantarea imperialis) is a native of the mountains of Teresopolis of Río de Janeiro at an elevation of 1,500 metres forming a large rosette clump that grows on rock face and cliffs.

The genus Alcantarea was named after the Dom Pedro de Alcantara, second Emperor of Brazil, and includes approximately 20 species distributed throughout eastern Brazil growing on exposed rock outcrops.

The red form, is a popular garden and collectors plant with a rosette of tough and leathery slightly ribbed leaves with a waxy surface, growing to a span of 1.5 metres.

The plant derives water and nutrients from its tightly packed leaves that trap and hold water and organic matter. The roots also take up nutrients as organic matter accumulates around the plant.

Over 10 years the bromeliad can be expected to produce annual white flowers which can reach a height of 2.5 metres. The Imperial bromeliad grows best in full sun in well drained soil, does well in pots and can be established on rocks.

Where can it be seen?

Over the autumn months you can see specimens of this magnificent flower growing in the Column Garden island displays.

The Travelling Barista

Business Profile

Gourmet coffee is a multi-billion dollar industry that achieved glamour status in the late ’90s. Then came the development of domed snap-on travelling lids which, combined with the fast-paced lifestyle of the modern era, gave rise to the mobile coffee craze – the social phenomenon of “latte commuting”.

Michael Coster, known as the Travelling Barista, was one of the first people to bring this mobile coffee phenomenon to Sydney nearly a decade ago. Now his mobile van with customised trimmings is to regularly service visitors to Queens Park and Moore Park.

Says Michael: ‘Coffee is not the only thing on the menu. Our sandwiches, salads, wraps, pies and sausages rolls are legendary and fresh every day. Our cakes, muffins and slices add a sweet touch. We also serve smoothies and juices and add a sweet touch. We also serve smoothies and juices and

Gardening island displays.

The Travelling Barista operates on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 8.00 am to sunset. In Moore Park it will be located at the Robertson Road fields behind the Parklands Sports Centre (near the netball/basketball courts). In Queens Park it will be alternating between the children’s playground off Darley Rd, and a location near the amenities building off Baronga Avenue.

This mobile facility also removes the need for additional buildings to provide refreshments in the Parklands.

Says Michael: ‘If you’re in the Moore or Queens Park areas, please drop by. I look forward to having a chat and a cuppa with you.’
New discounts and benefits for Friends

Have you fully looked into what you can get with your Friends membership card? New discounts and benefits are coming online all the time.

Did you know that Friends get a 20% discount on the United Healthy Living Program? This eight-week program is designed to provide you with the optimal health and lifestyle tools to refocus your mind, enhance your energy levels and improve your movement. The next two courses will run on Mondays from 5 May and Wednesdays from 7 May 2008.

Being a Friend is good for you and great for the Parklands. Make sure you get the most out of your membership, including 20% discounts on all school holiday activities, 20% off bike hire, cheaper coffee and discounted portrait photography sittings to name a few. Visit www.friends.net.au for a complete listing of discounts and benefits.

New brochure makes walking the eastern suburbs even better

Walking is one of life’s great pleasures and research has consistently demonstrated that spending time in parks has a beneficial impact upon your mental and physical wellbeing. For these reasons alone, Centennial Parklands is a wonderful stand-alone destination for recreation and relaxation.

The Parklands now features prominently in an initiative by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group and the Department of Planning, to encourage the community to get out and discover the wider eastern suburbs by foot.

The new H-Bridge Harbour to South Head and Clovelly walking map is available free from the Parklands Office (Monday to Friday) or the Visitors Centre (weekends). The brochure features a comprehensive guide, suggested walking routes with times and distances, and provides a number of long or short walks to suit your availability and fitness.

The Federation Track, a seven kilometre walk from Rushcutters Bay to Waverley Cemetery, takes in Centennial Park, including Federation Valley, and Queens Park and gives walkers some of the most spectacular Parklands scenes.

So whether you’ve spent 50 years exploring the Parklands ambience for many years to come.

Volunteers

Foundation

Call for a volunteer archivist

Centennial Parklands has a significant collection of historical information gathered over the past 197 years and stored on site. We are seeking the voluntary assistance of an experienced archivist to bring some formality to this outstanding resource. If you possess the relevant knowledge and experience, and are retired or otherwise free to assist us cataloguing this historic material perhaps one day a week, we would like to hear from you.

When the task is completed the Trust hopes to make much of this information available on its website for students and the general public. Please email Volunteer Coordinator Lyn Walker on volunteers@centennialparklands.com.au if you are interested in helping on this exciting and rewarding project.

Well done!

Ruth White, a long time volunteer customer service person at the Visitor Centre, has retired. Her devotion to the Parklands was an inspiration and she will be greatly missed.

Vale

All at Centennial Parklands were sad to hear of the recent death of long-time volunteer, Fay Brown. Fay was involved for many years in customer service at the Visitor Centre, and as a member of the Bush Regeneration team. Her devotion to the Parklands was an inspiration and she will be greatly missed.

