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25 YEARS OF TRUST
COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

parklands

THE MAGAZINE OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



 CENTENNIAL
parklands
is living Sydney

Directions



Welcome to this special edition of *Parklands* magazine.

Over the years I have recognised an important fact in the life of any organisation – milestones should be marked and celebrated. Milestones are like proverbial 'markers in the sand'. They are pivotal moments at which an organisation can stop, take a look at what has gone before and

then re-dedicate itself to continue in a manner that does credit to that legacy.

25 years ago, in November 1983, the *Centennial Park Trust Act* was passed. For any organisation, 25 years of service is a significant achievement.

In this edition of *Parklands* magazine you will read much about the behind-the-scenes decision making, arguments, issues and – yes – lessons that have been learnt over the last 25 years in turning Centennial Parklands into one of Australia's most popular destinations.

Our bumper feature article by Trust Chair Professor John Niland gives a great snapshot of how far these Parklands have come in those 25 years, and its future challenges. The feature also encompasses fascinating first-hand articles by the Premier who

championed for the creation of a Trust, by past Chairs of the Trust and by the present Minister for Sport and Recreation.

My staff and I are proud to be involved in the care and maintenance of these precious public lands. The Trust, though, cannot achieve everything that is needed by itself. We need your support and commitment. I hope each reader enjoys this look at the past quarter century, and, in turn, looks forward to the many challenges we face over the next quarter century and beyond.

Enjoy the read and here's to the next 25 years.

Steve Corbett
Director and Chief Executive
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust



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Centennial Parklands is managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

Trustees:

Prof. John Niland AC (Chair)	David Leckie
Justice Annabelle Bennett AO	Mairaed Bilmon
Yvette Pietsch	Anne Keating
Dr Margaret Varady AO	John Walker

The Trust acknowledges the Cadigal as the traditional custodians of the land that is now known as Centennial Parklands.

Editor: Rachel Maiden
rachel.maiden@cp.nsw.gov.au

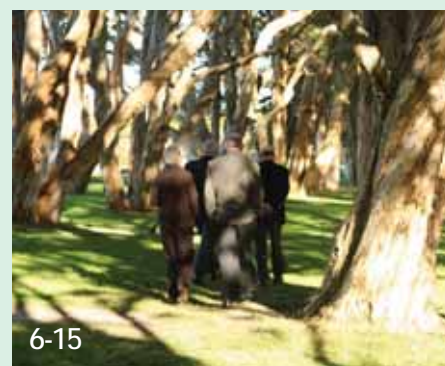
Contributors: Christopher Jay, Trevor Waller, Frank Hemmings

Photography: Quentin Jones, John Gollings, Chris Gleisner, Fiona Robb , Kim Bowman, Newspix / Brad Newman (Federation) / Jamie Fawcett (Dylan), Fairfaxphotos / Tony Lewis (Peter Garrett) / Rick Stevens (Neville Wran)

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Cover: Current and former Chairs of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. From left, Arthur Charles (1989-94), Professor John Niland AC (2002-present), Annette O'Neill (1997-2002) and Dr David Greateorex AO (1984-88). Regrettably absent was Lynn Ralph (1995-97).



Parkbench

The circus comes to town

The Trust is proud to welcome the return of the annual Somersault Circus. This remarkable event is held on the Brazilian Fields in Centennial Park providing disadvantaged children with the great experience of a circus spectacular. Held over three days from 27 to 29 September 2008, children of all ages are swept away by the thrills and spills of this amazing event.



The Somersault Circus 2007

The fun has begun at Queens Park playground



Children enjoy the new Queens Park playground

The new playground in Queens Park was opened in July 2008 much to the excitement of local children and families. This exciting \$170,000 project was originally highlighted in the Trust's Queens Park Master Plan and the completion of this second last stage marks our commitment to providing high quality facilities and amenities for the community in Queens Park.

A place to sit and reflect

Centennial Parklands is a much-loved Sydney icon and many people have a favourite spot within it where they love to visit. Why not commemorate your special place with a bench on which to sit, listen and reflect?

For a tax-deductible donation of \$5,000, the Centennial Parklands Foundation will present you with a dedicated bench including a plaque, with wording of your choice (subject to approval). Your donation will assist the Foundation in ensuring that Centennial Parklands continues to be enjoyed by future generations and will mark your treasured place in this magnificent environment.



A dedicated bench will mark your special place

Follow the footsteps of Federation

On Saturday 25 October 2008, take advantage of a unique opportunity to walk from the Domain to Centennial Park tracing the steps of the parade for the inauguration of Federation. Led by Graham Spindler, Parliament House Education Manager, this three-hour, seven kilometre walk will commence in the Domain at the corner of Art Gallery and Hospital Roads and finish at the Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park. This is a free event, however bookings are essential. Please ring the Parklands Office on (02) 9339 6699 to secure your place on this historic walk.

Understanding sports field closures

Centennial Parklands has 36 sports fields all of which are heavily used by a variety of sporting codes. Periodically, these fields are subject to closure. Many factors, including inclement weather and seasonal maintenance, influence the Trust's decision to close a sporting field.

If playing on a field has the potential to cause surface damage that might require extensive and lengthy repairs, the Trust may elect to close a field. Field closures may also be implemented to maintain healthy turf and a smooth even surface to prevent injuries. Visitor safety is one of the highest priorities of the Trust.

Some sporting codes can cause more damage to the surface of a field than others and so seasonal renovations are essential to prevent fields from becoming bare, unplayable and unsafe. Turf re-establishment is slow during the winter months when recovery of the kikuyu surface is traditionally poor and damage is more pronounced and difficult to repair.

The Trust appreciates your understanding of these needs. Notification of field closures is placed on the Parklands website and via the Wet Weather line (02) 9339 6670.

Australian and Korean War Memorial planned for Moore Park

The Trust was pleased to support a request by the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Morris Iemma, MP, to provide a site for the construction of a memorial to commemorate the Korean War (1950–1953).

The memorial honours a friendship forged through war, between two different countries, cultures and communities. It is expected to become a place of significance; a place that brings people together for ceremonies and cross-cultural celebrations, and will remain accessible to all Park users.

The memorial design was selected by a limited design competition run by the NSW Government Architect's Office. The winning competition entry was submitted by Jane Cavanough (Artlandish Art and Design) and Pod Landscape Architecture.

Ms Cavanough's work is already well known in Centennial Park through the sculptures in the Duck Pond – a popular feature of the Park for almost ten years.

To inform the community of the planned memorial and to gather feedback on both the proposed location and design, a community consultation session was held on 28 June 2008 at the Rotunda in Moore Park.

Representatives of the surrounding community and veterans of the Korean conflict gathered to hear presentations from Mr Peter Mould, Government Architect, and the winning design team as well as viewing exhibition plans and giving feedback.

