

parklands

VOLUME 18 • AUTUMN 2002

THE MAGAZINE OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



CP
CENTENNIAL
parklands
centennial park
moore park
queens park

Directions



Peter Duncan
Director,
Centennial Parklands

What a wonderful and hectic time the last two years has been for Centennial Parklands. Hot on the heels of Sydney Olympics 2000 came last year's Centenary of Federation celebrations and for the entire period, one quality event followed another. Who will forget such events as Federation Day, Cirque du Soleil, ParkFest, Artful Park, the opening of Federation Place, the Sydney Dance Company's exquisite performance, *Free Radicals*, Circus Oz, Moonlight Cinema, or the many other special events that have become our trademarks? We intend to keep up this good work over 2002 - the staging of world-class events with minimum impact on the busy daily life of the Parklands and the environment.

Part of the Trust's core agenda for 2002, however, will also be the best possible management of the Parklands flora and fauna. In the past, our pest control effort was done on a localised and *ad hoc* basis. Now, after lengthy research and ongoing liaison with other stakeholders (National Parks &

Wildlife, Rural Lands Protection Board, Department of Agriculture, RSPCA, Bureau of Rural Sciences among others) we are adopting a regional and 'principles of best practice' approach. We know we'll never eradicate the pest problems completely, but hopefully our new approach will go a long way to achieving its objective - the effective control of urban pest species that are currently impacting the Parklands' environment and recreational facilities. In this issue we have reported on some of the pests, headaches they create, and a cause for optimism - some of the positive results already being achieved.

As we do for other activities throughout the Parklands, again we will be relying on our successful band of volunteers to assist us in some of the different areas of pest control. I am unable to speak highly enough of those volunteers who give freely of their talents and time to help us in so many ways.

Another story in this issue pays particular tribute to one stalwart,

Ern Hoskins who has contributed greatly to our knowledge of the Parklands' birdlife. But our thanks go to each and every volunteer no matter how large or small the contribution they make. And we can assure anyone who has time and/or talent going begging and is thinking of volunteering their services, they will be made very welcome indeed.

All in all, it looks like being another big year for the Parklands, but as always the enthusiasm of everyone here at Centennial Parklands is extraordinary. We see this throughout the staff, Park visitors and volunteers, the Trustees and the Community Consultative Committee.

Enthusiasm among the public also remains high. Judging from the large numbers already through our Parks for the first two months of 2002, it appears we have a busy and successful year ahead.

Pleasant reading and a happy Autumn to all our magazine readers. ■

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Cover: Magnificent displays of Canna Lilies (*Canna x generalis*) can be found throughout Centennial Park.

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Parkbench

PARK SAYS NO TO PARKING METERS

Following extensive community consultation, the proposal to introduce parking meters into Centennial Park under the Draft Transport Access and Parking Plan was rejected by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

Announcing the move in early December, Premier Bob Carr said, "We have heard what the community has to say and we have acted on that advice."

A proposal to reverse the traffic flow of cyclists was also rejected following public concern, and now all vehicle and cycle flow will remain one-way around Grand Drive.

"This puts to rest considerable community concerns about these issues," Mr Carr said.

The amended plan was presented to the State Government in February for approval. The completed plan, along with the Moore Park South Master Plan, will soon be displayed for public information, detailed in a brochure, and incorporated into the Centennial Parklands Plan of Management.

For the latest information and updates on this plan visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au or telephone (02) 9339 6699.

NEW BROCHURE FOR OUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS

A new brochure to outline the requirements and expectations of dog owners and carers using the Parklands will be available to park users in April. The publication is being produced with the help of the Companion Animals Reference Group (CARG).

The brochure follows the announcement last December that dogs are now permitted off-leash in Federation Valley as part of a 12-month trial. To help minimise the impacts of over use in the Valley, the Dog Walkers and Professional Pet Minders Association (DAPPA) has agreed not to walk dogs in Federation Valley.

From April the brochure will be available from local community outlets including vets and councils as well as the Centennial Parklands Administration Building. For more information phone (02) 9339 6699 or visit: www.cp.nsw.gov.au

LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME

In true Parklands tradition, the first Sunday of this season will be a Car Free Day. On Sunday, 3 March feel free to explore the Parklands on your bicycle, rollerblades, wheelchair, horseback, scooter or on foot. Just make sure that you leave the big wheels at home.

Car Free Days are the most peaceful days in the Parklands, a time to enjoy the tranquillity of the surrounding flora and fauna. Why not soak up the atmosphere with a picnic, or perhaps take advantage of the peace and quiet and catch up on that novel you have been meaning to read.

Disabled access is via Musgrave Avenue gates, open from 9am to 5pm.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday, 3 March is not only Car Free Day in the Parklands, but also another important date for your diary, Clean Up Australia Day. For the eighth consecutive year, Centennial Parklands are pitching in for the not-for-profit organisation, Clean Up Australia.

"This is a wonderful chance for everybody around the country to do their bit for the environment and have great fun at the same time," says Ranger Brooke Hutchison.

Ranger Brooke encourages groups and individuals to follow AMP's example and form a corporate team.

"Or perhaps your local social club would like to muck in with the Paddington/ Woollahra Scout Group who are taking part for their second time. Last year we had 80 volunteers helping out and this year we hope to get even more hands on deck," she says.

Registration will take place from 9am to 1pm at the Superintendent's Residence, next to Paddington Gates near Oxford Street. Remember to bring some gloves, a hat, sunscreen, and covered shoes.

For further information phone (02) 9339 6699.



CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Work is still progressing on the Draft Conservation Management Plan.

Nicola Bryden, Centennial Parklands Coordinator Policy & Planning said the Trust would be holding further public consultation before finalising the Plan and forwarding it to the Heritage Council for endorsement. The dates of the Consultation Period have yet to be finalised, but will be advertised in the local media, regular mailouts and our website."

