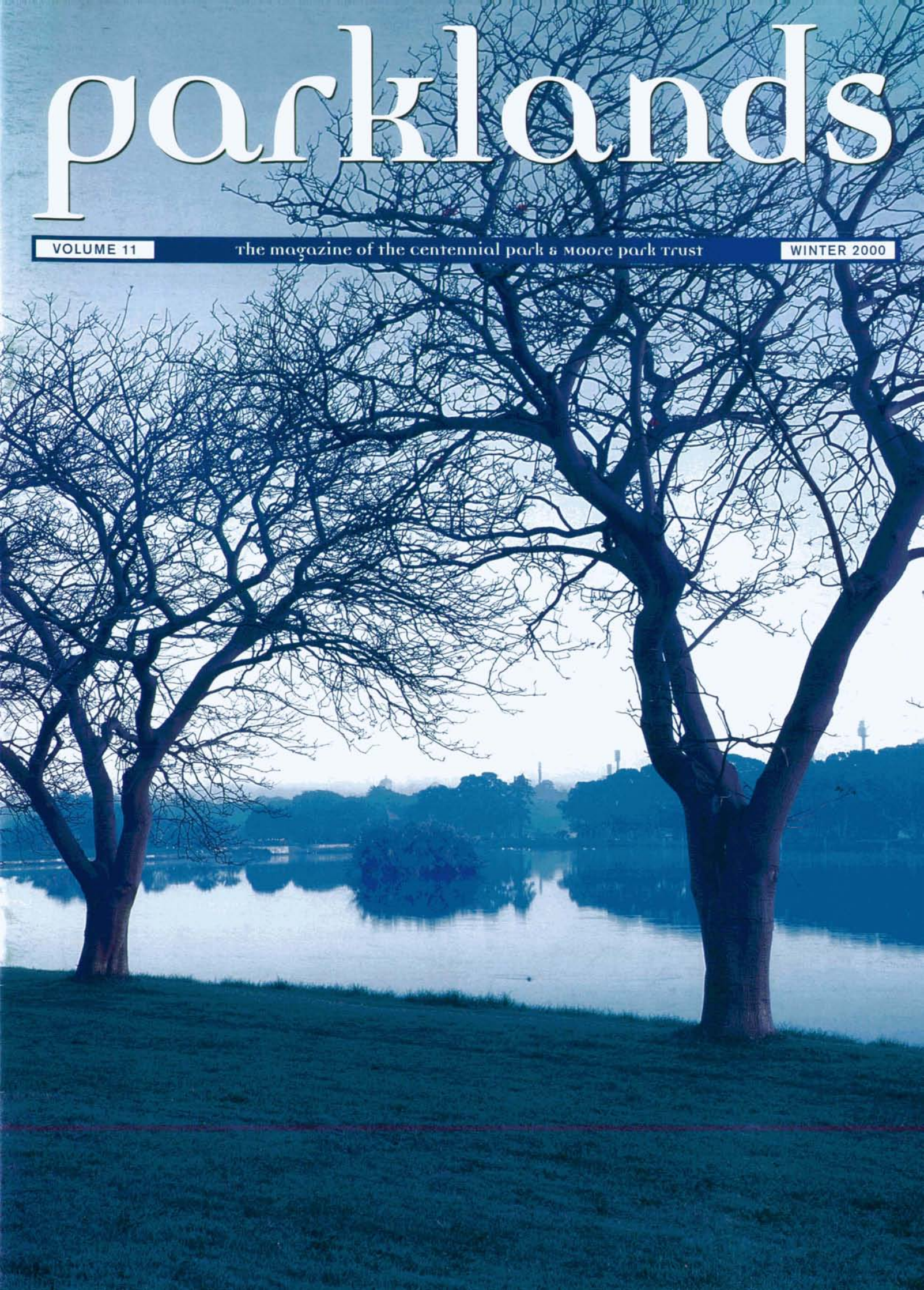


parklands

VOLUME 11

the magazine of the centennial park & moore park trust

WINTER 2000



winter contents

4

Partners on the trail

5

A Peaceful focus

6

Turtle power

8

Winter Parklands alive with Olympic colour

9

Now and then

10

Chance of a lifetime

11

Marathon test-run

12

Friends of the Parklands

13

Bastille Day dinner

14

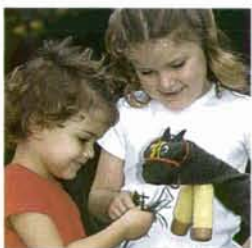
Winter events

15

School Holiday program

16

Centennial Parklands user's guide



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Directions



Recently we surveyed users about their favourite aspects of the Centennial Parklands. Among the top three were flora and flower displays, which were favoured alongside "size, open space and fresh air" and "proximity to the city".

This affection for horticulture has endured more than a century. It began with the work of the Park's first Director, Charles Moore, who remodelled the northern edges of Busby's pond into the principal site for ornamental horticulture as he laid out Centennial Park.

The pond edge – previously a dam wall from Busby's Bore water supply – was made into three promontories, which remain the key locations for Centennial Park's horticultural features.

In 1890 Moore erected two large columns from the demolished portico of the old Australian Museum on the two outer promontories. A 1990 heritage study of the Park remarked that they "sat like huge exclamation marks of civilisation amongst the wilds of the young but windswept and desolate park".

Wind and other harsh conditions were problematic in the establishment of the new park. Horticultural experimentation was often an unavoidable result. It's easy to overlook the fact that Centennial Park wasn't always *heritage* parkland – its founders frequently defied the conventions of the day, if only out of necessity.

In particular, the energetic progressive Joseph Maiden, Director from 1896 to 1924, masterminded a program of experimentation and innovation that set the character for the Park's horticultural exhibits.

His first effort was a native flower plantation, planted in 1900 on the site of the current Column Garden. An early supporter of Australia's native flora, Maiden also gave high priority to preserving the remnants of indigenous vegetation in the Park. By 1910 the native flower garden contained 661 native species, labelled to assist their study by students and park visitors.

Maiden also used the native garden to experiment with watering regimes. From 1896 Centennial Park had experienced a series of dry years culminating in the great drought of 1902. These conditions inspired Maiden to test a 'no artificial watering' policy for the native plantation. To his surprise, the garden did well in the severe conditions.

Many of Maiden's horticultural schemes introduced a sense of sub-tropical lushness to the Park. His flowerbeds were dramatic and large, and he created striking seasonal displays incorporating species such as cannas, sunflowers and pansies.

The horticultural displays described in this issue, which will use 4,000 pansies and petunias to bring images of the beach to Centennial Park, evoke this innovative history.

We also have Maiden to thank for the Park's Rose Garden, which is currently being replanted. Readers will have an opportunity to learn horticultural techniques from our talented staff with rose planting workshops this winter.

As we remember the great horticultural legacy provided by Moore and Maiden, it is appropriate in the year 2000 to be upgrading the horticulture displays in Centennial Park and extensively restoring Moore Park.