The site for the memorial was chosen because it was considered an important site within state significant public parklands and boasts good visibility with the potential to be visited by a range of people.



The consultation session, held in June 2008

In addition, Centennial Parklands play both a national and state role in hosting commemorations, memorials and special events, as the Parklands have done throughout their history.

Further information on this memorial project and updates on its progress are available from the Department of Premier and Cabinet's website: www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/akwm.

Frogmobile leaps away

After six years of educating and entertaining children and adults alike in Centennial Park, Lothar Voight (affectionately known as the Frogman) has retired.

Over the years, Lothar and his Frogmobile have provided information, education and enjoyment to thousands of Park visitors about the frogs and tadpoles that inhabit our environment introducing them to the fascinating world of frogs – how to look after frogs in a garden, establishing frog habitats and raising frogs and tadpoles.

His informative demonstrations have been a popular addition to the Centennial Parklands calendar of events drawing people from as far as the Central Coast and the Blue Mountains to visit his Frogmobile.

Lothar's educational displays featured a number of live exhibits, including a rare Green and Golden Bell frog which was found in a rubbish bin outside the Coogee Bay Hotel by two quick-thinking waste disposal officers who delivered it to a Centennial Parklands Ranger. This lucky frog not only found a home with Lothar but became a regular feature in his demonstrations.

Lothar and his Frogmobile will be missed by the many visitors to the Parklands who have enjoyed learning about this webbed, watery world. The Trust would like to thank Lothar for his enthusiasm and dedication which has brought pleasure to many appreciative Parklands visitors.

Although Lothar has retired, he has no such plans for the Frogmobile which he hopes will find a good home with an

interested environmental group.

Lothar is a member of FATS, the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW, which promotes an awareness and appreciation of frogs and tadpoles in the natural world. For more information, visit www.fats.org.au.



Lothar and his Frogmobile in Centennial Park

Your guide to the new Restaurant Precinct

The refurbished Centennial Parklands Restaurant will be opening this spring. While Park visitors will welcome the opening of this popular facility, there are a number of changes and new features that all visitors should be aware of.

New shared zone - Banksia Way

The new shared zone adjacent to the Restaurant has undergone a name change. 'Banksia Way' reflects the floral aspects and traditions of the Parklands over the last 120 years, and replaces Depot Road as the official name for this zone.

New parking and vehicle access restrictions along Banksia Way will be implemented immediately. This means that no general visitor parking is available along this zone. Maintenance and delivery vehicles will be allowed access and three disabled parking spaces will be retained.

A multi-functional facility

The Centennial Parklands Restaurant is a truly multi-functional facility. Not only does this new facility feature a takeaway kiosk, table-service café and fine dining restaurant, it will house a new seven-day-a-week Parklands Visitor Information point and public amenities with baby-change facilities.

Access and accessibility

The new facility's formal entrance is via a new curved timber ramp off Banksia Way. The ramp complies with all accessibility requirements.

Cycling facilities

Cyclists will be catered for with permanent cycle racks installed across Banksia Way – just a short walk from the entrance. Cyclists will not be permitted to take their bikes up the ramps and into the Restaurant.

A new playground

A new, highly engaging playground will be constructed adjacent to the Restaurant. Construction will begin immediately once the Restaurant has opened and will take approximately three months to complete. During this time, the Trust will install a range of temporary play equipment and features for children to enjoy.



The new playground will feature Giant Guiros, musical sculptures that are designed to be fully interactive, water taps and runnels to provide hours of sand and water play, and 'hug-me' poles.

Further information

For further information on this project, please visit www.centennialparklands.com.au.

Spring events line-up

Enjoy the range of events hosted by Centennial Parklands this spring. Visit www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson or call (02) 9339 6699 to receive a copy of our What's On brochure.

Centennial Park Open Day Sunday 2 November

Come along and help the Trust celebrate its 25th birthday! Lots of kids activities to enjoy. www.centennialparklands.com.au/openday

The Evergreen Dinner Saturday 11 October

See page 19 for more information.

NPA BioBlitz '08 Sunday 28 September

Contribute to Sydney's understanding of the state of its urban biodiversity. www.bioblitz.org.au or (02) 9290 2503

Parklife Sunday 5 October

Parklife is a world of its own. www.parklife.com.au

Women's Health – Are You Game?

Saturday 18–Sunday 19 October
www.yahoo7.com.au/womenshealth

JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge Wednesday 12 November

A 5.6 km team race open to employees of corporations, businesses and financial institutions. Information (02) 9431 9300 or jpmorganchasecc.com

Earth Festival Saturday 29 November

Bring the whole family to enjoy outdoor movies, dance, circus, art, music and wellbeing. www.earthfestival.com.au

Summer Gay Day Saturday 29 November

A festival of music, fun and frolic for the gay and lesbian community and their friends. www.summergayday.com.au

25 years of Trust

by Professor John Niland AC
Chair, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust,
2002 – present

Centennial Park, a much loved Sydney icon for well over 100 years, evokes a sense of pride in its majestic trees, expansive grassed open spaces, and wonderful water vistas teaming with birdlife, together with its opportunities for tranquility or aerobic exercise.

Children are everywhere – feeding ducks, wobbling on their new bikes or exploring the many secret places. With over 6 million visits a year, it is one of the most popular, freely accessed public spaces in Australia.

Opened on Australia Day 1888, Centennial Park is also a place of great historical significance, having hosted the birth of our nation on 1 January 1901 when the newly installed Governor General proclaimed the Commonwealth of Australia and swore in the first Federal Cabinet.

For its first hundred years, Centennial Park was managed by Sydney's Royal Botanic

Gardens. But with growing pressure for special protection, and to address unique challenges in the precinct, Centennial Park's 220 hectares were transferred to a separate Trust, which Premier Neville Wran took into his portfolio. Premier Bob Carr followed suit, underscoring the great interest of NSW political leaders over the many decades since Premier Sir Henry Parkes had first secured the Parklands for succeeding generations.

This issue of *Parklands* magazine commemorates the 25th anniversary of the passing of the *Centennial Park Trust Act* and salutes the many people over this time who have contributed to its vibrancy and wellbeing – Trustees, the CEOs and staff, volunteers and *Friends*, Community Consultative Committee members, Governors of the Foundation and supportive Premiers and responsible Ministers.



