

VOLUME 33 • SUMMER 2005 - 2006

# parklands

THE MAGAZINE OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



20 years on, tree  
students still cutting

Flow chart - water in  
the Parklands

Foundation funding  
goes to ibis research

  
CENTENNIAL  
parklands  
*is living Sydney*

# Directions



The special focus of this issue of *Parklands* is water and its importance to the survival of our Parklands environment.

Centennial Parklands is a unique environment and is committed to environmentally sustainable water usage and has a number of watering and maintenance strategies in place to achieve this.

The Parklands acts as a detention basin for Eastern Suburbs stormwater and this water is utilised to irrigate a large number of sports fields.

Approximately 80% of the total surface area of Centennial Parklands is not irrigated, and the irrigation systems in use are constantly maintained.

Sustainable water usage initiatives also include new waterless urinals, low flush toilets and touch-point fittings that limit water use for hand washing.

This summer I would like to invite you to experience a terrific line-up of summer entertainment in Centennial Parklands through music and film, including Jamiroquai, Good Vibrations, Moonlight Cinema and much more, so watch our website at [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au) for more details.

Like many other city parklands around the world Centennial Parklands hosts major events and places the needs of the Parklands, native habitat, neighbours and the local community at the forefront of planning.

In addition, I want to reassure our community that each event is carefully managed and has an individual sound and environmental management plan that adheres to the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency.

I hope you take the opportunity to join us and enjoy our summer entertainment line-up.

For more information on individual events please visit our website or email [info@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@cp.nsw.gov.au)

I wish you all a healthy, happy and hydrated summer.



**Steve Corbett**

Director and Chief Executive  
Centennial Parklands



# Parkbench

## Trackless train a success for Car Free Day

On the last Car Free Day Centennial Parklands trialled two special trackless trains to assist people to get around the Park. The trains took alternate routes around Grand Drive and ran from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm, at a cost of \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. The trains were considered a great success and will run again at the next Car Free Day. It's just another reason to leave your car at home.

## First two sections of Grand Drive complete

The first two sections of the Grand Drive footpath upgrade have now been completed and Project Manager, Marianna Preston, says the response from the public has been enthusiastic. "People can see the quality of the upgrades and have been very tolerant of the detours that have been put in place." The third section, from Robertson Road Gates to the Centennial Parklands Café, commenced in mid October and is due to be completed by the end of November. Works will then commence on the fourth section that will be completed over summer. There are a total of six sections and it is anticipated that the upgrade will be completed by the end of March 2006.



The new section of Grand Drive

## Be alert: date change for next Car Free Day

The summer Car Free Day, normally held on the last Sunday of the season, will be held on Sunday, 5 March. Accessible entry for Park users and booked restaurant patrons is via Jervis Ave Gates (off Lang Road) from 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. So, don't forget to walk, cycle or catch public transport and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of a car free Centennial Park.

## Parks Week a success



Pram-a-thon at Centennial Parklands was part of the highly successful Parks Week program

The first-ever Parks Week, held from 9-16 October, saw thousands of people around NSW participating in a diverse program of events presented by *Healthy Parks Healthy People*, promoting the health benefits of spending time in parks.

The week kicked off with an information and activities marquee in Centennial Parklands on Sunday, 9 October, as part of the Good Food

Month Spring Picnic, where about 8,000 people had the opportunity to find out about Parks Week events. Other highlights included Centennial Park's first Pram-a-thon, simultaneous events in 10 NSW National Parks and an exhibition in the Royal Botanic Gardens recreating the secret grove of the Wollemi Pine. Parks Week was embraced by the public and it is expected that it will become an annual event.

## New Variable Message Signs target speeding



VMS in action

Earlier this year, Centennial Parklands acquired two Variable Message Signs (VMS) as a high-visibility quick-response medium to communicate with park users. Ranger Brian Page says the primary objective of the VMS is to increase visitor safety. "We use them to target speeding, inform users of special events, road works or road closures," he said. The VMS also has a radar unit that gives motorists their travelling speed and encourages them to slow down.

## Making it easier to find your way

The first stage of the new signage project will be rolled out across the Parklands over a six-month period commencing in December 2005. The project will embrace directional signage, place names, street names and information boards including maps. The new look for signage in the Parklands will be robust, contemporary and fully accessible. The signs will significantly improve way-finding, information distribution and place identification within the Parklands while minimising signage clutter.