Peter Duncan

Director, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust

Parkbench

Parklands join State Heritage Register

The State Heritage Council has resolved to list Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks on the State Heritage Register.

The listing formally recognises the heritage significance of Centennial Parklands, confirming their unique place in the hearts and minds of the people of New South Wales.

"These parklands are major landmarks in the history and psyche of our city," said Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Heritage, Dr Andrew Refshauge.

"They were originally designated as a 'people's park', and have played that role for more than 100 years. In effect, they are our local and regional 'backyard' – a wide, green open space within the inner metropolitan area."

The Register includes over 1200 public and privately owned historic sites and objects throughout New South Wales.

Calls for public submissions on the proposed listing of Centennial Parklands received overwhelming support. More than 400 community submissions were received by the NSW Heritage Council, the most since the formation of the Register in April 1999.

The area listed includes Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park, excluding the former Royal Agricultural Society Showground and the two Sydney High Schools.

Moore Park West Makeover

Work has started on a \$4 million program to restore Moore Park West to high quality parkland.

The program includes extensive planting of trees and shrubs, including the reinstatement of an avenue of figs along South Dowling Street lost to road widening in the 1970s.

Over 200 significant parkland trees are being planted – including six different fig species and two pine species, Kauri and Norfolk Island.

The trees will be planted as groves around the edges of the Park, providing enclosure and shade.

Moore Park West will be laid with 12 hectares of new turf, with three cricket pitches and four football fields.

area is to be reinstated as a 'village green' where people can gather informally. The existing cricket pitch will remain and will be available for community use.

The total restoration will be completed by the end of the year with the majority of the works finished in time for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

The works are being funded by the Roads and Traffic Authority as part of a compensation package for the impacts of the Eastern Distributor on Moore Park.

Group Photo

It poured with rain, but over 200 people still managed to get to Centennial Park on Sunday 16 April for the group photo that will be featured in *Portrait of a Park* – a book on Centennial Park by freelance photographers Wendy McDougall and

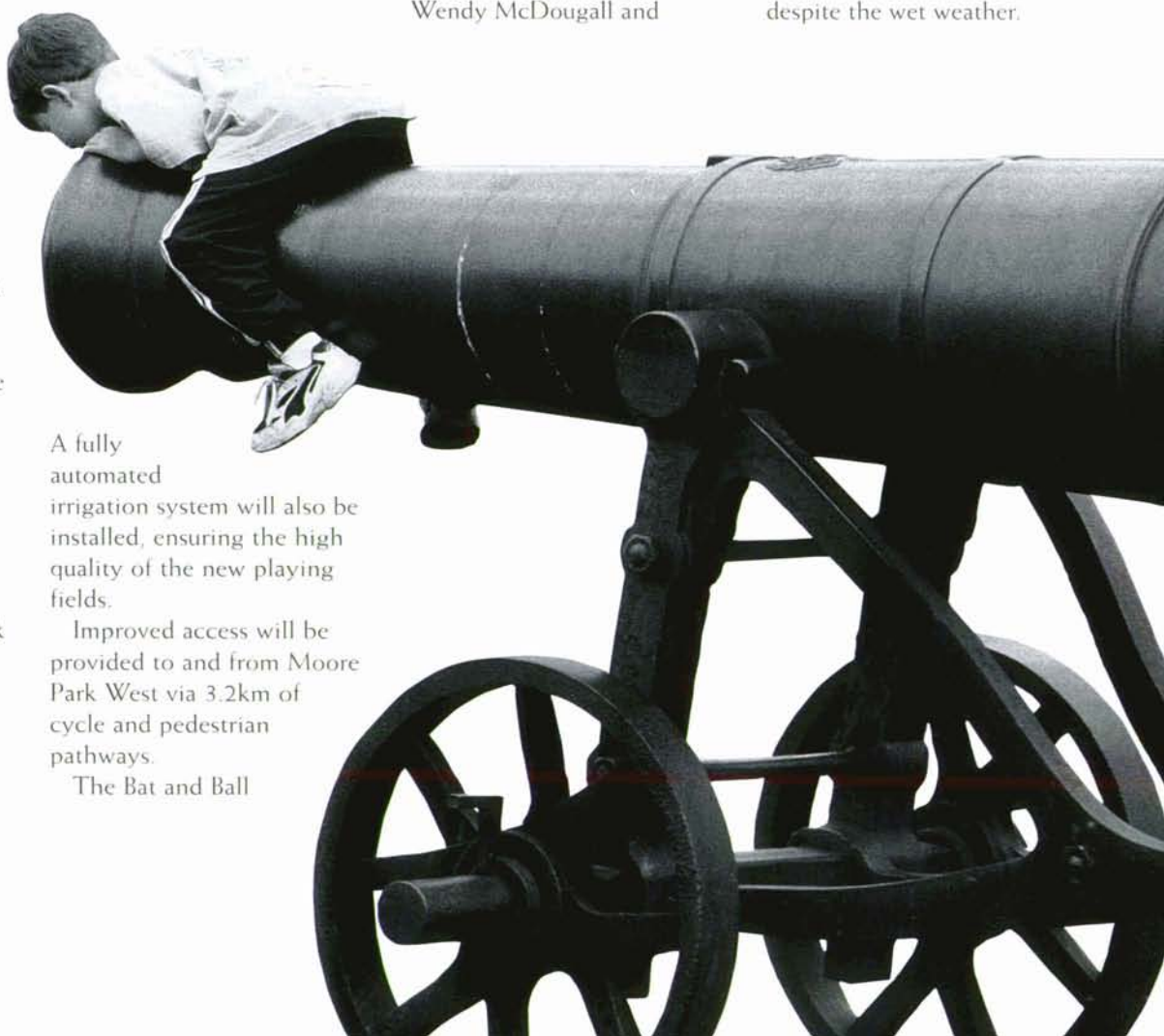
Brendan Read.

Diehard Park-lovers, ranging from 6 months to 80 years in age, braved the weather for their chance to get into the history books. Included in the group were descendants of park founder Sir Henry Parkes, a number of the Friends of Centennial Parklands and actor Jeremy Sims.

As well as attracting local media coverage from the Sydney Morning Herald and Radio 2BL, the event was covered by a Czech newspaper.

Photographs from *Portrait of a Park* will be included in *Federation Sydney*, an exhibition at the Museum of Sydney from December 2000.

Wendy and Brendan would like to thank everyone who attended despite the wet weather.



A fully automated irrigation system will also be installed, ensuring the high quality of the new playing fields.

Improved access will be provided to and from Moore Park West via 3.2km of cycle and pedestrian pathways.

The Bat and Ball

Partners on the trail

By Jean Sims



On Sunday March 26, around 13 Westpac volunteers got down and dirty in Centennial Park. It was stage one of a six-month project to complete the Guriwal Bushtucker Trail, located near the Randwick gate. It will be ready when Olympic cyclists peddle the Park in September.

"The trail was developed by trainees from the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation to interpret indigenous flora and fauna," said Rachel Ely, the Park's Senior Education/Interpretation Ranger. "But it wasn't regularly maintained and the weeds got out of hand," she said.