Seven inaugural Trustees, including David Grotorex as the first Chairman, took up their posts for four years from November 1984. A few years later, the Coalition Government under Premier Nick Greiner started to expand the Trust lands. The adjoining Moore Park recreation area, including the golf course and the E.S. Marks Athletics Field, were formally transferred from South Sydney Council in December 1989. Next came the facilities of the Royal Agricultural Society, as the RAS planned its wholesale transfer to the new Olympic precinct at Homebush Bay. Proceedings were not smooth, as is often the case with the great urban parks of the world. There were years of controversy and legal manoeuvres over plans for a large parcel of the site to become a film studio complex. Eventually when all the dust settled, Fox Studios would gain nearly 25 hectares for film making and an



Old metal poles around Grand Drive (left) were replaced by sandstone blocks as part of the Grand Drive upgrade completed in 2006 as part of the Park Improvement Plan.



The much loved "rocket ship" was part of the old playground at Paddington Gates (left, circa 1980s). Most playgrounds across the Parklands have now been upgraded and enhanced, the most recent being the Queens Park playground (right) opened in July 2008.

associated entertainment quarter, on a forty year lease from the Trust.

These rearrangements required Acts of Parliament in 1991, 1992 and 1993. Under the 1991 Act, the Trust's name changed to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. In 1992 the *Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Sydney Macquarie Common) Amendment Act* nominally transferred the Sydney Showground estate to the Trust. But the 1993 *Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Royal Easter Show) Amendment Act* put this on hold, to meet further legal difficulties. Reflecting the intense public interest in parkland issues, the Government took the opportunity with this Act to constitute a Community Consultative Committee, one of whose members would become an eighth member of the Trust.

It wasn't until April 1998 that the Trust finally succeeded in gaining the RAS area, and shortly afterwards a one hectare block of remnant Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub bushland on York Road from TAFE. This at last assured a sense of coherence for the management of a precinct of Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park which by now totalled 360 hectares (or some 800 acres in the old language) and also became known as Centennial Parklands.

Adding the management of busy commercial areas to the responsibilities of a body primarily concerned with heritage parkland has created an interesting set of challenges. On the one hand, the Trust is responsible for preserving the communal

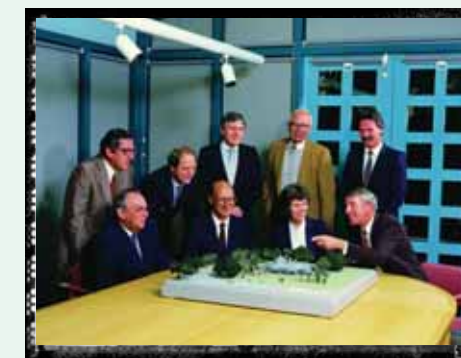
values of a traditional park, indeed one with iconic standing. On the other hand, the Trust needs to adopt a commercial approach in its oversight of the Equestrian Centre, the Moore Park Golf course, E.S. Marks Athletics Field, the Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion – all valuable revenue generating assets the Government had assigned to its care.

Surveys tell us visitors like the Parklands the way they are, and don't want fundamental change. But even simple preservation is expensive these days – money is needed for maintenance, refurbishing, renovation, repairs and replacement of the many items nearing the end of their natural lifespan. So the Trust set about running the Parklands' commercial assets to improve services for users, while increasing commercial revenues.

By 1994, the Chairman Arthur Charles could report that over the previous three years, the Trust had increased its own revenue-generating capacity from 16 per cent of the budget to 54 per cent. By 2008, this figure stood at over 90 per cent of an annual operating budget approaching \$20 million. The remarkably low level of direct funding from Government is something that surprises most people when they hear of it.

The public purse is still the most important source of capital funding, which the Trust has been part matching. In 2001 the Trust, chaired by Annette O'Neill, won from NSW Treasury an allocation of \$50 million over seven years for capital enhancements. Major improvements through the

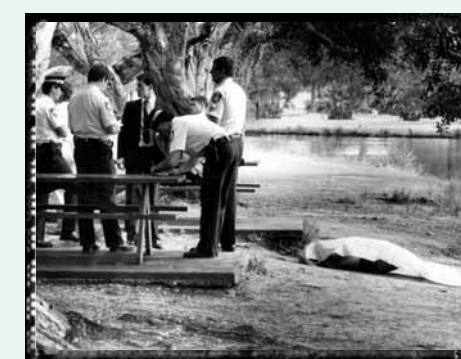
A picture...



The first Centennial Park Trust views a model of the proposed restaurant. The much loved features of this restaurant are being retained in the new facility opening in spring 2008.



Rangers on horseback, bike and jeep, circa 1980s.



Police near the body of Sally Anne Huckstepp, found in Busbys Pond, Centennial Park, in February 1986.

Special Feature

Parklands, chosen after extensive consultation with many interested groups and feedback from the Community Consultative Committee, have won much acclaim. Often mentioned are the upgrades to Queens Park and Moore Park, the new signage regime, the refurbishment of Grand Drive and the measures to

refurbished Equestrian Centre has about 220 stalls, for both privately operated riding schools and individual horse owners. The facilities were quarantined with the outbreak of equine influenza in NSW and Queensland in 2007, and then quickly cleared of initial suspicion as a possible source of the outbreak. One of the

percent of the Parklands' 16,000 trees will need replacement, with the trees on Grand Drive suffering a much shorter life expectancy. The Tree Transplant Appeal, launched in September 2006, is helping fund progressive replacement, and quite a few new trees are already planted and plaqued with sponsors' names.

Water is another special feature of Centennial Park. Initially known as the Lachlan Swamp, the Park supplied much of early Sydney's water through a tunnel built (not very competently it is said) by John Busby between 1827 and 1837. With this history, and given increasing modern-day pressure on Sydney's water supplies, we are switching to local stormwater for irrigation, through new bores and improved pond management. A gross pollutant trap for the Model Yacht Pond (the major stormwater entry point) now intercepts large amounts of rubbish and pollution. Rainwater tanks at the Equestrian Centre used for washdown of bays and exercise areas is another water-saving initiative. Additionally, hidden under the decking of the new Restaurant are several massive water catchment tanks.

As we enjoy the Parklands day in and day out, we might spare a thought for some of the more prosaic activities of staff to ensure its amenity. Pest management is an ongoing problem for any large urban park. Natural flooding of warrens traditionally controls rabbit numbers (with a little help from foxes), but prolonged drought over several years recently resulted in almost 2,000 rabbits in eight warrens. A carefully-administered control program dealt with this. A weed survey in 1994-95 identified over 100 weed species, leading to the production of a weed control manual for Trust staff. Over 150 tonnes of water hyacinth, which had long choked the Kensington Ponds, were physically removed. Weevils, ibis, pigeons and those foxes have all been the challenge of the month at different times. Large quantities of the introduced fish pest species European carp are regularly removed from the ponds.

With so many different visitors, a constant challenge for the Trust is to balance and resolve the many competing interests of



Rubbish in Centennial Parklands ponds was a big problem in the 1980s, however the installation of Gross Pollutant Traps, among other measures, has contributed to curtailing rubbish in the ponds.