# Contents

Parkbench	3
Research reveals changing user patterns	4
Plan of Management ready to go	4
20 years on, tree students still cutting	5
New tree planting across the Parklands	5
Flow chart: water in the Parklands	6
Twitter's Corner – Rufous Night-Heron	8
A Walk in the Park with Malcolm Turnbull	8
Tree of the Season – <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	9
Recipe – Smoked Salmon Tart	9
Healthy Parks Healthy People	10
Foundation and Friends	11
User's Guide	12



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Trustees: Professor John Niland AC (Chairman)  
Annabelle Bennett AO  
David Leckie  
Michael Marx AM  
Yvette Pietsch  
John Walker  
Sarah Whyte  
Margaret Varady AO

Editor: Rachel Maiden  
[rachel.maiden@cp.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rachel.maiden@cp.nsw.gov.au)

Contributors: Trevor Waller, Matt Hayden  
Photography: Ian Lever, Chris Gleisner, Dianne Galea and Veronique Peril  
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## Research reveals changing user patterns

Visitor research plays a vital role in helping Centennial Parklands manage its land and assets and has been undertaken in various forms since 1985. The Parklands recently completed its major triennial visitor research program and the findings reveal a change in user patterns that will help define future management practices. The research aims to evaluate perceptions of management initiatives and monitor the current service performance of businesses and recreational facilities in the Parklands providing comparisons to previous surveys. It also provides visitor number estimates across the Parklands.

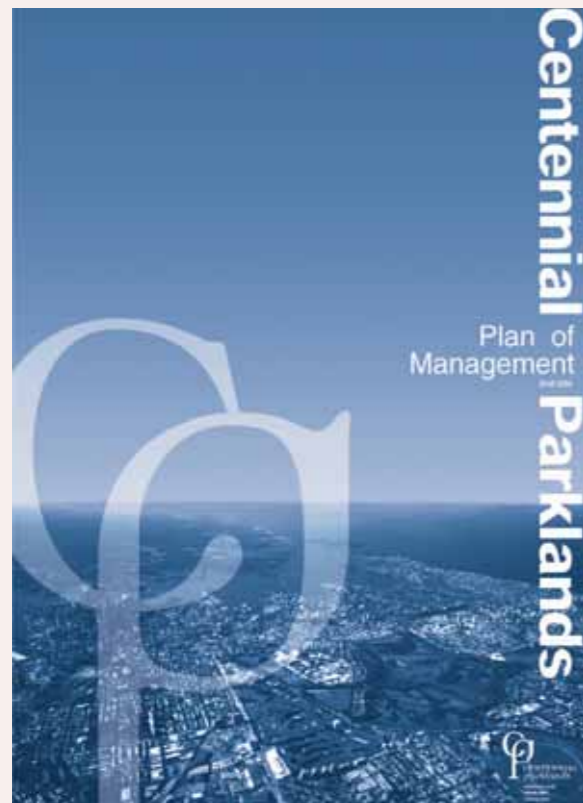
The program methodology involves on-site surveys, telephone surveys and focus groups. The on-site surveys have just been completed and some interesting data has emerged:

- Visitors are more likely to come to the Parklands in larger groups, with 52% of visitors in 2005 being in groups of three or more, compared with 39% in 2002 and 34% in 1998.
- 70% of visitors travel to the Parklands by car and of these respondents over a third said they could not be discouraged from doing so!
- The majority of visitors spend less than two hours in the Parklands. A relatively high proportion of visitors stay for more than two hours, but this proportion is down compared with the previous survey.
- 50% of users rate the Parklands facilities as either good or excellent and a number of ratings have improved since 2002, including ratings for toilets, signs, drinking bubblers and picnic tables.

- 65% of visitors in 2005 rated the Parklands ability to provide quality visitor information as excellent or good, compared to 30% in 2002.

When asked what improvements could be made to the Parklands, the majority said they could not think of anything. This is encouraging, but Centennial Parklands is very aware that continuous improvement must be part of our landscape. We will continue to look at ways to provide the best Parklands experience in Sydney.

## Plan of Management ready to go



Plan of Management

After an extensive consultation process, the Centennial Parklands Plan of Management is now ready to be put forward for Ministerial approval.

The Draft Plan was exhibited from 29 August to 28 September. More than 20 submissions were received and considered carefully in the process of finalising the document. A summary of responses to issues raised in this consultation is now available online at [www.cpplanofmanagement.com.au](http://www.cpplanofmanagement.com.au) or by phoning Centennial Parklands on (02) 9339 6699.

Centennial Parklands would like to thank everyone who made a submission. Director and Chief Executive, Steve Corbett said "Many of the submissions contained detailed and constructive feedback, which we greatly appreciated. Now it is time to move on to the next phase - having the Plan gazetted and using it effectively to help manage the Parklands."

Once gazetted, the Plan of Management will be made available online and at libraries. It provides overarching guidance for managing the Trust lands for the next 10 years and beyond. The Plan is a high level document and is an umbrella for other detailed strategies and site plans such as the Moore Park Master Plan, which will carry forward the fresh directions provided in the Plan of Management.

## 140 new trees planted across the Parklands

This summer, please check out at least a few of the 140 new trees planted across Centennial Parklands in our 2005 spring tree-planting program.

Mount Steel was a focus of activity, with an intensive landscaping program completed in October. The program involved the removal of six over-mature *Acacia salignas* and their replacement with 30 new trees and 100 shrubs.

The *Acacias* removed were native to Western Australia but considered an environmental weed in Sydney due to their prolific self-seeding. This species is short-lived lasting 10-15 years and

in an urban parkland setting often become an eyesore when they reach maturity due to the usual occurrence of deadwood within the structure of the tree.

