

# HISTORY SUMMARY

## I.1 THE SECOND SYDNEY COMMON

"...the Parklands were to provide a welcome 'breathing space' for recreation, health and appreciation of nature.

The Centennial Parklands, comprising Moore Park, Centennial Park and Queens Park were originally part of the Second Sydney Common which had been dedicated in 1811. Over the years the Common was used for cattle grazing, lime burning, dumping of rubbish and night soil, and unauthorised quarrying of stone and sand. The removal of indigenous vegetation, followed by soil erosion, had produced a severely degraded landscape until replanting of grass was introduced in the 1860s on the recommendation of Charles Moore, the Director of Sydney Botanic Gardens (no relation to Charles Moore, the alderman). Simeon Pearce, the first Mayor of Randwick, was influential in having large numbers of native shrubs planted on the Common although most of these died.

The conversion of the Common to parkland in the second half of the nineteenth century came about as part of a movement throughout the then industrialised countries of the western world to develop urban parks for the increasing numbers of city workers and the rising middle class. With its population swelled by immigrants during and after the 1860s gold rushes, Sydney was growing and becoming increasingly suburbanised. Influenced by the picturesque, gardenesque and oriental landscape styles fashionable in Britain at the time, the Parklands were to provide a welcome 'breathing space' for recreation, health and appreciation of nature.

### I.1.1 MOORE PARK

That part of the Second Sydney Common now known as Moore Park was dedicated by Sydney Council in 1866 as a recreation ground, particularly for organised sports. Named after Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney Council from 1867 to 1869, Moore Park was developed for active recreation and public entertainment. At the official opening of Moore Park on 9 September 1868, Charles Moore, the botanist, planted a row of sixteen Moreton Bay Fig trees, helping the process of conversion of the Common from what he had perceived to be dreary, wild and uncultivated sandhills into a popular recreation ground. The conversion was not without its critics, some of whom questioned the loss of landscape variety and the massive earthworks which were carried out.

The two Charles Moores were instrumental in having improvements carried out; the alderman and mayor urging Council, and the botanist providing horticultural advice and plants. The first plantings were a double row avenue along Randwick Road (now Anzac Parade), single rows along South Dowling Street as far as Cleveland Street, and some individual trees on the slopes of Mount Rennie. *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) trees were planted adjacent to the carriageway of Randwick Road, with an outer row of alternating *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), the latter treatment being extended around the northern and western peripheries of the Park.

It is not certain whether the initial choice of plant species was influenced by the Director of the Botanic Gardens and his staff, or by the nurseryman John Baptist, whose establishment was in nearby Surry Hills. Charles Moore was known to favour the species chosen but Baptist's nursery was also renowned for its mature Norfolk Island Pine trees which dominated the local landscape. The Monterey Pines survived for only 40 years or less as a result of competition from the figs. The major features of Moore Park were three water bodies and sandhills, with Mount Steel, Mount Rennie and Constitution Hill as the conspicuous hills. In about 1870 the hilltops were flattened and terraced, with pathways and flights of steps linking the earlier structures at the base of Mount Rennie.

Moreton Bay Fig trees were planted as a two-rowed avenue along the 1879 extension of Cleveland Street from South Dowling Street to Randwick Road (now Anzac Parade). These trees were planted in a triangular plan pattern as used by James Kidd in the Sydney Domain and by Charles Moore in Hyde Park in the late 1860s. Figs were also planted along the Park's northern boundary in Moore Park Road.

In 1878 the old Military Cricket Ground became the New South Wales Cricket Association Ground, with 12 acres of land surrounded by a 9 foot high paling fence and a plantation of *Pinus radiata* as shade trees. By this time Moore Park was largely cleared grassland, with the exception of some remnant open scrub along the eastern boundary and around the enclosed plantations and waterholes.

In 1879 the natural waterhole near the junction of Cleveland Street and Randwick Road was converted to an ornamental pond with edge plantings of *Salix babylonica* (Weeping Willow) as well as mass planted garden beds displaying foliage plants. These were features of the new Zoological Society Gardens laid out by Charles Moore of the Botanic Gardens on the site now occupied by Sydney Girls High School. In keeping with the tastes of the day the enclosures featured artificial grottos and rockeries, the whole site enclosed by a peripheral planting of alternating *Pinus radiata* and *Agave americana* (Century Plant).