New benefactors

Peter, Bianca and Bronte Walker
Dr San Graham
Ms Gillan Graham
Friends of Guy Morrison
Renee Pollack Foundation
Dr Craig Wilson
Mr & Mrs Martin & Anne Jones
New Mardi Gras
The Crowe family

The Whittaker family
The Spencer family
The Irwin family
The Horsefall family
Mr Keith Rodger
Bruno de Oliveira
Susan Hedrick
Michelle Neill
Justin Bull
Kevin Finch

Healthy Parks Healthy People is an initiative of the Sydney Parks Group and includes the Botanic Gardens Trust; Centennial Parklands; Department of Planning; Department of Environment & Conservation - Parks & Wildlife; Parramatta Park Trust; Sydney Harbour Federation Trust; and Sydney Olympic Park Authority. Supported by University of Technology, Sydney and the University of Western Sydney.

Visit: www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com
Visitor Information

Please refer to the map insert for locations.

HOW TO GET HERE
5 km from the Sydney CBD. Easily accessible by bus, train, car, bike or on foot.
- Regular buses from Circular Quay, Central Station, Bondi Jn Stn and surrounding suburbs. Trains to Central and Bondi Jn, both a 30-40 minute walk to the Parklands. www.131500.info
- Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alson Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way.

CAR FREE DAYS
Last Sunday of every season (February, May, August and November).
Next day: 24 February 2008

CENTENNIAL PARK GATE TIMES
Centennial Park is accessible to vehicles between sunrise and sunset. Musgrave Ave Gates are closed permanently to cars.
- Primary Gates (Paddington, Woollahra, Randwick & Robertson Entry Rd) March* to April 6.00 am–6.00 pm
May to August 6.30 am–5.30 pm
September to October 6.00 am–6.00 pm
November to March* 6.00 am–8.00 pm
- After daylight saving ** During daylight saving
- Secondary Gates (York Rd, Jervois Ave and Robertson Exit Rd) Weekdays 9.00 am–4.00 pm Weekends as per Primary Gates
- Govett St Gates Weekdays 9.00 am–Primary Gate closing time Weekends as per Primary Gates

FOOD OUTLETS
- Parade Grounds Café Civil Grand & Parkes Drive, Centennial Park (adjacent to playground). Open 7 days, 7.30 am–5.00 pm (02) 9380 9350 (temporary facility until winter 2008). www.centennialparklands.com.au
- Centennial Park Mobile Food Van E5 Light meals, sandwiches, cold drinks, gelato and espresso. Open weekends and public holidays, 8:00 am–sunset.
- The Travelling Barista C4 HS Sandwiches, wraps, cakes and coffee. Open weekends and public holidays, 8:00 am–sunset, at Moore Park and Queens Park.
- Moore Park Golf Patio Bar B3 Overlooking the first tee, the outdoor patio bar serves light meals and drinks. Open 7 days, 7.30 am–7.30 pm (Mon to Wed), 7.30 am–6.00 pm (Thu to Fri), 7.30 am–5.00 pm (Sat to Sun) (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au
- The Long Apron at Moore Park Golf B3 This bar and restaurant serves quality meals and a full variety of wine and beers. Open Wed to Sun, Noon–5.00 pm (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au

RECREATION ACTIVITIES
- BBQs and Picnics Free BBQs, first-in first served basis. BYO portable BBQs with legs permitted (except during total fire bans), portable picnic equipment permitted. Bookings required for groups of 50 or more. BBQs located at A3 D5 D6 E2 E3 G4 E5 HS
- Cycling and Rollerblading 3.6 km cycle/rollerblade lane on Grand Dr, Centennial Park. Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alson Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way. Off-road cycling circuit for children at Learners Cyclesway. Helmets required. D5
- Centennial Parklands Cycle Hire F3 On Hamilton & Grand Dr, in Centennial Park (02) 357 419
- Centennial Park Cycles G6 50 Clovelly Rd, Randwick (02) 9398 5027
- Wildlife Watching Spot birds, turtles, invertebrates and possums within natural environments. Ideal locations at D4 E5 F4. Please do not feed the animals.
- Playgrounds There are five playgrounds catering for a range of age groups. A2 D5 E2 E3 HS

Dog Walking
On and off leash dog walking areas. BYO dog tidy bags to pick up after your dog. Pick up the Dogs in the Parklands brochure or visit www.centennialparklands.com.au. Dogs in the Parklands brochure or visit http://www.moonlight.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT
- Entertainment Quarter D3 Located adjacent to the Five Professional Studios, this is a hub for events, concerts, shows, movies, Farmers markets, bars and dining.
- Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries C3 www.playlivevenues.com
- Moonlight Cinema G2 www.moonlight cinema.com.au

CONTACT US
- Centennial Parklands is managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.
- Parklands Office (behind Cafe), Mon to Fri, 8.30 am–5.00 pm, E3
- Visitor Centre, Paddington Gates, weekends 10.00 am–3.00 pm, E2
- Ph: (02) 9339 6699
- Fax: (02) 9332 2148 info@centennialparklands.com.au
- www.centennialparklands.com.au
- Locked Bag 15 Paddington NSW 2021
- After hours emergencies: 0412 718 611

Healthy Parks
Healthy People