Parklands' users attracted to leisure, sporting, educational, arts and entertainment activities. Most controversial in recent times is the plan that allows up to eight amplified music events a year with audiences ranging from 5,000 to 40,000 people. Not everyone approves. Others are more sympathetic to the Trust's position that access to the Parklands for events that bring in a diverse range of people from different postcodes and various ages and cultures must surely reflect Henry Parkes' oft quoted view that here we have "The people's park".

These competing views are well captured in a set of four letters in the local Wentworth Courier newspaper in early 2008. Two berated the Trust for car-free days and concerts: "...as a resident and taxpayer, I am denied the freedom to enjoy Centennial Park in preference for commercial ventures... Saturday's concert denies access to the Park and blocks roads and parking". The other two writers disparaged the critics and supported the Trust on its stance over concerts and festivals, as held in other city parks around the world: "I love Centennial Park and use it frequently for picnics, exercise and events, some of which include concerts... what a wonderful thing bringing revenue to the parklands and a new generation of users to its beautiful space."

Despite all the achievements of the last 25 years, there is still much to be done. Work on access links and pedestrian and cycleways is one task. The golf course needs redeveloping to release its full

commercial and sporting potential. Also in the plan is upgrading a range of sporting fields including those for tennis and netball. There will be continued refurbishment of the heritage infrastructure, continuing implementation of the tree replacement master plan, more work on the Equestrian Centre and work on stormwater management, drains, roads, the power supply and lighting. And we still have a number of old toilet blocks to be replaced with the new award winning models, each engineered for an annual water saving to the equivalent of five Olympic sized pools.

The list sometimes seems never ending, and of course that is precisely the situation. The Trust, which meets monthly, is highly conscious of just how precious an asset we oversee, and how we bear the duty to conserve, preserve and maintain to the highest standard. The very fact that these wonderful Parklands come under the care and protection of a stand alone, independently minded Trust is reassuring in times of competing interests and the rising pressures for inappropriate development. But to be most effective, the Trust needs sustainable funding, and to be largely (though not entirely) financially independent of pressures on state Treasury. This is our strategy, and with these parts of the jigsaw in place, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust is set for another great 25 years.

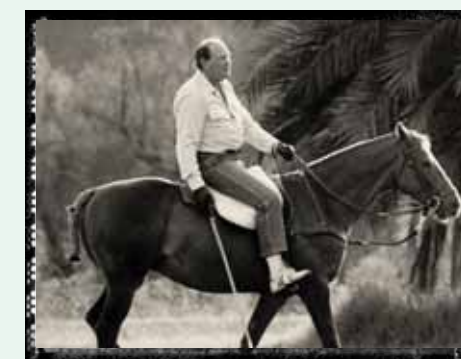
...says...



On 26 January 1988 over 3,000 people congregated in Centennial Park to celebrate Australia's Bicentennial.



On Federation Day, 1 January 2001, the leaders of the nation gathered in Federation Valley at the hour that their predecessors gathered in 1901. The vice-royal and the elected leader of the Commonwealth and each State and Territory unveiled a commemorative plaque set into the Federation Pavilion and then signed the register upon the Queen Victoria table and the Lord Hopetoun Chair.



In 1987 Centennial Park was used by Kerry Packer for polo practice.

My Memories

By Dr David Greatorex AO

Chair, Centennial Park Trust, 1984–1988



However some aspects did require change. It became clear that commercial activities were taking place in the Park but not being charged commercial rates, film making for example. One such was a caravan type food kiosk, the only supplier in the Park, being charged a nominal rent. Once we adjusted this he soon withdrew. We then set about building a restaurant/café complex. Restaurateur Tony Bilson, a local user, worked with the Government Architect and the outcome is familiar.

The Trust was not unanimous for the only time

Early in 1984 I was approached by the then Secretary of the Premier's Department, Gerry Gleeson, on behalf of the Premier, Neville Wran, to become the first chairman of the Centennial Park Trust. Almost forty years earlier I had played sport regularly in the Park as a Sydney High student and at the time of appointment was a local resident running most mornings in the Park. Thus I was intimately familiar with the geography though not the administration. Premier Wran had noticed that over many years the Park had been reduced in size and felt it would be better administered in its own right rather than as a 'subsidiary' of the distant Botanical Gardens and Domain Trust.

An early task was to ascertain what the users wanted rather than implement our own ideas. So we carried out a customer survey via questionnaires at the entrance gates. Heading the list of what users wanted was to keep it as it was. Heading the list of things they did not want was for anything to be changed. So despite our own views we had been given a very clear message and during the next four years tried to adhere to a policy of minimum impact.

in four years. Some wanted it on the site of the original restaurant which had apparently burned down some decades earlier and some on the flat area near Darley Road. It took a casting vote for the former to be selected. The licensee was given a discounted rental in return for providing a loss-making service; tricycle based sandwich/ hot dog/ drinks providers riding throughout the Park. Building was completed as the Trust membership turned over and so this service was somehow lost and never provided.

I took advantage of a Premier's formal visit

to point out to him that Australia (as distinct from the Colony of NSW) had started in the Park in 1901 and all we had to show for it was a spindly little monolith the importance of which almost no one recognised. He then set up a competition with judges Andrew Andersons, the Government Architect, Laurence Neild, the President of the Institute of Architects and me. From the many entries we selected the Alexander Tzannes' cupola which now encompasses the original monolith. The rest of his visionary entry was never implemented.

The final event of moment occurred when a developer tried to acquire from the Sydney City Council the netball area beside Anzac Parade. Fortuitously the Councillors had recently been dismissed and replaced temporarily by three Commissioners, all leading citizens; Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC, Sir Eric Neal AC and Norman Oakes AO. I knew all three and was able to sit down with them and reach agreement that the Moore Park Golf Course and other lands between be transferred from the SCC to the Park Trust. It would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, to have carried out this negotiation if the Council as such had been in place. I never saw this implemented because at this time the new Premier, Nick Greiner, asked me to chair the State Bank and I hadn't the time to do both.



The original Federation Pavilion (left), made of plaster, quickly deteriorated and was removed in 1903 leaving nothing but the Federation Stone. The new Federation Pavilion was opened in 1988.

My Memories

By Arthur Charles

Chair, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, 1989–1994



When I was invited to become Chairman it seemed a relatively easy decision. Having sat on boards and chaired a number, something as straightforward as a Park would be a simple task – big mistake.

