

# parklands

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# Directions

## View to the future

For the last five years, we have been monitoring Centennial and Moore Parks so that we have a detailed and informed understanding of the life of the parks – who visits them and why, how they get here, what they think of them, their heritage and conservation values and the animals and plants we have in the parks.

We have undertaken surveys and consulted many experts on all these issues so that we could prepare a Plan of Management for the future. The resulting plan, 'Into the 21st Century', is fascinating reading.

The plan covers issues such as community values and concerns, access, demographic analysis of visitors, ponds rehabilitation, heritage values, flora and fauna, and visitor potential.

In preparing our Plan of Management, we drew on important community comment. Those of you who visit the park regularly have probably contributed to several surveys carried out by our research teams and will not be surprised at some of the reasons people give when explaining their appreciation of the parks – "a place of grandeur", "a luxurious space from another era", and, most importantly, "a giant backyard".

A giant backyard! It's true that people feel an intimate sense of connection with the parks. More than 20 years ago, writer Patrick White, who lived opposite Centennial Park, described it as "a living, living room". Others describe it as "a place of spiritual refreshment", "an oasis, a breathing space", "space, freedom, time out", "a historic link with the past" and "a place to commune with nature".

We value the Parklands so highly because they provide a green and leafy respite from our crowded urban spaces. Local artist Austin Platt spent more than two decades recording the waterbirds, trees, ponds, fields. His sketches and paintings give an insight into Centennial Park as a natural sanctuary.

Keith Hindwood described the parks as a "natural history laboratory". Others have referred to them as "the lungs of the city", "a model for urban ecology" and of "scientific value".

We are acting on some of the key issues raised from our community consultation sessions, such as special needs access, cleaning the ponds, a cultural program, upgrading visitor facilities, improved safety measures, improved heritage information, development of flora and fauna education programs.

Our intention is that the integrity of the Parklands is enhanced and protected and the natural and cultural heritage is improved and maintained.

Our commitment is that the parks will continue to be places of natural beauty, peace and excitement, where diverse activities are enjoyed and personal and public milestones celebrated in landscapes, monuments and memories.

In implementing the Plan and making decisions about the Parklands, our work is guided by five principles: integration, continuity, advocacy, sustainability and equity.

The challenge for the Trust is to balance the diverse and ever changing needs of park users whilst ensuring the Parklands environment is maintained and enhanced.

Robin Grimwade, Director

Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust



# Parkbench

## WATER BIRDS RETURN

Regular park users may have spotted the return of some of the Parklands' favourite residents. Following the completion of Stage 2 of the Ponds Restoration Program, Centennial Parklands Rangers have spotted the Royal Spoonbill and White Faced Heron feeding in the ponds. Although not unusual for water bodies on the east coast, the birds have not been sighted in the Park for several years. "It's fantastic news," says Senior Ranger Colin Cheshire. "The Ponds Restoration Program hasn't even been completed and already we are noticing the return of certain bird species that haven't been seen in the Parklands for years. It's not just birds that are returning – we are also noticing higher numbers of insects flying above the ponds and reed beds." The Royal Spoonbill can be identified by the spoon shape at the end of their bill. White with a black bill, they place it just under the water's surface and move from side-to-side to trap insects and other food. Greyish in colour, the White Faced Heron is also easy to spot. It uses its long, knife-like beak to spear its food before flipping it into the air and swallowing it whole.

## NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM

Schools in search of unique learning experiences can now draw upon a comprehensive Education Program based around Centennial Parklands. Developed by the Parklands' team of qualified Education Rangers, the cross curriculum Program caters for years K-12. The new

Program provides hands-on learning experiences, allowing students to interact directly with Parklands environments. Senior Education Ranger Carolyn Dance says it draws together a number of different excursion options. "Students could find themselves becoming Junior Rangers or searching for animals in the Park to discover fauna survival techniques," Carolyn says. Teachers choose from a broad range of activities to construct a Parklands excursion that meets their needs. Groups who find it difficult to come to the Parklands can even request a mobile ranger station visit to their school. For more information, contact the Education Rangers on (02) 9339 6641 or 9339 6645.

## COOGEE LOCAL JOINS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Trust is pleased to welcome Mr John Newbery to its Community Consultative Committee. A Coogee resident, John recently oversaw the development of a new Plan of Management for Echo Point and a Masterplan for Katoomba. The Committee is designed to provide a community voice in decisions about the Parklands, and meets approximately every six weeks. John replaces Ms Linda Goodman, who resigned from the Committee following her move to Melbourne. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Linda for her contribution, and we look forward to John's input.

## HEALING CEREMONY

Lachlan Swamp was filled with the sounds of the didgeridoo as part of a "Journey of Healing" ceremony on Wednesday 26 May. Held by the Eastern Suburbs Organisation for Reconciling Australia (ESORA) and Randwick City Council, the ceremony included a Healing Walk through the Swamp, poetry readings and a performance by the Rainbow Street Public School Choir. The ceremony was part of Reconciliation Week, which encourages Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to come together and recognise sorrow for past policies and discover shared needs and goals. ESORA hold regular picnics in Centennial Park on the second Sunday of every season. Members of the public are welcome. Enquiries contact: (02) 9328 2060.

## MILLION PAWS WALK

On Sunday 16 May all creatures great and small and their owners descended on Centennial Parklands for the RSPCA's annual Million Paws Walk. Officially opened by Premier Bob Carr, the walk raised over \$50,000 to aid in the care of lost and injured

animals. Dr Katrina Warren from Harry's Practice and Rebecca Harris from Animal Hospital, were joined by masses of dogs and cats, birds, guinea pigs, one pony, two pythons and a hermit crab. Prizes were awarded for those who raised the most money, the best six legs, and owner/pet look-a-likes. Next year's walk will be held on Sunday 21 May.





