

parklands

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AUTUMN 2001



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Directions



This year kicked off with a great deal of pomp and ceremony for Centennial Parklands when thousands of people flocked to the Park for the Centenary of Federation celebration on 1 January.

And the Parklands began the New Year in a spirit that will continue throughout 2001 – playing host to a

range of quality events. The evening of 25 March sees folk legend Bob Dylan perform under the stars to an estimated crowd of 18,000 at the Parade Grounds. From 1 June, Cirque du Soleil is set to thrill audiences with its touring production *Alegria*, under the Grand Chapiteau at Moore Park.

It goes without saying the Parklands provide a memorable and unique venue for these special

occasions, and the Trust does its utmost to protect the Park environment during the staging of these events.

It is an ongoing task of the Trust to balance the enjoyment of park-users with the needs of the Parks. There are currently a number of management issues facing the Trust, including transport and access issues, and pests and rubbish-disposal in the Park. Steps have been taken to resolve them.

A transport, access and parking study commenced late last year will result in a draft plan which will be on display for public comment in the Parklands administration building by the end of March.

The main aims of the plan include investigating alternative systems of transport for people movement within the Parklands; considering the impact of vehicles on the park environment; and reducing conflict between park-users such as motorists, cyclists and rollerbladers who travel on the same roads but at different speeds.

The second major problem the Trust is dealing with is pest control. Attempts have been made in the past to reduce the number of pests, particularly the rabbits and ibis, but these haven't been successful.

These creatures are beginning to cause considerable environmental problems. Rabbits are burrowing under playing fields, posing risks to park-users, destroying vegetation and attracting foxes which are a major threat to the native animals in the Park, such as possums and turtles.

The ibis, although native, are not native to Sydney, and are taking over some of the pond islands, evicting other species from their habitats. Their excrement is also polluting the waterways.

Although discussions about eradicating pests from Centennial Park can become emotive, the problems have to be acknowledged.

A group of experts met in late January to discuss the issue, and after further consultation takes place, it is expected a pest management strategy will be completed in March.

The third issue confronting the Trust is one of waste. From March a new system will be introduced whereby park-users can choose to sort their rubbish into two bins ('non-recyclables' or 'co-mingle') rather than the previous four bins.

Further information on the transport and access study and pest and waste management, can be found on pages 6 and 7.

The Park cannot run itself. Even though the intention of management is to remain as unobtrusive as possible, it plays a crucial role in the successful running of the Park and so maximising the enjoyment of the visitor.

I am confident we can strike the right balance between visitor-enjoyment and protecting the environment, and predict another wonderful year for the treasure that is Centennial Parklands.

Peter Duncan

Director, Centennial Parklands

Parkbench

NEW DOG ADVISORY GROUP

Following on from our Dog Policy consultation last year, a new advisory group has been established to provide advice on companion animals in the Parklands.

Known as the Companion Animals Reference Group, the group includes a cross-section of community representatives, associations, local council officers and individuals.

One of the group's main aims is to consider issues raised by the Dog Policy review. The group held its first meeting in January.

Issues currently under consideration include: reviewing proposed sites for dog-dropping bag dispensers and extra bins; on/off leash areas and proposed off-leash areas for dog walking after dark; improved signage about dog regulations; and areas for commercial dog walking.

The goal is to conduct an open process and all views will be considered. For more information visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/research/dogpolicy.htm

VOLUNTEERS REVAMP BUSH TUCKER TRAIL

In last Winter's edition of *Parklands* we reported on the

volunteer program restoring the Guriwal Bush Tucker Trail in Centennial Park.

Around 70 employees of Westpac branches in the eastern suburbs donated their time and effort on weekends to restore the Trail. The final work-session was held in February.

Over the duration of the project the volunteers removed four truckloads of weeds from the 250 metre trail, laid 60 cubic metres of mulch and planted 150 native seedlings.

The Trail was originally developed by trainees from the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation to interpret indigenous flora and fauna.

Our sincerest thanks go to Westpac for their support.

EASIER WAYS TO GET TO THE PARKLANDS

Getting to the Parklands by public transport has been made even easier recently by the production of a new transport guide to Moore Park.

The flier is designed to encourage visitors to Moore Park, Fox Studios and the Sydney Cricket Ground and Football Stadium to use train and bus services to get to the area.

The brochure is a joint

effort by Fox Studios, the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust and the Parklands. In the 1999–2000 financial year the number of parking spaces in Moore Park were cut by 1000 and we are committed to further reducing the car parking demand in Moore Park through increased public transport use.

For a copy of the brochure call (02) 9339 6699.

PLAN PROTECTS HERITAGE

Work is about to begin on a new Conservation Management Plan to protect the Parklands' precious heritage features.

The Plan is an essential next step following the listing of Centennial, Queens and Moore Parks on the NSW Heritage Register last year.

An external expert will help develop the Plan, which will provide methods for managing heritage items and identify approval processes for works that could affect significant assets.

The Plan will be put on public display for review and comment later this year. Watch for more information in future issues of *Parklands*.

MOORE PARK NORTH ENTRANCE

Last year, *Parklands* reported on the proposal for a new pedestrian entrance at Moore Park North opposite Greens Road, incorporating a new pedestrian and cycle path and the Comrie Memorial Fountain.

Following consultation with the community it has been decided to proceed with a shared path for cyclists and pedestrians and to increase avenue tree planting.

However the final location for the Comrie Fountain will be the subject of further design advice.

A wider study into the location of heritage items throughout Moore Park will help to inform the decision on the new position for the Fountain.

For more information visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/pedestrian.htm

WELCOME

We are pleased to announce that Mr David Leckie has been recently appointed to our Board of Trustees.

Mr Leckie is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nine Network and lives locally.



Community gathers for centenary of nationhood

Ceremonial grandeur, military pomp and official ritual were in evidence but the significant commemoration of Federation in Centennial Park was enjoyed with all the relaxed easy-going anticipation of an Australian crowd determined to make the most of a balmy start to the new millennium. Sandra Symons was there.



People gathered on the Sandstone Ridge to watch the official commemoration event at 1pm.

The Commemoration of Federation Ceremony in Centennial Park on 1 January at 1pm was a quintessentially Australian affair. It was a bright, hot Monday, as relaxed as any day following the New Year's Eve high jinks, with just enough pomp and circumstance to satisfy an audience who had come for "a look".

People wandered around on the grass of Federation Valley, expectant and curious. Some waved little paper Federation flags, most dressed as if for a picnic. Sunscreen was slapped on.

Up on Sandstone Ridge, they drifted through the forest she-oaks and flooded gums to squat in the shade of the cluster pines. There was discreet jostling for sightlines to Federation Pavilion through the young acacias recently planted by neighbourhood schoolchildren.

Kids and dogs romped through the feather grass. Locals out walking their dogs gathered in clubby groups.

After its recent \$1.6 million refurbishment, Federation Valley looked handsome, the soggy bits drained, the bare bits carpeted with turf and a new commemorative sandstone seat installed to mark the occasion.

The Moreton Bay and Port Jackson figs, Holm Oaks and Cook Islands

Pines were suitably majestic – they had been planted on a grand scale as specimen trees by Royal Botanic Gardens Director J.H. Maiden around the turn of the century.

Down on the floor of this expansive amphitheatre, the dignitaries – among them the Governor-General, Prime Minister, State Governors, State Premiers and Chief Ministers – lined up



Governor-General Sir William Deane inspects the Federation Guard.

under white umbrellas to sign a commemorative book and unveil plaques around the Federation Pavilion.

The sandstone Pavilion, designed by Sydney architect Alexander Tzannes as a Bicentennial project, had been spruced up too, its paired sets of columns cleaned and artist Imants Tillers' narrative montage of 1440 painted panels restored. It was Tzannes' intention that the Pavilion's circular form would symbolise unity, a fitting notion for Federation.

To the gawkers, the visuals were pretty satisfying. There was a 21-gun salute, the RAN Band played, the Australian Girls Choir sang and a clutch of F18s roared overhead.

The Governor-General formally inspected the Federation Guard, representing the Australian defence forces. The speeches were short and sweet. Prime Minister John Howard focused on national pride, Premier Bob Carr spoke about our history and the Governor-General, Sir William Deane, extolled our emergence as an inclusive society.

The scene was vastly different to that 100 years ago. Back then, it was all Imperial splendour, witnessed by a formally dressed crowd of 60,000.



Following the proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia, Lord Hopetoun, vice-regal plumes aflutter, was sworn in as Governor-General and Prime Minister Edmund Barton and his cabinet took their oaths of office.

