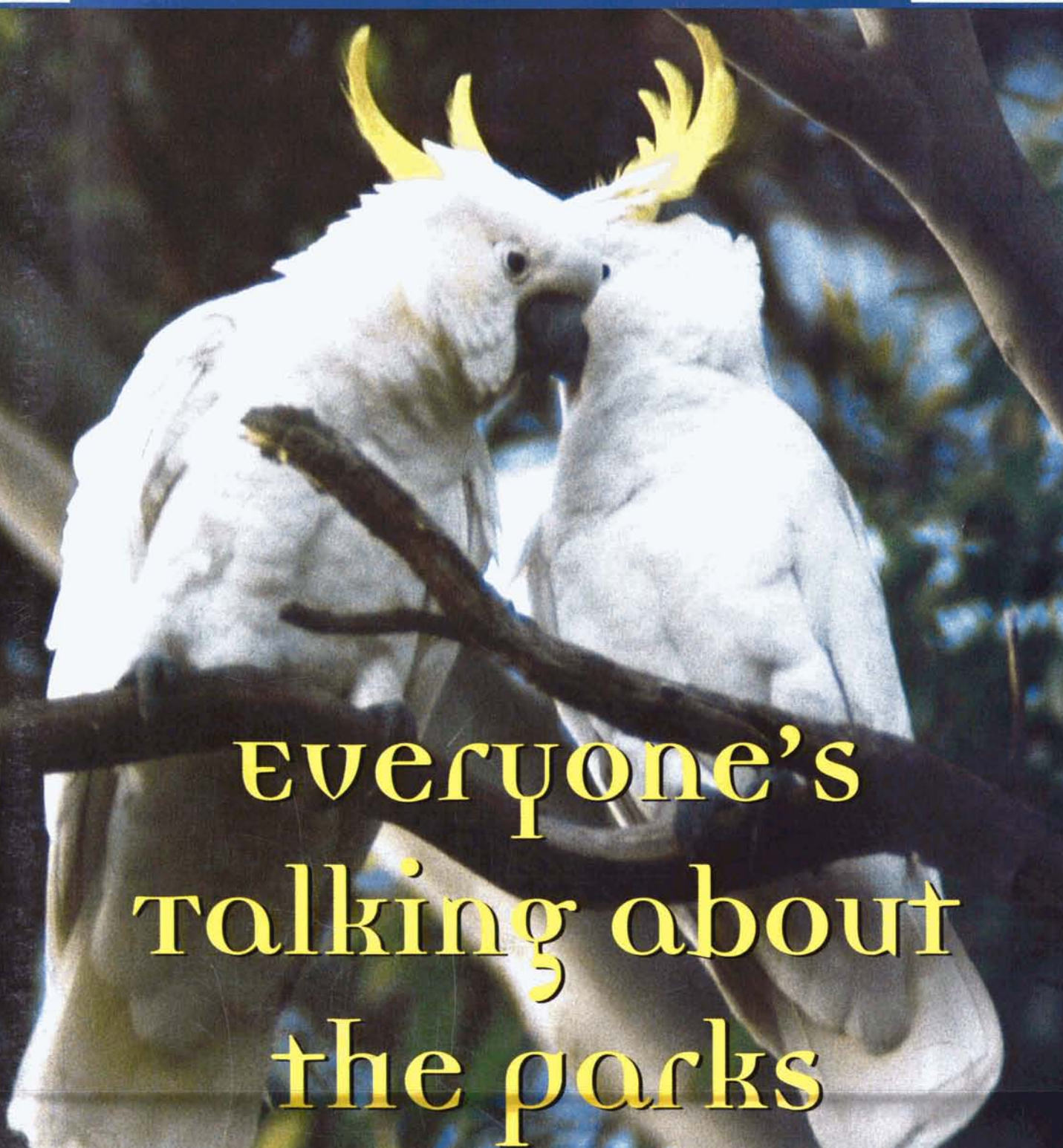


CENTENNIAL parklands

The magazine of the centennial park & moore park Trust

VOL 6

AUTUMN 1999



Everyone's
talking about
the parks

Directions

Realising the vision

In a public landscape rich with historical and social meaning, management is not always a walk in the park. To nurture and protect such a precious cultural resource on behalf of the community, requires skilled people and planning to cooperate as a unified whole.



This edition of the Centennial Parkland's Magazine examines key initiatives which are helping the Trust achieve our goals, including cultural expression, right of access, and living heritage. Preserving the integrity of the Parklands remains one of our top priorities. After hosting a string of high profile cultural events including Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Cirque du Soleil, Moonlight Cinema and Mardi Gras, we are consolidating a dynamic start to the new year with some intensive planning for construction works during 2000 and the Centenary of Federation year 2001.

The challenge for the Trust is to swiftly deliver these large capital works programs along with a series of major upcoming events scheduled as part of the 2000 Olympics.

Celebrating and preserving the living heritage of our surrounding Parks, the Centenary of Federation 2001 will serve as an important milestone for our Parklands' history.

It's an opportunity we cannot underestimate – and Trust staff share a clear vision to help protect our Parklands and shape our futures.

Meeting tight deadlines, the Trust are enjoying the challenges of the massive Moore Park restoration program that has emerged from the recent Eastern Distributor roadworks.

Receiving significant compensation for relinquishing a hectare of highly degraded Moore Park land, the Trust has further committed a large amount of our own funds to help re-beautify, restore and upgrade Moore Park.