In the 1880s Moreton Bay Fig trees and Monterey pines were planted for shade along the boundaries of the newly created Agricultural Society of NSW Showgrounds and the adjoining Cricket Ground and the Volunteers Rifle Range.

Lake Kippax, in the northeastern part of Moore Park, commemorates William Kippax, an Alderman on the City Council from 1863 to 1889. Some of the figs to the north of the lake may date from c.1888 but those to the south are probably more recent. Photographic evidence from 1901 shows no trees south of the lake but by 1930 the lake was ringed with trees, *Ficus macrophylla* and *F. rubiginosa*.

Gregory Avenue and Macarthur Avenue link Anzac Parade with Driver Avenue and are thought to have been planted with double rows of *Phoenix canariensis* as early as 1909. They demonstrate the influence of Joseph Henry Maiden who promoted the use of this species to provide a sub-tropical image for Sydney's parklands.

A row of *Ficus 'hillii'* (Hill's Fig), planted circa late 1920s, to the west of the Hordern Pavilion, reflects the planting design of the inter-war period (this species was used for the central avenue of Hyde Park in the Norman Weekes redesign).

Sydney Girls' High School was opened in 1920 and students were transferred from the city site in 1921. The Boys' High followed in 1928. The Moore Park Golf Course was constructed on top of Mount Rennie in 1926 and the former tollhouse was converted to utilitarian uses associated with the golf course by the addition of two wings. The Bowling Club, below the Golf Club house, near the southwestern corner of Cleveland Street and Anzac parade, was developed in the late 1940s, just after World War II, and closed only recently.

The double row of twelve *Washingtonia robusta* (Cotton Palm) palms on South Dowling Street appears to be a remnant of a more extensive planting thought to have been associated with the former King Edward VII Home for Dogs which occupied the site on the northeastern corner of Dacey Avenue and South Dowling Street from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The E S Marks Athletic Field was developed in the early 1950s on a site at the southwestern corner of Anzac Parade and Dacey Avenue. In the 1980s urban forests of mixed eucalypts were established on the northern boundary of the Park in Moore Park Road and on Mount Steele. These have not fitted in well with the established landscape character of the Park and have been gradually reduced in size. Largely undeveloped until the second half of the 20th century, the southern part of Moore Park is now much more heavily planted, particularly along its edges and between the fairways of the golf course. In the late 1990s major changes to the landscape of parts of the Park are happening as a result of the conversion of the RAS Showgrounds to film studios and the construction of the Eastern Distributor roadway along the western boundary of the Park.

## I.1.2 CENTENNIAL PARK

Promoted by the Governor, Lord Carrington and facilitated by Chief Minister Sir Henry Parkes, Centennial Park was enabled by the Centennial Celebrations Act, 1887, to commemorate the centenary of the first European settlement of the colony of New South Wales. Charles Moore,

Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens since 1848, was charged with the task of converting 640 acres of sandy native scrub into a grand Victorian park - and all in the space of just seven months. The area now known as Centennial Park included the Lachlan Swamp, Sydney's second water supply (after the Tank Stream) which was connected to the city via a tunnel known as Busby's Bore. The area included a number of water storage dams which formed the basis of today's ponds. The park was to be designed in accordance with a plan prepared by J W Deering, District Surveyor of the Department of Lands. Whose plan was finally used remains uncertain but it appears that the principal elements of a concept developed by Frederick Augustus Franklin, an English civil engineer, were followed. Franklin had studied under Sir Joseph Paxton and the original design elements for Centennial Park bear similarities to Paxton's Birkenhead Park and the grounds of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

By the 1880s, Moore's influence on the planting and laying out of parks in Sydney was at its peak and coincided with a general boom in park creation. His preference for and extensive use of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) for public plantings in Sydney during his time as director is well documented and commented upon by many of his contemporaries. Indeed some members of the public bemoaned his use of '*the inevitable Moreton Bay Fig*' in the planting of Centennial Park.