As historian John Hirst said in the Sydney Morning Herald, "the people who made the Australian Federation were confident that they were performing a historic deed. They would be astounded that 100 years after the formation of the Commonwealth most of its citizens know little of its genesis."

Indeed, many in the 2001 crowd in the valley and on the ridge seemed little aware of the historical significance of the Centenary; in fact, someone wondered aloud why there was a fresh bouquet of flowers in the arms of the statue of Sir Henry Parkes, at the junction of Parkes and Hamilton Drives.

However, in contrast with the casual pleasure most spectators took in the low-key formalities on this sunny day was the serious manner in which those,



Above: A spectacular sunset added to the spectacle of the Centennial Ceremony.

Below right: Prime Minister John Howard took time out to shake hands with many of those who had attended the 1pm ceremony.

Bottom Right: Centennial Park's Paddington Gates were swathed in native flowers, recalling decorations for the 1901 ceremony.

Bottom left: A bouquet of flowers was placed on statue of Sir Henry Parkes in honour of his role in Australia's federation.

obviously born overseas and now newly-inducted Australian citizens, leaped to their feet to honour the national anthem and acknowledge the celebration.

According to John Hirst, "If ever we want to take ourselves seriously as citizens, there is much in Federation to celebrate. Henry Parkes, who got the process started, was a true visionary; Edmund Barton, who succeeded him as federal leader, sacrificed his health and his income for the cause; the process of nation-making was amazingly open and democratic. By the next major anniversary every Australian citizen might know this."

History aside, the celebrations evoked a sort of unpretentious community festivity. The Paddington Gates were swathed in native flowers, including waratahs, banksia, bottlebrush, paper daisies and gum leaves.

Draped through the blooms was a crimson ribbon – the "thread of kinship" as described by Sir Henry Parkes – and the eight-pointed Federation star. In the Column Garden, a flower arrangement comprised of 3,500 plants spelt out the years 1901 and 2001. As the visitors discovered, it was a grand place to have a picnic.

Commemorative ceremony and picnic lunches over, many people walked to Moore Park to watch the conclusion of the Federation Parade of 30 floats, including eight State and Territory floats, all of them telling the

story of Australia. The last of the marchers poured into the Park as the sun dropped in the sky.

And with the lowering of the light came a spectacular sunset and the beginning of the Centennial Ceremony on Centennial Park's Parade Ground. As squadrons of Grey-headed Flying foxes swooped into the surrounding figs, a select handful of eminent citizens offered narratives that dramatised the struggles of all people to create a spiritually rich life for themselves – Irish Australian Thomas Keneally, Chinese Australian Annette Shun Wah, European Australian Marcus Einfeld, Indigenous Australian Deborah Cheetham, Greek Australian Stella Axarlis and Sri Lankan Australian Pradeepan Kandiah. It was an empathetic display of passion and emotion.

The Governor-General Sir William Deane called on the people to "re-dedicate Australia to the ideal of unity, under freedom, democracy and the rule of law."

And that, after all, was the purpose of the day's celebrations.





View to the future

This year Centennial Parklands will introduce some innovative strategies for handling transport, access, parking, pest species, waste management and litter. Lynne Cossar reports.

After months of extensive research and public consultation, a draft plan on the future transport, access and parking arrangements for Centennial Parklands will go on public display in late March 2001.

Vaughan Macdonald, coordinator of transport and access for the Parklands, says Park users should ensure they view the plan and make their thoughts known. "It's a thorough consultative process," he says. "Further input is encouraged and welcomed."

Vaughan says the recommendations contained in the draft plan will be drawn from a study undertaken since October last year. Centennial Parklands commissioned consultants Sinclair Knight Merz to assist with the project, with groups such as the *Friends of Centennial Parklands*, invited to participate, as well as other Park users and members of the public.

In addition, a special reference group was established comprising residents, precinct representatives, transport agencies such as the State Transit Authority, user groups, walkers, sports and cycling groups and local council and political representatives. The main objective of this group was to canvass ideas and discuss options.

Vaughan says the public response was overwhelmingly positive, with some interesting observations such as widespread support for fewer cars in Centennial Parklands and more controlled parking. "There were also calls for traffic calming devices for cars and cyclists, ideas for internal public transport alternatives within and connecting the Parks, and some comments in favour of the introduction of paid parking, as long as funds raised were channelled back into the Parks," he says.

One of the study's main objectives is to reduce conflict between motorists, cyclists and rollerbladers, who all travel at different speeds around Centennial Park. "While the study aims to address current visitor-vehicle conflicts across the whole Parklands, Grand Drive in Centennial Park is a particular focus," says Vaughan.

"Conflict does detract from the visitor experience. And that is what this is all about – improving the way the Park operates so that people get a better experience from their visits, particularly at the weekends when the Park is at its peak use."

The draft plan will contain proposals that address the

following issues:

- changes to vehicle circulation to reduce visitor conflict;
- ways to improve alternate vehicle access to the Parklands, such as cycle ways, pedestrian links and public transport improvements;
- consideration of a regular bus service that comes into Centennial Park, whereas at the moment it runs peripheral to it;
- access within the Parklands, such as a shuttle service or bus service capable of carrying people's bikes and eskies;
- access for people with disabilities and limited mobility and options to help get them around more easily;
- integration between the three Parks, including a way to create seamless links between Moore Park and Centennial Park and Centennial Park and Queens Park;
- mechanisms for funding Park improvements.

Vaughan says the recommendations are also designed to protect the Parklands' natural and cultural environment. "We need to look at a system for transport, access and parking that is sustainable in the long term."

The plan will be on display for one month at the Centennial Parklands administration building, located behind the restaurant in Centennial Park. Newspaper advertisements will be placed to ensure people are aware of its release. A final decision on proposals will be made later in the year.

More information on the community consultation and outcomes of the study is available on the Centennial Parklands website: www.cp.nsw.gov.au.

Below: Ibis are overwhelming the northern island at Randwick Pond.



PESTS – A FINE BALANCE

It's traditionally seen as a rural-based problem, not something you'd experience in urban Sydney. Yet pest control is on the agenda at Centennial Parklands, as it is throughout much of the city.

It's a Sydney-wide problem, says Andrew Ferris, Centennial Parklands Operations Manager. "We have a number of pests in the Parklands including rabbits, ibis, pigeons, foxes and carp. The impacts are of concern and are becoming clearly evident."

Andrew says the pests, particularly rabbits, ibis and pigeons, are causing significant environmental problems, including erosion and loss of native fauna. They also present health and safety issues.

"Rabbits present a whole range of issues, especially when in high numbers as we're experiencing now. These include creating warrens in playing fields that are a safety risk to Park users, destroying vegetation and encouraging foxes that are in turn a threat to native wildlife," he says. "In the last year alone we lost \$15,000 worth of plantings due to rabbits."

"The ibis are living on pond islands in such numbers that the supporting vegetation is totally destroyed, their excrement is contributing to water quality problems and other birds are finding it hard to compete for habitat," he says.

"Pigeon numbers are so high in the Equestrian Centre that the building is being impacted by the concentrated accumulation of pigeon droppings," Andrew explains.

Efforts have been made in the past to address the ibis and the rabbit population, but have met with limited success.

"We have tried controlling the rabbit population through habitat modification and by using the Calici virus," Andrew says. "In the case of the ibis, we have been under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to carry out nest and egg destruction. But it's evident by the numbers count that we are currently losing this battle."

A particular challenge is implementing effective programs in the unique Parklands environment. "We are in a highly urbanised part of Sydney, we have high visitation numbers and, being a heritage landscape, many programs that are widely implemented elsewhere may not be suitable here," Andrew explains.

Andrew says a workshop comprising experts and practitioners in the field was held in late January to discuss the issue and look for solutions that will tackle the problem in a safe and humane way.

The next step will be to draw up a pest management strategy for the Parklands, due to be completed by March.

"There will be further consultation with agencies to get their input and co-operation in implementing a number of programs in the Parks and the wider local catchment," he says.

"It's critical that we take a regional approach as pests such as ibis and pigeons are highly mobile and could reinfest the Parklands from nearby areas."

BINS MEAN BUSINESS

Centennial Parklands was the first Park in NSW to introduce recycling in 1993. Now it is set to upgrade its effort to reduce the amount of waste going from its bins into landfill.

In March a new waste management collection and litter control system will be introduced, also under the direction of Operations Manager Andrew Ferris.

"Unfortunately the high visitor numbers to the Parklands and wide range of activities on offer mean that a significant amount of waste is generated," he says.

"We did a waste audit late last year that revealed there was a reasonable percentage of recyclable materials that were being missed in the current system and going to landfill."