The first consultation period for the plan held late last year was very successful. Well-considered comments were received from the public along with Indigenous community representatives and discussions with the Community Consultative Committee.

For further information on the Plan phone (02) 9339 6699, write to info@cp.nsw.gov.au or visit: www.cp.nsw.gov.au ■

Caring for our wildlife



From left, Pest Species Officer Andrew Amos and TAFE students John Martin and James Pollock discover turtle eggs destroyed by foxes and dogs.

A great city deserves a great park, a green breathing space that is both a healthy lung for the city and a pulsing heart. And the greater the city, the greater the necessity.

Sydney's Centennial Parklands - a 385ha amalgam of the heritage-listed Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park - has long satisfied this need, offering a diverse range of recreational facilities and a unique, urban setting, rich in historical, cultural and environmental values. Over the years, the Parklands have evolved into one of the world's most highly used urban open spaces, attracting more than five million visits each year.

But the success has not come lightly nor will it be easily maintained. Competing with the abundant native wildlife there are a number of pest species - foxes, rabbits, ibis, pigeons, carp, even dumped domestic ducks and geese - that are threatening the environmental, historical and cultural assets of the area.

Centennial Parklands has recognised through education, a regional approach, research and appropriate control the problem of pests can be tackled effectively.

“Most people would consider these introduced ducks and geese as harmless, but they are causing a breakdown in the genetic pool.”

In the past, pest control has been somewhat piecemeal and reactive. Centennial Parklands, with the assistance and direction from a number of agencies and experts such as National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Rural Lands Protection Board, Department of Agriculture among others, have recently adopted a more proactive approach. This has included the appointment of part-time Pest Species Officer, Andrew Amos who is hopeful that the measures now being adopted will considerably minimise the impacts of pest species on the Parklands' assets and its many visitors.

He instances the significant reduction (from 1300 to below 400) in the ibis population which cause environmental and

adversely affects the water quality of the ponds. We are now modifying vegetation in the known nesting sites to discourage breeding and also removing nests and eggs under a licence issued by NPWS.”

A regional committee has also identified large ibis populations near Sydney Airport as being a major hazard for aircraft.

Over many years, the illegal dumping of domestic ducks (including Peking, Mallard and Muscovy) and geese has emerged as a growing problem for the Parklands. At the last count 80 exotic fowl were identified. Andrew says the people who dump the birds probably think they are doing the right thing by

nuisance problems. Says Andrew: “The ibis are not endemic to this area but they have adapted all too well, virtually taking over the Parklands' pond islands. Not only do they damage vegetation through their dense nesting habits, the high phosphate content in their droppings

Andrew and the team survey ibis nest sites in Centennial Park.





Rabbits continue to be a pest in the Parklands.

leaving them in a 'suitable' park environment.

"However, they often fall victim to fox predation. The geese exhibit threatening behaviour toward park users. Other urban parks have had instances of rogue geese attacks. The Trust wants to be proactive in this regard.

"Further essential for the ponds restoration program is the establishment of macrophytes or water plants. The birds have taken a particular liking to these new plantings which is having a significant impact on our efforts to improve water quality in our ponds.

"Most people would consider these introduced ducks and geese as harmless additions to our 'wildlife' but it is causing a breakdown in the genetic pool by the inter-breeding between the native and exotic species."

Addressing the issue of the dumped birds is posing yet another problem, but Parklands staff have been exploring a number of options for relocating the exotic lodgers. If anyone has an unwanted duck or goose, contact your local veterinarian, council or the RSPCA for advice, he urges.

'Good intentions' are having other serious repercussions, he adds. Visitors enjoy feeding bread to the ducks and other wildlife (both native and exotic) not realising they are doing actual harm.

White bread has limited nutrients but birds will continue to gorge on this easy meal, ignoring their native food sources and causing an imbalance in the ecological food chain. The bread can also contribute to water pollution, endangering the rich native aquatic life of the many ponds.

Andrew stresses that feeding of pigeons should be particularly discouraged. Pigeon populations, (particularly near the Duck Pond)

are increasing. Says Andrew: "They are a very real pest. They can spread diseases among humans and animals and their droppings cause chemical deterioration to our buildings and other infrastructure"

Other pests – including foxes, rabbits and European carp – are posing severe threats to the environmental health of the Parklands. All are being tackled in tandem for, as Andrew explains, each problem is inter-linked.

"If we can minimise the number of breeding ibis on the ponds' islands, we will encourage nesting of the native cormorants and darters which will in turn keep carp fingerlings in check. And as ibis and carp numbers decrease, so will the present destruction of pond banks which is threatening the water quality as are the excessive nutrients from ibis droppings," he says.

"And we are very aggressively targeting the carp in other ways. Carp is to water what the rabbit is to land. It is a prolific breeder, lessening the survival of native fish and its bottom feeding habits contribute to water pollution and bank erosion.



Ibis populations cause environmental and nuisance problems in the Parklands.

"We now use an electro-fishing process that stuns the carp which are then removed and processed to make an organic liquid fertiliser. Over the last few years, we have removed more than ten tonnes of carp and we have been able to introduce the native



Examining the damage caused by rabbits.

Australian bass into the pond system to replace the carp."

The rabbit also continues to be a pest but despite increasing public awareness of the damage caused by this declared noxious pest, there are still incidents of rangers catching people dumping their pet rabbits.

Evidence suggests that foxes seldom prey on the rabbits, preferring slower moving native species like possums, flying foxes and also turtle eggs. In a recent inspection of the Kensington

predator, and there are ample habitat and food sources in the urban environment. Techniques to manage the fox are limited because we do not use poisons or traps due to high usage of the Parklands by people and dogs.

"Andrew Amos believes that the ongoing environmental health of Centennial Parklands lies in community awareness of the issues involved through the continuation and expansion of the present education program particularly targeted towards children. Already, he relies heavily on his group of volunteers who help with the various pest management measures.

