

parklands

THE MAGAZINE OF CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS



Westpac rehabilitates
wetlands

The dollar value
of trees

Love is in the air

CENTENNIAL
parklands
is living Sydney

Directions



During 2005, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Trust) commissioned a research project that looked at current park users and non-users of Centennial Parklands. This project formed part of a continuing program of research that was established in 1985.

The research evaluated the perceptions of marketing and management initiatives, in addition to monitoring current performance of Parklands facilities and services.

The results of this survey have now been finalised and, in general, most services achieved an improved rating. Some key areas such as signage, playgrounds and toilets have shown significant improvements in satisfaction as a result of targeted improvement initiatives.

For example, capital funding was set aside to construct five new toilet amenities, which had previously received consistently poor satisfaction ratings. Findings in the survey indicated a marked improvement in visitor satisfaction with the new amenities.

The design of these new amenities also received a tick of approval, recently winning an award from the NSW Royal Australian Institute of Architects. For more about this award, see page 3.

Despite these improvements, the Trust is aware that this highly used and valued open space needs continual improvement and

ongoing maintenance. In the coming financial year, the Trust will implement a range of improvements for visitors including further way finding, orientation and information signage, an upgrade of key access points to Queens Park and the refurbishment of the Centennial Parklands Restaurant.

Feedback about services and facilities is welcomed at anytime. Visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/Contact for a feedback form or call (02) 9339 6699.

I wish you an energetic, entertaining and exciting season and hope you enjoy the beautiful springtime surrounds of Centennial Parklands.

Steve Corbett

Director and Chief Executive
Centennial Parklands



Parkbench

Toilets win architectural acclaim

Architectural firm Lahz Nimmo recently won an industry award for the design of five new toilet blocks in Centennial Parklands. Awarded by the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) at their recent ceremony, this impressive accolade was well received with the RAIA jury commenting on both the useability and environmental features of the amenities, as well as the achievement in the five buildings' overall design in complimenting the surrounding landscape of Centennial Parklands. The five new toilets located at Federation Valley, Dickens Drive, Musgrave Avenue, Centennial Square and McKay Oval replaced existing buildings that were severely dilapidated.

New signage shows the way

Over recent months, visitors to Centennial Parklands will have noticed that the first stage of the much anticipated new signage has been installed. This integrated suite of signs includes identification, information, regulatory and street signs which aim to significantly improve way finding, information distribution and place identification throughout Centennial, Moore and Queens Parks. The Trust has recently approved a significant budget allocation for the next stage of signage implementation which will take place during the 2006–2007 financial year.



New signage at the Cafe

An eventful season ahead



The annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Marathon

Celebrate the warm spring weather at one of many great cultural events to be held in Centennial Parklands this season. September will spearhead the springtime entertainment with the Sydney Running Festival's annual marathon and the NSW Fly Casting Championships. October will host Parks Week, the

ever-popular Parklife 8 music festival, an endurance cycling event and, the stalwarts of the spring calendar, the Walk to Cure Diabetes fundraiser and the Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Month's Spring Picnic. During November, thousands of runners will descend on the Parade Grounds for the annual JPMorgan Chase Corporate Marathon and, to celebrate Frog Week, the Frog Mobile will display its range of amphibious inhabitants. For details, visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/What's On or call (02) 9339 6699.

Award winning Annual Report

For the second consecutive year, Centennial Parklands has won a silver award for its Annual Report. The 2004–2005 Annual Report was acknowledged by the Australasian Reporting Awards at a stylish presentation ceremony held in June at Sydney's Hilton Hotel. Centennial Parklands was among a number of government, private and not-for-profit organisations who were credited with providing adequate disclosures of key aspects of core business and addressing current legislative and regulatory requirements.

Annual Fees and Charges Review

Each year the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust reviews its fees and charges which cover a diverse range of facilities and services such as: Moore Park Golf, public programs, parking, sports field hire, filming and photography, functions, *Friends of Centennial Parklands*, events and the Equestrian Centre. The intent of the review is to apply CPI changes to Centennial Parklands fees and charges and to cover increases in administrative overheads and maintenance costs associated with the direct provision of products and services. The reviewed fees and charges came into effect on 1 August 2006 and the majority of rates for 2006–2007 have only been increased in-line with CPI. For details, visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/About Us

New water savings for garden beds

The first of four new water-saving projects commenced in June 2006 with funding acquired by the Centennial Parklands Foundation. The grant of approximately \$140,000 provided by the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability has allowed the current irrigation system in Centennial Park's Rose and Column Gardens to be changed from potable town water to pond water supply, and the upright sprinkler heads have been replaced with new drip-lines resulting in improved soil water retention and a considerable reduction in water use and evaporation. The use of the pond's non-potable water achieves a notable saving to Sydney's drinking water supply. The remaining three projects include providing non-potable water connections to the Equestrian Centre, newly constructed toilets and the older existing amenities blocks.



