

Free

parklands

www.centennialparklands.com.au

New Education
Precinct opens

Chairman bids a
fond farewell

Celebrating 10 years
of Twitching

Summer 2009/10



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*

CENTENNIAL
parklands
is living Sydney



Welcome to the summer edition of *Parklands* magazine.

One of the most satisfying moments in this role is seeing a long-planned project come to fruition – and the recently launched Education Precinct is just one of these moments.

New education facilities in Centennial Park were planned for a number of years now, and once the Trust had funding in place we moved quickly to make this a reality. Our sincere thanks to the NSW Government, Centennial Parklands Foundation and major sponsor, Visy, for their support (read about this on pages 6–7).

There was a great response about our recent article on Cycling in the Parklands. Cycling is, and always will be, a popular and welcome part of the Parklands' story. However, the Trust must ensure public safety and amenity of all Park visitors is maintained. Accordingly, the Trust will, where necessary, take steps to effectively manage the conduct of some cyclists in line with our Regulations.

On a sentimental note, we farewell the retiring Robert Carafa. Robert's Mobile Food Van at Duck Pond has grown

immensely popular over the last 20 years. The business though, will remain and visitors can still continue to enjoy the food and drinks available every weekend.

Finally on behalf of our staff, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Trust Chairman, Professor John Niland AC, for his guidance and great contribution over the past eight years as his term concludes in early 2010. Trustee, David Leckie, also resigned in October after eight years of passionate commitment as Trustee to the Parklands. We all wish them both well into the future (read a farewell message from Professor Niland on page 5).



Steve Corbett
Director and Chief Executive
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust

Parklands magazine is published quarterly by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust: Locked Bag 15, Paddington NSW 2021

Centennial Parklands is managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

Trustees:

Prof. John Niland AC (Chair)
Mairaed Bilmon
Anne Keating
John Walker

Justice Annabelle Bennett AO
Yvette Pietsch
Dr Margaret Varady AO

The Trust acknowledges the Cadigal as the traditional custodians of the land that is now known as Centennial Parklands.

Editor: Rachel Maiden rachel.maiden@cp.nsw.gov.au

Contributors: Professor John Niland AC, Trevor Waller, Robert Fairhead

Photography: Chris Gleisner (cover), Hamilton Lund (Edinburgh Military Tattoo), Phil Quirk, Rick Gates, Roanna Manluta, Bob Barker/Newspix (Judy Fakes)

Cover: Children participate in a wildlife program at the Leaning Centre, part of the new Education Precinct.

Visitor Information

Car Free Days

Last Sunday of every season (February, May, August and November).
Next day: Sunday 28 February 2010

Centennial Park Gate Times

Centennial Park is accessible to vehicles between sunrise and sunset. Musgrave Ave Gates are closed permanently to cars.

Contact Us

i Visitor Information Counter

Located adjacent to the Kiosk, off Banksia Way. Opening hours Monday to Friday: 9.00 am–4.00 pm Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays: 10.00 am–3.00 pm.

i Parklands Office

Located at the end of Banksia Way behind the playground. Opening hours Monday to Friday: 8.30 am–5.00 pm.

Information boards containing maps and brochures are conveniently placed at most entry gates and main thoroughfares throughout the Parklands.

T: (02) 9339 6699 | **F:** (02) 9332 2148

After hours emergency: 0412 718 611

E: info@centennialparklands.com.au

www.centennialparklands.com.au

Locked Bag 15, Paddington NSW 2021



*Healthy Parks
Healthy People*

Fight illnesses and disease
by visiting your park

In recent times the media has brought us stories about swine flu, obesity, cancer risks and a range of other prevalent, but at times preventable health issues.

While these public awareness campaigns and debates help to highlight issues and put them on policy-makers agendas, many people are unsure about what they can do at a practical level to make a personal difference in their own lives, and the lives of their families.

That is where parks come in!

The simplest things in life are often overlooked or taken for granted. Copious amounts of research both here and abroad point to the direct health benefits (prevention and cure) of spending time in parks.

Australian research has documented positive effects of parks visitation on blood pressure, cholesterol, outlook on life and stress-reduction. In short, spending time in parks contributed directly to improvements in mental health and cardiovascular disease.