Moore was assisted in his task by James Jones, the Head Gardener of the Botanic Gardens, who was appointed Overseer of the Centennial Park in December 1887. In his Day Book Jones has left a record of the herculean effort required to clear vegetation, alter landforms, groom slopes, create open spaces and construct the Grand Drive and subsidiary roads, under the pressure of a looming opening date. Sixty percent of the 50,000 pounds budget for the park was allocated to the main drive. Gangs of men, supplemented by relief workers, toiled on the site - a total of 400 skilled and unskilled workers by the end of 1887. Work included blasting of trenches in the sandstone to create sufficient depth for tree growth.

At its opening on 26 January 1888, Centennial Park was described by Parkes as "emphatically the people's park", destined to be "one of the grandest adornments of this beautiful country."

With the official ceremonies over, the team set about converting the dams into ornamental ponds and preparing the site for large scale tree planting. The extensive clearing of the native vegetation had revealed just how unsuitable much of the park was for such an activity. Jones observed: 'Much of the ground in the Park is very badly suited for the planting of trees of any sort or large size. The rock is very near the surface and there is nothing but sand and the place is very exposed to SE and SW winds.'

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Jones was dismissed in June 1888 after a disagreement with Moore over the payment of wages to two staff. From that time until Joseph Maiden took over from Moore in 1896, the records of the Park are sketchy, an unfortunate lack of detail in the archives of the formative years.

One of the earliest constructed elements in the Park and the main drive around the Park, Grand Drive was originally planted in 1889 with a range of species including figs, elms, poplars and ‘pines’ (including *Pinus radiata* and *Araucaria heterophylla*). Under Maiden, Grand Drive was replanted from 1897 onwards with a complex formal arrangement of predominantly *Ficus rubiginosa* with *Quercus ilex* and *A. heterophylla*. The rhythmic pattern created by the diagonal planting creates a strong landscape character in the Victorian gardenesque tradition.

A discontinuous avenue of Port Jackson Fig trees, lining part of Carrington Drive, adjacent to the reservoirs was planted c. 1890s and demonstrates the continuing use of this species to define the main entries and drives in the Park. At about the same time Loch Avenue was planted, predominantly with Port Jackson Fig trees and Norfolk Island Pine trees.

The Scot, William Forsyth was overseer of Centennial Park from 1892 to his death in 1911 and much of the successful horticultural development of the park during the first decade of the century has been attributed to his botanical knowledge and labours.

The two hundred thousand pounds originally allocated for the construction of Centennial Park had been used up by 1892 and there were no capital works carried out during most of 1892 and the following year.

The establishment of windbreaks was essential to provide protection to the large quantity of young trees that had been planted in the park. Forsyth wrote that:

*‘The Centennial Park is mainly a windswept area, and it is very desirable to establish clumps of hardy trees, which in themselves shall not only be objects of Sylvan beauty, and capable of affording shade and shelter to visitors, but, forming a first line of defence to the prevailing winds, may enable successive lines or clumps of trees to be established, and thus alter the comparatively treeless nature of the park. For this ‘First line of defence’ I have chosen Melaleuca leucadendron [now M. quinquenervia], a shapely, shady tree, which naturally flourishes in sandy windswept places near the sea, under conditions not very different to those which obtain in the park. Eighty-eight were planted in August 1896, and they are now about 6 feet in height and promise well.’*

Joseph Henry Maiden succeeded Moore as Director of the Botanic Gardens in 1896 and inherited responsibility for turning the framework of Centennial Park into the significant historic cultural landscape that survives today.

Forsyth and Maiden experimented with acacias and casuarinas, planting 289 seedlings in 1896/97. ‘These comprised *Acacia baileyana* (117 [trees]), *A. longifolia* (54), *A. binervata* (29), *A. decurrens* (28) and *Casuarina quadrivalis* (61). In 1899 he reports that ‘*The experiment made of planting Acacia and Casuarina seedlings has been fairly successful.. Acacia baileyana has thriven splendidly ... They should make a grand display of golden yellow bloom about the month of August..... Acacia longifolia has, however, proved a failure so far, owing principally to the attacks of insect pests, to which this species seems to be extremely susceptible. Casuarina quadrivalis has made excellent growth, and if clumps of this plant can be successfully grown, they will form quite a feature in the Park. As regards the Broad-leaved Tea-trees (Melaleuca leucadendron) planted in 1897, they are growing splendidly, being now over 6 feet high, and much is expected of them in damp situations in the Park, where they are planted mainly as break-winds.’*

