

NSW Theme –Events

Commemorative Events

- Centennial Parklands has been used as a public meeting place for major commemorative events.
- In 1888 the centenary and the creation of the Parklands was celebrated
- In 1897 Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrations were held.
- In 1901 a swearing-in ceremony was conducted in the Parklands and a procession of dignitaries with military entourage passed down Botany Road onto and around Grand Drive to the Commemorative Triangle where the ceremony was held.
- Gatherings have included ceremonies marking the death of Queen Victoria (1901) and King Edward IV (1910).
- Thanksgiving services and peace celebrations marked the end of the Great War (1918/9)
- Anniversary celebrations include the sesquicentenary celebrations and a naval and military review (January 31st 1938) was attended by 150,000 people, Jubilee of Federation celebrations (1951), and the Centenary of Federation festivities (January 2001).

Special Events

- Military parades and reviews have been held in the Parklands grand open spaces. Early events were held on the parade ground in the barracks square. As larger venues became available these events moved to the Domain, Moore Park and Centennial Park.
- Large public displays were held on the Queens Birthday, public holidays and significant anniversaries. In 1888, the Long Meadow in Centennial Park was used for the annual Military Review.
- In 1908, Australian troops participated in a review to celebrate the 'Great White Fleet' visit.
- In 1954 Queen Elizabeth II visited Centennial Park¹.
- In 1965 The Royal Agricultural Society was allowed to use the Parklands at show time.
- Royal Easter show, conventions, exhibitions, film productions, sporting events, and the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras have all been associated with the Parklands.
- In recent years Centennial Park has played host to a number of performance events such as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Big Bold and Brassy, Hermes International Show jumping and Concert for Life.
- The Parklands provided an open-air venue for the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Para Olympic Games road cycling and marathon events.

NSW Theme – Exploration

- In 1811 South Head Road, a communication link with South Head established by colonial settlement, formed the northern boundary of Macquarie's common.
- Tracks and paths crisscrossed over the common due to colonist searching for water sources and farming land.
- Thick scrub and swamplands were described in early reports, indicating that the area was undeveloped when Macquarie chose the land as a common in 1811.

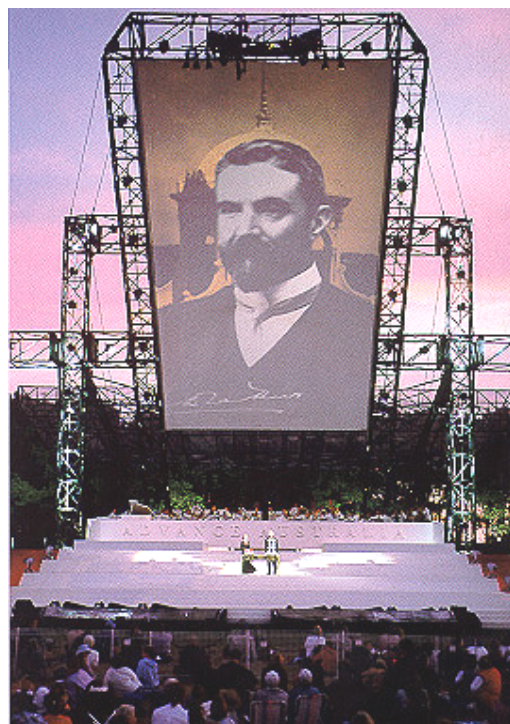
¹ Refer to ongoing report of the Indigenous History and details of oral historic accounts.



Parade of visiting American Fleet 1908. Source: Centennial Park Heritage Study



Paddington Gates decorated for Federation Ceremony 1901. Source: Centennial Park Heritage Study



Centenary of Federation celebrations in Centennial Park, 2001. Source: Centennial Parklands

NSW Theme - Fishing

- Natural water systems within the Parklands provided a habitat for fish, eels and other aquatic species.
- This resource would have been utilised by Indigenous communities. Fishing was a popular pursuit in the ponds at the beginning of the 20th century. One of the ponds was named *Flycasting Pond* due to its popularity with local fly fishermen.
- Fishing is now banned from the Parklands in an attempt to conserve and protect the ecosystems within the ponds and lakes.²

NSW Theme - Forestry

- Timber was in short supply in Sydney during the first half of the 19th century. Macquarie's Common of 1811 suffered the indiscriminate pillaging of trees by local residents.
- The gradual removal of the shrubs and trees resulted in strong southerly winds eroding the surrounding area. Grassing was introduced towards the end of the century, as a successful form of re-vegetation and prevented further erosion.