Column Garden, Centennial Park

Contents

Parkbench	3
The dollar value of trees	4
Westpac rehabilitates wetlands	4
Events Wrap-up	5
Love is in the air	6
Twitcher's Corner – rainbow lorikeet	8
A Walk in the Park with Rex Dupain	8
Tree of the Season – dragon's blood tree	9
Lights, Camera, Action	9
Healthy Parks	10
Healthy People	10
Foundation and Friends	11
Visitor Information	12



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

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

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

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

Editor: Rachel Ely
rachel.ely@cp.nsw.gov.au

Contributors: Trevor Waller

Photography: Chris Gleisner, Rex Dupain,
Vivien Jones, Kylie Chow

Printed on recycled paper

Cover: Birdwatching beside Busbys Pond



The dollar value of trees

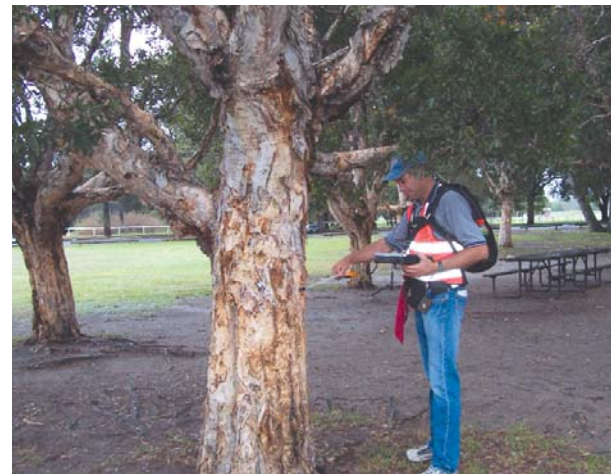
Since 1999, Centennial Parklands has recognised its tree population as a significant asset. The estimated collection is now some 15,800 trees and is considered to be of high aesthetic value and great horticultural and environmental significance. This year it has been valued at \$164 million, up from \$97 million in 2005.

Placing a dollar value on a tree population is no simple achievement. A qualified Arborist works on-site to plot the exact location of each tree, identifying the species, and assessing its health against 19 specific categories of information. Based on the data collected, the valuation is derived by Sydney University's Professor Peter Martin, who has formulated a specialised tree valuation methodology which has been endorsed by NSW Treasury.

This year, for the first time, the Moore Park Golf Course, Entertainment Quarter, Fox Professional Studios and both Sydney Boys' and Girls' High School sites have

been included in the survey providing an accurate record of the entire tree asset within Trust lands. The inclusion of trees at the schools have been included in this survey as they contribute significantly to the amenity of the Parklands, and the Trust has delegated authority of the City of Sydney Council's Tree Preservation Order within the school grounds.

The firm appointed to conduct the tree survey and assessment project this year is Tree Logic, a Melbourne based consultancy, who have a vast range of experience in conducting major tree surveys throughout Melbourne. Dean Simonsen, Director of Tree Logic is proud to be associated with such an important project. 'The



Dean Simonsen assessing tree health

maintenance and management of the Parklands will only benefit from the detailed information available on the trees. The implementation and upkeep of such a survey certainly signals that horticultural best practice is a key objective of Parklands management,' he says.

Westpac rehabilitates wetlands

Forty-four employees from Westpac's Business and Consumer Banking team braved wet and wintry conditions for a day of wetland rehabilitation in Centennial Park. The project was part of Westpac's annual community day, a company-wide event dedicated to giving something back to local businesses and organisations.

The day involved swapping computers and notepads for trowels and wheel barrows as the team enthusiastically planted native grasses, shrubs and rushes around Centennial Park's Fly Casting Pond. Mounds of mulch awaited their arrival and holes had been dug in the pond verges in preparation for the new plants which will provide improved habitat for water birds, fish and aquatic invertebrates and assist in maintaining the water quality.

The less than favourable weather was no barrier to the group's commitment. Donning colourful plastic raincoats and

signature red Westpac caps, the team worked tirelessly despite the intermittent showers, often ankle deep in puddles and mud alongside the resident ducks and ibis who were relishing the wet conditions.

Whilst most of the volunteers ventured from their high rise, climate-controlled offices in Sydney's CBD, others came from branches in regional areas of NSW and Victoria to participate in the day's activities. For some it was a memorable first visit to Centennial Parklands.

Westpac's Community Day organiser, David Camilleri, was pleased with the team's efforts. 'Last year, we were involved in building furniture for an inner city homeless shelter. But this year the group voted for an environmental project as it was a chance to do something outdoors and support Westpac's Operation Backyard Program,' said David. 'The opportunity for the team to work together in a different context has been very rewarding'.

Centennial Park's Environment Officer, John Martin was equally impressed with the volunteer's efforts. 'The group was great – they worked hard and were really keen. And the sporadic down pours made the day memorable for all involved'. The team also pooled together to purchase a Tree Dedication Package from the Centennial Parklands Foundation, selecting a hoop pine to the value of \$500—a significant contribution that will benefit the Parklands for years to come.