"But more can be done. Every single visitor to the park can contribute by taking extra care, by using rubbish bins and by resisting the temptation to feeding the animals. Centennial Parklands has been here a long time and we want it to be here for many generations of Sydneysiders to come."

The Trust has taken other steps to ensure its ongoing commitment including the establishment of a database and surveying methodologies for effective fauna management on Trust lands.

Dee Wren ■

702

Live from the Valley

Lights...
Camera....
action!

You never know what or whom you may bump into around Centennial Parklands. Perhaps a cast of actors or maybe you'll run into Matt Shirvington!

The Parklands have seen an increase in popularity for filming, publicity events and photographic shoots according to Craig Van Dartel, Marketing Accounts Manager.

"We have so much to offer here as a filming location. The Parklands suit a whole variation of shoots. Recently our guests have included television shows such as *Totally Wild*, *Harry's Practice*, *Sydney Weekender* and *All Saints*. Simulated, giant mosquitoes have encroached on a family picnic for an insect repellent commercial, and for a few days the Brazilian fields became a mock carnival ground for a chocolate commercial with elephants, monkeys, macaws and all!"

A recent visitor to ES Marks Athletic Field was the Olympic sprinter Matt Shirvington who took to the athletes track in a Triple M Being a Legend promotion. As Craig Van Dartel adds, "every day is different and we always look forward to the next arrival." ■

Early December saw Federation Valley transform into a radio studio when 702 ABC Sydney staged a live broadcast in Centennial Park to commemorate 100 years of radio. (see Parklands Summer issue)

From dawn until dusk, hundreds of avid listeners along with curious passers-by from joggers and cyclists to dogwalkers and rollerbladers, descended on Federation Valley to meet with 702 presenters and their stream of guests. They watched live newsreadings

while taking in the festive atmosphere of kite-making and kite-flying, a live radio play and even ABC logo tattooing! Even kids could get behind the mikes and join in on the junior broadcasting segment.

Centennial Parklands' Ranger Colin Cheshire was a special guest on Sally Loane's program and shared with listeners some of the exciting activities taking place in Centennial Parklands such as Spotlight Prowls, the dozens of bird species that can be spotted and expounded upon the vital role the Parklands played in an urban environment. ■

Ranger Colin Cheshire talks 702 presenter Sally Loane through a Spotlight Prowl during 702's live broadcast from Centennial Park in December.

Golfing for the common good

From its original nine holes when first established more than eighty years ago, Moore Park Golf Course has shared land with a dogs home, the Defence Forces, grazing and agisting horses, Council rubbish tips and a not-too pleasant incinerator.

What was New South Wales' first public golf course, Moore Park changed the nature of golf in the State and set standards, at times, beyond reach of all other clubs."

These are among some of the fascinating facts to be discovered in the newly published book *For the Common Good, Moore Park Golf Club 1920-2000* by Erwin Huber, President of the Moore Park Golf Club.

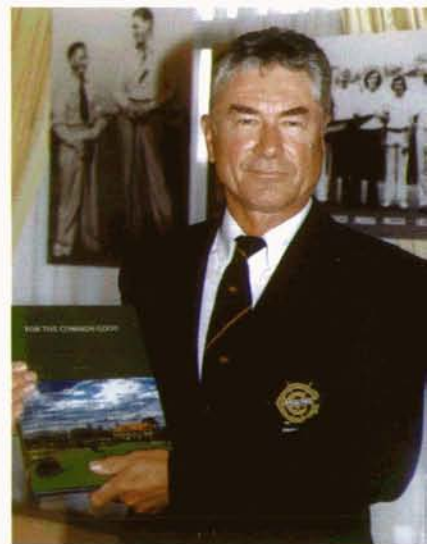
The book follows a journey of the Club, its evolution alongside

the growing sport of golf in Australia and an account of the many characters who helped the shape the Club as it is today.

Author, Erwin Huber, who first joined the Club in 1978 and is today its President, spent almost three years, over 3000 hours, researching the 224-page pictorial hardback.

"I started my research in March 1999 and spent some 15 months perusing records at the City Council archives, ploughing through magazines and newspaper clippings at the NSW Golf Association and reading the Club's internal minutes, annual reports and a myriad of other material," he explained.

Erwin experienced many highlights during his research – discovering large chapters of



Author Erwin Huber, at the February launch of his book, 'For the Common Good'.

history previously never uncovered – "hilarious anecdotes" and an insight into the some of the colourful and influential members of the club over the decades.

For the Common Good retails at \$59.95 and is available from the Moore Park Golf Club Pro Shop and Centennial Parklands Administration Building. ■



The human lyrebird



Ernest Hoskin has two passions in life – ornithology and Centennial Parklands. Add to this his talents as a bird illustrator and Ern can justly be described as one of the Parklands' greatest resources.

The renowned ornithologist, now 87, has been volunteering time and talent to the Parklands for close on half a century. Not only has he lovingly observed and recorded the Parklands' numerous bird species (both non-migratory and migratory), he has led countless tours, sharing his extraordinary knowledge with park visitors, adults and children alike. He has also been affectionately called the 'human lyrebird' for his ability to virtually 'whistle' the birds out of the trees. He can mimick 50 different bird species.

Ern says his love affair with birds started as a 'little kid' when he became fascinated by the birds in his garden. The fascination grew as he got older and he started to paint, usually in watercolours, the birds he was able to observe on his many field trips as a member of various ornithological clubs.

"My father was a bit of an artist and luckily the talent seemed to run in the family. By the time I was a teenager, I was painting almost every bird I saw. It wasn't a case of just painting my favourites. I loved them all," he reminisces.