After 130 years of unwavering public service it is exciting for us all to see Moore Park's new integrated cycleways, pedestrian walkways, landscaping and sports facilities forging ahead.

Dramatically improving the safety and efficiency of public access to this Sydney sports landmark, the initiatives will further help people of all abilities and ages enjoy a diverse range of activities.

Similarly, the recently opened Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail is assisting young school students and their families to gain a deeper understanding of our Parklands' flora and fauna. Working in harmony with elders and trainees from the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation, the Trust has transformed the original spring which first fed Sydney's early colony, into a prime educational resource which now feeds generations of young Australians with empathy and knowledge.

The Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust view 1999 as the perfect time to take a firm hold of our community vision and long term objectives.

Robin Grimwade Director
Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust

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what's on

Autumn walks & talks

Perhaps the season which best symbolises the Parklands' cultural, scenic and historical diversity, Autumn is a time of transition. Where green canopies become gold and red gowns, riding royally on a cool breeze.

Painting the surrounds with rich textures and subtle hues, the mild sunshine gives rise to a relaxing atmosphere perfect for inquisitive visitors, glowing lovers and active families in search of fun.

This Autumn escape the routine and explore the natural and cultural splendour of peaceful Centennial Parklands. Join the Rangers and horticultural staff for a variety of entertaining walks and talks.

Choose from a Twilight Heritage Walk by Lantern Light, a Spotlight Prowl, Centennial Cycle Tour, a Wetland Walk on the Wild Side, or Ted's (now famous) Tree Walks with Senior Arborist Ted Hoare.

Bookings are essential. Call 9339 6699 for details of the Parklands' Escape & Explore Autumn guided walks program. Friends of the Parklands receive discounts on all activities.

coming events in centennial park April - June 1999

Sun Apr 18
10am-11.30am

FOOTSTEPS TO FEDERATION WALK

Follow in the footsteps of the official 'Federation of Australia' Procession which took place in Centennial Park almost 100 years ago. Bookings Essential (02) 9339 6699

Wed Apr 21
6pm-7.30pm

HERITAGE WEEK SLIDE SHOW

A unique opportunity to view a collection of historic slides which capture both the daily and historic events of Centennial Park. The diverse images provide a living history of people in parks over the last century. Bookings Essential (02) 9339 6699

Fri Apr 23
5.45pm-7.30pm

TWILIGHT HERITAGE WALK

Rangers will guide you on a twilight lantern light walk to visit some of the historic features of the Parklands including the heritage listed reservoirs and Federation Pavilion. Bookings Essential (02) 9339 6699

Fri Apr 30
Sat May 15
6.30pm-7.30pm

SPOTLIGHT PROWL

Discover what nature has to offer after dark! Join the rangers spotlighting possums, flying foxes and other creatures of the night. Bookings Essential (02) 9339 6699

Friday May 7
6.30pm-9pm

CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS RESTAURANT ITALIAN DINNER

Friends of the Parklands and members of the public are invited for a special

Sunday May 16
Registration 8am
Walk 10am

evening celebrating Autumn's arrival with modern Italian foods and wines. Bookings Essential (02) 9360 3355, 9am-3pm daily

Sun May 23
10am-11.30am

RSPCA MILLION PAWS WALK

Grab your favourite furry friend and head down to Centennial Park for a great day of exercise, BBQ's, animal aerobics and celebrity shows. It's a fun family outing and by participating you will help the RSPCA care for the 44,000 neglected cats and dogs it receives annually in NSW alone.

Sat May 29-30
June 5-6
9am-4pm

WETLANDS WANDER

Join the Rangers for a guided walk through the Parks' wetlands. Bookings Essential (02) 9339 6699

PARKLANDS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Calling all tennis fans. Dust off your rackets and serve for the title of Parklands Tennis champ. Held over two consecutive weekends, this fun competition has a variety of mens, womens and mixed divisions including several Age and Open events. Members of the public are welcome so grab your entry forms quickly to be in the running for some great prizes.

For bookings or more information please phone (02) 9662 7033

centennial park scoops Top Landscaping Design and Construction Awards

Centennial Park was a big winner at the recent Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) and Landscape Contractors Association (LCA) awards.

Our beloved Duck Pond Interpretation Maze was honoured with the top AILA award in the category for Design Rehabilitation and Infrastructure. The maze also received the top LCA award for the Rehabilitation and Conservation segment, stealing the thunder from some hot competition.

Also taking a bow, the Centennial Park Cafe forecourt received the top LCA award for a contractor's design.

Created to inform and visually stimulate the Parklands public, the Duck Pond Interpretative landscape has been created entirely from recycled sandstone, gravel, steel and timbers.

Adopting four distinct themes: water source; storm water pollution; ecological history; and practical management, the installation blends stone signage, artworks and sculptures, many depicting native bird life. Situated near the Duck Pond, it is proving a big attraction in one of Centennial Park's most frequently used areas.

Dramatically improving the pond's degraded edge, the project has introduced further diversity into the wetland system by providing new fixtures for birds and other wildlife to use in their daily routines. Parklands rangers have also incorporated the structures into their education programs for school children and



university students.

Serving to develop a rapport with visitors, the built elements projecting into the pond reinforce the fundamental connection between people and water.

Demanding some extremely difficult construction techniques, the Centennial Park Cafe's surrounding installations, water feature and landscaped gardens were also the toast of the prestigious architectural event.

The water feature in particular delivers wonderful visual and audio effects to accompany the curved inlaid walls and bronze handrails – all the result of innovative combinations of construction materials.