# Parklands survive hail storm

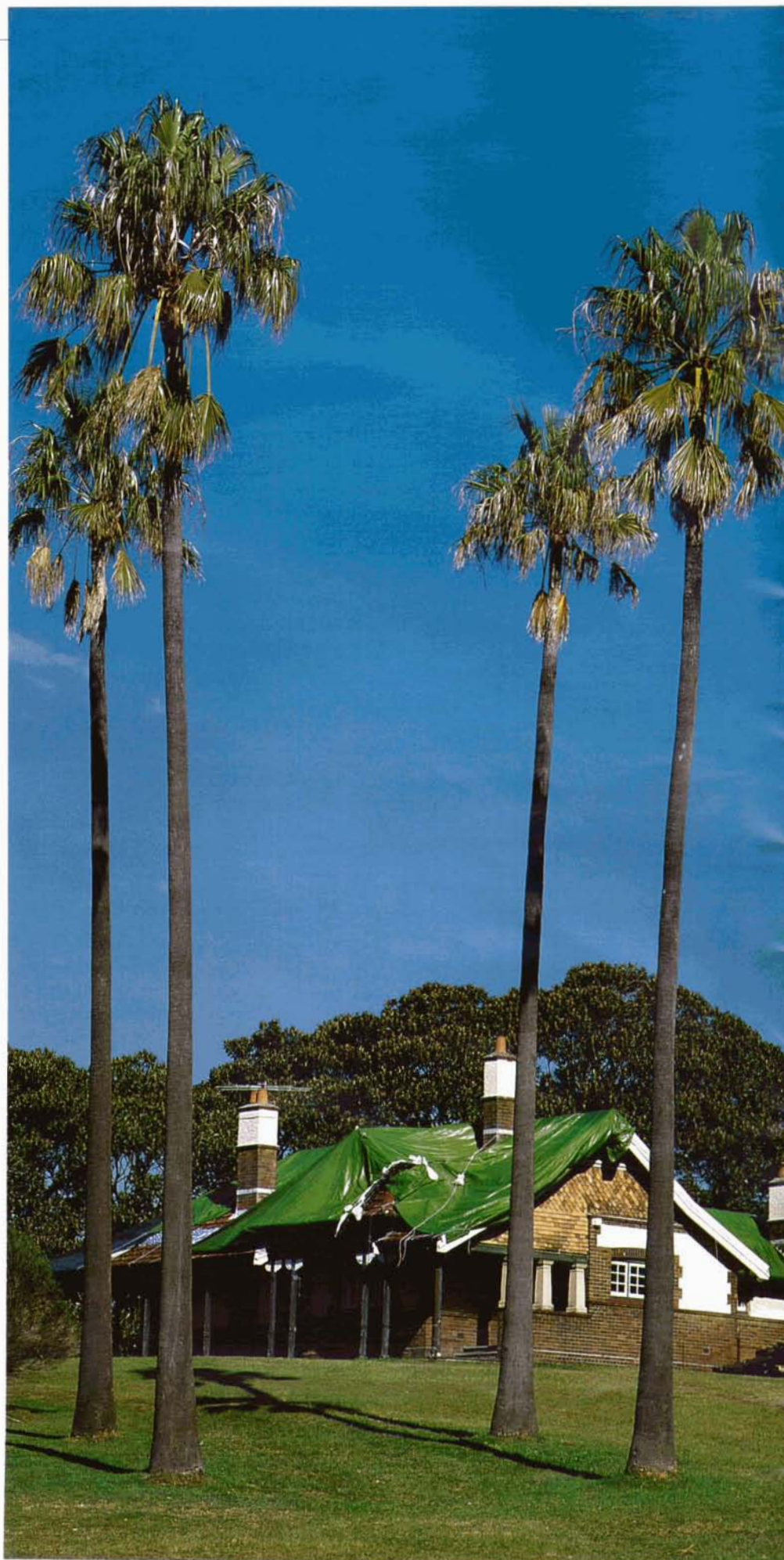
The hail storm damages bill is an estimated half a million dollars and that's not counting the loss of life to birds and animals and the long term impact on trees. But recent visitors may not even notice the severe hail damage sustained by Parklands, thanks to the quick response of Trust staff.

**I**t came without warning. It killed or concussed more than 90 creatures. It caused massive damage to golf course greens which looked like a horse had galloped over them. It drove holes through the roof tops and skylights of heritage and built assets. It smashed public amenities and it tore tree foliage to shreds. It was the hail storm that hit at approximately 8.00pm on 14 April, a night that still sends a shiver through Sydney's Eastern Suburbs.

An unsuspecting Andrew Ferris, Manager Operations Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, left work that evening having noticed a storm brewing around 7.30pm.

"No one could have anticipated what was coming," he says. By the time he arrived home the distress calls had started. When he returned to work at 7.00am the next day, the impact of the storm's devastation hit him.

"Cars were dented, windscreens smashed, footpaths and roads were smothered in torn vegetation and you couldn't see any road markings. As I





*While nearby Cotton Palms were virtually unscathed, the Martin Road residence was the worst damaged of the Parklands' heritage buildings. Trust staff expect the roof to be repaired by the end of June.*

entered the Park, the Grand Drive was a carpet of shredded leaves and it was very upsetting to see the damage to the golf greens."

At work he was struck by his colleagues' "feeling of distress". They had taken a head count of 90 dead birds and animals, mostly ibis, cormorants and ducks. It appeared that a whole flock of cormorants had been killed as they flew across the Park.

"We couldn't get over the size of the hailstones, some were the size of cricket balls."

Keen to restore normal operations as quickly as possible, the clean up began at first light the day after the storm. Rangers walked the Parklands looking for injured animals, which were taken to the local vet or collected by WIRES. Field staff began clearing the roads, a priority so that cyclists, roller bladers and motorists could safely return to the streets. The street sweeping operations took two days to complete.

During the week after the storm, three companies and 20 staff worked long hours cleaning up and doing repairs.

Andrew estimates "long term damage to vegetation is still hard to measure".

"The horticultural exhibits fared quite well, and many of the formal gardens survived virtually unscathed."

"While we didn't lose any trees as a direct result of the storm, there was massive foliage loss. One staff member remarked that it looked like the floor of a hairdressing salon. At this stage it's hard to know whether this will affect tree health and affect their long term future."

The sad business of assessing the damage to built and heritage assets began. In Centennial Park the storm had savaged two heritage residences, as well as the Vernon Pavilion on Parkes Drive and the Fairland Pavilion at the McKay playing field. In Moore Park, damage to the golf clubhouse and the Equestrian Centre added to the toll.

"The smashed tiles on the Vernon Pavilion are handmade and we're looking at a four month wait before they can be repaired," says Andrew.

There was a heavy toll with public amenities – skylights were broken and some park vehicles had panel and windscreen damage.

"We got going with temporary tarpaulins so there was no further damage with the rain that followed. It was a freak storm and we were lucky we could deal with it quickly and on a local scale in those first few days. In my five years at the park I've never seen anything like it."

One of the benefits of the speedy action by Parklands staff was that the Parklands were quickly restored as a place of respite for those who had suffered in the storm.

"Even as recently as late May, SES and Fire Brigade workers were observed relaxing in the Park as a welcome relief from the massive clean up job."

## **golf course on recovery list**

**M**oore Park Golf Course is estimated to have suffered \$30,000 damage to the greens alone as a result of the 14 April hail storm. Nothing was spared, the hail taking its toll on the irrigation systems, Club House, trees and the greens.

"It looked like a lunar landscape," says Golf Course Supervisor, Mal Durkin. "The impact of the hail on the turf was so intense that there were holes up to 10cm wide and 7cm deep."

Now on its way back to recovery, the Golf Course reopened for play on 5 May.

Getting the Course back into playable condition has been literally a matter of sitting back and watching the grass grow – 10 kg of Bentgrass on 60 tonne of new soil.

"The first thing I did after the storm was go over the whole ground before I started assessing what to do. It was devastating to see what had happened. I had to sit down and gather my thoughts, work out the best plan of attack," Mal says.