So what does 'spending time in parks' mean at a practical level? It means many things to many people. For some, just walking for 30 minutes a day is enough to see better health outcomes. For others, it's cycling or playing sport.

Whatever your fitness level or stage in life, get into parks and make a positive difference to your life.

www.centennialparklands.com.au/hphp

New menus at Centennial
Parklands Dining

Even more delicious meals are being created in the Centennial Parklands Dining kitchen. To cater to the morning weekend crowd, Centennial Parklands Dining is now offering brunch in the restaurant on Saturdays and Sundays from 9.00 am to 11.30 am. You can enjoy a leisurely meal of fruit and berry salad with lychee yoghurt, double cooked crab fritters, herb salad with fresh lime and much more.

Centennial Parklands Dining also offers a Terrace menu in its café from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm. And remember *Friends of Centennial Parklands* receive a 10% discount. See www.cp.dining.com.au for more delicious selections.



New accessible toilets and
baby change facilities

As part of our commitment to improving amenities across the Parklands, the Trust has refurbished existing toilet blocks in Queens Park and Centennial Park (adjacent to the Paddington Gates Playgrounds). New finishes have been made to the interiors of these buildings and new accessible toilets incorporated. As these amenities are closely located to popular children's playgrounds, baby change facilities were also included as part of the upgrade.



Wet weather policy for fields

Sydneysiders are getting use to more frequent rain over the recent months. So it is important to remember that Centennial Parklands operates a 24-hour wet weather line for its sports fields. For updates on sport ground and field closures call **(02) 9339 6670**.

When deciding whether to close a sports field, we look at many factors including how much water is present on the turf surface and if it can stand up to the rigours of sporting activities. We also look at the location of the field and its ability to drain, as well as safety issues. By closing fields promptly we aim to avoid closing them for extended periods due to a loss of quality through allowing sporting activities to take place during, or too soon after wet periods. The Trust is currently reviewing additional options to manage this aspect.

To assist in improving our sports fields' performance, the Trust has a long term program to progressively upgrade the drainage of the fields. The Trust is currently undertaking a major upgrade to the irrigation system on Brazilian Fields, in and around Wicket 5, due to be completed before Christmas.

Congratulations Judy Fakes

The Trust extends a warm congratulations to Judy Fakes on her appointment as full time Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court. Judy has been involved with Centennial Parklands for the last 24 years. She designed and ran the tree surgery course that comes to the Parklands twice a year. She was also on the steering committee for the Tree Master Plan. She has a passion and commitment to high quality education and we wish her well in her new role.



Get your 2010 Parklands
Calendar. Out now!



Centennial Parklands has designed a beautiful 2010 calendar featuring magnificent photography of your favourite Parklands! With stunning vistas, landscapes and specially commissioned seasonal photography, this is a limited edition calendar so don't miss out.

At only \$12.50 it makes a great Christmas gift for anyone who loves this place.

Purchase your copy at the Visitor Information Counter, open 7 days, or phone **(02) 9339 6699**. All funds raised from the sale of the calendar go towards maintaining these precious Parklands.

Can I pat that dog?

Robert Fairhead, trainer with the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club, provides some important advice on how to help children approach and play with dogs safely in the Parklands.

As an instructor with the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club in Centennial Park, I often leave my black Labrador, Harry, alone on leash while I run a class. One morning, I returned to find Harry rolled over, with a young girl kneeling beside him, stroking his front paw.

'Your dog likes secrets,' she told me and demonstrated, leaning down to lift the flap of his ear and whispering to him. My loveable Labrador lay motionless, staring at me as if to plead, 'How much longer do I have to put up with this?'

Sadly most dog bites on children are nips to the face. A child gets too close to a dog's face and it feels either threatened because the child is staring at it (a provocative act in dog body language) or uncomfortable because the child is blowing in its ear.

I've trained Harry to be "child safe", yet he is a dog and dogs can be spooked. Dog owners, parents and child carers all have a responsibility to ensure that children are safe around dogs.

Do the right thing...

Please take note of the new "No Dog Waste" stickers which have been recently placed on the lids of all recycle waste bins in Centennial Parklands. Dog waste is a major problem for our waste recycling program as it contaminates the material making it useless for recycling and has to be sent to land fill.



Always ask the owner if you can pat even the cutest looking dogs!

