

# parklands

THE MAGAZINE OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



Crowd Pleasers:  
events for everyone

Endangered bushland  
comes to life

Family Trees – the next  
generation

  
CENTENNIAL  
parklands  
*is living Sydney*



# Directions



Events in parks and gardens generally arouse a range of responses from the community and the hosting of such events in Centennial Parklands does no less.

Centennial Parklands supports an exciting annual program of music concerts, circuses, outdoor cinema and sporting events, which encourage participation from all ages and groups in our community, attracting visitors from across Sydney and further abroad.

In the last financial year, Centennial Parklands hosted 23 significant events, with an

estimated 159,000 patrons, not including the many patrons attending events at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Aussie Stadium and Entertainment Quarter. More than a quarter of these were charity events, raising in excess of \$1 million in fundraising. This trend is continuing into the 2005-2006 year.

While many event fees only cover costs to the Trust, any additional revenue raised from events assists Centennial Parklands to plant new trees, improve amenities and maintain infrastructure. Often the question is raised about any damage to the Parklands after events. The Trust requires the payment of a bond from all event organisers and uses these funds to remediate sites when required.

All events must be consistent with the Trust's Plan of Management and these events are managed to minimise impact on the Parklands, visitors and local residents. For example, the route of the annual Walk to Cure Diabetes which attracts up to 10,000 people, was altered last year to allow Centennial Park's Grand Drive to remain

open to vehicles throughout the day.

In recent issues of *Parklands*, I invited readers to experience the summer entertainment line-up and I reinforced the Parklands careful management and consideration of these events. In this issue, the background to events is explored more closely in our feature article, 'Crowd Pleasers' on page 6 and a review of recent events is on page 5. We also have lots more interesting information on the Parklands in this issue as well as our regular features.

The change in season from the heat of summer to the crispness of autumn is a wonderful time in Centennial Parklands and I wish you a cool, calm and contented autumn.

Steve Corbett  
Director and Chief Executive  
Centennial Parklands



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## Parkbench

### A change of direction

Traffic conditions along Carrington Drive in Centennial Park have been modified as part of a trial to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. Formerly two-way and without a dedicated footpath, Carrington Drive is a popular cyclist route and dog walking area. It has now been changed to a one-way road, from Woollahra Gates to Paddington Gates, and a section of roadway has been cordoned off to allow safer pedestrian passage. The start of this trial coincided with the launch of the Moonlight Cinema season which attracts large crowds, so this will ensure a realistic test for these new arrangements. The section of the road near Paddington Gates remains two-way to maintain access to the Paddington Playground.

### Grand Drive bubbles along

The upgrade to Grand Drive is nearing completion with the works progressing to Stage 6 between Musgrave Avenue and Govett Street Gates. This last stage is expected to take about one month to complete depending on weather conditions. Many features of the upgrade have improved the amenity of this historic avenue, including the installation of three new wheelchair accessible drinking fountains and eight new seats at various points.

### Annual Report now available



Centennial Parklands Annual Report for 2004/2005 is now available. The report provides an informative guide to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust's performance and achievements for the past financial year.

It can be accessed via our website at [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/annual\\_reports](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/about_us/annual_reports)

### Signage face lift

The first of Centennial Parklands new identification signs have been installed at Paddington and Randwick Gates brandishing Centennial Park's perimeter fence with a clear sense of place. Identical installations are in place at Moore Park at the corners of Anzac Parade and Dacey Avenue, and South Dowling Street and Dacey Avenue.



*New identification signage at Paddington Gates*

Look out for the new street signage along some of Centennial Park's internal roads which should assist people in wayfinding.

### Traffic slowing devices to be trialled

Centennial Parklands will be trialling a number of traffic slowing measures at key intersections within Centennial Park, following a recent speed monitoring campaign undertaken by Rangers revealed that a high proportion of motorists and cyclists were exceeding the 30 km/hr speed limit and failing to stop at stop signs.

Visitor research shows that an increasing number of visitors are travelling to the Parklands by car, and with the concentrated interface between dogs, horses, cyclists and pedestrians, safety is of paramount concern.

A speed hump will be installed at the stop sign across Parkes Drive, at the intersection of Grand Drive, opposite the Café; and the intersection of Hamilton and Grand Drives will be modified to improve visibility for traffic joining Grand Drive. Pending the success of the trial at these locations, modifications may also be installed at the York Road and Randwick Gates entries.

Advice was sought from local traffic police as to the appropriate design and location of these devices.

### More new amenities open in Centennial Park

Centennial Parklands has built another three new public amenities as part of the Park Improvement Plan, in addition to those recently opened facilities located on Dickens Drive and Grand Drive.



*Newly completed amenities at McKay Sports Ground, Centennial Park*

The new facilities are located at McKay Sports Grounds, Centennial Square and north of Musgrave Pond. The former buildings at McKay Sports Grounds and Musgrave Pond have been demolished now that the new facilities are complete.