Called the "co-mingled" system, the new scheme gives visitors two, not four choices, about where to put their rubbish. "It's much simpler. They put their non-recyclable litter in a 'non-recyclables' bin and they put their recyclable components, for example glass, in a combined 'co-mingled' bin. The recyclable waste is later separated into individual streams such as glass, PET and aluminium."

To accommodate the co-mingled system, new bins will be installed throughout the Parklands, supported by an education program to encourage litter reduction. The campaign focuses on three essential messages: educating people on how to use the co-mingle system; encouraging dog owners to put their dog's litter in the non-recyclables bins (extra bins will be placed in popular dog walking areas); and urging people to pick up their rubbish.

"We have more than 5 million visitors a year and we need help from Park users to assist us with keeping the Parklands clean."

"The new system will make it even easier for people to dispose of their waste responsibly, protecting not only the Parklands but also the wider environment by reducing demand for landfill," Andrew says.

A bird's eye view

During his seven years with Centennial Parklands, ranger Colin Cheshire has developed a special knowledge of the birds living in the Parklands – and how to spot them. This guide to Centennial Park's waterbirds is designed to enrich the Parklands bird watching experience for anyone who loves birds, from the beginner to the advanced observer.

Waterbirds depend on freshwater to live and breed. In the main waterbirds include cranes, storks, ibises, herons, waterhens, cormorants and ducks. More than 27 species of waterbirds regularly visit the Parklands. As one of the largest bodies of freshwater in central Sydney, the 12 ponds in Centennial Park provide important habitat for freshwater aquatic birds.

This guide focuses on the prominent species you'll find at four key locations – all within approximately ten minutes of each other.

1. DUCK POND

The Duck Pond draws its name from the bountiful duck population that has graced its shores since the pond was created in the 1880s. Today more than 15 species of waterbirds frequent this huge pond.

One of the birds you will almost certainly see at the Duck Pond is the **Pacific Black Duck** (*Anas superciliosa*).



This native duck is found throughout NSW, and is easily the most common waterbird in the Park. It has a beautiful shadow marking across the eye, which looks almost Egyptian. "Think of Liz Taylor as Cleopatra," Colin jokes. It also has a flash of green/blue colour on the wing. The duck feeds on the surface by up ending – appearing to stand on its head in the water. Males perform a spectacular courtship ritual, dipping their beak quickly into the water, thereby producing an arc of water ripples over its head. A distinctive whistle and grunt accompany the act.

"The name of this duck is slightly misleading," Colin says. "The feathers are not black, but it was called so because of the colour of its flesh when the settlers ate it."

The Pacific Black Duck is remarkable for its ability to inter-breed with the introduced domestic duck, or **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*). "It's one of the few species that I know of that readily interbreeds with another species – that's why it is illegal to dump Mallards, because they are diluting the strain. You can tell a cross-breed by the orange legs or blending of the feather colours," Colin explains.

Unlike the Black Duck, the **Black Swan** (*Cygnus atratus*) does display predominantly



black feathers. Often associated with Western Australia, the Black Swan is also native to NSW, and was an oddity to early explorers who were only familiar with white swans.

"Black Swans are one of the largest and most elegant of the

waterbirds," Colin says. "Common behaviour to look for is the swans putting their heads underwater to reach for aquatic plants. You'll also quite often see them use fairly aggressive behaviour towards each other. In particular, you'll see young swans fleeing their parents across the water when they reach an independent stage."

Mature Black Swans commonly travel in pairs and probably mate for life. Pairs greet each other with a gentle trumpeting sound. Females have shorter necks than males, and their eyes and bills are lighter in colour.

The **Eurasian Coot** (*Fulica atra*) is another regular visitor to the Duck Pond, especially during winter. A highly nomadic species, they have a worldwide distribution including Europe, Africa, India, Asia, New Guinea and Australia. Look for a black bird



with a white face and beak and listen for quite a noisy bird making a sharp "kyik" or "kyok" sound. "The Eurasian Coot has unusual 'semi-webbed'

feet – they have separate webbing that goes around each toe rather than from toe-to-toe," Colin says. "During breeding season you see them using their remarkable toes as they chase each other across the water."

Advanced birdwatchers should look out for the **Black-fronted Dotterel** (*Charadrius melanops*), on the Duck Pond's southern shores. Also known as the **Black-fronted Plover** or **Sandpiper**, this pint-sized bird is predominantly mottled brown with a black band across the forehead below a white eyebrow, and a bold black Y on its white breast.

"I've only seen this lively little bird once," says Colin. "But they are found throughout Australia on small bodies of water, running around the edges of lakes and stopping to feed."

The six islands at the Duck Pond are an ideal place to look for nesting birds, especially cormorants – fishing birds with long and flexible necks, and quite long tails.

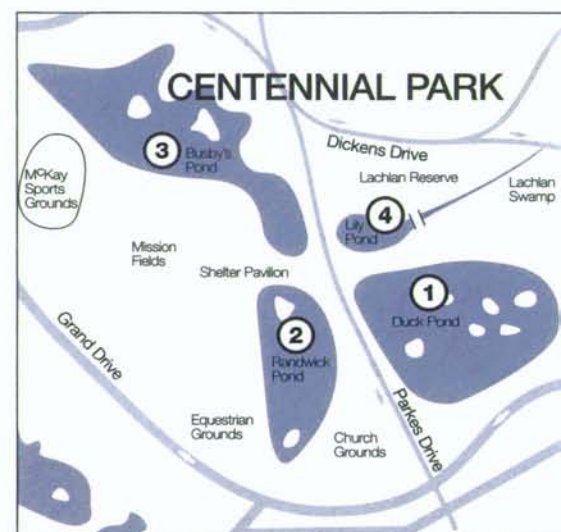
Regular visitors include: the **Great Black Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), the largest of the cormorants, with a wing span of up to 1.5 metres; the **Little Black Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) a small slender black cormorant with a dark bill and dark facial skin; the **Pied Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax varius*) the largest of the white-breasted black



cormorants; and the **Little Pied Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*), the smallest of the Australian cormorants and also black and white in colour.

"Cormorants are great," Colin says.

"They've got a hook on the end of their top bill that helps them to catch fish. Their beak is incredibly sharp. I've been bitten by one – it was sick on the ground in the middle of a soccer field, when I picked it up it just went 'clack' – it was like being cut by a razor."



The cormorants mainly nest on the middle islands. See if you can spot a cormorant nest – a flat bulky mass of sticks often in the treetops over water or on the island ledge.

A **White-Breasted Sea-Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) has also been seen frequenting the Duck Pond recently. Thought to be a juvenile of at least two years old, the eagle is still developing its hunting abilities.

"It tries to prey on the cormorants, but isn't very successful because of its youth," Colin says. "The eagle is a relative newcomer to the Park and was first sighted in 1999. We think we are observing just one bird that is returning to the Park, especially during spring."

"If you see it, please tell us," pleads Colin. "It's one of the more unusual birds I've seen in the Park during my time here."

This large white eagle with grey-brown wings has a wingspan of up to 2 metres. The immature bird has darker feathers and a mottled appearance. They soar in majestic circles and are said to resemble a huge butterfly during flight.



Australian Pelicans (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) are also known to visit the Duck Pond's shallow sand island. While you will often see one or two birds – usually on a stopover on their way to the coast or further inland – they visit the Park in large

flocks during times of drought.

"The great thing about pelicans is how they fly the thermal currents," Colin says. "They pick up the up-going thermals and guide to their destination – they get to an amazing height for such a big bird."

2. RANDWICK POND

Just across the road from the Duck Pond lies Randwick Pond, which is special for its variety of vegetation and habitat, combining reeds, islands and lily pads.

Sacred Ibis

(*Threskiornis aethiopica*) dominate the Pond's northern island. Commonly associated with ancient Egypt (they symbolised Thoth, the God of Wisdom), ibis are found throughout Africa and south-east Asia.

Ibis adapt extremely well to city life. They are widely viewed as a pest, due to the fact that they can out compete all other native birds on their nesting sites and damage vegetation by sheer weight of numbers and their large nests.

"Ibis migrate over large distances and you can see them flying west and returning each day in a v-formation," Colin says.

"They have curved, slender bills that are designed for probing into shallow water, mud or grass, but are equally efficient when it comes to fishing in rubbish bins or making a nuisance of themselves around picnickers," Colin says. "The sad fact is that they are expanding into more areas of Australia because their natural inland habitat is being progressively degraded by agriculture."

The lush reed beds in Randwick Pond, especially on the western shore, provide ideal habitat for the **Eastern Swampphen**



(*Porphyrio porphyrio*). Closely related to the coot, this is one of a range of native-hens you'll see in the Park. The bird is also known as the **Purple Swampphen** due to its rich purple-blue head and body, set off by black upperparts and

long red legs.