As regards the use of *Acacia*, Forsyth wrote that:

*‘The wattles cannot be looked upon as permanent trees, but owing to their rapidity of growth, it may be fairly anticipated that in a year or two they will produce a profusion of bloom in the winter or early spring, when, so far as the park is concerned, flowers are not plentiful. They have been planted in groups of about 28 plants each. , the plants in each group being about nine feet apart, and enclosed with a dwarf fence.’*

Of the drought in 1896, Forsyth wrote that ‘*Amongst the trees the Norfolk Island Pine (araucaria excelsa) suffered very severely....this tree cannot be depended on in dry situations in the Park*’

Following the success of the earlier *Melaleuca* plantings, their use was extended in 1899:

*‘A large number of Melaleucas, which are moisture-loving trees, have been planted in two rows - one on either side of what is in wet weather a small watercourse - a little below the Queen Street entrance to the park, and not far from the refreshment pavilion. To the west of the Melaleucas a large clump of Eucalyptus robusta has been planted so as to contrast and enhance the effect of the avenue of Melaleucas...’*

The paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) belts to the north and south of the Lily Pond were probably planted in 1896 or 1897 and are today one of the most recognisable plantings in the Park. Two parallel rows of this species, forming a windbreak ‘belt’ at the toe of the embankment of Busby’s Pond were probably planted at the same time.



The majority of the trees located within the Lang Road slopes, dominated by *Ficus rubiginosa* and *F macrophylla*, are planted informally and their spacing and large scale provide the adjacent grand residences with vistas into the Park. This relationship was part of the original design intent for the Park, a suburban parkland overlooked by terraces and villas.

Extensive modifications to the trees planted along the grand drive and approaches by Moore and Jones 1889 are also reported by Forsyth in 1897. *'A number of trees planted along the footways in 1889 were removed. They consisted of mainly elms, poplars and pines, and such as were miserable stunted specimens were replaced in August 1897, by Port Jackson Figs, which are making excellent growth so far. It was not to be expected that during the laying out of the Park, with the enormous number of trees to be planted in a short time, the same care could be exercised in the selection and planting of each tree as is possible now in the cases of those it is considered expedient to replace. I am planting very small trees, which are without any defect that can be observed, and for avenue planting the holes are squares of 10 feet side and 2 ft. 6in. deep. The sand and sour ferruginous bottom are removed, and replaced with (on an average) 2 yards of good clay loam from Erskineville, while the drainage is not neglected.'*

The need for protection of the remnant native vegetation in the Park was frequently advocated by Forsyth in his annual reports. In 1897 he writes *'The hillocks and low-lying places in the park at the present time afford rallying places for the indigenous vegetation, which the march of civilisation is gradually exterminating from city and suburbs'*

Parkes Drive North was planted in about 1900 with a row of *Ficus rubiginosa* (Port Jackson Fig), demonstrating the continuing use of this species to define the main entries and drives in the Park.

Also planted in 1900, the semicircular row of *Phoenix canariensis* in the garden area of Frog Hollow is known to be the first planting of this species in the Parklands. In the annual report of 1901 Forsyth wrote: *'Phoenix canariensis has been planted just inside the border skirting the middle promontory or tongue of land which juts out into No. 5 Dam. From the success which has already attended the planting of a few in the border close by, it is anticipated that the palms in question will, in the course of a few years, not only afford shelter to the plants on the promontory, but form a much desired palm feature of the vegetation at this part of the park.'*

The southern part of Frog Hollow has traditionally been the main focus for floral displays in the Gardenesque tradition. The three small promontories that jut into Busby's Pond have a number of attractions such as the Rosarium, Native Plant & Flower Garden and the column

monuments as well as numerous circular floral beds. These were mostly developed under J H Maiden's direction.

Storm damage was an ever present concern and a major constraint to the establishment of trees in the parklands. Forsyth reported in 1900 that:

*'During the month of March [1900] we experienced a very severe storm of wind and rain. The effect on the trees in the Park was disastrous; over 80% of those along The Grand Drive were more or less injured, and in some cases, severely; some fine young Port Jackson figs, with beautiful umbrella-shaped heads, having some of their largest branches torn clear away, disfiguring them for years to come.'*

Also among the 198 trees planted in the spring of 1900, were 23 coral trees (*Erythrina speciosa*). This is one of the earliest references to the planting of coral trees in the Park. The annual report states that these were planted in a group - *'This species looks very bright in the spring, but from experience, it must be planted where it will get some root moisture during the very dry weather'*. The planting of coral trees along the banks of some of the ponds in later years may be the result of Forsyth's observations of regarding their moisture requirements.