Public response to the projects has been overwhelmingly positive and both are significant assets to the overall aesthetic and recreational atmosphere of Centennial Park. •

Birds of a feather – the new Duck Pond interpretive sculptures have proved popular with visitors and the local wildlife



Going to school in the great outdoors is always fun.

olympic update

Over the past three months the Parklands have been buzzing with special events and they don't come much bigger than the Olympics!

Held solely within the confines of Centennial Park, the prestigious Oceania Championships time trials and road race will serve as the Olympic Road Cycle test event from December 14-16 this year.

Emerging as one of the most challenging and exciting cycling events in history, the Olympic Road Cycling championships will be held throughout the Parklands during September 25-30, 2000.

Negotiating the gruelling 234 kms (mens) and 126 kms (womens) 'city circuit', participants will ride at speed for up to 5.5 hours before finishing at Driver Avenue via the Alison Rd Busway.

Perhaps the event which most vividly captures the individual competitive spirit of the Olympics, the Womens Marathon will get underway from North Sydney Oval on Sunday September 24, 2000.

Concluding at Stadium Australia, Sydney Olympic Park, the Womens and Mens event (held to coincide with the closing ceremony), include one circuit of Centennial Park's Grand Drive with the race entering and exiting via the "Showground" gates at Lang and Robertson Roads.

The Paralympic Marathon is scheduled for Sunday October 29, 2000 and will include wheelchair, vision impaired and amputee athletes who will also follow the designated Olympic course in their quest for personal gold.

now and then - park perspectives



Let's ride! Two eras, two dress codes. A casual Sunday pedal or a leg sapping sprint around the cycleways. Whatever your approach, it's the same parklands and the same amount of fun.



Once covering the entire Centennial Park area, Lachlan Swamp formed a large part of the Botany catchment sustaining many indigenous communities centuries before white settlement.

Each spring, Aboriginal people would gather at the swamps to collect eggs from the rich variety of birds while women would teach the children the art of "dilly bag" making and matt grass weaving.

A site of great ecological and cultural significance, Lachlan Swamp supplied nearly two million litres of water each day to Sydney's early colony via Busby's Bore, an underground aqueduct constructed by convict labour from 1827 to 1837. By 1887 the bore, which once pumped water to Hyde Park, was in disrepair with pollution and drought, making it obsolete.

Assisted by elders and trainees from the Guriwal Aboriginal Corporation (formerly the La Perouse Aboriginal Development Corporation), Parklands rangers have constructed the Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail to complement the nearby Wetlands Trail which focuses primarily on stormwater pollution in the Park's ponds.

Providing an excellent student overview of Centennial

The original spring which fed Sydney's early colonial water supply throughout the 1800s is now established as one of the Trust's prime environmental education resources.



The Guriwal Aboriginal dancers celebrate the new Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail site.

Park's native flora and fauna, the short boardwalk incorporating interpretive signs, winds gently through swampland, a freshwater creek and a paperbark forest, inviting students to experience the natural and cultural features of the surrounding area.

Having evolved into a key element of the Escape and Explore ranger-guided program, the Lachlan Swamp Nature Trail is now used by school groups across the curriculum. Still a haven for many birds not seen anywhere else in Sydney, the interpretive trail

explores biology, the environment, social science and history, ensuring a fascinating program for people of all ages.

The Trust could not have developed and constructed the project without the efforts of the Guriwal Aboriginal trainees who helped plan and build the interpretive trail. Following the success of the Lachlan Swamp project, many of these trainees have progressed to other interpretive areas throughout the Parklands on a joint DEETYA/Greening Australia program.

Interestingly, Lachlan Swamp is believed to have hosted one of Australia's last public duels in 1851. Apparently the first Premier of NSW, Sir Stuart Donaldson, challenged Sir Thomas Mitchell to a duel after Mitchell made offensive public comments prior to the election. Both men fired three shots, all of them missing, although a bullet did go through the Premier's hat!

knowledge springs from understanding



United we stand. Trust Director Robin Grimwade shares a proud moment of multicultural co-operation and achievement.

something to carp about

Centennial Parklands rangers are extremely happy with the progress made by 4000 native Bass fingerlings released into the Park's pond system in November 1998.

Forming part of the Parklands' \$6 million pond restoration program, it is hoped the specially bred fish will restore a balance to Centennial Park's waterways which have been inundated with environmentally destructive European Carp.

Introduced into the ponds during the 1920s, the Carp population has grown rapidly, eroding much of Flycasting and Model Yacht Pond's banks and islands when they feed. More importantly, these voracious fish have become a major producer of nutrients (a third of the entire system levels), which cause the damaging blue green algae.

Bio-manipulating the pond ecology, the Parklands rangers have removed weeds and Carp while planting native aquatic plants. These plants act as natural filters for the ponds system before the rangers restock the ponds with the native Bass fish.

Employing a technique known as 'electro-fishing', a staggering five and a half tonnes of carp were removed from the ponds during 1998, the largest weighing in at 11kg with the average size of fish falling from 8kg to 4kg over a six month period. This has allowed the small Bass fingerlings to survive in a less competitive environment while also providing some superb recycled Carp fertiliser for the Parklands' flower beds.

The Trust will now turn its attention to the final step in Stage 2 of the Ponds Restoration Plan. Preparing Willow, One More Shot and Musgrave Ponds, the Trust will soon release more native Bass into these aquatic systems to complete another successful rehabilitation program.

garbage busters

The largest visual pollutant of our delicate pond systems, garbage is a Parklands enemy. Waterborne solids such as commercial, industrial and domestic litter find their way into our ponds primarily via stormwater systems.