The horse track is just for horses!

Please remind children not to lead dogs over the horse track, or leave their bikes on the horse track. Horses can be easily frightened by anything unusual on their track.

Centennial Park has both on and off leash areas and with so many adorable looking dogs on parade, it's important to teach children how to approach them safely, let alone whisper secrets to a dog!

On **Wednesday 26 January 2010** the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club is running a special **Can I pat that dog?** workshop, teaching children how to approach a dog, what's involved in looking after one and how to train it. Harry will be there looking for pats and performing his tricks. And there will also be craft activities to enjoy. Best of all it's free! Bookings are essential, phone (02) 9339 6699.

The Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club runs dog training on Sunday mornings at the Musgrave Gates, Centennial Park. For more information please visit

www.easternsuburbsdogtraining.org.au.

Moonlight Cinema returns for a sensational summer season

Bring your own rug or indulge in the Gold Grass experience.



The popular "Dog Night" returns in 2010. Pooches and people welcome!

We welcome back Moonlight Cinema to the Belvedere Amphitheatre for its summer season. Commencing on Thursday 3 December 2009 and running through to Sunday 14 March 2010 the season promises an impressive schedule of classic, cult and new release films.

There are a number of special screenings planned for the season including Valentine's Day on 14 February 2010 with the premiere of *New York, I Love You*, the incredible anthology of stories from some of our most celebrated filmmakers. Set in one of the most loved cities in the world, *New York, I Love You* features an impressive ensemble of stars including Orlando Bloom, Natalie Portman, Ethan Hawke, Andy Garcia, Blake Lively and Hayden Christensen to name just a few.

On Sunday 10 January 2010, it's time to start howling at the moon as the enormously popular "Dog Night" returns. Pooches across Sydney are encouraged to bring their people along for a special screening of the animation hit of 2009, *Up*.

Adult tickets start from \$15, concessions from \$13 and children/pensioners from \$11. The Gold Grass experience is \$32 and includes a reserved bean bed in a premium roped off area on the lawn and a glass of wine.

Don't forget if you are a *Friend of Centennial Parklands* you will receive a 10% discount, available at the box office.

Please enter via Woollahra Gates, off Oxford Street. Tickets are available at the gate from 7.00 pm and screenings start at sundown, approximately 8.30 pm. For more information, including tickets and full film schedule, visit www.moonlight.com.au.

Chairman bids a fond farewell

At the end of his tenure, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Chairman, Professor John Niland AC, reflects on eight years of service to the Parklands.

After two terms as Chairman of the Trust, which I have really enjoyed, I intend stepping down in February 2010.

While there is always more to be done for these magnificent Parklands, the past eight years have had some important highlights, such as:

- Open space visitation is estimated to have grown from five million to six million a year, with even greater diversity of use, making the Parklands one of Australia's most loved leisure and recreational destinations
- Delivery of more than \$50 million in capital improvements, especially:
 - Upgrading the Grand Drive pathway and associated infrastructure
 - Enhancing Moore Park Golf Course and Equestrian Centre and grounds
 - Upgrading (to award winning standard) public amenities, playgrounds and sports facilities
 - Enhancing heritage landscapes and the extensive ponds system
- Increased value in the asset portfolio, up from \$590 million to \$750 million
- Strengthened financial viability, with Trust-generated revenue rising from \$10.6 million to \$19.4 million (now representing 92% of the operating budget) through the commercially astute but prudent deployment of the revenue earning assets assigned to the Trust by the Government
- Development of the Centennial Parklands Foundation into a major support vehicle for the Trust, generating more than \$3 million since its launch in 2004
- Extensive tree preservation and planting programs



Professor John Niland AC

- A totally refurbished, vibrant and widely acclaimed Centennial Parklands Restaurant
- Newly dedicated education facilities for children, with the help of our Foundation, Visy and the NSW Government
- An operating surplus of \$0.5 million in 2008-09, with prudent levels of reserves, in a time of severe economic challenge

My fellow Trustees bring together a remarkable breadth of experience and talent. The current condition of the Parklands owes much to their dedication in guarding the grass footprint, protecting heritage elements and enhancing community facilities.

The passion of the Trust's staff, together with the dedication of volunteers, members of the Community Consultative Committee and Governors of the Foundation, help ensure that the whole community continue to enjoy these magnificent Parklands.

