

TIMELINE

The following timeline chronologically outlines the key dates in the pre-history and history of Centennial Parklands.

DATE	EVENT
286-248 million years ago	Permian period – Sydney region was a broad swampy river basin, covered with lush plant life.
230 million years ago	Early Triassic period – Sediment of sand, silt and clay eroded from inland mountains fills Sydney Basin. Permian swamps become coal layers. Sand becomes sandstone, the silts and clays became mudstone and shale.
190 million years ago	Late Triassic period –Gondwanan supercontinent begins to break apart. Small volcanic eruptions in Sydney Basin.
213-144 million years ago	Jurassic period – Sandstone formations of Sydney Harbour raised to present heights. Volcanic vents formed (including North Head and Nielsen Park). Conifers (eg hoop pines and wollemi pines), cycads and ferns dominant in Sydney region.
146-65 million years ago	Cretaceous period – dominant fauna of eastern Australia include small-medium sized dinosaurs, primitive egg-laying mammals, turtles, marine reptiles and invertebrates. Flowering plants evolved. Period ended with sudden cooling event which precipitated the extinction of dinosaurs and a change to modern types of flora and fauna.
40 million years ago	Early Tertiary period – final separation of Australia from Antarctica.
55-2.4 million years ago	Tertiary period – Crust pressures lifted Blue Mountains and lower Cumberland Plain. Rivers cut gorges through sandstone plateaux near the coast. Drier, cooler climate. Increasing dominance of eucalypts, Proteaceae family (eg banksias) and grasses in area. Dominance of mammals especially the kangaroo, evolution of megafauna, fish, frogs, snakes, birds, bats and platypus.
1.8 million years ago	Quaternary period – Dune sands blown inland from coast into Eastern Suburbs. Colder and warmer periods alternated.
40,000 years ago	Humans were living in the Sydney Basin and fire-stick farming was common.
20,000 years ago	Pleistocene period – Ice ages, sea level 120-140m below present level.
6,000 years ago	Holocene period - Sea level rose to fill Sydney Harbour, Port Hacking, Pittwater and Broken Bay. Cold, dry windy climate, severe bush fires, droughts and floods.
Pre-1788	Part of the clan territories of the Gadi people (Gadigal) – a Gadi cultural landscape
1788	Arrival of First Fleet under Governor Arthur Philip - NSW proclaimed
1789	Gadigal and other Sydney clans decimated by smallpox (<i>gal gala</i>) epidemic. Bennelong and Gadi Colebee kidnapped to be interpreters. Group of convicts from the Brickfields ambushed by Aboriginal warriors on their way to Botany Bay to avenge the killing of convict Cooper Handley.
1790	Governor Phillip's gamekeeper, McEntire, speared; Governor Phillip speared and injured at Manly, possibly as payback for Bennelong's kidnapping.
1791	Three members of the Gadigal clan were claimed to be the only known survivors of the smallpox epidemic

from this area.

- 1810** Governor Lachlan Macquarie took office as Governor of NSW
- 1811** Sydney Common declared by Governor Macquarie (1000 acres)
- 1815** 7 July: General order that “a RECONCILIATION will take place with the Natives”, proclaimed by Governor Macquarie
- 1816** Sydney Botanic Garden established; Charles Fraser, Overseer of Botanic Gardens until 1831
- 1820** Lachlan Water Reserve proclaimed as the water supply for Sydney.
- 1822** Governor Macquarie term of office ended. Succeeded by Governor Brisbane.
- 1824** 29 February: Bungaree, Bidgee and Cogy, three Aboriginal men appointed by Governor Macquarie as ‘chiefs’ invited members of a French expedition to a ritual punishment concerned with the death of Bennelong’s son, Dicky, between the Brickfields and Botany Bay, near today’s Parklands.
- 1825** General enquiry into use of Lachlan Swamps as Sydney’s water supply
- 1827** Work commenced on construction of Lachlan Water Tunnel (known as Busby’s Bore) using convict labour. The area within the Parklands was known as the Tunnel Reserve.
- 1829** Gordon’s Mill occupies a 2 acre site within the Sydney Common (mill and house constructed c1831)
- 1831** J McLean succeeded Charles Fraser as Overseer of Botanic Gardens
- 1836** Sydney’s population: 19,729
- 1837** Completion of Busby’s Bore and the establishment of the Lachlan Swamps Water Reserve (until 1886).
- 1838** Severe drought decreases use of Busby’s Bore
- 1840’s** Many Aboriginal people moved to La Perouse when evicted from the Circular Quay boatsheds. An Aboriginal mission was established there.
- 1840** Ranger’s house and two enclosed gardens built in Frog Hollow.
Hut and garden constructed near Busby’s Bore.
A Cemetery proposal laid out and abandoned due to public concern.
- 1842** Sydney Council takes control of Lachlan Swamps water supply
- 1846** Sydney’s population: 38,358
- 1849** Sydney Common boundaries redefined and gazetted (comprising 1000 acres)
- 1850** First conviction for environmental waste dumping at the head of Lachlan Swamps
Creation of Dowling Street(South Dowling Street), along western boundary of the Sydney Common