Like those at Dickens and Grand Drives, the new facilities are stylish, low-maintenance buildings which respect and complement the Parkland settings. The design also includes ecologically sustainable features: natural light and ventilation; natural and recycled materials; and a landscape bio-filter to treat grey water.



## Endangered bushland comes to life

There are five sites within Centennial Parklands which contain the endangered bushland community known as Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS) which is protected under Commonwealth and State legislation. These sites are being progressively regenerated and managed for their unique ecological values and the results so far have been outstanding.

Following the removal of numerous exotic and non-endemic species and the clearing of the soil surface at the York Road site, some native species have responded with a dramatic revival. Of particular note is the natural increase in *Banksia serrata* - from one individual in 2002 to four individuals currently, and remarkable increases in other species that were previously poorly represented (eg *Bossea* spp, *Persoonia lanceolata* or lance-leaf geebung). New, previously unrecorded ESBS species continue to regenerate, recently including *Hakea dactyloides*.

John Diamond, a bush regenerator for 15 years throughout the Sydney region, is



'delighted' by the 'splendid results' at this site, and credits these results to a number of unexpected events – and good luck. Following the removal of over 100 mature pine trees, a storm blew over the subsequently exposed area of leptospermum shrubs. This was a blessing in disguise as it allowed access to areas of the site that were previously too thick to penetrate, and the exposure of the soil surface encouraged new growth.

Traditional bush regeneration methods have worked particularly well in this site due to its resilience. 'It is a charm to work on – a lovely site,' says John proudly. 'We have been very fortunate that there has been

funding to keep up regular regeneration work, to keep weed species down and to give the native species the best possible chance. Other sites are near drains and the soil is high in nutrients, but this site is drier and therefore does not have the same resurgence in weed species.'

Similar successes have been achieved within the Bird Sanctuary site in Centennial Park, where regeneration work began in 2004. Several thickets of *Lantana camara*, 30 medium to large *Pittosporum undulatum* and various other non-endemic and exotic woody weeds were removed, stimulating strong regeneration of endemic ESBS species which were not previously recorded within the remnant. These include *Acacia* sp, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Wahlenbergia* sp, *Crassula siebera* and *Paspalidium distans*.

Work will continue at these sites, utilising the skills of Centennial Parklands horticulture team, specialist consultants, professional bush regenerators and a committed volunteer team.

## New chair for CCC

This year, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust welcomes Allan Young as the incoming Chair of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

Allan has already served a two-year term as a member of the CCC and takes over from outgoing Chair, Yvette Pietsch. 'I am looking forward to this challenging role,' Allan says. 'Being a member of the CCC for the last two years has been a fantastic experience. It has given me a good understanding of the issues facing the community and the park managers, as well as a deeper appreciation of the many cultural, historic and environmental values of Centennial Parklands.'

A Senior Business Analyst at the Sydney Water Corporation and member of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Sydney Regional Advisory Committee, Allan and his young family are frequent visitors to Centennial Parklands for social and recreational occasions.

The CCC is an advisory body whose role is to represent a broad range of community interests to the Trust. Members meet about eight times a year to discuss a range of issues arising from their own observations and matters brought to their

attention by the community. During 2005, the CCC was closely involved with the preparation of the Plan of Management, and provided advice to the Trust on key issues including recreational opportunities, enforcement matters, conservation, traffic strategies and infrastructure planning.

According to Allan, the year ahead will be just as busy. 'There will no doubt be a full agenda for the CCC during 2006. Much of the work conducted by the CCC is in response to matters raised or events that occur in and near the Parklands. We can also anticipate a suite of policy and planning issues to be considered during the year. Overlaying that core business, the CCC will also look to create better and more effective communication channels with stakeholders and the broader community. The challenge will be to revitalise our efforts to connect with groups and individuals who have an interest in the Parklands, and search for innovative ways of engaging with people.'

The CCC is always keen to hear from others in the community. To contact the CCC please call (02) 9339 6699 or email [ccc@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ccc@cp.nsw.gov.au). More information can be found at [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/About\\_Us](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/About_Us)



New chair of the CCC, Allan Young

# Events Wrap-up

## It sounded all White on the night

The grass of Centennial Park's Parade Grounds was covered with a patchwork of picnic rugs, as a near sell-out crowd of 19,000 people gathered to see Missy Higgins and a great line up of talented support artists.

Playing to her largest live gig to date, Higgins was humbled by the massive crowd of fans, her down-to-earth gratitudes endearing her to the audience. Fellow ARIA winner Ben Lee, warmed the crowd with his upbeat pop tunes and joined Missy Higgins on stage during the main act to perform a duet.

The relaxed crowd showed enthusiastic support for this great new talent, with the concert being held less than a week after Higgins won a fantastic five ARIA awards, including Album of the Year for her first album, *The Sound of White*.



