

CENTENNIAL parklands

the magazine of the centennial park & moore park trust

VOL 1

INAUGURAL ISSUE

WINTER 1997

what's happening in
american parks?

environmental boost
for pond system

the heritage and
history of
centennial park



to let you know how the Trust and State Government are building for a new century.

Pam Allan,
Minister for the Environment

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of Centennial Parklands magazine. This quarterly publication marks a new era for the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust, as it responds to repeated calls from the parklands' community: 'talk to us!'

This issue includes features on the parklands' environmental initiatives; a perspective on park management from the US; a look at the history of Centennial Park; and a preview of MiMi, the Cultural Olympiad's flagship performance heading to the Park's Amphitheatre in September.

Of course, these parklands are a resource of growing importance to people beyond the local neighbourhood, particularly as the State and nation gears up to celebrate the Centenary of Federation in 2001 (yes, there is life after the Olympics!). That's why this magazine will be circulated to Sydney's major hotels, to tourism offices around the country, to public libraries, media outlets, as well as Park Friends and other local users.

In its recently prepared Draft Plan of Management, the Trust sets down a framework for carrying out the critical task of protecting the integrity of the parklands, conserving their natural and cultural heritage, while ensuring they remain relevant to the changing demands of the people who use them.

This magazine will be just one way of helping the Trust fulfil its obligation to keep the community informed about the way that task is progressing. It is intended to be a forum to bring the parklands and their visitors – current and future – closer together.

I hope you, your family and friends find this magazine useful.

Let me know what you think. I look forward to reading your thoughts about *Centennial Parklands* and your ideas for future stories.

Tina Broad,
Editor and Marketing Manager, Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust

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US PARKS TAKE BACKSEAT TO HIGHWAYS AND SEWERS

United States park administrators – facing declining or stagnant levels of income from their Governments – are looking to private enterprise for new ways to fund activities.

By *Tony Rasman*.

While the infrastructure of many American Parks is under stress – and some managers have no choice but to take drastic steps such as deferring maintenance programs – the politics of entering into commercial arrangements with the private sector are tricky, according to Pat O'Brien, Head of the East Bay Regional Parks in Northern California.

The funding trend for Parks in the United States is a downwards one, mainly driven by costs or competition for Government dollars. In any American Government – whether municipal, State or Federal – Parks tend to take a backseat, says Mr O'Brien, when competing against politically popular expenditure on new highways, prisons or sewerage systems.

He says that although public use of Parks is high, and growing, chronic Government funding constraints mean there has been a visible deterioration in the Parks – hardly surprising when managers are forced to defer maintenance programs to meet squeezed budgets. Under-funding, he says, is a major issue in the East Bay Regional Parks.

"While the infrastructure of many American Parks is decaying, many are unable,

because of politics, to go too commercial. At East Bay, we are developing and converting to Parkland the decommissioned Alameda Naval base as a self-sustaining financial entity. We will be doing this by franchising a hotel, allowing camping by the bay – and developing commercial marinas.

"The private sector will finance and operate the conversion. But, at the same time, we will ensure there is open space and trails which allow the public free access to the water," he says.

Mr O'Brien recently visited Australia to find out how our Park administrators are fusing commercial and business pressures, with protection of the natural integrity of open spaces. During a hectic fact-finding tour, he also managed to launch Centennial Parklands' new Business Breakfast series.

A relaxed professional in his early forties, O'Brien (pictured above) has a long history of managing public open spaces. Before being appointed head of East Bay Regional Parks, one of California's largest public park regions, he was General Manager of SouthGate Parks, which covers South Sacramento County and was legislative Chairman of the California Park and Recreation Society.

Founded in 1934, East Bay covers more than 34,000 hectares (as a comparison, Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks cover 365 hectares) and is run by an elected board of seven directors. It holds the title to the 53 regional parks, 2 golf courses, 3 pools, 8 lakes and 5 shorelines, a zoo, botanic gardens, 1 historic farm, 1 coal and sand mine and underground mining museum, 1 volcanic preserve and 1 scaled down steam train. Spanning two counties that are home to more than 2 million people, the Park has its own 'public safety' division – on horses, mountain bikes, sedans, 4WD's and

helicopters, to look after the 12 million people who visit the Parks.