Experimentation with native trees, particularly eucalypts, was escalated under Forsyth's direction. In 1901, 263 Eucalypts representing 18 different species were planted. Forsyth reported that: *'Encouraged by the success of the Eucalypti already planted, additional plantings of this genus have been made during the past planting season'*. This planting included 57 *Eucalyptus robusta* and 54 *E. Lehmannii*. Most of the *Eucalyptus robusta* were planted as an avenue lining the stone drain through frog hollow. The avenue of *Ficus rubiginosa* along Jervois Avenue was also planted in that year.

By the end of 1901 Forsyth reported that the number of tree species growing in the Park was:

*'about seventy, the total number of plants about 4,411. Of this number about 675 are planted on the Grand Drive and approaches, 321 are in Queen's Park, and the remainder distributed over the Centennial Park'*

In 1902, under Maiden's influence, an avenue comprising alternating plantings of *Phoenix canariensis* and *Syagrus romanzoffianum* (Queen Palm, Cocos Palm) was established along the Busby's Pond embankment.

Lachlan Swamp is a fenced area of swampy land devoted to the regeneration of native plants. The area is dominated by *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, most of which are a reconstruction of the indigenous vegetation. These meld with the surrounding 'belts' of melaleucas that were planted as windbreaks along the fingers of land that divide the

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ponds. The Lachlan Swamp area is significant as it demonstrates the efforts to protect the remnant indigenous vegetation of Park which were commenced by Maiden and Forsyth in the first decade of the 20th century.

Planted c. 1900s, the avenue of *Erythrina x sykesii* trees in Loch Avenue with occasional remnants of earlier planting of *Ficus rubiginosa* and *Quercus ilex* demonstrates the planting design of Maiden and Forsyth, who introduced this species to the parklands for its profuse red flowers and bright green foliage which contrast with the evergreen figs and pines that are generally dominant. Coral trees were also planted to define the western side of Federation Valley in the early 20th century. Many of these trees have been removed, several in the past few years, through storm damage or for safety reasons.

Located between the Kiosk and the Bird Sanctuary, the grove of turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) were planted in 1905 as part of the extensive experimentation with native trees of this period.

Parkes Drive up to the Duck Pond was planted with three rows of *Phoenix canariensis* in 1908 and was extended south to Grand Drive in 1910. As the earliest known formal avenue of *Phoenix canariensis* in Sydney it demonstrated the influence of J.H.Maiden and lead to the widespread use of this palm throughout New South Wales.

The dense planting of evergreen trees along the slopes beside York Road is partly the result of the desire to screen the tram sheds which had been built in 1911. In the annual Report of 1912, Forsyth wrote that: 'A strong belt of trees has been planted from the Ocean Street gate, extending the full length of the bank fronting Waverley Tram Sheds. The trees will, in time, hide that unsightly building and provide a grateful shade for visitors to that part of the Park. The trees planted are *Ficus rubiginosa*, *Pinus insignis* [syn. *P. radiata*] and *Quercus virens*.'

An avenue of *Phoenix reclinata*, planted in 1912 in a diagonal pattern along the western embankment of the Randwick Pond continues the theme of formal palm avenues that were developed under the influence of J H Maiden in the early 20th century. At about the same time it was reported that:

*Two complete avenues have been planted along the cross drives, one with Populus alba and Populus bolliana [sic] alternately (the bright silvery foliage ought to make a pleasant contrast to the dark shades of the surrounding bush), and the other with Araucaria excelsa [syn. A. columnaris] and Araucaria bidwillii alternately.*

Centennial Park has long been used for ceremonial plantings to mark Wattle Day and Arbor Day. On Wattle Day, 1 September 1912: '.....several Members in the House of Representatives, local Mayors and Clergy, were invited to visit the Park and plant Wattle trees. The

invitation was heartily responded to, and each planted a tree, Mr Maiden leading the way, and afterwards giving a short address on the subject of Wattle Day. Twelve varieties of Acacias were planted and all are growing well. I trust this will become an annual function, as there are few places more fitting than Centennial Park for the cultivation of the national Flower.'