I was accustomed to high-rise lifts and panelled board rooms. Arriving at my first meeting, I began to realise how different this role would be. I drove through the massive Oxford St Gates, down through the palm-lined drive, into the carefully-manicured grounds of the Trust, parked and entered the unpretentious meeting room with its cheerful views of the Park. And my previous experience had certainly not introduced me to the challenges of such mysteries as fungal disease, out-of-control ibis colonies and exploding rabbit populations, gross pollutant traps, red algal blooms, or, for that matter, Busbys Bore.

The Park, of course, is not just a peaceful beautiful place dedicated to passive enjoyment of the environment. It throngs with riders and cyclists, joggers and footballers plus all that Moore Park contains – including a golf course and driving range, tennis, bowls and netball. A complex mix indeed, with ever-increasing funding requirements in a

climate of ever-tighter budgetary constraints.

Another unusual feature of Trust life was living with the neighbours. By neighbours I mean those whose houses hedged the Parks but also the diverse body of users. To them, the Parks were akin to their own private gardens and it is natural to take a very personal interest in events in one's own garden – as, for example, the Car Free Days which we introduced in 1992, or the 1992 Concert For Life which attracted 80,000 visitors. In almost all cases the neighbours were

constructive and positive in their interest but debate could be passionate and time-consuming.

So how was it possible to manage this complex beast? First, the staff, dedicated, loyal and hard-working, under the leadership, initially of John Mortimer and then Robin Grimwade, two accomplished and committed public servants. Then my fellow Trustees who brought a wide range of skills and experience to the Board table and contributed universally with enthusiasm and good cheer. All leaders in their own field, including such as Neville Wran, Leo Schofield, Ita Buttrose, Nick Farr-Jones and Imelda Roche. I mention names only to make the point that busy and influential individuals were prepared to give their time for one reason only – a genuine and abiding affection for all that the Parks represent.

It was a privilege to be involved with such an institution, and the highest compliment I can pay those who have followed is to say that the Park we enter today is unchanged in all important aspects to that we entered then.

...a thousand words.



Peter Garrett speaks at a launch of the first review of the constitution at Centennial Park in June 1986.



Bob Dylan plays in Centennial Park in 2001. Dylan is just one of many international acts that have thrilled audiences in Centennial and Moore Parks.



Clean up Australia Day began in 1989 and Centennial Parklands has always had keen participants. However they would have had a tough job removing this car from one of Centennial Park's ponds (circa 1980s).

My Memories

By Lynn Ralph

Chair, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, 1995–1997



Believe it or not, deciding whether to outsource activities such as mowing the lawns became a defining issue! It's now a decade since these changes were made, and I think users would be hard pressed to notice the difference – albeit the money saved was spent on long-term needs which we now can see the benefit of.

The construction of the Eastern Distributor would subsume a large strip of the Parklands along South Dowling Street. Choosing between fighting a losing battle to stop it or

negotiating to maximise the amount of compensation paid was a stark and difficult choice.

Boards impact upon their organisation through the wide and varied decisions they are called upon to make. In most cases these will be the most difficult decisions an organisation has to face. Complex issues and choices, significant investments, strategies for coping with a rapidly changing environment, and meeting the increasing and often conflicting demands of stakeholders – all make a board's task a genuinely difficult challenge.

Looking back, the decisions the Trust was called upon to make during my period as Chairman truly fit that description. Decisions based on insufficient information, decisions whose outcomes would not be known for years, decisions where choices were limited, decisions in the face of emotional public pressure. These are what made the stewardship of such a precious asset a challenging and rewarding job.

The transition from a 'public sector-style' to a 'corporatised' culture and management of the Parklands was a long and sometimes difficult journey. Would making decisions based on becoming more efficient in the running the Parks compromise their values and character?



The Duck Pond (left, prior to upgrade) was the first pond upgraded as part of the Ponds Improvement Program. Its upgrade included the addition of the much admired sculpture features and the creation of an interpretation trail.

The decision to rectify the badly degraded ponds was a 'no-brainer'. The ponds remain the most loved part of the Parklands. But how to fix them was the challenge. Here was a decision that required us to work 'without a net'.

The best minds in the field had developed a multi-pronged plan for dealing with the severe ecological distress the ponds were confronting, but no one could promise us that it would work. After all, it had never been tried before. And, the price tag was enormous.

Today, this is one of the decisions I feel most proud of. Looking at the current state of the ponds and the enjoyment people take from them is a wonderful reward.

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity, along with my wise and committed fellow Trustees, to be a part of the history, the challenges, and the journey of this most wondrous place.

My Memories

By Annette O'Neill

Chair, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, 1997–2002



We introduced interpretive walks and sculpture. The La Perouse community assisted the Trust to improve the Lachlan Swamps, thus recognising their cultural importance as a traditional meeting place. The havoc of the infamous hailstorm damaged Trust cars, destroyed many trees and a precious tawny frogmouth.

Despite our efforts the Trust was accused of being either 'too commercialised' or 'a drain on the public purse'. Considering the Parklands' long-term needs we established the Centennial Parklands Foundation, of which I was a settlor.

Parking meters were not introduced. We encouraged public transport, building a bus station to reduce parking on playing fields. We managed eels and carp that invaded the ponds and discouraged ibis – but brazen rabbits continued to graze impertinently outside the Board Room during our meetings.

As well as a variety of educational and leisure activities the Parklands hosted

numerous special performers and cultural events – including Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Bob Dylan, Graeme Murphy's ballet, Cirque du Soleil and Moonlight Cinema. Watching the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics marathon and cycling events in the Park was exceptionally thrilling.

One day the Federal Minister, John Fahey, rang to say he was visiting to discuss Centenary of Federation projects. It was rather satisfying to be handed a cheque for \$10 million to replace languishing palms with an Avenue of Nations in Parkes Drive; to upgrade Federation Valley and its pavilion and to complete Old Grand Drive. It was inspiring to chair the design committee for this last project, exploring materials with Architects Alexander Tzannes and Peter John Cantrell, and seeing the emptiness of the Anzac Parade corner transformed – by fine Queensland porphyry paving and a timber, copper and glass archway reflecting the natural tree canopy – on time and within budget.

On 1 January 1901 no women played a formal part in the proclamation of Federation, but at the Commemoration on 1 January 2001 Beryl Bellear welcomed Governors, Premiers and the people to her country, at the superbly restored Tzannes/Tillers Pavilion. I was pleased to unveil the centenary plaque with the Prime Minister John Howard and the NSW Premier, Bob Carr. At the Centennial Ceremony the beauty of the sun setting behind the trees, and the image of chilly Arrernte children accompanying the Governor General Sir William Deane across the stage, were unforgettable.

Centennial Parklands is not only the lungs of Sydney but a many-faceted gem. Thanks to the dedication of its talented staff this gem sparkles.



Events have always been popular in Centennial Park. The Concert for Life in 1992 attracted in excess of 80,000 people. More recently the Good Vibrations 2008 event (right) attracted 36,500 people.