US Park Supporters Suspicious

O'Brien says the biggest challenge for Parks entering into partnerships with private enterprise is not the strategic business plan or legal complexity but overcoming the concerns of people who support pristine open space.

"With stagnant or declining funding levels, commercial partnerships and sponsorships are the main ways for us to maintain resource levels, but a lot of people see those things as competitors and are fearful of the consequences. People would like Alameda to be public open space. We are slowly getting them to understand that we need a commercial base to convert, upgrade and operate this facility."

Property tax is levied by each county under State laws raising \$US50 million a year for East Bay. The EBRP also levies each house in its "assessment district" \$5 a year to maintain and finance 1,500 miles of trails winding their way up and down the Californian coast. This levy brings in an additional \$US4 million a year.

To raise further funds, O'Brien says, they have also passed a \$225 million Capital Bond Act, to provide tax exempt bonds, which are sold in \$45 million dollar increments. 75 percent of the proceeds from the sales are used to raise funds for further land acquisitions, 25 percent for development of the Park.

East Bay Regional Parks has also levied user fees and charges on activities such as cultural and educational programs.

This is balanced by free-of-charge programs such as the summer camps for disadvantaged teenagers.

He says the aim of the Park's new commercial focus is not to be financially self-sufficient – but to manage the growing shortfall in Government funds.

"We also have an extensive volunteer program of equestrian hiking, trekking groups and mountain climbing groups which help to maintain the extensive trail system. They have their own communication units which liaise with the Park's rangers and they are the eyes and ears for the Park."



Mr O'Brien visited Sydney as a guest of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust. He was the inaugural speaker at the Centennial Parklands Breakfast series at Sydney's Marriott Hotel.

The breakfast series is a Trust initiative to provide a forum for Sydney's park and recreational management community to share their skills with international and interstate experts.



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subject to availability on Saturday evenings.

*As a Corporate Friend of the Parklands,
the Sydney Marriott congratulates the Trust on
the first issue of Centennial Parklands.*



Windows on the Park Restaurant
Sydney Marriott Hotel, 36 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010
Phone: 9361 8451

star lit nights to celebrate olympic festival of dreaming

During September,
Centennial Park plays
host to MiMi, one of the
highlights of the first
official pre-Olympics
celebration, the Festival
of Dreaming.

For two weeks
from September

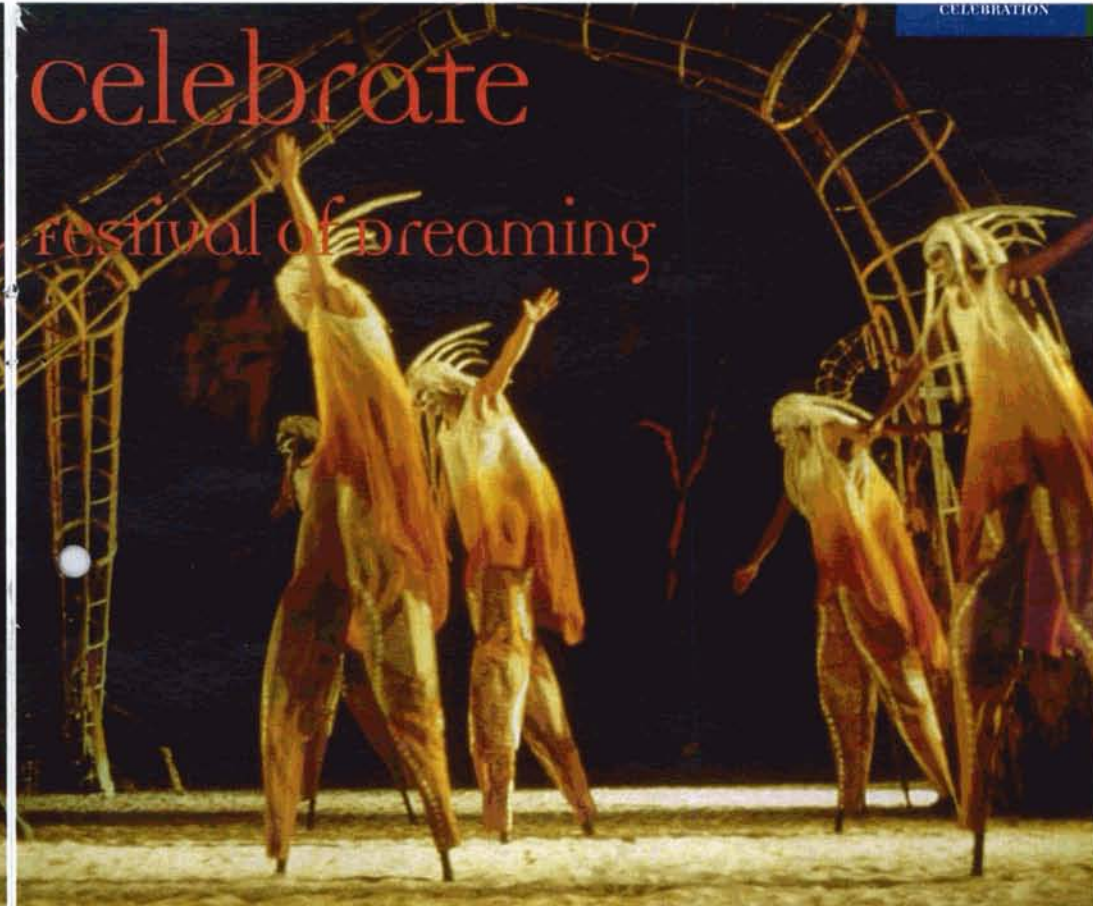
17, Centennial Park's
Amphitheatre will be transformed by striking Aboriginal
images, rock silhouettes and performers on stilts. A huge
white paperbark tree dominates the outdoor performance
space on which acclaimed indigenous dancers and
performers will strut, hang, move and intertwine...