In 1913 more than one hundred palms were planted, of the following species and varieties:- *Erythea edulis*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Chamaerops humilis*, *Chamaerops excelsa*, *Phoenix rupicola*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Cocos Yatay*, *Kentia Fosteriana*, *Areca sapida*.

The northern side of Dickens Drive was planted in 1915 with a single, regularly spaced row of palms to reinforce the successful 1908 palm avenue along Parkes Drive.

The avenues of poplars referred to in the 1912 report failed and were replaced in 1916:

*'Many of the Poplars which were planted in previous years have proved unsuitable, and their places have been filled with Phoenix canariensis and Strelitzia angustifolia [syn. S. nicholai]'*

A row of coral trees was planted c. 1920s at Duck Pond and is one of the earliest rows of this species in the Park. These trees form a strong backdrop to the pond and provide an outstanding floral display in spring.

Following the death in 1923 of James Dawes (superintendent from 1912) and the retirement of Maiden in 1924, development of the park slowed considerably. Numerous administrative and staff changes, together with reduced budgets, produced a prolonged period of relative inactivity, combined with a lack of documentation on works carried out. There was a large grant for unemployment relief in 1934 but there is little detail of tree planting during the 1930s.

About this time the Musgrave Precinct, at the eastern end of the Park, appears to have been planted with deciduous trees such as *Taxodium distichum* (Swamp Cypress), *Populus deltoides* (Cottonwood) and *Salix babylonica* (Weeping Willow).

During part of the Second World War the Park was taken over for military purposes, with the army occupying the southern section and the nearby Randwick Racecourse.

Belts of pines and paperbarks were planted from the late 1940s along the drainage lines and boundaries surrounding the Mackay Oval & the equestrian grounds. In this early post-war period works in the Park were mainly remedial - clearing of silt from a number of the ponds and rehabilitation of trees. Extensive new plantings were carried out, however, to replace those specimens that had been removed.

The unusually wet summer of 1955/56 led to the death of numerous evergreen oaks from root rot. In 1958 '*an unusually large number of dead trees*' were removed but no reason was given in the annual report of the period.

The pine plantation on the Mission Fields was established c. 1960s as a boundary planting and windbreak for the equestrian grounds. A grove of *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, planted c. 1970s on a filled former drainage line in the Mission Fields demonstrates the continued influence of Maiden's planting principles.

A grove of *Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum) near the Woollahra Gates, mostly planted since the late 1960s represents the revival of experimentation with native species in the Park.

This is a hill top area exposed to southerly winds where Spotted Gum had grown vigorously but *E sideroxylon* (Mugga Ironbark) planted earlier did not thrive. Clumps of mainly *Eucalyptus haemastoma* (Scribbly Gum) were planted on the sandstone outcrops from the 1960s. The scribbly gums grouped around the outcrops provide a wild and picturesque effect and contrast with the more formal plantings which dominate the avenues in the parklands.

In 1965 it was reported that:

'The government provided additional to normal maintenance costs, a special vote of \$60,000 for restorative and developmental work in Centennial and Queens Park.

*Many trees and shrubs were planted in selected areas and have become established.....Plantings on such a scale had not been undertaken for a great many years, and are needed at this time to replace older shrubs and trees, just as development of a broad landscaping scheme is needed.'*

A grove of *Pinus pinaster* (Maritime Pine) planted on the Parade Ground on Arbor Day, 1967 demonstrates the continuing tradition of Arbor Day and Wattle Day celebrations. At about the same time, some three hundred *Eucalyptus grandis* (Flooded Gum) trees were planted out on the hillside to the south of Broom Avenue.

In 1968, an article in *The Land* newspaper highlighted the need to find species suitable for the 'light fine soil' of Centennial Park. The article stressed the value of the Park as 'a great testing ground' particularly for native species for coastal planting. In 1969 prolonged dry weather restricted large scale planting of trees but a mix of fifty *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* and *Ficus 'hillii'* were planted in the Musgrave precinct. A further twenty-five *Ficus hillii* were planted at the eastern end of Parkes Drive beyond Grand Drive and in Queens Park. Sixty-five to seventy *Casuarina glauca* and *Pinus palustris* were planted on the hillside between the Grand Drive and reservoir No 2 near the northern boundary of Centennial Park.