Westpac recruits now follow in their footsteps by removing weeds, planting natives and mulching around the interpretive poles created by the Guriwal people.

So why have they traded a precious sleep-in for weeding? "We want to show we are part of the community," said

Peter Rowney, Manager of Westpac's Kings Cross Branch. "Centennial Park is an area we're connected to. A lot of us use it personally," he said. Peter confides he likes to run a few laps on a Saturday afternoon.

"It was great for people who sit in an office like us and push a pen, to actually get muddy"

Joy Shuttleworth, Double Bay Branch Manager, has worked for Westpac for a total of 10 years. She said: "That Sunday was an absolutely beautiful day after two weeks of rain."

It sounded like a relaxing opportunity for staff to commune with nature, donning new suede gloves, hats and sunscreen. But the weeds had other

ideas. "We looked at these horrible bushes and thought 'Oh, my God! Is that what we've got to do?'" said Joy. "But within an hour we were down, dirty and covered in mud, ripping out plants. We rolled back marsh plants like carpet and saw little frogs and big fat grubs. It was lovely," she said.

A mixed bag, the Westpac recruits were a variety of ages and personalities from Eastern Suburbs branches.

"They were keen, eager and enthusiastic. We couldn't hold them back," said Rachel.

"It was great for people like us who sit in an office and push a pen, to actually get muddy," said Joy.

"It was hard work bending over to pull the weeds out – mainly dandelions and little marsh plants," said Joy. "We took them out roots and all, and if we couldn't we got a big pitchfork and spades," she said.

There were five or six piles of

A peaceful focus

Three years ago Architect Greg O'Donnell went into his meditation room and came out with a clear vision – a peace pavilion for the Olympic Games.

rubbish. "They just got bigger and bigger," Joy said.

At lunchtime the troops halted for a barbecue of steak, sausages and bread rolls.

According to Rachel the activity sparked much curiosity. She said: "There were people passing by on bikes yelling out: 'Good on you!'"

When completed the trail will educate visitors about bushucker from banksia and paperbark, to wattle. For example, "nectar from paperback flowers is soaked in water to make a sweet drink, and the leaves can be used to make tea," said Rachel. "Wattle seeds are ground down to make a coffee-type drink."

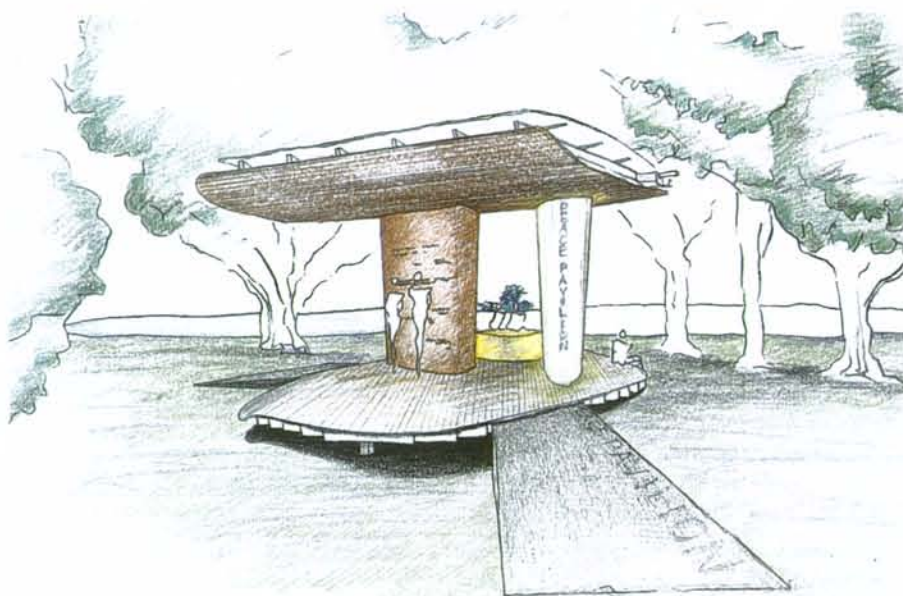
So will the project benefit



Centennial Park? "Oh, absolutely," said Joy. "People will be able to walk around and see what Australia might have looked like 100 years ago. And learn about our original inhabitants."

"We are taking wasted scrub that wasn't nice for birds and converting to a beautiful, functional and interesting place," she continued. "It will be lovely for birds to have more room to walk. There'll even be room for the grubs," said Joy.

So despite the creepy crawlies and weeds, the Westpac crew are looking forward to their turn in July. Go team!



"The next morning I got up at 5am and went out to Olympic village. It was a full moon and I sat down on this hill and the first trucks were just arriving to start the project. I watched the sun rise – and that started me on my journey," said Greg.

Greg's vision was shared up by a group of fellow meditators – the Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga organisation – who rallied interdenominational and community support for the project as part of the United Nations International Year for the Culture of Peace.

Centennial Park, with its serene natural qualities and its involvement in Sydney 2000 Olympic events, was identified as an idyllic setting.

"The idea is to create a place that will take people from the beauty of nature into an experience of peace," said Greg. "Peace is a state of mind and it's an inner calm that's always there, but you need to be able to access it, and to access it you need to be able to quiet the mind for a little while. That's the aim of the pavilion, to explain how to achieve that inner peace and take it away and share it with others."

The pavilion will be in the Park for six months from August 2000. It will be located at the southern end of the Park near the intersection of Grand and Parkes Drives.

The form of an upturned leaf inspired the design for the ecologically-sensitive structure, the result of a competition between eight prominent Sydney architects. The winning design, by Tonkin Zulaikha Architects, incorporates a wooden base and a floating transparent perspex roof that will allow sunlight to stream through.

"You need a structure because people can go to the Park and experience a certain peace, but their thoughts can still be racing," said Greg. "It has instructions on how to achieve peace alongside an outlook over the Duck Pond to inspire reflection and contemplation."

Park visitors will be able to use the pavilion for informal contemplation a respite. It will also be available for community groups and schools to use for gatherings centred on peace.

For information and bookings contact Greg O'Donnell on (02) 9960 5443.

Turtle power



They come from a Queensland river 85 kilometres north of Brisbane. They live up to 100 years and only reach sexual maturity at the age of 25. They are on the endangered species list. They are Mary River turtles, and according to turtle enthusiast Craig Latta, they could be breeding in Centennial Park.

Craig Latta's interest in turtles started at the age of eight when his father found a pair of turtles in the middle of the road and brought them home as family pets. The interest became a passion. Thirty years on Craig breeds 200 to 300 turtles a year for sale to licensed reptile keepers. He is a well-respected authority on turtles, and Craig's wealth of hands-on experience makes him a sought after commodity for vets and zoos when it comes to identifying turtles and their care.

Craig says Australian freshwater turtles are surprisingly under-researched compared to many other reptiles. In particular there is a lack of practical

information on how to keep and care for them.