- 1847** Design proposal submitted for Lachlan Swamps to become part of the Point Piper Estate.
- Tollhouse erected on area now known as Tay Reserve.
- 1848** Charles Moore Director of the Botanical Gardens Sydney (and later administered Centennial Park) until 1896
- Military Barracks (Victoria Barracks) completed and used by military. Minor roads created around the Barracks from South Head Road (Oxford Street) to the Water Reserve, including bush tracks for illegal timber getting and grazing
- 1851** Duel at Lachlan Swamps (September) between Stuart Donaldson and Sir Thomas Mitchell (1st NSW Premier)
- 1854** Public Parks Act and Municipalities Act introduced
- 1856** NSW First Government
- 1860** Construction of Toll House at base of Mount Rennie
- 1860s** Mr Billy Timbery ("King Billy") operated a toll gate. Believed to be the first Indigenous person officially employed in the Centennial Parklands area.
- 1861** Sydney Common re-dedicated (excluding incursions) as 490 acres
- Section of Busby's Bore collapses near Paddington (Victoria) Barracks
- Pre 1861 - Botany Road (later Randwick Road) - approximates the current line of Anzac Parade and Alison Road
- 1864** Paddington Reservoir (corner of Oatley Road and South Head Road) operating pumping water from the Botany Pumping Station via Crown Street Reservoir. Operating until 1899 and replaced by Centennial Park Reservoir and No 1 Reservoir.
- 1866** Declaration of Moore Park. Sydney Council dedicates 378 acres of Sydney Common as Moore Park (named after Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney)
- 1866-67** Water storage dams constructed in Lachlan Reserve to relieve flooding
- 1867** Moore Park Road laid out as an extension of Fitzroy St.
- 29 allotments on Sydney Common approved for sale between Elizabeth St & South Head Rd (now Oxford St)
- 1872** Lachlan embankment constructed, dams constructed (destroyed 1873)
- 1873** Dams destroyed by flooding
- 1874** Seven new dams constructed in Lachlan Reserve
- First known polo game to be played in Australia was played at Moore Park
- 1878** Valve House used as shelter pavilion for tennis players
- 1879** Woollahra Reservoir constructed
- Land granted for Zoological Society of NSW Gardens in Moore Park at Junction of Cleveland St & Randwick Rd
- Cleveland Street extended through Moore Park to connect with Randwick Road (Anzac Parade).