"We had to level the greens, roll them, cut them, top dress, fertilise and seed. That went on for three weeks."

Mal has had feedback from members and appreciates how "everyone has been fairly understanding".

"They realise it's a matter of time to heal the scars of the storm. Some people have been offering advice about it but there's no precedent to a natural disaster like this and there's nothing we could have done to prevent it."

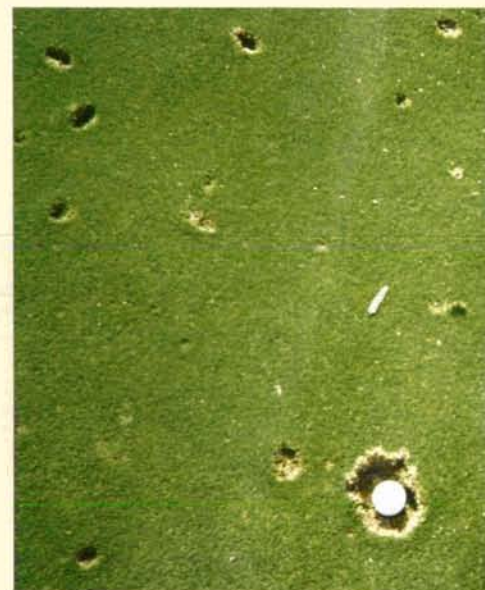
Golf Club General Manager, Doug Jacka, says the impact on the Club House is still being felt by staff and visitors.

"Much of the Club House has been out of action since the storm, and its 45 degree roof was too steep for even the Fire Brigade to climb. We are resigned to letting the rain pour in until we can get a new roof."

"For now, we're surviving by using the Club's function room, which was unscathed, as a temporary Club House," Doug says.

"The good news is that once everything has dried out, the whole Club House will be painted and re-carpeted."

Ironically, Doug says the Golf Course's Driving Range reported one of its best ever months during April. The undercover Driving Range suffered little more than a dented roof – a golfing oasis in the middle of the devastation.





Come July, don't be surprised if the Duck Pond looks like it's under siege. It's all part of a \$650,000 overhaul that will make it cleaner, safer and healthier for pond dwelling species, plants and people.

# duck pond spruce up

So far, five ponds have had a facelift and now, Peter Nowland, Co-ordinator of Landscape Services, is off to a flying start with the sixth, the Duck Pond. One of the three central ponds, the Duck Pond is a major public attraction where children flock to feed the ducks.

The Duck Pond is positioned downstream from Willow Pond, which recently underwent restoration along with the Model Yacht Pond, the Fly Casting Pond, the Musgrave Avenue Pond and One More Shot Pond.

The work on the Duck Pond has three components. The first involves removing silt and constructing 'berms' (earth formations) to accommodate aquatic plants around the edge of the pond.

The second component involves stabilising and rebuilding the embankments to reduce erosion and prevent undercutting, silting and erosion through wave action. It will also create places for people to access the pond and enjoy it.

"That involves recreating, as well as constructing, stone walls and re-

constructing collapsed ones," says Peter.

The third part of the work calls for re-planting aquatic and terrestrial plants, native ground covers and trees. Species such as Paperbarks, Kangaroo grasses and other native grasses will be employed in the replanting.

The work, which will be completed by Christmas depending on weather, concentrates on the north-eastern, eastern and southern edges of the Duck Pond. It will keep up to four people busy. When landscaping starts, an extra team of up to 20 will be employed.

They will have their work cut out for them, but visitors will have access to the other pond areas.

"Water levels have to be lowered to access the edges but it'll be reasonably low impact. By comparison, the earlier pond works were much more invasive. People had to be excluded when large areas were fenced off," says Peter.

The restoration work aims to improve the water quality, and enhance the visual characteristics of the Ponds while retaining their heritage and recreational qualities.

The ponds have a colourful history. They date back to pre-park days when the area was known as Lachlan Swamp. It became a water supply for the colony of Sydney town when the Tank Stream dried up and became polluted.

According to Peter, "some of the dam walls are remnants from those days

dating back to the 1840s".

"There's been a huge build-up of silt during the years from all the urban development around the Park," says Peter. "We've got almost a metre deep of sediment, some of it polluted with all sorts of materials. We're trying to stabilise those sediments and clear them out where required."

The sediments generate the most visible forms of contamination on urban ponds everywhere.

"Blue green algae is generated by high nutrient sediments through summer water temperatures. You get a blue-green slime across the pond. It's dangerous for people and animals, including pets. This is not uncommon to most urban ponds. It's a metropolitan-wide problem," warns Peter.



"We're hoping to reduce it through wetlands planting and building gross pollutant traps which clean the water of rubbish as it enters the park and before it gets to the ponds."

He sees the work as "a long term exercise using new, passive technology".

"We're using natural materials and principles to manipulate change. It will be slow and incremental. For instance, the principle of the wetland plants is that they take up nutrients out of the water."

It is intended that siltation sediment ponds, on the downstream side of the inlets, will help collect silts that bypass the gross pollutant traps. Every five years the traps can be cleaned out.

The embankment stabilisation and aquatic planting will help minimise the continuing erosion of the banks which also contributes to siltation.

"We've taken out 3000 cubic metres of silt," says Peter.

He believes the prognosis for urban ponds everywhere is fraught with long term environmental problems especially when contamination, such as petrochemicals, drains off surrounding roads and into ponds.

By contrast, the Duck Pond will get a new lease of life when another section of the restoration work, culling the carp and introducing native bass to compete with them, is completed.

"So far, we've taken out six tonnes of carp. The biggest weighed 14kg. There's been quite a lot in that size range. They're recycled to a fertiliser factory for fish emulsion."

The earlier ponds are already showing signs of recovery.

"The frogs are moving back, the eels and turtles are there. The ponds look like ponds, not like farm dams anymore," says Peter.

The Duck Pond is the sixth pond to be upgraded under the Ponds Restoration Program. Improvements will focus on water quality, stabilising the embankments and re-planting aquatic and terrestrial plants.

## little bats make big news

Finding out which animals call Centennial Park home is an important aspect of park management. Accordingly the Trust, with the help of some prominent scientists, has undertaken a fauna inventory. The aim is to identify and record the many species of freshwater invertebrates, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals present in the Park. While the inventory is still in its infancy, the initial results of the mammal survey have yielded some surprising results.

Dr Mike Auger from the University of New South Wales has been coordinating much of the survey work. He's been able to solicit the aid of some of Australia's most respected scientists, who have generously volunteered their time and expertise to the project. It was while working with Dr Roger Coles from the Department of Physiology at the University of Sydney that some very interesting discoveries were unearthed.

Using sonar to detect the different frequencies emitted by bats, the pair discovered the presence of *Mormopterus norfolkensis*, or the Eastern Little Mastiff Bat, over Lachlan Swamp.