"There still isn't enough information on how to look after them in captivity. Now that turtles are being sold to licensed reptile keepers, more information is required because people just don't know how to look after them properly," Craig explained.

To address this, Craig is writing a book on Australian freshwater turtles and their care. This work led him to Centennial Park and to the discovery of what he hopes is a rare colony of Mary River turtles (*Elusor macrurus*).

"I was doing a photographic survey for the book and I thought it would be

very interesting to find out what animals exist in Centennial Park," said Craig.

"I was out here one day having my lunch and I was looking on the bank and I saw a group of turtles, and I got my binoculars out and had a closer look and then I recognised the Mary River turtle sitting there. It was a very large male. He was swatting flies with his tail and a couple of birds were hassling him a bit, but he wasn't too deterred. He stayed out basking for half an hour."

Craig is convinced that the animal he saw was a Mary River turtle, and laments the fact he didn't have a camera with him to capture it on film. As he breeds them at home, he is very familiar with their appearance and characteristics. He also cites the fact that a Mary River turtle was caught and removed from the Park during the 1980s as further evidence that they could be living in the ponds.

So how could a Mary River turtle, whose provenance is a single river system in the whole of Australia, get to Centennial Park?

Craig says there can be only one explanation. "Obviously they were unwanted pets. Back in the late 60s and early 70s they sold between 3,000 to 10,000 hatchlings a year in the pet trade throughout South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. They used to call them the 'Pet Shop turtle' and they were incorrectly identified as a Saw-shelled turtle. People didn't realise how big they would grow and



Craig Latta comes face-to-face with one of his favourite turtles, John, a male Mary River Turtle.

they have obviously been released in Centennial Park years and years ago."

Craig is now focused on getting conclusive proof that the impressive male he saw basking at Randwick Pond last November is part of a colony of Mary River turtles living in Centennial Park. Late last year he wrote to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust seeking permission to search for the turtle.

Enter Park Ranger Jonathan Cartmill, who saw the merits of conducting a turtle survey with Craig to research what turtles are living in the Park and to do a turtle count.

The survey is confirming that there is a booming population of turtles in the Park. "They are in every pond and their number is probably in the thousands," said Jonathan. "Four species have been positively identified and another three are suspected."

To date Jonathan and Craig have spent four days in the field catching, measuring, sexing, recording and then releasing the turtles. During their most recent expedition in April they caught 53 turtles in Randwick Pond alone in just four hours using two traps and two fyke nets.

The haul didn't include a Mary River turtle. But that's no surprise to Craig: "It's one of the smartest turtles in Australia. It's very very rare to catch a Mary River turtle with a trap. Catching them with nets that stretch across a river, that's a different story."

What they did find were 51 Sydney Basin Short-necked turtles (*Emydura macquarii dharuk*), one Eastern Snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) and a Northern Snapping turtle (*Elseya*



Above: Mary River Turtles are distinguished by their exceptionally long tails.

"The thriving turtle population is something for people to cherish as a counterpoint to the recreational and cultural uses of the Park."

dentata). The Sydney Basin Short-neck is thriving and common in the Park and Eastern Snake-necks have been found many times before. But the netting of the Northern Snapping turtle provided

the first opportunity to photograph this species in the Park.

"It was a young animal, probably a female, with about a 10 centimetre shell length, so it looks like they may be breeding in there as well," Craig says.

Three other Northern Snapping turtles were recorded last year in the Duck Pond, adding weight to Craig's belief that they are breeding in the Park.

According to Jonathan, the range of species in Centennial Park is impressive when you consider that it's an inner city park. "The thriving turtle population is something for people to cherish as a counterpoint to the recreational and cultural uses of the Park." He says it isn't too hard for visitors to spot turtles. The onset of winter means that the turtles will go into their own form of hibernation, but they'll be back in the warmer months, especially during egg-laying season around September and October.

"You can see their heads poking up during the day. Also, during spring they're quite visible on the banks sunning themselves and laying eggs. At times in the Rose Garden there can be 20 to 30 digging holes and laying eggs. Because they don't see them all year, a lot of people are quite taken aback when they do see a turtle."

Jonathan says that if you find a turtle the most important thing is to leave it alone. As they are secretive animals, keeping still will also help to prolong the experience. "If they're laying eggs or mating it's a good idea to contact a Ranger so that we can photograph them. It's good to know where they have laid eggs so that we can rope off that particular area. A lot of our pond rehabilitation works are taking into account turtle breeding areas to encourage them to continue breeding."

Craig says the importance of Centennial Park as a habitat for turtles cannot be underestimated. "It's one of the last unpolluted turtle habitats around Sydney. There is a lot of food, including fish, freshwater prawns and insect life in the water, and that's very good for turtles."

And whether Craig manages to find the elusive Mary River male or its relations, this elaborate game of hide and seek will have been worth it – if only for redefining the meaning of "turtle power" as this reptile's unique ability to adapt and prosper in an urban parkland. – CATRIONA BURGESS.



Fyke nets (left) are set up near pond banks to catch turtles as they feed. Their large side "wings" help to direct turtles into the long tubular net.

Winter Parklands come alive with Olympic colour

The beach is not usually associated with formal gardens, but the designers of a new horticultural display in Centennial Park did not have the usual in mind.

"We wanted to do something you don't see every day," said Kyla Watts, Leader of the Horticultural Team and one of the designers. "We wanted something uniquely Australian, but traditional icons like Australian fauna have just been done to death. So we came up with the beach," she said. 'True Blue', a daring design of colourful pansies, promises a rare visual treat for winter visitors and Olympic spectators.

The Olympic and Paralympic events to be held in the Park later this year have provided the impetus for significant rejuvenation and replanting of the Park's formal gardens in the Column Garden, the Rose Garden and Frog Hollow.

The projects will use almost 4,000 pansies and petunias in their displays. One of the more unusual displays of these colourful annuals will be the 'True Blue' beds in the Column Garden.

Kyla and Horticulturalist Adrienne Mellor have devised a striking arrangement of 12 beds. Swirling blue, white and violet patterns combine to represent the movement of water. The sharp forms of waves breaking on sandy beaches contrast

with abstract rippled and crashing wave patterns.

Kyla and Adrienne have taken advantage of the colourful range of pansies available in their design, from the pure *Scala White Pansy* to the *Delta True Blue Pansy* and all the shades in between, including an unusual *Two-tone Pansy* in blue and white. "The colours we chose of sand, blue and white are also the colours of the NSW Olympians' uniform," said Kyla.

The beds will be raised on a gentle incline to enhance the effect from the roadside. "By using semi-advanced plants, we'll be sure of a good display by September. The larger plants are also less prone to damage and transplant shock," said Adrienne.

The pansies will be replaced later in the year with a new design for Federation celebrations.

The Column Garden and its neighbours, the Rose Garden and Frog Hollow, have always been popular with Park visitors.

The first formal garden in the Park, the Native Flower Plantation, was built by Park Director Joseph Maiden in 1900 on the site of the Column Garden. This was replaced by an exotic plant garden in 1918 and has continued to host interesting and unusual displays ever since.