- 1880** Zoological Society Gardens opened in Moore Park and continued to operate until 1916 when the zoo moved to Taronga Park.
- Land for Public Purposes Acquisition Act.
- Tramway route from Moore Park to Randwick.
- 1881** Circular Quay boatsheds finally closed, and Aborigines who had camped there since early days of colony dispersed
- 1882** Agricultural Show Ground opened in Moore Park and expanded in 1886 into part of Rifle Range.
- 1884** Crown Land Act; Public Parks Act
- 1885** Governor Carrington took office
- La Perouse Aboriginal mission became government Aboriginal reserve
- 1886** Lachlan Swamps Water Reserve ceased
- 1887** NSW Premier Parkes took office (5th term)
- Centennial Park and Queens Park created by the *Centenary Celebrations Act 1887*
- Colonial Secretaries Office administers Centennial Park
- James Jones appointed as Head Gardener, Overseer of Centennial Park until 1889
- Busby's Bore disconnected in July
- Sir Henry Parkes' State House proposal.
- Construction of perimeter of fence around Centennial Park commenced; roads laid out: Lang, Cook, Robertson and Martin Roads and Mitchell Street together with Darval, Badham (now Dibbs St) and Oxley Streets (now extended Martin Road) laid out. Grand Drive extended into Moore Park.
- Charles Moore takes charge of the Lachlan Reserve
- Grand Drive constructed - 4km road and 3.6km walking path.
- 1888** Public Works Act.
- CP: officially opened 26th January
- CP: administered by Chief Ministers Office
- CP: Dams shaped
- CP: Paddington Gates & Woollahra Gates constructed
- CP: State House proposal abandoned due to political & cost considerations;
- MP: Lake Kippax named and periphery plantings.
- 1889** CP: initial plantings
- CP: 11 statutes and two vases installed;

CP: regulations implemented.

CP: James Jones dismissed as Head Gardener.

Arbor Day established

Sydney's population 124,000

1890 CP: Two sandstone columns installed (from the Australian Museum)

CP: Various Military Reviews held in the park.

MP: Cleveland Street Tramway extension and additional turning loops in Moore Park-Cricket-Sports Ground Loop.

Model Yachts were sailed in the Ponds of Centennial Park

Centennial Park Model Yacht Club was established.

c1890 MP: Randwick Road Toll House ceased operation - tolls ceased around this time. Demolished circa 1909 (now Tay Reserve)

Driver Avenue laid out following closure of Rifle Range to connect Lang and Moore Park Roads, (named after Richard Driver - solicitor to the City of Sydney Council who later secured the Military Cricket Ground for the NSW Cricket Association)

1891 Governor Carrington ends office

CP – Superintendent's Residence constructed near Paddington Gates

Cricket permitted in certain parts of Centennial Park and Moore Park and was later played in Queens Park due to growing demand.

1892 CP: Kiosk constructed; perimeter fence construction begun.

CP: First organised football & cricket matches held in the park.

CP: Park establishment funds dried up

1893 CP: "We Won" sculpture by Tommaso Sani installed

1894 CP: Drinking fountains installed in the park.

Picnics officially allowed in the Parklands

1895 QP: Australian Golf Club established in Queens Park as an 11-hole Golf course

1896 CP: Charles Moore's period as Director of RBG ends. Succeeded by Joseph Henry Maiden who administers Centennial Park until 1924

CP: Broad leaved paper barks (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) planted

1897 CP: Marble statue of Sir Henry Parkes installed

CP: Grand Drive trees replaced

CP: Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations held in the park

Public Trusts Act

- 1898** CP: Construction of water reservoir (Reservoir No.1) completed. In service 1899.
- CP: Tennis courts constructed on top of Reservoir No.1.
- CP: Vernon Pavilion (designed by NSW Government Architect, Walter Vernon) and Vent House completed
- 1899** CP: Rangers house at Martin Road constructed
- CP: Queens Park Golf Course moved to Botany
- 1900** CP: Ceremonial Swearing-in Pavilion and Bandstand constructed in park
- CP: A bandstand was constructed and regular concerts were held there from 1901 until the 1930's.
- CP: Cyclists' Avenue opened to the Public.
- 1900s: Fly cast fishing competitions and activities in the ponds.
- 1901** CP: Federation ceremony conducted in Snake Valley (Federation Valley), 1st January and attracted a crowd of more than 60,000; Aborigines excluded
- MP: Council Incinerator known as the "Perfectus" Refuse Destructor and Disinfector opened.
- CP: Crowds gathered for the mourning of the death of Queen Victoria.
- Bubonic plague in Sydney
- 1904** CP: Centenary Park Sale Act; Land sales of 41 hectares to finance park construction
- 1905** CP: Construction of housing estate begins along Lang and Martin Roads.
- First use of motor vehicles in the park
- 1906** ES Marks athletics field (first known as the Sydney Athletics Field) constructed.
- 1908** CP: Administration taken over by Department of Agriculture
- CP: Kiosk refurbished & made into a cyclists' pavilion
- CP: Dickens Drive widened
- CP: Phoenix canariensis palms planted along Parkes and Dickens Drives
- MP: Tram Depot established
- CP: Celebrations as Australian troops participate in review to celebrate the "Great White American Fleet" visit
- 1909** Randwick Road Toll House demolished (site of the tollhouse known as Tay Reserve).
- 1910** CP: Rose Garden laid out.
- CP: Gathering for the mourning of the death of King Edward VII (20th May) in park.
- 1912** CP: Formal flower gardens laid out in Centennial Park.