The deciduous trees in the children's playground area near the Paddington Gates comprise mainly *Platanus* sp. (Plane Trees) that were planted in the 1970s. These have recently been supplemented with the evergreen native, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Tuckeroo). The paperbarks planted as a grove in the 1970s, in the area between Parkes Drive and the Randwick Pond, demonstrate a continuation of the use of *Melaleuca quinquenervia* commenced in the Maiden era.

In 1976 Centennial Park was classified by the National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) as worthy of preservation.

Queens Park

Also created under the Centennial Celebrations Act, 1887, Queens Park, a distinct precinct to the east of Centennial Park, was developed on swampy land enclosed by sandstone ridges. A dam occupied the low lying areas of the park for much of the 19th Century and for a time the park featured an eleven hole golf course which was re-established at Botany in 1899. The earliest phase of tree planting in Queens Park occurred mainly in the late 1880s and early 1890s with an open woodland of Moreton Bay Fig, Port Jackson Fig, Monterey Pine, araucarias and Holly Oak established on the higher ground. The sandstone outcrops may have already been overgrown with the locally indigenous Port Jackson Fig which are now quite a striking feature of the north eastern corner of the park.

The area had been described as a 'tip' prior to the 1930s. The aerial photographs of 1930 show the area with a natural drainage line evident from the northeast to southwest corners; a dam wall can also be discerned. Baronga Avenue which now links the northward extension of Avoca Street to Queens Park Road, had not been built. There were a number of cricket pitches in the centre and northwestern corner of the Park and scattered trees dotted the surface of the Park. The boundary planting of coral trees along the western and southern edges of the Park is just discernible in these photos, indicating that these trees were probably planted in the late 1920s..

Queens Park was 'beautified' during the 1930s, firstly by relief labourers during the Depression and later as part of a State and Federal Government initiative to improve national fitness by encouraging sporting activities. Extensive amounts of fill were used to create the present playing fields. In more recent years, native shrub plantings, particularly *Monotoca elliptica* and *Acacia* species have been installed to supplement the tree plantings on the ridges.

Since the 1930s Queens Park has served mainly as a place for team sports; cricket in the summer and football in the winter. Christian Brothers College, Waverley have their football fields in the southeastern part of the park.

## I.1.3 THE CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS

On 31 March 1979 Centennial Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens passed from the Department of Agriculture's administration to that of the Premier's Department. In 1983 the Centennial Park Trust Act established a Trust to oversight the management of the Park, thus ending nearly one hundred years of direct ties with the Botanic Gardens.

The ad hoc approach that had characterised much of the tree planting during the 1970s through to the early 1980s has now been replaced by a more conservation-oriented philosophy. The living heritage embodied in the trees of the Parklands is recognised as a valuable asset which must be evaluated, managed and interpreted for present and future visitors.

A notable characteristic of the tree plantings within the Parklands is the way the species used reflect the influences of the different individuals and administrations who were responsible for management over the years. One of the distinguishing qualities of the Parklands is the continuity of the tropical theme to the planting design, characterised by the extensive use of native figs and palms, promoted by the early directors Moore and Maiden.

At the end of the twentieth Century the major arboricultural problems facing Parklands managers are the infection of palms with the *Fusarium* fungus and the general decline of many of the trees in the Parklands. There is a new, more scientific approach to management, exemplified by thorough documentation of plantings and a renewed interest in experimentation. The challenge of the 21st century will be the conservation of the Parklands' essential landscape character through replacement of dead and dying trees while, at the same time, responding to the many demands imposed by the public.





## LEGEND

- Trees or groups of trees of outstanding significance. Preservation preferred, with reconstruction where necessary.
- Trees or groups of trees of major significance. Preservation preferred, substitution with more appropriate plantings where appropriate.
- Trees or groups of trees of lesser significance. Preservation, reconstruction or removal with no replacement depending on circumstances.
- Trees or groups of trees of little or no significance. Preservation generally not necessary. Removal without replacement.