This is a significant find as Strahan's *Book Of Australian Mammals* lists the species as rare. Indeed, despite quite extensive surveys conducted throughout the State on bats, the Eastern Little Mastiff is rarely caught or trapped.

This lack of information has resulted in the Federal Government classifying the bat as "Data Deficient" in the new Bat Action Plan. The main aim of the plan is to identify those species of bats which are most vulnerable and put forward suitable strategies to protect them.

While little is known of its preferred habitat, the Eastern Little Mastiff Bat is thought to have a distribution ranging from north of Brisbane and extending in a thin band south to Nowra. It feeds by collecting insects in flight over the forest canopies, explaining its presence over the paperbarks in Lachlan Swamp.

At least *Mormopterus norfolkensis* has a name. Detected the same night was another species of *Mormopterus*, known as "species 1" (given this title by bat-expert Harry Parnaby in 1992). It is yet to be formally named by science.

If these two discoveries were not enough, the discovery of a maternity colony of *Chalinolobus gouldii*, or Gould's Wattle Bat, should just about top it. While the species is not uncommon, a maternity colony roosting in the hollow of a fig tree is. To help protect the colony, the exact location of the tree is to remain secret.

The discovery of these species demonstrates the importance of places like Centennial Park for all fauna. With the initial stage of the fauna inventory due for completion soon, it's exciting to think about other possible rarities that may be uncovered in the near future. Stay tuned!

Parklands Ranger, Murray Osmond-Dreyer



The Eastern Little Mastiff, one of the rare bats detected flying over the Park.





# looking through the artist's eye

For more than 20 years, local artist Austin Platt regularly rode his bike to Centennial Park from his home at Bondi to record the natural landscape, the birds and animals, the people and the buildings. His sketches and paintings form a unique record of the life of Sydney's most beautiful urban park.

There are delicate pencil drawings of water birds, charming studies of people riding, walking, running and resting, pen and ink details of flowers and trees and watercolours of wooded copses, lakes and fields.

There are intricate sketches of wrought iron and carved sandstone, and studies of early works depots and buildings.

The life and times of Centennial Park has been exquisitely documented through the eyes of artist Austin Platt who, over many years, sketched and painted in the Park.

A collection of 70 drawings, etchings and paintings, have been donated by Austin and his family to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. The collection is currently being evaluated and conserved.

Now a frail man of 88, Austin Platt enjoyed a long career as a successful graphic artist. When he was 20, he began an apprenticeship in artist Cedric Emanuel's studio. He also studied at East Sydney Technical College, the Royal Art Society, the Sydney Art School and Maud Sherwood's Sketch Club.

On the weekends, he studied etching and print production with Cedric Emanuel at his Dover Heights home. It was the 1930s and the beginning of Austin Platt's life-long interest in etching.

According to consultant Annette Quinn, Cedric Emanuel became the person who most influenced Austin Platt's professional career and interest in drawing.

Later, Austin's father bought him a printing press and the young artist set up a studio at his home at

Bondi.

"Although Austin had some instruction from Cedric Emanuel, most of the printing techniques he would later develop were self-taught.

"While Austin developed these skills, his father was developing new business for Austin to undertake," Annette says, adding that Austin's father thought there could be a lucrative business in the production of limited numbers of Austin's work.

As it happened, Austin did, for a time, produce successful commissioned etchings of schools, universities and churches before establishing his own commercial art business, independent of his father.

After he retired in 1977, he did a refresher course in oils, portraiture and still-life at East Sydney Technical College and then began developing a body of work focused on Centennial

**"He spent endless hours exploring Centennial Park and his art works are a record of his intimate wanderings in every nook and cranny."**



Park, Annette Quinn says.

"He spent endless hours exploring Centennial Park and his art works are a record of his intimate wanderings in every nook and cranny," says Catriona Burgess, Community Relations Co-ordinator for Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. "He recorded diverse park landscapes, including studies of treescapes, ponds and swamplands."

Apart from the work held by his family and the Trust, many of Austin Platt's drawings and paintings have been lost because the artist gave them away to visitors or tossed them out.

Park Ranger Brian Page, who befriended Austin over the last four

**"His love affair with the Park is seen in his work. He captured the nature and history of the place, from a marvellous drawing of the workers' depot in 1914 with its old horses and dray, to a fine watercolour of a sprig of Geraldton Wax."**

years, has found a folder of photocopied works among the Trust's papers, some of which have been found in the Trust's collection but most of which have simply disappeared. As the unofficial archivist of Austin Platt's work, Brian has developed a fair knowledge of his work. "His love affair with the Park is seen in his work. He captured the nature and history of the place, from a marvellous drawing of the workers'

depot in 1914 with its old horses and dray, to a fine watercolour of a sprig of Geraldton Wax.

"Overall, the works are fairly small but they are full of detail."

Annette Quinn, who recently completed a report on the artist's work on behalf of the Trust, believes Austin Platt's parkland documentations are a wonderful contribution to the cultural and social heritage of Centennial Park.

"The series of work, predominantly natural heritage, is an aesthetic view of the artist's local surroundings, the Parklands," she says. "Centennial Park provided Austin Platt with a wealth of material and subject matter to capture on his sketch paper and canvas."

While many works are of landscapes, including detailed studies such as a significant tree framed by a parkland panorama and panoramic views showing distance and depth of the natural landscape, the artist made many sketches of the Park's 'built' environment.

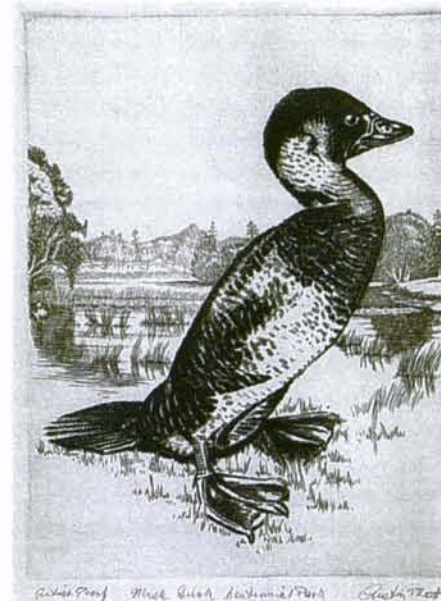


Austin Platt *Untitled [detail]* (1987). Watercolour.

"Austin was obviously attracted by the architecture in the Park," Annette says. "This is evident in his study of entrances to the park – Paddington Gates and Residence, Oxford and Queen Street Gates – and his study of the grand Federation Pavilion that he composed from newspaper clippings. Others include the Centennial Park cafe and the new Federation Monument."

In her report, Annette Quinn notes that while most of Austin Platt's works on paper in the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust collection are in good condition, some are in need of conservation.

According to Catriona Burgess, the Trust is looking for partners who may be interested in assisting their efforts to conserve the works, and possibly even help fund the staging of an exhibition of the Austin Platt collection.