Public Parks Act

- 1913** A nine-hole golf course on the portion of Moore Park called the Municipal Golf Links was opened.
- 1914** WWI declared. Parklands used by troops for parade drill. Against government policy, hundreds of Aborigines enlist in AIF
- CP: toilet amenities constructed
- CP: Park closed at night to vehicles
- 1915** CP: Parks emphasis on maintenance rather than change
- 1916** Moore Park Zoo ceased to exist (moved to Taronga Park)
- 1917** MP: Randwick Road widened and renamed Anzac Parade, includes commemorative obelisk; Moore Park gate posts relocated to align with widened road
- CP: Tennis on reservoirs ceased
- 1918** CP: Thanksgiving Service held for the end of WWI
- CP: Much vegetation killed or badly damaged due to a very dry spell that continued until early 1920s
- 1919** CP: End of WWI peace celebrations held in the park
- CP: Park was declared a sanctuary for birds & animals
- MP: Former zoo site dedicated for Sydney Girls High School
- 1920** CP: Canon from Crimean War installed in the park.
- CP: First Arbor Day tree plantings in the park.
- The Moore Park Golf Club formed.
- Organised cricket revived after being disrupted during World War I.
- 1921** MP: Sydney Girls' High School opened.
- CP: Sheep agisted to the park due to severe drought.
- MP: Two turf wickets established by the City & Suburban Cricket Association & privately maintained (laid out on the former polo grounds in Moore Park).
- CP: Centennial Park Cricket Association comprising over thirty clubs & Metropolitan Junior Rugby Union using park.
- 1922** Proposal to extend York Road through Queens Park to Victoria Street
- An additional 9 holes were added to the Municipal Golf Links on the southern side of Dacey Avenue.
- 1924** MP: Moore Park Golf Course opened, additions made to the former "toll house" to adapt to its new use.
- CP: Joseph Henry Maiden ended office
- Main Roads Act

- 1925** CP: Agreement between Premier TR Bevin, Department of Agriculture, Sydney Boys High School & Sydney Old Boys Union (OBU) to permissive occupancy of 19 acres of Centennial Parklands for playing fields. McKay Oval constructed.
- CP: Joseph Maiden died (16 November). Annual reports ceased to be published. Reservoir No 2 constructed
- Moore Park Model Yacht Club was established and sailed boats
- 1926** Introduction of the 44 hour week
- Centennial Park Model Yacht Club ceased sailing their boats due to silt in the Pond.
- 1927** Vent House formerly used as tennis pavilion removed from Reservoir No 1
- 1928** MP: Sydney Boys' High School opened
- CP: Gates opposite Cleveland Street removed; Men's underground toilets demolished
- 1929** CP: Relief work fund provided for remedial works throughout the park.
- CP: York Road extended through Queens Park to join Victoria Street.
- CP: Proposal by private company to use 100 acres of CP for trade exhibition rejected.
- 1930** Eastern Suburbs Hospital Bill; Land grant to Eastern Suburbs Hospital
- CP: Fencing & Brolga Gate installed at Bird Sanctuary.
- Parks and Playground movement established in Sydney.
- 1931** CP: The Old Boys Union of Sydney Boys' High School arrange construction of tennis courts for its sister school, Sydney Girls' High. (Now Parklands Sports Centre).
- 1932** CP: Fairland Pavilion constructed for Sydney Boys High School
- Dam removed from Queens Park.
- CP: Model Flying Club use park.
- 1933** MP: Proposal by Sydney Municipal Council for additional refuse destructor, designed by Walter Burley Griffin, rejected by Metropolitan Land Board following strong community opposition.
- 1935** Eastern Suburbs Hospital constructed on York Road
- 1936** Buildings at ES Marks Athletics Field were established.
- 1937** Bandstand no longer in use.
- 1938** CP: Agreement between Christian Brothers College, Waverley and state government to use Queens Park for sports.
- Lighting proposal (later rejected)
- CP: Brolga Gate and Bird Sanctuary completed
- CP: Naval and Military Review attended by 150,000 for Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations (January 31)