The 30 trees planted are a mixture of more appropriate species including hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), and blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*).

This area will grow into an attractive landscape feature for people accessing the Parklands from the South Dowling Street footbridge.

Other highlights of the 2005 spring tree-planting program include the

installation of some 60 *Angophora costata*, otherwise known as the Sydney red gum or smooth barked apple. These trees were planted along the slopes of Queens Park near John Street.

*Angophoras* are native to the coastal areas of NSW and grow exceptionally well on shallow soils with a sandstone base as is found within this part of Queens Park. These trees will grow to a height of 20 metres.

Once they are established, park users will be treated to a spectacular show in spring with the majority of canopies covered in creamy white flowers.

In addition to these 140 trees planted during spring, another 350 trees were planted in July and August, bringing the total number of new trees up to almost 500.



Mount Steel before tree planting



Mount Steel after tree planting

## 20 years on, tree students still cutting

December 2005 marks the 20th year that student tree surgeons from Ryde TAFE have come to Centennial Parklands to complete the practical component of their Arboriculture Certificate.

Each semester about 30 students and their teachers descend on Centennial Park's Pine Grove areas to gain experience in 'dead wooding'. This simply means the removal of a tree's dead branches. John Douglas, Teacher of Arboriculture, says "These trees are perfect for students using chainsaws in trees for the first time."

The students are also taught a variety of safe techniques for climbing trees, various cutting and rigging techniques, knots, ground work and the use of chippers. John says that one of the most important learning experiences is the aerial rescue technique – how to assist someone that has been hurt in a tree.

"The work that the tree students do cuts both ways – no pun intended," John laughs. Centennial Parklands Senior Arborist Ted Hoare agrees. "Centennial Parklands definitely benefits from the work that the students do," Ted says. "We are providing a unique training ground for the students and, in return, these areas are kept highly maintained and in great condition."

On completion of the course, most students go on to gain higher qualifications that will allow them to develop their skills as an arborist. Students often go on to work for private contractors, local councils, and government organisations such as Taronga Zoo and, of course, Centennial Parklands.

There will be a reunion for all former students and teachers on Sunday, 4 December from 3.00 pm in the Pine Grove, Centennial Park.

# Flow chart: water in the Parklands

In a prolonged drought such as Sydney has been experiencing the subject of water lies uneasily on every mind, especially in summertime. At Centennial Parklands, water is our lifeblood. Our flora and fauna depend on it. Centennial Park contains three reservoirs, 12 ponds and seven open channels or rills. It is one of the most extensive wetlands in the Botany Basin. But the tranquil waters of our ornamental ponds disguise a complex natural and built hydrology that continues to evolve today, with important implications for a likely permanent water-scarce future.

## Water for Sydney

When the Tank Stream - Sydney's first water supply - became inadequate and polluted, Lachlan Swamps in Centennial Parklands was chosen as a new source of water for the early colony.

John Busby, a mineral surveyor, was appointed to design a system to convey

is a fine example of English rock mining techniques of the period and its relative intactness makes it a rare survivor of early nineteenth century urban Sydney.

Sydney's water supply was further supplemented in 1874 when seven new dams were constructed in the then Lachlan Water Reserve.

Soon after, however, the Nepean water supply system was completed and Lachlan Water Reserve was abandoned. Busbys Bore was disconnected in 1879.

No longer a primary water source for the city, Centennial Park was proclaimed the 'people's park' in 1888.

But the Parklands continued to be an important secondary water resource for Sydney. Woollahra Reservoir in the northeast corner of Sydney Common, now the corner of York Road and Oxford Street in Centennial Park, came into service in 1881. In 1894, a second reservoir within Centennial Park was approved (oddly called Reservoir

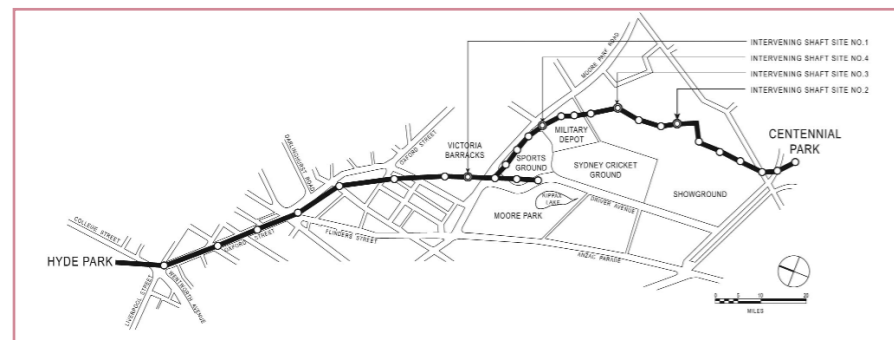
## Water for Ponds

After the declaration of Centennial Parklands in 1888, Director Charles Moore and staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens set about creating picturesque and exotic landscape elements. The seven dams in the former Lachlan Water Reserve, fed by natural aquifers, were incorporated into the park plan and deepened and reconfigured into ornamental ponds. Islands were formed to break up the waterforms and create safe habitats for wetlands birds.