Threatening our precious Parklands' waterways and wildlife, rubbish is an unwanted visitor, its removal bringing immediate aesthetic benefits for recreational visitors and long term improvements for the Parklands' ecology.

Currently most of the Parklands litter enters the pond systems via the Musgrave culvert – an open brick lined channel which drains from the Waverley and Randwick residential areas.

At the moment there is no collection system in place so garbage freely moves into the pond system. Responding to this potentially damaging problem, The Trust sought and were successful in attracting a Stormwater Trust

Grant through the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Designed to provide the most effective garbage capture (95% of water borne pollutants down to the size of a matchstick), a world-first Australian invention called a Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) promises the first non blocking, high performance pollutant separation device. It also has the particular advantage of being visually unobtrusive.

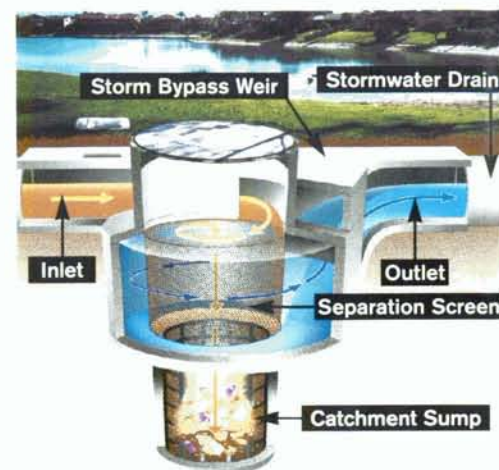
Feeding off a 131 ha catchment area, the system works by deflecting solid particles out of the Musgrave culvert flow and into a specially engineered stainless steel separation screen. By isolating silt, garbage and organic material flowing down the culvert, solid pollutants are retained in a lower catchment sump or 'trap' and can be retained even if the culvert floods. The trap can then be easily emptied by a contract cleaner at the appropriate time.

Unlike conventional grill systems which are positioned and trap rubbish as it flows down the channel, the Parklands' GPT is not subject to clogging which often causes flooding, pushing much of the rubbish over the top of the trap and back into the pond waterways.

Aside from a cleaner pond system where garbage is being effectively removed, the anti pollution device's other nett benefit is that it does not affect the flow of water through the pond system and will not cause upstream flooding.

Constructed totally underground, the GPT will take eight weeks to build, with the project expected to be completed by June this year. Tapping into Centennial Park's existing Musgrave Pond culvert via a new wall, the hi-tech installation will direct the garbage into the 'trap'.

Utilising this project as a case study, the University of NSW will conduct a 1-2 year monitoring program to measure water quality and flow rates. By placing monitoring equipment into the device, the Trust will be able to determine the effectiveness of the new GPT to ensure we are capturing what we want to and that our ponds' water quality is improved.



A cross section demonstrating the workings of the Centennial Parklands' new Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT).

Making more of Moore park

Mark Thornley offers an insight into the massive restoration project which has captured everyone's imagination at the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust.

Dedicated to the people of Sydney in 1867, Moore Park has given 130 years of public service without a single facelift. The sports mecca in the Parklands' hierarchy, it has provided schools and amateur sports institutions including rugby, touch football, soccer and cricket with an invaluable outlet for competition and training.

Comprising 118 hectares of public open space and situated just four kilometres from the CBD, the community has enjoyed the Park for relaxation, recreation and the many entertainment events it attracts each year.

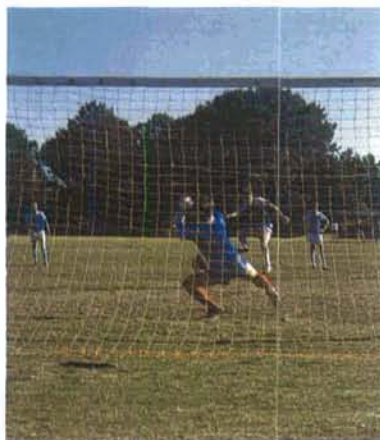
Boasting an annual visitation of approximately 1.2 million people with an estimated increase of 7% per year, it's time to recognise Moore Park's role in the community and give something back.

Assuming management responsibilities in 1990, the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust has successfully addressed many issues surrounding Moore Park's land rehabilitation and parking, however the recent Eastern Distributor development has provided a vital catalyst to give the Park its first major overhaul in over a century.

By relinquishing approximately one hectare of the Park's degraded land to the Eastern Distributor roadworks, the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust have not only helped rationalise Sydney's traffic future, but more importantly, have received significant compensation to rehabilitate Moore Park's playing fields, heritage items and public facilities.

Following the overwhelming success of the Moore Park Bus Station, work has commenced on Stage 2 of the massive Moore Park rehabilitation project.

Already the bus station and roadway initiative (which runs off the existing Anzac Parade bus roadway), is paying community



Moore Park is a Sydney sports institution but soon there'll be a lot more on offer.