NSW Theme - Health

- In 1930, the area of land adjacent to the York Road Bush Site was set aside for the proposed Eastern Suburbs Hospital (built in 1935). The land is now used to house the South Eastern Sydney Development Disability Service (formerly Eastern Suburbs Services for the Developmentally Disabled).

NSW Theme - Industry

- Gordon's Mill operated in close proximity to the Parklands. This was a wind driven flour mill built on a land grant in 1829.³
- Between 1900-1940, the presence of water in the swamplands led to the development of industry to the south and west periphery. Industries included the AGM Glassworks and Resch's Brewery.
- After World War II, the area experienced considerable social decline, accelerated by the steady removal of industry. Many of the old industrial buildings are currently being converted for residential use.

NSW Theme - Mining

- The protected nature of the Common and parks has restricted the exploitation of mineral rights. Maps of the 1890s indicate the Moore Park Coal Bore was located in the southwest corner of Dacey Avenue and South Dowling Street. There is evidence that it was used to tap gases for wartime use. It is unclear whether coal was mined at the site.

NSW Theme - Pastoralism

- In 1811⁴, Governor Macquarie proclaimed the 'Sydney Common' for public use. The extent of the common is shown in the "Plan of the town of Sydney, New South Wales shewing Common"⁵. Its swampy nature made the land difficult to traverse.
- Its intended use was for the grazing of animals and to deter such use in the town of Sydney. Grazing became a major contributing factor to

² Refer to Aboriginal Archaeological evidence. The excavation of the Hearth with the Fish Meal 5000BP.

³ Fox, L. 1978. Old Sydney Windmills. P. 59-63.

⁴ *Sydney Gazette* and *NSW Advertiser*, 5 October 1811

⁵ Historical Records of NSW, Vol VII, p.595



AGM Glass Works

the barren and sandy conditions of the Common, reported to be comparable to the “lost cities of Syria and Lebanon.”⁶

- In 1852 the Sand Hills Bill was passed and was designed to keep animals away from the Common⁷.
- In 1921 an exemption was made due to a severe drought, and sheep were allowed to graze in the Parklands.

NSW Theme - Science

- Charles Moore was responsible for the successful trials and introduction of Indian doub grasses and couch grass to prevent soil erosion in the parklands within Moore Park.
- Experimental plantings were made between 1896 and 1897 in order to find suitable drought resistant grasses to plant in Centennial Park. Experiments were made with a large number of American and other introduced grasses. Ironically due to a drought, the seedlings had to be watered and consequently their drought resistant qualities could not be ascertained.
- Experimental plantings of trees mark the horticultural history of the Parklands. The various directors and Parklands staff, including staff of the Sydney Botanical Gardens, have been responsible for plantings throughout that time. These experimental plantings have been discussed in Section 2.3.2.2 NSW Theme - Environment – cultural landscapes

Zoological gardens

- In 1879, the formation of a Zoological Society was proposed. Prior to this, it existed as the ‘Acclimatisation Society’, and imported English birds and distributed them in various locations around Sydney.
- In 1883, the City Council granted the Society “permissive occupation” of an area of Moore Park, known as Billy Goat Swamp, for the purposes of establishing a zoo.⁸
- A Map of Sydney⁹ dating to 1892, shows the Zoological Gardens located on the west side of Randwick Road, near the junction of Cleveland Street and Randwick Road. The original occupancy was seven acres, increased to fifteen acres in 1905¹⁰ and extended for another 14 years in August 1906¹¹.
- Charles Moore, director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens and member of the Zoological Society, laid out the Zoological Gardens.
- The Zoological Gardens became a popular recreational venue and increased visitors to Moore Park. By 1910 Moore Park Zoo was too small, and Taronga Park was chosen as a new location. In July 1916,

⁶ Moore Park Show Ground No. 20 February 1997. Prepared for the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust by Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, p.7.

⁷ Moore Park Show Ground No. 20 February 1997. Prepared for the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust by Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, p.7.

⁸ Refer to Aboriginal History. This is very close to a ritual pay back site.

⁹ Max Kelly and Ruth Crocker, *Sydney Takes Shape*, Macleay Museum, University of Sydney, 1978, p.46

¹⁰ *1879-1941 – An Official Record of Sydney’s Zoological Gardens Past & Present*, Taronga Zoological Park and Aquarium, Sydney, 1941, p.8

¹¹ *1879-1941 – An Official Record of Sydney’s Zoological Gardens Past & Present*, Taronga Zoological Park and Aquarium, Sydney, 1941, p.8

Moore Park Zoo ceased to exist when the Trustees of Taronga Park took over responsibility for all the employees and animals¹².

- The gardens at Moore Park were opened to the public for a few years until the land was given to the Department of Education in 1920.