Billed as one of the highlights of the 1997 Festival of
Dreaming – the first official pre-Olympic celebrations – the
Centennial Park performances of MiMi are a choreographed
celebration of Aboriginal art and culture. The Festival of
Dreaming, the first of four Olympic Arts Festivals leading up
to the Sydney Games, is designed as an expression of the
Olympic spirit of friendship and advancing the goal of a
fairer, more peaceful world.

The Marrugeka Company is a collaboration between
Stalker Stilt Theatre, famous internationally for their brand
of highly physical theatre, contemporary Aboriginal dancers
and musicians and the Kunwinjku people of the
Kunbarillanjinja community in western Arnhem Land.

The MiMi are a mythical people from Western Arnhem
Land. According to legend, the MiMi taught Aboriginals much
about law and family. In the evenings, the MiMi are said to
leave their rocky homes to frolic in the still of the countryside
where, it is said, they sing, dance and make love.

Arnhem Land tribal elders believe this critically-



*In the evening, the MiMi leave their rocky homes to frolic in the
countryside where they sing, dance and make love. It's an event
you shouldn't miss.*

acclaimed story of the MiMi will help more people to
gain an understanding of the top-end's unique
culture. After debuting at the 1996 Festival of
Perth, MiMi has since visited the Arnhem Land
communities of Kunbarillanjinja, Maningrida,
Galiwinku and Yirrkala – and, more recently,
has been performed for large audiences in
the Netherlands.

The limited season of performances of
MiMi outdoors in Centennial Park –
September 17-21, 24 to 28 and Sept 30
to Oct 2 – is the first time the dance
will be performed for Sydney
audiences. It's an event you shouldn't
miss. For Olympic Arts Festival
inquiries, please phone (02) 9297
2500. To book, dial (02) 9320 9133. P

coming events

PUMP YOUR HEART FOR VICTOR CHANG:

Help unlock the mysteries of heart
disease by competing in a fund raising
day in the Parklands on Sunday 7 September
(Car Free Day). Call (02) 9361 7022.

SHOWJUMPING: Sunday 19 October.

Following its success last year, the Hermes
Showjumping challenge will again be held at Kippax Lake,
Moore Park. The event has just received accreditation from
the Federation Equestre Internationale and is to be included
on the International Showjumping circuit.