"Swampphens are fairly opportunistic – I've seen them eat geese eggs and raid a pee

wee nest – but they're mainly vegetarians," Colin says. "They live in groups with a social hierarchy of up to ten birds."

A close relative is the **Dusky Moorhen**



(*Gallinula tenebrosa*). "They're slow-moving, funny things," Colin laughs. "They nest on Randwick

Pond and you quite often see them flicking their tails to reveal a white rump. During breeding season the skin on their forehead turns from orange to red."

Common to Sydney and NSW, they are also found in Indonesia and New Guinea. They look quite similar to the Eurasian Coot, except their beak is a reddish colour instead of white.

"Moorhens are one of a few species that are polyandrous – that is, they set up a breeding relationship of one female with up to three males," Colin says.

Randwick Pond is also the best place to look for the **Musk Duck** (*Biziura lobata*), a species found

only in Australia, named after the musky smell given off by males. The male also has a lobe of loose black skin underneath its bill.

"They're one of my favourites because of their bizarre behaviour," says Colin. "The male duck conducts a wacky courtship display, curling its tail over its back and fanning it out like a peacock, kicking the water with its feet, and making a high-pitched whistle – 'peeew' – which is totally unlike a duck."

Musk ducks are extremely good swimmers and underwater hunters. "They sit incredibly low in the water compared to the normal posture of a duck – probably because they are more designed for underwater than above water work."

"We have about three males and one female," Colin says. "I saw my first baby in spring 2000 on Busby's Pond and there was a very rare sighting of two more babies in January 2001 on Randwick Pond."

Also look for the **Maned Duck**



(*Chenonetta jubata*) or **Wood Duck**. This small, dainty bird looks and acts more like a goose than a duck. The male has a dark brown head and the female has similar eye markings to the Pacific Black Duck.

"The shape of their head is totally different to most ducks, and they don't have a long bill," Colin says. "You very often see them on the land grazing."

3. BUSBY'S POND

Just north of Randwick Pond is the expansive Busby's Pond, once the primary dam for the Busby's Bore water supply that carried water from the Park to the city.

Look for the **Darters** (*Anhinga melanogaster*) nesting on the western island. Darters resemble cormorants, but are much bigger, have a longer neck and smaller head, and are copper to brown in colour.

"Darters stab like a spear, while cormorants catch like a trap," Colin says. "They're sometimes called the 'snake bird' because they swim with their whole body submerged and only the neck and beak above the water."

"When they are threatened they do two things: they regurgitate all of the food in their stomach to make themselves lighter, and then they flop into the water and completely disappear until the threat has left."

"For darters to stay and nest in an urban habitat is quite uncommon, and we regard them as very special. They have a very elegant shape – they remind me of those 1950s American Cadillacs."

Busby's Pond is also a good place to see introduced **Domestic Geese** (*Anser anser*),



which come up to the pond's beaches for feeding. Domestic geese are descended from the Greylag

Goose, found naturally in Europe and Asia – one of the first birds ever domesticated. Most of the geese in the Park are the result of dumping.

4. LILY POND

To complete your journey, walk back to the small, sandstone-edged Lily Pond, just north of the Duck Pond. The Pond's central island – a doughnut-shaped area of papyrus with a mud flat centre – serves as a waterbird refuge and nesting habitat.

At the Lily Pond, listen for the **Clamorous Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*) – an outstanding native songbird that makes its nest in the papyrus during spring.

"This brown, plain little bird is hard to see – you definitely need binoculars – but you may spot it in the stands of papyrus. Listen for the call first, look second," Colin says. "I think it makes one of the best songs in the Park," he smiles.

Acknowledgments: this article draws on information from *Australian Waterbirds: A Field Guide* (Richard Kingsford, 1991, Kangaroo Press) and *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* (Graham Pizzey, 1987, Collins).

Horses for courses: The Mounties in Centennial Park

Whether on patrol in Centennial Park or training at the Equestrian Grounds, the Mounted Section of the New South Wales Police Service offers an imposing and spectacular sight to Park-goers.

The straight backs and sharp uniforms of the mounted police officers and the glossy coats and rounded rumps of their trusty steeds are a familiar sight to frequent users of Centennial Park.

Not only do the Mounties regularly patrol the Park, but as the NSW Mounted Police complex is based only a short walk away at Redfern, it is convenient for them to use the Equestrian Grounds for practising Troop Drill and the Musical Ride.

While the Mounties offer an imposing presence on the streets of Sydney, in the Park setting they seem more approachable – certainly to the children. The moment a pair of Mounties appears swarms of little kids materialise and buzz towards them like bees to a honey-pot.

Senior Constable Melinda Duncan, a Mountie of five years standing, says she always stops and talks to the children. "The parents usually ask if little Johnny can pat the horses, and people might ask to take photos."

She often patrols the Park and says the crime rate is low. The only incident she has attended was when a woman

was attacking a car with a rock! "She was a disgruntled girlfriend who had seen her boyfriend watching the show-jumping with another woman! We had to restrain her between the two horses."

Melinda clearly enjoys her work with the Mounted Police, combining a police career with horse work. She describes herself as "horse crazy" when a child,

regularly competing in horse shows and gymkhanas. But once she was older it was police work that interested her, and the chance to become a Mountie was an added attraction. She's quick to point out she didn't want the job of Mountie simply because she loved horses. "You have to want to be a police officer first," she says.

Some of her duties include grooming, washing and riding her police horse "Digger" as well as riding two or three other horses whose regular riders might have the day off.

It's been said one police horse is more effective than 10 foot police when

Above: The Mounties practice a tricky Musical Ride manoeuvre at the Equestrian Grounds in Centennial Park.

Right: Senior Constable Melinda Duncan and her horse "Digger".

performing crowd control. As well as the Mountie having a better view of what's going on, the size of the beast is intimidating.

Melinda says she prefers to work on horseback than foot. "It's just the presence we have. When people see horses on patrol they know we mean business."

Sergeant Bert Tomlin has been with the NSW Mounted Police for 33 years. During this time he's witnessed many changes in the Mounted Section, the main one being a dramatic increase in operational duties (patrols, crowd and traffic control, searches and stock mustering), and a decrease in protocol and public relations duties (leading processions or parades and escort work).

"Fifteen years ago the ratio was 50:50 but times have changed and it's now 85 per cent operational work and 15 per cent PR and ceremonial work," he says.

And the amount of time spent practising Troop Drill is much less. Once the Mounties practised daily but now they do it once a week, usually on Wednesday mornings. "We don't have the luxury now – we don't have the staff," says Bert.

Troop Drill is a magnificent sight to



behold as the Mounties and horses move in a fluid, choreographed sequence to military-style orders shouted out by the Sergeant. The Drill teaches the Mounties control and discipline, and the horses to listen to their riders at all times. These lessons are crucial if rider and horse are to work successfully on the busy streets of Sydney.

Practice used to take place at the Equestrian Grounds in Centennial Park but nowadays it's more likely to occur at Randwick Racecourse. "Lots of equestrian people are using the Park and if a troop of up to 20 horses shows up it can interfere with their ride," says Bert.

Even more spectacular than Troop Drill is the Musical Ride, a 20-minute

sequence based on the Drill which includes walk, trot, canter, hand-gallop (three-quarter pace), rein back and side pass. "And sometimes some hair-raising manoeuvres at the Gallop!" says Melinda.

Accompanied by the 34-strong New South Wales Police Band, the Ride is performed at Sydney shows, including the Royal Easter Show, and larger country shows.

As the Easter Show swiftly approaches, the Mounties will be rehearsing the Musical Ride every Wednesday morning in March, either at the Equestrian Grounds or the Racecourse, from 7.30am to 9.30am.

To the onlooker the Ride might look like "fun and games" but according to Melinda it provides an important part of their training.

"We're keeping lines, intervals, distance from the horse at the front. It can be a battle to make your horse trot if there are three cantering off in front. The horse's instinct is to go with the herd but it has to learn to trust the rider so it doesn't become upset and get run over when it's out on the street. When we attend a demonstration, the horse has to be able to move in a line of up to 22 horses, and all the horses work at very close intervals."

There are currently 35 horses attached to the Mounted Section. They tend to be geldings, brown or black in colour and standing 15.3 hands. Although years ago many of the horses were ex-racehorses, this is no longer the case.

"When the Mounties were not funded that well we received unwanted ex-racers as that was all we could afford. These days we can afford to purchase more educated horses," says Melinda.

The basic training of the average horse takes approximately nine months.

There are 31 personnel attached to the Mounted Section who have undergone special Mounted Police training for several months before being rostered on patrol duties. Their instruction includes vetting, lance drill, troop drill, parades, traffic duties, demonstration duties and general horsemanship.