## Stormwater flows

Centennial Park's ponds are intrinsically linked to each other and to the outside world. But most users and neighbours are probably not aware of this interrelationship. The catchment covers about 600 hectares of which the Parklands themselves make up about 45%. A further 45% is developed land and includes the suburbs of Bondi Junction, Waverley, Paddington and Randwick. Stormwater run-off from this catchment flows via drains and channels controlled by Sydney Water and local councils into Centennial Park's ponds.

Model Yacht Pond is the primary receptacle for water flowing from eastern suburbs stormwater drains (see Figure A). From there water flows via underwater channels into Fly Casting Pond which in turn feeds Willow Pond, Duck Pond, Randwick Pond and finally Kensington Ponds.



Route of Busbys Bore

this water to the town centre. He finally proposed an underground tunnel passing entirely through Crown Land (see diagram). Construction of Busbys Bore, Sydney's first piped water supply, commenced in 1827 using convict labour.

Shafts gave access to the tunnel to allow removal of excavated rock and ensure adequate air supply for the workers. Centennial Parklands today conducts regular tours in which the history of the Bore is explained and a surviving shaft, located in Fox Studios at Moore Park, may be viewed. The Bore

No. 1). And in 1927, a third was constructed between the Superintendents Residence and Reservoir No. 1 to help further meet growing local water demand.

Although now covered over by playing fields, Reservoir No. 1 and Woollahra Reservoir remain operational and are owned by Sydney Water. Reservoir No. 1 was drained and cleaned in 1992 and was briefly open for public viewing. Woollahra Reservoir was last drained in 2002 for an engineering inspection.

## Water for fishing

Fishing was a popular pursuit in the ponds at the beginning of the twentieth century. Flycasting Pond was so named due to its popularity with local fly fishermen. The natural water systems within the Parklands provided a habitat for fish, eels and other aquatic species and this resource was utilised by Indigenous communities. Fishing is now banned within the Parklands to conserve and protect its aquatic ecosystems.

Musgrave Pond is fed by another stormwater inlet that also feeds One More Shot Pond before flowing into Willow Pond to join the primary system outlined above ending in Kensington Ponds.

Busbys Pond is fed by two stormwater inlets, which in turn feeds Randwick Pond before flowing into Kensington Ponds.

Lily Pond is the only pond not fed by stormwater. Its source is a fresh water spring located in the remnant Lachlan Swamp, joining the larger system via Busbys Pond.

In heavy rainfall, water leaves the Park system from an overflow point in the Kensington Ponds - the recently upgraded Kensington culvert. From there water flows almost three kilometres via underground pipe and formed channel to the Botany Wetlands.

Regular water quality analysis is undertaken to monitor the health of the ponds. Since the restoration program, testing indicates that water quality has improved with no sign of toxic blue-green algae in any sample. However as a major stormwater retention basin, the ponds will always potentially be subject to environmental factors beyond the Parklands' control.

The ponds in the Parklands form the largest freshwater wetland system in inner-metropolitan Sydney. This priceless ecosystem provides a habitat for indigenous fauna and water birds, migratory waders, fish, turtles and frogs.

## Water conservation

Centennial Parklands is committed to environmentally sustainable water use. The Parklands uses almost 300 megalitres of water each year, of which

## Water for boating

According to Stephen Crewes, in his book Sydney's Model Racing Skiffs, the Centennial Park Model Yacht Club started in the 1890s, although there are early British Naval reports of model yachts being sailed here in the late 1870s. The early racing model yachts had about two foot (61cm) draughts. However as soil washed into the ponds and silting reduced water depth draughts decreased. The club eventually stopped sailing in 1926 and moved its activities to the then new Scarborough Park in Kogarah.

The Moore Park Model Yacht Club commenced in 1868 using Billy Goat Swamp, now Kippax Lake.

In tribute to this aspect of Parklands history, regular Model Yacht Workshops are now run on Kippax Lake, teaching children how to build and sail a simple model yacht.

Our reliance on bore water also fell by 4%, mainly due to conversion of the bus loop playing field in Moore Park from bore to pond water. The use of pond water has subsequently increased by 20%.

Other water savings initiatives can be seen in the five new visitor amenities buildings. Each building features waterless urinals, efficient flushing and timed flow taps. Sink and roof water is filtered and recycled to the pond irrigation system. These initiatives mean a combined total water saving of almost 1.8 megalitres of water per year. This is equivalent to about one Olympic sized swimming pool.

## Nothing works better than rain

Sydney has experienced two years of lower than average rainfall and is now entering a third year. It is easy to see why our ponds look so low. They are the primary source for Parkland's irrigation needs and yet they rely on stormwater to keep them full.

Interestingly, a production bore was commissioned at the Learners Cycleway in early 2004 to feed Little Kensington Pond from which we draw our main irrigation supply. Recently, Centennial Parklands ran the bore for eight hours, but the resulting 1.3 megalitres raised the pond level by a mere 60 millimetres. It proves nothing really works better than a good fall of rain.