- CP: Empire Day cycle race held in the park
- MP: Dacey Avenue replaced a former informal road
- 1940** CP: Part of park occupied by the military for two years
- 1942** CP: Military ends partial occupation of the park
- 1944** MP: Lawn Bowling Club established next to former toll house, and operated until 1998. Site operated as Tennis courts until April 2001.
- 1946** CP: Park Kiosk destroyed by fire
- 1947** CP: Air raid shelters removed from the park
- 1950** CP: Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted first outdoor performance in the park.
- CP: SMH sports stadium proposal (debate continues for years)
- 1951** CP: Jubilee of Federation celebrations attended by 2,000- 3,000 people
- 1952** CP: Robertson Road Gates and the Lang Road Gates were built.
- 1954** CP: State Cabinet separate Queens Park from Centennial Park and place it under trust.
- CP and MP: Empire Games athletics events held in CP & at ES Marks
- 1957** CP: Proposal to develop sports area in Queens Park
- 1960** CP: Rudder & Rudder proposal for sports stadium (later rejected).
- CP: Government proposal to give 30 acres of the south west of the park to Randwick Council for a golf course.
- CP: Sydney's Lord Mayor, Alderman HF Jenson proposal for a rustic fairyland comprising lake canoeing, restaurant and open air theatre, rejected.
- QP: A playground was provided in Queens Park.
- 1961** Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club was established.
- 1963** CP: Premier Heffron announces his decision to allow development of southern part of park (decision rescinded in 1964).
- CP: Administration attacked over issues of maintenance and use
- 1964** CP: Depot buildings replaced
- 1965** CP: Royal Agricultural Show use Parklands for parking at show time.
- CP: Renovation of the horse track
- 1966** CP: First major tree planting since 1930.
- CP: Stables for Rangers horses
- 1967** CP: Pine trees planted near Parade Grounds by school children for Arbor Day

Referendum: 90% majority for constitutional change to count Aborigines in census and allowing Federal Parliament to pass laws about Aborigines.

- 1969** CP: Spring Festival attracts 60,000 crowd.
- 1970** CP: Original Sir Henry Parkes statue destroyed; other statues removed / stored
- 1972** CP and MP: The 1988 Olympic Organising committee proposed a 40ha sporting complex in Moore Park, main stadium to be located in Centennial Parks South West area. As part of the "Save the Parks" campaign, Patrick White, Harry M Miller, Professor Neil Runcie are joined by 3,500 protestors against proposed sports complex development. Jack Mundy's BLF green bans.
- 1975** OTC cables runs through CP
- 1976** CP: Centennial Park listed as Landscape Conservation Area with National Trust Australia (NSW)
- 1978** CP: Listed on the Register of the National Estate (March 21).
CP: Grand Drive "One Way" system reversed
- 1979** CP: Centennial Park and RBG came under the administration of the Premiers Department (31st March)
- 1980** CP: Independent Board of Advice appointed to prepare report on developing a Plan of Management for Centennial Park (July 1st)
CP: Administration handed over to the Premier's Department, formally severing ties with the RBG.
Installation of additional barbecues for picnickers throughout the 1980s
- 1982** John Mortimer, appointed first Director of Centennial Park (4th January)
- 1983** Centennial Park Trust Act (2nd November) (later amended to include Moore Park)
- 1984** Centennial Park Trust appointed to administer Centennial Park and Queens Park
- Mid 1980s** CP: Ponds overflow
- 1986** Administration handed to the Department of Environment and Planning
- 1987** Moore Park Supa Centa constructed and opened
New restaurant/café built on the corner of Parkes Drive and Grand Drive on the site of the former kiosk / cyclists' pavilion.
- 1988** Bicentenary celebrations - Federation Pavilion opened as a Bicentenary monument. Trust placed under the Department of Environment and Planning (26th August)
Large Aboriginal protest with representatives from across Australia centred on Sydney. Many camped at La Perouse.
"Centennial Park – a History" (Paul Ashton and Kate Blackmore) published.
- 1990** Robin Grimwade, Director of Centennial Park, Moore Park & Queens Park until 1999
Trust renamed as Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust to include the administration of Moore Park (previously managed by South Sydney City Council).
- 1992** CP: Reservoir No. 1 drained for cleaning and opened for viewing to the public