Group tours through the Redfern complex, easily located by the sweet aroma of fresh hay, horses and manure wafting through the surrounding air, can be arranged by contacting the officer in charge on (02) 9319 2154.

– Diana Prichard



Sergeant Bert Tomlin keeps an eye on the execution and form of each exercise.



Blowin' in the wind

Four walls can't contain the talent of the man described as rock's greatest conundrum and popular music's greatest legend...so he's playing in a park – Centennial Park.

By Diana Prichard.

How appropriate it is that Bob Dylan, one of the greatest music legends of last century, should be performing one of the 1960s' most durable folk anthems, *Blowin' In The Wind*, beneath the swaying and whispering tree-tops of the "People's Park".

It has already been predicted the Centennial Park concert on Sunday 25 March, will be the highlight of the Australian-leg of the *Things Have Changed* tour.

"It will definitely be the pinnacle show of the Tour combining the ambience of Centennial Park with Bob Dylan under the stars doing all those legendary songs," says Michael Chugg, Tour promoter.

"He'll be doing a big set of his greatest hits including *Blowin' In The Wind*, *Hurricane*, *Rainy Day Woman* and *Like A Rolling Stone*, plus lots of stuff off his last studio album, *Time Out of Mind*, for which he won a Grammy Award."

At the time of going to press Michael had just confirmed Paul Kelly as support act. "We're very excited about that too," he says.

Although Dylan is familiar with Centennial Park, having picnicked there during his 1993 Australian tour, it was Michael's idea to stage the concert in the Park.

"Previously Bob had played at the Entertainment Centre and the State Theatre and I felt we should do something different," he says.

Adding to the excitement of a rock legend playing in a magnificent setting is the price of tickets – they're being kept down, as close to the price of the last tour as possible.

"Dylan wanted to give something back to his fans with the tour – what better than money in their pockets and the promise of an unbelievable concert?" says Michael.

For Reserved Seating ticket prices are \$80.85 (including GST) plus booking fee. The Lawn Picnic Area is \$69.85

(including GST) per ticket plus booking fee (free for children under 12), and the Student Discount price for the Lawn Picnic Area is \$58.85 (including GST) plus booking fee.

A limited allocation of tickets to reserved seating will be available for *Friends of Centennial Parklands* at a 10 per cent discount. See page 16 for more details.

When tickets went on sale at the end of January more than 5,000 of the 18,000 tickets available were sold within the first 24 hours, an indication that the popularity of the man who has been touring for the better part of the last 40 years, has not waned.

And if music reviews from his latest European tour are anything to go by, local concert-goers will not be disappointed.

A journalist in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, wrote: "When you thought it couldn't get any better, the group tore into a majestic *Like A Rolling Stone*, the song that most of the faithful had been secretly praying for all night. With the audience howling the chorus back at the stage, the song caught fire, sounding as close to the "wild mercury sound" of the original as it has in years."

Dylan's band, described by *The Mail on Sunday* as "lean and tight", features on lead guitar hot Texan guitarist Charlie Sexton and long time side men Larry Campbell (Guitar, Peddlestal, Mandolin), Tony Garnier (Bass) and David Kemper (Drums).

The one-night-only Sydney concert will take place at the Parade Grounds (in front of the Pine Forest) from 6pm to 9pm. Gates open at 4pm. Public transport will be the easiest way to get to the show. For transport information contact 131 500 or visit www.131500.com.au.

Bob Dylan and his band are brought to you by Michael Chugg & Love Police in association with Music Country and 2WS. Tickets are available from Ticketek Outlets and Phonecharge on (02) 9266 4800.

Dinner and Dylan – a winning combination

Fancy a culinary treat before settling in for a night of musical magic?

Fresh figs with prosciutto and goat's curd...potato and crab frittata...grilled swordfish with green olive tapenade and marinated vine-ripened tomatoes...are just some of the delights on offer at Centennial Parklands Restaurant at a special Bob Dylan pre-show dinner on 25 March.

The menu also includes a take-away picnic dessert of chocolate mousse with fresh raspberries and almond shortbread to enjoy at the concert.

The meal is good value at \$57.50 for three-courses – with a 10% discount for *Friends of Centennial Parklands*.

Bookings are available from 4.30pm. Contact the Restaurant on (02) 9360 3355 to reserve your seat.

Step right up, step right up

After the sell-out success of *Saltimbanco*, Cirque du Soleil returns to Moore Park with *Alegría*, which combines an astonishing theatrical blend of circus art and live performance with spectacular costumes, elaborate set design, high-tech lighting and captivating original live music. Diana Prichard reports.

After millions of spectators worldwide have enjoyed the visual and aural feast dished up by Cirque du Soleil, it is Sydneysiders' turn to partake of the lavish spread called *Alegría*.

Opening at Moore Park on 1 June under the Grand Chapiteau (a state-of-the-art Big Top), the show has been described by the United States press as "dazzling", "radiant with surprises" and "incorporating images of extraordinary beauty".

Drawing on the essence of traditional circus, it captures the meaning of its Spanish title, 'Alegría', which translates as an expression of elation, joy and jubilation.

Artistic coordinator Ria Martens says the aim of the show is to transport the audience members to another world, removing them from their daily routines.

"And we do! People come out so flabbergasted – they don't know what they saw! They go through different emotions – happiness, sadness – it is limitless. People are very excited by the show."

The two-and-a-half hour spectacle, directed by Franco Dragone, explores a universal theme – the eternal tussle between supporters of the old ways and champions of the new.

"It is set in a kingdom where there is no king and a power struggle exists between the old generation and the new," Ria explains. "Although there is no resolution as such, it is recognised that everybody is an individual."

The international cast of 56 performers and musicians from 13 countries – ranging in age from nine to 56 – are transformed into an array of eclectic and eccentric characters, clowns and artists, who lead us through the show.

These include the fun-loving guide Fleur, who proves to be jealous, petty and angry; the nostalgic Old Birds who observe the goings-on as though they were still young and beautiful; the Clowns as social commentators; Tamir and Little Tamir, who,

like magical fairies appear when they are needed, and the youthful and ethereal Nymphs.

The White Singer, dressed in a luminous white gown, is the storyteller who echoes in song everything she sees around her. Her alter-ego, the Black Singer, also expresses in song the atmosphere of *Alegría*, but there is a wickedness about her...

The lavish costumes and sets were partly inspired by the Baroque period of the 17th and 18th centuries, characterised as it was by a flamboyant style. "For instance the nostalgic Old Birds are very big and colourful with lots of jewels," says Ria.

Alegría features

an extraordinary and thrilling combination of classic and innovative aerial manoeuvres; lively gymnastic and tumbling displays; the ancient Mongolian art of contortion; and a seductive and dangerous Fire Dance whereby the artist manipulates flaming knives around his body to the pulsing rhythm of conga drums.

The lively and emotional musical score by René Dupéré moves between jazz, pop,

tango and klezmer, evoking the passion and intensity of travelling minstrels. The music has been the most successful in Cirque du Soleil's history, with more than one million copies of the original soundtrack sold.

But it is every aspect of the show which makes it so breathtaking and magical, says Ria. "From the costumes, make-up, music, set and lighting designs, choreography and acts to the calibre of performers who are all the best in what they do – there is no one star – they are ALL stars!" she says.

Cirque du Soleil, an award-winning international performance arts company, was founded in Quebec, Canada in 1984.

For performance times and ticket prices please contact Ticketek outlets on (02) 9266 4886 or go online at www.ticketek.com.au. For individual tickets for the exclusive VIP experience ring Ticketek on 1300 364 000, or for corporate or group bookings of 10 or more, contact Benjamin Kaal on (02) 9360 9653.



Art makes a comeback



approached by Sydney College of the Arts, which wanted to stage an exhibition. Gillian Smart, Landscape Architect for Centennial Parklands, says 31 works made by students at the College were put on show that year, resulting in the first *Artful Park* exhibition. In 1995, *Artful Park* was held again, but this time professional artists also contributed, along with other students. "No one

was paid," Gillian says. "We couldn't get funding." The last exhibition included a performance day, organised by The Performance Space, which added another layer to the event. "People could wander around the Park and interact with the performers – it was very exciting," Gillian says.

Centennial Park offers an incredible backdrop for the artists. "It's a multi-faceted thing," Gillian says. "Essentially, it brings art down from pedestals and galleries into people's lives. And because it's temporary, the artists can do some things they otherwise might not be able to achieve in a permanent piece. They can have a lot of fun. It also makes people think about the Park, its history, social and environmental issues and a diverse range of settings – from water to woodlands. I think it provokes thought and, at the end of the day, that is one of the key things art is about."