Figure A: How water flows through Centennial Park

## Clean water

Today, a six-year Parklands Pond Restoration Program - aimed at minimising the impact of stormwater pollution, upgrading several of the ponds and improving water quality - is almost complete.

Gross Pollutant Traps were installed at stormwater entry points. Aquatic plantings have improved the habitat by filtering out dissolved pollutants such as phosphorus. European carp were removed and native Australian bass introduced. New islands and underwater berms were constructed to prevent areas becoming stagnant.

some 175 kilolitres is recycled. Only 25 megalitres, or 8.3%, is town water and this reliance continues to be reduced.

The Drought Management Plan promotes the use of pond water (recycled stormwater) for horticultural and sports field irrigation. The only areas remaining to be converted to pond water are the Rose and Column Gardens, Paddington Gates and Belvedere, and plans also exist to convert the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre.

Initiatives in 2004/5 decreased reliance on town water by more than 10%.

## Twitcher's Corner



### Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron

By Trevor Waller

In Centennial Parklands there is a shy and secretive bird that is mostly active at night. The Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron is a mainly nocturnal heron that roosts during the day. It is a stocky heron with a large head, short neck and thick, quite long yellow legs.

This bird's upper parts are a rich cinnamon-rufous and the underparts are white. The shoulders have delicate tints of cinnamon blending into the white of the belly. The head has a black crown and a black bill. During breeding there are two or three long white head plumes. They have large yellow eyes that help them find their food at night. During the day the bird's head is hunched down onto its shoulders in a daytime roost pose.

They feed mainly on fish, amphibians, reptiles, crustaceans, insects and other invertebrates. Their bills have finely serrated edges that help grip slippery, active prey. They feed by plunging their bills forward while wading, standing still or shuffling a foot ahead to disturb prey. Having long legs and a flexible neck helps them feed in water.

Rufous Night-Herons can be found roosting in the cover of tall vegetation and dense trees near wetlands, billabongs and estuarine environs such as mangroves and tidal channels. During breeding they nest in loose colonies in trees over water. The breeding season is from September to January. The nest is a loosely constructed, flat platform of sticks on a horizontal fork. They lay a clutch of between 2-5 pale blue-green eggs that are incubated for about 22 days.

We are fortunate to have a small colony of Night-Herons that roost in the Parklands. Please do not disturb these birds at any time as they are very shy and the slightest disturbance could have a great effect on these birds, including possibly abandonment of their nests.

**Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with over 10 years behind the binoculars. He is a member of various bird watching clubs in Sydney, including Birds Australia, and conducts the Parklands' Birdwatcher's Breakfasts each season (visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au) for details).**

## A Walk in the Park with Malcolm Turnbull

Malcolm Turnbull was elected as the Federal Member for Wentworth in 2004 and is well known for leading the republican case to the 1999 referendum. Living locally, Malcolm is married to former Lord Mayor of Sydney, Lucy Turnbull. They are regular park users and can often be seen walking their three dogs, Rusty, Jojo and Mellie in the Park.

### When did you start coming to the Parklands?

Centennial Park has always been part of my life. I fed the ducks there when I could barely walk. For years I jogged around the Park with my father and friends like Billy Bridges, George Daldry and Bruce Gyngell. I learned to ride a horse in the Park. We introduced our children to Centennial Park from the time they were babies and they have walked, picnicked, bicycled and jogged there too. All of us have played sport on the many cricket and rugby pitches. My father Bruce was in the park almost every day, if he wasn't jogging he was riding a horse.

### Favourite nook in the Parklands?

I have always liked the wilder area at the southern end, between Grand Drive and Alison Road. It has been cleaned up now which means it is busier. Years ago nobody went there and it was a good place to walk and think.

### Dogs or Horses?

Our dogs, Rusty, Jojo and Mellie, love Centennial Park. Mellie, the maltese terrier, loves to swim and it is very hard to keep her out of the ponds.

### Picnic or Restaurant?

Definitely picnic. Only last Sunday Skye Leckie (who lives near the Park) and Erin Flaherty organised dozens of our mutual friends for a softball competition at the Mission Fields. It was a great Centennial Park picnic: lots of children and dogs, sausages sizzling, some cold beer and wine and a not terribly competitive softball tournament.

### What worries you about the Parklands?

Sometimes I think the Park is in danger of being loved to death with so many thousands of visitors. But the rangers do a great job and the Park seems to stand up well to the stresses and strains of being Sydney's favourite picnic destination.



Malcolm, his daughter Daisy and their dogs, with the Pillemar family

## Tree of the Season

### Melaleuca quinquenervia

This summer have a close look at the *Melaleuca quinquenervia* or broad leaf paperbark. Growing to over 15 metres, this tree is a true drought survivor and produces spectacular tissue-like bark. Its leaves have five parallel veins, which give the tree its botanic name, *quinquenervia*.