Missy Higgins concert

## Sydney still loves a Challenge



Runners in the JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge

A total of 6,921 participants from 306 companies took part in the annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge, representing a 19% increase from the previous year. Patron Patrick Rafter was among the runners and accepted a donation from JPMorgan for his Cherish The Children Foundation. Rafter's Foundation assigned donations from the event for essential equipment purchases at the Burns Unit at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Charlie Low of McGrathNicol+ Partners was the winner of the 5.6 km marathon around Centennial Park, earning his first title in 17 minutes and 23 seconds, staving off Jeremy Horne of Calvary Health Care by just one second in an exciting race to the finish line.

## Jamiroquai – a funktastic success

Following a wet and thundery week, the skies over Sydney cleared to a perfect December evening for a capacity crowd of 20,000 who had turned out to see Jamiroquai in Centennial Park.

Energetic lead singer Jay Kay thrilled the excited, but well-behaved fans with his non-stop grooves, making comment during a brief interlude to admire the beautiful backdrop of the crescent moon rising over Centennial Park's Pine Forest.



## Historic stopover for Queen's Baton Relay



Kelly Nao, Queens Baton Relay

On Australia Day, hundreds of onlookers gathered in Centennial Park's Federation Valley to witness the Queen's Baton Relay make its historic trip through Sydney. The Queen's Baton Relay began in London in March 2005, on its long journey through all 71 nations of the Commonwealth en route to the Melbourne Commonwealth Games.

The enthusiastic crowd cheered runner Kelly Nao along Centennial Park's Grand Drive and into Federation Valley, where there was an official welcome from local MP Malcolm Turnbull and Professor John Niland, Chair of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

After the formal proceedings, the Tourism Australia Young Tourism Ambassador Jodie Anstee continued the Baton on its journey through the suburbs of Sydney. The gatherers celebrated in true Australian style, enjoying an afternoon of food, music and entertainment.



# Crowd Pleasers: events for everyone

As one of Sydney's most attractive and accessible outdoor venues, Centennial Parklands is a magnet for event organisers who rave about the picturesque setting, relaxed ambience and convenient location.

Whether it's feet, paws or wheels racing in marathons, snacking in villages of food tents, competing in community sport or enjoying stages delivering music, dance, circus or cinema - there are crowd activities at every turn.



*Big, Bold and Brassy Concert, 2001*

With this comes the added benefit of attracting a wide cross-section of Sydney's population from all over the metropolitan area, especially visitors from Sydney's outer suburbs. Ensuring such magnificent spaces are available to the greatest number of people is one of Centennial Parklands broader aims, but all events are planned with careful specifications and considerations.

## Behind the scenes

There is always a serious side to fun and at least three months preparation is needed for any event, with large-scale concerts, festivals and marathons planned up to nine months ahead. Hiring organisations work with Parklands management on all aspects of compliance, obtaining appropriate licences and covering key areas including safety, security and emergency planning, traffic management and signage arrangements, sound management, litter control and wet weather contingencies. Also crucial is the marketing and communications strategy to advise

regular Park users and local residents of any temporary changes to usual access, and convey details to the general public attending an event.

'Centennial Parklands is always mindful of public feedback when we are planning,' says Centennial Parklands Events Officer, Anja Simpson. The spring season is the busiest, with an event held at least once every fortnight. However, policy restricts the number of large events to eight per year with a maximum capacity of 20,000

people and the Parklands is attentive to what is going on in the community at large, to minimise distraction for others. For example, major events are not held during the HSC period in late spring. Music events are scheduled for Friday evenings and Saturdays, taking into account traffic

congestion and avoiding the nights before work and school days.

Sometimes events are held on dates that align with national programs or international events. The Parklands was a host venue for numerous events in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2001, complying with the structured timeframes for such programs.

Similarly, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Walk to Cure Diabetes is held on the same day around Australia each October, so there is less flexibility for the Parklands to influence scheduling, but the event's organiser is also keen to minimise disturbance, working with Parklands staff and Rangers. For example, Sarah Harrison of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation says that a different marathon course was used last year,

## Community Spirit

One of the first major public music events to take place in the Parklands was in fact a charity rock concert. In March 1992, Australia's top international band of the time, INXS, headlined the Concert for Life, which also featured Yothu Yindi and Crowded House, raising over \$600,000 for St Vincent's Hospital. While many events generate revenue to maintain the Parklands, today there is a continued commitment to facilitating charitable and community events, which compromise over 25% of all events hosted. On a smaller scale, Centennial Parklands hosts events such as the local Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Clubs' annual Dog Obedience Trials which draws competitors from around the state.

allowing Centennial Park's Grand Drive to stay open. And participants are always encouraged to take public transport to the Parklands so that potential traffic issues are minimised.

Nicola Andrews is the Marketing Manager for Sporting Spectrum, the events company that organises the annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Challenge, a 5.6 km team race open to employees of corporations, businesses and financial institutions, with proceeds donated to charity. The Sydney event is part of a global series, which began in 1997 in New York's Central Park. Nicola says that safety for runners and other participants is of utmost importance. The



*Relaxed crowds at Parklife, Moore Park*

# Map of Centennial Parklands



# Quick Guide to the Parklands



## **First Aid and Emergency**

24 hour Ranger service, 7 days. **0412 718 611**

## **Parklands Office**

8.30 am-5.00 pm Monday-Friday. Located behind Centennial Parklands Café. **(02) 9339 6699**  
Fax: (02) 9332 2148 email: [info@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@cp.nsw.gov.au)

## **Park Information**

Information, maps and brochures are available from the Parklands Office (behind the café) or the Visitor Centre, weekends 10.00 am-3.00 pm.