This year, *Artful Park* will be held from 22 September to 14 October. The event will be funded with Commonwealth Government assistance under the Federation Fund. A curator for the event is currently being selected.

Lily says she hopes the event will trigger a lot more sponsorship interest. "It would be lovely to keep it going. We certainly hope it will kick off interest for it to run on an annual or bi-annual basis. We would love to see it live on."

When it was first staged in 1994–95 it was Sydney's first outdoor sculpture exhibition. This year, *Artful Park* makes a welcome return to Centennial Park. Lynne Cossar reports.

A four-metre high egg floating on the pond...an oversized rubber ducky affectionately called "Quack"...and some large, empty suitcases, strategically placed to symbolise European culture and its influence on Australia.

If you know where these three works of art first appeared in Sydney, chances are you were around in 1994 or 1995, when the city's first outdoor sculpture exhibition was staged in Centennial Park. Called *Artful Park*, the ground-breaking event attracted much public interest but faltered after two years because of a lack of funding and sponsorship interest.

Now, for the first time in six years, art – in its many and varied forms – is to return to Centennial Park this September.

Lily Katakouzinos, Public Programs Officer for Centennial Parklands, says

while many people may not be aware of it, Centennial Park has a historical link with the visual arts. When the Park was built in the late 19th century, it featured quite a few sculptures. Like other Victorian parks, the sculptures – many ordered from a Villeroy and Boch catalogue – were placed at practically every intersection.

They remained there until the introduction of motor vehicles in the early 20th century. "Many were ceramic and quite fragile and the roads were made for horses and carts. The motorists would accidentally hit them and they smashed," Lily says.

While a couple still exist today, including the two sculptures on top of the columns in the Park's ornamental gardens, the ones that weren't hit by cars were damaged by vandalism.

Nothing more was done until 1994 when Centennial Parklands was



Top: *Floating Egg* by Penny Thwaite.

Far left: *Feral Peril* by Jane Cavanough and Gillian Smart

Left: *Quack* by Gabrielle Sullivan

Essentials and Collectibles

Introducing a new range of Centennial Parklands products

Centennial Parklands has recently released a new range of merchandise. Park essentials, such as caps, rugs and kites. Park collectibles, including postcard images from the acclaimed *Portrait of a Park* exhibition. Choose your next gift from the Centennial Parklands range. It will say something significant about you and your support for Sydney's premier parks. *Friends of Centennial Parklands* are eligible for a 10 per cent discount on all merchandise.

CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS PICNIC RUG

This soft, luxurious rug – made in Australia from the finest quality pure new wool – is subtly embroidered with the Centennial Parklands logo. Perfect for enjoying your favourite Parklands experience, from outdoor concerts

to relaxing under the shade of a fig tree.

\$75.00



CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS HAT

Very stylish. Very cool. Available in two colours – cream with blue piping/logo, or blue with red piping/logo. One size only – L/XL.

\$14.95



CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS SLED KITE



You can't miss this one in the sky! Bright orange. And so easy to fly! The kite comes complete with skin spars, tails, line/handle, taps and assembly instructions. \$11.50

SIR HENRY PARKES CARD

Produced by the Henry Parkes Foundation, this card is a tribute to the "Father of Federation", Sir Henry Parkes. Centennial Parklands is pleased to support the Foundation, which promotes the work of the man who also founded Centennial Park. \$2.00 (blank inside, includes envelope)



CENTENNIAL PARK POSTCARD SET



Six black-and-white postcards featuring the moody, evocative photography of Brendan Read and Wendy McDougall. Collectors' items, these photographs capture the essence of Centennial Park, and include images of Grand Drive, the Duck Pond and the historic Reservoir steps. \$3.60 (set of six)

CENTENNIAL PARK WALK

This handy pocket guide describes Centennial Park's outstanding attractions offering a wonderful opportunity to explore its beauty, history and precious environment. \$2.00



To order

All Centennial Parklands merchandise is available from the Parklands Administration Building (behind the restaurant) from Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm. *Friends of Centennial Parklands* wishing to claim a 10 per cent discount need to order and collect their goods from the Parklands Administration Building, and show their *Friends* keyring as proof of membership.

For all other orders, please complete the form below and send to: Centennial Parklands, Locked Bag 15, Paddington NSW 2021

Or fax to: (02) 9332 2148

Enquiries: (02) 9339 6699

Product Description	Qty	Unit Cost*	Total
Picnic Rug	_____	\$75.00	_____
Hat – blue	_____	\$14.95	_____
Hat – cream	_____	\$14.95	_____
Sled Kite	_____	\$11.50	_____
Postcard Set (set of 6)	_____	\$3.60	_____
Sir Henry Parkes Card	_____	\$2.00	_____
Centennial Park Walk	_____	\$2.00	_____
POSTAGE & HANDLING (see below)			\$_____
TOTAL			\$_____

* All prices include GST

Postage and Handling (within Australia)

Orders \$0 – \$10 add \$2

Orders \$10 – \$30 add \$5

Orders over \$30 add \$10

Normal delivery is within four weeks of receipt of order.

Delivery Address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Method of Payment

☐ Cheque enclosed (please make cheques payable to Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust)

Or please charge my:

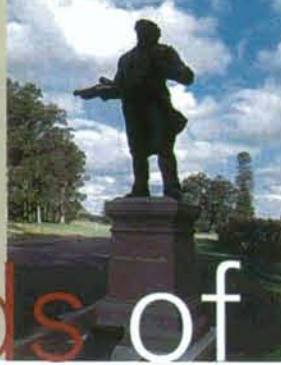
☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card No: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Cardholders name: _____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____



"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 keyring
- *Parklands* magazine posted four times a year
- 10% discount at Centennial Parklands Restaurant and Café
- 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).....\$55 (inc.GST)
☐ Family (1 year).....\$99 (inc.GST)

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 ____/____

Cardholder's name _____

Cardholder's signature _____

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

DISCOUNT TICKETS TO BOB DYLAN

Sunday 25 March

Book soon to take advantage of the special discount ticket offer for *Friends of Centennial Parklands* for tickets to Bob Dylan on 25 March.

Friends can purchase tickets to the reserved seating area for 10 percent off the normal price of \$80.85 (plus booking fee). Maximum of four tickets per *Friends* membership. Phone (02) 9339 6652 for more information on how to take up this offer.

Friends can also enjoy discount rates on the pre-show dinner for the Bob Dylan concert. The three-course meal is available to *Friends* for the special price of \$51.75. Bookings from 4.30pm, call Centennial Parklands Restaurant on (02) 9360 3355.

TREE VIEWING DAY

Sunday 1 and Monday 2 April

Friends of Centennial Parklands who have dedicated a tree in the Parklands are invited to join us on either Sunday 1 or Monday 2 April this season for an update on their tree's progress with our Senior Arborist, Ted Hoare. Ted is a familiar figure to many *Friends*, well-known for his fascinating tree walks. Find out how your tree is progressing and what growth can be expected in the future.

Bookings are essential, please phone Francine Gregory on (02) 9339 6652 before Friday 23 March to arrange a viewing time.



EXCLUSIVE PORTRAIT OF A PARK VIEWING

2pm Sunday 20 May

Friends of Centennial Parklands are invited to an exclusive viewing of the *Portrait of a Park* exhibition at the Museum of Sydney at 2pm on Sunday 20 May.

Exhibition curator, Inara Walden, and one of the photographers featured in the exhibition, Wendy McDougall, will take *Friends* on a special one-hour tour, explaining how the show was conceived and developed. Wendy will also talk about the inspiration behind many of her photographs of Centennial Park, recalling the magic moments that have been captured in black-and-white.

This event is open to *Friends* and their guests and is free with entry to the Museum (\$7 adults, \$3 concession, \$17 family).



To attend, simply RSVP to Francine Gregory on (02) 9339 6652 by Friday 11 May.

Don't forget *Friends* continue to enjoy two-for-one entry to the *Portrait of a Park* exhibition until 17 June by showing their membership keyring. Why not take advantage of the free tour and your two-for-one deal at the same time for a special day out!

SPECIAL FRIENDS

Many *Friends* will be interested to know that Avril Samuels and Georgia Stynes – two tireless workers who have been involved in the *Friends* program over the past few years – have recently moved on to new challenges.

Avril, a generous volunteer who has contributed enormously to the management of our membership base, has taken up other voluntary work. She remains an active *Friend*.

Georgia, a full-time employee who managed the *Friends* program for almost two years, has left to travel and explore the parks and gardens of south-east Asia and Europe.

We wish both Avril and Georgia the best of luck and thank them for their loyal association with the *Friends of Centennial Parklands*.