The Trust will continue to operate in a complex and changing business environment, needing to balance conflicting demands for recreation and leisure use, financial sustainability, equity of access and the protection of Centennial Parkland's built and natural environment. It deserves unstinting support from all who share Sir Henry Parkes' vision for 'one of the grandest adornments of this beautiful country'.



The Edinburgh Military Tattoo will celebrate 60 years of Valour, Matship and Glory. It is set to be the biggest tattoo ever staged.

Edinburgh Military Tattoo celebrates its 60th year

A grand celebration, complete with replica Edinburgh Castle, comes to Moore Park in February 2010.

Following the outstanding success of *The Edinburgh Military Tattoo – A Salute to Australia* in 2005 attended by over 150,000 people, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo returns to the Sydney Football Stadium at Moore Park in February 2010 to celebrate its 60th anniversary year.

The event will be held on 4, 5, 6 and 7 February 2010 with over 1,500 performers from around the world and each state of Australia taking part. The event features a remarkable \$1 million replica of the Edinburgh Castle façade as a stunning, atmospheric backdrop.

The Trust is working with relevant authorities to manage public access and car parking in Moore Park for the event's duration. Watch www.edinburghmilitarytattooaustralia.com.au for more information. **For Tattoo bookings phone 132 849 or visit www.ticketek.com.au.**

Education Precinct opens

Introducing the Education Precinct – the new centre for educational and community programs within the Parklands.



Children from Paddington and Kensington Public Schools participated in a plant propagation workshop

On a magnificent spring morning the Education Precinct was officially opened by the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Kevin Greene MP. The event, held on 30 September 2009, was attended by a variety of community members, volunteers and sponsors as well as enthusiastic school children and teachers from Paddington and Kensington Public Schools.

At the opening Director and Chief Executive of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust, Steve Corbett said: 'The Trust is very excited to open this wonderful community and educational resource which we hope will become a well-used base for schools, recreational and sporting groups, volunteer activities and community meetings.'

The school children enthusiastically explored the Precinct which was decorated with footprints, colouring-in entries, education panels and tactile elements such as natural jewellery making and scientific equipment. As winners of the colouring competition, four children helped Minister Greene to officially cut the ribbon. Afterwards, Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens gardening expert Graham Ross helped the children propagate their own plant to take home, making it a fun morning for everyone involved.

The Education Precinct has the principles of "sustainability" and "recycling" at its core, in fact the Precinct itself is located on the site of an old tip which subsequently became a hardstand surface for events (known as Centennial Square). By locating it in this area the Trust has been able to create a much-needed environmental learning centre without imposing a new built footprint in the Parklands.



The Education Precinct is made up of a number of diverse elements developed to maximise its value to schools, our volunteers and community groups.

The Learning Centre provides an indoor classroom with large decks that will be the centre for lessons during school days, and volunteer programs and community group use at other times.



Currently over 10,000 students per year participate in a variety of programs in the Parklands. Until now, many of these activities would be cancelled each season because of weather conditions. This new Learning Centre provides essential all weather protection and increase the Trust's capacity to run more activities.

The Learning Centre, in the recycling theme, was previously an old demountable building which housed Trust staff. The building was split into three and relocated to the site, craned into position for re-assembly and refurbishment.

The Discovery Garden includes elements such as compost bays and recycling materials, interactive table gardens and underground soil profile boxes for exploring and learning.

The Community Nursery allows Trust staff and volunteers to grow plants for use in the Parklands. Students will also be able to use the nursery to learn about plant propagation.

Left: The official opening of the Precinct. Above: The Hon. Kevin Green with the winners of the colouring competition: Lovena and Alannah from Paddington Public School and Ray and Eeshani from Kensington Public School

Design Features

The Education Precinct features a number of interesting and sustainable design features that will contribute to the learning nature of the facility:

- All new roof structures are connected to water tanks. These demonstration tanks are for teaching purposes and any remaining rainwater is captured by subterranean beds and is not directly discharged into the ponds.
- The new deck is constructed using a recycled wood-plastic composite. The composite materials used require less maintenance than timber and avoids the use of preservatives. Each lineal metre has approximately 37 recycled plastic milk bottles!
- A number of interpretive bays help demonstrate environmental learning outcomes including the principles of waste management, recycling and soil or water management.
- Vegetable gardens promote how sustainability issues can be undertaken at home.