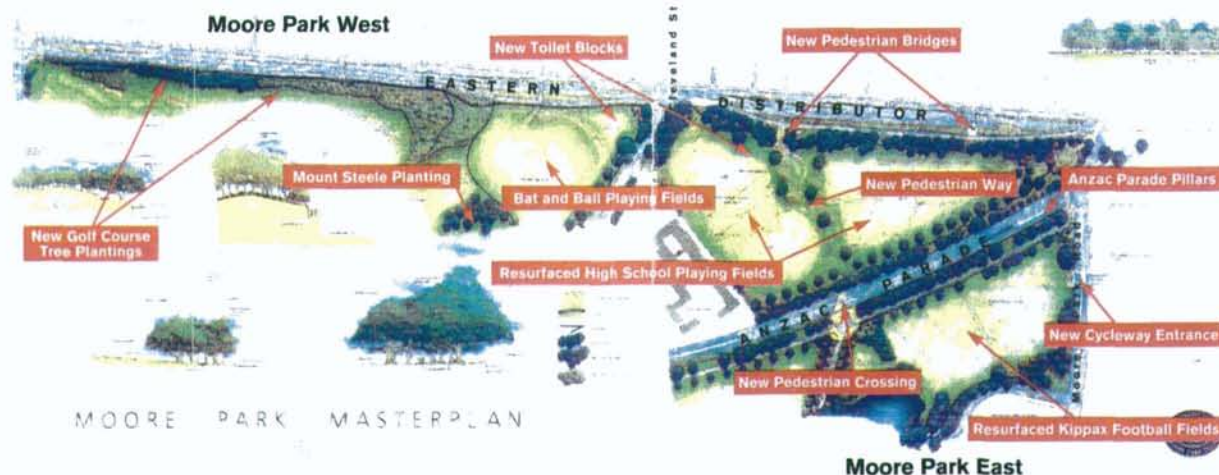
dividends ensuring less cars, increased pedestrian safety and improved public transport to popular sporting venues such as the Sydney Cricket Ground, Football Stadium and the new Fox Studios Family Entertainment Precinct. Consistent with the Trust's environmentally sensitive management approach, the bus station was constructed from a variety of recycled materials including the timber bollards from demolished wharf structures and paving materials from crushed concrete.

Undertaking an extensive landscaping program to rebeautify the parkland between Anzac Parade and South Dowling Street, the Trust has begun to regrade, irrigate and dramatically improve the flora quality along the Park's

western border.

"We're all very excited to be part of this project because it's a huge opportunity to give Moore Park a real boost," said Peter Nowland, Co-ordinator of Centennial Parklands Landscape Services.

"For many years there's been the perception that Moore Park is a carpark rather than a loved or wanted public space, but now is our chance to bring it up to the standard of Centennial Park," Peter said.



Moore Park West

In recent years Moore Park's western wing has tended to be used for parking rather than recreation and as a result the parkland has become degraded. With the commitment to this project, Moore Park is poised to reclaim its rightful place alongside Centennial Park as one of Sydney's most picturesque and popular recreational attractions.

"Our first works are land restoration and tree plantings along the Golf Course edge, the reinvigoration of forest plantings on Mount Steele and the irrigation of the Bat and Ball Playing Fields area," Peter said.

"The first batch of trees will be available in May so we hope to have them planted by June and have the golf course completed before moving onto the next phase."

Some of the major long term components of the Moore Park West overhaul include rejuvenating the High School playing fields and Bat and Ball playing fields with quality grass surfaces and gentler gradients more suitable for competitive sport.

There'll also be plenty of facilities available for the general public, as the Bat and Ball playing field, which was leased out in previous years, will now become a free "village green" where anyone can go and set up a game of cricket, football or volleyball.

Recently demolished, the Recreation Centre and Frank

Saywell Kindergarten sites will also make way for quality open parkland areas suitable for passive recreation.

According to Mr Nowland, by reducing the number of playing pitches the Trust will help overcome safety and management issues encountered in the past. There will now be three cricket pitches and four football fields west of Anzac Parade.

Moore Park East

Unfolding simultaneously with Moore Park West's colossal landscaping package, there will also be plenty of activity in Moore Park East, with much of this work expected to be completed by July.

The first stage will see Gregory Avenue and Macarthur Avenue transformed to footpaths with new pedestrian lights, tree plantings and quality stonework finishings. The playing fields within the Moore Park Bus Station loop will no longer be used for carparking. Instead they will be landscaped and irrigated as quality playing fields, including a cricket pitch and three football fields.

Still a mixture of playing fields and carparking, Moore Park East is also subject to plans to remove the old busway along Driver Avenue before converting it back to Parklands.

The significant Moore Park compensation package has also enabled the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust to relocate the historically treasured and beautiful Comrie Fountain.

Moving it from Driver Avenue to a new formal pedestrian and cycle entrance opposite Paddington at Greens Road, it's an initiative long anticipated by the Trust and local residents.

"The public can also look forward to tasteful sandstone walls which will help redefine Parkland borders and refurbished heritage items such as the four Anzac Parade entrance pillars which need to be cleaned up, repaired and reinstated," Mr Nowland enthused.

The Benefits

With increasing statewide demand for amateur sports fields and community recreation facilities, Moore Park will retain its sporting role in the Parklands hierarchy. In addition, the new improvements present us with a great opportunity to unite all our Parks under a consistent aesthetic without confusing their specific themes and functions.

While these construction works may cause some short term inconveniences for residents and visitors, they form part of a long term strategy to relieve traffic congestion and ensure Moore Park remains a Park and not a carpark.

BRIGHT SPARKS IN

Saltimbanco – Cirque du Soleil

The special guest of the recent Sydney Festival, Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco* began its inaugural Australian season from January 7. Pitching its majestic Grand Chapiteau big top opposite Moore Park's Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries, not only did the event become the focal point of the entire Festival but it also created an exquisite landmark for Sydney commuters, particularly when the elaborate marquee was illuminated at night.