## **How to Get Here**

**BY BUS:** Easily accessible by bus. Route 339 from city stations and 355 from Bondi Junction run regular services to Moore Park. Route 378 from Central and 380 from Circular Quay run services to Centennial Park. Phone **131 500** for timetable details.

**BY CAR:** Main gates to Centennial Park open sunrise to sunset. Car Free Days are held on the last Sunday in every season: February, May, August and November. A 30 km speed limit applies on all roads in Centennial Park.





# Join the *Friends of Centennial Parklands*



**Help support Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park.**

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*Friends* are the roots of the Centennial Parklands Foundation with membership fees providing support for the environment projects within Centennial Parklands.

Your membership will open the doors to your involvement in caring for Centennial Parklands, clean up and planting days or becoming a volunteer.

By becoming a *Friend*, you will be joining a special group of people. You will also have the opportunity to join in exclusive activities and enjoy a discount on the many activities and events that are on in the Parklands each season. Simply present your membership card to obtain the special *Friends* rate.

## **The benefits include:**

- 10% discount at Centennial Parklands Restaurant & Café
  - The opportunity to assist as a volunteer on Parklands activities
  - 10% discount on Ranger-guided walks
  - 10% discount on Centennial Parklands merchandise
  - Discounts on selected events
  - *Parklands* magazine posted quarterly
  - Membership certificate
  - *Friends* events, including annual end of year party
- 

# Membership Form



**To JOIN, simply complete and mail or fax the form below.**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (BH) \_\_\_\_\_ (AH) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership categories (please tick):

☐ Single: One year \$55      ☐ Family: One year \$99

For Family membership, please list family members

Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Options:

☐ I would like to make a donation to Centennial Parklands Foundation

☐ \$45      ☐ \$75      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I require a tax receipt

☐ I would like to find out how a bequest could help  
Centennial Parklands

☐ I am interested in becoming a volunteer

Payment details:

☐ Cash      ☐ Cheque – payable to Centennial Parklands Foundation

☐ Bankcard      ☐ Mastercard      ☐ Visa

☐ I would like my membership renewed automatically via my  
credit card

Card No                          

Expiry date

Card holder's name \_\_\_\_\_

Card holder's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send to (no stamp required):

**Friends of Centennial Parklands**

**Reply Paid 58**

**Locked Bag 15**

**PADDINGTON NSW 2021**



For more information phone **(02) 9339 6699**

or email **[foundation@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foundation@cp.nsw.gov.au)**





*The starting line, Ride for Life*

Park is closed to traffic and no vehicles may park on the course. 'Any changes are communicated to local residents by way of a flyer drop, through Parklands newsletters and use of signage.'

Such communication and safety measures are not restricted to local residents. 'A music concert means liaison with the Equestrian Centre to check whether it is safe to have horse riders in the Park while still maintaining access for riders for as long as possible. Similarly for events that are fenced, we can often provide corridors of public access all the way through the period of build, and only close access on event day. During Moonlight Cinema, signage assures Park users that they can use the Belvedere Amphitheatre until 5.00 pm each day. Once the event activity takes place it's equally important that it becomes a controlled environment and gates are shut down.'

## Sound check

Sound, of course, travels across vast spaces.

Noise legislation ensures that events with amplified sound comply with strict guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Authority's Notice of Preventive Action. The Parklands sound limits are lower than neighbouring venues such as the Sydney Cricket Ground, which makes it more challenging for music concert promoters. There are limits and controls on the duration and timing of rehearsals, sound checks and the performance.

Promoters for all events employ accredited acoustic consultants. One consultant regularly working within the Parklands, Steven Cooper, says that there are different criteria for sound levels at

different times during an individual event. Knowledge and experience of weather conditions, especially wind direction, enables Steven to work with concert promoters to place the stage and speakers at the best angles for audience enjoyment as well as sensitivity for local residents.

During a music event, Steven will set up monitoring spots outside various residences in the vicinity of the Parklands, and communicate directly with production personnel on the event site. 'Our people move around constantly to see if certain spots increase in noise due to the wind. These are well-orchestrated events. If a southerly comes through, all the noise propagation changes and we have to change all the levels.'

Moonlight Cinema has screened in the Parklands for nine summers. 'We obviously love the venue for its beautiful location in the amphitheatre with a wonderful view of the screen,' says Alicia Darvall, General Manager. 'At dusk before the film starts you can see the planes taking off. It's a wonderful feeling of being in the centre of the city but having park all around you.'