**context**  
Landscape Design

in association with:  
 • Catherine Evans, Landscape Architect • MUSEcape Pty Ltd  
 • Tempe Macgowan, Landscape Architect • Garry Clubley, Arborist  
 • David Beaver, Landscape Architect



## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ANALYSIS

Drawing No: V 2.1

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## I.2 HERITAGE TERMINOLOGY

The heritage analysis in this Tree Master Plan was conducted in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. There are four broad criteria used to assess the heritage significance of an item. They have evolved from definitions in the Heritage Act 1977 (as amended) and are in common use by heritage agencies and consultants around Australia. The four criteria are:

### CRITERION 1

Historical significance (evolution and association).

An item having this value is significant because of the importance of its association with, or position in the evolving pattern of our cultural history - with phases, activities or people.

Includes items which:

- Show evidence of a significant human occupation or activity.
- Are associated with a significant activity, event, historical phase or person.
- Maintain or show the continuity of a historical process or activity.

Representativeness includes items that:

- Have the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items.
- Have attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, process, design, technique or activity.
- Are a significant variation to a class of items.
- Are part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type.
- Are outstanding because of their setting, condition or size.

Rarity includes items that:

- Provide evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process.
- Demonstrate a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost.
- Are scarce examples of a particular style, custom or activity.
- Are the only examples of their type.

### CRITERION 2

Aesthetic significance (scenic/architectural qualities/creative accomplishment)

An item having this value is significant because it demonstrates positive visual or sensory appeal, landmark qualities and/or creative or technical excellence.

Includes items which:

- Show or are associated with creative or technical innovation or achievement.
- Are the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement.
- Are aesthetically distinctive.
- Have landmark qualities.
- Exemplify a particular taste, style or technology.

Representativeness includes items that:

- Are fine examples of their type.
- Have attributes typical of a significant process, design or technique.
- Are a significant variation to a class of items.
- Are part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type.
- Are outstanding because of their setting, condition or size.

Rarity includes items that:

- Provide evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process.
- Demonstrate designs or techniques of exceptional interest.
- Are scarce examples of a particular style, custom or activity.
- Show unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity.
- Are the only examples of their type.

### CRITERION 3

Technical / Research Significance (archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values)

Items having this value are significant because of their contribution or potential contribution to an understanding of our cultural history or environment.

### CRITERION 4

Social Significance (contemporary community esteem)

Items having this value are significant through their social, spiritual or cultural association with a contemporary community.

## 1.2.1 DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are two criteria used to assess the degree of significance:

### CRITERION A - representativeness.

Items having this value are significant because they are fine representative examples of an important class of significant items or environments.

### CRITERION B - rarity.

An item having this value is significant because it represents a rare, endangered or unusual aspect of our history or cultural environment.

The *NSW Heritage Manual* suggests that items be categorised into one or more of three levels of significance.

#### Local Heritage

Local heritage items are significant in a local historical or geographical context or to an identifiable contemporary local community.

#### Regional Heritage

Regional heritage items are significant in a regional historical or geographical context or to an important and identifiable contemporary regional community.

#### State Heritage

State heritage items are significant in a state-wide historical or geographical context or to an important and identifiable contemporary state-wide community.

The terminology used in the recommendations of this Tree Master Plan is in accordance with the definitions and principles outlined in Articles 1 and 2 of the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the "Burra Charter"). The incorporation of these definitions and principles into this report has ensured that the heritage significance of plantings is taken into account in the future management of trees in Centennial Parklands.

The following definitions, taken from the Burra Charter, have been used to describe the appropriate conservation processes that should be applied to the management of trees as heritage assets in Centennial Parklands. Explanations are provided as necessary to adapt these principles to trees, which are living elements rather than the inanimate fabric of historic buildings and works of art.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may, according to circumstances, include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will commonly be a combination of more than one of these.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

*Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.*

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

In regard to the replacement of significant trees, the process of Restoration is not possible since the fabric (tree) is living and cannot be returned to an earlier state except by replanting which is more appropriately considered as Reconstruction.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric. This is not to be confused with either re-creation or conjectural reconstruction, which are beyond the scope of the Charter.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses (which generally involve no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes that are substantially reversible, or changes, which require a minimal impact.)