The Column Garden takes its name from the sandstone column at one end of the area enclosed by perennial beds. The Doric column is one of a pair, salvaged from the site of the old Sydney Museum in William Street in the 1890s. The other column stands further to the west next to Busby's Pond.

The columns have also provided a high sanctuary for two of the remaining original statues of the Park. By the 1970s, all but three of 31 statues had been destroyed by vandals or removed for their protection. Two of those remaining are the terracotta female figures on top of the columns, inscribed with the name of the famous Luxembourg pottery, Villeroy and Boch. Remarkably little survives of the history or meaning of these statues, and their exact identity or provenance remains a mystery.

The neighbouring Rose Garden also boasts a long history in Centennial Park. A Rosarium was planted on this site in 1909 and has been a sentimental favourite of park visitors ever since.



One of only two statues to have permanently remained in Centennial Park, this plaster statue from Villeroy and Boch sits on top of the column that lends its name to the Column Garden.



Rows of pansies will be used to create striking swirling arrangements, evoking images of the sea.

On one famous Sunday in 1917, the Rosarium had an estimated 20,000 people pass through its sweet smelling rows. The biggest pests to their survival at this time were not the Park's prolific rabbits, but their admiring visitors. One report in 1916 notes in amazement that a bed of roses with over 90 varieties was cleared within two weeks by rose thieves.

While roses are high-maintenance and often difficult to grow in Australian conditions, they are a sentimental favourite of Park visitors. Major renovation of the Rose Garden is now underway as part of the Olympic horticultural projects. The plants in the current rose garden are at least 15 years old and of the garden's 600 bushes, 300 are now in an unrecoverable state. A build up of organic material has led to poor drainage and the characteristic heavy feeding of the roses has left the soil stale and unproductive.

'True Blue', a daring design of colourful pansies, promises a rare visual treat for winter visitors and Olympic spectators.

The worst 11 beds are now being replaced entirely and planting will begin in early June. Peace roses, Peter Frankenfelt and Double Delight roses are being renewed while newcomer varieties include the Olympic Gold, Brass Band and Blueberry Hill roses. As roses are dormant in winter, they will not be flowering for the Olympic events, but the Federation celebrations in January will enjoy their full display.

The third major horticultural project in the formal garden areas is taking place in Frog Hollow. Frog Hollow, originally the site of an open drain, is currently home to nine circular gardens with exotic perennial displays. These circular gardens will be given an additional burst of colour with the planting of dazzling borders of hot pink and salmon petunias. The petunias have been selected for their unusual colours as well as their resistance to pests and disease. Pruning and fortnightly doses of liquid fertiliser will ensure that the display will continue to bloom well through the Olympic period and into January's Federation celebrations. — LEE ADENDORFF

Friends of the Parklands and their guests can join in special rose planting workshops led by Kyla Watts in the historic Rosarium on Thursday 22 and Sunday 25 June. See page 12 for details.



Horticultural workers prepare the beds in the Column Garden for the new planting.



Holidays: Children in the Park, 11 May 1935 Courtesy of the State Library of New South Wales

Scooting around

NOW AND THEN

This holiday snap from May 1935 shows the enduring popularity of scooters in Centennial Park.

Today's scooters – known as 'Razors' – differ greatly from scooters of the past. Fully collapsible and made from alloy, they are smaller than the average scooter and have polyurethane wheels for high-speed performance.

While some scooters in the 1920s and 1930s were metal, many were constructed using old wooden orange boxes or other recycled objects, especially during the depression.



The chance of a lifetime

Call for volunteers to participate in Centenary of Federation celebrations

The New South Wales Centenary of Federation Committee is calling for volunteers to get involved in the 2001 Centenary of Federation celebrations and commemorations.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in an event that promises to be as spectacular as it is significant to our nation," said Sam Baker, Production Coordinator, Centenary of Federation Centennial Ceremony, who is overseeing the volunteer project.

"The Committee is looking for volunteers to chaperone guests, act as crowd marshals, environmental marshals and to provide directions and other information."

As the place where Federation was formally declared, Centennial Park has a special role to play in the 2001 celebrations. The volunteers will work on the Centennial Ceremony, which is being staged in the Park on 1 January 2001. The event is being held in partnership with the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

"On 1 January 2001, Centennial Park will come alive with an expected audience of 150,000 people who will come to enjoy the daytime festivities of Federation Day and experience the Centennial Ceremony – the first official event to celebrate the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in our centenary year."



"Basically we want the people involved to care about the park as much as we do"

The Centennial Ceremony will start in Centennial Park at twilight. It will combine spectacular pageantry and Australia's best performing artists with official addresses from national leaders.

"The Ceremony will run for 90 minutes and feature segments

combining music, imagery and special effects," said Sam. "It will make use of sophisticated theatre and event technologies to produce a unique and moving commemoration of Australia's journey to nationhood.

"To make this most spectacular and commemorative event happen we need your help," said Sam. "Volunteers will be involved in anything from looking after VIPs, working backstage and monitoring crowds to acting as 'environmental marshals' protecting the Park's unique natural features during one of the biggest days in its history.

"Depending on their role, volunteers will be stationed in different areas of Centennial Park, so those who care and know about the Park will be particularly valuable.

Basically we want the people involved to care about the park as much as we do," said Sam.

"Everyone who volunteers will get a special certificate to commemorate their involvement, plus a t-shirt that will serve as both a uniform on the day and a lifelong souvenir.

"We look forward to talking with individuals, community groups and associations interested in participating in this event. We encourage all local residents and groups to get involved in this special day, which will be telecast to a national television audience of hundreds of thousands of Australians."

Anyone interested in volunteering their services or time for the Centennial Ceremony should complete and mail the form on this page.

An information pack will be forwarded to all that register.

For more information on Federation and events in 2001 visit the NSW Centenary of Federation Committee website at www.cofc.nsw.gov.au.

Please send me more information on how I can volunteer for the Centennial Celebration in Centennial Park on 1 January 2001

Name: Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Dr _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: home _____ business _____

Email address: _____

Send to: Centennial Ceremony
Attn: Sam Baker
NSW Centenary of Federation Committee
PO Box R1193 Royal Exchange
Sydney NSW 1225



Marathon test-run

On Sunday 30 April more than 1000 spectators lined Centennial Parklands' roads and pathways for the Host City Marathon, an important test event in the lead up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Georgia Stynes reports.

The event was an opportunity for runners of all standards to traverse the Games-time route. Over 5 500 competitors tackled the 42 kilometre course, including Australia's finest wheelchair and able-bodied athletes. Joining the 150 elite athletes invited by race organisers were thousands of amateur runners keen to measure themselves against the best. The field included athletes from 50 countries including Japan and Mexico.

By the time the race started in North Sydney at 6.20am with the departure of the 20 wheelchair athletes, Centennial Parklands staff had already been pacing the Park for two-and-a-half hours.