Future expansion

There are a number of other elements already being planned, including a Discovery Trail and a Ponds System Model. The **Discovery Trail** will provide an interactive learning walk in the nearby woodland area for students and visitors.

The **Ponds System Model**, proposed for the garden area, will demonstrate how the Parklands' ponds filter water through the whole Botany catchment including the Botany Aquifer which Centennial Parklands sits atop.

These are important educational features that will greatly enhance the Education Precinct. You can support the project by giving generously to the Centennial Parklands Foundation. **Visit www.yourparklands.org.au.**

Special thanks

John Walker, Deputy Chairman of the Trust, said: 'The Trust has had a vision for improved educational facilities for a number of years and it is rewarding to now see it come to fruition. The

Education Precinct was made possible by the NSW Government, the Centennial Parklands Foundation, Visy and the Trust working together to deliver this great new resource.'

He said: 'In particular the Trust would like to thank Visy, which has been a fantastic supporter of the project and generously pledged \$100,000 towards its development'.

The NSW Government also supported the project with a generous capital contribution. The Centennial Parklands Foundation also supported the project through grants and fundraising contributions. Last year, the Foundation's Evergreen Dinner raised funds for this project through the generous donations from the people who attended the dinner. At the launch, the Foundation announced its pledge for a further \$40,000 to this project.

Thank you also to Glenn Doyle, a Murawari descendent, born on Gadigal land and a well-known international didgeridoo performer who performed the *Welcome to Country* at the official opening.

Get involved

Community groups are encouraged to contact the Trust if they are interested in using this facility. We are also recruiting volunteers to participate in the community nursery project.

For more information **visit www.centennialparklands.com.au or email info@centennialparklands.com.au.**



Above: Better Homes and Gardens celebrity Graham Ross shared his gardening tips with the children

Twitcher's Corner

Trevor Waller celebrates his ten years of birds and breakfasts.

It has been ten years since I conducted the first Birdwatcher's Breakfast in summer 1999 and I began writing this column shortly after. As a relatively new birder I was asked by one of the birding clubs I belong to to help out with a breakfast in the Parklands and I have been doing the walks ever since.

Seasonal breakfasts are a great way to observe the different bird species that inhabit the Parklands at different times. During spring we watch out for returning migrant birds. To see the first returned **Fairy Martin** flying over the ponds in spring is a thrill. They spend the summer in the Parklands and breed here as well. During spring we can also see some species building their nests, or feeding young in the nest.

Later in summer we look for the young birds that might have been born and raised in the Parklands. The **Black Swan** is a particularly successful breeder and you can usually see the black adult birds with their fluffy grey cygnets.

In autumn we look for birds that reside in the Parklands. The parrot family is always well represented and there is a good number of **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo** that visit the Parklands throughout the year.

Winter is a quieter time of year when the summer migrants have left us for warmer places in northern Australia and further afield. There are a few visitors during the colder months of the year, but the Tasmanian subspecies of the **Silvereye** is one species in particular we look out for.

Each walk starts from a different place around the Parklands, so even if you've done one before the next one will be different and



Seasonal birds, clockwise from top left: Silvereye, Fairy Martin, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and Black Swan

new for you. All walks last about an hour and a half and end at the Shelter Pavilion where we enjoy a hearty breakfast. If you don't have a pair of binoculars there are plenty on hand for you to use on the day.

A list of the birds of the Parklands is provided for you to fill in and this could be the start of your *life list*! A *life list* is a list of all the species of birds you have seen in your life. I have various lists including a list for each country I've visited, a list of all the birds I've seen in the world and my Australian list. At the moment I have seen 625 species in Australia, but I'm always working to increasing that number!

The group is nice and informal and the routes are easy. We take our time and try to use the spotting scope when a bird sits in one place for us. So come along on a Sunday morning (bookings essential) and enjoy a nice walk in the Parklands, and learn a bit about the many different birds that call the Parklands home.

Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with more than 15 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. The next Birdwatcher's Breakfast will be held on Sunday 7 February 2010. Please visit

www.centennialparklands.com.au/whatson for details.