Over the past few weeks, visitors will have noticed a beautiful sign depicting some of the Parklands' waterbirds. Skilfully painted in oils by Ern some years back, the revitalised sign has been erected adjacent to Willow Pond, across from Centennial Square. Centennial Parklands Director, Peter Duncan said, "The sign is more than a beautiful resource for visitors. It is a small tribute to the voluntary contributions Ern has made to the Parklands over the years."



Ern hopes the sign will help visitors identify the many waterbirds they can see around the ponds in the Parklands. "Most people, particularly youngsters, are genuinely

interested in birds. They want to know more so it's good that the Parklands are helping in this and other ways," he says.

Ern has a wide portfolio of sketches and illustrations, many of which were used in the latest edition of *Birds of Sydney*, a comprehensive guide book which Ern revised in 1991. The original book was penned in 1958 by Keith Hindwood (who Ern describes as his mentor) and Arnold McGill and the revised edition now carries many of Ern's meticulously crafted drawings and paintings.

Ranger Colin Cheshire describes Ern fondly as the Parklands' honorary bird 'guru'. "Not only is he a fount of knowledge about our 142 bird species, he has given the Trust all his findings and recordings on species, populations, habitats and behaviour collected over so many years. This information is pure gold to us here, particularly as we see the Parklands' bio-diversity is changing. We need to know why and what we can do to conserve this great wildlife resource."

Ern himself believes that the Parklands' bio-diversity and bird numbers will continue to change into the future as more and more people use the Parklands. But the

Ern Hoskin with the beautiful bird sign depicting Common Water Birds. Painted in 1973, the sign has been re-erected near Willow Pond in Centennial Park.

birds can adapt to some extent, he says and wryly instances the sacred ibis. "This pest species has flourished to the extent it is now a serious nuisance."

The waterbird sign will be officially launched early in March when Ern will be on hand to see his painting unveiled at a special ceremony. The 87 year-young ornithologist/painter, however, will need no introduction to bird enthusiasts. As both Peter Duncan and Colin Cheshire say, he has long been one of Parklands' best known and admired identities.

In 1999 Ern Hoskin was awarded an Order of Australia for his outstanding contribution to ornithology and conservation. The nomination came from the prestigious NSW Ornithologist Club and was warmly supported by the Parklands' Trust.

Dee Wren





Sydney unveils a new Place

Entering Centennial Parklands from Anzac Parade, visitors now pass under one of Sydney's most spectacular new landmarks, Federation Place, the new formal gateway into the Parklands.

December 9 saw the official opening of the \$7.9 million Centenary of Federation project.

It incorporates the striking new Federation Gate towering eight metres above the pedestrian-friendly Federation Place and crowns the entrance into the beautifully tree-lined boulevard of figs, oaks and pines now known as Federation Way.

Pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, rollerbladers and dog walkers can now enjoy the contemporary and peaceful new surrounds of the once unkempt car park site on the corner of Lang Road and Anzac Parade.

People of the Park

As a regular visitor to Centennial Park for 60 years, we can safely say that Bob McCartney (above) knows his way around the Park.

"I am here today for my exercise," he says. "I try and come once a week and I generally walk half way round Grand Drive, or if I am feeling fit I do the whole thing."

For Bob Centennial Park is a "beautiful place" where he can get away from the built up environment of the city.

One of Bob's pastimes is to take a book down to the Rose Gardens (his favourite part of the Park) to soak up the sun and sit amongst the trees.

"I like looking at nature," Bob says, "and enjoy admiring the ducks, swans and ibis whilst I read."

Surprisingly, Bob explains that over the years the Park hasn't changed much.

"You don't notice change so easily when it is gradual and over time, but there are infinitely more people using the Park these days. The gardens are also much better tended than I can remember in the past, they are magnificent."

"What I like the most about Centennial Park is the mix between the wild areas and tended areas," he says. "I also love its peacefulness and natural grandeur."



The combined choir of Sydney Boys and Sydney Girls High Schools performed a rendition of *Swingtime* and sang the National Anthem under the gateway.



and dancers under the gateway....



The marching band....

The opening marked the completion of the Parklands' ceremonial gateway, originally proposed in 1887 to integrate Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park.

Peter Duncan, Director of Centennial Parklands said Federation Place, designed by prominent Sydney architect Alexander Tzannes, enhanced

safety for park users and improved access into Centennial Parklands. "This new entrance way also provides a great new enhancement to the precinct while providing a symbolic reminder of the Parklands' original vision," he enthused.

Federation Place was officially opened by Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, Federal Minister for Revenue & Assistant Treasurer. Other special guest speakers on the day included the Hon John Murray MP, Speaker of the NSW Parliament; and Ms Annette O'Neill, Chairman, Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust. ■



At the unveiling of Federation Place, from left, Peter Duncan, Centennial Parklands Director, the Hon Barry Unsworth, Chairman, NSW Centenary of Federation Committee, Annette O'Neill, Trust Chairman, Senator the Hon Helen Coonan, the Hon John Murray MP, and gateway architect Alexander Tzannes.

A day in the life of... John Wheeler

There is rarely a day in Centennial Parklands that you won't see horticulturist John Wheeler near the Centennial Parklands Café and Restaurant spreading a creative green thumb amongst the plants. Being truly dedicated to working with 'life' as John calls it, means that no matter the weather, you will always find him quietly tending to a flowerbed in his hat and sunglasses, along with his expertly handled secateurs.

John Wheeler is a horticulturist (although he prefers to be called a gardener), one of the many devoted outdoor staff that make the Parklands the picture book that it is, and there is no question that John's contribution is highly regarded and admired. Peers and superiors have nothing but praise for John describing him as exacting, meticulous, humble, conscientious, dedicated, a perfectionist and professional.

Describe your role as a gardener at Centennial Parklands?

I am one of five gardeners who work in Centennial Parklands. I mainly look after the area around the Café and the Administration Building. My job is heavily focused on pruning, shaping, fertilising, pest, disease and weed control.

You have been working for the Parklands for many years now, were you a gardener from the outset?