# the road to diversity

On 1 January, 1901, the inauguration of the Federation of Australia was celebrated in Centennial Park. Australia's first Governor General, Lord Hopetoun, was sworn into office in the presence of 60,000 spectators in what is now known as Federation Valley. The place is marked by a permanent Federation Pavilion, built in 1988 to enclose the 'Commonwealth Stone' which supported the table used in the Federation ceremony.

In just under 20 months, Centennial Park and Federation Valley will again be the focus for celebrating the coming together of Australia as a nation. On 1 January 2001, crowds will gather in the Park, just as they did 100 years before, to celebrate the journey to Federation.

So, how can Federation be commemorated in ways that have meaning for the picnickers, dog walkers, cyclists, joggers, horse riders, and many other users of Centennial Park today?

This question was put to a panel of experts, drawn together from a wide range of interests by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, to consider how Federation might be interpreted in Centennial Park.

The panel met for a workshop on 29 April, facilitated by Interpretive Consultant, Christine O'Brien. A special session was also held with representatives from local indigenous communities.

"It was a great opportunity to get

points of view from people representing a variety of different backgrounds. We wanted to know what sort of information the public would like to know and how it could best be presented," says Carolyn Dance, Senior Education Ranger, who attended both workshops.

The expert panel included a disability consultant, Terry Fletcher, Carnivale Director, Lex Marinos, as well as historian Helen Irving, architect Peter John Cantrell, education expert John Gore, and youth festival convenor, Brandon Saul. Representatives from the NSW Centenary of Federation

Committee, John Trevillian and Mary Gray, also participated, along with Trust staff.

The overwhelming view was that the diversity of Australian society should be one of the main themes.

"Australia was not diverse particularly. It began as a

relatively homogeneous society and evolved into a much more diverse society," historian Helen Irving said.

Lex Marinos agreed. "I think it (the Park) is a very powerful metaphor for our lives. People relate to the Park differently from different cultures, but there is a certain commonality about the sense of peace, and the sense of contemplation and mediation that it provides," Lex said. "It's a unifying factor in difference."

The panel considered the possibility of events, memorials or even the use of the mass media and internet technologies to share the Federation message.

"Part of the process needs to be

external communication of the role the Park played in history," Brandon Saul stressed. "For me, any celebration needs to be underpinned with retrospective knowledge of what has been and I think a fair bit of effort should be put in to communicating what actually happened," he said.

Disability consultant, Terry Fletcher, emphasised that early



*Carnivale Director Lex Marinos saw the Park as a "unifying factor in difference".*

consultation with disabled people would be key to ensuring that they could get access to any event or memorial celebrating Federation in the Park.

She stressed that "practical things that seem trivial to somebody who doesn't even have to think about them" like seating and paving, would count most.

One of the other issues raised in the workshops was the importance of acknowledging progress towards reconciliation over the past 100 years.

Margret Campbell and Dallas Dodd, representing indigenous interests, were enthusiastic about having aboriginal involvement in the interpretation of Federation in Centennial Parklands. They said that before anything else happens, there needs to be a spiritual healing of the land itself which should be done discreetly by local indigenous representatives.

The outcomes of the workshops are being consolidated into a report that will consider how to progress the themes and ideas that emerged, and how to make sure that any outcome clearly communicates the Federation story to the public at large.

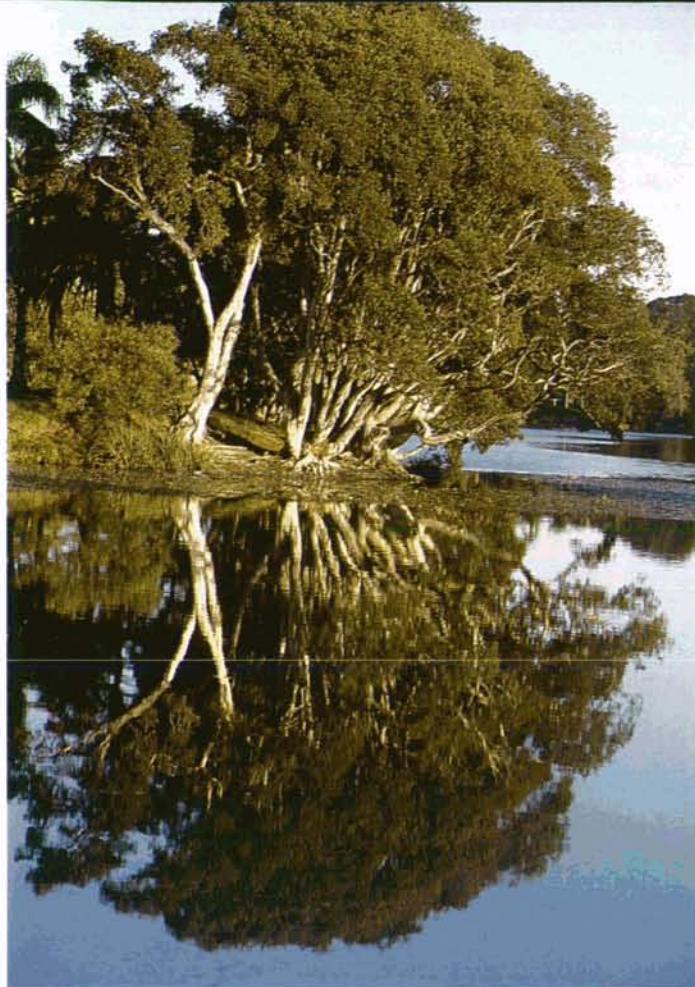
As pointed out by John Trevillian, whatever the result, it needs to be "simple and discrete, but important" and "something that prompts you to think".

**"I think  
the Park is a  
very powerful  
metaphor for  
our lives"**



*Youth Festival convenor Brandon Saul and Senior Education Ranger Carolyn Dance.*





The beginning of Winter, when the soil is still warm from Summer and the air is cool, is an ideal time to plant significant trees in the Parklands. This Winter will see a major new planting of an avenue of paperbarks at Alison Road to commemorate one of Centennial Park's forefathers – **Joseph Maiden**.

## a legacy of paperbarks

**B**orn at St John's Wood, London, Maiden arrived in Sydney in 1881 in search of better health and a job. A science graduate, he had a strong interest in technical education, and became the first curator of the newly founded "Technological, Industrial and Sanitary Museum of New South Wales".

In 1896 Maiden was appointed Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, a role which also included management of Centennial Park. Maiden's background as a scientist accounted for his systematic approach to the Park, based on site analysis rather than conventions of style. He found that initial haste in plantings, attacks by aphids, strong winds, sandy "sour soil" and the unfamiliar climate had left the Park comparatively treeless. His solution was to plant windbreaks – unique in that they were comprised of a native, *Melaleuca quinquenervia* or the broad-leaved paperbark.

Ted Hoare, Senior Arborist, says Maiden used paperbarks as "the first line of defence" in protecting more vulnerable plantings.