Plant of the Season

The Frangipani Tree

The Frangipani tree (*Plumeria rubra* var. *acutifolia*) is a small to medium sized deciduous tree native to Mexico and Central America. It is a member of the Apocynaceae family, which is the plant family of many jasmine species.



A garden favourite, the Frangipani has long been regarded as an essential plant for tropical gardens, with its spectacular flowers and sweet fragrance. The Frangipani features dark green, glossy leaves and spectacular white and yellow perfumed flowers that cover the tree from spring through summer.

The tree will grow much better in full sun and can potentially get to a height of eight metres, although they can be planted in a pot or planter box, which will reduce the size.

Frangipanis prefer a well drained soil with regular watering over the summer. Watering should be less frequent in winter, as the tree can be prone to rot. Frangipani rust can also be a problem. Propagation is relatively easy using stem cuttings and allowing the cuttings to dry out before placing into potting mix.

Where can it be seen in the Parklands?

Several specimens of Frangipani have been planted within Centennial Parklands in recent times. Some have been planted in the Column Garden in amongst similar tropical plants. Two have been installed into raised planter boxes that feature within the new Education Precinct.

Followers of Frank Hemmings' column, **Native Watch**, can read it online at www.centennialparklands.com.au/nativewatch. This season, Frank profiles the Bonnet Orchid.

Turtle Power!

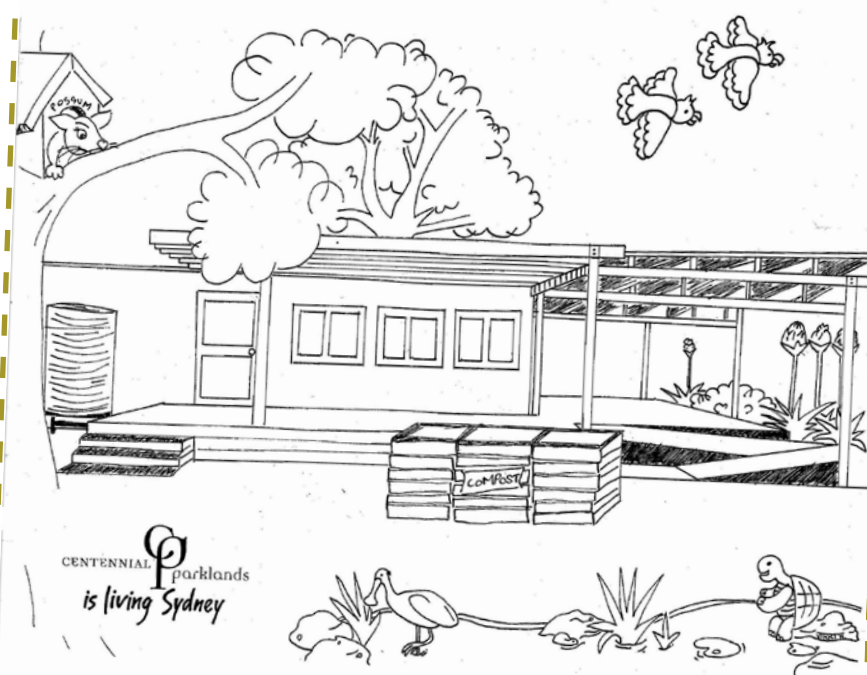
Can you imagine breathing through your bottom? Well some of the turtles we have here at Centennial Park do! In winter they spend long periods resting on the pond beds. They take air out of the water and collect it in a special part of their body called their cloaca.

Now that summer is here, the turtles are much more active and you may see turtles crossing the roads in the Park, especially after it has rained. It is preferable not to touch these turtles, however if you have to help them across the road for safety reasons, make sure you always move them to the road edge in the SAME direction of its travel. It is most likely a female turtle either returning or leaving her nest.

The main types of turtles we have at Centennial Park include the Sydney Basin Turtle (pictured) and the Snake-necked Turtle. To learn more about turtles come along to our new summer program *Turtle Power*!



Colour-in To Win



Name: _____ Age: _____

Contact daytime phone number: _____

Competition

Have you seen our new Learning Centre? Many of our school holiday programs are meeting at this great new place! You could win a free double pass to one of our summer school holiday programs simply by colouring in the picture of the Learning Centre in the panel below.