At the same time we welcome Francine Gregory, who is now looking after the *Friends* program. Please feel free to call Francine if you have any enquiries about your membership or entitlements on (02) 9339 6652.

NEW FRIENDS

As an acknowledgment of their tremendous support, we welcome the following new *Friends of Centennial Parklands*:

Marlene Allen
 Buddha Sasana Trust
 David Cameron
 Mark and Louise Carmody
 Zisis Coustoulis
 Sue Couzios
 Laura Culici
 Peter Desmond
 Susette Dixon
 Betty Fernandez
 Laraine Haney
 Stephen Hoppitt
 Irena Kofman
 Phillipe Kou
 Nelly Lahoud
 L L Lawrence
 Tate Liedtke
 Prudence Liger and family

Julie Likoudis
 Angus McBean and family
 M J Newby and family
 Alex and Athenia Pascoe
 Marjorie Pozzan
 Mary Premetis
 Sharon Probert
 Belinda Reis
 Peter Rowney
 Alison Sasse and family
 H M Sanders
 Joy Shuttleworth
 Sergiy Stanislovsky
 Linda Sweetland
 Conchi Vidal
 Lino Vieira
 Susan Waldock
 Jo Whitelaw

Federation Feast



Alexander Tzannes

Celebrating Federation:

An Evening with

Alexander Tzannes

Leading Australian architect and urban designer, Alexander Tzannes is the guest of honour at a special dinner celebrating the Centenary of Federation at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant on Wednesday 9 May.

The evening is also an opportunity to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on 9 May 1901.

Well-known for his award-winning work on many Sydney developments and private homes, Alec won the competition held as part of Australia's Bicentennial celebrations to design a permanent Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park. His design incorporated the entire landscape of Federation Valley and was based on a circle – the symbol of unity – to reflect the significance of the Federation site.

Alec will discuss the development and design of the Federation Pavilion in 1988 and plans for the re-installation of Old Grand Drive, linking Centennial and Moore Parks, to be completed in 2001. The Drive, originally envisaged for Centennial Park in the 1880s, will be re-named "Federation Drive". The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Federation Fund.

Enjoy a delicious Victorian-style banquet while hearing the latest about these significant projects. Chef David Noonan has devised a celebratory menu featuring some classic Australian fare. Entrees include: Cream of Potato and Leek Soup with Oysters; Rabbit and Chicken Rillettes with Peach Chutney; and Salad of Smoked Rainbow Trout with Cucumber Salad.

For main course, choose from: Roast Leg of Lamb with Roast Potatoes, Pumpkin and Mint Jelly; Grilled Snapper Fillets with Lemon Caper Butter and Green Beans; or Roast Chicken with Rosemary Stuffing.

And the historical theme is further reflected in the choice of delicious desserts: Sherry Trifle; Peach Melba; or Strawberry and Passionfruit Pavlova!

Reservations for dinner may be made for between 6.30 and 8.30pm. Alec's talk will start at 7pm. Please contact the Centennial Parklands Restaurant for bookings on (02) 9360 3355. Parking is available near the Restaurant.

The price for the dinner and talk is \$52.50 per person or \$47.50 for *Friends of Centennial Parklands*.

autumn calendar

- Bookings and enquiries (02) 9339 6699 (unless otherwise stated).
- In case of rain, please call to confirm event is proceeding.

ALL AUTUMN

PORTRAIT OF A PARK ☺

Centennial Park is the focus of the exhibition *Portrait of a Park* at the Museum of Sydney. This exhibition explores the history and contemporary identity of Centennial Park. Admission \$7 adult, \$3 concession, \$17 family. Museum of Sydney corner Bridge and Philip Streets. *Friends of Centennial Parklands* can show their membership keyring at the admission desk for two-for-one entry. Enquiries (02) 9251 5988. Until 17 June.

CENTENNIAL STABLES HORSERIDING ☺

Centennial Stables caters for all levels of riding: beginners to advanced; pleasure or competition. Open seven days, 7.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm weekends. Park ride \$35, park lesson \$55, private lesson \$65, shared lesson \$55, group lesson \$45, half-hour child's private lesson \$35. 20% discount for *Friends of Centennial Parklands*. Bookings (02) 9360 5650. All season.

MARCH

11 Sunday

FAMILY FUN WATER DAY

A fun day out with a special message about our waterways. Kids and adults alike will enjoy the free activities including Ranger-led walks around the wetlands, advice on bird watching, native plant giveaways and a free sausage sizzle. 10am–2pm. Musgrave Pond Picnic Area. Enquiries Randwick Council (02) 9399 0999

14 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES ☺

A special children's tour of the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Find out

where the horses live, what they eat and how to care for them. Includes a short pony ride. Wear covered shoes. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child (2–5 years), adults free. Meet Equestrian Centre Gates, corner Lang and Cook Roads. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

Natural wonders

Autumn *Escape and Explore* program

Centennial Park's ponds are the fundamental reasons behind its survival as open space. In 1811 Governor Macquarie set aside as a water reserve the area from which Centennial Park was developed.

During the establishment of the Park the natural wetlands were dammed and the existing ponds (many of which had been used as dams) were enlarged to form the 12 beautiful ponds we see today.

This autumn, our *Escape and Explore* program focuses on the rich ecology as well as the unique history of these precious urban waterways.

Centennial Park's ponds provide a home for a vast diversity of insects, fish, birds and turtles. Their islands and reed beds are nesting grounds for many of these creatures.

Children can discover more about this important ecosystem while having fun with activities such as *Underwater World*, *Ponder Wander*, and the delightful *A Tale Of Two Tadpoles*.

Sydney Water's Heritage Engineer, Jon Breen will also present a special tour for adults focusing on the ponds' early links with our city's water supply, taking in heritage-listed reservoirs and pumping stations.

Centennial Park boasts its own natural spring, however most of its ponds are fed by stormwater. On 11 March we will join with neighbouring councils to present a *Family Fun Water Day*. This event will highlight efforts to protect our ponds from stormwater pollution (including a look inside one of the biggest stormwater traps in the Southern Hemisphere) and the very important role we all play in preventing stormwater pollution.

Rachel Ely
Senior Ranger – Education and Interpretation

22 Thursday

SENIORS SPOTLIGHT PROWL – SENIORS WEEK 2001 ☺

A chance to enjoy the wild nightlife in Centennial Park. Join Rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and lots of other night creatures. Seniors receive a complimentary pack of six limited edition postcards of Centennial Park. Bring a torch. 7.45–8.45pm. \$8.50 per person. Meet Robertson Road Gates. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699



25 Sunday

BOB DYLAN – Live in Centennial Park ☺

Live Dylan is an experience few concert-goers forget. With support act Paul Kelly. Parade Grounds 6–9pm. Gates open at 4pm. Reserved seating \$80.85 plus booking fee, lawn picnic area \$69.85 plus booking fee (free for children under 12), student discount price for lawn picnic area \$58.85 plus booking fee. *Friends of Centennial Parklands* can purchase reserved seating tickets at a discount of 10%, phone (02) 9339 6652 for details. Tickets from Ticketek outlets and Phonecharge on (02) 9266 4800.

27 Tuesday

UNDERWATER WORLD ☺

Peek under the lily pads to find the many different plants that grow in Centennial Park's ponds and help Rangers plant reeds on the banks. Wear gumboots. 10–11am. \$7.50 per child (2–5 years), adults free. Meet Musgrave Avenue Gates, corner Darley and York Roads. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

APRIL

11 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES ☺

10–11am
See 14 March

ESCAPE AND EXPLORE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

15 Sunday

WATER WALK ☺

This Ranger-guided tour of the pond system of Centennial Park highlights the importance of ponds as habitat for aquatic life and as a catchment for the Botany Wetlands. Learn how the ponds have been improved by our Pond Restoration Program. 2–4pm. \$8.50 per person. Meet Shelter Pavilion. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

17 Tuesday
UNDERWATER WORLD ☺
10–11am
See 27 March

TWO-DAY HORSERIDING CAMP ☺
A two-day horseriding camp for children aged five years and over, teaching the fundamentals of riding. \$180 per camp (includes morning tea and lunch). 10am–3pm. Moore Park Stables.
Bookings (02) 9360 8747

PONDER WANDER ☺
Have you ever wondered where the water in Centennial Park's ponds comes from? Discover the water cycle in the Park by investigating gutters, drains, pipes and ponds. Search for evidence of stormwater pollution and help Rangers with drain stencilling. 2–3.30pm. \$8.50 per child (5–8 years). Meet York Road Gates.
Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺
A chance to enjoy the wild nightlife of Centennial Park. Join Rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and lots of other night creatures. Bring a torch. \$8.50 per person. Meet Robertson Road Gates. 5.45–6.45pm.
Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