Paperbarks occur naturally in swamps and love moist, sandy conditions, such as those in Centennial Parklands. Sir Joseph Maiden, Director Royal Botanic Gardens from 1896 to 1924, considered paperbarks to be "shapely, shading objects of sylvan beauty." He introduced paperbarks into Centennial Parklands, possibly his most visibly powerful planting contribution. The best examples of paperbarks in the Parklands can be found at:

- Paperbark Grove on Parkes Drive, between Grand Drive and Paddington Gates. Planted in 1899. Centennial Parklands is the only place in Australia where paperbarks have been planted as an avenue. The planting follows a natural watercourse and has matured to form a grand archway.
- Below Snake Bank, between Busbys Pond and the Mission fields. Planted in 1902 as a wind break in an informal four-row planting.



The impressive bark of the *Melaleuca* from the book 'Through the Gates', available from Centennial Parklands, only \$29.95

- Lily Pond. Mass planting dating back to 1896.
- Lachlan Swamp. Although only 30 years old, these paperbarks are just as big as those planted around Lily Pond as they were planted in ideal swampy conditions.
- Maidens Row behind Kensington Pond. Planted in 1999 as a tribute to Joseph Maiden.

## Recipe Smoked Salmon Tart

This recipe, courtesy of Centennial Parklands Restaurant, is delicious hot or cold – perfect for summer picnics in the Park served with a fresh side salad.

### Ingredients - shortcrust pastry

1 1/2 cups (185g) plain flour  
100g chilled butter diced  
2-4 tablespoons chilled water

### Ingredients - filling

125ml full cream milk  
125ml pure cream  
3 whole eggs  
100g smoked salmon  
75g ricotta cheese  
50g grated parmesan  
1 leek (well washed)  
Salt and Pepper  
Nutmeg  
Butter

### To make pastry

1. Sift flour into large bowl. Using your fingers, rub butter into flour until mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
2. Make a well in the middle and add water. Mix with a flat-bladed knife, using a cutting action, until a dough forms.



Dough should be sticky and hold together - if not, add more water.

3. Place dough onto baking paper or floured work surface.
4. Press, don't knead, the dough into a ball using a light action.
5. Press dough into a flat disk, wrap and refrigerate for 20-30 minutes.
6. Place dough in between two sheets of baking paper. Roll from the centre and rotate the dough, rather than rolling backwards and forwards.
7. Blind bake in a greased pie dish in a 180°C oven for 10-13 minutes. Remove from oven and rest pastry while preparing the filling.

### To make filling

1. Mix milk, cream and eggs in a bowl. Add salt, pepper and nutmeg. Set aside.
2. Thinly slice leek and sauté with butter.
3. Place leek in the bottom of the pastry case followed by ricotta, egg mixture and smoked salmon. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese.
4. Bake in a 180°C oven for 16 minutes.

**Centennial Parklands Restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch. So soak up the summer weather, enjoy the view and choose from an assortment of seasonal dishes.**

## Healthy Parks

### Water Quality



Children dip-netting in Centennial Park

The quality of pond water in Centennial Parklands is crucial to the survival of our aquatic organisms as well as for the health of water downstream from the local catchment area.

Rainwater enters the Park's pond system from gutters and drains in the surrounding catchment, incorporating Bondi Junction, Waverley and Randwick. Litter and other solid pollutants - polystyrene cups, plastic bottles, leaf and garden litter, dog waste, even tennis balls - accompany this water as it starts its journey to the ponds.

After flowing through the pond system in Centennial Park, the water is fed through a series of drains that empty into the Botany Wetlands adjacent to Botany Bay. More information on this remarkable, transforming journey can be found in our feature story on pages 6-7.

Gross Pollutant Traps, installed at key stormwater entry points at Musgrave and Model Yacht Ponds capture much of the solid pollutants before they flow into the ponds. Aquatic plants assist to absorb dissolved pollutants such as oil, detergents from car washing and fertilisers from gardens.

Regular water quality testing by staff and school groups monitors the health of our ponds. Results are recorded on Sydney Water's Streamwatch website. These tests measure temperature, pH, electrical conductivity and clarity. Regular surveys of aquatic invertebrates or water bugs help indicate the overall health of a pond as these creatures are susceptible to any changes in water conditions.

Fluctuations in the results from these tests are helpful management tools. They can, for example, help us to pre-empt conditions that encourage algal blooms, impact on the health of birds, fish, turtles or aquatic plants, or affect the use of water for irrigation.

Visitors in and around Centennial Parklands can help reduce stormwater pollution by:

- placing all litter, including dog waste, in the bins provided
- keeping gutters clear of leaves and other rubbish
- not pouring chemicals, paints, oils or other liquids into stormwater drains.

## Healthy People

### 10 ways to get fit this summer

Make the most of the warmer weather and longer days of summer to improve your fitness with a visit to Centennial Parklands.