## Location, location, location

Location and atmosphere are key factors for music promoters choosing this venue. Recently, concert promoter Michael Coppel Presents has staged concerts featuring international performers Jamiroquai and Jack Johnson. The

## Cleaning up the act

International and local music stars also play in the Mission Fields for the Good Vibrations Festival each February. Festival Manager Michael Long says a full week is devoted to setting up the site and a full ground management plan ensures there is no damage to grass or vegetation. With any event, litter management is a prime concern and like all event organisers, the festival brings in a specialist contractor. 'They are there for a week before and two days afterwards and they do a full waste management plan. We bring in about 50 skips and about 180 bins. Staff walk around during the event picking up rubbish.'



*Circus Oz, Moore Park*

## Events for everyone

While Centennial Parklands actively seeks to attract new and different visitors to a venue that offers multiple uses and enticements, Centennial Park alone encompasses 189 hectares and there are still many spaces in the Parklands where access is unrestricted or affected by events. Maintaining a balance between passive recreation and providing memorable moments for one and all is one the Parklands greatest current challenges. So whether it is Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Santana, Polo in the Park or an Indigenous Dance performance it is hoped there is an event for everyone.

*Please see the Events Wrap-up on Page 5 for a review of recent events.*

## Twitcher's Corner

### Yellow-tailed black cockatoo

By Trevor Waller



*Yellow-tailed black cockatoo*

One of my favourite members of the parrot family would have to be the yellow-tailed black cockatoo. During autumn, these large black cockatoos form flocks that move around Sydney in search of food. The males have a blackish bill, a red eye-ring and a dull yellow ear patch. The female has a whitish bill, a grey eye-ring and a bright yellow ear patch. Both sexes have large yellow panels in a long tail that can be seen when the bird is in flight.

The sight of a large flock slowly flapping overhead is a great spectacle. Their flight is buoyant and effortless as they wheel through the treetops with slow, deep, wing beats and floating glides. They usually call loudly whilst in flight and this adds to the exhibition. Their calls are a far-carrying 'why-eeela', as well as harsh screeches when alarmed. While feeding the sound of grinding is quite distinctive.

These birds can be found in diverse habitats ranging from coastal, inland and alpine eucalypt forests, heath, banksia, hakea and acacia woodland and rainforests. They feed on the seed capsules of native trees and shrubs including eucalypts, banksias and hakeas. They also feed on exotic pines and can extract wood boring insects from tree trunks. In Centennial Parklands they can usually be seen in the Pine Forest, Sandstone Ridge or near Lachlan Swamp where pines and banksias are plentiful.

These birds nest in high tree hollows that are deep and wide at the nest floor. The bottom of the hollow is lined with wood chips and the two eggs are laid on these. The female incubates the eggs for 28 days whilst being fed by the male. The chick leaves the nest after about 15 weeks.

If you hear the distinctive call of the yellow-tailed black cockatoo in the Parklands, take heed as you will be in for a feast for the eyes as a flock wheels over you.

**Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with over ten years behind the binoculars. He is a member of various bird watching clubs in Sydney, including Birds Australia, and conducts the Parklands Birdwatcher's Breakfasts each season (visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/What's\\_On](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/What's_On) for details).**

## A Walk in the Park with Kylie Kwong

Local celebrity chef and restaurateur Kylie Kwong takes time out from her busy schedule for some fun, relaxation and contemplation in Centennial Park.

### Favourite nook in the Parklands?

The Duck Pond – I love ducks and I love the fact that there are always little children there too – enjoying the pleasures of ducks squawking and gliding though the water. I love how children are entertained and excited so easily and so innocently. I love the Duck Pond for this reason.



*Kylie Kwong*

### Favourite memory of Centennial Parklands?

During summer – day-light saving time – playing a few rounds of frisbee with friends after work, then sitting on the grass and eating an early picnic dinner!

### What's in your picnic basket?

Organic salad mix, Nolan's Road Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Sea Salt, Lemons, a block of Reggiano Parmeggiano cheese, wine glasses, wine, prosciutto, a salad bowl, water!

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

My great grand-father, Kwong Sue Duk – whom I have never met. He was responsible for bringing my family name to Australia back in the Gold rush era. I'd love to ask him a thousand questions as we strolled around the Park. I just know that he would love Centennial Parklands, the space and the serenity – a great place to think and talk things through.

### Horses or Dogs?

Neither. I do like both. I admire horses yet I do not have a passion for horse riding. I love dogs – especially 'Kelpies', however because I travel a lot it is basically impossible for me to look after an animal properly.

### Best part of autumn?

Walking through Centennial Park early in the crisp, autumnal mornings or in the late afternoon just before sunset.

### Walk or ride?

I do have a bike, but I prefer to walk – I like the pace of walking.

### What excites you most about Centennial Parklands?

There seems to be this unspoken 'pact' between all the people who use Centennial Park for their exercise routines especially – no talking to people passing you by! I love it – it is a space where you can have complete peace and quiet, solitude, you can think and contemplate life, you can absorb and feel the natural environment and you don't have to be anyone else except yourself.