CONCERT FOR KIDS:

Sunday 26 October, Centennial Park Amphitheatre.
To help with celebrations for Children's Week 1997, the Trust is
staging a free concert in conjunction with the Children's Week
Association of NSW and the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.
Entertainment will include cult kids hero Monica Trapaga, the Cubby
House Band, the Merrymakers and a host of activities.

A \$600,000 capital works program underway in Centennial Park is designed to tackle pollution in the ponds by eliminating feral fish, waterweeds, sediment, litter and reducing the level of nutrients – which create blue-green algae – entering the waters. The program is the first stage in a \$4 million overhaul of the Park's heritage pond system.

The ponds have long been a favourite haunt of urban bird watchers and picnicking families. However, their deteriorating water quality has been a matter of some concern to Park users in recent years, according to Director of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust, Mr Robin Grimwade.

Members of the public had expressed their dissatisfaction at the state of the ponds in a recent visitor's survey, he said.

"In three months of operations the pond restoration program has already moved a fair way," explains Ms Barbara Almond, Centennial Park's Water Quality Officer. "I think some of our regular visitors have been a bit taken aback to see earth movers and trucks around the ponds. But most people accept that things have reached a pretty critical stage where we had to do something positive if we were to breathe new life into the ponds."

She believes the integrated ponds restoration program is an ambitious environmental undertaking – setting out to

change patterns established over a century and a half. For the last 150 years the ponds have been receiving large quantities of stormwater and all the things that come with it – rubbish, heavy metals, soil, nutrients from garden fertilisers and pet droppings. "What we're trying to do is create a more natural system and at the same time maintain the heritage value of the ponds. It's a difficult balancing act but if we took no action, in 50 years time they'd have become a quagmire."

Having worked on the pond restoration program since its inception, Barbara has a practical understanding of the relevant environmental issues. In the long run, Ms Almond expects the pond system will appear more natural and there will be increased wildlife.

Most people don't know that between 1830 and 1857 the waters from Lachlan swamps – now Centennial Park's ponds – supplied all of Sydney's drinking water.

A three-and-a-half kilometre tunnel, known as Busby's Bore, carried the water to Hyde Park where it was distributed to residents of a then-small city.

It remained the colony's sole source of fresh water until 1859 when the area became polluted by grazing and the city's spread.

Native trees and plants are central to a restoration program that is set to return Centennial Park's ponds to a healthier, natural state by the year 2000, reports Henry Pepper.

'Greenprint' for Historic ponds



"We're introducing native vegetation as part of the process but we're being quite selective about where it's placed. We're focusing most of the plantings at water inlet points where the worst of the rubbish and pollution comes into the system."

"We're landscaping the banks to reduce erosion, weed growth and general degradation."

"We've created a small wetlands area at the top of the ponds which will help to reduce the nutrient levels in water entering the system."

She believes the project will ultimately create better habitat for wildlife.

"If you come down to the ponds in a few years time, I know the birds will have much better habitat for breeding,

feeding and nesting. By planting native reeds and grasses, we'll get lots more frogs, the insect population will increase and introduced carp will be replaced by native fish," she says.

'Greenprint' For The Future

The restoration process also involves planting native aquatic plants at the top of the system, which then act as a natural filter system that absorbs nutrients and stabilises water-borne sediments.

The program also sets out to control the numbers of feral fish such as carp and stock the ponds with native fish species including Australian Bass, facilitate the growth of insect larvae and zooplankton which feed on blue green algae; and to plant native grasses to minimise the erosion of pond banks and upgrade wildlife habitat.

A systematic process of 'biomanipulation' will tilt the aquatic balance in the ponds away from algal blooms in favour of beneficial aquatic plants.

This 'green print' for one of Sydney's favourite playgrounds is designed to help residents of the metropolis find some relief from an increasingly competitive and stressful city life.

The plan has been developed by the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust in conjunction with the CSIRO, the NSW Environment Protection Authority, the University of Western Sydney and the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation.

Do you require more information on how you can help to rehabilitate the ponds?

The Park Trust has five fact sheets about the ponds and a brochure on how you can help reduce pollution levels. These helpful publications are available from the Centennial Park Trust's front office, or by calling (02) 9339 6699 during office hours.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has written information available on managing stormwater pollution. Call 131 555

How You Can Help

The long-term health of the ponds depends, to a large extent, on Park-side residents adopting and maintaining pollution control measures.