18 Wednesday
CHILDREN'S TENNIS CAMP
This three-day camp teaches children five years and over the basics of tennis through coaching and competition. \$75 per child. 9am–3pm each day. Parklands Sports Centre.
Bookings (02) 9662 7033

JUNIOR RANGERS ☺
Focus on frogs! Meet live frogs and learn about their habits. Find out how to build a frog pond in your backyard. Survey Centennial Park's frog habitats and help plan ways to improve them. Bring a hat, morning tea, a drink and lunch. 10am–3pm. \$33 per child (8–12 years). Meet Learners Cycleway.
Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

THREE-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺
For children of all riding abilities. \$220 per camp (includes morning tea and lunch). 10am–4pm Centennial Stables.
Bookings (02) 9360 5650

19 Thursday
A TALE OF TWO TADPOLES ☺
Follow the tale of two tadpoles as they search the ponds of Centennial Park to find their lost mother. Which of the other pond creatures will help them in their search? 10–11am. \$7.50 per child (2–5 years), adults free. Meet Shelter Pavilion.
Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699

TWO-DAY HORSERIDING CAMP ☺
10am–3pm each day
Moore Park Stables
See 17 April

PONDER WANDER ☺
2–3.30pm
See 17 April

20 Friday
SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺
5.45–6.45pm
See 17 April

22 Sunday
HERITAGE WATER SUPPLY TOUR – Heritage Week 2001
Sydney Water presents a walking tour of Centennial Park's historic pond system, conducted by Heritage Engineer, Jon Breen. Visit heritage-listed reservoirs and pumping station sites. Gain an understanding of Busby's Bore and the ponds' early links with Sydney's water supply. 9–11am. Free. Meet Busby's Pond, near Robertson Road Gates.
Bookings essential (02) 9334 0238

PONY RIDES ☺
The only place where children can jump into the saddle so close to the city! Hand-led, 10 minute rides for children. 10am–3pm. \$8.50 per ride. Meet Centennial Park Café.

23 Monday
CHILDREN'S TENNIS CAMP ☺
This five-day camp teaches children five years and over the basics of tennis through coaching and competition. \$121 per child. 9am–3pm each day. Parklands Sports Centre.
Bookings (02) 9662 7033

24 Tuesday
UNDERWATER WORLD ☺
10–11am.
See 27 March

TWO-DAY HORSERIDING CAMP ☺
10am–3pm each day
Moore Park Stables
See 17 April

PONDER WANDER ☺
2–3.30pm
See 17 April

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺
5.45–6.45pm
See 17 April

25 Wednesday
THREE-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺
10am–4pm
Centennial Stables
See 18 April

26 Thursday
A TALE OF TWO TADPOLES ☺
10–11am
See 19 April

TWO-DAY HORSERIDING CAMP ☺
10am–3pm each day
Moore Park Stables
See 17 April

PONDER WANDER ☺
2–3.30pm
See 17 April

27 Friday
SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺
5.45–6.45pm
See 17 April

29 Sunday
PONY RIDES ☺
10am–3pm
See 22 April

MAY

4 Friday
SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺
5.30–6.30pm
See 17 April

6 Sunday
SCRUFFS DOG SHOW
Will your dog steal the show? Scruffs is a day out for the whole family, including the family dog. All dogs can enter – scruffy, long-hair, short-hair, pedigree or cross-breed. Presented by the NSW Animal Welfare League at North Showring Fox Studios. 10am–4pm, free admission.
Enquiries phone (02) 9383 4000

TED'S TREE TOUR – FEDERATION SPECIAL ☺
Join Senior Arborist, Ted Hoare, for a walking tour to discover the history of the trees in Centennial Park planted around the time of Federation. A hat and sensible walking shoes are recommended. 2–3.30pm. Adults \$15, *Friends/concession* \$10. Meet at the Cannons opposite Centennial Parklands Restaurant. *Bookings essential (02) 9518 6866*. Numbers strictly limited.

9 Wednesday
CELEBRATING FEDERATION: AN EVENING WITH ALEXANDER TZANNES ☺
Meet leading Australian architect and urban designer Alexander Tzannes at a special dinner to be held on the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament. Alec will discuss the design of the Federation Pavilion and plans for the new Federation Drive linking Centennial and Moore Parks. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious three-course banquet of Victorian-style cuisine. Centennial Parklands Restaurant from 6.30pm. Bookings available between 6.30 and 8.30pm, talk at 7pm. *Friends of Centennial Parklands* members \$47.50, non-members \$52.50.
Bookings and enquiries (02) 9360 3355

13 Sunday
TED'S TREE TOUR – FEDERATION SPECIAL ☺
2–3.30pm
See 6 May

16 Wednesday
MY LITTLE PONIES ☺
10–11am
See 14 March

20 Sunday
MILLION PAWS WALK
Join all creatures great and small at the RSPCA's annual Million Paws Walk in Centennial Park. The 5km walk around the Park's spectacular ponds and waterways is open to all pets provided they are healthy and restrained. From 9am, meet at Loch Avenue South.
Enquiries and registration www.millionpawswalk.com.au or phone (02) 9796 3003

27 Sunday
WATER WALK ☺
2–4pm
See 15 April

29 Tuesday
A TALE OF TWO TADPOLES ☺
10–11am
See 19 April

☺ indicates discount for *Friends of Centennial Parklands*. Please present your *Friends* keyring on payment to secure a discount. Discount is 10% unless otherwise stated.

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)
- Woolys 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 and Federation Valley. 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

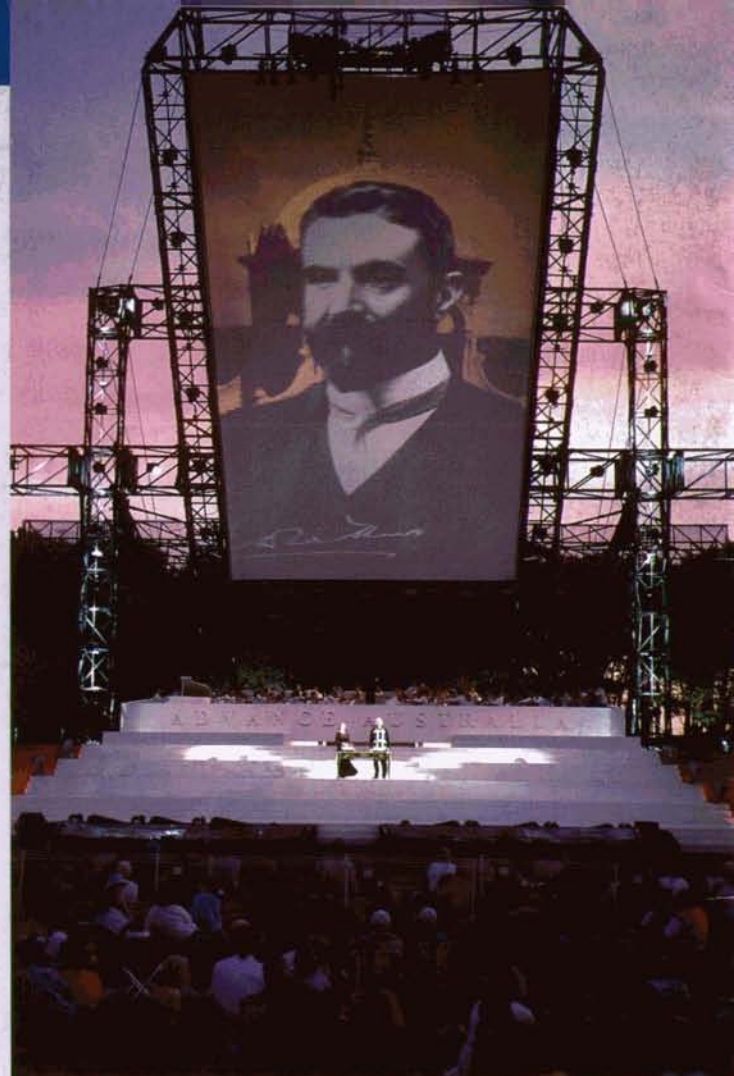
Centennial Parklands offers a versatile range of locations for commercial filming and photography at competitive rates. Bookings: 9339 6621

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 sunrise to sunset.

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: Centenary of Federation celebrations in Centennial Park. It was a day to be remembered, with a stunning sunset adding to the splendour. See page 4 for a full appraisal of the day's events.

Front cover: The NSW Mounted Police offer an inspiring sight as they practice on the Centennial Park Equestrian Grounds. Find out more about their unique relationship with Centennial Park on page 10.



CENTENNIAL
parklands

centennial park
moore park
queens park

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PADDINGTON NSW 2021
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www.cp.nsw.gov.au