"It couldn't have been a better day for a test event," said Andrew Ferris, Manager Operations. "I felt quite relaxed and excited. The Centennial Parklands team was very confident as we had a good relationship with the organisers leading into the event and had spent months preparing for it."

After crossing the Harbour Bridge and

passing through the city, the wheelchair athletes entered Centennial Park at 6.35am. The elite runners (who had a 6.30am start) arrived soon after at 6.45am.

"The best moment was when they announced the first wheelchair athlete had entered the Park 15 minutes after the start. The spectators starting clapping and cheering on the athletes," Andrew said. "It was all happening in our Park."

Andrew was very pleased with the event. "It allowed us to test our traffic management procedures and crowd control before the Olympics. We were also able to monitor effects on our users, licensees and the Park's environment. They all passed with flying colours."

Despite the road closures around Moore Park and within Centennial Park, thousands of spectators turned out to see the competitors. "It was fantastic to see so many people leaving their cars at home and enjoying the spectacle," Andrew said. "Regular users and residents took heed of the road closure

warnings and came on foot. Their cooperation meant we were able to open Centennial Park to cars by 9.40am, an hour earlier than expected."

After exiting the Park, the competitors headed back through the city, then west to Sydney Olympic Park. They finished at Stadium Australia where 17 623 spectators watched 4 796 of the 5 500 original competitors cross the finish line.

In spite of the strong overseas contingent, Australians took out all the top honours.

First across the line was 19-year-old Australian wheelchair athlete Kurt Fearnley, who beat Mexican Saul Mendoza with only 120 metres to go. Kurt completed the race in 1 hour 34 minutes. Multiple gold medallist Louise Savage won the female wheelchair division (2hrs7mins).

Less than a kilometre from the end of the race, 31-year-old Victorian Rod de Highden overtook fellow Australian Magnus Michelsson to win the men's division (2hrs16mins). Susan Hobson, a 42-year-old runner from Western Australia, won the women's division (2hrs35mins) after leading the female contingent from start to finish.

Andrew Ferris is looking forward to the real thing. "Bring on the Games. The management will be much simpler and have less impact on the Park because only 120 elite runners will be in the Park over a much shorter timeframe. And the tougher field will bring even more excitement" he said.



"take as much interest in it as if by your own hands you had planted the flowers...and if you thus rise to the full appreciation of this great beauty and your great privileges, the park will be one of the grandest adornments of this beautiful country." Sir Henry Parkes, 1888

Friends of the Parklands

Friends – Application Form

Become a Friend of Centennial Parklands and enjoy these benefits:

- membership key ring
- *Parklands* Magazine posted 4 times a year
- 10% discount at Centennial Parklands Restaurant
- Ranger guided walks and other Friends' activities
- quality membership certificate
- discounts on selected Parklands events

Plus you will be helping to support the future of Sydney's grandest 19th century public park, dedicated to the people by Sir Henry Parkes in 1888.

Membership category

- ☐ Single (1 year).....\$50/55 (inc.GST) after 1 July
☐ Family (1 year).....\$90/99 (inc.GST) after 1 July

Name: Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Dr _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: home _____

business _____

Email: _____

Payment of \$_____ is enclosed (cheques payable to Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust) OR Please charge \$_____ to my ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Card no _____

Expiry date ____/____/____

Card Holder's name _____

Card Holder's signature _____

Send to: Centennial Parklands Friends
Locked Bay 15
PADDINGTON NSW 2021
Phone: (02) 9339 6699
Fax: (02) 9332 2148



ROSE PLANTING WORKSHOPS Thursday 22 and Sunday 25 June

Roses have existed since prehistoric times and been cultivated for more than 5000 years. Despite their enduring beauty and popularity, roses have earned a reputation for being difficult to grow.

To reveal some of the secrets of the professionals, Centennial Parklands' horticultural staff will be giving special rose planting workshops on Thursday 22 and Sunday 25 June.

The two-hour workshop will begin with refreshments and a demonstration on planting bare-rooted and potted roses.

This will be followed by a rose planting session in Centennial Park's heritage Rose Garden, providing a hands-on opportunity to apply the lessons from the workshop under the guidance of Centennial Parklands horticultural staff.

The Rose Garden has been a constant favourite with Park visitors. This winter the garden is being substantially renovated with 11 of the beds being replanted (see page 8 for more details on the new planting).

Each workshop will involve planting in two of the new beds, using both bare-rooted and potted species including *Olympic Gold*, *Brass Band*, *Blueberry Hill* and *Peace Roses*.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to improve your knowledge of roses and to be a part of this significant new planting in Centennial Park.

Thursday 22 June 9:30–11.30am or Sunday 25 June 9.30–11.30am
Friends \$20
Guests/others \$25
Meet at the Trust Administration Building behind the Café
Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

KING ISLAND DINNER

More than 120 *Friends of Centennial Parklands* gathered at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant on Thursday 23 March for a mouth-watering tour of the delicacies of King Island.

The evening was one of the most popular *Friends'* dinners to date. Nine of the diners decided to become new *Friends* on the night.

All *Friends* who attended were invited to put their names in a draw for a hamper of King Island products including cheese and cream donated by the King Island Company. Cate McDonald was the lucky winner of the draw, taking home goods worth more than \$100.

Our thanks to Helen Waterworth, from the King Island Company, and Tim Smith, from the NSW Heritage Office, for speaking on the night.

Don't miss our *Friends'* Bastille Day dinner on Friday 14 July for your chance to enter our next draw and enjoy the very best in French cuisine (see opposite).

Bookings are essential and can be made by phoning Centennial Parklands Restaurant on (02) 9360 3355.

NEW FRIENDS

As an acknowledgment of the tremendous support of the *Friends of Centennial Parklands* we will be listing new friends in each edition of *Parklands*.

A big welcome this season to:

Bernice Bachmayer	Sonya Ku
Adam Bandeen	Patricia Ledlin
Bob Bidder	The Lewin Family
Ken Chapman	Julie Marler
S Cross	Cate McDonald
The Davies Family	Will Mrongovius
Christine Deaner	The O'Neill Family
The Doyle Family	Jan Ryan
Charles Edge	The Watterson Family
David Enos	The Wilkes Family

A French Feast



Celebrate liberty, equality and gastronomy at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant this Bastille Day, Friday 14 July.

The tradition of feasting on Bastille Day is as old as the celebration itself.

The storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 was an international symbol of freedom and equality. One year later, a huge feast was held as a symbol of national reconciliation.

The Fête of the Federation was held in Paris on 14 July 1790. Fourteen thousand federates joined a crowd of 300,000 people who gathered in a huge amphitheatre dominated by an altar to the French nation.

In 1880 Bastille Day officially became France's National Day. In keeping with this great French custom, Centennial Parklands has begun its own Bastille Day tradition.

Following the tremendous success of last year's Bastille Day dinner, the *Friends of Centennial Parklands* are hosting another opportunity to feast on French delights on Friday 14 July 2000.