The ponds have long acted as a holding area for stormwater run-off from a highly populated 590 hectare catchment area that includes Fox Studios, the Sydney Football Stadium, the Sydney Cricket Ground and the adjoining suburbs of Randwick, Centennial Park, Bondi Junction and Queens Park. "Be aware that what you do in your back yard does effect what happens in Centennial Park. We all have a role to play in ensuring the Centennial Parklands remain a place of beauty, peace and culture for the people of Sydney," notes Trust Director, Robin Grimwade.

He points out that drains in suburbs surrounding the park all eventually run into the ponds. Every cigarette butt, dog dropping or plastic bag that goes down the drain ends up in the Park's waterways. He suggests avoiding garden fertilisers during the rainy season and washing cars on a grass area rather than the street, as two simple

ways that friends of the park can reduce the pond nutrient levels that can trigger algal activity.

Mr Grimwade adds that the 26 hectares of water in the Parklands are a vital part of the Botany Bay water catchment area, with runoff from the ponds ultimately flowing into Botany Bay's wetlands.

"Any pollution is ultimately passed right through these precious waterways," he says.

Take A Walk on The Wild side

Did you know that Centennial Park is one of the best bird watching sites in the metropolitan area? Ern Hoskin, octogenarian bird watcher, gentleman, teacher and friend of the park, explains some of the secrets of the feathered world to *Henry Pepper*.

In 1929, an eminent ornithologist said there was nowhere better than Centennial Park's ponds to observe water birds. It remains the same today, according to 82 year old Ern Hoskin and he should know. He's been visiting the Parklands habitat to observe its bird life for more than 50 years, maintaining a watcher's list of the many species of birds to be found around the Park.

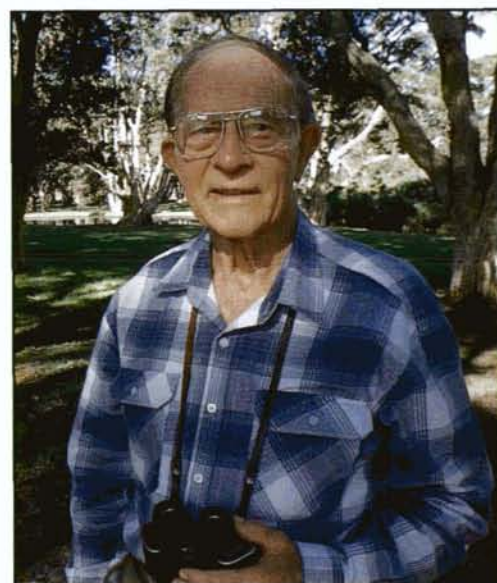
The Parklands are important wildlife habitat, according to Ern. "On any given day you could expect to find 35 species of birds in the Park – and most of these species are not common in the metropolitan area," he says.

"There's more people in the Park today, obviously, than when I first visited. So, the best time for bird watching is early in the morning or on a weekday," is his tip. "The water birds are usually visible right through the day, the park is their habitat, they nest in the trees and on the islands in the ponds." During a 1981 outing in Centennial Park, Ern and a group of colleagues recorded 59 species of native birds which remains the record for a "one-day excursion" in the city. The total included a number of native and migratory species of wading birds taking advantage of the main pond being drained at the time. "This is an indication," he says with eyes lighting up, "that if habitat is created then the birds will find it." Stands of native trees and shrubs attract migrant, nomadic and vagrant bush bird species to the Park but, Ern notes, in such a large space their presence may go undetected. "Years ago, I found the first recorded pair of nesting Tawny Frogmouths in the Park. Occasionally, after a storm, you can see rare species. There's always an element of surprise that makes a

visit to Centennial Park something to anticipate," he says.

A quietly spoken enthusiast, Ern manages and runs the Keith Hindwood Bird Recording Service, continuing the work of his late mentor by cataloguing and supplying information on over 450 Australian species from files dating back to 1928.

"My interest in birds began at 9 years of age. My eldest brother had a copy of an Australian bird book and I thought the coloured pictures were beautiful," Ern told *Centennial Parklands*. "Bird watching is a pleasurable past time and it gets you outdoors with all the flora and fauna."