Deriving its name from the Italian word for 'street performer', Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco* united many of the world's best dancers, acrobats, jugglers, contortionists, trapeze and mime artists in a multicultural spectacular.

Defying the laws of gravity and anatomy, the circus production (which included no animals), proved a hot ticket as people were treated to a wonderfully choreographed blend of theatre, music, comedy and unique artistry.



photo Eric Piche

How Romantic

Billed by fashion style disciples as "The city's best new party location", Centennial Square near the Flycasting Pond, recently hosted a beauty world first.

Surrounded by the sweet fragrances of the Parklands' flowers, international beauty mogul Ralph Lauren defied the laws of fashion launching his latest scent christened *Romantic*, in Australia before Europe. As celebrities and cocktails flowed in and out of the bustling marquee perched on the banks of the Flycasting Pond, a smitten romantic couple rowed alluringly to and fro setting the atmosphere for a wonderful night.



Summer Down Under

Australia's premier annual wheelchair event, the Summer Down Under Road and Track Racing series returned to Centennial Park in January this year. One of the world wheelchair circuit's most prestigious events, the two part series attracted over 80 athletes representing 12 countries.

Founded at Centennial Park during 1990, the 10th annual Oz Day International Wheelchair Race kicked off the action throughout the Park and ES Marks Athletic Field, which served as the premier training venue for the series.

The forerunner to the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games, the Centennial Park 15 km Road Race held on January 31, showcased some of the world's elite wheelchair road and track athletes. Contesting a variety of handicapped categories, the event format ensured spectators enjoyed some truly inspiring performances.



THE PARKS

Mardi Gras

Sydney's premier international cultural event, this year's Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade and Party presented the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust with some complex planning challenges.

Given the huge amount of construction currently being undertaken in the Moore Park precinct for the Eastern Distributor project, finalising an area for the huge variety of floats to gather and dismantle proved extremely difficult.

With the huge Mardi Gras party destined for Moore Park's Hordern Pavilion and Royal Hall of Industries, the location of Cirque du Soleil also provided a few logistical obstacles as did the new event Bus Station which is now operational.

However after much consultation and hours of testing alternatives, a creative solution was found!

Bring in the army! Well, maybe just it's portable roadway – Terratrak. This protected the Parklands and provided a temporary road that crossed the Kippax lake area to become a parade route.

It also provided a fabulous viewing space for those in the Bobby Goldsmith stands and enabled the colourful parade to cross over Anzac Parade and into Moore Park's South Dowling Street sector for dissembling.

Lining either side of the Parade performers, thousands of spectators helped cheer the floats through to a very exciting finale of another spectacular event.



photo Starfish Studios

Let the Good Times Roll!



Wheels were burning and heads were turning as 500 people aged from six to 60 let the good times roll as part of Sydney's first outdoor roller-disco held in Centennial Square.

Christened *A Roll In The Park*, the event gave beginners and avid skaters an opportunity to move from Centennial Park's traditional recreational tracks and onto a fun, practise rink where they could blade in a safe, controlled environment.

Enjoying a variety of roller games, participants could also learn some tricks with a team of roller instructors, while boogying to DJ classics like Nutbush City Limits dance and Xanadu.

According to joint organiser Lucy Cornell, the event was inspired by a Fourth of July roller disco she attended in New York's Central Park.

Capturing a carnival spirit and carefree atmosphere, event organisers are hoping to hold another *Roll In The Park* during winter and then in January 2000.

Moonlighting

Since its 1997 debut summer season, Moonlight Cinema's audiences have grown rapidly consolidating Centennial Park Amphitheatre as one of Australia's leading outdoor film venues. Blessed with favourable weather, the 1998-99 season attracted record crowds, losing just five nights to bad weather.

Blending Hollywood cult classics such as *Saturday Night Fever*, *North by Northwest* and *The Godfather* with contemporary box office heavyweights *Pulp Fiction*, *Sliding Doors* and *Romeo and Juliet*, this year's lineup catered for a broad range of viewing tastes.

Kicking back with friends or family, there's not many better ways to spend a balmy Sydney summer night. Moonlight Cinema resumes in December this year.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

On February 20 Centennial Park resonated to the sublime voice of one of the world's great sopranos – Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

Returning to Sydney for the first time in 15 years, the mesmeric Te Kanawa performed to a buzzing crowd of 15,000 people who took advantage of a perfect evening amidst the ambient Parklands surrounds. Joined by special guest, international baritone Jeffrey Black, and accompanied by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the outdoor concert was a rare opportunity to enjoy the diva's eclectic repertoire of classical opera, musicals and some favourite treasures from contemporary popular music.



Escape and Explore

Natural and cultural heritage are two of Centennial Parklands greatest national treasures.



Close encounters with the Parklands' flora and fauna. Learning can be a real adventure.

Designed to help students understand the ecology, history and management of the Parklands, the Escape and Explore Education programs build awareness of the Parks' landscapes, wildlife, monuments and culturally significant sites.

Supporting our philosophy of environmental sustainability, a condensed series of activity sheets and practical tailored programs are making school excursions a fun, informative day out. From Kindergarten to Year 12 students or members of the public, anyone can enjoy a diverse range of learning, recreational and leisure activities.

Senior Ranger Carolyn Culey believes the Parklands education programs are vital to help people understand their parks more completely while passing on knowledge to every generation whether younger or older.

"In the past we have focused on the wetlands but now we have made the program a lot broader to focus on the curriculum and issues such as

flora, fauna, ecosystems and parks heritage. If a particular school has a specific area of interest we are very flexible and can tailor programs to their individual needs," Carolyn said.