Westpac staff get their hands dirty

Events Wrap-up

A Dog's Day Out



Rival Retrievers at the 2006 Dog Obedience Trials

Over 100 canine competitors from throughout New South Wales converged on Centennial Park's Musgrave Avenue for the Eastern Suburbs Dog Training Clubs' 2006 Dog Obedience Trials. Held under stunning autumn skies, this annual event featured dogs of all breeds, ages and abilities competing in the jumping, retrieval and article-seeking events. The lure of doggie treats and the coveted ribbon presentation inspired many of these precision pooches, with five obedience titles being awarded in the open, novice and utility divisions. Scores of spectators shared in the day's display, appreciating the skill and talent exhibited by these disciplined dogs as they completed obstacle courses and responded to their trainers' firm commands.

Flying Disc's ultimate tournament

Queens Park recently played host to the 2006 Australian Ultimate Championships, pitting teams from throughout Australia and New Zealand in competitive disc flying. Hosted by the New South Wales Flying Disc Association, the tournament attracted close to 550 competitors along with a few curious passers-by who were intrigued by the large crowds and unusual team sport. Despite three days of fine weather for the preliminary matches, wet conditions on the last day made for an interesting grand final, with the men's division being won by Chilly, a Victorian Men's team and the women's division being won by Tumeke, a New Zealand team. Tournament Director, Belinda Kinneally, received very positive feedback from all competitors. 'Everything ran smoothly and the play was intense,' said Belinda, 'and hopefully we have introduced a few people to this fun and unique sport'.

Fly Casting Trials

During July and August, members of the Sydney Fly Rodders Club gathered at the aptly named Fly Casting Pond in Centennial Park to compete in the Brunn Shield—part of Australia's National Fly Casting Competition. Held simultaneously by clubs across Australia, this niche competition pitted teams and individuals in three accuracy events—the Dry Fly, Skish and Wet Fly.

Although fishing is not permitted in Centennial Park, the traditional art of fly casting does not use a hook and therefore poses no threats to birds and wildlife. Fly Casting Pond will also play host to the State Championships on 10 September, where enthusiasts will contest three distance and three accuracy events.



National Champion Danny Spelic competes in the Brunn Shield

A French Rendezvous



French style entertainment at Pic Nic au Parc

Several hundred people enjoyed a relaxing rendezvous in Centennial Park on July 9 for the inaugural Pic Nic Au Parc. Along with traditional French food, music and entertainment, picnic goers took part in games of boules and heard live broadcasts from SBS radio. Pic Nic Au Parc was one of 30 events held as part of French Rendez-vous, a 14-day program of events. Digby Wren, founder and CEO of French Rendez-vous, was delighted with the picnic and wants to grow the Pic Nic Au Parc into a major event in Sydney's calendar.

Local schools plant trees



Students from Sydney Girls' High School with Horticulturist Eliza Tyson

Local students from Sydney Girls' High School, Sydney Boys' High School and Bourke Street Public School celebrated Schools National Tree Day on Friday, 28 July by planting trees and grasses in the Mount Steel area of Moore Park. Assisted by Centennial Parklands staff, the students enjoyed a break from the classroom to plant 15 Sydney red gums (*Angophora costata*) and 45 blueberry ash trees (*Eleocharis reticulatus*) as well as many Lomandra and Kennedia grass varieties. Funding for the trees and grasses was gratefully provided by the Friends of Centennial Parklands.

Love is in the air



Springtime not only heralds the arrival of warmer weather, budding blossoms and new life, but also the start of wedding season. If Centennial Parklands is the heart of Sydney, then what better place to perpetuate the traditional garden wedding—as a place for couples to declare their love and commitment to each other in the institution of marriage.

The lure of picturesque, colourful gardens with the backdrop of ponds, trees and open spaces is a draw card for hundreds of couples planning their connubials. For many, the connection to the Parklands as a place of childhood memories or romantic encounters drives many to seek a similar experience whilst embarking on a journey into matrimony.

In the last year alone, there was an average of one wedding ceremony per week held in the gardens of Centennial Parklands; and up to three events per weekend for those clinking champagne flutes at receptions at the Centennial Parklands Restaurant.

However, tying the knot under the veil of clear, blue sky or a galaxy of stars can be a nervous decision, with the possibility of rain, wind, heat and cold enough to temper even the happiest of matrimones. But for most couples, the



Marquee site at Centennial Square

wedding nuptials are planned to precision, organised to cater for the comfort of their guests, decorations, photography, sound management and even the potential of uninvited attendees—curious crowds of geese or the odd ankle-seeking mosquito. Eddie and Michelle Geller hired the marquee site at Centennial Square for their big day, incorporating all aspects of the wedding—the ceremony, reception and photography in one location—a key reason for choosing Centennial Parklands as a venue.