"At a time when popular taste still favoured exotics, Maiden began using natives such as paperbarks and wattles, believing that they would be more resistant to the adverse conditions. He also endeavoured to protect the local vegetation and landscape features that had survived the Park's cultural transformation."

"Maiden used the Park to spread awareness of the beauty and utility of native plants and the need to conserve them. He was a recognised authority on Acacia, and was a driving

**"Maiden used the Park to spread awareness of the beauty and utility of native plants and the need to conserve them."**



Senior Arborist Ted Hoare marks out the new paperbark avenue.

force behind the creation of a Wattle Day League," Ted says.

Despite Maiden's love of wattles, paperbarks were the natural choice for a planting in his memory.

Approximately 70 *Melaleuca quinquenervia* will be planted along Alison Road, running parallel to the former tram tracks.

"As with Maiden's original paperbark plantings, the *Melaleucas* in Alison Road will provide a hardy replacement for a row of exotics that had declined as the result of storm damage and

unsuitable environmental conditions."

"The replacement trees were ordered three years ago and purpose-grown for the Alison Road planting. They will be planted using the same sequence as one of Maiden's plantings at the eastern end of the Duck Pond, which uses a single tree, then a group of three, then another single tree," Ted says.

Extending over nearly a kilometre, the new avenue will be a fitting tribute to the species Maiden described as 'shapely' shading 'objects of sylvan beauty' – and the energetic man who went against convention 100 years ago to help bring about our appreciation of native Australian trees.

*Ted Hoare will be conducting special Tree Tours of Centennial Park as part of our Arbor Week celebrations in July. See page 14 for more details.*



"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
- free 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  
☐ Family (1 year).....\$90

Name: Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Dr \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: home \_\_\_\_\_  
 business \_\_\_\_\_

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



Horticulturist Steve Soldatos inspects one of the new hoop pines at the Church Grounds.

**Gay Hancock and Brian Gallagher** – To an old friend  
**Jean Hobbs and Family** – In memory of Colin  
**Dr Gary Leong** – To past, present and future generations of the Lim-Leong Family and in commemoration of a Family 2000 reunion  
**Connie Salat** – To my daughter Kiah and a beautiful place  
 Enquiries about the Tree Dedication Program can be made on (02) 9339 6652.

### NEW DEDICATED TREES

This Winter, the Trust will plant 15 new trees as part of the Tree Replacement Program. Assisted by the generosity of Dedicated and Foundation Friends, this Program is important in maintaining the integrity of the heritage plantings in the Parklands. The scheme ensures that significant trees lost due to disease, damage or age, are replaced. It also allows people to pay lasting tribute to an important event in their lives, or to a family, friend or loved one.

The Program incorporates the use of fig, paperbark, sheoak, gum and tallow wood varieties, integral to the Parklands' original landscape design. In each case, a semi-mature tree is planted to replace the lost original, rather than a seedling.

Included in the new plantings are a Lemon Scented Gum, a Cape Chestnut, spotted gums and several impressive Hoop Pines which will grow up 20 metres tall.

The Trust would like to thank the following people for supporting the latest round of trees, and acknowledge their dedication:

**Helen Campbell** (2 trees) – To my daughter Sophie McGregor and Ruby Leroyd

### FRIENDS DINNERS & DISCOUNTS

The Centennial Parklands Restaurant has begun a series of specially-themed dinners offering large discounts for Friends of the Parklands.

The first, with an Italian theme, was held on 7 May. Over 100 Friends and guests enjoyed a selection of Italian wines and foods. The next dinner, with a French flavour, is being held on Bastille Day, Wednesday 14 July (see opposite).

But don't forget Friends can enjoy the great food and ambience of the Centennial Parklands Restaurant and Cafe year round. Just show your Friends key ring whilst dining at the restaurant or grabbing a light snack or coffee at the Cafe and receive a 10% discount (applies to Friends' personal bill only).

### GUIDED WALKS

Make sure you check out our Winter Guided Walks on pages 14 and 15. This Winter as our special Friend, you can enjoy free of charge a SPOTLIGHT PROWL, BIRDWATCHERS BREAKFAST or TREE WALK. Please contact the Trust Office on (02) 9339 6699 for bookings.



This Bastille Day, Centennial Parklands Friends and their guests can feast on the wonderful flavours of France.

## A taste of France



*Classic French fare: Chef David Noonan with his Duck Confit with Lentils and Braised Eschalots*

The Centennial Parklands Restaurant is hosting a special Bastille Day Dinner on Wednesday 14 July from 6.30pm.

In keeping with the French theme, Landscape Architect Anton James will begin the evening at 6.30pm with a talk on contemporary French Landscape Design. Winner of the prestigious *Jardin De l'imaginaire Competition* in the South of France, Anton has worked both in Australia and abroad. His overseas projects include *Los Pericos Park*, Los Angeles, and the *Renault Green Wall Project* in Paris.

Now Sydney-based, Anton has more recently worked on Olympic-related projects, including the *Homebush Bay Urban Core Project*. He has also worked for the Trust on the sculptural installation on the *Mount Steel Wall*, Moore Park.

Chef David Noonan has been busy planning a feast of French delicacies for the evening. Entrees include Country-style Chicken Liver Pate with Cornichons and Toasted Baguette, Warm Salad of Grilled Goats Cheese, Baby Beans and Pickled Walnuts, and Steamed Black Mussels with Saffron White Wine Beurre Blanc.

Mains offer the choice of Duck Confit with Lentils and braised Eschalots, La Bourride Fish Stew, Entrecote of Beef with Bearnaise Sauce and Paris Mash, Wild Mushroom Ragout with Roasted Eschalots on Toasted Brioche, and the traditional favourite of Coq au Vin.

Desserts will tempt with a classic Creme Brulee, Apple Tarte Tatin, Chocolate Mousse with Almond Sable or a selection of French Cheeses with Muscatels and Walnut Bread.

Tables can be booked from 6.30 to 9.30pm. Menu enquiries and bookings (essential) can be made directly to the Centennial Parklands Restaurant on (02) 9360 3355. Parking is available at the Restaurant, entry via Paddington Gates.

Dinner (including talk)

2 courses: Friends \$30, Guests \$35

3 courses: Friends \$35, Guests \$42.