I worked at Moore Park Golf Course as a Green Keeper's Assistant for three years before starting here, and I have now been working in Centennial Park as a gardener for approximately four years.

What inspired you to become a gardener?

I developed an interest in gardening when I was at school and became more inspired when I worked as a labourer at the Royal Botanical Gardens. I attended TAFE during 1992 – 1995 and successfully completed a certificate in landscaping.

What do you love about the Parklands?

I love the light, the open space and the expanse of the Parklands. The light is so changeable, one minute it is overcast and the next it is bright and sunny. I also love the lakes, water features and mature trees.

Do you have a favourite area in the Parklands?

Probably Parkes Drive, there is a nice cross section of views over the gardens, the lakes and the historic summerhouse. Each day I ride my pushbike home along there and enjoy seeing the breeze across the water of the ponds.



Is there anything of particular interest that garden lovers should look out for at the moment?

Look out for the African Tulip Tree in the Café area with its beautiful orange flower. In general the plants during Autumn are stunning. Having survived the harshness of the summer heat, they are fresh and in a relaxed growing state.

What is your greatest achievement in the Parklands to date?

The construction of the rose garden which was completed just before the Olympics. The previous rose garden had past its use-by date so we renovated the gardens and replaced the roses.

What are the most fulfilling aspects of your job?

Working with life. I enjoy the colours and the sense of

satisfaction in seeing healthy trees and plants. I love meeting nice people, especially the elderly. They seem to appreciate the Parklands as a whole more than anyone. You often see the elderly in the rose garden and duck pond taking time to reflect on the beauty of the park.

What is your favourite tree and flower?

The Canary Island Date Palm like those on Parkes Drive, they are very majestic and grand. My favourite flowers are Canna Lilies, they are year after year performers and garden stalwarts.

What is your advice for anyone wanting a similar career?

It is a great career but requires a genuine interest in trees and plants, if you have that you will find it thoroughly rewarding.

Nichola Clark ■

Taking pride of place

Park visitors may have noticed a stunning new addition to the Superintendent's Residence recently. Since the success of last year's Artful Park exhibition in December, Centennial Parklands has proved a beautiful setting for sculptures and outdoor installations.

Turning Away, a magnificent work by English sculptor, Nic Fiddian-Green is currently

taking pride of place in the picturesque gardens of the Residence. The work (pictured right) is part of Nic Fiddian-Green's exhibition currently showing at Michael Carr Art Dealer in Woollahra.

Art dealer, Michael Carr regards Nic as one of the finest equine sculptors in the world today. "*Turning Away* is a superb example of the sculptor's craft."

he says. "His passion for the power, skill and beauty of the horse as depicted by the Ancient Greeks is very evident in his work. We are delighted the park permitted us to place the work on display. We've had some marvellous feedback.

You can view the work until 10 March. For further details contact Michael Carr on (02) 9327 3011 ■



Parklands/Autumn 2002

A great golfing escape

*What's five minutes from the city,
five minutes from Bondi Beach,
five minutes from Sydney Airport ...
and, I'll say it ... a million miles from care?*

Give up?

It's Moore Park Golf Course, of course!

course also hosts corporate events six days a week.

Centennial Parklands Manager Operations, Andrew Ferris, along with Mal, have been the driving forces behind Moore Park's surge back up the 'must-play' list of most visiting golfers.

Mal points out that although Moore Park is a public course, it maintains Group One status and stands beside prestige eastern suburbs courses like Bonnie Doon and St Michaels as a sterling test of anyone's golf game.

Golfing great Carnegie Clark's original design has all but vanished - replaced by a stunning new Ken Mackay-design. It offers a complete test of the game, has all the finishing touches of a resort course and even some impressive innovations, like one

hole which has been built on the roof of an underground carpark.

The changes were formulated in 1991 after the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust took over the entire administration of the golf course from the administration of South Sydney Council. This provided the opportunity for the Trust to manage the park as a whole.

A plan of management was quickly drawn up in an attempt to realise the full potential of this leisure facility.

Work began in 1992 and for at least three years golfers had to endure a composite course during redesign and reconstruction.

Every hole changed on the layout, as did the driving range - even the greenkeepers' depot was moved.



The quality course is a result of a dedicated team of curators and maintenance staff.



Enjoying an afternoon at Moore Park, golfers don't have to venture far from the city for a great game.

Mal says many people had concerns that the new course might not be as good as the old course. But now most agree it is better.

"It's a more challenging golf course, a better layout and with some sensational holes with doglegs, new bunkers to catch errant shots and greens that are no longer the size of postage stamps," says Mal.

With the new design came improvements like an automatic irrigation system, a bridge across Dacey Avenue to help with player safety (two golfers had died after car accidents while trying to cross to the far side of the course) and a host of other minor improvements.

One of the most innovative was building a new fairway with a carpark underneath at the Moore Park Supacentre. It's probably the only golf course in this state that can say it is built on top of a carpark.

At the finish the Trust spent about \$3.2 million on improvements between 1992 to 1998.

"That might not sound a lot of money in the context of doing 18 new holes of a golf course but it really did the job," says Mal.

The Trust introduced a maintenance program and in December 1998, an improvement levy to continue their program of upgrading the course through adding paths, drainage, outdoor furniture and other necessities.

"Now the product is really there - ballwashers, paths, signage, the lot - there is nothing missing," he said.

"Apart from the major redevelopment works, huge efforts have been made in the maintenance services and standards on the course," Andrew said.

"We have a plant replacement program in place, a new modern depot, we've recruited very well and Mal's strengths in team building and his intimate knowledge of the course have been critical to the product that's there now."

Mal has a specialist golf staff of nine full time and two casual staff as well as a fulltime mechanic to keep all their machinery in working order.