Portrait by Karin Moore



Picture: Ern Hoskin

Regular Introductory Walks

Aware of growing interest in birds, Ern Hoskin leads regular early morning 'beginners' bird watching tours of Centennial Park. All ages welcome. Contact the Trust on (02) 9339 6699 to book.

CENTENNIAL square

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function space, in the lakeside
setting of centennial park.

tel: 02 9339 6615

Living Memories of Grand European Design

History just keeps on repeating itself. During the 19th Century, deeply-felt public concern about rapid industrial and social change led to political revolutions across Europe and an unprecedented program of public park development.

By Professor Gavan McDonell.



PICTURE: AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

A heated debate over the merits of Federation was resolved in the last decade of the 19th Century by the Australian people voting to establish a Federal system. Pictured is the First Australian Federal Ministry, led by Prime Minister Edmund Barton, being sworn into their newly-created positions during a ceremony in Centennial Park on January 1, 1901.

The Centennial Parklands – proclaimed in 1888 – were the product of a wave of park development then taking place around the Western world, centred on the rapidly industrialising countries of the United States, Great Britain and her colonies.

This period of park development was largely a cultural and social response to increasing concern about the rapid pace of urban concentration and massive industrialisation which peaked in the second half of the 19th Century. These changes had brought with them crowded housing in new cities with minimal infrastructure, standardised working patterns and – following the revolutions that occurred across Europe in 1848 – increasing recognition of the concerns of workers and urban residents who were agitating for better conditions.

Philosophically and artistically, reactions to the 'machine age' had already occurred in poetry such as William Blake's writing about the 'dark, satanic mills' of Northern

England. In landscape design, it took the form of the English picturesque, of which the 'gardenesque' style of Centennial Park is a later variation. This was a conscious reaction to the previously dominant, geometrical and strongly formalised French style.

The new garden style was also influenced by Oriental ideas which had come into fashion in association with the intensive trade with Japan and China that developed during the 18th and 19th Centuries.

The urban park, in this context, became an example of the democratisation of the pursuits of new elite groups, where extensive land areas in or near cities were put aside for the recreation, health and 'pleasure in nature' of the new urban working classes. The Centennial Park complex is an excellent and typical example of

Centennial Park was opened on January 26, 1888 by Sir Henry Parkes. He stated that "this grand park is emphatically the people's park and you must always take as much interest in it as if by your own hands you had planted the flowers... the park will be one of the grandest adornments of this beautiful country."

the type – although when the park first opened it was devoted to the use of nearby families and their horse-drawn carriages.

Characteristics of this style of park were planning, design, plantings and structures which imitated those made popular in English manor parks and in the associated great parks of London, such as

Kensington Gardens. Centennial Park vividly illustrates this trend. Here we can only note the ubiquitous water features, which certainly had European precedents, but which were very much in the style of the naturalistic lakes and ponds beloved of Chinese landscape designers.

Professor McDonell supervises the Environmental Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of NSW and is also a member of the Centennial Parklands Community Consultative Committee.

PICTURE: HENRY PIPPER



Increased numbers of park rangers means better security and a greater focus on education, environment and heritage activities.

Understated authority: Ms Barbara Bush recently underwent a major career transformation to become one of 11 additional rangers patrolling Centennial Park.

Increased security allows more activities

While Sydney's favourite Park does provide a safe and healthy recreational environment for its visitors, an official 20 percent rise in the City of Sydney's crime rate over the past 12 months appears to have heightened community awareness.

As a result, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust entered into a contractual arrangement with Group 4 Securitas to provide an additional 11 security rangers. This leaves the Trust's in-house team of six rangers more time to develop and carry out a wider range of educational, heritage and environmental programs in the park. The new intake of female and male ranger security staff started patrolling the Park at the beginning of March.

"The increased number of rangers means that Park users can feel certain their needs will be looked after," explains Ms Judi, New, Trust Recreation Management Coordinator.

A recent survey of 5,620 park visitors found that personal safety was a major issue. 54 percent of respondents said a general feeling of personal safety was important to them while 49 percent believe it is important that Park users behave in a considerate fashion towards fellow visitors.