Many of the function centres didn't suit their needs, and in contrast, the Park seemed perfect as it gave them the scope to design the function of their choice. Their wedding ceremony took place on the jetty overlooking Fly Casting Pond, in the afternoon sun, followed by a reception at the adjacent Centennial Square. In keeping with the tent-style marquee, the wedding had a Moroccan theme comprising a cocktail area with big cushions and mats; and the main area of the marquee was decorated with tea-lights.

With 250 guests to consider, Michelle and Eddie ensured they had a

waterproof marquee that was big enough to house all aspects of the wedding, just in case of rain, but luck was on their side.

The decision to have an outdoor wedding in the middle of summer caused a few jitters for newly-weds Michelle and Paul Masnick, who were married in a traditional ceremony on the tree-lined promontory overlooking Busbys Pond last December.

'In the week leading up to the wedding, the temperatures had been in the very high 30s and we were concerned that people would get sunburnt and suffer from the heat. But on the day, it was fairly cool—quite overcast in the morning with the sun coming out later in the day,' says Michelle.

Michelle, a teacher, and Paul, a tax manager, wanted a location that provided a beautiful garden setting with some scope for a range of different photographs—and they were extremely pleased with the end result. Surrounded by over 150 family and friends in a picturesque garden and pond setting, was their ideal wedding. 'The flower beds around where we had the ceremony were all blooming and there was a beautiful feel to the day,' says Michelle.



A unique place to walk down the aisle



Photos for the wedding album amongst the paperbarks

Ilana and Brendan Mill chose Centennial Park for their wedding for a combination of factors—both personal and practical. Both spent much of their childhood in Centennial Parklands, and as a couple, have enjoyed many walks, picnics and BBQs. From a pure logistical perspective, the Park was centrally located and could cater for an unlimited guest list. The chance to have their wedding as well as their formal photos in Centennial Park's column garden was a dream come true.

Almost 200 guests gathered amongst the floral displays to witness Ilana walk down the grassy aisle, a moment which was a highlight for the effervescent bride. 'The day could not have been more perfect! The weather was a beautiful 28-30 degrees, with not a cloud in the sky, and really the whole feel of the day was one of happiness which was highlighted even more upon our arrival to the garden,' Ilana described. In keeping with a butterfly theme which incorporated the invitations, Ilana's wedding gown and reception decorations, Ilana and Brendan released butterflies as part of their ceremony—something unique to an outdoor wedding.

For a slight variation on the outdoor wedding theme, many couples choose the Centennial Parklands Restaurant as their venue. This popular facility is kept busy with a constant stream of bookings. 'People are attracted to the beautiful views and the elegant feel of the

Restaurant, especially when it is lit up with fairy lights after dark,' shares Nicolie Adams, the Restaurant's Event Coordinator. 'Many alleviate the fear of unpredictable weather by having their ceremony and reception at the Restaurant, making use of the outdoor courtyard and the verandah'.

Whilst many elect for a traditional ceremony and reception, some people choose a less conventional approach, incorporating all manner of unusual request including photo booths and

chandeliers. And there has been the odd celebrity wedding too, including that of ARIA award winning musician Alex Lloyd and Sydney Roosters player Ryan Cross, both of whom liked the privacy and seclusion of the Restaurant's setting.

But creating a romantic atmosphere seems to be at the top of most wedding planners agenda's. The Restaurant caters for regular requests for fairy lights, candles and dancing in the glass-enclosed verandah.

With the offer of such a unique site teamed with many heartfelt connections, it's no wonder so many rings have been exchanged and bouquets thrown within Centennial Park.

Staff from Centennial Parklands work closely with licencees, event organisers and bridal customers to make any wedding day something special. This includes assisting clients with site selection, timing and information for guests.

If the idea of saying 'I do' in traditional garden style appeals to you, please visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/Venues or call (02) 9339 6699.



The Centennial Parklands Restaurant decorated with fairy lights

Twitcher's Corner

Rainbow lorikeet

By Trevor Waller



Rainbow lorikeet

Of the many parrot species that can be seen in Centennial Parklands the **rainbow lorikeet** would have to be one of the most beautiful. A multi-coloured bird with a bright red bill, streaky blue head and red eyes, they have a greenish-yellow collar and a green back and tail. Their chest is red-orange and their belly is blue.

They fly fast and direct over, or twist and turn sharply amongst the

trees and are usually in pairs or large flocks. In flight their call is a rolling musical screech, and while feeding they give a more mellow chattering call. They move extensively around the area in search of suitable flowering or fruiting trees. Once they find a suitable tree they will feed noisily in large groups.

They have a specialised brush-tipped tongue which they use to extract nectar and pollen from flowering eucalypts, banksias and paperbarks. Fruit is also on the menu and a tree full of ripe fruit can prove irresistible, attracting large numbers of lorikeets. At night they like to roost in very large numbers and the sound of them gathering to roost can be quite deafening.

Rainbow lorikeets can be found along the east coast in rainforests, woodlands, coastal banksia scrub, plantations, gardens and street trees. They have been very successful around Sydney and their numbers have increased over the years.