The food has been specially selected to recall the grand day of feasting held 210 years ago. Entrees include: French Onion Soup with Gruyere Croute; Prawn, Saffron and Leek Quiche; and Veal Terrine with Pickled Quince and Toasted Sourdough.

The mains are equally mouth-watering: Pork and Duck Cassoulet; Seared Beef Fillet with Paris Mash,

Pine Mushrooms and Eschalot Jus; Seafood Bouillabaisse and Tian de Legumes with Goats Cheese.

Desserts offer some great French favourites: Crème Brulee; Baked Apple Filled with Almond, Spice and Served with Calvados Sauce; Rhubarb Tartlets with Vanilla Ice Cream; and a Selection of French Cheeses with Quince Paste and Walnut Bread.

A range of French wines will also be available on the night.

The evening's celebrations will commence with a talk relating to the French theme.

A special *Friends*-only draw will be held with a French-inspired prize. Those who join the *Friends of Centennial Parklands* on the night will be eligible to enter the draw and receive the *Friends'* discounted meal price.

Tables can be booked from 6.30 to 9.30pm with the talk starting at 6.30pm sharp. Please call the Centennial Parklands Restaurant on 9360 3355 (9am to 3pm daily) to make your reservation. Parking is available at the Restaurant, entry via Paddington gates.

Dinner and talk (all prices inc. GST):
2 courses: Friends \$41.80
Guests \$46.20
3 courses: Friends \$47.30
Guests \$52.80

winter events

JUNE

2 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All ages

Discover the secrets of Centennial Park after dark. Join the Rangers spotlighting possums and other creatures of the night. Bring torch. 6–7pm. \$8 per person. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

4 Sunday

WINTER CAR FREE DAY

Walk, cycle or catch public transport and enjoy the first Sunday of winter in Centennial Park. Disabled access via Musgrave Ave Gates. 9am–5pm.

MOBILE RANGER STATION – WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Visit the Mobile Ranger Station for displays and information about Centennial Parklands. To celebrate World Environment Day, meet the Rangers and learn how to collect seeds from native plants and generate a native plant seedling for your home. 2–4pm. \$2 per seedling. Meet at Centennial Parklands Café.

7 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES – Toddlers

Take a tour through the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Find out where the horses live, what they eat and how we care for them. Jump into the saddle for a pony ride too! Wear boots. 10–11am. \$7 children, adults free. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

18 Sunday

FROG POND WORKSHOP – 12 Years to Adult

Learn how to attract frogs to your garden with this interactive workshop lead by Lothar Voigt from the Frog

and Tadpole Society.

Construct a frog pond, see live frogs and discover ways to improve habitats for urban frog populations. Light refreshments included. 10am–1pm. \$28 per person. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

22 Thursday

ROSE PLANTING WORKSHOP

A special rose planting workshop by Centennial Parklands' Horticultural experts on planting bare rooted and potted roses. Includes a hands-on session in Centennial Park's heritage Rose Garden. 9.30–11.30am. Friends \$20, Others \$25. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699



25 Sunday

ROSE PLANTING WORKSHOP

See 22 June. 9.30–11.30am. Friends \$20, Others \$25

29 Thursday

FOREST FROLIC – Toddlers

What makes the Centennial Park Pine Forest smell so nice and sound so peaceful? Find the answers as you frolic through the Pine Forest hunting for pinecones and pine needles. 10–11am. \$7 per child, adults free. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

JULY

7 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All Ages

See 2 June. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.

14 Friday

BASTILLE DAY DINNER

Celebrate liberty, equality and gastronomy at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant this Bastille Day. The evening's celebrations will commence at 6.30pm with a talk relating to the French theme and follow with a specially prepared French menu. Tables available from 6.30 to 9.30pm. Bookings (02) 9360 3355

20 Thursday

FOREST FROLIC – Toddlers

See 29 June. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

23 Sunday

BRICKS AND MORTAR – HERITAGE BUILDINGS OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS

Enjoy an afternoon stroll highlighting the architectural features of the many heritage-listed buildings and structures within the Centennial Parklands. Visit the old Superintendent's Residence, Federation Monument and water reservoirs. Finish with afternoon tea beside the Shelter Pavilion. 2–4pm. \$8.50 per person. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699



26 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES – Toddlers

See 7 June. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

31 Monday

TREE TREASURE HUNT – Arbor Day

Schools are invited to celebrate Arbor Day with a Tree Treasure Hunt. Bring your class to Centennial Parklands to collect as many treasures as you can find! Bring clipboard and plastic bag. Students must be supervised by a teacher. 10am–Noon. \$5 per group of 10 students. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

AUGUST

2 Wednesday

TED'S TREE TOUR – ARBOR WEEK

Celebrate Arbor Week with our Senior Arborist Ted Hoare, as he takes a guided walk of Centennial Park's majestic trees. Ted's tales include the history of trees in the Park, special features and design issues for the future. 10am–Noon. \$8.50 per person. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

4 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL

See 2 June. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.

13 Sunday

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Help beautify the Centennial Parklands before the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Bring gloves. Wear covered footwear. 10am–2pm. Meet and register at Learners' Cycleway, Centennial Park or corner Lang Road and Driver Avenue, Moore Park.



17 Thursday

FOREST FROLIC – Toddlers

See 29 June. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

23 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES – Toddlers

See 7 June. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

■ Prices for all activities after 30 June 2000 have been adjusted to include GST.

■ Bookings for Centennial Parklands events are only confirmed on receipt of payment.

■ In case of rain, please call to confirm event is proceeding. A full refund will be given if an activity is cancelled due to wet weather.

Escape and Explore School Holiday Program 3 – 14 July 2000

■ Bookings are essential for all School Holidays activities and can be made by calling (02) 9339 6699

■ Please note that numbers are limited. Activities are only confirmed on receipt of payment. Places will not be held without payment in full. ■ Cancellations less than 48 hours prior to the activity may not receive a full refund. ■ Toddlers activities are for 2–5 years and Children's activities for 6–12 years (unless otherwise stated). ■ In case of rain, please call to confirm event is proceeding. A full refund will be given if an activity is cancelled due to wet weather.

3 Monday

SPLISH SPLASH – Toddlers

The ponds in Centennial Park are home to fish, turtles, bugs, eels and birds. Look for these creatures as they splash around the water and find out why they are so important to the Park's wetlands. Bring gumboots. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

OPERATION FERAL – Children

Uncover the feral animals that hop, swim and run in Centennial Park. Use your detective skills to investigate who they are and where they live and play the feral cat game. 2–3.30pm. \$8.50 per child.

4 Tuesday

GALLOPING GAMES AND HANGING HORSESHOES – Children

Collect some horseshoes, set up a horseshoe pitching course and get down for some galloping games by the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Grounds! Design and make a hanging horseshoe windchime to

take home with you.

10–11.30am. \$8.50 per child.

SPLISH SPLASH – Toddlers

See 3 July. 2–3pm. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All Ages

Discover the secrets of Centennial Parklands after dark. Join the Rangers spotlighting for possums, flying foxes and other creatures of the night. Bring torch. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.