"We place great importance on assisting all members of the public to get the best out of their recreation time," Ms New explains.

Barbara Bush is a committed weightlifter and former professional fitness trainer who recently underwent a major career transformation. Four months on, and the diminutive Ms Bush still can't believe her good luck.

"It's a wonderful environment to work in," Ms Bush says.



"we don't have many incidents here and it's our role to ensure it stays this way. we're like community police officers."

"And, with the increase in numbers, the in-house rangers are now able to spend more time on educational, environmental and heritage-related activities."

Like each of the new rangers, Barbara underwent a number of training courses before commencing work. She was required to undertake a seven day training course and sit for an exam under an innovative induction program, which was an Australian first for the parks and recreation industry.

She says a typical day includes everything from rescuing a small dog trapped down a rabbit warren to administering first aid to a fallen horse rider. It also includes opening and closing

gates, conducting security patrols, preventing vandalism and, generally, maintaining a visible presence.

"We don't have many nasty incidents here and it's our role to ensure it stays that way. We're like community police officers," Barbara says with an air of understated authority.

Early feedback has shown that regular visitors are happy that the Park authorities are stepping up security early in the morning and during the dark hours.

"Most of the people in the Park are pleased to have us around," Barbara says. "A lot of older people are walking in the Park when it's still dark. At that time, we're out opening gates, so they feel safe."

"I haven't had many people complain, even when we're writing them a ticket," she says with a chuckle.

Ranger Security Officers patrol the Park 24 hours a day and can be contacted at any time by calling the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust office on (02) 9339 6699 – where calls are automatically diverted to duty officers.

A day in the life: centennial park

Mrs Emery has just returned to the metropolitan area and, together with an energetic Silky Terrier, has been renewing her acquaintance with the Park. "My husband and I left Sydney 10 years ago, before that I was always here jogging around the Park," she recalls. "We returned to the city late last year and I'm enjoying being able to spend time here again."

"The Park has many great memories for me – my husband and I used to come here for picnics. I enjoy the beauty, the natural state of the Park. It's very peaceful. Every spot in the Park is different."



"I like to take it all in and enjoy the surroundings," Mrs Emery says.

"When I was living in the country, I missed Centennial Park very much," she told *Centennial Parklands*.

"I've just started to get back into jogging and, as the dog can manage the whole of the inside track (around the Park), we're exercising together. She helps motivate me, helps keep me fit."



Many Japanese tourists – and others from within the country and around the world – visit Centennial Park to take advantage of the only horse-riding facilities within coo-ee of the harbour.

Tokyo-born Sachie Watanabe, pictured centre, is an equestrian *senpai* (teacher) who, on the day she spoke with *Centennial Parklands*, was accompanied by two novice students who had not previously been horse riding.

"I used to take tourists riding around here every day. I still often bring tourists here to ride around the Park. It's a beautiful place, close to city and good for the tourist industry," she said.

With more than 3 million tourists visiting the Olympic city each year, it's not surprising that increasing numbers are finding their way to this oasis of green that's just four kilometres from the CBD.

Sonia Viner & Sandra Hoffberg and their children have just started visiting the park on a regular basis. "We enjoy the open spaces, greenery, the quiet. If you walk on the streets you have all the car noise, this is a good place to bring infants," Sonia says.

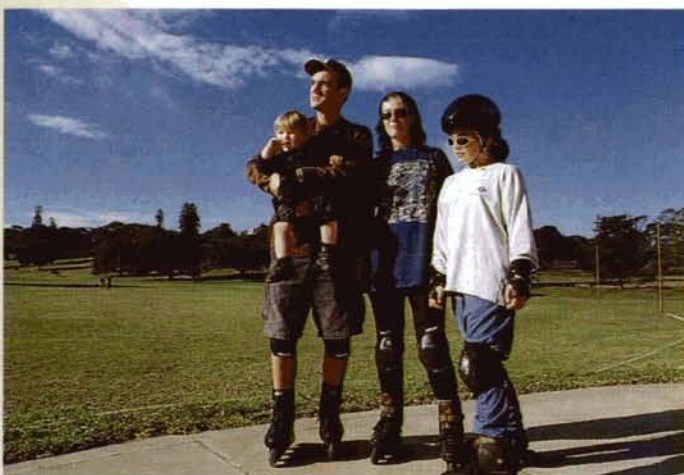
She nominates the patch of fir trees separating the main sports fields from the ponds area as her favourite part of the park.