Remembering the past

By the Hon. Neville Wran AC QC

Premier of NSW, 1976–1986



“Centennial Park is of singular recreational, historical, educational, cultural and environmental significance to the people of New South Wales. The area is no ordinary park and, therefore, like the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain, should be the subject of specific legislation to ensure that it is protected for the enjoyment of future generations of this great State and, indeed, any person visiting it.”

On 22 November 1983 I was extremely busy. Indeed I was so busy that I forewent the pleasure of introducing into the Parliament the Centennial Park Trust Bill which, amongst other things, established an independent Centennial Park Trust.

The record shows that I deputed one of my Ministers (who also had a keen interest in Centennial and other parklands) to guide the legislation through Parliament.

I gave him the speech I would have delivered, had I been available, and the words uttered are as appropriate and as accurate now as they were then, and I quote:

“Centennial Park is of singular recreational, historical, educational, cultural and environmental significance to the people of New South Wales. The area is no ordinary park and, therefore, like the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain, should be the subject of specific legislation to ensure that it is protected for the enjoyment of future generations of this great State and, indeed, any person visiting it. The legislation before the House will establish an independent Centennial Park Trust. The objects of this Trust recognise the value of this unique

parcel of land and the importance of its many and varied uses.”

My colleague went on to remind Members of Parliament that the Park was established under the Centenary Celebration Act in 1887 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the colony of New South Wales.

Perhaps the most significant official national event to take place in this historic Park was its choice for the signing of the document which formalised the union of the six independent colonies in Australia as a nation.

My 1983 speech emphasises that “there have been changing emphases in the use of the Park for recreational purposes, but particularly in the Queens Park section where it has played an important role in providing facilities for organised sport activities, serving the local and regional populations.

“The Park has catered for active community recreational needs and is used by families seeking passive relaxation. On weekends, the Park is used extensively by people for picnics and family gatherings

and it is one of the great assets of the Park that it can be used for both active and passive recreation.

“Centennial Park constitutes a priceless part of the heritage of New South Wales. The area is one of the State’s most valuable assets. This measure is evidence of the Government’s view that the great value of the area should be maintained in a way that will ensure that it is preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.”



NSW Premier Neville Wran joins a group of children on the new Inner City cycle route, which he officially opened at Centennial Park in Sydney on 7 September 1983.

Looking to the future

By the Hon. Graham West MP

Minister for Gaming and Racing and Minister for Sport and Recreation



“Fostering the use and appreciation of parks by our community is an important part of the lemma Government’s State Plan. The people of NSW can only benefit from increased participation in sport and recreation, and parks play a key role in these activities.”

It is hard to imagine Sydney without the green space that we call Centennial Parklands.

As a recent Parks Forum conference in New Zealand was told, parks are where people in an urbanised world can connect with their heritage and the natural world.

The grand vision of Parklands pioneers such as Sir Henry Parkes and Joseph Maiden has been nurtured by the leaders and people of Sydney for more than 120 years.

Centennial Park was administered by the Chief Minister until 1908, and the Department of Agriculture until 1979.

Responsibility was later transferred to the Premier’s Department where the Park was initially managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens.

And by December 1983 Centennial Park and Queens Park were set up to be looked after by the newly-created Centennial Park Trust.

Fostering the use and appreciation of parks by our community is an important part of the lemma Government’s State Plan.

The people of NSW can only benefit from increased participation in sport and recreation, and parks play a key role in these activities.

We also recognise through our support for the *Healthy Parks Healthy People* program the significant direct health benefits that urban parks and gardens can bestow on their communities.

In its first quarter century, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust has developed a collaborative approach to park management, working with Government, the community, interest groups and commercial stakeholders, and drawing on both national and global Parks initiatives.

I congratulate the Trust on its first 25 years of endeavour and achievement.



The Hon. Graham West MP at the Pram Stroll event in Centennial Park, 2007

Twitcher's Corner

Channel-billed Cuckoo

By Trevor Waller



Channel-billed Cuckoo

The Channel-billed Cuckoo is the largest parasitic cuckoo in Australia. It migrates to Sydney in spring and summer from as far north as New Guinea and Indonesia. It breeds in Australia in spring and summer and then returns north by February. It is a huge grey bird with a very large grey bill and bare red skin around the eyes. It has a long tail with a black band near the tip.

In flight it has strong regular wingbeats and is thought to look like a

flying walking stick. When they arrive in spring they are quite obvious as they fly around with loud raucous calls. They mainly eat fruit, but will also feed on large insects, small lizards, mice and the young of other birds.

Being parasitic they do not build their own nests and do not raise their young. It takes a large host species to deal with a hungry juvenile so they use Currawongs, Magpies or Ravens as hosts. Unlike most other parasitic cuckoos the Channel-bill can lay up to 5 eggs in the one host nest, and once the chicks hatch they do not instinctively eject the host eggs from the nest. The cuckoo chicks grow very quickly and take all the food the host birds can bring to the nest, and this causes the host chicks to starve and die.

The juvenile cuckoo (pictured) grows to be as big as the adult birds but with a smaller bill and buff feathering on the head, and no bare red skin around the eyes. You will usually hear this cuckoo's call before you see it as it flies over the Parklands.

Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with more than 15 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 each season. The next Birdwatcher's Breakfast will be held on Sunday 23 November 2008. Please visit www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson for details.

A Walk in the Park

with Paul Ashton



Author and Park historian,
Paul Ashton

Paul Ashton is Associate Professor with the Australian Centre for Public History at the University of Technology, Sydney and has been a visitor to the Parklands for 30 years. He co-authored the book *Centennial Park: A History* which was commissioned to mark the Park's 100th anniversary in 1988. Paul was also on the steering committee for the Centennial Parklands Conservation Management Plan. He is on the

Editorial Committee of the Dictionary of Sydney and has just written the Dictionary's entry for Centennial Park (not yet published).

Favourite nook in the Parklands?

A spot under the paperbark trees near the Lily Pond in Lachlan Reserve. The contrasts are wonderful; it's enchanting.

Earliest memories of the Parklands?

Bikes, two-seater trikes and picnics with university mates form my earliest memories of the Parklands. But I particularly remember John Mortimer, then Director, ringing me in 1987 to say that Kate Blackmore, Craig Burton and I had been appointed to write Centennial Park's official history.

Who would you most like to take for a walk in the Parklands?

I like to walk overseas visitors through Centennial Park. They are always delightfully surprised by the size and diversity of the Parklands.

Favourite plant or tree?

Can't decide – paperbarks, plane-trees or lilies: all related to my childhood.

What can students learn from the Parklands?