Nesting takes place from July to January and the nest is built in a hollow limb or trunk in a smooth-barked tree, often near water and quite high. They lay a clutch of 2–3 eggs that are incubated by the female. The young birds leave the nest after about nine weeks. These wonderfully loud and colourful birds can be seen flying over Centennial Parklands, or feeding in groups in any flowering trees.

Trevor Waller is a bird enthusiast with over ten 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. For details, visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/What's On](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/What's%20On) or call (02) 9339 6699.

A Walk in the Park with Rex Dupain



Photo by Rex Dupain in Centennial Park

Renowned Sydney painter and photographer, Rex Dupain enjoys a daily constitutional to Centennial Park, embodying his lifelong passion for form and image in the many facets of the Park's natural and social fabric.

Most beautiful spot in Centennial Parklands?

Through the bush track that enters a section of white gums. The track leads across a little stream on wet days and ends up at the Federation Pavilion.

Who would you most like to take for a walk in Centennial Parklands and why?

My partner Rita who appreciates all things natural. Including cold winter air first thing in the day, colourful cloud formations, textured bark on trees, ducks, continued pond inspections that analyse water levels, reflections and misty winter valleys.

Best part of spring?

The smell of new growth in the air.

Horses or Dogs?

I love to watch the various horses trotting past. Some of the colours and tones on these animals are magnificent, let alone their natural shape which is always a surprise to see in the middle of the city. Yesterday a man was cantering past on an Appaloosa. The horse's body shape was strong and majestic and the patterns on his coat were a wonder that any abstract painter would have marvelled at. Dogs are always great reminders of who we are. So many owners match their dogs look and temperaments. My dog has a pointy nose and is disobedient. Funny that!

Formal Gardens or Rugged Landscape?

I can always marvel at the formal gardens by admiring the gardener's effort in taming nature. But my preference is for the wilder, untamed segments of the Park. Eg parts of the paperbark forest, the top end, white-trunked gums and the Martin Road side where dogs can run wild without pestering the public.

What inspires you most about the Parklands?

It is a place that inspires as a result of being able to exercise on a daily basis within a well kept sanctuary. The sunsets, the sunrises, the wet mornings, the level access to forest and grass, the horses, the trees, the ponds, the birdlife and the huffing and puffing as I do as I make my way around a chosen path. All within three minutes walk from home! And with the added bonus that all the gardening is done for you! Love it!

Tree of the Season

Dragon's blood tree

The dragon's blood tree or *Dracaena draco*, a member of the Dracaenaceae family, is a native to the Madeira, Cape Verde and Canary Island groups, off the north-west coast of Africa. Only a few individuals of this striking tree can be found growing naturally and these are mainly on the islands of Tenerife and La Palma, growing in dry bush at the low elevations of the islands' rocky mountain ranges.

Growing to a height of about nine metres, the trunk of the dragon's blood tree is upright with a multi-branched canopy of prickly, stiff grey leaves which can spread across an area of about 3.5 metres. Following a springtime flush of discreet sweet-smelling, greenish-white flowers, the tree produces pea-sized, bright-orange and very fleshy berries.

The tree is extremely slow growing, taking 5–10 years to reach just 1.5

metres, when it begins to flower. The flowering causes the stem to branch, resulting in a highly divided tree which can be aged according to the number of branches. The oldest known individual in the world is thought to be more than 650 years old.

The name of the dragon's blood tree is steeped in mythical origins. In Greek mythology, Hercules had to bring back three golden apples from the garden of Hesperides which was guarded by Landon, the hundred-headed dragon. In his quest, Hercules killed Landon and from his blood which flowed across the land, sprouted 'dragon' trees. When cut, the tree exudes 'dragon's blood', a red sap which is still used today in furniture polishes and resins.

Two specimen of *Dracaena draco* can be seen in Frog Hollow, Centennial Park,



Dragon's blood tree at the centre of the circular garden beds
Inset: The tree's fleshy berries

between the Centennial Parklands Café and Busbys Pond. The larger specimen of the two is approximately 30–40 years old and features as the centrepiece of one of the circular display beds.

Centennial Parklands Horticulturists have successfully potted a number of seedlings which have germinated from the fallen fruit of this plant. Although due to the slow-growing nature of this plant, it will be some time until they are ready to be included in the designed garden beds within Centennial Park.

Lights, camera, action



Film shoot in action

directors, photographers, documentary makers and film producers, both locally and overseas.

With landscapes ranging from tended garden beds, wooded groves and grassy fields to expansive ponds, grand avenues and heritage stables, the opportunities for location managers abound, transforming these areas into the sets for television programs, commercials, films and fashion shoots.

Ashley McLeod is the Location Director from Sach Australia, a locations company that regularly recommends Centennial Parklands to his many filming and photography clients. The combined appeal of Centennial Parklands proximity to Sydney's CBD along with its open space is what draws Ashley back time and time again. 'Centennial Parklands is one of the most well used and diverse locations on my files, offering open fields, wooded forests, mystic paths and room to move and build sets,' says Ashley.