Two prizes will be awarded – one for a child in the 2–5 years category and one for a child in the 6–12 years category. The 2–5 winner can choose between *Turtle Power* or *Delilah the Delightful Dragonfly*. The 6–12 winner can come along to either of the *Wildlife Workshops*, *Kids Art Workshop* or *Natural Card Making*.

So get colouring to win! Drop your entry in to our offices or post to Centennial Parklands Visitor Programs, Locked Bag 15, Paddington NSW 2021. Full terms and conditions at www.centennialparklands.com.au.

Ask a Ranger

Why were there sick fish in Duck Pond?

Imagine if you turned the filter off your glass fish tank and kept feeding the fish? Just like in *Finding Nemo* you would see an increase in the growth of a plant called 'algae' which needs water, light, nutrients and air.

The ponds in Centennial Park are like giant fish tanks without a mechanical filter! When lots of nutrients from dog poo and fertiliser come into the Ponds via the stormwater system, the result is a dramatic increase in algae. Large amounts of algae draw a lot of air from the water and without air the fish begin to suffocate.

In the recent algal bloom in Duck Pond when many European Carp died, were there any turtles or eels harmed from the algae?

We believe that no turtles or eels died. However many of the eels were trying desperately to leave the pond via the various water channels to other ponds. In fact there was a bit of an eel traffic jam! However Parklands staff helped transfer the eels to other ponds.

What can I do to help?

We can all help reduce stormwater pollution by putting dog poo in the right bins (not the recycling bins) and growing plants that don't need a lot of fertilizer. Please do not feed the ducks with bread as rotting bread produces bacteria which takes air from the water. It also makes the ducks poo like mad and this, just like dog poo, is not good for the Ponds!

You can also sponsor an animal. Visit www.yourparklands.org.au for info.

GET INVOLVED

The seven most beautiful leaves in Centennial Parklands



1. Leave a donation



2. Leave a tree



3. Leave as a *Friend*



4. Leave as a sponsor



5. Leave a bench



6. Leave as a volunteer



7. Leave a bequest

Foundation

Evergreen a growing success story

After the success of the first Evergreen Dinner in 2008, the Centennial Parklands Foundation called on four of Sydney's top chefs to prepare a menu which would ensure this year's fundraising dinner would be a night to remember. The event was a huge success with more than \$80,000 raised towards the planting of a completely new circle of 102 semi-mature trees inside Centennial Park's 3.6 kilometre Grand Drive.



Auction surprise! From left, Sarah Whyte, Foundation Chair with Senior Arborist Ted Hoare and MC James O'Loughlin

An exceptional menu was created by Colin Fassnidge, Matthew Kemp, Warren Turnbull and Darren Foots. Each chef, to the guests' delight, tried to outdo one another by creating a mouth-watering course on the night.

Guests were treated to a behind-the-scenes preview of each course via "KitchenCam". Master of Ceremonies James O'Loughlin entertained the appreciative crowd and Auctioneer Georgina Pemberton from Sotheby's auctioned off Senior

Arborist, Ted Hoare, a Parklands' treasure with 25 years of service, for \$6,000!

This event could not have been possible without the generosity and support of the following:

Principal Sponsor

Centennial Parklands Dining

Event Partners

Four in Hand, Restaurant Assiette and Restaurant Balzac

Event Producers

Form Over Function and Innovative Production Services

Food and Beverage Supporters

M&G Seafood, Side Serve, Top Cut, Cascade Green, Fine Wine Partners, Kemeny's, San Pellegrino and Single Origin Roasters

Supporters

Emerald Press, House of Tickets, Patti's Hire, Seven Network, Stedman's Hospitality, Sotheby's and Vitamin X

Auction Prizes kindly donated by: The Royal Parks London, Australia Rugby Golden Oldies Rugby, Cricket NSW, Joanna McMillan Price and BFirm, Sydney Fly Rodders, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and Nick Hollo

Raffle Prizes kindly donated by: David Wilkie, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, John Peel, Chris Gleisner Photography, Annie B's, Taronga Conservation Society, Moore Park Golf, Harry Hooper, ACP, Trevor Waller, Centennial Park Kiosk, Hoyts Entertainment Quarter, Fox Studios Australia, Seven Network and Donna Hay