## parkland perspectives

then



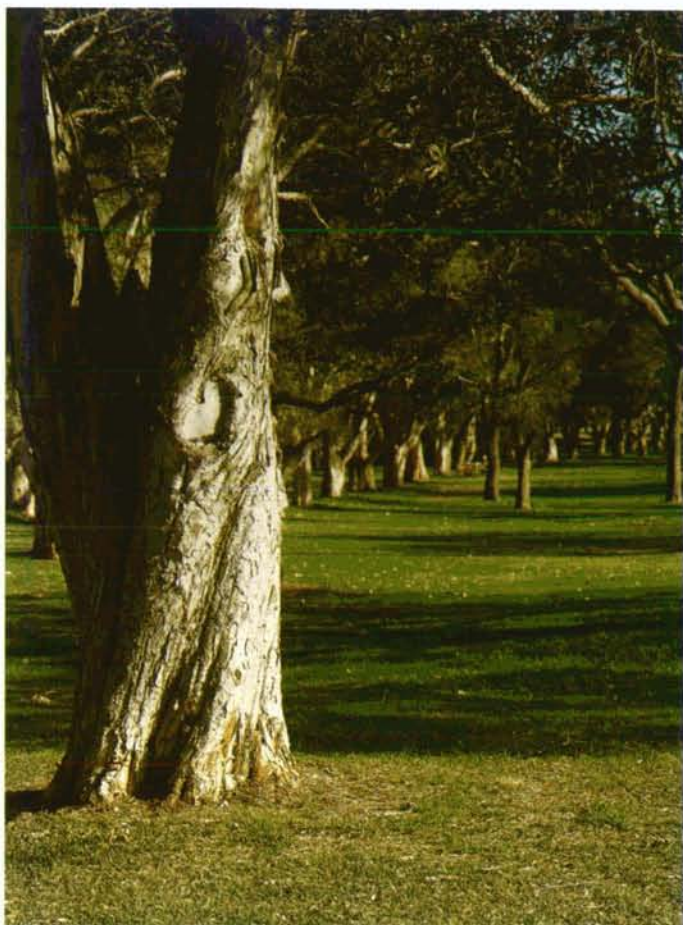
A place to spread your wings and fly. The Duck Pond continues to be a sanctuary for birds and children, no matter what the era. Madeleine Burston, 4, of Hillsdale, discovers the same delights that entranced children in the 1930s. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

now





# winter eve



## JULY

### 2 Friday

#### SPOTLIGHT PROWL

Discover the secrets of Centennial Park after dark. Join the Rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and other creatures of the night. Make sure to bring your own torch. 6-7pm, \$6 per person. Meet Robertson Road Gates. Bookings essential: 9339 6699



### 6 Tuesday

#### SHOWJUMPING TRAINING NIGHT

Held in the Covered Arena under lights, this regular training night at the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre allows show jumpers to sharpen their skills and share their love of horses. Run by volunteers from the Centennial Parklands Members Club. Refreshments and a sausage sizzle add to the fun. 6-9.30pm, \$20 joining fee, \$5 per class spectators free. Covered Arena Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Bookings: 9332 2809

### 14 Wednesday

#### BASTILLE DAY DINNER

Vive la France! Celebrate the joys of French food and culture with this special Bastille Day Celebration at Centennial Parklands Restaurant. Spoil yourself with French delicacies such as Coq au Vin, Duck Confit, Creme Brulee and special French Cheeses. Also includes a talk by Anton James on French landscape design.

Reservations between 6.30-9.30pm (talk at 6.30pm). Friends \$30(2 courses)/\$35 (3 courses), Others \$35/\$42. Centennial Parklands Restaurant. Bookings: 9360 3355

### 20 Tuesday

#### DRESSAGE TRAINING NIGHT

See 15 June. 6-9.30pm, \$20 joining fee, \$5 per class, spectators free. Covered Arena Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Bookings: 9332 2809

### 26 Monday-31 Saturday

#### ARBOR WEEK

To celebrate our precious and magnificent trees, Centennial Parklands will be hosting a range of Arbor Week events, including bus and walking tours.

#### BUS TOURS

Celebrate Arbor Week and experience the beauty of Centennial Park's trees from the comfort of your own minibus. Rangers join your bus and provide a guided tour of the trees as you travel through the Park's grand avenues and wooded drives.

By arrangement, July 26 to July 30, \$30 per minibus, meet at Administration Building. Bookings essential: 9339 6699 (NB own minibus required)

### 28 Wednesday

#### ARBOR WEEK TREE WALK

Join the Parkland's Senior Arborist, Ted Hoare, on a guided walk of Centennial Park's majestic trees. The two-hour stroll covers tree origins, special features and the history of tree planting in the Park. Don't forget a hat and sunscreen.

10am-Noon, \$6 per person. Meet at the cannons above the Cafe. Bookings essential: 9339 6699

### 31 Saturday

#### ARBOR WEEK TREE WALK

See 28 July. 10am-Noon, \$6 per person. Meet at the cannons above the Cafe. Bookings essential: 9339 6699

## AUGUST

### 3 Tuesday

#### SHOWJUMPING TRAINING NIGHT

See 6 July. 6-9.30pm, \$20 joining fee, \$5 per class, spectators free. Covered Arena Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Bookings: 9332 2809

### 6 Friday

#### SPOTLIGHT PROWL

See 2 July. 6-7pm, \$6 per person, Meet Robertson Road Gates. Bookings essential: 9339 6699

### 8 Sunday

#### CAMPFIRE YARNS

Indigenous Guide Margaret Campbell shares stories of the Dreamtime by the campfire as you taste the delights of Bushtucker foods. Also involves a walk through Centennial Parkland's new Bushtucker Trail, explaining traditional food uses of local plants and animals. Bring your own torch and picnic blanket. Light Bushtucker snack provided.

4.30-6pm, Adults \$25, Children \$13.50. Meet Learner's Cycleway. Bookings essential: 9339 6699

### 17 Tuesday

#### DRESSAGE TRAINING NIGHT

See 15 June. 6-9.30pm, \$20 joining fee, \$5 per class, spectators free. Covered Arena Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Bookings: 9332 2809

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Bookings 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

## Winter School Holiday Program July 5-18

■ Bookings are required for all School Holidays activities, and can be made by phoning 9339 6699.

■ Please note numbers are strictly 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.

■ 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.

### 5 Monday

#### MY LITTLE PONIES – Toddlers (2-5 years)

Take a tour through the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Toddlers find out where the horses live, what they eat and how we care for them. Jump into the saddle for a pony ride too!

10-11am, \$5.00 per child, adults free. Meet Equestrian Centre Gates, Cnr Lang Rd and Cook Rd. Bring Hat and Drink.



#### POSSUM MAGIC – Children (6-12 years)

Learn all about the magic of possums! Children will decorate a possum box to put up in the park and as the sun goes down kids will spotlight possums in the trees.

4.15-5.45pm, \$6.00 per child. Meet at Shelter Pavilion, walk finishes at Robertson Road Gates. Bring a torch.



### 6 Tuesday

#### JUNIOR RANGERS – Children (8 years or over)

Calling all Junior Rangers! Children will help to patrol the Parklands, paint stormwater drain messages and collect litter. Plus a live bat demonstration by the Ku-Ring-Gai Bat Colony Committee.

10am-3pm, \$30.00 per child. Meet at Administration Building behind Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring a hat and lunch.

### 7 Wednesday

#### UP, UP AND AWAY – Toddlers (2-5 years)

It's time to spread your wings and fly! Toddlers will make wings like a bird, bat or bug and discover the fantastic world of flight.

10-11am, \$5.00 per child, adults free. Meet Shelter Pavilion. Bring hat and drink.