# Tree of the Season

## African tulip tree

Without a doubt, one of the most outstanding flowering trees in the Parklands would have to be the African tulip tree, or *Spathodea campanulata*.

A member of the Bigonia family, this spectacular tree comes from tropical central and western Africa, mainly around Lake Victoria and is therefore suited to warm coastal sites. Curiously, although it is an evergreen tree in the more tropical climates, it is semi-deciduous in Centennial Park. It grows to a height of eight metres, with a single trunk and a broad-domed crown and displays compound leaves that are dark green and slightly shiny above, while paler and dull beneath.

The highlight for most admirers of the African tulip tree are the beautiful bell-shaped flowers ranging from yellow at the base to scarlet near the mouth on

the inside, and bright orange merging to orange-scarlet on the lobes. It is these flowers that give the tree its latin name 'campanulata' meaning 'with bell-shaped flowers'.

Although the striking, perfumed flowers are this tree's most eye-catching feature, the fruit of the tree is also very interesting. After the foliage is shed during the cooler months, the fruit ripens in autumn and persists on the tree, forming numerous, flat, oval wing-shaped seeds that are quite unique.

Landscape Architect, Gillian Smart, first introduced the African tulip to the Parklands as part of the award-winning redevelopment of the Centennial Parklands Café forecourt in 1997.

This tree is now the subject of much discussion and query from Park visitors, many of whom marvel at the beauty of



African tulip tree in the Centennial Parklands Café forecourt

the tree and seek advice from Parklands Arborists to see if they can have one in their own gardens.

## Mobile Food Van - A Family Affair with Food



Since the early 1980s, husband and wife team, Robert and Janet Carafa have been operating Centennial Park's popular Mobile Food Van. This family-run business, now involving their niece Diana Abbonizio, has become a Sydney institution for the thousands that patronise the Park on weekends and public holidays.

With 25 years of experience, the family credit the long term success of their business on the good service, great food and cleanliness of the kitchen.

About 80% of their customers are regulars, including many

cyclists and sport enthusiasts – many of whom are on a first-name basis with the staff. 'Our bacon and egg rolls are very popular, as well as the coffee,' says Diana. 'But despite the food, many people just seem to enjoy eating in the wonderful surrounds of the Park.'

Whilst operating in the scenic environment of Centennial Park is a drawcard for many customers, nature can have its issues. 'We had to evacuate the Park one day, when there was a huge storm and there were branches coming off trees; and another time the Park flooded and we all had to go home,' recalls Diana. 'And working in the 45 degree heat of New Years Day was no fun either – there is no air conditioning in the van, just hot plates!'

Given their key location, opposite the Duck Pond, the staff of the Mobile Food Van often become defacto 'Rangers', dealing with lost children and dogs, and once even having to help put out a fire that started in the nearby Lachlan Swamp.

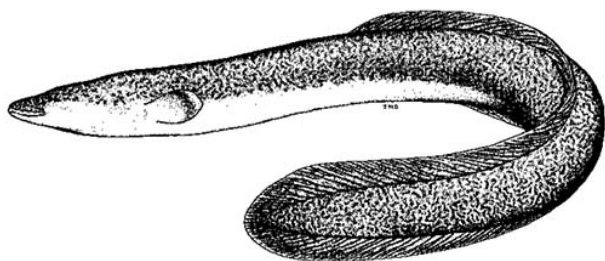
Continuing in the family tradition, Robert and Janet's daughter Julie has recently begun working the weekend shifts, and even Diana's grandmother has a hand in the business, overseeing the storage of their equipment and supplies.

It seems the combination of family, food and friendly service is a successful formula for the Mobile Food Van, so take the time to sample their fare next time you visit Centennial Park.

# Healthy Parks, Healthy People

## Healthy Parks

### Amazing Eels



*Anguilla reinhardtii* - Long-finned eel

Although autumn is traditionally a quieter time in nature following the hectic breeding during spring and summer, for the long-finned eel (or *Anguilla reinhardtii*) it is time for one of life's biggest journeys – a cross-country trip followed by a trans-Pacific swim.

Commonly misinterpreted as snakes, pests or menacing creatures from the deep, these native fish inhabit most of Centennial Park's ponds and can often be seen gliding along just under the surface looking for food. They are predominately carnivorous, feeding on insects, small fish and even young birds. They are not aggressive, and contrary to most perceptions, they have very short, plate-like teeth which are of little threat to humans.

Eels play a very important role in the pond ecosystem. They help control introduced European carp numbers by eating young fish before they reach breeding age, and assist in keeping bird populations at a sustainable level.

A little known fact about eels is the incredible journey they undertake to breed. During autumn, when there is increased rainfall along Australia's east coast, mature eels migrate to the coast – and when they reach the sea they swim to their spawning grounds – in New Caledonia!

In Centennial Park, adult eels make their way from the ponds down to Botany Bay, sometimes using the stormwater drains that link the ponds, but at times actually leaving the water to slide and wriggle overland to the next water body. Here they too are compelled by instinct and nature to journey to the warm waters of the Pacific to reproduce their species.