Gift Bags courtesy of: Centennial Parklands Dining and Olsson's Salts

Contact the Foundation

To find out more about any of these stories, or to make a donation:

Ph: (02) 9339 6633

Email: foundation@centennialparklands.com.au

Web: www.yourparklands.org.au

New Benefactors

The Barge Family

Shauna Wilson

The Bennett Family

The Cochrane Family

The Wetherell Family

The Daisley Family

Jan and Denis Cleary

John Messner and Helen Anderson

The Fiennes Family



Above: Centennial Parklands shines for the Evergreen Dinner

The native Pine Grove

The Wollemi Pine (*Wollemi nobilis*) is one of the most significant botanical discoveries in recent memory. A grove of Australian pines is to be planted adjacent to the Jervis Avenue Gates, dominated by the Wollemi Pine and supplemented by close relatives including the Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwilli*), Kauri Pine (*Agathis robusta*) and Cook Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*).

The Foundation would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Henry Pollack Foundation for their support of this project.

Christmas gift opportunities

Looking for last minute and lasting Christmas gifts for the friend or family that has everything?

- **Sponsor an animal** – Includes a certificate, fact sheet with photo and a free Parklands activity.
- **Dedicate a tree** – A thoughtful gift that lasts a lifetime.
- **Bench dedications** – For the person who loves to sit and reflect.
- **Friends membership** – Comes with two Moonlight Cinema tickets if you join before 31 January 2010.
- **Parklands 2010 Calendar** – Featuring magnificent photography of your favourite Parklands. Only \$12.50.

Friends

Join now and get Moonlight tickets on us

If you join as a *Friend of Centennial Parklands* by 31 January 2010 you will receive a free double pass to Moonlight Cinema, valued at \$34. *Friends* membership costs only \$55 (for single) or \$99 (for family) so sign up quick so you can pick from the whole season of Moonlight movies.



This summer Moonlight Cinema features an impressive schedule of films. There are family movies, such as *Harry Potter* and *the Half Blood Prince* and *Up*, or cult classics such as *Saturday Night Fever* and *Zoolander*.

You could enjoy a girls' night out

watching *Coco Avant Chanel* or *Julie and Julia* or see a new release such as *New Moon* or *The Time Traveler's Wife* and much more.

There are lots of other great reasons to join as a *Friend*. You can enjoy 20% off most school holiday activities, 10% off at Centennial Parklands Dining and many more discounts and benefits.

Find out more at www.friends.net.au or call (02) 9339 6699.

Volunteers

Parklands Bird Survey

In October Centennial Parklands volunteers and members from Birding NSW Club of Ornithologists launched the new Parklands Bird Survey. Volunteers were trained to identify bird species, use binoculars and an identification manual and complete a bird survey.

All data collected was forwarded to the Cumberland Bird Observers Club to be recorded into the Birds Australia Bird Atlas. Birds recently seen in Centennial Park include four Tawny Frogmouths, two Nankeen Night Herons, a Barn Owl, a Sea Eagle, a Kestrel and a Jacky Winter.

Volunteer Group Updates

Park volunteers now monitor water quality in the ponds under a new partnership with **Sydney Water's Streamwatch**. Their results provide early warning of potential management issues and are uploaded to the Streamwatch website.

The Carp Harvesting Group is meeting fortnightly in their campaign to harvest the pest species European Carp from the ponds in Centennial Park. The **Growing Group** has relocated to the new nursery facilities located in the Education Precinct. The **Bush Regeneration Group** is now meeting monthly.

To find out more please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Secombe on (02) 9339 6627 or email volunteers@centennialparklands.com.au.



Parklands volunteers and Birding NSW members Megan Hicks and Barry Ayers

Become a Corporate Volunteer and see immediate results!

If you are looking to create a special team and morale building program with immediate and satisfying results, register for a Corporate Volunteer program. There are obvious and tangible benefits to helping sustain the Parklands' precious environment, and the benefits to your organisation are long lasting. Corporate support is valued by the Trust and is important to preserve the Parklands for future generations.

foundation and friends

www.yourparklands.org.au

www.friends.net.au

Evergreen Dinner success

The new native Pine
Grove project

Moonlight Cinema special
offer for *Friends*

Summer 2009/10



**FRIENDS OF
CENTENNIAL
PARKLANDS**

Love your park



CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS
FOUNDATION