5 Wednesday

PET PUPPETS – Toddlers

Make your very own pet puppet from recycled materials. Use your puppet to help the Rangers as they perform a puppet show about pets in our Parklands. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

THE DISAPPEARING ACT – Children

How do animals found around the Parklands magically disappear before our eyes? Meet with the Rangers as they reveal the secrets of camouflage and search for concealed creatures in Centennial Park. Also design a disguise to hide yourself from the outside world. 2–3.30pm. \$8.50 per child.

6 Thursday

PET PUPPETS – Toddlers

See 5 July. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

OPERATION FERAL – Children

See 3 July. 2–3.30pm. \$8.50 per child.

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All Ages

See 4 July. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.

10 Monday

JUNIOR RANGERS – 8–12 YEARS

Find out what it's like to be a Ranger on patrol in Centennial Parklands! Construct a possum box, help with weed removal, survey for water bugs and check fauna traps. Bring hat, packed lunch and morning tea. 10am–3pm. \$33 per child.

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All Ages

See 4 July. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.

11 Tuesday

SPLISH SPLASH – Toddlers

See 3 July. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

GALLOPING GAMES AND HANGING HORSESHOES – Children

See 4 July. 2–3.30pm. \$8.50 per child.

12 Wednesday

THE DISAPPEARING ACT – Children

See 5 July. 10–11.30am. \$8.50 per child.

PET PUPPETS – Toddlers

See 5 July. 2–3pm. \$7.50 per child, adults free.

SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All Ages

See 4 July. 6–7pm. \$8.50 per person.

13 Thursday

JUNIOR RANGERS – Children

See 10 July. 10am–3pm. \$33 per child.

Centennial Parklands – User's Guide

PARKLAND OPERATIONS

First Aid and Emergency

24 hour Ranger service, 7 Days.
9746 2164 or 9746 0444

Administration

8.30am-5pm Monday-Friday. Located behind Centennial Parklands Café.
Phone 9339 6699, fax 9332 2148

Friends of Centennial Parklands

More than a group of park lovers, the Friends are an important association of like-minded people committed to preserving the Parklands' history and culture.
9339 6699

Community Consultative Committee

Meets approximately every six weeks. Committee members can be contacted via Centennial Parklands' Administration.
9339 6699

DINING & REFRESHMENTS

Centennial Parklands Restaurant

Modern Australian à la carte restaurant offering a full wine list. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. Also available for weddings and function hire.
Open 7 days, 8.30am-3pm. 9360 3355

Centennial Parklands Café

Specialising in light meals and snacks, the Café offers open air eating in our award-winning forecourt. Open 7 Days, 8am-5pm.

Centennial Parklands Kiosk

Located next to the Duck Pond, the Kiosk serves sandwiches, light meals, coffee, cold drinks and ice cream.
Open Weekends and Public Holidays, 8am-sunset.

SPORT AND RELAXATION

Cycling & Roller Blading

A 4km cycling and roller blading track follows the perimeter of Grand Drive. A Learner's Cycleway for children is also available (cycling only). Cyclists are not permitted to ride in packs of more than 15. Hire available from:

- Centennial Park Cycles: 9398 5027 (bikes & blades)
- Woollys Wheels: 9331 2671 (bikes)
- Bondi Boards & Blades: 9369 2212 (blades)
- Total Skate: 9380 6356 (blades)

Horse Riding

Centennial Park is one of the few remaining parks in the world offering inner-city horse riding, with a 3.6 km circular horse track and some 2 hectares of fenced equestrian grounds. Horse hire available from:

- Moore Park Stables: 9360 8747
- Centennial Stables: 9360 5650
- Eastside Riding Academy: 9360 7521

Picnics & BBQs

The Parklands offer unlimited picnic spots, with views of ponds, fields and gardens. Also five BBQ locations in Centennial Park and one in Queens Park. Access to picnic areas and BBQs operates on a first-in basis. Bookings required for groups of 50 or over. Bookings: 9339 6699

Jogging & Walks

A 3.6 km jogging track is available around Grand Drive. Self-guided walking trails are located at Lachlan Swamp and the Duck Pond. Guided walks held regularly each season. Guided walks bookings: 9339 6699

Dog Walking

Dogs can be exercised off leash, but under control in Centennial Park outside Grand Drive, and in Moore and Queens Park. Dogs must be on a lead inside the Grand Drive circle. For safety reasons dogs are not allowed on the horse or cycle track, roads, equestrian grounds, children's playgrounds, Learner's Cycleway, in ponds

or on sporting fields when in use. Dogs must be kept 10 metres from BBQs.

Children's Activities

Ranger-led Birthday Parties, toddler activities, Holiday activities and School Excursions are available as part of the Parkland's *Escape and Explore Program*.
9339 6641 or 9339 6645

FACILITIES

Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre

Formerly the historic Sydney Showgrounds stables, now a world-class Equestrian Centre offering 270 stables, a lunging yard, arenas, veterinarian, agistment providers and riding schools.
9332 2809

Moore Park Golf Club

Public 18 hole golf course in the heart of the Eastern Suburbs. Includes Golf Pro Shop and one of the largest driving ranges in Australia. 9663 3791

ES Marks Athletics Field

International standard 400 metre recatan running track, shot put, discus, javelin, long, high & triple jump facilities available. Quality change rooms, first aid rooms and a meeting room also available. 9339 6620

Centennial Parklands Sports Centre

Tennis, basketball and netball courts available for casual or regular use.
9662 7033

Playing Fields

Playing fields in Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks are available for team sports, including cricket, soccer, hockey, rugby and touch-football.
Bookings: 9339 6620

Centennial Parklands Children's Centre

Long day care centre for babies to pre-schoolers. 9663 1200

FUNCTIONS & EVENTS

Centennial Square

Surrounded by trees and designed for marquees, this site caters for 50 to 1200 people. Located next to one of Centennial Park's historic ponds on the eastern side of the Park. Perfect for weddings, launches and events.
Bookings: 9339 6613

C Pavilion

Originally built as home for the Carlton Clydesdale Team, C Pavilion captures the spirit of a historic stables with function and exhibition space facilities. Holds up to 500 people.
Bookings: 9339 6613

Events

Submissions from the public are welcome for activities and events that support the Parklands' cultural policy.
Enquiries: 9339 6615 or 9339 6635.

Filming & Photography

Centennial Parklands offers a versatile range of locations for commercial filming and photography at competitive rates.
Bookings: 9339 6621

TRANSPORT

Public Transport – 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.

Car – main gates to Centennial Park open 6.30am-5.30pm during Winter.

Car Free Days are held on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December. A 30km speed limit applies on all roads in Centennial Park.



Back cover: Almost 4,000 pansies and petunias will be used to create striking horticultural displays in Centennial Park this winter. See page eight for details.

Cover: Winter in the Parklands – view across the Duck Pond in Centennial Park.

CENTENNIAL  parklands

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