While most guests marvel at the condition Mal Durkin and his team have a course that caters for thousands of rounds of golf a year, the head greenkeeper admits he has steered away from a few of the old strategies and green-keeping theories in an effort to make their greens even better.

"We don't water them as much and actually feed them less, topdress them regularly, spike them at regular intervals to get plenty of air into them and it has all helped," Mal said.

"The kikuyu fairways are now probably the best they have ever been."

Moore Park hosted the major pennants final last year and received rave reviews from the leading amateurs who took part.

In September 2002 the course will host the Australian Foursomes Championship, regarded by many as the second-biggest amateur event in Australia.

The staff do an amazing job when you consider there is hardly a daylight hour when the course is not full of golfers.

"Yes, it's a 24 hour-operation with guys here from 6am to 6pm and irrigation overnight," said Mal.

"With four seasons there are different challenges here all the time.

"This is a living, breathing asset that you can never walk away from or leave over the weekend and come back Monday and just hope to continue working on."

In fact even when Mal goes home he checks on his computer to ensure the irrigation has taken place on his multi-million dollar baby.

Then there's the 60-bay driving range, chipping green, putting green - these days Moore Park is a golfing facility and not just a golf course.

The Trust has completed a Moore Park South Master Plan which has identified the clubhouse for redevelopment opportunity to provide enhanced clubhouse and catering facilities and essential carparking improvements, according to Andrew.

With 60 hectares to play with, the only guarantee is the golfers will be the winners at Moore Park.

Michael Court
NSW Editor, The Golfer Newspaper

The impressive driving range at Moore Park Golf Course.



Maybe it's not quite a million miles from care because plenty of care and nurturing has been put into Moore Park Golf Course in the past few years.

Today the course, regarded as Sydney's busiest, is fast becoming known as one of the best in the metropolitan area as well.

That is a tribute to the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust and its good working relationship with the Moore Park Golf Club.

Their relationship sees the club run the game of golf, take bookings, marshal the course and run the members' part of the club. The Trust owns the facility and handles all the course maintenance and improvements.

It's a proud team of course curators, led by long-serving course superintendent Mal

Durkin, that deserve much of the credit for the condition of this Group One course that has a fabulous history and an 81-year tradition on the Sydney golf scene.

Moore Park Golf Course is one of Sydney's most convenient golf courses - it often greets visitors who have arrived straight from the overseas terminal - some with the baggage claim check ticket still flapping from their golf carry bag.

Here is a golf course rare in today's rat-race where the public can get a game there every day of the week.

Yet staring down on the course is one of this city's most respected golf clubs, boasting more than 800 members.

People come from all over Sydney just to use Moore Park's triple-story driving range, and the

AUTUMN Calendar

MARCH • APRIL • MAY

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

ALL AUTUMN

PORTRAIT OF A PARK SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

The historic Residence is now open to the public. Currently showing is the *Portrait of a Park* exhibition, a striking collection of black and white photographs by Wendy McDougall and Brendan Read which highlights the cultural diversity of Centennial Park. Open every Wednesday and weekends from 10am - 3pm.

General Park information is also available.

DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Let the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Club teach your pooch a few tricks. Every Sunday 9am-11am. Meet at Musgrave Ave Gates, cnr York and Darley Roads. Bookings essential. (02) 9398 6454 or 0412 645 154.

LEGENDS AT PARKLANDS

Practice those over-head, chest and bounce passes, and enjoy weekly games and training with the mixed and women's netball competition at Centennial Sports Centre. Individual players and teams of all standards are welcome. 6.30pm-9.15pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$550 per team. Moore Park. For more information and bookings phone (02) 9662 3523 or (02) 9662 3526.

CENTENNIAL STABLES ☺

Hop into the saddle at Centennial Stables for private lessons, group lessons or park rides. Accredited instructors. Open seven days a week. Information and bookings (02) 9360 5650.

MARCH 2002

1 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

A chance to see the wild nightlife of Centennial Park. Join Rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and lots of other night creatures. Bring torch. 8-9pm. \$8.50 per person. Meet Robertson Road Gates. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

2 Saturday

SYDNEY GAY + LESBIAN MARDI GRAS PARADE

It's extravagant, energetic, exciting, electric, eccentric and enormously entertaining. Don't miss the 24th Sydney Gay + Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. Parade starts at College Street, follows up Oxford Street and finishes in Moore Park Road and Driver Avenue. From 8pm.

BOBBY GOLDSMITH FOUNDATION RESERVED SEATING

Grab a seat at the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) Reserved Seating where you can relax and watch Sydney Gay + Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade in style.

All net proceeds from the BGF Reserved Seating go to supporting people living with HIV/AIDS.

Tickets are \$90 + booking and are available through www.ticketmaster7.com.au or phone 13 61 00.

3 Sunday

CAR FREE DAY

Walk, cycle or catch public transport and enjoy the first Sunday of Autumn in the peaceful surroundings of Centennial Park. Disabled access Musgrave Avenue Gates, 9am-5pm.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Grab your hat and gardening gloves and join us for this annual Clean Up event in Centennial Park. 9am-1pm. Registration at Superintendent's Residence, Paddington Gates, corner Oxford Street and Lang Road. Inquiries (02) 9339 6641.

10 Sunday

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

Yoga in Daily Life will be hosting three hours of free yoga, as well as kids yoga, face painting, meditation and live music. All welcome. 11am-2pm. Duck Pond, corner Parkes Drive and Grand Drive.

13 Wednesday

MY LITTLE PONIES ☺

A special children's tour of the Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre. Find out where the horses live, what they eat and how to care for them. Includes a short pony ride. Wear covered shoes. 10-11am. \$8 per child (2-5 years), adults free. Meet Equestrian Centre Gates, corner Lang and Cook Roads. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

17 Sunday

FRIENDS OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS EVENT

SPECIAL BIRDWATCHERS' BREAKFAST ☺

Bring along your binoculars and join ornithologist Trevor Waller with his keen eye and expert knowledge. The birdwatching walk will finish at Willow Pond for the official unveiling of Ern Hoskin's newly erected water bird sign. The event concludes with a light breakfast. Meet at the Shelter Pavilion. 9am-11am. Bring binoculars. \$10 per person. Bookings essential by 13 March (02) 9339 6699.