Sandra has fond memories of sunny afternoons spent bicycling in the park: "I feel safe riding here."

"You feel like you're in the country," she says.



ALL PHOTOS: KAREN NOLAN



Vicki Irwin, pictured centre, is a recent migrant who has many dear and close associations with the Parklands.

"I come to the Park with Jade about once a week. It's nice and quiet ... and you can roller blade."

Vicki says that roller blading is not as hard as it looks. "It's OK when you're moving in a straight line, I can't do any of the tricks though," (she said with a laugh).

"I don't have a favourite part of the Park. Down by the ponds is good – but it's all very nice if you ask me."

Vicki had lived and worked in Sydney for two years on a work permit, before returning to the UK and applying successfully to migrate.

"The third week after I arrived back here, all my friends and I came down here to have a celebratory picnic – which was really nice. And memorable!" she recalls with a broad smile. ☺

Making The Best Of Unwanted Road

The Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust recently announced it had reached a memorandum of understanding with the State Government and the RTA, which includes an overall compensation and improvement package in response to the impact of the Eastern Distributor on Moore Park.

While the Trust has publicly admitted it was disappointed at the outcome, and concerned about the effect that increased traffic flows may have on the parklands, the resulting compromise was made in the face of political determination to proceed with this controversial road.



"Our preferred position has always been that there should be no loss of parkland. But, given that the Distributor is to proceed, we have taken the opportunity of negotiating with the State Government and the RTA to ensure the best overall outcome for the parklands," explains Trustee Mr Richard Cobden.

After negotiations, it was resolved

that 2.2 hectares of land fronting South Dowling St will be transferred to the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA).

The agreement includes a commitment by Premier Carr to work with the Trust to find a solution to car parking in Moore Park and, ultimately, to convert large areas of Moore Park to 'real' parkland through a program of extensive landscape improvements.

Who Runs The Parks?

More than a century after Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park were first dedicated, it is the responsibility of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust to ensure their vitality and service to the people of Sydney.

The Trust was established by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act of 1983. Seven Trustees are appointed by the State Government for terms of up to four years and one Trustee is elected by members of the Community Consultative Committee for a one year term.

The Trust also works with the Community Consultative Committee – nine people from a range of backgrounds whose role is to advocate community interests to the Trust.

down to the ponds, the Centennial Square site has been developed in response to repeated requests from members of the local community and event organisers for a dedicated marquee area.

Centennial Square offers full facilities and a charming, natural environment that guests will long remember.

Telephone (02) 9339 6615 for more details on this new facility.

Stables Redevelopment

As you may have noticed, a program of improvements is underway at the old Showground Stables. As a result of the impending transfer of this site along with the Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion to the Trust, the Stables are to be given a complete overhaul under a \$6 million redevelopment program.

The new world-class facility will

remain accessible to Sydneysiders, under the Trust's charter of ensuring that the broad community's needs are met.

For more information on the Stables Redevelopment, please contact Darren Williamson, Project Officer on (02) 9339 6628.

Calling All Volunteers

The Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust is investigating the possibility of formalised training for volunteers. Right now, we're trying to determine the level of interest from the community. If you have an interest in the natural environment, love the Parks and could spare a few hours each month, we'd like to hear from you.

To register your interest, please call (02) 9339 6614.

The Best Address In Town!

Can you keep a secret? A quiet corner of Centennial Park – designed for marquee-style entertaining – becomes available for weddings, special gatherings and corporate functions from September 1997.

Featuring a formal entrance and a paved walkway that meanders its way

Centennial Parklands Facilities:

Moore Park Golf Course:	9663 1064
Moore Park Pro Shop & Driving Range:	9663 4966
Parklands Tennis Centre:	9662 7033
Centennial Park Cafe:	9360 3355
Sports Facilities – including lawn bowls, hockey, soccer, cricket and touch football.	
Bookings:	9339 6621
Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust:	9339 6699
Centennial Park Rangers (24 Hour):	018 298 537
	or 018 298 508