"We're trying to develop environmental advocates. To get people out and into their natural surrounds so they can enjoy and respect these settings along with a sense of history. Hopefully the experience changes people's behaviour towards nature, not only in the Parklands but wherever they are."

Catering for large school groups and birthday parties, the rangers also run a School Holiday program featuring activities such as the popular Froggy Fun for toddlers and Spotlight Prowl where families can view flying foxes and possums after dark.

Children 6-12 years old also have the chance to become junior rangers by helping to count bird populations, testing water quality and regenerating native bushland.

Catering for a wide range of leisure activities which attract thousands of park users each year, there is also the need for conservation and avoiding conflict between key user groups, all of which are addressed in the Centennial Parklands Escape and Explore programs.





Some productions are bigger than others.

Regular shootings in the parklands, wildlife captured, murder calls

No there hasn't been a major crime spree in the Parklands, the only things that have been shot and captured are on film.

Spectacular and atmospheric, the Parklands diverse settings are in regular demand for filming and photography. Recent shoots have attracted a wide range of media from magazine fashion photography to TV productions such as *Murder Call* and *Water Rats*. The Parklands have also hosted a variety of television commercials and the occasional feature film such as *Babe*.

The versatility of the Parklands various locations and venues in such close proximity to the City is the main attraction for production companies.

Aside from the obvious commercial value of allowing film shoots, the money generated is used to maintain and improve the Parklands. In fact there are numerous benefits for the Parklands

and the community from its use as a sought after filming location.

For example, the *Totally Wild* program on Channel Ten regularly uses the Parklands' locations to promote environmental messages. Student and other non-commercial groups also utilise it for their productions helping to reinforce one of our key objectives – cultural expression.

Although filming and photography is encouraged, the integrity of the Parklands as a public recreation space and flora and fauna sanctuary is of prime importance before allowing shoots to proceed. All requests are reviewed carefully to ensure that the Parklands and its users are not adversely effected.

One of the more bizarre requests from crews involved using an elephant and a smoke machine to simulate a South East Asian forest for a spice range advertisement. Other high profile productions including *Burke's Backyard*, *Harry's Practice* and the *Money* program have recently become regular park users.

For more information on filming and photography in Centennial Parklands please contact Craig Van Dartel, Marketing Account Manager, on (02) 9339 6621.

Feelin' kinda sporty

Situated in the heart of Sydney, Centennial Parklands Sports Centre offers a huge range of equipment and activities in what many consider to be the city's most relaxing recreational surrounds.

Whether it's tennis, netball, basketball, rollerblading, rollerhockey or power walking, the Sports Centre facilities and historic Clubhouse (1930), are hard to beat for atmosphere and versatility.

Currently leased by former tennis legends John Newcombe (Australian Davis Cup captain) and Brad Drewett (former top 30 professional), the Sports Centre is the site of many tennis coaching clinics.

Enjoying regular visits from other sports

and media personalities including Graham Richardson and Alan Jones, it's a great place to meet people over a game or lunch at the excellent BBQ facilities.

Beginning on Saturday May 29 and running to June 6, the annual Parklands Tennis Championships will be held over two consecutive weekends with play getting underway at 9am each day. This fun competition has a variety of mens, womens and mixed divisions including several Age and Open events, so why not take a shot at the title?

Members of the public are welcome so grab your entry forms quickly. For bookings or more information please phone the Centennial Parklands Sports Centre on (02) 9662 7033.



wild child

A walk in the parks with TV Vet Katrina

Warren. **By Mark Thornley**

She's swum with dolphins, flirted with funnel webs and stroked the back of Bengal Tigers, but given her pick of the world's most exotic animals, TV Vet Katrina Warren would never trade her Border Collie, and best friend, Toby.

Jogging around her new home of Centennial Park, the glamorous half of Channel 7's *Harry's Practice* is looking forward to Autumn's leafy walks while masterminding a new line of "funky" pet products.

Plucking her now famous work colleague and business partner from a Border Collie litter on live television, Toby and Katrina are it seems, inseparable. Working, playing and travelling their way around Australia, whether they're shooting on location or attending whacky public appearances, the dynamic duo have no shortage of fun.

Comfortable with her arms in the vice-like grip of a boa constrictor, if Katrina does dislike an animal it would have to be ferrets. It's a case of twice bitten and even more shy and despite her breezy onscreen persona there have been instances where animals and events have strayed towards her former Channel 10 TV namesake and have turned *Totally Wild*.

"It's the animals that you least expect to hurt you, which are often the ones that do," says the former owner of Jill the Jersey Cow and a tortoise called Pong.

"I've been attacked by a kangaroo, bitten by a possum and the other day I had a lovebird hanging like a dart from my neck which was pretty painful," she laughs ironically.

While Katrina believes humans are fascinating creatures, she finds animals absolutely intriguing. The fact that they possess senses and communication we have failed to understand makes her even more determined to work them out.

For instance she swears Toby knows when he's working to camera and when he's not and sometimes even what she's thinking. When she travels interstate or overseas and he can't

"Pets teach people a lot more than unconditional love. They teach us how to care about something, about life and death and that animals aren't a right but a responsibility."



The dynamic duo, Katrina and Toby are never far from the parks.

accompany her, he seems to know well in advance refusing to give her kisses and high fives until she returns.

Although he occasionally wears tuxedos, dryzabones and swimsuits, Katrina insists Toby is essentially like any other dog – a loyal loving animal that wants nothing in return except her own love.