19 Tuesday

GILLS AND BILLS ☺

Discover some special features of our aquatic creatures! Take the plunge to see how animals are best adapted to life in Centennial Park's ponds by joining the Rangers on the 'Gills and Bills' story trail. Bring hat. 10-11am. \$8 per child (2-5 years). Meet Centennial Square. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

20 Wednesday

PORTRAIT OF A PARK - SENIORS WEEK EVENT

Senior Citizens are invited to visit the recently restored Superintendent's Residence in Centennial Park for an insight into one of Sydney's best loved Parks. Includes a short talk on the history of the Residence and overview of the exhibition. Exhibition opens 10am-3pm. Tour 10.30am. Free. Meet Superintendent's Residence, Paddington Gates, corner Oxford Street and Lang Road. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

APRIL 2002

ALL APRIL

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

See All Autumn

DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING

See All Autumn

CENTENNIAL STABLES ☺

See All Autumn

7 Sunday

IN THE DRINK ☺

Join Jon Breen, Sydney Water's historian for an indepth look at Centennial Park's long history as a source of Sydney's drinking water. Visit Lachlan Swamp, the source of water for Busby's Bore, as well as the century-old, heritage-listed Reservoirs. Bring hat. 10am-Noon. \$12 per person. Meet Shelter Pavilion. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

ESCAPE AND EXPLORE HOLIDAY PROGRAM

14 Sunday

PONY RIDES ☺

The only place where kids can jump into the saddle so close to the city! Hand-led, 10-minute rides for children, 10am-3pm. \$8.50 per ride. Meet Mobile Ranger Station, Centennial Parklands Café. Bookings not required.



15 Monday

DADU ☺

Meaning 'water' in the local Aboriginal language, Dadu is a tour for the whole family. Join Deborah Lennis and listen to her stories for this insight into how local indigenous peoples use the waterways in Centennial Park. 2-3.30pm. \$9 per person. Meet Shelter Pavilion. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

5-DAY TENNIS CAMP ☺

Children aged 5-15 yrs can have great fun this holiday learning tennis skills, playing games and winning prizes. 9am-3pm daily. \$120 (or \$30 per day). Centennial Parklands Sports Centre. Bookings (02) 9662 7033.

16 Tuesday

GILLS AND BILLS ☺

10-11am (See 19 March)

BUSBY'S BOOTY ☺

Follow the trail to collect hidden treasures and discover the watery secrets of Busby's Pond. Collect as much loot as you can find to create an imaginative sculpture of Centennial Park's underwater world. Bring hat. 2-4pm. \$12 per child (5-10 years). Meet Shelter Pavilion. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

6-7pm (See 1 March)

TWO-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

Saddle up for some holiday fun at Moore Park Stables. Children five years and over will enjoy park rides, lessons, decorating ponies, and mounted games on this camp held over two days. 10am-3pm. \$180 per camp (including morning tea and lunch). Moore Park Stables. Bookings essential (02) 9360 8747.

THREE-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

For a riding experience of a lifetime, jump into the saddle and join the expedition at Centennial Stables. \$250 per camp (including lunches and teas). 10am-4pm. Centennial Stables. Bookings (02) 9360 5650.

17 Wednesday

GILLS AND BILLS ☺

10-11am (See 19 March)

18 Thursday

DRIP THE DROP ☺

Hear the tale of Drip the Drop as he travels through the stormwater drains into Centennial Park's Ponds. Discover how we keep his home clean and decorate your own pond picture wheel that tells of Drip the Drop's journey. Bring hat. 10-11am. \$8 per child (2-5 years). Meet Musgrave Ave Gates. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

TWO-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

10am-3pm (See 16 April)

BUSBY'S BOOTY ☺

2-4pm (See 16 April)

19 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

6-7pm (See 1 March)

21 Sunday

PONY RIDES ☺

10am-3pm (See 14 April)

FREE YOGA IN THE PARK

11am-2pm (See 10 March)

22 Monday

3-DAY TENNIS CAMP ☺

Children aged 5-15 yrs can have great fun this holiday learning tennis skills, playing games and winning prizes. 9am-3pm daily. \$100 (or \$30 per day). Centennial Parklands Sports Centre. Bookings (02) 9662 7033.

22 Monday

DADU ☺

2-3.30pm (See 15 April)

23 Tuesday

DRIP THE DROP ☺

10-11am (See 18 April)

TWO-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

10am-3pm (See 16 April)

THREE-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

10am-4pm (See 16 April)

BUSBY'S BOOTY ☺

2-4pm (See 16 April)

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

6-7pm (See 1 March)

24 Wednesday

DRIP THE DROP ☺

10-11am (See 18 April)

25 Thursday

GILLS AND BILLS ☺

10-11am (See 19 March)

TWO-DAY HORSE RIDING CAMP ☺

10am-3pm (See 16 April)

BUSBY'S BOOTY ☺

2-4pm (See 16 April)

26 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

6-7pm (See 1 March)

28 Sunday

PONY RIDES ☺

10am-3pm (See 14 April)

MAY 2002

ALL MAY

SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE

See All Autumn

DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING

See All Autumn

CENTENNIAL STABLES ☺

See All Autumn

3 Friday

SPOTLIGHT PROWL ☺

5.45-6.45pm (See 1 March)

16 Thursday

MY LITTLE PONIES ☺

10-11am (See 13 March)

19 Sunday

MILLION PAWS WALK

The RSPCA's sixth national Million Paws Walk is a highlight of Centennial Parklands' calendar. Bring your pet along to join in on a host of doggie festivities which includes animal aerobic warm-ups, entertainers, dog washers, raffles, information stalls and free vet checks. Competitions with great prizes and giveaways will be another highlight. From 9am at Loch Avenue South.