¹² *1879-1941 – An Official Record of Sydney's Zoological Gardens Past & Present*, Taronga Zoological Park and Aquarium, Sydney, 1941, p.8

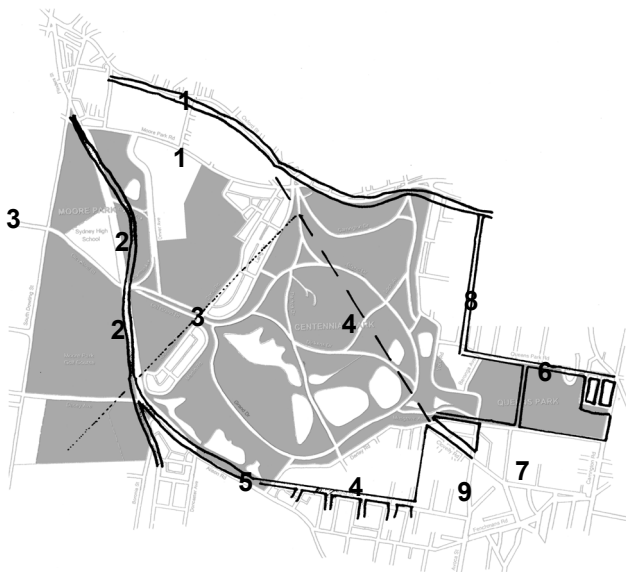


Figure 1: 1876/7 Plan of new road patterns creating divisions within the parklands

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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. South Head Road | 6. Victoria Street |
| 2. Old Botany Road | 7. Boundary Street |
| 3. Track | 8. Denison Street |
| 4. Proposed Road | 9. Orange Street |
| 5. King Street | |

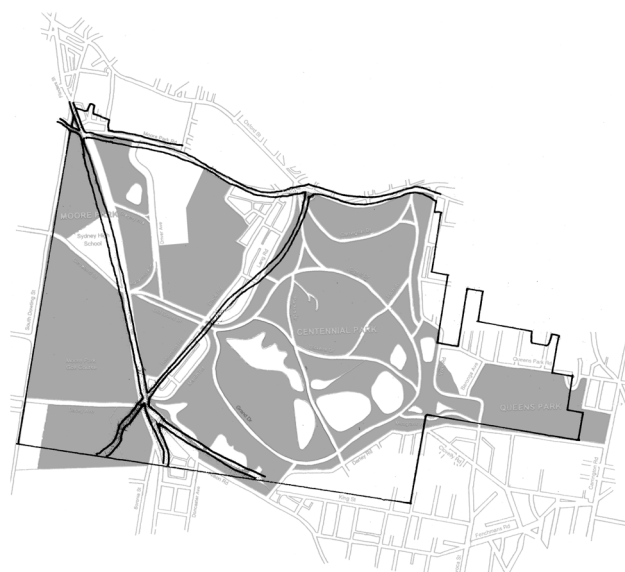


Figure 2: 1868 Plan of early-proposed roads and pathways through the common.

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| 1. Park Road |
| 2. Randwick Road |
| 3. Dowling Street |
| 4. Boundary of Common |

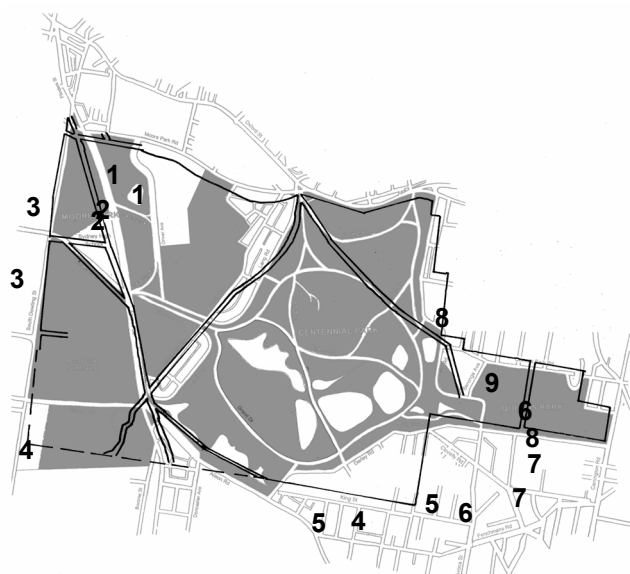


Figure 3: 1885 Plan of Common with new roads.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Park Road. | 7. Boundary Street |
| 2. Randwick Road | 8. Boundary of Reserve |
| 3. Dowling Street | Surrounded by Encroaching |
| 4. Water Reserve Boundary | Developments |
| 5. King Street | |
| 6. Market Street | |