"People aren't generally like that," ventures the former James Ruse Agricultural High School student turned TV presenter and international model.

"Pets teach people a lot more than unconditional love. They teach us how to care about something, about life and death and that animals aren't a right but a responsibility."

From July 1 this year, all of NSW's pets will have to be micro chipped to assist in a statewide identification program which has proved a significant issue both for the public and the authorities who have to locate the pets. But according to Dr Warren there is a larger emerging issue concerning dog exercise areas.

She believes legislation changes are making it harder to become a pet owner and in the process non pet owners are wielding a lot more power over domestic animals in public spaces.

From Katrina's perspective convenient public parks with animal exercise areas are vital for our country's pet owners. The fact that these resources are diminishing and many people chose the wrong pet for their lifestyles, is creating problems.

"The Centennial Parklands are a real saviour for Sydney's inner city people. There's stacks of space and the best thing is the off the lead areas where people tend to congregate."

"Dogs are very social creatures and if they don't get an opportunity to mix with other animals, breeds and people it can cause behavioural problems. If you take your pet to a park and another dog approaches don't pull the lead back suddenly as this will set the dogs off. Just let them have a good sniff and if your dog has a toy or ball, pick it up before the other dogs arrive."

The other great thing about walking the dog is that you are also exercising yourself. It gives pet owners a chance to meet new people – I've met two boyfriends through my dog!"

jogging and walking with her girlfriends who are partial to the occasional pitstop at the Centennial Park Cafe, Katrina also spends a lot of time filming in the Parkland grounds for her prime time show *Harry's Practice*. Like many television journalists she finds the facilities extremely versatile for her work.

"It's beautiful, scenic and spacious. You can get away from people to do a quiet shoot and there's always horses trotting past and heaps of interesting wildlife to see. There's not many places in Sydney which offer that and when you do a lap of Centennial Park, you feel like you've had a really good workout."

Currently writing a "practical guide to raise happy animals while also training them to do a few tricks," Katrina is also contemplating an innovative line of pet related products. Testing them on her best friend Toby she is excited by the results and feels confident they will prove more practical than some of the 'gimmicks' she has been asked to trial on *Harry's Practice*.

Peeling back her celebrity skin, it seems TV, socialising and success are the shallow end of Katrina's gene pool. Like many

people, without her dog and a park, everyday life would lose a lot of meaning.

"There's not a day I walk out of my house without someone telling me I have a beautiful dog and that makes me very happy," Katrina said.

"It gives me so much pleasure just to see my dog give other people pleasure. Like when we walk into a nursing home and the whole place just goes crazy. Then again, I have to laugh at the way Toby scams his way through life."

Each time we go out to the Channel 7 offices he plays one person off with another, getting a scratch here, a massage there and demanding cheesy games up and down the stairs."

Stirring from a deep sleep on his king size orthopaedic dog bed, Toby picks up his leash and nuzzles it into my hand. Fully endorsed by his own pet food sponsor, there is a large brain behind his lioness eyes. After a hard days work it's off for a walk followed by a gourmet snack and his regular grooming courtesy of the television network – What a dog of a life!



Boa constrictors and Bengal tigers, Katrina has made some exotic friends during her travels.

centennial parklands Restaurant - soul food and setting

Bathing in a fresh Autumn sun, the trees rich with post summer hues, it is hard to imagine a more ideal setting than the Centennial Parklands Restaurant.

Conceived some 70 years ago it has come a long way from the two small caravans originally serving tea and scones.

On the table opposite, Centennial Park regular Marcia Hines sips her ritualistic late morning juice while patrons refuel after their daily exercise and enjoy the ambience of the newly landscaped sub tropical surrounds. Like the atmosphere, the menu is light and fresh with 90% of the produce made to order on the premises.

Representative of the Park, the restaurant enjoys a diverse mix of day trippers and regulars. The patrons mirroring Sydney's refreshing collision of ethnic style and vibrant beach multiculturalism.

"It's a relaxed rapport in a relaxed setting so a wide variety of people are attracted inside," says Centennial Parklands Restaurant Manager Peter Cross.

"There's plenty of groups who come in after their daily walk or run for an orange juice and breakfast. One couple even drive in everyday from the North Shore for a cappuccino and a latte. A lot of celebrities like Tony Locket will often pop in for breakfast. Lady Jane Hardy is in every second day and we often see Premier Bob Carr."

"One tradition we can't seem to break and wouldn't want to, is fish and chips in a light beer batter. It's probably the most popular item on the lunch menu. At breakfast it's bacon and eggs on sour dough toast with grilled tomatoes."

"The special thing about Autumn here is that things tend, funnily enough, to become a lot warmer. The breezes start blowing, the trees begin to change colours and somehow the whole place seems to just mellow out."

Celebrating the arrival of Autumn with an Italian theme night on Friday May 7, the Centennial Parklands Restaurant invites Friends of the Park to experience another dimension of Centennial Park.

Incorporating modern Italian food and wines, the special night time function forms part of a series of events to be held in the restaurant every three months. A scrumptious contemporary menu in this beautiful setting is available with 2 courses – \$30 and 3 courses – \$37. Hope to see you there!

The Centennial Parklands Restaurant is open seven days a week. Breakfast is served from 8.30am-11.00am Monday to Friday and 8.30am-11.30am on Saturday and Sundays. Lunch runs from 12.00pm-2.30pm with the restaurant closing at 3.00pm.



Cooking up an Autumn storm.

park life

it's yours to live