Prime Minister Keating's Redfern Park speech to launch United Nations Year of Indigenous People acknowledges past injustices due to government policy

- 1993** Federal Parliament passes Native Title Act
- 1993-94** Moriah College Queens Park campus constructed
- 1995** First Plan of Management produced for Centennial Parklands
- 1996** CP: New Administration Building completed
- CP: New Sir Henry Parkes statue unveiled by Premier of NSW, Bob Carr
- Friends Group launched
- Centennial Parklands first used to describe collective CPMPT landholdings. Land Survey undertaken
- 1997** Opening of the Wetlands Interpretative Maze at the Duck Pond.
- Concert for Life fundraising event held and attracted approximately 80,000 people.
- CP: Stage 1 of Ponds Restoration Program: Model Yacht Pond and Fly Casting Pond works
- 1997/1998** CP: Stage 1b of Ponds Restoration Program: Willow Pond and Fly Casting Pond viewing platforms and beach construction
- 1998** CP: Opening of Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail by NSW Minister for the Environment Pam Allen and La Perouse Elders.
- CP: Trust obtains collection of Austin Platt art works and etchings.
- RAS Showground site vested in CP&MPT. RAS Show moves to Homebush. York Road remnant site (Lot 23 portion) vested in CP&MPT.
- Centennial Square established next to Flycasting Pond as a marquee site.
- MP: Refurbishment & opening of the Equestrian Centre.
- Hermés International Equestrian Show Jumping Event.
- First National Sorry Day (May 26) – Australian Reconciliation Movement hosted Sydney's official Sorry Day events in Centennial Parklands in 1998, 1999.
- 1998-99** MP: South Dowling Street widened for the Eastern Distributor.
- CP: Stage 2 of Ponds Restoration Program: Willow Pond, One More Shot Pond, Musgrave Pond works
- 1999** Peter Duncan took office as Director of Centennial Parklands
- 1999/2000** CP: Stage 3 of Ponds Restoration Program: Duck Pond works
- 2000** MP: Moore Park West capital works makeover commenced.
- Centennial Parklands listed on NSW State Heritage Register
- Restoration of Federation Pavilion and Federation Valley
- Parklands used as Olympics and Paralympics venue – Marathon, Road Cycling events represented by the

“thin blue line”

CP: *Sea of Hands* Reconciliation event marked by installation at Paddington Gates

2001 CP: Centenary of Federation celebrations

MP: Installation of Federation Way (reinstatement of Grand Drive), Federation Gate and Federation Place as part of the Centenary of Federations celebrations

CP: Superintendent's Residence refurbished and opened for public exhibitions

CP: Opening of Hand Upon Hand Sculpture and Avenue of Nations (NZ Kauri Pines on Parkes Drive)

2002 CP: Kensington Pond culvert collapsed following heavy rains in February. Severe drought from March 2002 until May 2003. Ponds very low.

Whole of Centennial Parklands listed on Register of the National Estate

CP: Stages 5 & 6 (including deferred Stage 4) of Ponds Restoration Program commenced: Randwick Pond, Busby's Pond works

2003 Heaviest rain in 4 decades. Ponds overflow.

Rehabilitation of remnant ESBS commenced.