When I took UTS public history students through parts of Centennial Park we read the cultural landscape – we looked at how the past could be seen and interpreted in the Park. They realised that the Park gives us windows onto social, cultural and environmental histories.

One word that best describes the Parklands?

Diverse.

It's been 25 years since the Trust was enacted? What do you think the Parklands will be like in another 25 years?

Even better. We sometimes forget how neglected the Parklands became from the 1930s depression until the early 1970s. These wonderful assets will be even more valued in the future.

Plant of the Season

The Angel's Trumpet

The Angel's Trumpet, *Brugmansia spp.*, is a flowering shrub to small tree native to the subtropical regions of South America. Brugmansia is in the solanaceae plant family and is closely related to the *Datura* genus.

The Angel's Trumpet can reach a height of 10 metres in ideal growing situations and makes a fantastic addition to any cottage-themed garden. These plants are instantly recognisable by the large, finely hairy leaves, light brown bark and numerous pink to orange trumpet shaped flowers that cover the plant throughout the year, peaking in spring.

The dramatic appearance of these flowers is complemented by an attractive scent in the early evening. As with many solanaceae family plants, the flowers and fruits are toxic and should not be consumed.

Brugmansia is best suited to warm, frost free climates in fertile, well drained soils where it will grow in full sun or part shade.

Where can it be seen?

The Angel's Trumpet can be seen in the southern side of the Column Garden in Centennial Park, where it thrives amongst other cottage-themed plantings.



The striking flower (inset) of the Angel's Trumpet

Native Watch

Coastal Wattle

By Frank Hemmings

Coastal Wattle, *Acacia longifolia ssp. Sophorae*, is a common naturally occurring wattle within Centennial Parklands and is very conspicuous when flowering (mid-winter through to mid-spring) when it is covered with golden flowers. Coastal Wattle is one of approximately 960 species of *Acacia* in Australia, and more than 235 in NSW.

It is naturally found in coastal south-eastern Australia from Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria into South Australia. Outside of its natural range, it is introduced into the southern tablelands of New South Wales, some areas of Western Australia and also in South Africa.

Coastal Wattle is a spreading shrub with lower branches which are often prostrate (ground hugging), growing from 0.5-3 metres high and usually much broader than tall. The small flowers are grouped in cylindrical spikes. Like many Australian wattles the 'leaves' are actually highly modified leaf stalks (petioles) called phyllodes.

Coastal Wattle is found on sandy soils in coastal areas, especially in beach dunes but also in heath and woodlands. It is a dominant plant on relatively undisturbed or rehabilitated beach

dunes, but often suffers from competition with Bitou

(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundata*), a weed from South Africa originally introduced to stabilise soils on beach dunes.

Where can it be seen?

Although also widely planted, it occurs naturally in Centennial Park, Queens Park, and especially in the York Road remnant. It provides ideal hiding places for small birds such as Superb Fairy-wrens. Good places to see naturally occurring Coastal Wattle in Centennial Park is near the footbridge over Kensington Pond towards Alison Road, and also on the edges of growth adjacent to the streams around the Mission Fields, below Busbys Pond.

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

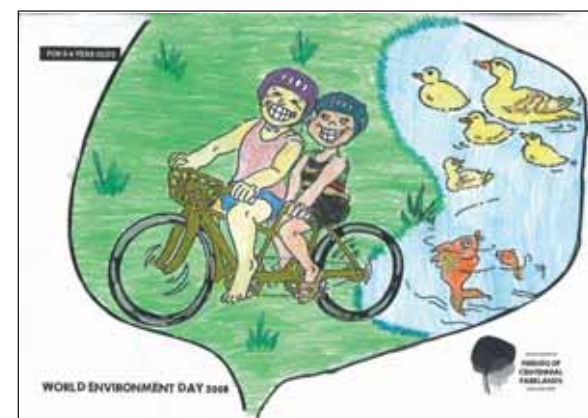


Coastal Wattle

Friends colouring-in competition winners announced!

Congratulations to Jessalyn Tan, 6, and Leo Metzker, 7, who respectively won first prize in the two age groups of the *Friends of Centennial Parklands* colouring-in competition.

Each entry had to be accompanied by a comment about which area of Centennial Park was their favourite. Leo said: "My favourite part of Centennial Park is the playing fields because I do cricket camps here and I can get ice cream at the café," while Jessalyn said: "My favourite part of



Jessalyn Tan's winning entry in the 5-6 years age group category

attended by 40 children who all left with a gift and a fun day out in the Park.

The competition and prizes could not have been made possible without the fantastic support of some of the Parklands' major supporters: Centennial Park Cycles, Absolute Photography and Neco.

Support for the competition was also provided by Moore Park Golf, Moore Park Stables, Rebel Sport, Papillon Riding Stables and Laugh and Learn.

Go online at www.friends.net.au to see the competition entries as well as find out how you can benefit from each of our sponsors.

While you're there, why not join the *Friends* program and enjoy 365 days a year of benefits for you and your family.



Leo Metzker in front of his winning entry in the 7-12 years category

Healthy Parks Healthy People

The value of parks in black and white.

When most people think of parks, they think 'grass and trees'. What most people don't think about is the immense value that parks provide to our community – economic value, environmental value, and the value gained through building social capital and a healthy community.

Parks are vibrant, living assets that deliver many benefits that we all take for granted.

Just how valuable are our parks? Well Parks Forum has gone about answering just that question.

Parks Forum – a peak industry association for parks management agencies in Australia and New Zealand – has just released its *The Value of Parks* document to provide a simple, yet comprehensive review of the role parks play within our community.

The Value of Parks not only outlines the role that parks play, but also how you, as a member of the community can both benefit from, and contribute to the preservation of such parks.



The Value of Parks document

Let's not take our parks for granted. Get involved, get inspired and get into parks.

You can download the document from the Parks Forum website: www.parksforum.org or contact them on (03) 9416 2080 for a copy.

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust is a member of Parks Forum.

In Sydney *Healthy Parks Healthy People* is an initiative of the Sydney Parks Group and includes the Botanic Gardens Trust; Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust; 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

Foundation

The Evergreen Dinner – your park, your planet, your plate

The Foundation presents this inaugural fundraising dinner on Saturday 11 October 2008 in the heart of Centennial Park. The Evergreen Dinner will be set in the middle of a spectacular living food garden, using sustainable materials and local produce.

An exceptional menu will be created by chef Mark Best of Sydney's leading restaurant Marque Restaurant. The Evergreen Dinner will raise funds for a Recycled Garden and Education Centre.

We hope you will join us for a celebration of taste, discovery and discussion. For more information phone the Foundation on (02) 9339 6699 or visit www.yourparklands.org.au/evergreen.