- 1 Hire a bike and pedal your way around the 3.8 km cycle track in Centennial Park.
- 2 Pump it up at the outdoor gym at Queens Park.
- 3 Kick up some dust on the back of a horse in Centennial Park – a remarkable experience in the heart of the city.
- 4 Practice your golf swing at the newly refurbished driving range at Moore Park Golf.
- 5 Gather the whole family for a session of ice skating, bowling or skate boarding at the Entertainment Quarter.
- 6 Join a sports club. With cricket, softball, netball, touch football and Oztag to choose from, the opportunities to get fit, have fun and meet people are vast.
- 7 Dust off the rollerblades and skate a few laps around the shady, tree-lined avenue of Grand Drive in Centennial Park.
- 8 Burn-off the excesses of the festive season with some hill sprints up and down the slopes of Mt Steel at Moore Park.
- 9 Dance your heart out to the beats of Good Vibrations or the groove of Jamiroquai.
- 10 Rally some friends and hire a court at Parklands Sport Centre for a game of tennis.

Visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au) for details on sports clubs, cycle ways, horse, court and cycle hire. Don't forget to bring water and slip, slop, slap.

## National Co-ordination Group

**Healthy Parks Healthy People** *Healthy Parks Healthy People*, an initiative developed at state level to promote the mental and physical benefits of spending time in parks, has now formed a national group.

The *Healthy Parks Healthy People* National Co-ordination Group comprises New South Wales (members of the Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Group), Victoria (Parks Victoria), South Australia (Department for Environment and Heritage) and Western Australia (Department of Conservation and Land Management).

The national group will work collaboratively to promote *Healthy Parks Healthy People* by presenting satellite activities and promotions.

In NSW, *Healthy Parks Healthy People* will continue to present its ongoing program of activities which includes Parks Week (October), Art in the Park (July) and a collaboration with Seniors Week (April).

For more information visit [www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com](http://www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com)

## First Foundation-funded project

The Centennial Parklands Foundation has approved a grant of \$10,000 towards a University of Wollongong Masters Research Project: Australian White Ibis Movements and Control Methods in the Urban Environment. It is the first funding project undertaken by the Foundation since it became operational earlier this year.

The research into this widespread nuisance species will be conducted by John Martin, a part-time Biology Masters student at the University of Wollongong. John is also employed part-time by Centennial Parklands as an Environmental Officer and has been conducting ibis management and monitoring in the Parklands since 2002.

"The most exciting thing about this funding is that it will allow us to buy radio transmitters," he says. A total of 30 ibis will be radio tracked and the information will be used to investigate how far ibis travel to feeding grounds across Sydney. By identifying the foraging range of ibis, land managers can have better access to alternative management strategies. Ibis presently are managed in a localised way, but the research may indicate a more unified regional management approach is required."

The project will also identify whether ibis form resident populations and if so, what the make-up of these populations are - including calculating the average age and ratio of resident to migratory birds. John says "This is presently completely unknown. In Centennial Parklands we assume we have residential populations, but until we



John Martin with a young ibis

conduct proper observations we cannot know what the dynamics are of such a population."

The research will also look at the success of 'egg oil' in controlling reproduction. This is a relatively new technique that involves spraying canola oil on the bird's eggs, thwarting new hatchlings and potentially arresting the speed with which ibis produce a new clutch of eggs. The most common form of control at present is nest and egg destruction under a licence granted by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service. John points out, however, that after this occurs an ibis can produce a new clutch of eggs within a week!

The research project has obtained approvals from the relevant ethics committee as well as from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

The project is also being supported by funding from Waste Services NSW and Fairfield City Council. The results will directly benefit Centennial Parklands, but will also help educate and inform the wider community, including other parks and gardens involved in ibis management.

For more information on *Friends* and the Foundation visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au)

## New Executive Officer

Michel Zwecker has been appointed the first Executive Officer for the Centennial Parklands Foundation. Michel's primary focus will be on fundraising for the Foundation so that its key environmental and educational programs are delivered. He will also be working to raise community awareness and support for the Foundation.

Michel brings to the Parklands extensive experience in both fundraising and business-to-business marketing. He spent eight years fundraising for the international medical aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres, based in both Barcelona and Sydney.

Michel developed a love for Centennial Parklands as soon as he came to Sydney. "Parklands like this just don't exist in Barcelona," he said, "and my childhood memory of outdoor life back home was of dust and concrete. So I don't take a place like Centennial Parklands for granted."



Michel Zwecker

Maintaining this special environment is critical for all Sydneysiders, and the Foundation is the vehicle to ensure this happens."

He recognises that some great challenges lie ahead of him, including revitalising the *Friends* membership program and attracting significant funding for the Foundation from other sources. Michel says "a priority is to get people involved in the *Friends* and Foundation on a yearly basis, both actively and financially." Michel is a member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia and is a regular cyclist through the Parklands.

# Centennial Parklands User's Guide

## QUICK GUIDE

### First Aid and Emergency

24 hour Ranger service, 7 days.  
**0412 718 611**

### Parklands Office

8.30 am-5.00 pm Monday-Friday. Located behind Centennial Parklands Café. **(02) 9339 6699**  
Fax: (02) 9332 2148 email: info@cp.nsw.gov.au

### How to Get Here

BY BUS: 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.