The magical setting of Centennial Park's Pine Forest is one of the most popular locations. It was the set for Australian Idol winner

Setting the scene for over 40 film shoots and 80 photographic sessions over the past year, Centennial Parklands is a versatile location that is becoming increasingly popular for art

Casey Donovan's music clip for 'Listen to your Heart' and has been the location for many well known fashion shoots, with models posing in the latest couture surrounded by the stark and linear backdrops of pine trees, with the resulting photography featuring in such publications as *Vogue* and *Woman's Day*.

Particularly popular with the Asian market, Centennial Park's relatively quiet and easily managed roadways are a haven for producers of car commercials, with many television advertisements being filmed along the Park's quintessential tree-lined avenues.

More recently, the Parklands has hosted ABC television's *Enough Rope with Andrew Denton*, children's favourite *Hi-5*, Pay TV's *Love My Way* and well-known pet show *Harry's Practice* to cite just a few.

Kate Hooper from Centennial Parklands liaises with filming and photography clients to ensure that production houses comply with the structured guidelines that are in place to manage this growing industry. 'Whilst we give due consideration to the objectives of the film crews, we have an obligation to protect the sensitive environment of the Parklands – which means that some areas are not available as sets or locations,' says Kate. 'Nor do we allow filming on weekends when the Parklands is experiencing peak visitation'.

For more information about Filming and Photography, visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/Venues

Healthy Parks, Healthy People

Healthy Parks

Treetop travellers



Fruit bat by Vivien Jones

For most residents of Sydney, it is not uncommon to see a cloud of grey-headed flying foxes, leaving their camp at sunset for an evening of feeding. Street trees, back yards, parks and gardens are all in the sights of these winged mammals as they seek out the springtime flush of fruit, blossoms and nectar.

The avenues of fig and paperbark trees throughout the Parklands are a popular feeding ground and the area around the Robertson Road Gates is an ideal location to hear the evening air fill with the animated sounds of screeching and babbling as the flying foxes, also known as fruit bats, make a beeline for their breakfast in the treetops.

Their constant travels around the greater Sydney area and beyond in search of fruit provides the bats with the unique opportunity to pollinate flowering plants and disperse the seeds of fruit-bearing trees through their droppings—which is crucial to the survival of many of Australia's rainforest tree varieties.

However, despite their fundamental ecological role, fruit bats are often the focus of misdirected and ignorant perceptions. Many believe the Hollywood-esque idea that all bats are vision-impaired, blood-sucking, hair-entangling predators from the wildest depths of the earth.

Ironically, a close-up encounter with these supposedly fearful beasts, often reveals quite the opposite. Many people find their fox-like faces quite endearing, showing cute wiggly ears and a wide-eyed expression. And contrary to popular belief, fruit bats have very good eyesight, often using constructions such as street lights and roadways to guide their nocturnal navigation from one of Sydney's three permanent bat colonies, located at Gordon, Cabramatta and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

So next time you hear the flap of a batwing in the trees, take a moment to consider these night-time natives from a different angle, or for an even closer look, join a Ranger-guided Spotlight Prowl. For details visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn or call (02) 9339 6999.

Parks Week

Don't forget this week long event celebrating Sydney's Parks and Gardens. 15-22 October. For details, visit www.healthyparkshealthypeople.com.au

Healthy People

The Art of Nature

In most people's minds, the stereotypical Park Ranger patrols the wide open spaces armed with a torch, two-way radio and a mobile phone to keep the peace. But Centennial Parklands Senior Education Ranger, Paul Solomon prefers to use a paintbrush or artist's charcoal to tame the wild.

Paul has been running 'Art for Adults' classes in Centennial Parklands for the past 12 months. The ponds in Centennial Park have provided the ideal subject for the budding Monet or Matisse, with classic lily pads, bridges, birdlife and shimmering water surfaces reflecting cloudy skies. Drawing on his combined background in teaching and visual arts, Paul has been using a range of techniques to bring out the creativity in the canvasses of his protégés.

Paul has found that the response from participants has been very positive, with many people attending on a regular basis to fine tune their blossoming skills. Each session attracts up to 15 participants, both male and female, allowing the chance for Paul to provide more personal tuition. 'The groups really enjoy the opportunity to paint and draw outdoors and to learn how to use different media and techniques,' says Paul. 'And each person draws inspiration from their own experiences in the Park, which is wonderful to see,' he shares.



Painting the pond scene

Whilst some participants are beginners, others have been drawing for many years. But all seem to share the same desire to gain some motivation, inspiration and clear instructions on how to paint and draw—something that Paul delivers in a friendly and relaxed manner. The sessions are organised with a step-by-step approach and all materials are provided, making it easy for people to get involved without a great expense. 'I hope to continue to offer these classes on a regular basis, so more people can have the chance to set aside time to paint in the Park and to draw inspiration from the beautiful scenery of the Parklands as well as people that work here,' says Paul.