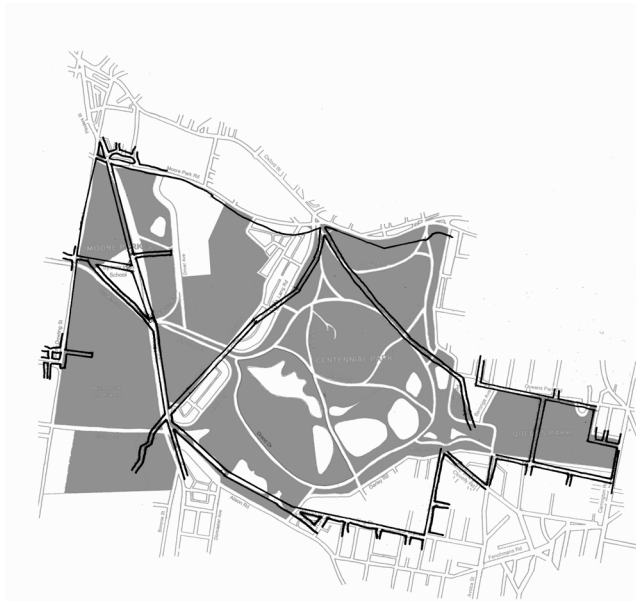


Figure 4: 1886 Plan of Common with new roads

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Park Road. | 6. Orange Street |
| 2. Randwick Road | 7. Boundary Street |
| 3. Dowling Street | Market Street Victoria Street |
| 4. Water Reserve Boundary | |
| 5. King Street | |
| 6. Wentworth Street | |

Maps produced by Conybeare Morrison & Partners

NSW Theme - Transport

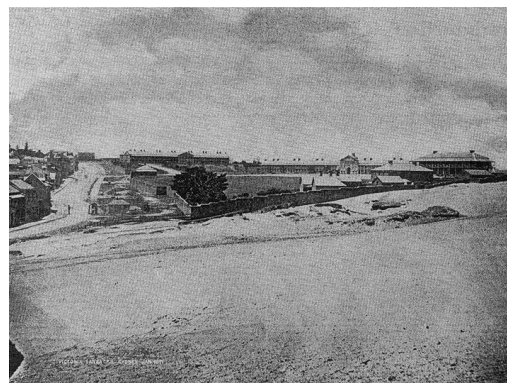
Tramways

- A tram loop line provided public transport to the Parklands. In 1880, an extension of the tramline from Moore Park to Randwick was completed. By 1890, the tramway lines had extended along Cleveland Street and additional turning loops were located to the west of the Cricket and Agricultural Society's Grounds.

Roads

Current Road Names	Changed From	Original Name
Anzac Parade	Randwick Road/ Bunnerong Road/ Old Botany Road	Botany Road
Clovelly Road	Grand Street	Orange Street
Darley Road		Boundary Street
John Street		Leichhardt Street
Moore Park Road		Park Road
Oxford Street	Old South Head Road	South Head Road
Queens Park Road		Victoria Street
South Dowling Street		Dowling Street
York Road		Dalley Road

- Road names have changed names throughout the history of the Parklands. A list has been given in Vol.2 (2.3.3.11 NSW Theme – Transport).
- Following the establishment of Sydney Cove roads were constructed, possibly along the lines of Aboriginal pathways and tracks. Roads defined the edges of the Common and later subdivided the Parklands.
- In the 1840s Old Botany Road was laid out and linked the city with Botany, Bunnerong, and La Perouse. City Council constructed Moore Park Road in the 1860s to provide access for vehicles.
- In 1878, 4 vehicle and pedestrian entrances were made off Randwick road because of the old military ground became the NSW Cricket Association Ground, and visits to the ground increased.
- By 1879, Cleveland Street was extended through the park. It joined Randwick Road adjacent to the tollhouse and aligned to avoid one of the larger water bodies of the park.
- The creation of Centennial Park brought a vision of a network of grand avenues linking the park with the city. The extension of Grand Drive through Moore Park was the only plan to come to fruition and formed an intersection with Randwick Road junction and Cleveland Street.
- Grand Drive was designed by F Franklin and Dearing (Surveyor) and
- Constructed by Mr. Young in October 1887. The drive became the public circulation route around Centennial Park. Grand Drive was divided into carriage, pedestrian and equestrian lanes and reflected the influence of Joseph Paxton.
- In 1896-7 Joseph Maiden altered the original layout of the drive to provide visitors better access to public transport. Two of the entrance gates were made redundant and the original gate 'stranded' on Martin Road. The Grand Drive's wide avenue with open spaces on either side was ideal for processions and public celebrations. The circular drive continues to act as the main artery of Centennial Park.
- In 1905 the motorcar was introduced. The growing use of motor vehicles required roads with rounded and deeply set stone kerbs.