BY CAR: Main gates to Centennial Park open sunrise to sunset. Car Free Days are held on the last Sunday in every season: February, May, August and November. A 30 km speed limit applies on all roads in Centennial Park.

### 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, environment and culture. **(02) 9339 6699**

### Community Consultative Committee

Meets approximately every six weeks. Committee members can be contacted via Centennial Parklands administration. **(02) 9339 6699**  
email: ccc@cp.nsw.gov.au web: www.cp.nsw.gov.au

### Park Information

Information, maps and brochures are available from the Parklands Office (behind the café) or the Visitor Centre, weekends 10.00 am-3.00 pm.

## FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

### 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, 8.30 am-2.30 pm.  
**(02) 9360 3355**

### Centennial Parklands Café

Specialising in light meals and snacks, the Café offers open-air eating in its award-winning forecourt. Open 7 days, 8.00 am-4.00 pm (Monday to Friday) and 8.00 am-4.30 pm (weekends). **(02) 9380 6922**

### Centennial Parklands Kiosk

Located next to Duck Pond, the Kiosk serves sandwiches, light meals, coffee, cold drinks and ice cream. Open weekends and public holidays, 8.00 am-sunset.

### Centennial Parklands Children's Centre

Day care centre for babies to pre-schoolers.  
**(02) 9663 1200**

### Centennial Parklands Sports Centre

Tennis, basketball and netball courts available for casual or regular use. **(02) 9662 7033** (for tennis). All other enquiries to **(02) 9339 6699**



### Moore Park Golf Course

Public 18-hole golf course, available to members and non-members, in the heart of the Eastern Suburbs. Includes Golf Pro Shop and one of Australia's largest driving ranges.  
**(02) 9663 3791**

## BOOK A SPACE FOR PLAYING OR ENTERTAINING

### Playing Fields

Playing fields in Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks are available for team sports, including cricket, soccer, hockey, rugby and touch-football. Also available is ES Marks Athletics Field featuring an international standard 400 metre running track, shot put, discus, javelin, long, high and triple jump facilities. Bookings: **(02) 9339 6699**

### 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. Perfect for weddings, launches, events. Bookings: **(02) 9339 6699**

### Centennial Parklands Restaurant

Available for weddings and function hire. Bookings: **(02) 9282 0500**

### Events

Submissions from the public are welcome for activities and events that support the Parklands' cultural policy. Enquiries: **(02) 9339 6699**

### Filming & Photography

Centennial Parklands offers a versatile range of locations for commercial filming and photography at competitive rates. Enquiries: **(02) 9339 6699**

## THINGS TO DO

### Cycling & Rollerblading

A 3.8 kilometre cycling and rollerblading track follows the perimeter of Grand Drive. A Learners Cycleway for children is also available (cycling only). Cyclists are not permitted to ride in groups of more than 16. Hire available from:

- Centennial Parklands Cycle Hire, in Centennial Park (bikes only): **0409 855 592**
- Centennial Park Cycles, Randwick (bikes & blades): **(02) 9398 5027**
- Woolys Wheels, Paddington (bikes only): **(02) 9380 6356**
- Total Skate, Woollahra (blades only): **(02) 9380 6356**

### Dog Walking

Under NSW law, dogs must be held on a leash in all public areas, unless otherwise designated, and no more than four dogs can be walked by one person. Dogs with responsible owners are welcome in Centennial Parklands and can be exercised off-leash in certain areas. To find out more about areas in Centennial Parklands where off-leash dog walking is permitted, please refer to our dog brochure. For copies please phone **(02) 9339 6699** or visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au

### Jogging & Walking

A 3.6 kilometre jogging track is located around Grand Drive. Self-guided walking trails are located at Lachlan Swamp and Duck Pond. Guided walks held regularly each season. Guided walks bookings: **(02) 9339 6699**

### Horse Riding

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

- Moore Park Stables: **(02) 9360 8747**
- Eastside Riding Academy: **(02) 9360 7521**
- Budapest Riding School: **0419 231 391**
- Centennial Stables: **(02) 9360 5650**
- Papillon Riding Stables: **(02) 8356 9866**

For stabling and other enquiries, please phone the Centre Manager: **(02) 9332 2809**

### Picnics & BBQs

The Parklands offer unlimited picnic spots, with views of ponds, fields and gardens. There are also eight free 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: **(02) 9339 6699**

### Education and Public Programs

School excursions, holiday activities, guided tours and workshops, children's birthday parties. Enquiries: **(02) 9339 6699**

### Moore Park Precinct

The Moore Park Precinct offers a variety of sport and leisure experiences. Venues in the Precinct include Fox Studios, Hordern Pavilion, Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney Cricket Ground and Aussie Stadium. For more information on events and activities visit www.mooreparkprecinct.com.au



Locked Bag 15  
PADDINGTON NSW 2021  
Tel: (02) 9339 6699 Fax: (02) 9332 2148  
www.cp.nsw.gov.au  
email: info@cp.nsw.gov.au