For further details visit the website www.millionpawswalk.com.au

22 Wednesday

DRIP THE DROP ☺

10-11am (See 18 April)

Escape and Explore Bookings

Bookings and advance payment are required for all Escape and Explore activities. Numbers are strictly limited and places will not be held without payment.

Bookings can be made by phoning (02) 9339 6699 or by visiting the Park Administration Building during normal business hours.

Cancellations made less than 48 hours prior to the activity may not receive a full refund.



26 Sunday

BIRDWATCHER'S BREAKFAST ☺

Centennial Park is a haven for migratory, nomadic and resident land and water birds. Join early morning birdwatchers to spot some of the 142 species that have been recorded here. Enjoy a light breakfast by the ponds. Bring binoculars. 7.30-9.30am. \$12 per person. Includes breakfast. Meet Musgrave Ave Gates. Bookings essential (02) 9339 6699.

31 Friday

SYDNEY ROOSTERS PRIMARY SCHOOLS RUGBY LEAGUE KNOCKOUT

Come and support local schools battling it out for the opportunity to play at the All Schools State Carnival. The knockout will take place at Centennial Parklands' Parade Grounds. 8.30-3.30pm. For more details phone (02) 9386 3248.

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

Centennial Parklands User's Guide

QUICK GUIDE

First Aid and Emergency

24 hour Ranger service, 7 days.

☎(02)9746 2164 or (02)9746 0444

Administration

8.30am-5pm Monday-Friday. Located behind Centennial Parklands Café.

☎(02)9339 6699 Fax: (02)9332 2148

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.
- **Car:** main gates to Centennial Park open sunrise to sunset. Car Free Days are held on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December. A 30km speed limit applies on all roads in Centennial Park.

Friends of Centennial Parklands

More than a group of park lovers, the Friends are an important association of like-minded people committed to preserving the Parklands' history and culture.

☎(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/aboutus/community

Park Information

Information, maps and brochures are available from the Administration Building (behind the Café) or the Superintendent's Residence, Wednesdays and weekends (10am-3pm)

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

Centennial Parklands Restaurant

Modern Australian à la carte restaurant offering a full wine list. Open daily for breakfast and lunch. 8.30am-3pm. Open for dinner 5.30-9pm Wednesday to Saturday. Also available for weddings and function hire.

☎(02)9360 3355

Centennial Parklands Café

Specialising in light meals and snacks, the Café offers open air eating in our award-winning forecourt. Open 7 days, 8am-5pm. ☎(02)9380 6922

Centennial Parklands Kiosk

Located next to the Duck Pond, the Kiosk serves sandwiches, light meals, coffee, cold drinks and ice cream. Open Weekends and Public Holidays, 8am-sunset.

Centennial Parklands Children's Centre

Long day care centre for babies to pre-schoolers. ☎(02)9663 1200

Centennial Parklands Equestrian Centre

Formerly the historic Sydney Showgrounds stables, now a world-class Equestrian Centre offering 270 stables, a lunging yard, arenas, veterinarian, agistment providers and riding schools.

☎(02)9332 2809

Moore Park Golf Club

Public 18 hole golf course in the heart of the Eastern Suburbs. Includes Golf Pro Shop and one of the largest driving ranges in Australia.

☎(02)9663 3791

Centennial Parklands Sports Centre

Tennis, basketball and netball courts available for casual or regular use.

☎(02)9662 7033

THINGS TO DO

Cycling & Roller Blading

A 4km cycling and roller blading track follows the perimeter of Grand Drive. A Learner's Cycleway for children is also available (cycling only). Cyclists are not permitted to ride in packs of more than 15. Hire available from:

- Centennial Park Cycles: ☎(02)9398 5027 (bikes & blades)
- Woollys Wheels: ☎(02)9331 2671 (bikes)
- Bondi Boards & Blades: ☎(02)9369 2212 (blades)
- Total Skate: ☎(02)9380 6356 (blades)

Dog Walking

Dogs can be exercised off leash, but under control in Centennial Park outside Grand Drive, and in Moore and Queens Park. Dogs must be on a lead inside the Grand Drive circle and Federation Valley. For safety reasons dogs are not allowed on the horse or cycle track, roads, equestrian grounds, children's playgrounds, Learner's Cycleway, in ponds or on sporting fields when in use. Dogs must be kept 10 metres from BBQs.

Jogging & Walking

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

Horse Riding

Centennial Park is one of the few remaining parks in the world offering inner-city horse riding, with a 3.6km circular horse track and some 2 hectares of fenced equestrian grounds. Horse hire available from:

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

Picnics & BBQs

The Parklands offer unlimited picnic spots, with views of ponds, fields and gardens. Also five BBQ locations in Centennial Park and one in Queens Park. Access to picnic areas and BBQs operates on a first-in basis. Bookings required for groups of 50 or over. Bookings: ☎(02)9339 6699

Children's Activities

Ranger-led birthday parties, toddler activities, holiday activities and school excursions are available as part of the Parkland's *Escape and Explore Program*.

☎(02)9339 6699

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 recatan running track, shot put, discus, javelin, long high & 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 on the eastern side of the Park. Perfect for weddings, launches and events.

Bookings: ☎(02)9339 6699

Centennial Parklands Restaurant

Available for weddings and function hire. 8.30am-3pm.

Bookings: ☎(02)9360 3355

Events

Submissions from the public are welcome for activities and events that support the Parklands' cultural policy. Enquiries: ☎(02)9339 6615 or ☎(02)9339 6635.

Filming & Photography

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

Enquiries: ☎(02)9339 6621

CENTENNIAL  parklands
centennial park moore park queens park

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