## Healthy People

### ES Marks open for athletes

If you are looking for a new way to maintain your health and fitness over the cooler months, why not dust off the spikes and join the hundreds of people who are making the most of one of the few athletics facilities that is open to the public for casual training.

ES Marks Athletics Field, is a facility that is most well known for school athletics carnivals. But in response to requests made by smaller groups and clubs, this track and field was opened up for casual training in November 2004, and the feedback has been very positive.

Facility Attendant, Llewellyn Cooper de Vitte, has noticed a significant increase in attendance, and curiously it is the wetter weather that seems to bring the crowds. 'Rainy days are usually the busiest because we are one of the few facilities that has a sealed, all-weather running surface,' says Llewellyn. Both the track and field are equally popular, and Llewellyn believes that irrespective of age, fitness level or ability, the atmosphere at ES Marks is welcoming and vibrant and he would encourage anyone to come along and give it a go.

'We have a varied cross section of athletes, ranging in age from 14 to 72, from clubs, universities, schools and private groups,' says Llewellyn. 'Some are very serious athletes whilst others are training for recreation or fitness.' Most people train two to three times per week, with many working out under the guidance of qualified coaches.

ES Marks is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Bookings are not required and fees are payable at the gate. Adults \$4.00, Concessions \$2.50. For further information, phone (02) 9339 6699 or visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/sports](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/sports)



ES Marks facility attendant – Llewellyn Cooper de Vitte

## Seniors pedal their way to good health

### Healthy Parks Healthy People

As part of the *Healthy Parks Healthy People* initiative and NSW Seniors Week, Centennial Parklands is hosting a free ranger-guided Bike Tour on Wednesday, 5 April.

'This is a very leisurely tour that is perfect for people who have not ridden for a while', says Senior Education Ranger Paul Solomon, 'and it is a very pleasant way to see the wonderful features of Centennial Park.'

There will also be free Seniors tours of Centennial Park's fascinating natural and cultural heritage. The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust is offering 'Art by the Harbour', the Royal Botanic Gardens is running free guided walks and a Grandparent's Day and Sydney Olympic Parklands is offering a 20% discount on bike hire.

For more information visit [www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com](http://www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com)



# Foundation and *Friends*

## Family Trees - the next generation

For the past two decades, Centennial Parklands Senior Arborist, Ted Hoare has seen his love of trees grow from an occupation - into a family legacy.

Ted began his working life as a TV repairman, but went on to complete certificates in both horticulture and arboriculture before relocating to England in 1984 to study tree surgery. This led him to take up the position of Arborist at Centennial

Parklands in 1985 - and 20 years on he loves it as much today as when he started. 'It's just great', says Ted of his job, 'and it just keeps getting better.'

During his tenure at Centennial Parklands, Ted has been responsible for all aspects of care and physical maintenance of the trees - and managing the tree population. 'Maintenance revolves around public safety, it's about establishing young trees, maintaining the big trees through pruning, taking care of storm damage and carrying out pest and disease control,' he shares. One of his proudest

achievements has been the implementation of a tree database with 19 categories of information for over 8,000 trees.

Ted has also seen a lot of changes. His introduction to the industry coincided with the advent of modern arboriculture in Australia. Prior to that, it was an artisan industry with old techniques shared via word of mouth. But from this it has evolved to become a scientific discipline.



Tom and Drew Hoare, 1988



Tom and Drew Hoare, 1992

'There is much greater awareness today about the issues facing tree populations,' he says. 'Twenty years ago there was little planning or appreciation of trees getting older.' Now trees are recognised as the most valuable asset in the Parklands (currently valued at \$97 million), and processes are in place to manage this aging tree population and renew the collection for the next 100 years.

Coinciding with his on-the-job love of trees, Ted was one of the first people to purchase a dedicated tree for his twin sons, Drew and Tom. 'I dedicated a tree because I wanted my boys to watch it grow together.' Ted has photographed his sons alongside their trees for the past 19 years, building a unique collection for the family albums and a special family tradition.

Ted believes that a dedicated tree is a way for people to express their love of Centennial Parklands and he encourages people to join this program. 'It helps them to contribute and share their

love - and provides a sense of ownership', says Ted.

Like that of other Park notaries such as Moore and Parkes, Ted's contributions will be ongoing. 'I am responsible of a legacy which started over 100 years ago and am working towards the next 100 years. My children's children will be able to enjoy my work.'

And they will have the photos to prove it.



Tom and Drew Hoare, 1999



Tom and Drew Hoare, 2005

## Help the Parklands by dedicating a tree

Like Ted, you too can invest in a dedicated tree and enjoy seeing it grow. There are a select number of trees available through the Centennial Parklands Foundation for dedication this year, including Port Jackson and Moreton Bay figs, paperbarks and Norfolk Island pines.

Tree Dedication Packages start from \$500 and include a certificate, map and photograph of your tree. Official tree dedication ceremonies can also be arranged.

For more information call (02) 9339 6699, email [foundation@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foundation@cp.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/foundation\\_and\\_friends](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/foundation_and_friends)

# Visitor Information

Please refer to the map insert on page 6 for locations.