For details, visit www.cp.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn or call (02) 9339 6699.

Whilst some participants are beginners, others have been drawing for many years. But all seem to share the same desire to

Foundation and Friends

National Tree Day

In support of National Tree Day on Sunday 30 July, the Centennial Parklands Foundation hosted a highly successful community planting event at Sandstone Ridge in Centennial Park. A total of 50 Sydney red gums were planted as part of the Adopt-a-Tree initiative which supports the Parklands Tree Replacement Program. The 'adopted' trees were dedicated by individuals, families and groups of friends in celebration or in commemoration of someone special. Nearly 200 enthusiastic adults and children took shovel to hand and helped horticultural staff plant the 50 young trees. Following the plantings, attendees gathered on the front lawn of the Visitor Centre to enjoy morning tea and music kindly provided by the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra quartet. A special thank you is extended to all tree dedicators for raising \$25,000.00 on the day.

The funds raised will go towards the Tree Replacement Program which aims to replace over 60% of the Parklands current 15,800 trees over the next 40 years. This program is based on the Tree Master Plan which outlines the procedures to deal with a project of such a grand scale. Corporations, philanthropic organisations and the community will be called upon to support

this essential program, which will provide the opportunity to plant trees, groves and avenues.

The Centennial Parklands Foundation is grateful to the Leckie Family for initiating this project, with their recent donation of a Wollemi pine. This young tree was propagated from an initial cutting of an original parent tree, one of a cluster discovered in 1994 in the Wollemi National Park. This individual tree will constitute the focus of a future pine grove in the area around the Jervois Avenue Gates.

For more information on tree dedications visit [www.cp.nsw.gov.au/Foundation & Friends](http://www.cp.nsw.gov.au/Foundation&Friends) or call (02) 9339 6699.



A family plants their dedicated tree

Remembering Ted and Nola Darcy

Garry, Terry and Dennis Darcy have very fond childhood memories of Centennial Park. Their late parents, Ted and Nola Darcy, moved into a tiny terrace only 100 metres from the Park during World War 2. Ted and Nola enjoyed endless walks in the Park and the boys spent hours exploring and hiding in the dense scrub that was plentiful at the time. These recollections inspired Garry, Terry and Dennis to dedicate a park bench in memory of their parents. Few bench dedications have taken place in the Park over recent years; however, the Centennial Parklands Foundation, with a donation from the Darcys have recently installed a bench at Model Yacht Pond in memory of Ted and



The Darcys with their bench

Nola. The couple shared 65 years enjoying the Park together and now their sons can sit and contemplate those years on a bench dedicated to their parents.

Thank you, Vitamin X Advertising

The Centennial Parklands Foundation has secured the pro bono services of Vitamin X Advertising, a creative agency strategically—and conveniently—located in nearby Bondi Junction. Vitamin X is working in partnership with the Foundation to develop creative strategies to explain to the community some of the challenges confronting Centennial Parklands. The campaign

is an example of their work. It will help the Foundation raise awareness of the Parkland's need to replace many of its trees, and encourage concerned citizens to support the program with donations. Thank you to creative partners, Alex France and Tania Viskovich, and staff at Vitamin X for all their ideas and support.





Visitor Information

Please refer to the map insert on page 6 for locations.

HOW TO GET HERE

Five km from the Sydney CBD. Easily accessible by bus, train, car, bike or on foot.

 Regular buses from Circular Quay, Central Stn, Bondi Jn Stn and surrounding suburbs. Trains to Central and Bondi Jn, both a 30-40 minute walk to the Parklands. www.131500.com.au

 Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alison Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way.

CAR FREE DAY

Last Sunday of every season (February, May, August & November).

CENTENNIAL PARK GATE TIMES

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

Primary Gates (Paddington, Woollahra, Randwick & Robertson Rd (entry))

March to April 6.00 am–6.00 pm

May to August 6.30 am–5.30 pm

September to October 6.00 am–6.00 pm

November to February 5.45 am–8.00 pm

Secondary Gates (York Rd, Jervois Ave, Govett St & Robertson Rd exit)

Weekdays 9.00 am–4.00 pm

Weekends as for Primary Gates

FOOD OUTLETS

Centennial Parklands Restaurant E3

This fully-licensed restaurant offers fine views with fine Modern Australian food. Open 7 days, 8.30 am–2.30 pm. (02) 9360 3355 www.landmarkcatering.com.au

Centennial Parklands Café E3

Light meals and snacks served in the open air forecourt. Open 7 days, 8.00 am–4.30 pm (weekdays), 8.00 am–5.00 pm (weekends) (02) 9380 6922

Centennial Park Mobile Food Van E5

Light meals, sandwiches, cold drinks, gelato and espresso. Open weekends & public holidays, 8.00 am–sunset.