Historic Weather Station to be restored

The Foundation has been awarded a grant through the NSW Heritage Office's 2008-09 Heritage Grants Program to restore the Centennial Park Round House Weather Station coinciding with 150 years of weather observations in Sydney. The disassembled weather station was uncovered in 2006 in Centennial Park's Bird Sanctuary. It was revealed as the only surviving example of a rarer type of weather station known as a 'round house'.

Funding will be used to reconstruct the Weather Station retaining much of the original fabric, detail and construction techniques. The funding will also be used to tell the fascinating story of the Weather Station, providing insight into methods of weather, air temperature and humidity measurement during the early 1900s. The Foundation would like to acknowledge the support of the Bureau of Meteorology during the application process.

Thank you to Green Corps

The highly successful Green Corps team behind the 'Greening the City at Centennial Parklands' project graduated on 31 July 2008. The Foundation, in partnership with Greening Australia, supported the Green Corps team to complete a variety of projects including the removal of European Carp from our ponds and restocking with native Bass. Busbys Pond was also improved through the removal of weed and replacement with native plant species. The team undertook tree planting in Queens Park and plant propagation in the Parklands' community nursery facility.

An exciting addition to the graduation was a wonderful photo exhibition by aspiring photographer and team member Ben Chapman, showcasing the team's journey over the six month project.

New benefactors

Jillian Arnott
Stephen Jones and Yvonne Reuben
Renee Pollack Foundation
Henry Pollack Foundation
Roy and Karin Flor
The Armstrong Family

To find out more on any of these programs, or to make a donation, please contact the Foundation on (02) 9339 6699 or visit www.yourparklands.org.au

Volunteers National Volunteer Week



Volunteer, Petra O'Neill, receives a Certificate of Appreciation

Centennial Parklands celebrated National Volunteer Week in May 2008 with a morning tea for our volunteers at which Director and Chief Executive Steve Corbett presented certificates of appreciation. Group representatives spoke of their achievements and the value that volunteering has brought to their lives.

Kambala School Volunteers

In July 2008 ten senior students from Kambala School were selected to participate in a hands-on five week program to learn about the Parklands' environmental and urban park management.

The group participated in plant propagation and revegetation, gardening, water quality measuring, weed removal and native bird surveying.

ESBS sites are 'best practice'

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change has recognised the Trust's Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) restoration sites as best practice Threatened Species Demonstration Sites. Works performed on these two sites will be used to demonstrate best practice management of ESBS.

This recognition is an endorsement of the quality work of our dedicated volunteers, and would not have been possible without the support of the National Trust in providing supervision of volunteers and financial assistance from our neighbours, Moriah College.


To find out more on any of these programs please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Lyn Walker on (02) 9339 6627 or email volunteers@centennialparklands.com.au

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 Stn, 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, Alison 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: 30 November 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

Cnr Grand & Parkes Drive, Centennial Park (adjacent to playground). Open 7 days. 7.30 am–5.00 pm (02) 9380 9350 (temporary facility until spring 2008). www.trippaswhite.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 H5

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 G5 H5**

Cycling and Rollerblading

3.8 km cycle/rollerblade lane on Grand Dr, Centennial Park. Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alison Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way. Off-road cycling circuit for children at Learners Cycleway. Helmets required. **D5**

Centennial Parklands Cycle Hire F3

Cnr Hamilton & Grand Drs, in Centennial Park 0401 357 419

Centennial Park Cycles G6

50 Clovelly Rd, Randwick (02) 9398 5027

Skater HQ D3

Shop 2154, The Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park (02) 9368 0940

Playgrounds

There are five playgrounds catering for a range of age groups. **A2 D5 E2 E3 H5**

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

SPORT AND FACILITY HIRE

Quality sports grounds and facilities for hire for casual one-off bookings or seasonal competitions. (02) 9339 6699

ES Marks Athletics Field B5

For hire for training or carnivals. 400 m running track, floodlit field and covered stand with seating for 1000 people. Casual public training, Tue, Wed & Thu, 3.30 pm–8.30 pm. (02) 9339 6699 www.centennialparklands.com.au/sports

Moore Park Tennis Courts B3

Tennis court hire, coaching, social competitions, racquet and ball sales and ball machine hire. Four floodlit courts. Open 7 days, 7.00 am–10.00 pm. 0412 123 456

Parklands Sports Centre C4


Tennis court hire, coaching, school holiday camps and competitions. 11 floodlit courts. Open 7 days, 9.00 am–10.00 pm (summer & Mon to Thu in winter) 9.00 am–6.00 pm (Fri in winter) 8.00 am–6.00 pm (winter weekends) (02) 9662 7033


Moore Park Golf B3

Par 70, 18-hole Group One Championship public access golf course. All weather, day-night Driving Range, Putting and Chipping greens, Pro Shop and School of Golf. Membership now available. (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au

Horse Riding C4 D5

3.6 km horse track; 3.5 ha of fenced grounds featuring showjumping, dressage, lunging and turf hacking; Equestrian Centre with covered arenas, hot and cold wash bays and sand rolls. Riding schools offer lessons, horse hire, pony camps, pony parties, pony leads and guided park rides. Stabling available. (02) 9332 2809 www.cpequestrian.com.au

 Budapest Riding School 0419 231 391 budapestridingschool@aapt.net.au

 Centennial Stables (02) 9360 5650 www.centennialstables.com.au

 Eastside Riding Academy (02) 9360 7521 www.eastsideriding.com.au

 Moore Park Riding Stables (02) 9360 8747 www.mooreparkstables.com.au

 Papillon Riding Stables (02) 8356 9866 or 0407 224 938 www.papillonriding.com.au

WHAT'S ON

Ranger-guided educational excursions, children's birthday parties, guided tours and workshops, school holiday activities, vacation care programs as well as sports camps, concerts, festivals and events. (02) 9339 6699 www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment Quarter D3

Located adjacent to the Fox Professional Studios, this is a hub for events, concerts, shows, movies, Farmers markets, bars and dining. (02) 8117 6700 www.eqmoorepark.com.au


Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries C3


www.playbillvenues.com

Moonlight Cinema G2

www.moonlight.com.au

CONTACT US

 **Parklands Office** (behind Café), Mon to Fri, 8.30 am–5.00 pm **E3**

 Additional information outlets are located at the Superintendent's Residence and the new Centennial Parklands Restaurant. Opening days and hours are varied. Please visit www.centennialparklands.com.au for more details

Information boards containing maps and brochures are conveniently placed at most entry gates and main thoroughfares throughout the Parklands.

t. (02) 9339 6699 | f. (02) 9332 2148
after hours emergency: 0412 718 611
e. info@centennialparklands.com.au
w. www.centennialparklands.com.au
a. Locked Bag 15, Paddington NSW 2021

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Healthy People



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