## HOW TO GET HERE

Five 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.com.au](http://www.131500.com.au)



Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alison Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way.

## CAR FREE DAY

Last Sunday of every season (February, May, August & November).



## 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 Rd (entry))

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 February 5.45 am - 8.00 pm

## Secondary Gates (York Rd, Jervois Ave, Govett St & Robertson Rd exit)

Weekdays 9.00 am - 4.00 pm

Weekends as for Primary Gates

## FOOD OUTLETS



## Centennial Parklands Restaurant E3

This fully-licensed restaurant offers fine views with fine Modern Australian food. Open 7 days, 8.30 am - 2.30 pm. (02) 9360 3355 [www.landmarkcatering.com.au](http://www.landmarkcatering.com.au)



## Centennial Parklands Café E3

Light meals and snacks served in the open air forecourt. Open 7 days, 8.00 am - 4.30 pm (weekdays), 8.00 am - 5.00 pm (weekends) (02) 9380 6922



## Centennial Park Mobile Food Van E5

Light meals, sandwiches, cold drinks, gelato and espresso. Open weekends & public holidays, 8.00 am - sunset.



## Moore Park Golf Patio Bar B3

Overlooking the first tee, the outdoor Patio Bar serves light food and drinks. Open 7 days, 7.30 am - 4.00 pm (Mon to Wed), 7.30 am - 8.00 pm (Thu to Sat), 7.30 am - 6.00 pm (Sun) (02) 9663 1064 [www.mooreparkgolf.com.au](http://www.mooreparkgolf.com.au)



## La Trattoria at Moore Park Golf B3

La Trattoria serves quality meals and a full variety of wine and beers. Open Wed to Sun, Noon - 5.00pm (Wed to Thu), Noon - 7.00pm (Fri to Sun) (02) 9663 1064 [www.mooreparkgolf.com.au](http://www.mooreparkgolf.com.au)

## RECREATION ACTIVITIES



## BBQs and Picnics

Unlimited picnic spots, with views of ponds, fields and gardens. Free BBQs. First-in basis. BYO portable BBQs with legs permitted (except during total fire bans), portable picnic equipment permitted. Bookings required for groups of 50 or over. 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. D5

Helmets required. Three-wheel pedal cars not permitted in Centennial Park. Four-wheel pedal cars permitted.



## Centennial Parklands Cycle Hire F3

Cnr Hamilton & Grand Drvs, Centennial Park 0401 357 419



## Centennial Park Cycles G6

50 Clovelly Rd, Randwick (02) 9398 5027



## Woolys Wheels

82 Oxford St, Paddington (02) 9331 2671 [www.woolyswheels.com](http://www.woolyswheels.com)



## Total Skate E2

36 Oxford St, Woollahra (02) 9380 6356



## Wildlife Watching

Spot birds, turtles, invertebrates and possums within diverse natural environments. Ideal locations at D4 E5 F4. Please do not feed animals.



## Playgrounds

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.

## 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

400 m running track, floodlit field and covered stand with seating for 1000 people. Changing rooms, toilets, First Aid Room, Officials Room (with PA system) and Meeting Room. Casual public training, Tue, Wed & Thu, 3.30 pm - 8.30 pm. For hire for training or carnivals. (02) 9339 6699 [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/sports](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/sports)

Golf, Horse Riding and Tennis hire available via licensed operators:



## 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 golf course. All weather, day-night Driving Range, Putting and Chipping Greens, Pro Shop and Golf Academy. (02) 9663 1064 [www.mooreparkgolf.com.au](http://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 [cpec@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cpec@cp.nsw.gov.au)



Budapest Riding School 0419 231 391 [budapestridingschool@aapt.net.au](mailto:budapestridingschool@aapt.net.au)



Centennial Stables (02) 9360 5650 [www.centennialstables.com.au](http://www.centennialstables.com.au)



Eastside Riding Academy (02) 9360 7521 [www.eastsideriding.com.au](http://www.eastsideriding.com.au)



Moore Park Training Stables (02) 9360 8747 [www.mooreparkstables.com.au](http://www.mooreparkstables.com.au)



Papillon Riding Stables (02) 8356 9866 or 0407 224 938 [www.papillonriding.com.au](http://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.cp.nsw.gov.au/what's\\_on](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/what's_on)

## FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Locations available for commercial filming and photography. (02) 9339 6699 [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues)

## EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

Locations available for private and public functions and events. (02) 9339 6699 [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues)

## FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS

See insert on Page 6. (02) 9339 6699 [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/foundation\\_and\\_friends](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/foundation_and_friends)

## CONTACT US

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



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



Visitor Centre, Paddington Gates, weekends 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. E2

Web: [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au)  
Email: [info@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@cp.nsw.gov.au)  
Phone: (02) 9339 6699  
Fax: (02) 9332 2148  
Post: Locked Bag 15 Paddington NSW 2021

After hours emergencies: 0412 718 611