Moore Park showing early roads. Source: Mitchell Library



Commemorative Plaque on obelisk

Joseph Maiden made designs for this kerb, which was implemented statewide. All major roads in the Parklands were kerbed and guttered with Maiden's sandstone kerb detail and pedestrian pathways on either side of the roads.

- In 1917, Randwick Road was widened and the original Moore Park gates were relocated. Randwick Road was renamed Anzac Parade. The Lady Mayoress, Mrs. R.D. Meagher, officially opened the road. A. H. Brigg, the City Surveyor was responsible for the road layout.
- By 1938, Dacey Avenue had been constructed across the southern section of Moore Park. The location was based on an earlier road that had followed the natural contours of the sand hills and was associated with the tollhouse at Bunnerong Road.
 - Roads were built linking all the sporting and showground developments. This network connected with Lang Road to service the developed lands. The new road running in a north-south direction was called Driver Avenue to commemorate Richard Driver¹³.
- Many of the smaller roads and thoroughfares within the Parklands were not initially named. In 1965, the roads were named after the colonial governors who had attended the opening ceremony of Centennial Park. In the same year all roads were signposted.

Tollhouses

- A tollhouse was erected in 1847 on an area now known as the Tay Reserve. The tollhouse collected tolls from travellers journeying from Sydney to La Perouse. It became known as the Randwick Tollgate and was administered by the Randwick and Coogee Road Trusts.
- In 1841 a toll bar at cnr Dowling & South Head Rd (Oxford Street) was moved east to along South Head Rd to near cnr of Glenmore Rd, Victoria Barracks
- Another tollhouse was erected in 1860 at the base of Mt. Rennie, on the corner of Cleveland Street and Botany Road. It currently operates as a Golf Club depot and storage facility.
- Tolls ceased to be collected around 1890 and the Randwick Tollhouse was demolished and cleared in 1909.

C.4 Australian Theme – Building, settlements, towns and cities

Towns, Suburbs and villages

Buildings

- In 1840, a Ranger's house and two enclosed gardens were built in Frog Hollow.
- A hut and garden were also constructed near the entrance to Busby's Bore.
- In 1844, tenders were advertised for the erection of a caretaker's cottage in the Lachlan Swamps¹⁴. It seems this remained there until around 1887, when the Colonial Secretary requested the removal of the caretaker's cottage¹⁵.
- A map of Moore Park from 1875 indicates that a single-storey house with a verandah was located within Moore Park at the intersection of



Former Tollhouse surrounded by Maintenance Buildings



View of the Rangers House in Centennial Park as it stands today, probably the site of the earlier Water Reserve cottage



Superintendents Residence

¹³ Refer to Commemorative Monuments.

¹⁴ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 August 1844, p.3, col 1

¹⁵ C Moore, SB6

Cleveland and South Dowling Streets. It is thought to have been the Moore Park head gardener's residence.

- A Superintendent's residence in Centennial Park was designed in 1891 by the Government Architect and constructed in 1892.
- In 1899, a ranger's house designed by Walter Vernon was built on Martin Road near the Grand Drive entrance.
- A brick kiosk designed by Walter Vernon with a hipped slate roof in the European Arts and Crafts style, was built in 1892. Timber cladding and new windows were added in 1908. The kiosk was destroyed by fire in 1940 and replaced in 1988. The original chimney is now incorporated into the restaurant.

Depot Buildings

- Several timber and corrugated iron depot buildings used by Centennial Park workers were constructed during the early 20th Century. The Depot buildings were redeveloped between 1965 and 1968. Modern brick and concrete structures replaced the old buildings. Stables for rangers' horses were constructed in 1966.

Pavilions

- Numerous pavilions have been constructed in the Parklands. A Shelter Pavilion (also known as the Vernon Pavilion) was constructed in 1898 and named after the NSW Government Architect, Walter Vernon. This was a stone structure with framed roof supporting a hardwood shingle cover. The roof was later replaced.
- A bandstand was constructed in 1900 and its first recital was held in 1901. It was demolished in the 1930s. In 1908, the Sydney City Council resolved to erect another bandstand on the western side of Randwick Road near Fitzroy Street and Dowling Street. This appears to be the present site of the play area adjacent to the site of the South Sydney Recreation Centre. (demolished in 1998/99).



Pavilion for Commonwealth of Australia Swearing in Ceremony 1901. Source: Centennial Park Heritage Study



Federation Pavilion, 1988