#### BIODIVERSITY BAKE-OFF – Children (6-12 years)

The Centennial Parklands are home to a vast variety of plants and animals, known as biodiversity. Join in the biodiversity bake-off by decorating biscuits with different coloured frostings and toppings. 2-3.30pm, \$8.00 per child. Meet Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring hat, drink and empty lunchbox.

#### FAMILY SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All ages

A special spotlight prowling for the wild at heart. Join the Rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and other creatures of the night. Make sure to bring your own torch.

6-7pm, \$6 per person, Meet Robertson Road Gates, Centennial Park.

### 8 Thursday

#### JUNIOR RANGERS – Children (8 years or over)

See 6 July.

10am-3pm, \$30.00 per child. Meet at Administration Building behind the Cafe. Bring a hat and lunch.

### 9 Friday

#### WILD THINGS – Toddlers (2-5 years)

Kids can kiss a kookaburra, pat a python or even smile at a crocodile during this special live native animal show with wildlife expert Anthony Stimson.

10.30-11.30am, \$6.00 per child, adults free. Meet at Learner's Cycleway. Bring a hat.

#### WHAT A CORKER – Children (6-12 years)

Children will recycle old corks into a useful corkboard and decorate it with natural items found in the Park.

2-3.30pm, \$6.00 per child. Meet at Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring corks, a hat and drink.

### 11 Sunday

#### FAMILY SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All ages

See 7 July.

6-7pm, \$6 per person, Meet Robertson Road Gates, Centennial Park.

### 12 Monday

#### MY LITTLE PONIES – Toddlers (2-5 years)

See 5 July.

10-11am, \$5.00 per child, adults free. Meet Equestrian Centre Gates, Cnr Lang Rd and Cook Rd. Bring Hat and Drink

#### MINI RANGERS – Toddlers (2-5 years)

Calling all Mini Rangers! Kids find out what it's like to be a Ranger as they help with bush regeneration, clean up patrol and seed feeder construction.

2.30-3.30pm, \$6.00 per child, adults free. Meet at Learner's Cycleway. Bring: Ranger's outfit, hat and gumboots.

### 13 Tuesday

#### UP, UP AND AWAY – Toddlers (2-5 years)

See 7 July.

10-11am, \$5.00 per child, adults free. Meet at Shelter Pavilion. Bring hat and drink.

#### BIODIVERSITY BAKE-OFF – Children (6-12 years)

See 7 July.

2-3.30pm, \$8.00 per child. Meet Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring a hat, drink and empty lunchbox.

#### FAMILY SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All ages

See 7 July.

6-7pm, \$6 per person, Meet Robertson Road Gates, Centennial Park.

### 14 Wednesday

#### JUNIOR RANGERS – Children (8 years or over)

See 6 July.

10am-3pm, \$30.00 per child. Meet at Administration Building behind Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring a hat and lunch.

### 15 Thursday

#### MINI RANGERS – Toddlers (2-5 years)

See 12 July

10-11am, \$6.00 per child, adults free. Meet at Learner's Cycleway.

#### POSSUM MAGIC – Children (6-12 years)

See 5 July.

4.15-5.45pm, \$6.00 per child. Meet at Shelter Pavilion, walk finishes at Robertson Road Gates. Bring a torch.

### 16 Friday

#### WILD THINGS – Toddlers (2-5 years)

See 9 July.

10.30-11.30am, \$6.00 per child, adults free. Meet at Learner's Cycleway. Bring a hat.

#### WHAT A CORKER – Children (6-12 years)

See 9 July.

2-3.30pm, \$6.00 per child. Meet at Centennial Parklands Cafe. Bring corks, a hat and drink.

#### FAMILY SPOTLIGHT PROWL – All ages

See 7 July.

6-7pm, \$6 per person, Meet Robertson Road Gates, Centennial Park.



# CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS – USER'S GUIDE

## PARKLAND OPERATIONS

### First Aid and Emergency

24 hour Ranger service, 7 Days.  
9339 6699 or 9746 2164

### 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

## 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. 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.

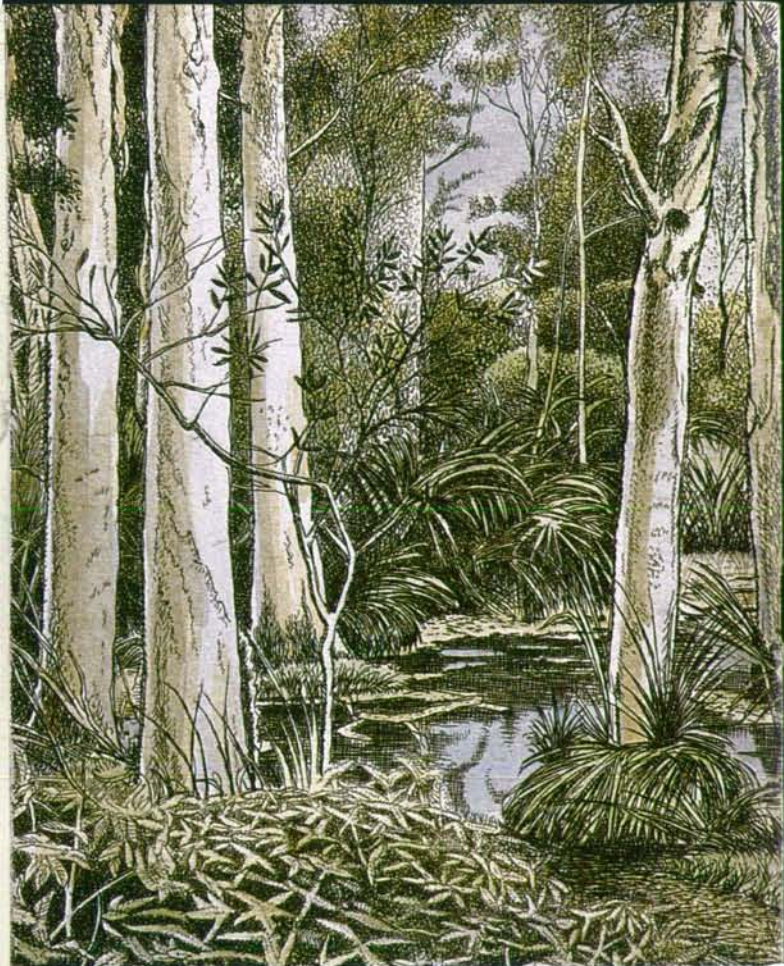
### Filming & Photography

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. Contact the BUS and FERRY INFO LINE: 131 500

Car – Main Gates to Centennial Park open from 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.



Cover: Austin Platt *Untitled [Hamilton Memorial Gate]* (1978). Etching.

Back cover: Austin Platt *Lachlan Swamp, Centennial Park* (1983). Hand-coloured etching.

  
CENTENNIAL parklands

Locked Bag 15  
PADDINGTON NSW 2021  
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fax (02) 9332 2148  
www.cp.nsw.gov.au