Moore Park Golf Patio Bar B3

Overlooking the first tee, the outdoor Patio Bar serves light food and drinks. Open 7 days, 7.30 am–4.00 pm (Mon to Wed), 7.30 am–8.00 pm (Thu to Sat), 7.30 am–6.00 pm (Sun) (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au

The Bistro at Moore Park Golf B3

The Bistro serves quality meals and a full variety of wine and beers. Open Wed to Sun, Noon–5.00pm (Wed to Thu), Noon–7.00pm (Fri to Sun) (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

BBQs and Picnics

Unlimited picnic spots, with views of ponds, fields and gardens. Free BBQs. First-in basis. BYO portable BBQs with legs permitted (except during total fire bans), portable picnic equipment permitted. Bookings required for groups of 50 or over. BBQs located at A3 D5 D6 E2 E3 G4 G5 H5

Cycling and Rollerblading

3.8 km cycle/rollerblade lane on Grand Dr, Centennial Park. Cycle lanes along Darley Rd, Alison Rd, Anzac Pde, South Dowling St, Cleveland St and Federation Way. Off-road cycling circuit for children at Learners Cycleway. D5

Helmets required. Three-wheel pedal cars not permitted in Centennial Park. Four-wheel pedal cars permitted.

Centennial Parklands Cycle Hire F3

Cnr Hamilton & Grand Drs, Centennial Park 0401 357 419

Centennial Park Cycles G6

50 Clovelly Rd, Randwick (02) 9398 5027

Woollys Wheels

82 Oxford St, Paddington (02) 9331 2671 www.woollyswheels.com

Total Skate E2

36 Oxford St, Woollahra (02) 9380 6356

Wildlife Watching

Spot birds, turtles, invertebrates and possums within diverse natural environments. Ideal locations at D4 E5 F4. Please do not feed animals.

Playgrounds

Five playgrounds catering for a range of age groups. A2 D5 E2 E3 H5.

Dog Walking

On and off leash dog walking areas. BYO dog tidy bags to pick up after your dog.

SPORT AND FACILITY HIRE

Quality sports grounds and facilities for hire for casual one-off bookings or seasonal competitions. (02) 9339 6699

ES Marks Athletics Field B5

400 m running track, floodlit field and covered stand with seating for 1000 people. Changing rooms, toilets, First Aid Room, Officials Room (with PA system) and Meeting Room. Casual public training, Tue, Wed & Thu, 3.30 pm–8.30 pm. For hire for training or carnivals. (02) 9339 6699 www.cp.nsw.gov.au/sports

Golf, Horse Riding and Tennis hire available via licensed operators:

Moore Park Tennis Courts B3

Tennis court hire, coaching, social competitions, racquet and ball sales and ball machine hire. Four floodlit courts. Open 7 days, 7.00 am–10.00 pm. 0412 123 456

Parklands Sports Centre C4


Tennis court hire, coaching, school holiday camps and competitions. 11 floodlit courts. Open 7 days, 9.00 am–10.00 pm (summer & Mon to Thu in winter) 9.00 am–6.00 pm (Fri in winter) 8.00 am–6.00 pm (winter weekends) (02) 9662 7033


Moore Park Golf B3


Par 70, 18-hole Group One Championship golf course. All weather, day-night Driving Range, Putting and Chipping Greens, Pro Shop and Golf Academy. (02) 9663 1064 www.mooreparkgolf.com.au


Horse Riding C4 D5

3.6 km horse track, 3.5 ha of fenced grounds featuring showjumping, dressage, lunging and turf hacking, Equestrian Centre with covered arenas, hot and cold wash bays and sand rolls. Riding schools offer lessons, horse hire, pony camps, pony parties, pony leads and guided park rides. Stabling available. (02) 9332 2809 www.cpequestrian.com.au

 Budapest Riding School 0419 231 391 budapestridingschool@aapt.net.au

 Centennial Stables (02) 9360 5650 www.centennialstables.com.au

 Eastside Riding Academy (02) 9360 7521 www.eastsideriding.com.au

 Moore Park Training Stables (02) 9360 8747 www.mooreparkstables.com.au

 Papillon Riding Stables (02) 8356 9866 or 0407 224 938 www.papillonriding.com.au

WHAT'S ON

Ranger-guided educational excursions, children's birthday parties, guided tours and workshops, school holiday activities, vacation care programs as well as sports camps, concerts, festivals and events. (02) 9339 6699 www.cp.nsw.gov.au/what's_on

FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Locations available for commercial filming and photography. (02) 9339 6699 www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues

EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS


Locations available for private and public functions and events. (02) 9339 6699 www.cp.nsw.gov.au/venues

FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS

See insert on Page 6. (02) 9339 6699 www.cp.nsw.gov.au/foundation_and_friends

CONTACT US

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

 Parklands Office (behind Café), Mon to Fri, 8.30 am–5.00 pm. E3

 Visitor Centre, Paddington Gates, weekends 10.00 am–3.00 pm. E2

Web: www.cp.nsw.gov.au
Email: info@cp.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (02) 9339 6699
Fax: (02) 9332 2148
Post: Locked Bag 15 Paddington NSW 2021

After hours emergencies: 0412 718 611

